

Intro.

- A. In 2000, David Lipe talked to be about being on the lecture program sometime. (Willing if subj. I know something about which might be of help to others. *I'm still wondering why I have this assignment ?!?!*)
1. Someone once observed: *Fools rush in where angels fear to tread*, Still true, & I'm here.
 2. 1980, heard Wayne Jackson on "Satan". Quoted eccentric Pentecostal preacher, Billy Sunday -
 - a. Said, *I know Satan exists for 2 reasons. First of all, the Bible says so,*
 - b. *and 2nd, I've done business with him.*
 3. Haven't we all done business with him (c. **Rom. 3:23**)? Satan is very R-E-A-L !
- B. John thesis statement explains the goal of his gospel record, **Jn. 20:31**.
1. A person can only appreciate Christ the Redeemer & Savior after he has discovered seriousness of sin, & its debilitating effect on our life.
 2. At outset of study of sin & salvation, we cannot be oblivious to the presence of an ominous, evil force.
 3. Sin's presence is seen on virtually ever page of scripture, as well as in most every situation in society.
 4. In Job, can learn more about Satan than any other O.T. book (14X's in 1st 2 chpts).
 - a. See his adversarial nature, being strongly opposed to both God & man.
 - b. Though his power & influence is great, the fact of God's superiority over Satan is obvious.
 - c. Luthur's *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* reflects the message of Job and God's Supremacy over Satan.
 5. Need to remember that **ALL** of the factual infor. we have is found in the Bible.
- C. With that in mind, Let's consider just who Satan is before we explore some ideas re: his origin.

Discuss.**I. WHO IS SATAN? (DEPENDS ON WHO YOU ASK)**

- A. **Encyclopedia Biblica** – suggest Satan = the self-accusing conscience of the ancient Jews.
1. He doesn't really exist!
 2. Was invented by Israel as a means of explaining their guilt – *the devil made them do it !!!*
 3. (This is the view of many psychiatrists today.)
 4. Survey taken last week: 245 polled (about ½ were Christians): 7 believed Satan = myth, (3%).
- B. c. **Persian Dualism** – Satan = eternal evil power that is equal to & opposite in nature to Jehovah.
1. The philosophical **law of parity**: *for every physical process or form, there is a mirror image.*
 2. Dualism poses Satan = complete parity to God.
 3. For this to be true, Satan would have to possess divine characteristics (omniscience, omnipotence...)
 - a. Devil disputed with Michael (**Jude 9**) about loca. of Moses' burial. → A distracting shrine?!?!)
 - b. God certainly limited Satan's ability to tempt Job, establishing the boundaries, **c. Job 1:12 & 2:6**
 - c. **Lk. 4:6** – record of Devil's inferiority. *Kingdoms were delivered to him.*
 - d. **Lk. 22:31** – Satan had to ask Jesus that he *might have Peter...to sift*.
 - e. NEVER FORGET: *YOU are more powerful than Satan, & you CAN resist him, Jas. 4:7 (1 Jn.4:4)*
- C. James Strong: *Satan = the arch-enemy of good.*
1. In text of **Job 1-2**, Satan demonstrates his adversarial nature, employing ever conceivable means to overcome God's faithful servant, Job. [used domestic possessions, death & bereavement, disease & discouragement f/ family & friends] more!
 - a. Here Satan is in the role of *an accuser*, Job \ll really faithful, but a relig. opportunist who wants\
 - b. Notice, Satan exposes 'self as opportunist, taking every leeway offered to gain control, **c. Job 1:12.**
 2. The devil (*diabolos*) accuser (i.e., *false accuser*), slanderer - was confrontational w/ Christ, **Mt. 4:1ff.**
 3. Satan is a historical character, just as much as are Christ & the apostles.
 4. He = *a created, personal, world-wide power, wicked in character, who stands as enemy of man & God.*
- D. Other descriptions of the devil:
1. *a deceiver of whole world, Rev. 12:9, 10 & accuser of our brethren.* (Also deceives self, c. **Job 2:4**)
 2. He = *the wicked one...an enemy, Mt. 13:19, 28* – who snatches God's word f/ men's hearts
 3. He = *a liar, & a murderer (Jn. 8:44), the god of this world (Jn. 12:31), the tempter (Mt. 4:3)* of men.
 4. In **Rev. 9:11**, he = *Apollyon*, or destroyer
 5. He continues to be "the evil spirit who seduces men to evil" (Wilson 367), c. **1 Chron. 21:1.**

