

WHAT THE
BIBLE
SAYS ABOUT
SATAN

© Copyright 2006 Domenico Barbera
5489 Desson Avenue
Niagara Falls, ON Canada
L2G 3S9 Tel: (905) 354-2237
E-mail: cvl_dbarbera@yahoo.ca

e-mail: info@parolaevangelica.org
www.parolaevangelica.org

Title: What The Bible says About Satan

Year: 2007

Original Title: *Quel che la Bibbia riferisce intorno a Satana*

Translation by Dino Cianflone

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any way without the prior written consent of the Publisher, except for brief quotations for use in book reviews.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

Works by the same author:

- ❑ Is Jesus Christ God?
- ❑ The Great Commission of Jesus Christ
- ❑ Heroes of the Faith - Hebrews 11
- ❑ Is Marriage Divinely Instituted?
- ❑ The First Multiplication of Bread
- ❑ Nehemiah... A Man Moved, Sustained and Heroically Motivated
- ❑ The Spirit World
- ❑ Jesus... The Divine Healer
- ❑ Faith As Taught In The Bible
- ❑ Jacob... A Man Transformed By God
- ❑ The Journey of a People - From Egypt to Canaan
- ❑ Doing Good To Someone For Love
- ❑ *Wath the Bible says about Satan*

DEDICATION

*We dedicate the present work to those that wish to know
what the Bible, the Word of God, says about Satan whose
existence is denied by many*

PREFACE *(togliere da questa pagina l'header e il numero)*

In light of the decline of morals; in light of the emphasis on pedophilia, homosexuality, abortion, divorce; in light of this wave of wickedness that tries to confuse all that is sacred with the introduction of secularism; in light of the elevation of the “god of reason”; in light of catastrophes of every kind, this is precisely the time to consider the warning given in Revelation 12:12: *But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.*

This cherub, *full of wisdom and perfect in beauty* (Ezekiel 28:12), has become a monster in his arrogance and haughtiness, and now he furiously roams the earth intending to do evil everywhere and to everyone. He tries to lure man into his trap, convincing him that he, Satan, does not exist, but that he is a myth created to cause people to fear. Unfortunately, like it or not, things in this regard are very different.

Satan exists and the Holy Scriptures speak copiously about him, identifying him with names that are very meaningful, such as: Accuser, adversary, dragon, murderer, evil one, deceiver... Jesus calls him the *Prince of this world* (John 14:30; 16:11) and the apostle Paul labels him: *the ruler of the kingdom of the air* (Ephesians 2:2).

With this in mind, it was necessary that someone would rise up to denounce all this and to proclaim the truth in compliance with sound doctrine (2 Timothy 4:3).

This work by **Pastor Domenico Barbera** deals effectively and knowledgeably, let alone meticulously, with everything that refers to Satan. With the Bible at hand, this work is of valuable assistance against this number one enemy of man.

May the reader appropriate and retain what the author of these pages, inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit, has been able to express about this current subject.

Nino Tirelli

Former priest of the Roman Catholic Church

INTRODUCTION *(togliere l'header e il numero)*

Speaking and writing about Satan may seem Sinappropriate, especially in evangelical circles, where much is made of subjects that are characteristically edifying.

Adding a discussion of this kind to the vast evangelical field, even giving the work a title that speaks specifically about this intrusive character, may be deemed out of place, if not utterly misleading. Nevertheless, the Bible, God's book, mentions Satan 54 times in its sixty-six books, of which over half of the references are found in the New Testament.

The Bible does not speak about Satan using only this specific name, but it presents him also as the devil (34 times – all in the New Testament), that ancient serpent, deceiver, adversary, strong man, accuser of the brothers, slanderer, the father of lies, the evil one. Jesus even gave him the honorary title of *prince* of this world.

Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. (John 12:31)

I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me. (John 14:30)

... and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. (John 16:11)

The apostle Paul, for his part, beyond giving Satan the same honorary title of *prince*, places his power in the air:

... 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. (Ephesians 2:2)

Finally, Jesus spoke about Satan's kingdom, his throne and synagogue:

²⁵ *Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand".*

²⁶ *If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand? (Matthew 12:25-26)*

¹³ *I know where you live-- where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city-- where Satan lives. (Revelation 2:13)*

I know your afflictions and your poverty-- yet you are rich! I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. (Revelation 2:9)

I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars-- I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. (Revelation 3:9)

We must not close our eyes to these facts; indeed, we must open them to understand why the Bible is articulated in this way when it speaks about Satan.

The Bible texts, in providing us many details concerning Satan, describe him through symbols and characteristics of a real person, even if there are those that do not believe in his existence.

