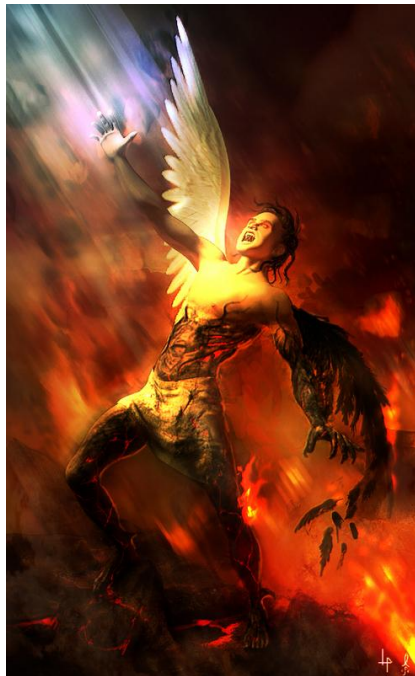

JEWS AND THE AFTERLIFE: *PART II*



***“WHY DON’T JEWS
BELIEVE IN THE DEVIL?”***

JEWES AND THE AFTERLIFE II:

"WHY DON'T JEWS BELIEVE IN THE DEVIL?"

SETTING THE STAGE :

[HTTP://WWW.SAINTMICHAELUSA.ORG](http://www.saintmichaelusa.org) – THE FALL OF LUCIFER

God had made Heaven and the Earth and all the angels. The Archangels were God's very special friends and were shining and strong and powerful. One Archangel was called Lucifer, who was so beautiful that the other angels called him the Son of the Morning.

One day, Lucifer said to himself: "Why should God be the most important in Heaven? Why, shouldn't I be? I can fly and change into other things, and I am beautiful and powerful. In fact, I am just as important as God, and I shan't do what He tells me ever again. I shall fight Him and have Heaven for mine!"



So, Lucifer went around Heaven, and he collected other angels who also didn't want to be less important than God, until he had a great army. They marched up to the Throne of God and declared war for the Kingdom of Heaven. All the rebel angels shouted with a great shout: "We will follow Lucifer! Long live Lucifer! Let him reign

over us in Heaven! WE DO NOT WANT GOD!" "Very well," said God, "if you don't want Me, you needn't have Me. But, if you want to fight for Heaven, you can if you think it will be any good." Then, God called Michael the Archangel, and made him gather together a mighty army of angels who were on God's side.

Lucifer was defeated, he and the angels who followed him were thrown out of Heaven, and Lucifer became Satan. He was so furious and enraged at having lost his battle with God that he has never gotten over it. You see, he is never allowed inside Heaven anymore, and he is angry about it. So, in revenge, he does everything horrible to God that he can.

His worst feeling is jealousy; who do you suppose he is jealous of? Us! Why? Because we ordinary people are allowed into Heaven, and he, an Archangel, is not. So, he and his angels (or demons) try always to stop us going into Heaven by giving us bad ideas, and making us do things that we know are wrong, so as to hurt God.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- ❖ IS THIS THE STORY YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT THE SATAN?
 - ❖ HOW DO YOU THINK THIS STORY AFFECTS YOUR VIEW OF THE SATAN AND THE AFTERLIFE?
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ENGAGING THE TEXT: THE EVIL SATAN

TALMUD SUKKAH 38A

Rabbi Acha ben Yaakov used to wave the lulav to and fro, saying, 'This is an arrow in the eye of Satan'. This, however, is not a proper thing [for a man to do] since [Satan] might in consequence be provoked [to let temptation loose] against him.



TALMUD ROSH HASHANAH 16A-B

Rabbi Yitzchak said: Why do we sound the shofar horn on Rosh Hashanah? ... It is so as to confuse Satan, the accuser.

Rabbi Yitzchak further said: If the shofar is not sounded at the beginning of the year, evil will befall at the end of it. Why is this so? Because the Satan has not been confused.



RABBI E.E. DESSLER, STRIVE FOR TRUTH, PART 3, PG. 74

The Yetzer Hara (evil inclination) is not a mere illusion. It is a created power, [as it says,] "He forms lights and creates darkness." It is no ordinary creature.

The Rabbis call it an angel, i.e., a messenger from God. But at the same time it is an object of idolatry - the "strange god stationed in the heart of man" ... It is also called a "king", as it certainly dominates the world; "old", as it is experienced and cunning; "angelic", as it is superior to all worldly power.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- ❖ WHAT IMPRESSION DO YOU HAVE OF THE SATAN AFTER READING THESE SOURCES?
 - ❖ WOULD YOU CONSIDER THESE DESCRIPTIONS AS ACCURATE?
-

ENGAGING THE TEXT: WHAT IS INDIVIDUALITY ANYWAY?

