

WHY is there a Devil?



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Summary: *We know Satan really exists. He's the Adversary, the Devil. But why on earth does God allow Satan to do all the horrible things he does? Why doesn't God just remove Satan? What purpose can God possibly have in keeping such an evil power around? Who's the real god of this world? What did Yeshua (Jesus) come to accomplish? All that and more in this message.*

Hello everyone, I'm Philip Shields. Welcome to Light on the Rock.

We've recently been talking about our battle and victory over the Devil and his demons.

But people ask – “WHY does God allow Satan – God's enemy – to hang around? If God is all powerful, why doesn't he just get rid of Satan? What's the Devil's purpose?”

God Most High is supreme. But Satan serves several purposes and I believe you're maybe going to understand a little better how even Satan himself is being used by God to accomplish God's aim, God's goal in producing a spirit family that is just like he is – immortal, holy, righteous and glorious.

If we don't understand some key points, we start blaming GOD for all the pain, suffering, woes, unfair deaths, the crying, the tears, the problems and heartaches we have in this world. In a future sermon I will go into how God is using the pain and persecution and problems we go through to perfect us through that suffering - -and yes, Satan does often play a role in it!

[I recommend you print this out so you get all the scriptures down for you, but also listen to the audio as I'll say many things beyond the notes. These notes are approximate but are not word-for-word throughout. So I suggest you hear the audio AND print out the notes.]

But also remember that Satan and his fallen angels are very limited in what they can do to and with God's people.

- **You should read Job 1-2.** Sarcastic Satan tells God, “Oh yeah, Job worships you – but only because you've put a hedge of protection around him (which was true); just remove that hedge and I'll show you the real Job” -- **Job 1:6-12. God has to give permission** before Satan can touch you. And if God gives permission, there are good reasons.

- **Satan had to ask permission to get at Peter** – and Yeshua knew it, and prayed for Peter. **Luke 22:31**. “Satan has asked for you, Peter, to sift you like wheat....” Satan is going around “like a roaring lion seeking whom he MAY devour” (1 Peter 5:8).

But once Satan and his gang of demons make their final direct assault against God, prophesied in Revelation 12, Satan is hopping mad at God and God’s children and he goes all out to steal, kill and destroy. He hates humans, but especially God’s family. He’s going to do his best to discourage you and make you sin and quit your high calling.

So let’s understand WHY there is a Devil and what his purpose is.

First of all, let’s answer this: Did God CREATE the Devil?

If you heard my previous sermons about our fight against Satan – and if you didn’t, please do so you understand this one – you’ll remember that **God created a covering cherub over his throne, an arch-angel named (in Hebrew) HEYLEL – shining one. Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28** say he was *perfect* in the day he was created, and very beautiful. THAT was the spirit angel God created: perfect until iniquity (lawlessness) was found in him.

So because we all (including angels) have free will to decide what we’re EACH going to do—this cherub became VAIN and greedy – and I think eventually bitter against God and decided to fight God himself. I covered all that the last time.

He had very likely been placed on the earth, but Heylel started talking to his angels under him and persuaded all of them that they had a higher calling, that GOD was holding them all BACK from their true great potential; that they could be like the Most High. They probably assumed that God was too “nice” to fight back. Satan was quite the persuader by his LIES, and all his angels followed him. That was 1/3 of the total angelic population.

God threw them back to earth – for they had “left their abode” (Jude 6). Yeshua said he “saw Satan fall as lightning from heaven (Luke 10:18).

So God had created a wonderful super-angel who turned bad. But God did not CREATE the Devil. He created a good angel who turned into someone very, very bad. See the difference?

He’s a spirit being, and they don’t age and die like humans do. But just because angels and demons are spirits (Psalm 104:4; Heb 1:7) does not mean they are immortal.

1 Timothy 6:16 says about God – “**who ALONE has immortality**, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom NO man has seen or can see....” So angels and demons are not immortal, but *are apparently allowed to live as long as God chooses to let them live.*

But God is calling you and me and eventually many more – to be actual, real children of his. I suggest you look up my sermons on “Breathtaking destiny” – just click the Search bar at the top right corner of the home page and enter those 2 words in the larger Search Bar that materializes.

Remember WE are **being called to IMMORTALITY**. **1 Cor. 15:53-54** says “**this mortal must put on immortality**”. Daniel 12:3 says we’ll be shining like the sun. John, under inspiration, says we truly shall be like Him, like God... here, read it.

