

Paradise Lost and Restored: Who is Satan? (Part 3)

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I. Introduction

In the beginning Satan destroyed God's kingdom and took it away from Him. Then he continued to influence God's children driving them further and further away from God. God eventually finds someone faithful and He creates a nation from whom the rightful King would come to overthrow Satan. The nation failed over and over, but eventually the King is born. When it appears that Satan is about to win the battle, the King defeats him showing mankind that they can win against Satan.

II. Satan Takes God's Kingdom Away.....but Then the Long-awaited King Arrives

Satan takes God's Kingdom away and influences all of God's children, Adam and Eve were God's representative rulers over this world, Genesis 1:28. But then Satan deceived them and took rulership of the world away from them (cf. John 12:31). God restored Adam and Eve and told them to keep ruling until the true King arrived, Genesis 3. God's children tried but Satan kept having victory over them: Adam and Eve are waiting for the King and think one of their children might be Him, but then Cain kills Abel, Genesis 4. Noah's father thinks that Noah is the one but by the time Noah is middle-aged the entire human race is following after Satan, Genesis 5:29–6:5. God responds by destroying the human race, all except Noah and his family, Genesis 7–8. God repeats His command to rule over the world to Noah and his family. But after Noah's death, the entire human race is following Satan once again. Therefore, God confuses their language and sends them scattering, Genesis 9:1–11:9.

But there is one individual who is willing to hear God's voice, Abraham. So God uses him to create the nation that will bear the King. God creates the nation of Israel but they end up slaves in Egypt, Genesis 12 – Exodus 2. God frees them from the Egyptians and leads them to their Promise Land but they fail to trust God, so He punishes them with 40 years in the wilderness, Exodus 3 – Numbers 36. God brings them back to the Promise Land and this time they trust Him and enter, Deuteronomy – Joshua. But after Joshua's generation dies, Israel follows after Satan once again and God uses foreign nations to punish them, Judges 1–21.

Samuel, Israel's last judge, brings order back to Israel but then they demand a king from God. So He gives them the king they want, Saul. He starts off well but ends up being a bad king. Eventually God appoints the king Israel should've had, David. And God promises David that from his line will come the awaited King of the world (2 Samuel 7:12–17). David was mostly a good king, but Satan influenced him too. After his death, David's son Solomon takes over. He was also a good king, but he too failed and Israel was torn in two, the Northern and Southern kingdoms. There were a string of mostly bad kings in the North and South. And since they refused to listen to God's prophets and repent, God punished them with foreign nations until He eventually kicks them out of the Promise Land. Thus, Israel ends up dominated by foreign power after foreign power, 1 Samuel – 2 Chronicles; Isaiah – Malachi.

Into this sad state of affairs the long-awaited King is born. When He arrives, Israel is dominated by another foreign power: Rome. And Israel is desperate for their King to come and free them from this foreign enemy. But what they did not realize is that He came to free them from the ultimate enemy: Satan, the strongman (Mark 3:20-27) who had enslaved them all along.

The King arrives and takes His kingdom back, the King is born through a virgin birth signaling that this King is more than human. God tells His parents to name Him Jesus signaling that He will be the Savior of the world. Satan finds out about His birth and tries to kill Him but fails, Matthew 1–2. The King grows up under His Father's discipleship (i.e., God's) and by the time He is twelve years old His training astounds the religious experts in Israel, Luke 2:39–52 (cf. Isaiah 50:4).

God sent a forerunner named John to prepare the people for the King's arrival. And before Jesus does battle with Satan, God identifies Him as His Son signaling that the King is also God. The King begins by calling the people to repent and believe the goodnews He's brought. Then He starts defeating Satan's forces and freeing people everywhere. Satan's forces are terrified but Satan manages to kill the King's forerunner. Satan tries to kill the King using Israel's leaders but the King is aware of their plots, Mark 1–8. Finally, Satan succeeds and he gets one of the King's disciples to betray Him. The King is arrested, put on trial, convicted, and executed, Mark 9–15. But because the King is God and life itself, the grave can't hold Him and He comes back to life, Mark 16.

Before the King departs back to heaven, He empowers His followers with His Spirit and tells them to go to the ends of the earth and free every person from Satan's grasp, to take back every inch of territory because it is now His kingdom.....and they do, Acts 1–28.

Peter, evidence that it's possible to defeat Satan, when Peter met Jesus, Jesus changed his name from Simon to Cephas/Peter, which means *a stone*, John 1:42. Eventually Peter came to realize that Jesus was life itself, John 6:68. But as he did with Adam and Eve, Satan overwhelmed Peter with fear and shame. However, the King, as He would do many times in Peter's life, restored him, Luke 5:1–10. When God revealed to Peter that Jesus was His Son, the anointed King, another challenge faced Peter. Would Peter accept God's plan for the King to die or would he fall for Satan's trap? Peter fell for the trap, but the Lord restored him with a rebuke and a challenge to take up his own cross, Matthew 16:13–28. When the King was facing death and the battle with Satan was at its worst, Peter faced the challenge of his life. Would he run in fear or stand by the King? Peter buckled under Satan's pressure and denied the King three times and it drove a dagger through Peter's heart, Luke 22:54–62. But before it happened the King assured Peter that even though Satan would sift him like wheat, He was going to pray for him. And in the end Peter would end up strengthening his brethren, Luke 22:31–32. And indeed after the King came back to life, He not only restored Peter but He told Peter that he would die a martyr's death that would glorify God, John 21:15–19. This was crucial to Peter's life because no matter what other failures Peter had (e.g., in Antioch Peter buckles under the pressure, Acts 10; Galatians 2:11–21), in the end Peter knew that he would remain faithful to God...likewise, God promises you victory, Romans 8:31–39. Will it be victory or will you live in Satan's fear and shame like king Saul, 1 Samuel 15; 31?

III. Conclusion

So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs." He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep. "Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish." This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."