

Satan – History

SATAN'S ORIGINAL CONDITION:

Two Old Testament passages – [Isaiah 14:12-15](#) and [Ezek. 28:11-19](#) – furnish a picture of Satan's original condition and the reasons for his loss of that position. These passages were addressed originally to the kings of Babylon and Tyre. But in their long-range implications, many scholars believe, they refer to Satan himself. They tell of an exalted angelic being, one of God's creatures, who became proud and ambitious. He determined to take over the throne of God for himself. But God removed him from his position of great dignity and honor.

Building upon this foundation, [Rev. 12](#) sketches the further stages in Satan's work of evil. In his fall from God's favor, Satan persuaded one third of the angels to join him in his rebellion ([Rev 12:3-4](#)). Throughout the Old Testament period he sought to destroy the messianic line. When the Messiah became a man, Satan tried to eliminate Him ([Rev 12:4-5](#)). During the future period of tribulation before the Messiah's second coming, Satan will be cast out of the heavenly sphere ([Rev 12:7-12](#)). Then he will direct his animosity toward the Messiah's people ([Rev 12:13-17](#)). [Revelation 20](#) notes the final phases of Satan's work. He will be bound for a thousand years and then finally cast into the lake of fire ([Rev 20:2, 10](#)).

Characteristics:

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](#)).

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](#))