

Spiritual Warfare

The Devil, and How to Stand Against His Schemes



Spiritual Warfare

Pop Quiz:

T F Lucifer didn't even exist until centuries after the birth of Christ.



Spiritual Warfare

Pop Quiz:

- I F** Lucifer didn't even exist until centuries after the birth of Christ.
- The Church didn't come up with Lucifer until the 4th Century AD



Spiritual Warfare

- *Definitions of Terms*
- *The Nature of the Enemy*
- *The Nature of Spiritual Warfare*
- *The Mechanics of Spiritual Warfare*



Definitions

- Before we get into anything too deep, we need to keep our vocabulary *Biblical*

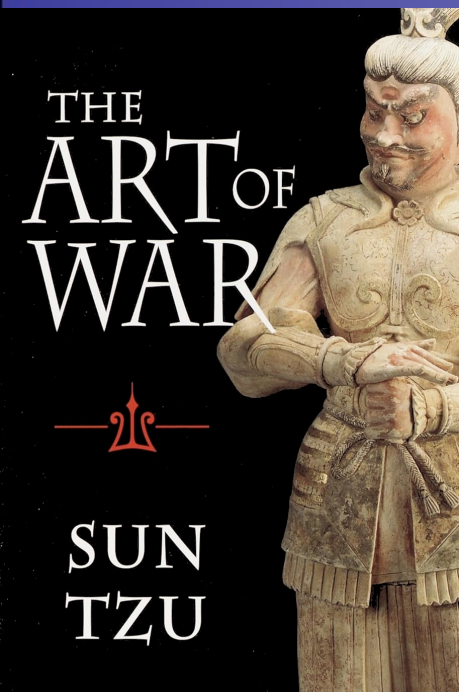


Definitions



Funky little teaching moment...

- In his classic book, *Art of War*, Sun Tzu wrote, “Know your enemy”
 - The idea Sun Tzu was getting at was that it's not only foolish, but ultimately *dangerous* to go into battle without knowing what you're up against
 - If you overestimate your opponent, then you'll expend forces and materiel that you didn't need to expend—resources that you probably needed somewhere else
 - If you underestimate your opponent, then you'll endanger your forces by not fully preparing and equipping them, and you'll lose out of ignorance
 - If you study and understand your enemy's character, fighting styles, strengths, weaknesses, etc., then you can plan for how to withstand and defeat them



Definitions



Funky little teaching moment...

- In his classic book, *Art of War*, Sun Tzu wrote, “Know your enemy”
 - The idea Sun Tzu was getting at was that it's not only foolish, but ultimately *dangerous* to go into battle without knowing what you're up against
 - I'm going to argue that most people overestimate *and* underestimate Satan, and that many of our perspectives on him and his abilities are based on tradition and myth rather than on Scripture
 - So let's not do that...



- For starters, Satan is never described as looking like this in the Bible
 - In fact, he's never *described*... ever...
 - The closest we get to a description is that he took the form of a serpent back in Genesis 3 (but that may not be a “snake” so much as a “dragon”-type thing, as in Revelation 12:9 —and it's the form he took, not “what Satan looks like”)



Definitions



Funky little teaching moment...

- In his classic book, *Art of War*, Sun Tzu wrote, “Know your enemy”
 - The idea Sun Tzu was getting at was that it's not only foolish, but ultimately *dangerous* to go into battle without knowing what you're up against
 - I'm going to argue that most people overestimate *and* underestimate Satan, and that many of our perspectives on him and his abilities are based on tradition and myth rather than on Scripture
 - So let's not do that...
 - For starters, Satan is never described as looking like this in the Bible
 - In fact, he's never *described*... ever...
 - The closest we get to a description is that he took the form of a serpent back in Genesis 3 or that he sometimes masquerades as an angel of light even today, in 2 Corinthians 11 (though these days, how might he disguise himself to a culture that considers itself pridefully irreligious—i.e.; that wouldn't be interested in angels of light?)



Definitions



Funky little teaching moment...

- In his classic book, *Art of War*, Sun Tzu wrote, “Know your enemy”
 - The idea Sun Tzu was getting at was that it's not only foolish, but ultimately *dangerous* to go into battle without knowing what you're up against
 - I'm going to argue that most people **overestimate and underestimate Satan**, and that many of our perspectives on him and his abilities are based on tradition and myth rather than on Scripture
 - So let's not do that...
- For starters, Satan is never described as looking like this in the Bible
 - In fact, he's never *described... ever...*
 - The closest we get to a description is that he took the form of a serpent back in Genesis 3 or that he sometimes masquerades as an angel of light even today, in 2 Corinthians 11 or maybe that Jesus likened his fall from Heaven like “lightning” in Luke 10:18 (but that may not be a *visual* description —i.e.; it may be describing how *suddenly* or how *dramatically* he fell)



Definitions



Funky little teaching moment...