TALMUD BABA BASRA 15A

Resh Lakish said: The Satan, the Yetzer Hara (evil inclination), and the Angel of Death are all one and the same. It was taught: He comes down to earth and seduces [as the Yetzer Hara], then ascends to Heaven and awakens wrath [as the Satan]; permission is granted to him and he takes away the soul [as the Angel of Death].



YOU, MOST OF ALL, CAN'T HANDLE THE TRUTH
well-being for His people." (Tehillim 85:9)

SHEMOS RABBAH 18:5

Rabbi Yose said: To whom may Michael and the Satan be compared? To an advocate and a prosecutor before a tribunal... So too do Michael and the Satan stand before God, with the Satan making accusations and Michael pointing to Israel's merits. When the Satan wishes to say more, Michael silences him, as indicated in the verse, "Let me hear what God, the Lord, will say, for He will speak of

TALMUD SUKKAH 52A

Rabbi Yehudah expounded: In the time to come, God will bring the Evil Inclination and slay it in the presence of the righteous and the wicked. To the righteous, it will have the appearance of a towering hill, and to the wicked it will have the appearance of a hair thread. Both the former and the latter will weep; the righteous will weep saying, 'How were we able to overcome such a towering hill!' The wicked also will weep saying, 'How is it that we were unable to conquer this hair thread!' And God will also marvel together with them, as it is said, "So says the Lord of Hosts: 'If it be marvelous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in those days, it shall also be marvelous in My eyes.'"



QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- ❖ WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT THE SATAN, YETZER HARA, AND ANGEL OF DEATH ARE ALL ONE AND THE SAME?
 - ❖ DO THESE ANALOGIES RING TRUE?
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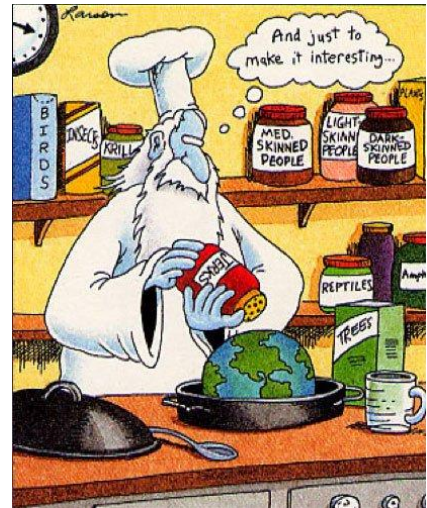
ENGAGING THE TEXT: SATAN: SERVANT OF GOD

ISAIAH 45:7

From the place where the sun rises until the place where it sets, there is nothing but Me. I am God; there is nothing else. [I am He] Who forms light and creates darkness, Who makes peace **and creates evil**; I am God Who makes all these.

RABBI MOSHE CHAIM LUZZATTO, THE WAY OF GOD, 2:6:4

God also appointed a prosecutor, known as the Satan ... whose job it is to demand that a particular person or action be judged. This is also as a result of God's goodness, since even though a person's wrongdoings are known to God, he is not brought to judgment until he is indicted [and arraigned] by this Prosecutor.



THE BOOK OF JOB 1:6-12

Now the day came about, and the angels of God came to stand beside the Lord, and the Satan, too, came among them. The Lord said to the Satan, "Where are you coming from?" And the Satan



YOU MUST BE JOB ... MY NAME IS JABEZ, I'M
YOUR NEW NEIGHBOR

answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth and from walking in it." Now the Lord said to the Satan, "Have you paid attention to My servant Job? For there is none like him on Earth; a sincere and upright man, God-fearing and shunning evil." And the Satan answered the Lord and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? Haven't You made a hedge around him, his household, and all that he has on all sides? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his livestock has spread out in the land. But now, stretch forth Your hand and touch all that he has, will he not blaspheme You to Your face?" Now the Lord said to the Satan, "Behold, all

that he has is in your hands; only upon him do not stretch forth your hand." Now the Satan left the presence of the Lord.

TALMUD BABA BASRA 16A

Just as God created the evil inclination, He created the Torah as its antidote.

The Satan is an angel. This means that he is a power created by God to serve God's purposes in the world. His task is to cause difficulties, temptations, and tests for people in order to challenge them and bring out the best in them.