1 John 3:1-2

“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”

ANGELS were never offered immortality nor TRUE sonship in God’s family. They are called “sons of God” a couple places but only as a type, not as actual children (Job 1:6; 38:7). **Hebrews 1:5-6 makes this VERY clear:** “To which of the angels did he ever say, ‘you are my son and today I have begotten you?’” The answer is “none of them.”

And angels are not made in the image of God – as you and I have been. Angels in their spiritual state can look like horses, eagles, bulls or oxen, lions and more. Demons can look like dragons, snakes, scorpions, frogs, etc. But they’re not described as being in God’s image. HEYLEL probably hated this and felt snubbed. I should give a sermon/study on “all about angels”.

But Yeshua was the FIRST true SON of God by the resurrection (**Romans 1:3-4**). And now we are being called to be his brothers and sisters, and children of the highest. **Yeshua is the first of MANY brethren (Romans 8:29). God calls us his “sons and daughters” – 2 Cor. 6:18. Christ is not ashamed to call us his brothers (Heb 2:11).**

What’s the POINT in pointing all this out? Satan hates the class of beings – humanity – who are being called to immortality. He wants us all to fail, to sin, so we have to die to pay the death penalty of sin —or so he thought, until Christ came and paid that for us.

But God HAS TO KNOW -- if he’s offering you immortality – that you will NEVER, ever, ever, ever become another Heyl who turned into HIS ENEMY. (Again, “Lucifer” is a Latin name for “bright morning star” and is a terrible name to ascribe to Satan! He is not the Morning Star!)

So you and I have to face Satan, resist him, fight him with God’s armor and overcome him and WIN – by the blood of the Lamb – as I pointed out in part 3 of my sermon series on Satan and demons.

So what happens next? WHY is there a Satan?

Mankind given dominion over the earth

In the meantime, long after Satan’s rebellion, God created mankind. God gave both the man and woman rulership and stewardship over the animals and the whole earth.

Genesis 1:28

Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

CJB, Holmans, NIV, etc – "RULE over the fish...."

They were picturing Christ and His Bride someday ruling the whole earth, as ONE.

Eve came out of Adam's body (Genesis 2:21-24)- and Adam went into Eve to become as ONE and produce more children. So in a way, Eve was in Adam by being part of his body, and Adam was in Eve in loving union literally and also by giving up a part of his very body as the foundation of her creation.

Christ is in us, and we are in HIM, we are part of His body, just as Eve was part of Adam's body originally. (Ephesians 5:30; Colossians 1:24)

The "ekklesia" – the called-out ones – were also possible after the deep wound in Christ's side was ripped open on the cross and out came blood and water (**John 19:34**) —which washes away our sins and makes it possible to become the holy bride of Christ and children of God – **AND TO DEFEAT Satan.**

- Messiah's perfect, sinless blood paid the **ransom price** required by Satan, who had, up til then a hold on us. **Yeshua himself says in Matthew 20:28** that he came "to give his life a **ransom** for many". **1 Timothy 2:6** also.
- **He REDEEMED us back to God by His blood** (Revelation 5:9). Rev. 5:9 shows powerful beings in heaven holding the prayers of the saints – saying – YOU, Lamb of God, "have redeemed us to God by your blood." So folks, Satan has no more claim on you. (**Gal 3:13**) and cannot condemn you (Romans 8:1).
- **And Yeshua's blood and death also paid our death PENALTY required by our just and righteous God, for each and all of our sins.** "The wages of sin is DEATH, but God's GIFT is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (**Romans 6:23**).

Any who choose to continue in a LIFE of sin – listed for example as fornicating, adultery, idolatry, homosexual behavior, thieving, coveting, drunkenness, etc - "will NOT inherit the kingdom of God" (**1 Corinthians 6:9-11**). That's not me saying that, but God's word that says it. We have to be faithful – going forward – to our God and to our spouse. So absolutely, we have to continue to resist Satan, change, look more and more like Christ, and living in righteousness.

- Then Christ, who knew no sin, who became sin for us – also offered us the **free gift of GOD'S own righteousness in Christ (READ 2 Cor. 5:21; Philippians 3:9-11; Romans 5:15-19)**. **This covers our failures going forward.** Our slip ups and sins going forward are considered part of our flesh that died with Christ on the cross, all beautifully explained especially in the book of Romans. (Rom 7:29b) We still must repent of those – but we're covered by God's righteousness which is by faith (**Rom 3:21-22**).

