

About The Adversary-

Beginning the series:

Supernatural, Superhuman, Things of the Unseen, Deity, and The Elephant in The Room

DEVIL, SATAN, EVIL, DEMONIC Evil appears early in Genesis with the serpent figure (Gen. 3:1–5). While Genesis does not identify this figure as “Satan,” Revelation alludes to him as such (Rev. 12:9). The Scriptures portray Satan as a personal being in direct opposition to God and His purposes. Satan is not equal to God, nor does he threaten God’s power (Isa. 45:5–7).

Old Testament The word *satan* is used as a verb or noun in the OT and translated as “adversary.” When used as a verb, it means to act as an adversary, accuser, or in a hostile manner (Gen. 27:41; 49:23; 50:15; Zech. 3:1). A person may act in such a manner toward others or God (1 Sam. 29:4; 1 Kings 5:4; 11:14, 23, 25; Pss. 71:13; 109:4, 6, 20).

Satan is chief of the fallen angels. From mankind’s creation Satan and the fallen angels were active rebels against God. It appears that pride was the source of Satan’s downfall (1 Tim. 3:6). The most extensive discussion of Satan is found in Job. In Job 1–2 Satan appears as an agent of God, whose purpose appears to be testing human beings (Job 1:8). When he appears before God, he comes with the “sons of God,” members of the heavenly council (Job 1:6). Satan asks God, “Does Job fear God for nothing?” (Job 1:9). Thus he impugns the faith of the righteous Job. In order to disprove Satan’s claim God grants him certain powers. He attacks Job but only with God’s permission. In Zech. 3:1 Satan stands at the high priest’s right hand in order to accuse him. In 1 Chron. 21:1 Satan tempts King David to take a census of Israel.

Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha In the Intertestamental period the idea of Satan receives more detailed definition. In deuterocanonical books (Jubilees, The Assumption of Moses, and Tobit), Satan is portrayed as a much more malevolent force. These works identify Satan as the chief of the evil spirits. Many of these texts attribute some of God’s questionable behavior (sacrifice of Isaac, the attacking of Moses on his way to Egypt) to Satan. During this period many of the demons were given names and personalities.

Today’s Scripture Focus

1 Chronicles 21: 1-17

1. **The Adversary Tempts to do the OPPOSITE OF GOD’S HEART.**
2. **Pride was the chief reason for the fall of Lucifer. David wanted to measure the “might” of his army by conducting a census.**
3. **People in Power have great responsibility to resist Opposition. David did not – There was consequence that affected his people.**
4. **God punished.**
5. **Angel appears (Angel of Yaweh/and of Destruction) to carry out the command of God.**
6. **Consequences abound.**
7. **Repentance comes.**