

# The Work of Satan

## By: Walter Wilson

Wilson:

Greetings, radio friends. We talk today about the queer actions of Satan, the character of Satan and the work of Satan and how he deceives the people. I think we ought to know something about that person because he's so active and he's so prevalent and he's so subtle in all that he does. We ought to know something about what he does and what his teachings are so we'll be prepared against him. So you turn to the book of Revelation Chapter Twelve and we'll read at verse eight, where we read that the devil prevailed not neither was their place found anymore in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent called the devil. And Satan, which deceiveth the whole world, he was cast out into the earth and his angels were cast out with him. Then in the next chapter, chapter 13, read down in verse 13 that this evil one doeth great wonders so that he make a fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast. I want you to notice that his business is deceiving people.

That's the reason I read those two passages we find in other places, of course, but he is the deceiver, the arch deceiver of men. The reason is beloved he doesn't care anything about you or me, but he hates the Lord Jesus who has the place that he wanted. You see, the devil wanted to be the greatest. And read back in the 14th of Isaiah and again in the 28th chapter of Ezekiel, how that he wanted the highest place in heaven.

He wanted a throne right beside God's throne. And he wanted to be as great as God or greater and have the same authority. Well, instead of that, of course, he was cast down from his position and the Lord Jesus was given that place, the real Son of God. And the devil hates the Lord Jesus for that reason because Christ got the place that he, the devil, wanted. And the Lord Jesus has been highly exalted by God while the devil has been debased.

Now of course, this passage in Revelation Twelve hasn't taken place yet. This is one of those future things that you read about in Revelation chapter four where the angel said, you come up here to heaven and I'll show you things which are to be after these things. Well, this is one of the things that's on the way. It hasn't come yet. And the devil has access to God and accuses you before God day and night.

That's what we read here in this 12th chapter. He accuses the people of God day and night before the throne of God. And that's the reason that we have to have an advocate up there you see, an advocate or an intercessor or a mediator someone who will contradict and counteract the work of Satan and make it safe for you and me. Because when the devil goes before God, he doesn't tell God any lies.

You can be sure of that. He knows very well that God cannot be deceived. He knows what he's doing. He can see through everything, the thoughts and the motives. So when the devil tells him anything about you and me, he has to tell him the truth.

He has plenty to tell, doesn't he? You know very well if you know anything about your own heart and mind that the devil has plenty to tell God about you and me without any lying or exaggeration of any kind. Well, we must have somebody there to take our part. That's the reason the Lord Jesus was appointed to be the mediator between God and men. The advocate with the father and the intercessor who stands before God for us and shows those terrible wounds in his body that he received paying the debt for you and for me.

Now, you will notice the verse says that that old serpent called the devil and Satan which deceiveth the whole world, he's the subject of this narrative, the devil called Satan. Now, as the devil, of course, he does certain things. And as Satan, he does certain other things. He has several names. I shall not enter into a discussion of those names with you.

You can look them up yourself. But in each case, the name that's given to him is connected with a different kind of trouble. And in this case, both names are connected with his character as a deceiver because he does deceive as the devil and he also deceives as Satan. We read in first Timothy two, at verse 14 that Adam was not deceived, but Eve was deceived by the devil. Now, how was she deceived?

Did the devil tell her to go and get drunk, gloriously drunk, as they call it? No, he wasn't that big a fool. Did he tell her to start using morphine or cocaine or chew opium? No, he wasn't that big a fool. Did he tell her that if she gave of her best in effort and labor and so on that then she'd be worthy of heaven?

Not a bit of it. He wasn't that big a fool, you see. He does that with other people. But he didn't do that with Eve. He just told Eve not to believe God, that's all.

Believe what I tell you. Don't believe what God tells you. Now beloved that was his downfall. And that was her downfall. She believed what the devil said and did not believe what God said.

And that's still his trick today. He still goes to people and said now I'm going to write a book.