So back to Adam and Eve now. The Rule was – that God his Creator makes the rules. The TEST now was – will mankind obey and follow what God said we should do, or listen to someone else?

YHVH kept it simple: you can eat of all the trees' fruit around here except one. God had put 2 special trees in the midst of the garden: the Tree of life and Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Notice the forbidden tree wasn't pure evil – but knowledge of good and evil. And Satan's world today is a MIX of that as well – and that helps confuse God's children.

Both trees were good. Everything God created was “very good” – **Genesis 1:31**. God had told Adam – who told Eve later – that that one tree's FRUIT was forbidden because it was the tree of KNOWLEDGE - knowledge of GOOD and evil. And, by implication, who got to decide what “good” was and what “evil” was. This forbidden tree was a beautiful tree (Gen 3:6), though so often it is depicted in children's Bible stories as a leafless, dying, ugly tree. No, it was beautiful to behold. **But it was TEST**: they were not to eat of it. God wanted to be the one defining what is good and what is evil. Satan convinced them that God was holding something back; that “their own truth” needed to win out. He convinced them that they could decide for themselves what was right and wrong, what was good and evil.

Gen 3:1-8 Satan appears for the first time in scripture as a serpent he had possessed. WHY didn't God just forbid the Devil from coming into the Garden?

Because YHVH wanted to see whom the newly created couple would choose to obey: HIM – or the Serpent? God still wants to know if you – a child of Adam and Eve – will choose YHVH and his ways, or Satan and his ways? How's that going for YOU?

MANKIND FAILED their JOB as RULER of the World

Anyway, Adam did not fulfill his GOD-GIVEN ROLE as head of his household under YHVH and did not order the serpent to shut up and get out of there, and neither did he step in to stop his wife, who indeed had been fooled by Satan, from this deception. The forbidden tree was beautiful to gaze upon and its fruit, Satan said, would make them wise (Genesis 3:6) – and Eve gave some of the fruit to “Adam who was with her” – **v7**.

But Adam should have taken charge, and ordered the snake out of there. Adam and Eve, remember, had been given rulership over all life forms on the planet! So Adam should have taken charge and stopped his wife from picking the fruit or eating of it. But he did not.

So there's another reason for Satan to hang around: he makes us men and women decide if we're going to OBEY God and do our God-given roles or not. Men too often have either become dictators at home, or no leader at all. Women too often have refused to submit to their husband and often take over the leadership.

“The head of every man is Christ, and the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God” (1 Cor. 11:3).

So Adam had the greater sin because he was not deceived and is actually called the first sinner in Romans.

1 Timothy 2:13-14

“For Adam was formed first, then Eve. 14 **And Adam was not deceived**, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.”

It appears that God knew humans would fail sooner or later, for it says Christ the Lamb of God was ***foreordained from before the foundation of the world.*** (1 Peter 1:20). God knew that if this wily Serpent could deceive millions and millions of brilliant spirit angels, he certainly could tempt and win over 2 creatures made from dirt. So even before Adam and Eve spoke their first words, the Son of God’s death as their Savior was already part of the plan of God – and THAT has everything to do with defeating Satan ultimately too, so bear with me.

I believe the term -- “foundation of the world”—the foundation *spiritually* of this present evil world – happened when Adam and Eve sinned and set the BASIS of going forward their allegiance to the *Serpent*. So we’re told that the Lamb of God – Christ – was “*slain from the foundation of the world*” (Rev. 13:8). From that moment onward, he was as good as crucified because he also died for Adam and Eve, as much as he died for you and me.

So right there, in the Garden, the coming Son of God was as good as SLAIN, and that future was forecast in the curses placed on the Serpent in **Genesis 3:15** – that Satan would bruise the woman’s Seed (Christ) in his heels (crucifixion), but the Seed would crush Satan’s head, totally defeating him. It happened at Golgotha, “the Place of the Skull” (John 19:17; Mark 15:22).

So God prophesied the defeat of the Serpent. **And then God covered them both with a skin, probably sheepskin – a prophetic picture of YHVH covering us in the blood of the Lamb.** He continues to be our covering as we depend on HIS perfect obedience when we come into HIM by God’s Spirit. This was very probably the first shed animal blood they saw – and it was to provide skin to cover them just as Christ’s life covers US now.

