

“WHY WOULD ANYONE CHOOSE SATAN?”

Josh.24:15; Dan.3:16-18

INTRODUCTION:

We are constantly faced with the REALITY of our commitment to CHOOSE to serve the Lord. It's not always easy to DECIDE TO remain faithful and true to the God in heaven, even considering the **benefits** and the **alternative to an eternal life with God!** [Just like the indecision we see Paul expressing in Phil.1:21-22- “*For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose.*”] But it's STILL right there, EVERY DAY, and we have to CONTINUE to make decisions regarding **WHOSE we are.** cf. Rom.6:16- “*Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?*” And the Bible is just REPLEAT with passages encouraging right decisions on our part!

Josh.24:15- “*And if it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*”

Dan.3:16-18- “*Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter. (17) “If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. (18) “But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”*”

I. PROPER DECISION-MAKING IS A GOD-ORDAINED, LIFETIME-ESSENTIAL, ETERNITY-BENEFITTING ACTION.

A. Many have MET these obligations and **MADE CORRECT DECISIONS FOR GOD!**

1. Moses. Heb.11:24- “*By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter;*” cf. also the wilderness wanderings, rebellious people, etc.
2. The Apostles. Matt.4:18-22- “*And walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. (19) And He said[^] to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” (20) And they immediately left the nets, and followed Him. (21) And going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them. (22) And they immediately left the boat and their father, and followed Him.*”
3. Saul, better known as PAUL, the apostle. Acts 9. Acts 22.

B. SOME in the Bible **DECIDED AGAINST** God!

1. Pilate. Matt.27:17-18,....”*Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?” (20) But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the multitudes to ask for Barabbas, and to put Jesus to death. (23) And he said, “Why, what evil has He done?” But they kept shouting all the more, saying, “Let Him be crucified!” (24) And Pilate took water and washed his hands in front of the multitude, saying, “I am innocent of this Man’s blood; see to that yourselves.”*
2. Felix. Acts 24:25.
3. Agrippa. Acts 26:28.
4. By refusing to decide FOR Christ, these have decided AGAINST Him. Matt.12:30.

II. THE CHOICES WE MAKE FOR ETERNITY ARE EITHER ACCEPTABLE OR UNACCEPTABLE IN THE SIGHT OF GOD!

A. Making a life-altering decision about an exclusive spiritual leader is not unique to us.

1. Every living, accountable creature before us, since before time began, has been making decisions about their relationship with God!

2. The VERY ONE we're trying to have a "right relationship" with is the One who determines what "acceptable" behavior is on our part!
- a) Does it REALLY make any difference? Do you believe we really have to "toe the mark" to please God? Is the Creator of the universe that "picky"? HERE's the guidance He has given us:

Exod.20:3-7- "You shall have no other gods before Me. (4) "You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. (5) "You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, (6) but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. (7) "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain."

Deut.4:2- "You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you." **Prov.30:6;**
Gal.1:8-9; **Rev.22:18-19.**

- B. God has always been very **forthright** and **specific** with man as to **WHAT it takes to please Him.** cf. **Heb.11:6.**

1. **Jer.6:20-** "For what purpose does frankincense come to Me from Sheba, And the sweet cane from a distant land? Your **burnt offerings are not acceptable,** And your **sacrifices are not pleasing** to Me."
2. **Eph.5:7-8, 10-** "Therefore do not be partakers with them; for you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light trying to **learn what is pleasing to the Lord.**"
3. **Rom.12:1-2-** "Present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, **acceptable to God,** which is your spiritual service of worship....be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, **that which is good and acceptable and perfect!**"
4. **Prov.1:28-29--** "Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they shall not find me, (29) Because they hated knowledge, And **did not choose the fear of the LORD.**"

III. WITH SUCH URGENCY AND IMPORTANCE ATTACHED PLEASING GOD, WHY WOULD ANYONE CHOOSE SATAN? [Just who is this Satan? Where did he come from? What are the consequences of choosing Satan?]

- A. Many questions about Satan have bombarded humanity every since the Garden of Eden: **Did God create him just to tempt us? Does God create evil? Did God give him his power? And then finally, So, really, whose fault is it if I'm lost?**
- B. May I impress you with the fact that Satan is a factual, specific, reality in our world today!
1. It seems to be relatively easy for us to believe in a real, personal GOD, but then we commonly look on Satan as just some **nebulous** form of evil! **[something that's indistinct and obscure]**
 2. ACCEPTING GOD, we readily believe the Bible information He has given us about creation: in which He reveals there are **three kinds of beings** in the universe today---
 - a) **Divine Beings:** Father/ Son/ Holy Spirit. cf. **Matt.3:16-17.**
 - b) **Angelic Beings:** Those holy, created beings that are helpers of the Lord in the administration of His Will.
 - c) **Human Beings:** People! God's creation. YOU and ME!
[We usually act like we have a better handle on the first & third than on the angelic beings.]
 3. GOD, in His revealed word, and to the best of MY understanding, mentions at least **THREE THINGS** that angelic beings do ---
 - a) **Isa.6:1-2-** "In the year of King Uzziah's death, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. (2) Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings;

with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.” **Here they attended to Deity as they proclaimed the Lord’s holiness.**

b) **Heb.2:2-** “For if the **word spoken through angels** proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense,” **They were present and had a part in the giving of the law of Moses.**

c) **Heb.1:14-** “Are they not all **ministering spirits**, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?” **As ministering spirits, they render service to God’s elect.**

HOW? We just don’t know that, do we?

