

LOST
(Part 4 of 6)

Fourth, man is considered lost and dead because his relationship to Satan condemns him. Contrary to popular belief, Satan is a real personal being, not some fabricated character from a play or mythical story. He was a created cherub (angel) who sinned against God. When Ezekiel was writing concerning the king of Tyrus he was writing in the metaphysical (beyond the physical) realm. The references are of a supernatural nature. They describe someone other than the human ruler himself, namely, Satan. Note carefully the wording of Ezekiel concerning this king of Tyrus: “Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum [denoting that this ruler was the consummation of perfection in his original wisdom and beauty], full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou has been in Eden the garden of God [ref. Genesis 2:8; 3:1-15]; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub [angel] that covereth: and I [God] have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.” This angel had occupied a special place of prominence in protecting the throne of God. “Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. By the multitude of thy merchandise [possessions] they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I [God] will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick [trade]; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more” (Ezekiel 28:12-19). Satan’s wisdom and beauty led to pride and his subsequent downfall. However, his judgment that is announced in these verses will not be consummated until he is cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:10).

Isaiah the prophet not only speaks of the reality of Satan, but shows his fierce opposition toward God. He writes, “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer [Satan], son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God [a possible reference of Satan’s desire to rule all the angelic creatures]: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north [a reference to Satan’s goal to govern the universe]: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High” (Isaiah 14:12-14). God now speaks to Satan and his arrogance: “Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners” (Isaiah 14:15-17).

Satan sustains a definite opposition toward God and he will go to any length to accomplish his goal. Not only is Satan in opposition to God, he is in opposition to man. Every sinner is actually

a spiritual child of Satan. Jesus told His Jewish opponents that were in opposition to His message that they were of their father the devil. Read and note carefully His words: “I know that ye are Abraham’s seek; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you. I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father. They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham’s children, ye would do the works of Abraham. But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God. Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Why do ye not understand my speech? Even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. Which of you convinceth [will convict] me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? He that is of God heareth God’s words; ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God” (John 8:37-47). The Jews were the natural descendants of Abraham, Jesus makes this clear in John 8:37. However, because of their unbelief not all were spiritual descendants. Therefore, according to Jesus the father of the unbelieving Jews – as well as unbelieving Gentiles is the devil.

Paul writing to the Gentile church at Ephesus said, “And you hath he quickened [made alive], who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience [prince. . .spirit. Both words refer to Satan.]: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lust of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others” (Ephesians 2:1-3). Unsaved people do not love Christ Jesus with their total being because Satan, their father, does not love Him. They do not respond to God’s Word: they hate, they lie, all because of their spiritual nature which is satanic. And just as Satan stands condemned for his character and actions, so his children are condemned.

John added to this position by saying: “He that committeth [continually practices] sin is of the devil [Satan]; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God [Jesus] was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin [Cannot sin in a habitual fashion; because habitual action indicates one’s character.]; for his seed [the divine nature that God gives] remaineth in him: and he cannot sin [continually practice sin], because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother” (1 John 3:8-10). Therefore, man is considered lost and dead because of this relationship to Satan.

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