- In his classic book, *Art of War*, Sun Tzu wrote, “Know your enemy”
 - The idea Sun Tzu was getting at was that it's not only foolish, but ultimately *dangerous* to go into battle without knowing what you're up against
 - I'm going to argue that most people overestimate *and* underestimate Satan, and that many of our perspectives on him and his abilities are based on tradition and myth rather than on Scripture
 - So let's not do that...
 - For starters, Satan is never described as looking like this in the Bible
 - In fact, he's never *described*... ever...
 - The point is, don't let yourself mentally picture him like *this*—'cuz Satan will never look like this unless it suits his purposes to disguise himself this way
 - The main reason that *anyone* pictures him like this is that the early Christians wanted to (literally) *demonize* the Roman and Greek gods, so Christian artists began depicting Satan like debauched Greek satyrs
 - So this depiction is technically pagan



Definitions

- Before we get into anything too deep, we need to keep our vocabulary *Biblical*
 - But even the names we use can confuse us
 - “Satan”
 - Satan isn't a proper name—it's an descriptive epithet “שָׂטָן” (or “śāṭān”) in Hebrew, meaning “adversary”
 - And sometimes it's used to describe a totally *human* adversary, like in 1 Samuel 29:4 (please read that in the KJV or the NAS...)



Definitions

- Before we get into anything too deep, we need to keep our vocabulary *Biblical*
 - But even the names we use can confuse us
 - “Satan”
 - Satan isn't a proper name—it's an descriptive epithet “שָׂטָן” (or “śāṭān”) in Hebrew, meaning “adversary”
 - And sometimes it's used to describe a totally *human* adversary, like in 1 Samuel 29:4
 - But when the Bible speaks about “THE adversary” then it's referring to Satan as the specific, evil, spiritual individual that we're talking about
 - But again, that's not his *name*—it's his *role*...
 - Interestingly, though the first time we hear of “Satan” in the Bible (according to the Bible's *Table of Contents*) isn't until the time of King David in 1 Chronicles 21:1, the first time we hear of “Satan” *chronologically* is actually in the *oldest* book of the Bible—in the Book of Job, where Satan is in the throneroom of God, requiring God's sovereign permission in order to afflict Job
 - What does that suggest to you about the nature of Satan as the Adversary?



Definitions

- Before we get into anything too deep, we need to keep our vocabulary *Biblical*
 - But even the names we use can confuse us
 - “Satan”
 - “Devil”
 - Devil isn't a proper name either—it's another descriptive epithet, “διάβολος” (or “*diabolos*”) in Greek, meaning “slanderer” or “false accuser” (putting together two Greek words, “διά” or “*dia*” and “βάλλω” or “*ballō*” to create a word that means, “to throw around”)
(how does *that* give us a nice word picture of how slander works?)



Definitions

- Before we get into anything too deep, we need to keep our vocabulary *Biblical*
 - But even the names we use can confuse us
 - “Satan”
 - “Devil”
 - Devil isn't a proper name either—it's another descriptive epithet, “*διάβολος*” (or “*diabolos*”) in Greek, meaning “slanderer” or “false accuser” (putting together two Greek words, “*διά*” or “*dia*” and “*βάλλω*” or “*ballō*” to create a word that means, “to throw around”) (we get the modern word “devil” from how vowels and consonants shift over time—
—the Greek “*diabolos*” shifted to the Latin “*diabolus*,” which became “*diuḃal*” to the Saxons, which morphed into the Old English “*dēofol*,” which ultimately became the Modern English “*devil*”) (but that's an example of two different-sounding words that are actually technically still the same word... just pronounced differently over time)



Definitions

- Before we get into anything too deep, we need to keep our vocabulary *Biblical*
 - But even the names we use can confuse us
 - “Satan”
 - “Devil”
 - Devil isn't a proper name either—it's another descriptive epithet, “διάβολος” (or “*diabolos*”) in Greek, meaning “slanderer” or “false accuser”
 - What's really interesting is that by the time of the Septugint, the Greek translators didn't translate “שָׂטָן” (or “*śātān*”) directly into its Greek equivalent of “ἀντίδικος” (or “*antidikos*”—i.e.; “adversary”) but rather translated it as “διάβολος” (“slanderer”) suggesting that it had become the more common way of referring to him by then
 - Note how Peter uses both words in 1 Peter 5:8
Be self-controlled and alert. Your ἀντίδικος the διάβολος prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.
 - But again, that's not his *name*—it's his *role*...
 - So how would *you* describe Satan's role as not only the “adversary” but also the “slanderer” or “false accuser” in our spiritual lives?



