

## THE FALSE GOD

There is a counterfeit god who is a father. He masquerades as the true God. The Bible calls him sometimes the “devil” or more usually, the “adversary” (the Hebrew, *satan*; Greek, *satanas*). The Greek follows the Hebrew as a transliteration of the former. The original Hebrew language has for its root, (H7582) *satam*, which has the meaning of, “to lurk for, persecute, to hate or oppose oneself against.”

This is a very curious thing which has been debated over the centuries—or the millennia—as to whether we are speaking of a created *entity*, or rather a concept or *embodiment* of evil in a general way. Up front, let me say I have no certain conviction either way. I do not know what the *Satan* is, or whether it is a *Who* or an *it*. But it’s entirely possible that it makes no difference how we understand it, if we can come to some accurate conclusion of *why* we were even told of such a thing.

There are some who hold that the serpent in the Garden of Eden was a being who was pre-existent to Adam...perhaps even another man. Some have posited that Adam himself was the serpent (and that the story in Genesis 3 is a veiled description—or *parable*—of Adam’s fall and rebellion against God). Job wrote that God himself had “formed the crooked serpent”, perhaps “garnishing the heavens” with it as a [constellation](#) (Job 26:13). Isaiah, in speaking of the coming of the Kingdom and the Day of the Lord, told how Yahweh would punish the serpent:

*In that day the Lord with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea. (Is 27:1)*

Is this the same “crooked serpent” of Job? If so, was he in the sea or the heavens? Or perhaps both... in the “waters above the firmament” (above the heaven) as Genesis describes creation. Do the celestial bodies shine through *waters* which are above us? Yes, say the scriptures.

But Job also spoke of this Satan as a *Being* in the first two chapters of the book...

*Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them. And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. (Job 1:6-7)*

Of course, Jesus was confronted with someone he referred to as “Satan” on a number of occasions. Probably most notable was his 40 days and nights of fasting “in the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.” Finally after being promised all power and all the kingdoms of the earth, if he should “bow down and serve him”...

*“Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.” (Matt 4:10)*

Christ once called Peter “Satan” when he had (ignorantly) spoken in opposition to God’s will for Jesus’ mission (Mark 8:33). Later he told Peter that “Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as

wheat.” They can’t be one and the same, because “a house divided against itself cannot stand.” John says in his gospel that after Jesus identified Judas as his betrayer at the last supper, “**Satan entered into him**. Then said Jesus unto him, *That thou doest, do quickly.*” Was Jesus speaking to Judas, or Satan?

We see here a broad range of use for this concept of “Satan”. Yet we don’t get much closer to a definitive understanding of it (or him).

I have the idea that Yahweh constructed our reality in such a way that evil could—*would*—be personified, for a purpose which we cannot yet understand. Because there’s actually very little explained to us in the scriptures about this “Satan”, this adversary, this lurker, this murderous hater and slanderer, we are left to our own devices and opinions of it... *intentionally*.

But there is something false about our reality. We understand this in an innate way, even if we can’t describe it accurately, or perhaps, *scientifically*. Reality is extremely complex. He that created it is Extremely Complex.

*“I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I Yahweh do all these things.” (Is 45:7)*

*“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (Is 55:9)*

We can no sooner grasp what this means, truly, than an ant can comprehend the doings of man whose *lawn* he inhabits.

Yet God has put it into our hearts to know Him—to seek after Him. Solomon, the wisest of the wise, said this in Ecclesiastes:

*“When I applied mine heart to know wisdom, and to see the business that is done upon the earth: (for also there is that neither day nor night seeth sleep with his eyes:) Then I beheld all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun: because though a man labour to seek it out, yet he shall not find it; yea farther; though a wise man think to know it, yet shall he not be able to find it.”*

Seemingly, then, it is futile to try. But in Acts 17, we are told:

*“[God] hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; **That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us.**”*

It seems we are created, unlike the ant, to seek after, ask of, even *diligently labor* to know the Truth. It follows then, that we have been placed inside a realm where there must be the False. We must learn to distinguish between the two “realities”. Yahweh has given each man a unique *experience*—in which to make a choice between two Gods. Because it is impossible to serve two masters, we are necessarily

forced to make a decision. We either seek the God in whose image we were made, *or we seek to create a god in our own image*. The former is the Real, the latter is the False.

The apostle John told us in his first Epistle that *“he that has been born of God is kept of God, and the wicked one does not touch him”*... The wicked one is the False. He is the *father god of lies*...