When a person does not believe what the Bible says, human logic persists in believing that Satan does not exist and it is easy to place him among the *myths* that religious people have invented. But for those instead, that believe and accept the Bible as the Word of God, it is not possible

to deny Satan's existence without denying the very same Bible that speaks extensively about him.

We are perfectly convinced that Satan in person has infused in the minds of many people a rejection of the truth of his existence. For what purpose? So that he can carry out his ominous activity freely without being hindered.

The argument against Satan, in our opinion, must be dealt with as a theme that the Bible presents without any constraints.

In this work, we propose to consider all the Bible texts that speak about him, in order to have a broad panorama of what he is and at the same time, to reveal the diabolic work that he does in humanity as well as among the people of God.

The Bible translation that we will use in this work is the New International Version (NIV) and whenever we believe it appropriate to refer to other translations we will indicate which translation we have used.

Finally, we are duty bound to publicly acknowledge the editorial work that dear brother Nino Tirelli has done with great care and for the wise advice that he has provided.

Niagara Falls, April 2006

Pastor Domenico Barbera

Chapter 1 *(togliere l'header e il numero)*

SATAN'S ORIGIN

Many Bible scholars find Satan's origin in the texts of Ezekiel 28:12-19 and Isaiah 14:12-14. These two books of the Bible refer to two personalities; the king of Tyre and the king of Babylon, which are intended to give us a glimpse of what Satan was originally.

These texts speak of his creation, of the position that he occupied over the other angelic beings, of his having been a guardian cherub; also of the wisdom, perfection and beauty that he possessed. His dwelling was on the sacred mount of God and in Eden, the garden of God. Then later, it speaks of what he did that caused his fall.

These clear individual details, when applied to Satan, effectively allow us to discover something of his origins, the main reason for his pride and his inevitable fall for having

raised his throne above the stars of God with the precise intent of becoming like the Most High.

⁴ you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon: How the oppressor has come to an end! How his fury has ended!

⁵ The LORD has broken the rod of the wicked, the scepter of the rulers,

⁶ which in anger struck down peoples with unceasing blows, and in fury subdued nations with relentless aggression.

⁷ All the lands are at rest and at peace; they break into singing.

⁸ Even the pine trees and the cedars of Lebanon exult over you and say, "Now that you have been laid ow, no woodsman comes to cut us down."

⁹ The grave below is all astir to meet you at your coming; it rouses the spirits of the departed to greet you— all those who were leaders in the world; it makes them rise from their thrones— all those who were kings over the nations.

¹⁰ They will all respond, they will say to you, "You also have become weak, as we are; you have become like us."

¹¹ All your pomp has been brought down to the grave, along with the noise of your harps; maggots are spread out beneath you and worms cover you.

¹² 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!

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." (Isaiah 14:4-14)

“Who is this king of Babylon? Many expositors think that it refers to Satan, the ultimate personification of pride. Tertullian (ca. 160-230) and Gregory the Great (ca. 540-604) were the first to introduce this thesis, which is now widely accepted. Even though verses 12-14 seem to support this point of view, there is little else in the chapter to support it. Even though many think that these verses (v. 12-14) refer to the introduction of sin into the world by Satan’s fall, this

argument seems a little forced in this chapter. (Nevertheless, Ezekiel 28:12-19 refers to the fall of Satan).¹

“The formula that defines Satan’s position cannot be any other than this: Satan is he who tries to destroy the relationship between God and man and in particular, between God and Israel. That happens in three ways: through temptation to sin, through accusation before God, and by the transposition of hindrances to the divine plan of salvation”.²

The fact itself that Satan means *adversary*, sufficiently describes the position that he assumes and maintains before God and His people. This aspect of his loathing will be made clear as we examine several Bible texts that speak of him.

“God had not created Satan to be some sort of prime minister of evil. Like all of God’s creation, Satan was created a perfect being - one of the perfect realizations of the angelic kingdom of God”.³

¹ John A. Martin, *Investigate le Scritture, Antico Testamento*, pag. 1115.

² W. Foerster, *GLNT, Vol. II*, col. 936.

³ Cfr. Charles H. Dyer, *Investigate le Scritture, Antico Testamento* pagg. 1346-1347

INDEX (spostare l'index nella pagina del summary)