Definitions

- Before we get into anything too deep, we need to keep our vocabulary *Biblical*
 - But even the names we use can confuse us
 - “Satan”
 - “Devil”
 - Devil isn't a proper name either—it's another descriptive epithet, “διάβολος” (or “*diabolos*”) in Greek, meaning “slanderer” or “false accuser”
 - The fact is, we're *never* given a proper name for Satan in the Bible
 - But people are so desperate to name him that we keep making up and applying names to him that the Bible does not
 - Why do you think that is?



Definitions

- Before we get into anything too deep, we need to keep our vocabulary *Biblical*
 - But even the names we use can confuse us
 - “Satan”
 - “Devil”
 - “Samael”
 - Jewish scholars later came up with the name “סמאל” (or “Sammā’ēl”), meaning “the severity of God” in the Talmudic teachings of the 3rd-6th centuries AD
 - But even then, they originally saw him as a destructive but essentially good angel, whose actions God used to accomplish His plans
 - So it was Samael who wrestled with Jacob and who killed the firstborn of Egypt and who convinced Eve and Adam to eat the fruit, etc.
 - All of these were considered evil actions that—on some level—still honored God



Definitions

- Before we get into anything too deep, we need to keep our vocabulary *Biblical*
 - But even the names we use can confuse us
 - “Satan”
 - “Devil”
 - “Samael”
 - Jewish scholars later came up with the name “סמאל” (or “Sammā’ēl”), meaning “the severity of God” in the Talmudic teachings of the 3rd-6th centuries AD
 - Why do you think the concept of “Satan” as “Samael” was so attractive to theologians?
 - Why is it *still* attractive to people today?



Definitions

- Before we get into anything too deep, we need to keep our vocabulary *Biblical*
 - But even the names we use can confuse us
 - “Satan”
 - “Devil”
 - “Samael”
 - “Lucifer”
 - In the King James Version, Isaiah 14:12 reads, “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!”
 - So clearly, Satan's proper name is “Lucifer” right?
 - Especially since Jesus centuries later says, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.” (in Luke 10:18)
 - So clearly, those verses are talking about the same person and the same event, since they both talk about someone “falling from heaven” right?



Definitions



Funky little teaching moment...

- There are some problems with this interpretation
 - First off, “Lucifer” is the Latin translation of the Greek word that translates the original Hebrew word
 - So even if we wanted to say that Isaiah was giving us Satan's proper name, we couldn't say that his proper name is actually “Lucifer”
 - The original Hebrew word was “הִילֵל” (or “*hêlêl*”) meaning “shining one”
 - And the Greek translation of it for the Septuagint was “ὁ ἑωσφόρος ὁ πρωῒ” (or “*ho heōsphoros ho prōi*”) which referred to the “dawn-bringer of the morning” (AKA; the “morning star”)
 - So when Jerome translated those originals into Latin in the 4th century AD, he used the Latin word “lucifer” (meaning “light-bearer”)
 - So if you want to call Satan by a proper name, you should really call him “*Helel*” rather than “*Lucifer*”



Definitions



Funky little teaching moment...

- There are some problems with this interpretation
 - First off, “Lucifer” is the Latin translation of the Greek word that translates the original Hebrew word
 - Except that secondly, that's *not* how it was used by Isaiah or *any* of the early Jewish or Christian scholars—including *Jerome himself*
 - The terms “*hêlêl*” and “*ἑωσφόρος*” and “*lucifer*” all referred to the same thing when used in Isaiah 14:12—the planet Venus
 - Because of its position and brightness in the sky, the early world referred to Venus as the “dawn star” or “bringer of the dawn” or “light-bringer” (i.e.; the brightest star and the harbinger of the light and hope of the morning... though not as constant or as trustworthy as the North Star)



Definitions



Funky little teaching moment...

- There are some problems with this interpretation
 - First off, “Lucifer” is the Latin translation of the Greek word that translates the original Hebrew word
 - Except that secondly, that's *not* how it was used by Isaiah or *any* of the early Jewish or Christian scholars—including *Jerome himself*
 - The terms “*hêlêl*” and “*ἔωσφόρος*” and “*lucifer*” all referred to the same thing when used in Isaiah 14:12—the planet Venus
 - Because of its position and brightness in the sky, the early world referred to Venus as the “dawn star” or “bringer of the dawn” or “light-bringer”
 - So Isaiah's use of the term “*hêlêl*” was a metaphor about how the fallen one *should* have been like Venus—*should* have been something beautiful and good and a harbinger of hope—but instead chose to fall into sin and self-destruction
 - Anybody reading the original Hebrew, Greek, or even Latin translations of Isaiah originally took it that way—including rabbis, scholars, etc.
 - But once it made its way into English... everyone got all *hissy* about “*removing*” the proper name of Satan from the Bible



You were the
chosen one!

Venus

