

Characteristics of Satan

I John 5:19

1. As a result of his original status and authority, Satan has great power and dignity. So great is his strength that Michael the archangel viewed him as a foe too powerful to oppose ([Jude 9](#)).
2. Satan's influence in worldly affairs is also clearly revealed ([John 12:31](#)). His various titles reflect his control of the world system: "the ruler of this world" ([John 12:31](#)), "the god of this age" ([2 Cor. 4:4](#)), and "the prince of the power of the air" ([Eph. 2:2](#)). The Bible declares, "The whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one" ([1 John 5:19](#)).
3. Satan exercises his evil power through demons ([Matt. 12:24; 25:41; Rev. 12:7 & 9](#)). An outburst of demonic activity occurred when Jesus came to earth the first time because of the Savior's attack against Satan's kingdom ([Matt 12:28-29; Acts 10:38](#)).
4. Another such outburst is expected just before the second coming of Christ, because this will bring about the downfall of Satan and his angels ([Rev. 9:3-17; 12:12; 18:2](#)).
5. Satan also has high intelligence. Through it he deceived Adam and Eve and took over their rule of the world for himself ([Gen. 1:26; 3:1-7; 2 Cor. 11:3](#)). His cleverness enables him to carry out his deceptive work almost at will.
6. Yet Satan's attributes, impressive as they are, are not limitless. His power is subject to God's restrictions ([Job 1:12; Luke 4:6; 2 Thess. 2:7-8](#)). The reins of God on his activities are illustrated by Satan's request to God for permission to afflict Job ([Job 1:7-12](#)).
7. Satan is permitted to afflict God's people ([Luke 13:16; 1 Thess. 2:18; Heb. 2:14](#)). But he is never permitted to win an ultimate victory over them ([John 14:30-31; 16:33](#)).
8. A part of Satan's continuing ambition to replace God is his passionate yearning to have others worship him ([Matt. 4:8-9; Rev. 13:4, 12](#)).
9. Since God has frustrated this desire and put down Satan's rebellion, he has become God's exact opposite. He is "the wicked one" ([Matt. 13:19, 38](#)), while God is "the Holy One" ([Isa. 1:4](#)).
10. Satan's nature is malicious. His efforts in opposing God, His people, and His truth are tireless ([Job 1:7; 2:2; Matt. 13:28](#)).

He is always opposed to man's best interests ([1 Chron. 21:1; Zech. 3:1-2](#)). Through his role in introducing sin into the human family ([Gen 3](#)), Satan has gained the power of death – a power which Christ has broken through His crucifixion and resurrection ([Hebrews 2:14-15](#)).