

Why Did God Create Satan?

Revelation 20:1-4 [NIV] *“And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time. I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”*

Satan’s influence is at last neutralised.

Why has the enemy of God been allowed to exist for so long?

Does it make sense that God would create His own enemy?

How does Satan fit into God’s overall plan for humanity?

Matthew 25:1-5 [NIV] *“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.”*

As far as the Church being a powerful influence in society today, the Church seems to be asleep.

Three things are true when we are asleep:

- a) We don’t know we are asleep until we wake up.
- b) We do things in our dreams we would not do if we were awake.
- c) We hate the sound of the alarm.

While the Church is asleep Satan’s rule is not threatened.

When the Church wakes up in a revival, Satan must counter-attack. How will he do this?

- a) **Exodus 7:11** [NIV] *“Pharaoh then summoned wise men and sorcerers, and the Egyptian magicians also did the same things by their secret arts:”*

Satan will try to imitate anything God does.

- b) **Acts 6:1** [NIV] *“In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.”*

Satan will find weak spots in the fellowship to create dissension and murmuring.

- c) **Numbers 16:1-6** [NIV] *“Korah son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and certain Reubenites, Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab, and On son of Peleth, became insolent and rose up against Moses. With them were 250 Israelite men, well-known community leaders who had been appointed members of the council. They came as a group to oppose Moses and Aaron and said to*

them, "You have gone too far! The whole community is holy, every one of them, and the LORD is with them. Why then do you set yourselves above the LORD's assembly?"

Satan will challenge the leadership that God has ordained.

d) **Acts 4:1-3** [NIV] *"The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. They seized Peter and John, and because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day."*

Satan will persecute those who proclaim the gospel message.

e) **Acts 15:39-40** [NIV] *"They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord."*

Satan will seek to divide close friends.

Why is it important to understand the work of Satan and why God allows him to remain active?

1 We need to remember Satan is a real enemy we have to resist

1 Peter 5:8-9 [NIV] *"Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings."*

There are **two extremes** regarding the attention we give to Satan and he is happy for us to choose either of them.

a) To become preoccupied with Satan.

Being worried about his influence all the time.

Being **too interested** in things pertaining to the occult, even if we are against it.

Trying to diagnose every **illness** as a case of demon **influence**.

b) To forget about Satan or even deny his existence.

2 Corinthians 4:4 [NIV] *"The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."*

One way Satan blinds us is to disbelieve in his existence or to dismiss him as a rather comic creature with horns, tail and a wicked smile.

We are also blinded if we dismiss Satan's efforts to attack and destroy us, or if we neglect what The Bible says about him and his work.

2 We need to remember that Satan is the chief enemy of Jesus Christ our Saviour

Satan wants to defeat Christ's purposes.

Matthew 2:7-8, 16 [NIV] *“Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.” .. “When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to **kill all the boys in Bethlehem** and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.”*

Satan tried to have Jesus killed as a baby.

Matthew 4:5-6 [NIV] *“Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”*

Satan wanted to kill Jesus who was about to begin His ministry.

John 13:2 [NIV] *“The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus.”*

Satan used Judas Iscariot to finally kill Jesus.

3 Understanding the work of Satan helps us to remember that God has an eternal purpose in all that He does or allows

Ephesians 1:11 [NIV] *“In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,”*

Isaiah 46:8-10 [NIV] *“Remember this, fix it in mind, take it to heart, you rebels. Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.”*

God is in control of all history in general. History is “His” [God’s] “Story” [God’s purpose and plan].

Ephesians 5:17 [NIV] *“Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.”*

Part of God’s General Plan for all of humanity is His Personal Plan for each of us. To ignore knowledge of such a personal plan, or not to seek to find what that personal plan involves is foolishness in the eyes of God.

4 Understanding the work of Satan enables us to put all things in perspective. God is Sovereign. God is bigger than Satan

Some Christians seem to have a greater fear of Satan than they have of God.

1 John 4:4 [NIV] *“You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.”*

Really we have nothing to fear. The Holy Spirit in us [God in us] is far greater than the present ruler of the world, Satan.

Romans 8:35-39 [NIV] *“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more*

than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Satan can never separate us from God’s Love; he just doesn’t have such power.

5 We must never forget that we have been given a preview of Satan’s final downfall

Revelation 20:10 [NIV] *“And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”*

We can read the last page of Satan’s active life, where his work will end. Love always prevails over evil.

When Satan tries to make us depressed or feel guilty about our past by filling our mind with negative thoughts. Remind Satan of his future, you lose Satan, we win!!!

Satan is part of God’s fallen creation, just as humans are part of God’s fallen creation.

Ezekiel 28:14-15 [NIV] *“You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you.”*

Satan was created; he is not eternal by nature, there is a time when he did not exist.

John 1:1-2 [NIV] *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.”*

Only God is eternal with no beginning and no end.

It is a fact that Satan’s existence is owing to God creating him, infact Jesus Christ created him as an “*angel of light*” [Isaiah 14:12], but pride and rebellion caused him to become Satan the enemy of God.

Colossians 1:16 [NIV] *“For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.”*

All things were created by Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. Within this creation were all the angels including Lucifer who **became** Satan.

Note the “*angel of light*” is supplanted by the real “*light of the world*” Jesus, who remained faithful to God unto death.

God did not create Satan as he now exists.

