

I. Who Is Satan?

- A. He's a created being (John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16).
- B. The "invisible" beings of "heaven" (Col 1:16) refers to angelic beings.
 - 1. Satan is widely believed to be an angel.
 - 2. As such, he existed before "the foundation of the earth" was laid (Job 38:4-7).
- C. Angels, like humans, were given the freedom of choice by God.
 - 1. II Peter 2:4
 - 2. Jude 6
 - 3. Obviously, some of them rebelled against the rule of God, failing to obey Him.
- D. It's believed that "Satan" (which means "adversary") was the first to do this.
 - 1. Later, he was followed by others who took courage in his revolt.
 - 2. The New Testament refers to this mutinous crew as "the devil and his angels" (Matthew 25:41)

II. What Was His Scheme?

- A. It seems apparent that Satan didn't want to do what God said to do.
 - 1. The difficult part about committing a crime is to avoid the punishment.
 - 2. No one can say how long Satan thought about his rebellion.
 - 3. But then, after the creation of the world, Satan saw a possibility.
- B. Satan saw how much God loved the human being He had created (Genesis 2)
 - 1. I call Satan "the greatest gambler the world has ever known".
 - 2. Satan wagered everything - his life, his soul, his existence - on a daring ploy.
 - 3. Satan trusted that God would allow man to continue to exist, even if he sinned.
- C. Satan's angle was one of blackmail - if you "pass over" his sins, you have to "pass over" mine (Romans 3:25)

III. Was Satan's Scheme Successful?

- A. In Job 1:6-11, long after the incident in Eden, Satan seems to be doing well.
 - 1. He has free access into the heavenly throne room of God.
 - 2. He has the freedom to come and go as he pleases.
 - 3. He actually accuses God of being partial and unfair toward Job.
 - a. The implication is that God has treated Job better than he deserves.
 - b. He implies that God has blessed Job in order to buy Job's affection.
- B. In Revelation 12:10, Satan is called "the accuser of our brethren . . . who accuses them before our God day and night".
 - 1. For many years it seems that Satan was able to get away with his plot.
 - 2. For many years, coming into the very presence of God, Satan would shake his "bony finger" in God's face and make his sinister accusations:
 - a. Those people You made are all sinners.
 - b. You treat them better than they deserve.
 - c. And . . . if you "pass over" their sins, You have to "pass over" mine.
- C. Only the sacrificial death of Christ and the shedding of His blood could defeat this wicked plan of Satan (Revelation 12:7-11)

According to this text: When was Satan thrown down and the kingdom, salvation, and Christ's authority begun? (vs 11 - the blood of Christ made this possible)