Genesis 3:21

“Also for Adam and his wife YHVH Elohim (LORD God) made tunics of skin, and clothed them.”

What a wonderful God we have. How gentle, how loving, how reassuring – even as, right after that, God had to drive out mankind from the Garden and prohibit their re-entry (**Gen 3:22-24**).

Elohim, YHVH – makes a clear distinction between the coming promised Seed of the woman vs. the children of the Devil (the serpent’s seed –or children; and Eve’s Seed, the promised Messiah) Genesis 3:15.

Satan was now ruler of this world. I’ll show you as we move along. **AND THIS HAS EVERYTHING to do with all the heartache and evil we see in the world – AND why God keeps the Devil around for now.**

AFTER ADAM AND EVE’S SIN, Satan BECAME RULER OF WORLD

Do you remember the Devil's 3 temptations (or tests) of Yeshua (Jesus) in Matthew 4. One test was Satan telling Jesus "if you will bow down and worship me, you know what? **I'll give you all the kingdoms of the world.**" (Matthew 4:8-10)

Now think about that. Yeshua doesn't argue the point because right now all the kingdoms of the world ARE under the "GOD of this world" – who is identified as Satan, not God the Father!

Jesus also – several times – in his final evening before he was crucified – referred to the Devil as "the ruler of this world". (Prince of this world). And he's also deceived the whole world, but they don't realize they're deceived (Revelation 12:9)

Don't misunderstand: Satan does have some imposed boundaries. God is still ultimately the final top leader and the ultimate ruler over all the kings of the earth, **but Christ now also is called "ruler over the kings of the earth" since his resurrection (Revelation 1:5; Ephesians 1:20-22; Matthew 28:18).** But until Christ actually starts his reign, Satan is the one running things in this time period. We're in a transition period coming up soon. But look what Yeshua says about Satan:

John 12:31 – just before he was crucified, he says "Now is the judgment of this world; now **the ruler of this world will be cast out**".

John 14:29-31 – "**the ruler of this world is coming** and has NOTHING in Me." THEN he adds – world will know I love the Father because whatever the Father has told me to do, I do.! What a contrast.

John 16:11—RULER of this world is JUDGED.
2 Cor. 4:4 Satan is called the god of this age

So when our forefathers Adam and Eve sinned, and followed Satan as their leader, Satan became the leader of mankind and the "foundation of the world" was set; I mean this "present evil world". And **"the world" was the term used to describe the world under Satan's rule as I'm about to show.**

So we're told this present world is NOT God's world – yet. Please get that. *So what we see going on in the world is not because God is doing it – it's just that God has not sent Jesus to take over the world yet.*

So here's what we're told.

- **"Do NOT LOVE this world (its ways) – 1 John 2:15-17**– "Do NOT love the world or the things in the world. Anyone who loves the world does not have the love of the Father in him."

Satan likes to mix and match, some good, a lot of evil – as that helps to deceive. But the good has been tainted, so John continues in **v 16** "for ALL that is in the world – lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, pride of life – is NOT of the Father but is of the world" – and v 17 says that's all passing away, but if we do God's will, we will abide forever.

Compare that to the sin of Eve. She probably was hungry (lust of the flesh), thought the tree and fruit was beautiful (lust of the eyes) and she wanted to be made wise by the fruit (pride of life).

- **“The WORLD” – does not know God’s children (1 John 3:1) and hates us (1 John 3:13)** as we are not of its way (John 15:18-19). The anti-Christ is in the world. But we must become more and more like our Father and Savior who loved the people of the world and did not come to condemn them (John 3:16-17). Christ, remember, was a “FRIEND of sinners” (Matthew 11:19; Luke 19:7; 15:1-2). Something about him – who was perfect- - was very disarming, uncondemning. Do you have close friends who don’t attend church? Jesus did.
- **BUT we ARE called to overcome the world – 1 John 5:4-5 -- by our faith and belief in Christ Jesus.** Christ said HE had overcome the world (John 16:33) – so we also, in him must also overcome the world. We are “not of the world” – John 15:19.
- And yet, we are *sent into* the world. We’re not hermits! (John 17:18). Yeshua: “just as you sent ME into the world, I also have sent them into the world.” We are sent into the world to be lights to the people of Satan’s world, but we are to come out of the societal values of this world. We’re not supposed to be a part of it. (But how we do sometimes enjoy so much of what is “the world”. Some things are fine, but anything not squaring with God’s values are verboten to us)

So my point is, *this world is not God’s world. Not yet, at least. It’s Satan’s world.* Most of what’s happening in this world is not from God, though God retains overall say-so of what happens. Satan still has limitations from God, especially when it comes to his involvement with God’s children. So we must not get angry or upset at God when things are so bad on this planet!