<i>SUMMARY</i>	9
<i>PREFACE</i>	7
<i>INTRODUCTION</i>	9
Chapter 1	12
SATAN'S ORIGIN	12
Chapter 2	15
WHAT THE OLD TESTAMENT SAYS ABOUT SATAN	15
1. 1 Chronicles 21:1	16
2. The book of Job	18
SATAN'S WORK	21
1) What Satan knew about Job	21
2) What Satan did to strike Job's possessions	22
3) What Satan did to harm Job's health	23
THREE AFFIRMATIONS CONCERNING JOB'S TRAGEDY.....	24
GOD'S WORK	26
a) God's decree	26
b) The Lord restores Job	27
c) God restored to Job twice as much as he had before	27
3. The book of Zechariah.....	28
Chapter 3	30
SATAN IN THE FOUR GOSPELS AND ACTS	30
Statistics	30
1) Matthew 4:10.....	31
2) Matthew 12:26; Mark 3:23-26; Luke 11:18:	33
SATAN'S KINGDOM.....	35
WHO ARE THE MINISTERS OF SATAN'S KINGDOM?.....	38
3) Matthew 16:23; Mark 8:33:.....	42
4) Mark 1:13:.....	43

5) Mark 4:15; Matthew 13:19; Luke 8:11-1248	
6) Luke 10:18:.....	51
7) Luke 13:16:.....	53
8) Luke 22:3; John 13:27:.....	55
9) Luke 22:31-32:	56
10) Acts 5:3	62
11) Acts 26:18:.....	65
Chapter 4	68
SATAN - IN the EPISTLES AND REVELATION.....	68
Statistics	68
1) Romans 16:20.....	69
2) 1 Corinthians 5:5.....	73
3) 1 Corinthians 7:5.....	76
4) 2 Corinthians 2:11.....	76
5) 2 Corinthians 11:14.....	79
6) 2 Corinthians 12:7.....	80
7) 1 Thessalonians 2:18.....	84
8) 2 Thessalonians 2:9	85
a) Paul's clarification.....	85
b) The works the lawless one will do	86
9) 1 Timothy 1:20.....	87
10) 1 Timothy 5:15	88
11) Revelation 2:9; 3:9	89
12) Revelation 2:13.....	91
13) Revelation 2:24.....	92
14) Revelation 12:9.....	93
15) Revelation 20:2.....	95
16) Revelation 20:7-8.....	96
Chapter 5	97
THE DEVIL - IN THE FOUR GOSPELS AND ACTS.....	97
Statistics	97
1) Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13.....	98
JESUS' THREE TEMPTATIONS.....	100
a) The miracle of changing the stones into bread	100
b) Throwing Himself down from the highest point of the temple	102

c) The demand to worship the devil	104
PRACTICAL LIFE REFLECTIONS	104
a) The strategy of doubt	104
b) Solicitation for material food	105
c) The dangers and unknowns of life	106
d) The devil’s enticements	106
2) Matthew 13:39.....	106
1. Meaning of the term “field” (gr. agros) ...	109
a) The body of Christ.....	109
b) The house of God	109
c) Pillar and foundation of the truth.....	109
BELIEVERS ARE DEFINED AS:	110
a) Children of God.....	110
b) Family of God	111
c) Temple of God and of the Holy Spirit	111
d) God’s field, God’s building	111
2. Meaning of the term “world” (gr. kosmos)	
.....	111
THE FOUR GOSPELS.....	112
JESUS’ PRIESTLY PRAYER.....	117
WHAT THE ACTS AND EPISTLES HAVE TO	
SAY	119
3. Discipline in Church – should it be applied	
or not?	127
4. Whether tares can become good grain	129
3) Matthew 25:41	130
4) John 6:70	132
5) John 8:44	133
6) John 13:2	133
7) Acts 10:38.....	134
8) Acts 13:10	135
Chapter 6	136
The DEVIL IN the EPISTLES AND REVELATION	
.....	136
Statistics	136
1) Ephesians 4:27	137
2) Ephesians 6:11	138

THE SEVEN ELEMENTS THAT MAKE UP THE ARMOUR OF GOD	140
1) The belt.....	140
2) The breastplate	141
3) The footwear	143
4) The shield	144
5) The helmet.....	145
6) The sword	147
7) <i>Prayer</i>	148
3) 1 Timothy 3:6, 7	149
4) 2 Timothy 2:26.....	150
5) Hebrews 2:14.....	151
6) James 4:7	152
7) 1 Peter 5:8-9	153
8) 1 John 3:8	154
9) 1 John 3:10.....	154
10) Jude 9.....	155
11) Revelation 2:10.....	157
12) Revelation 12:9.....	159
13) Revelation 12:12	159
14) Revelation 20:2.....	159
15) Revelation 20:10	160
Chapter 7	162
REFERENCES TO SATAN OR THE DEVIL IN THE NEW TESTAMENT	162
1) Deceiver	163
2) Adversary	167
3) The strong man.....	170
4) The evil one	172
5) Prince of this world.....	174
6) Prince of the power of the air	175
7) Ancient serpent.....	176
8) Dragon	176
9) The accuser of the brothers.....	178
10) Liar, the father of lies	178
CONCLUSION.....	180

BIBLIOGRAPHY7