

Nots in the Devil's Tale

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Introduction

Satan is an expert at deception. Jesus said, "He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:31-47, esp. vs. 44).

You will not surely die...

In tempting Eve, the serpent responded to her accurate recital of God's word and will by saying, "You surely will not die!" Thus, he questioned God's goodness and honesty (Gen. 2:8-9, 15-17; 3:1-7). As a result, sin entered the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned (Gen. 3:14-24; 5:1-5; Rom. 5:12).

He is not a faithful servant...

Responding to the Lord's commendation of Job, Satan accused the patriarch of being carnally motivated. Satan answered the Lord, "Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face." (Job 1:1-12; cf. also 2:1-10). In like-manner, the devil is described in the Apocalypse as being "the accuser of our brethren" (Rev. 12:7-12).

You will not suffer defeat...

Ahab, king of Israel, sought the help of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, in fighting against the Syrians at Ramoth-gilead. While 400 false prophets promised success, Jehoshaphat sought counsel from a prophet of the Lord. Micaiah was summoned, and after some initial jousting, indicated that God would use this battle to bring about Ahab's death. Faithful Micaiah said, "Therefore, hear the word of the Lord. I saw the Lord sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing on His right and on His left. The Lord said, 'Who will entice Ahab king of Israel to go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?' And one said this while another said that. Then a spirit came forward and stood before the Lord and said, 'I will entice him.' And the Lord said to him, 'How?' He said, 'I will go and be a deceiving spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' Then He said, 'You are to entice him and prevail also. Go and do so'" (2 Chron. 18:1-34). So it is with all false prophets and proponents of error (2 Thess. 2:7-12; 1 Tim. 4:1-5).

Conclusion

In contrast with the devil, who cares not a whit for mankind, except to the degree that he can use humanity to hurt God, Jesus Christ deeply loves us, sacrificed himself on our behalf, and will win the ultimate victory over Satan (Gen. 3:14-15; Rom. 16:20; Eph. 4:7-10; Col. 2:13-15; Heb. 2:14-18).