SO IT’S CLEAR – Satan temporarily RULES his world, with exceptions and limits on how far he can go on God’s children.

God wants all humanity who have experienced Satan’s rulership to conclude there’s “GOT to be something better!” God lets humanity have their FILL of Satan’s world – so by the time Christ returns, humanity will soon enough see the contrast, and realize God’s way is much better, NO Comparison.

Mankind has tried every known RELIGION we could devise or Satan could inspire; every known form of GOVERNMENT, every social system – all of them will be proven faulty if that religion or government or social system was not patterned after God’s way. ALL of mankind’s attempts to bring peace and joy on the earth so far have failed.

So why does God allow the Devil

SO WHY DOES GOD ALLOW A DEVIL TO EXIST? [Note: edited slightly from what’s on the audio version]

- ***To prove Satan’s way does not work.***
- ***For God’s children to show they choose God and his way and reject Satan.***

- **To provide a new ruler of the world who has defeated Satan – and that new ruler is Christ.**
- **To give God’s people someone and a system to RESIST and fight against – which makes us stronger in our character. This is a HUGE point.**
- **To declare – even if it results in death – our fealty and loyalty and obedience to God as a witness**

Christ – THE 2ND ADAM – comes and does it right this time!

So Yeshua came to save us – that’s true – but also to destroy the works of the Devil and to succeed to be the new king of the earth when the time is right, according to God the Father.

SO WHAT had JUST HAPPENED in the garden?

- **Adam and Eve HAD to face Satan’s lies and temptations and reject them, but they failed, and followed and obeyed their Enemy instead. Adam was not deceived, so he was even worse.**
- **A “second Adam” was needed – and that was Yeshua the Son of God, who came as mortal flesh (John 1:1-2, 14). Paul calls Adam the “first Adam” who “became a living being and the last Adam (Christ) a life-giving spirit” (1 Corinthians 15:45.) And so Jesus HAD to face and defeat Satan and Satan’s power, and his claim of the death penalty on the whole human race. This time, this 2nd Adam who was Jesus Christ – wins! He faced Satan, defeated him, and Christ even said “the ruler of this world has nothing in me” (John 14:29-31). Oh that we could say that!**
- **God has to have children who will recognize Satan – and his temptations – for what HE IS: our ENEMY. We must NOT give in to Satan – but fight him, resist him, and overcome him by and through the perfect blood of Christ and using God’s spirit in a lifetime of resisting and overcome sin after we have repented. We also fight him with the ARMOR of God in Eph 6:10-18, and it’s stated clearly there that our real fight is not against mankind, but evil spirits.**
- **So the Word of God came into the world – yes to save us – *but also, don’t miss this, he also came to DEFEAT Satan in hand-to-hand epic combat and to destroy the works of the devil* (1 John 3:8 – “for this purpose ...”)**
- **And every single one of us who are being called and trained by God, have to accept the blood of Yeshua over us to wash us from our sins and to defeat the devil – and we must TURN from the darkness of Satan to the light of God. We cannot defeat Satan by ourselves, because he ALREADY had a claim on us due to our sins and the ransom and death penalty that was hanging over us.**

Look at Paul describes that very PURPOSE in HIS (Paul’s) calling:

Acts 26:9-21

"Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. 10 This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in

prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. 11 **And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme;** and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

12 "While thus occupied, as I journeyed to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, 13 at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me. 14 And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying **in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'** 15 **So I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.** 16 But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you.

17 I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, 18 to open their eyes, in order to **turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of SATAN TO GOD, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance** among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

19 "Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, 20 but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, **that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.**"

So the very first thing Jesus did after his baptism at the start of his ministry was to FACE Satan and defeat him in spite of Satan's tests/temptations.