II. WHERE DID SATAN ORIGINATE?

- A. Some believe Devil = nothing more than a mythical character, (a vehicle of moral teaching).
1. Isaac Asimov (Am. Humanist) spoke of the “*legend of Satan*”.
 2. Not an acceptable view to those who respect Sacred Scriptures (**2 Tim. 3:16**)
- B. Dualism suggests that God & Satan have always co-existed in eternity.
1. As suggested earlier, if Satan was eternal, he would have to possess the qualities of deity, which does not.
 2. This theory is simply without merit & evidence is to the contrary.
- C. Another theory feebly suggested: God created Satan evil to be His instrument of justice. [totally incon. w/ God’s holy nature].
- D. “Traditionalist” theory for Satan’s origin depicts Satan as created by God good, but becoming evil, & fallen story
1. Several variations of this theory have been proposed in the religious world.
 - a. Secrets of Enoch (or Enoch 2) – 1st Cen. writing falsely ascribed to Enoch contains a “fallen angel”
 - b. Oral Jewish traditional storytelling relates a competition between Adam & Satan re: naming animals which was won by Adam, who became the object of Satan’s jealousy. Eventually Satan = banished.
 - c. Koran gives a similar account of a contest of knowledge among angels, Adam won, envious Satan “.
 - d. In literature (Milton’s Paradise Lost & Dante’s “Divine Comedy”) the devils fall is portrayed.
 - e. Creed books of Latter-Day Saints describes Satan’s undoing because of his jealousy of Adam.
 - f. The Watchtower Witnesses write their testimony of an arrogant angel jealous of God, & thrust out.
 2. Two texts often misapplied to the “fallen angel” explanation:
 - a. **Isa. 14:3-21**, was a taunting song for captives of a powerful Babylonian king [key in **vs. 4**, vs kg.]
 - b. **Ezek. 28:1-19** describes downfall of Tyre. (**Ezek. 26:1-28:10**) series of 4 prophecies re: destruction of Tyre, the 1st 3 of which there is no doubt of it’s applica. to king of Tyre. Argument of consistency and similarities in language should prevent misapplica. of this passage to Satan.
 3. However, weight of Biblical evidence still seems to tilt heavy to the traditionalists view of Satan’s start.
 - a. **Gn. 1:1** *In the beginning...the heavens...*
 - b. The angels shout echoed thru heaven when earth’s founda. was laid, **Job 38:1-7**.
 - c. Undoubtedly, God made **everything** in 6 days of the creation week (Moses → **Ex. 20:11**)
 - d. Peter (**2 Pet.2:4**) & Jude (**Jude 6**) allude to Satan’s fall, but say nothing specific of Devil’s origin.
 - e. Remember God’s assessment of His finished creation, **Gn. 1:31**.
 - f. Eventually, Satan makes his ominous debut in Eden, luring woman into sin via deceitful lies, **3:1-6**.
 - g. John ID’s Satan = liar *from the beginning... & a murderer*, **Jn. 8:44**
 - h. **1 Tim. 3:6** elder ≥ novice, *lest being puffed up w/ pride he fall into the same condemnation as devil*.
 4. Very significant concepts have to be careful explored:
 - a. **image of God** – certain characteristics of God (moral consciousness, ability to think rationally & reason, appreciation of real beauty, a capacity to worship Deity, emotion, **the heart of God**)
 - b. **free moral agency** – being “moral” (char. ~ in God’s image), “free” = ability to choose (**Lk.16**)
 - c. “**from the beginning**” - **Jn. 8:44**, between 1st moments of creation, & Eve’s 1st taste of the tree of knowledge, came the fall of Satan.

Concl.

- A. God is omnipotent. He is never surprised.
1. Satan’s pride caught him off guard, & cost him habitation in heaven.
 2. Angels that followed him in rebellion paid the price, as well.
 3. Man can fall into that same condemnation if careless or deceived.
- B. God benevolently formed the scheme of redemption, before the founda. of world were laid, **Eph. 1:4**
1. God always acts deliberately, wisely, & is always right, no miscalculations, never surprised.
 2. Satan is quiet a diff. story, having been self-deceived early on.
 3. We must be aware of his deceptive devices & stay focused on God’s goodness & opportunities of service.
 4. If we would see Jesus, we should maintain a pure & obedient heart that was molded by God, & will successfully be maintained in obedience to His will.