The power of the Satan is very great, but it is limited too. Each step of a test he prepares for a person has to be approved by God. In general terms, the Satan is not permitted to attack a person with overwhelming force. He is permitted to launch just a weak attack the first time around. Only if the person who is being tested shows signs of succumbing is the Satan permitted to increase the intensity of his test... We ourselves strengthen the hands of the Satan and enable him to increase the severity of our tests step by step.



"I gotta tell ya, he's making a lot of sense."

MIDRASH TEHILLIM 27:4

The numerical value of the letters of "HaSatan" (The Satan) is three hundred and sixty-four, which is one short of the number of days in the year. Thus, the Satan is given the authority to make accusations against the children of Israel on all the days of the year except Yom Kippur, for God says to him, "You have no authority to touch them. Nevertheless, go and see what they are



occupied with." Then, when the Satan goes and finds all of them fasting and praying, dressed in white garments, and cloaked like the ministering angels, the Satan immediately, returns in shame and confusion. God asks him, "What have you found out about My children?" He answers, "They are like the ministering angels, and I am unable to touch them." At once, God shackles the Satan and announces to the Jewish people, "I have forgiven you."

BEREISHIS RABBAH 9:7

Rabbi Shmuel bar Nachman said: The words "Behold, it was good," refer to the good inclination. The words "Behold, it was very good," refer to the evil inclination. But how can the evil inclination be called "very good"? Because the Torah teaches that were it not for the evil inclination, a man would not build a house, take a wife, have children, or engage in commerce. All such activities come, as King Shlomo wrote: "from a man's rivalry with his neighbor" (Koheles 4:4).

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- ❖ DOES THIS INFORMATION CHANGE YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON THE SATAN? HOW?
 - ❖ DO YOU SEE THE SATAN AS ONE WHO AIDES PRODUCTIVITY?
-



KNOW HOW TO ANSWER

LESSONS IN TANYA, CHAPTER NINE, PG 146

Of course the Yetzer Hara does the will of God! As the Zohar explains through a parable:

A king desired to test the moral strength of his only son. He had a most charming and clever woman brought before him. Explaining to her the purpose of the test, the king ordered her to exert every effort to seduce the crown prince. For the test to be valid, the supposed harlot had to use all her charms and guile, without betraying her mission in the slightest way. Any imperfection on her part would mean disobedience, and the failure of her mission. However, while she uses all her seductive powers, she inwardly desires that the prince should not succumb to them.

The same is true in our case: the Yetzer Hara itself desires that man overcome it and not permit himself to be led astray! The entire stratagem is solely for man's benefit.



"Don't be silly — of course you're going into the family business!"

RABBI TOVIA SINGER, WWW.BEINGJEWISH.COM/BASICS/SATAN.HTML

In *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*, Mr. Wonka runs a contest to allow a select few enter and tour his factory. Five very excited children win, and they sign a contract to follow the rules and not eat any products within the factory without permission. If they do so, they will leave with a lifetime supply of chocolate.

Before the big day comes, each of the winners of the contest is secretly visited by a man named Arthur Slugworth of Slugworth Chocolates, Inc., who offers them a ton of money if they steal a candy called an Everlasting Gobstopper. He wants to get an advance sample of this product so he can make it, sell it first, and ruin Wonka.

During the tour, four of the kids break the rules by taking stuff they should not have taken, and they all suffer the



consequences. At the end of the day, only Charlie remains, and he and his grandfather believe that they've won the free chocolate.

However, Charlie did drink something within the factory, and Mr. Wonka tells them they've lost and must leave. Charlie's grandfather gets angry, and tells Charlie they'll give Slugworth an Everlasting Gobstopper.

They are about to leave, when Charlie realizes that stealing and breaking the rules is bad. So he goes to Mr. Wonka's desk and returns the Gobstopper to him. Wonka sees that, and jumps up in delight! He tells Charlie that he has won! It seems that Wonka was looking to retire, and so he set up the contest to find an honest child he could train as his successor.

Then Wonka calls in Wilkinson, his aide. And Wilkinson is Slugworth! Slugworth was sent out to each of the children to test them! Anyone who either ate food he wasn't supposed to eat or brought a Gobstopper to Slugworth was dishonest, and would not become the successor. Notice, also, that Wonka himself gave each of the children a Gobstopper. So he himself set up the choice, and then gave them the opportunity to break the rule, using Wilkinson to offer the temptation. The same is true with the Satan. He is here to make things difficult for us, so we can overcome our evil temptations, and pass the test. That is the purpose of the Satan.

ROLE PLAY

Someone approaches you and says, "Everyone knows that Satan is the angel who fought against God and was banished to Hell! Don't you believe that too!?"

What do you respond?