Matthew 4:1-3

Then Jesus was LED up by the Spirit into the wilderness **TO be tempted by the devil.** 2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. 3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "***IF*** You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

Satan skipped the word "beloved", as in "beloved son"... Matthew 3:17. Satan's constantly trying to make you feel like "surely can't consider yourself a child of God, can you?" Don't bite on his bait. So one of the major reasons Yeshua came is revealed in Hebrews 2:14-15.

Hebrews 2:14-15

"**Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He (Yeshua) Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the Devil, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.**"

This time the "2nd Adam" – our Captain, our Savior Yeshua won and didn't listen to Satan. We have the same choice to make. **Satan's PURPOSE is to make HIS side and HIS way look as attractive and pleasurable and appealing as possible.** We must decide, once

we're called out of Satan's world – we must decide if we're going to live God's way, or Satan's way.

How's that going for you?

This next passage is **from the CJB version**, because the word “sins” is ongoing in Greek, as in “continues in sin”. But it shows us what must be happening: with God's spirit in us we should be changing and turning from a life of sin to a life of obedient righteousness. Notice verse 8 in 1 John 3.

1 John 3:7-10 CJB

“Children, don't let anyone deceive you — **it is the person who keeps on doing what is right who is righteous, just as God is righteous.**

8 **The person who keeps on sinning is from the Adversary**, because from the very beginning the Adversary has kept on sinning. **It was for this very reason that the Son of God appeared, to DESTROY these doings of the Adversary.**

Did you get that? Jesus came not to just to die for us – but to WIN THE FIGHT against Satan and destroy him. And once this was done, then God the Father elevated him above every name and at his name every knee should bow. Once Christ was resurrected, he now had the right to say he – in God's time – would be king of the world when God gave the signal. Continue:

9 No one who has God as his Father keeps on sinning, because the seed planted by God remains in him. That is, he cannot continue sinning, because he has God as his Father. 10 Here is how one can distinguish clearly between God's children and those of the Adversary: everyone who does not continue doing what is right is not from God.”

Let me say again, God HAS to know beyond doubt – his children will never ever ever become another Adversary to him but have proven their loyalty and obedience even in spite of Satan, in spite of pain, suffering, trials, tough times, persecution, martyrdom – whatever – that we this time will refuse to follow Satan! You and I as descendants of Adam and Eve THIS time follow God and not Satan.

That was also part of the story of Job – that God was showing Satan that there ARE people who will remain loyal to GOD in spite of unhealed pain and suffering and persecution from the Devil himself.

**WHEN THE REINS OF POWER
WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO Yeshua**

Satan is already as good as defeated. He knows it. But God will not hand over the reins of power for Christ to REIGN AS King of Kings until he returns. God speed that day. So we pray “YOUR kingdom come, YOUR WILL be done, even on earth, just as it is in heaven.” Because right now it's NOT God's kingdom on earth and God's will is not often being done by most of the world's people.

It is at the 7th Trumpet of God when it is proclaimed,
Revelation 11:15

Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

In the next 2 passages, it's clearly Jesus Christ (Yeshua) being discussed here. HE is the Lamb (Rev. 17; John 1:29) and HE is the Word of God (John 1:1-3, 14) And HE is Lord of Lords, King of kings.

Revelation 17:14

These will make war **with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for HE is Lord of lords and King of kings;** and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."

Revelation 19:13-16

He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, **and His name is called The Word of God.** 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has **on His robe and on His thigh a name written: 'KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS'.**

At this time, Jesus Christ (Yeshua the Messiah) is given "dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations and languages should serve Him. ..." (Daniel 7:14). See also Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 1:20-22; Psalm 89:26-27).

All that we just read is about Yeshua, the Son of God. It is Yeshua who returns to the earth to rule, not God the Father -- not YET anyway, until Revelation 21.

When Christ returns we find that Satan is bound during that thousand years.

Revelation 20:1-3

"Then I saw an angel [probably Michael] coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. **But after these things he must be released for a little while.**"

So Satan is released again for a short time right at the end of the thousand years. But **WHY will SATAN be released all over again** after the 1000 years of relative peace on earth? It all goes hand in hand with the reason why we have a Devil around right now! So let's read a prophecy and then deal with it today.

Revelation 20:7-8

"Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.

Verse 9 goes on to say that GOD, who is still in heaven during this time, as I said, rains down “fire from heaven” which devours the Satan-led attackers.

