

# THE "SATAN" CONTROVERSY

Excerpted from the May & December issues of  
America's Promise Newsletters. by Sheldon Emry

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The following was in the May '78  
Newsletter:

## — The "satan" controversy —

We have had a few criticize my sermons on satan and Eve in the garden of Eden, and we have had many **misunderstand them.**

For that I am sorry, but I am currently preaching a series of 8 sermons which; I pray, will answer almost all questions or objections.

This series is titled, **Give The Devil His Due**, and will cover almost everything in the Bible about satan, the devil and the serpent.

Here are some items of information, which I pray, will move many of you to get this series **and study it. This may be the most important series of sermons I have preached which is directed to expose falsehoods as taught by the false churches!**

Consider this:

**A.** Jesus warned that as this age ended many would come in His Name and would deceive many, i.e. teach lies which would be believed.

**B.** The New Testament Epistles warn that false "ministers" would deceive God's People in the end of the age.

**C.** If the above are true warnings, the following statement should be true:

"In the end of the age, if any large number of ministers teach a certain doctrine and that doctrine is believed by a large number of people, **that doctrine is probably false!**"

Therefore, consider the following:

Most ministers teach, and most churchgoers believe:

**1.** That man remains conscious after death. We examined that common doctrine and found it to be false.

**2.** That most men go, after death, to a region of fire and brimstone where they spend eternity in conscious pain. We found God's Bible teaches no such thing.

**3.** That a tiny percentage of men go, after death, in a conscious state to "heaven to be with Jesus." We found that is not taught in the Bible.

**4.** That the people who call themselves "Jews" are the Israelites, God's Chosen People. That is, also, false.

**5.** That Christians are going to be taken from the earth in a "rapture" just before a great "Antichrist" comes and brings seven years of "tribulation" on the earth. That doctrine is false.

**6.** That there exists a mighty, angelic being called "Satan," who is the "devil," who is omnipresent, being in all parts of the world at once, and in "hell" at the same time. That this supernatural being is long lived, that he has power to frus-

trate most of God's plans, and many of man's, that he is the cause of all. corruption and evil in the world and that he will continue to do all such evil work until sometime in the future, when he will be destroyed.

We are, now, examining that doctrine" to see if it has any more foundation in Bible Truth than do the first five!

In the first few of the 8 sermons we have found some "interesting" pieces of information.

The Chaldean word "sawtawn," from which we get the English word "satan," is in the original Hebrew manuscripts 30 times. Nineteen times it was translated by the King James translators, as "satan" and 11 times as the word "adversary." In all it is in 9 passages.

Of the 9 passages, once the "sawtawn" is God Himself, once it is God's angel, once David is the "sawtawn," once it is David's officers, once Solomon says he has no "saw tawn." Three times the "sawtawns" are men whose names are given, and only in the Book of Job — one passage of the nine in the Old Testament where "sawtawn" is found — is the "sawtawn" possibly-similar to the "satan" of the churches.

So, we examined the Book of Job further, and were startled to find that all except one of the acts we thought "satan" did, were admitted to have been done by God Himself!

The one act "satan" **might** have done, himself, is in Job 2:7 where he "may" have given Job boils! Not quite the kind of momentous act we had expected of "Satan!"

When we went to "serpent," we were similarly treated.

"Serpent" is in the Old Testament 19 times, and in all except Gen. 3, where a "serpent" spoke to Eve, it is easy to prove that "serpent" stood for a real snake, a symbol of a real snake or the star constellation which stands for a snake.

The conclusion is obvious, even though it defies tradition: If God used the Word "serpent" 18 times to mean a literal snake or a symbol of one, what authority do we have to come along in the 19th case and identify that "serpent" as anything other than a real snake? (This is especially-true since in the Book of Revelation, where both "satan" and "serpent" are used for the **same** thing, that "serpent" is a "beast" with seven heads and ten horns; which is later identified as a great world empire, **not** some individual angelic creature!)

Three more things will be mentioned here; then the rest will be on the tapes:

1. The title "Lucifer" appears only once in the Bible **and it is a mistranslation!**

Even then, the passage is plainly addressed to a mortal man who is identified and told he is going to die soon! Yet that passage has been used for centuries by "the clergy" to expound about an old-archangel called "Lucifer!"

2. "Devil" is **not** in the Old Testament at all.

3. "Devils" (plural) is used 4 times and only in reference to **idols** of wood and stone. It does **not** refer to any "living" thing.

And that is enough said. I repeat what I said at the first: "This may be the most important series of sermons I have preached."

The following was in the December '78 Newsletter:

## SATAN

Ministers quote Rev. 12 about the "war in heaven" and "the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan....." and insist that "satan" is a "fallen angel."

But, in verse 3 that "satan" has "seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads." That is the SAME seven headed "beast" upon which **Mystery Babylon** rides in Rev. 17 and there it is **quite plain** — it is a conglomeration of nations!

They say the "war" in Rev. 12 was fought in God's "heaven," but, in verse 1, we find the "woman clothed with the sun," was, also, in "heaven." The woman is Israel, and Israel is (and was) on the earth, so the "heaven" of Rev. 12 is on the earth, also!

These 2 facts: **(1)** The "satan" of Rev. 12 is identical to the "kings" (nations) of Rev. 17, and **(2)** the "heaven" of Rev. 12 is

where Israel is, absolutely rules out Rev. 12 as being about any supernatural, omnipresent, fallen angel. The "satan" of the Churches cannot be found in Rev. 12.

The truth about "satan" is nothing short of ASTOUNDING. The satan of the churches is as real as the hell of the churches!

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**Note:** To further enhance your study of this subject, you should listen to the following recorded sermons by Pastor Emry:

Tapes, **7722a, 7722b & 7723a, 7723b**, titled: **"Eve And The Serpent In The Garden Of Eden, What Actually Happened,"**

and the series: **"Give The Devil His Due," 7810a, 7810b — 7811a, 7811b — 7812a, 7812b — 7813a, 7813b.**

All the above sermons may be listened to by going to the Cassette Tape Sermons section of the Sheldon Emry Memorial Library.

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