

Doctrinal Summary of
Satan & Company: The Commander in Chief of the Fallen Angelic Army

In Ephesians 6:11 believers are commanded to put on the full armor of God in order to withstand the schemes of the devil.

“Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.”

The words “the devil” are translated from the Koine Greek phrase τοῦ διαβόλου (“di-ah-bo-lou”) which literally means, “of the one who separates and divides through false accusations or slander against the character of another, based on initiation.” The description of Satan as the devil identifies him as an accuser who slanders God’s character to separate others from Him. He did this first with the angels in heaven (cf. Ezek. 28:18; Rev. 12:4, 9) and then with man in the garden of Eden (cf. Gen. 3:1-5ff).

In the spiritual battle being waged against God Satan leads his fallen angelic army in slandering God’s character with deceptive statements which twist truth into a perverted perspective of God and His righteousness. The goal of his slandering is to bring separation between God and those witnessing his false accusations and slander. To accomplish this the devil, Satan, has developed several schemes which he has taught to his fallen angelic army to employ against fallen man in order to separate man from God. The reality that the devil and Satan are one and the same is revealed by John in Revelation 12:9. The devil who accuses and divides is also Satan who is the enemy of God.

“And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.”

The word “Satan” is transliterated from the Koine Greek word Σατανᾶς (“sah-tahn-as”) which literally means, “adversary, based on initiation.” Thus, Satan is the adversary of God and is such based on his own initiation. Satan initiated being called “adversary” when he was lifted up by reason of his splendor and personal infatuation with his own works prior to his fall (cf. Ezek. 28:12-19). Out of arrogance and pride he rebelled against God and is attempting to overthrow God as ruler. His rebellion against God is identified in five “I will” statements he made according to Isaiah 14:13-14.

“But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of the assembly in the recesses of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’”

Satan’s arrogant objective is to rule over all creation and displace God from His very throne. To do this he deceives the world (cf. Rev. 12:9), prowls around like a roaring lion waiting to devour the spiritually weak (cf. 1 Peter 5:8), acts as the ruler of this world system (cf. Jn. 12:31) and the present age (cf. 2 Cor. 4:4) as the authority over the spirit presently working in those who are carnal (cf. Eph. 2:2), and actively seeks and works to destroy God’s establishment and standard of righteousness (see “evil” (πονηρός) from Eph. 6:16; 1 Jn. 5:19). Being a created being (cf. Ezek. 28:15), Satan cannot be in all places at once (unlike God; cf. Psalm 139:7-12; Deut. 4:39). For this reason, he utilizes the fallen angels judged in the same judgment as he to attack God, His character, His kingdom, and His children. Yet Satan will not overthrow God despite his best attempt. Instead, he and his fallen angelic army will be cast into the lake of fire which God has prepared for them as judgment for their rebellion (cf. Matt. 25:41).