*“And the whole world in the wicked one is lying. We know, moreover, that the Son of God hath come, And hath given us insight, so that we are getting to understand him that is **Real**. And we are in him that is **Real**, in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the **Real** God, and life age-abiding.”* (1 John 5:19-20, Rotherhams)

The word, “Real” is the Greek *alēthinos*. I want to show you Strong’s definitions of it:

1. That which has not only the name and resemblance, but the real nature corresponding to the name, in every respect corresponding to the idea signified by the name, real, true genuine
2. opposite to what is fictitious, counterfeit, imaginary, simulated or pretended
3. *it contrasts realities with their semblances*
4. opposite to what is imperfect defective, frail, uncertain
5. true, veracious, sincere

We can see here (and is verified throughout the scriptures) that God acknowledges an imaginary or pretended god which man can create. As we are made in His image, we also have the capability of creating. Sometimes we create idols of stone (buildings, ‘churches’, edifices of State), or gold (money), or of our own hearts (the inner-man, our *ego*). ***These contrast the realities with their semblances.***

The key is the CONTRAST. This is the engine of the cosmos. This is how He did it...it is how He is DOING it right now. Without contrast nothing can be distinguished. No truth can be discerned without knowing what is a lie. Good cannot be understood—*therefore chosen*—unless we experience evil. Just as Christ had to do in the flesh, as prophesied Isaiah of Him,

*“Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good.”*

So must we do. We have to contrast the Truth with the Lie. When we discover which is which, we must learn to CHOOSE correctly. That is our human experience. That is our purpose here.

What has happened is that God has purposely made this *hard to do*.

*“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and **broad** is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and **narrow** is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”* (Matt 7)

That is to say, it was part of His *purpose* to create in such a way—WHY it was is left unsaid. Perhaps it was the *only* way it could be done...

Thus we find that it is easier to lie than to be truthful. It is easier to steal than to be honest. It is easier to be fearful, and to *cause* fear, than to be courageous. It is easier to deceive than to trust. It is easier to lie to one's self, to ignore our own conscience, to deny the obvious consequences of our rebellion, and to disbelieve the REAL God by imagining a False one which WE have set up, and which suits US and our sinful nature. "Hath God truly said?" is a de facto lie in the very asking of it.

Therefore, who really asked that question way back in the Garden? Doesn't each of us in our own hearts do this constantly when we sin? (And who among us does not sin?) Who is our own worst adversary if it isn't us, ourselves?

Perhaps the most dangerous form of delusion is self-delusion. Christians stand out above the rest today in their ability to create false gods and *actively worship them*. They call him "Jesus" most often. They call him "Father". They call him "Lord"... Jesus—*Yeshua*—'Yah who Saves'...they don't really believe they need a savior because they've broken no law (there is no Law; it's been put away), and therefore are not really sinners. John calls them [liars](#). They call him "Father", but do not respect him as a father. They have neither fear nor reverence. They call him "Lord" (or 'Master') but deny him, as Christ said, "why call ye me 'Lord, Lord', but do not the things which I say?" By calling themselves "Christians" they proclaim belief in Christ. But what is that? I John 5:1-5—

*Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?*

Allow me to condense this into a little flow chart. Belief in Christ is **biblically defined** as such:

Belief in Christ → Born of God → Love for God and the brethren → Doing His commandments → Overcoming the world → Believing Jesus is the Son of God

You see it's a circular path, like a snake eating its own tail. Each one of those acts *begets* the next, and is *caused* by the next, paradoxically. Yet Christians are often some of the most worldly, commandment-breaking, and unloving towards one another and their neighbors of all the heathen and false religions. Because they've redefined the Law, and redefined "Love" into gross distortions of Yahweh's representation of them, they have, like Aaron did when he caved to that rebellion of Israel, made for themselves a golden calf and [called it Yahweh](#).

In John chapter 8, we see that some of the "Jews which believed on him" ultimately sought to *kill* him (v.40). These of his own brethren, admittedly sprung from the loins of Abraham, *who claimed God as their Father* (v.41) were nonetheless children of the devil.

*“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.” (V.44)*

There is indeed a False god and a True God. Many still, like those Jews, those Pharisees, are convinced they follow the True, but lurking beneath the surface in their hearts is one who is, at least, the perverse metaphor of a devil...the one who “persecutes and opposes” the True, the one who has “sifted them like wheat”. The sifting that goes on is, as it ever was from the beginning, to separate both the chaff from the wheat, and the wheat from the tares. Plenty deny Jesus openly, others deny him with their lives, having exchanged “him that is Real” with their own *personal Jesus*. This is plainly an old deception, as John ended his first Epistle with these very words:

*“Dear children, guard yourselves from idols!”*

We must be keenly aware of this ongoing battle in the hearts of men, and in our own hearts, where Satan is alive and well, walking up and down in the earth, and seeking whom he may devour.

*“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” (Ephesians 6)*