C. **May I suggest a PERSONAL PERCEPTION as to where I believe Satan and Evil came from?** [First, consider a couple of OT passages]---

1. **Isa.14:4, 12-14-** “that you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon, and say, “How the oppressor has ceased, And how fury has ceased! This is a specific prophecy, referring DIRECTLY to the **king of Babylon**. [There can be NO QUESTION about this, since it’s STATED, specifically and categorically!]

a) May I suggest for you that **Belshazzar** is being pronounced guilty of the same attitudes and sins of which Satan was guilty of in his fall from his holy estate **EONS BEFORE** this historical fact that’s recorded in Isaiah [and so this king of babylon is a **representation** or a **manifestation** or an **embodiment** of that which had already happened previously. **WE** sometimes refer to this as **deja vu!**]

b) **Vs. 12-** “How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! The KJV translates “O star of the morning” as “**LUCIFER!**”

c) **Vss. 13-14-** These verses contain **FIVE statements of SIN, keying on rebellious willfulness!** So here you have **LUCIFER, the star of the morning, whom God refers to:** “But you said in your heart, (1) ‘I will ascend to heaven; (2) I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And (3) I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. (14) ‘(4) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; (5) I will make myself like the Most High.’”

d) **I believe this attitude that’s attributed to the king of Babylon REPRESENTS the prideful will of a previous ANGEL, created pure, but who wanted to be MORE!**

2. **Ezek.28:11, 13-15, 16b-17-** “Again the word of the LORD came to me saying (13) “You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz, and the diamond; The beryl, the onyx, and the jasper; The lapis lazuli, the turquoise, and the emerald; And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, Was in you. On the day that you were created They were prepared. (14) “You were the anointed cherub who covers, And I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire. (15) “You were blameless in your ways From the day you were created, Until unrighteousness was found in you. (16b) And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the stones of fire. (17) “Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, That they may see you.” **This passage is speaking of the king of TYRE --- no question about it!**

a) I suggest that this, too, is an emulation of something already done in the history of man.

Did the king of Tyre do these things? **ABSOLUTELY! But I ALSO BELIEVE these same things happened previously, early on in the beginning of time!**

b) He calls him an anointed CHERUB! He calls him a CREATED ONE! One, I believe, who was created holy and righteous and blameless.

c) Now, I understand the difficulty of these passages, and that **I COULD BE MISTAKEN in my understanding of them!**

+++++BUT I’M NOT THROUGH, JUST YET+++++

[To better understand difficult passages you try to compare them with those that seem to be more CLEAR in your perception! SO, on we go to the New Testament.....]

3. **1 Tim.3:1-** (regarding the qualifications of Elders). He said he didn't want any "**ROOKIES**" in this job! No new converts!
 - a) WHY??? **Vs. 6:** "*Lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil!*"
 - b) This was the **very point** in which the devil incurred condemnation --- **because he rose up in pride** [cf. *Isaiah* and *Ezekiel*]
4. **2 Pet.2:1-** *There WERE false prophets, there WILL BE false teachers, & GOD WON'T SPARE!* **Vs. 4- BECAUSE** God did not spare the **ANGELS** when **they sinned!**
 - a) Those **CREATED, HOLY RIGHTEOUS** Beings **SINNED = So** a place was prepared for **THEM** because of their sins! [cf. **Matt.25:41...** "*eter. fire prepared for the devil and his angels!*"]
 - b) May I suggest for your consideration **that God NEVER intended that man should be cast into HELL --- IT WAS PREPARED FOR SATAN!**
5. **Jude 6-** "*And angels who did not keep their own domain (but abandoned their proper abode), He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day.*"
- C. SO, my **PERSONAL** conclusions regarding **SATAN** and **EVIL**:
 1. All creation by God was GOOD! He didn't create EVIL! Evil is the result of those angels who were created GOOD having "unlawful desires" to be like GOD! They didn't keep their proper place!
 2. Hell was prepared for those eternal angels who didn't keep their holy estate --- **as a place [or, situation] for their punishment!**
 3. SIN [evil] originated with Satan's rebellion and prideful desires. he was cast out of heaven to roam the earth. SO, because evil exists, there is a WARFARE by Satan against God and His eternal plan and purpose, **and it involves everyone who tries to serve God!**
 4. AND FINALLY, AT THE END OF TIME:
*Good angels & those influenced by the gospel ---> will be before the face of God!
 EVIL angels, including the devil, will be in the hell God prepared for them, **PLUS any who allow themselves to be influenced BY Satan's crew!***

CONCLUSION:

IF FROM YOUR STUDY OF GOD'S WORD you have arrived at a different perception about the origin of Satan, please don't allow me to dissuade you! I only urge you to continue to respect the idea that **he's a REALITY, and is out to thwart the efforts of God in all of our lives!** **Jas.4:7-8-** "*...Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (8) Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.*"

IF YOU REALLY WANT TO BE ON GOD'S SIDE AND ESCAPE THE CONSEQUENCES OF CONDEMNATION PREPARED FOR THE DEVIL AND HIS ANGELS, then turn yourself over to the Lord Jesus Christ this very day by obedience to the gospel: H+B+R+C+B.