Isaiah 14:12-15 [NIV] *“How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, “I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.” But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit.”*

The fall of Satan.

Obviously Satan was created with the ability to choose whether to obey God His Creator or rebel, in the same way Adam and Eve were given a choice and as we are also given the power to choose good or evil.

2 Peter 2:4 [NIV] *“For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgement;”*

Jude 1:6 [NIV] *“And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home, these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.”*

At what point this revolt took place in God’s created time is not clear but it would seem it was before God created human beings.

Genesis 3:1 [NIV] *“Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”*

Satan already the serpent [John 8:44] and the *“father of lies.”*

Perhaps the angels were created as part of *“the heavens”* which are listed first, the invisible realm of God’s Creation.

It could be that the revolt of Satan took place after God created the heavens but before He created the earth.

God gave Satan certain powers but they were limited.

1 Satan is called the *“ruler of the kingdom of the air”*

Ephesians 2:2 [NIV] *“...in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.”*

Does this mean Satan has been given in measure the power to control the weather?

Is Satan behind the trend towards pollution of the air?

Since “air” is invisible this statement is rather a metaphor to refer to the spiritual realm!

Satan is the chief ruler of the fallen spiritual world.

Satan therefore operates as a “spirit” in all unregenerate people, that is all those not “born again” of the Holy Spirit.

John 14:30 [NIV] *“I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me,”*

Jesus called Satan *“the prince of this world”*, Jesus being the Prince of Peace, showing that this world full of hatred and fighting is **not yet God’s world.**

2 Satan holds the power of death

Hebrews 2:14 [NIV] *“Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death, that is, the devil, ...”*

Since Satan succeeded in tempting Eve, who then persuaded Adam to disobey God’s command regarding the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and **such disobedience resulting in death; Satan does have the power of death.**

All sickness and disease came on human beings as a result of the disobedience of Adam and Eve.

This does not prove that all illness is the immediate result of Satan’s influence, but is rather the ultimate explanation to why people get sick and die.

Neither does it follow that Satan determines when people die. Life and death are only in the hands and will of the Creator God, but Satan’s influence causing rebellion, bitterness, negative attitude of mind, discouragement, all can cause physical illness that could lead to an early death.

3 Whatever power Satan has is limited

Job 1:6-12 [NIV] *“One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. The LORD said to Satan, “Where have you come from?” Satan answered the LORD, “From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it.” Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.” “Does Job fear God for nothing?” Satan replied. “Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. **But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.**” The LORD said to Satan, “Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger.” Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.”*

In the story of God’s dealing with Job we see that it is **God who puts a limit on what Satan can do.**

4 God uses Satan to advance His purposes

God allowed Satan to tempt Adam and Eve. God knew what the outcome would be and had already prepared a means of redeeming human beings from their “fallen” state.

1 Peter 1:20 [NIV] *“He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.”*

Christ was ready to be the blood sacrifice to redeem us before the first human was created.

Genesis 3:15 [NIV] *“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”*

When Satan caused Adam and Eve to rebel, God was ready with an answer to Satan’s treachery.

The entire scenario of the children of Israel in Egypt was part of God’s scheme and He had prophesied it would happen many years before.

Genesis 15:13-21 [NIV] *“Then the LORD said to him, “Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great*

possessions. You, however, will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a good old age. In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure." When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates..."

What God was doing here was preparation for a model nation to be formed that would receive His Laws but they would fail to keep. For the redemption of all humanity Jesus Christ would be born within that nation to keep those laws perfectly and become the Saviour of all human beings.

All throughout the history of the children of Abraham, God has used the evil influence of Satan to prepare Abraham's children and all of mankind to bring about His purpose.

The chief example of God using Satan was the death of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

John 13:2 [NIV] *"The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus."*

Satan was behind the betrayal of Jesus by Judas Iscariot.

Matthew 27:18 [NIV] *"For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him."*

Jealousy is of the spirit of Satan.

Acts 7:9 [NIV] *"Because the patriarchs were jealous of Joseph, they sold him as a slave into Egypt. But God was with him..."*

God had used the spirit of jealousy before to bring about His purpose.

John 19:30 [NIV] *"When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit."*

When Jesus breathed his last breath on the cross with the words "it is finished," Satan, probably thought and may have even boasted "He is finished, I have won."

But the resurrection of Christ on the third day put an end to Satan's power over death and his influence over humanity forever.

1 Corinthians 2:6-8 [NIV] *"We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."*

If Satan and the rulers in this world had known what Christ's death meant they would not have been the instruments of His death, for without such a death there could be no resurrection.

The bottom line is that all of Satan's efforts to defeat God's plan of salvation will always backfire.

Conclusion

God did not create Satan as he is now.

Satan is part of God's fallen creation.

Although Satan has certain powers and authority, he is strictly limited in what he can do.

Ultimate power is securely in the hands of the **Sovereign God**.

Despite Satan's opposition, **God actually uses him to work out His will** in the universe that He has created.

God uses Satan and the evil he creates in humans to further the cause of His Kingdom.

Satan does all he does by God's permission and that includes every temptation and trial he may bring on us.

One of Satan's strategies is to persuade people that he does not exist.

Christians should be aware of this deception.

We need to cultivate a healthy respect for Satan but never be afraid of him for he would love us to have that fear, and would use it to destroy us.