So understand this:

The people living during the Millennium and especially those who were born and grew up in the Millennium had up to 1000 years of no Satan around. They NEVER HAD TO fight Satan. NOT one time, up until this point.

They did not have to resist Satan and choose God and his way of life – under Satan's temptations. The “world” in the millennium reflects Christ. So what did they have to resist? Very little compared to what we and the world have to endure. And this very world we live in today reflects Satan too. But in the millennium even their own carnal nature would be significantly different without a devil around to capitalize on human weakness.

So are you seeing why God has to release Satan? To once again see if mankind will follow Satan or follow God.

It would be nothing for God to allow people in the Millennium to live up to 1000 years as he did in the days after Adam and Eve – when people routinely lived well into their 900's. A few more years would be nothing for God. And all those born 300, 400, 700, 900 years into the millennium *will never have encountered Satan* and his temptations and his bad attitude.

It seems to me that God has to be SURE of their loyalty. God has to be *certain* that they face Satan and his temptations and REJECT Satan. God has to *know* without question that these Millennials (people who lived thru the 1000 year reign of Christ and his saints) are on HIS side, on HIS wavelength.

But even here, we see hundreds of thousands, maybe millions, still choose to follow Satan after the millennium – when Satan is loosed and broadcasts HIS bad attitude and HIS lies to a humanity that had never experienced him before.

So here's the main POINT, for now, why God keeps Satan around:

God needs each and every single one of his children to *encounter* the Devil – and REJECT him, and choose to obey GOD instead – over and over and over for the rest of our lives.

God must know without any doubt that each human has rejected Satan and chosen the living God. God has to know that NONE of his children will ever, ever become an Adversary in the future. That means we all have to be tested, and tested and tested over and over again.

Frankly, I feel in my heart that too many of God's children today have become very LAX on this subject. We don't seem to be as aware of Satan's methods, and his hatred for God's children, and his desire to make you be tempted into failure and sin and feeling like a total failure. Remember you are covered by the blood Christ and by faith in the righteousness of GOD covering you, in faith. Remember you are being evaluated right now if you have conquered Satan and are using the blood of the Lamb and his testimony or not.

At some point, I believe Satan is dismissed forever. Many will disagree with me. But I think He will have served his purpose. There are verses that say he is put away into a lake of fire or abyss forever and ever – (throughout the ages) (Matthew 25:41; Rev 20:10).

There are those who wonder, after Satan has served his purpose, why would God continue to let him exist in his misery and stinky attitude? Why not put him out of his misery? There's no statement that being a spirit being is synonymous with being immortal.

I mentioned last time that perhaps the ending of Ezek 28 is not just about the king of Tyre – but about the one who leads him – Satan:

Ezekiel 28:18-19

"You defiled your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities,
By the iniquity of your trading; Therefore I brought fire from your midst;
It devoured you, **And I turned you to ashes upon the earth**
In the sight of all who saw you.
19 All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you;
You have become a horror, **and shall be no more forever.**"

The wages of sin is death. It's not eternal life away from God, but DEATH. I think that surely applies to Satan also, eventually. But we'll see. God will do what is best. But to say "you shall be no more forever" seems something said to Satan instead of a human.

I hope today's message helps to answer the age-old question: why is there a devil?

He serves a purpose for now – and in the end, God is using him to be a point where we decide –either to listen to the serpent, or to God. To follow the Dragon, or follow the Lamb of God. To obey Satan – or obey God. To stay in darkness or come out of darkness into his marvelous light. To stay on the path to death – or choose immortality. Satan helps make the contrast very clear.

And we have chosen to follow our leader, the 2nd Adam Yeshua the Son of God. We have chosen to accept the high calling to be a child and heir of God Almighty, rather than a child of the devil. Hallelujah! Praise our great God!

It's an intense fight and it's going to become epic. You need to be ready for it. You need to be getting into the best spiritual shape possible now. And you need to VANQUISH the enemy in the blood of the Lamb and by your testimony, your declaration, that you are part of GOD'S Family and reject the Devil. This must, must, must become much more REAL to all of us.

Praise you Father for all your wisdom. Closing prayer.

I closed after the prayer, with God's blessing on the people from Numbers 6:24-26.

"YHVH bless you, keep and protect you; 25 YHVH make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; show you his favor...

26 May YHVH turn his face lovingly toward you, And give you His peace, may you experience his Shalom."