And what I write is absolutely true. You can't believe what you read in the Bible, but you believe what I say about it. And you let me explain it to you and let me interpret it for you. Of course you can't interpret it for yourself, but I can do it for you. And so the devil with his followers, they tell you not to believe what God says and what the Holy Spirit teaches, but to believe something different. Do you know beloved that for many years I used to ask people that were in false religions did you become a follower of that faith by reading the Bible only and nothing but the Bible? And in all the years that I used that question I never found one single person that went into a false faith or a wrong religion by believing and reading what God said in His Word only, without anything else.

Every false religion is based on writings of their inventors those who start it, those who propagate it and those who promote it. It isn't coming from the Bible. I've never found anybody yet that had a false faith through reading the Bible only it's reading the Bible plus some other stuff that somebody else has written. Some man or some woman or some church or some group wrote something and people believe what they say. And of course then they're led astray instead of going by God's precious word.

That's the way it was with Eve. She wasn't told to go and live a wicked life, a sinful life. She was just told, don't believe what God says. You see, let me explain to you why God didn't tell you everything. He kept back part of the information that you should have had.

Now, if you believe me, then you'll be wonderful. You'll be as a God, I tell you, will be as great as God. You see, that's what he wanted himself. And he wanted others to get into that same line of sin with Him. And so Eve looked at the fruit and she saw it was nice, lovely, luscious fruit.

And she saw that if she ate it, it would make her wise and wonderful. And so she did what he said, not what God said. God said don't touch it. He said, oh, God is mistaken. You see, he's keeping you from getting the very best in life.

You can have something wonderful if you just eat that fruit. And she believed what he said instead of what God said. That's the way the devil still deceives. Read in second Corinthians eleven, verse three about the subtlety of that deception in the garden. Satan came subtly.

He came cleverly. He came with knowledge and understanding. And he said, now, I tell you, lady, what you want to do. You don't want to always be just ignoramous. You don't want to always be just a slave to religion and to God.

You must believe what I tell you. You see, I have a wonderful belief. I have a wonderful faith for you. You believe what I tell you and you will just be wonderful. And he puffed her up and she

accepted the puffing up and brought the whole human race into sorrow and sin and suffering and shame.

Beloved, you ask your heart who are you believing what God says in His Word? Only what God says in his word. Or are you believing a whole lot of things that somebody else written and told you to read and study and follow that? And then if you just follow that, you'll be a wonderful person. It'll make you all that you want to be.

Isn't it strange, beloved, that all the things that men and women write puff us up? They make us think we're somebody. Yes, sir, we can do things, or else our church can do things. It builds us up and puffs us up. But whenever God speaks and we hear what God has to say, I tell you, it knocks us down.

Don't you remember when Paul saw the Lord Jesus up there and heard him speak to him? He fell to the ground. You remember when Peter, James and John saw and heard that wonderful voice upon the mount of transfiguration? They fell down. Do you remember when Ezekiel saw the glory of God?

He fell down as though he was dead. And when John, who leaned on Jesus' bosom, saw the glory of Christ, he fell at his feet as though he was dead. Don't you remember that, Peter, when he saw the wonderful Lord Jesus, he said, depart from me. I'm a sinful man. O God.

O Lord. Beloved, whenever you get near to God, you lose all that egotism and puff up business and you feel like a dirty dog. You feel like falling down on the floor and saying, lord, put your foot on my neck. That's all I'm worth. The sight of the Lord in his glory humbles us, gives us to see our wickedness and sinfulness and evil.

And even Daniel, that great man of God, when he saw the glory of the Lord, said lord, all my comeliness has turned in me into corruption. Instead of feeling that he was wonderful, he felt he was horrible and terrible. Now, in second two Corinthians 11:14, the devil is called an angel of light. And then in the next verse, his ministers also his ministers. See this

Devil's ministers. Satan's ministers are ministers of righteousness. Is that so? Yeah. Look at it.

Read it yourself. The 11th chapter of second Corinthians, verses 14 and 15. The devil is represented as a marvelous, beautiful, wonderful person, an angel of light, one who brings all sorts of illumination on the darkness of the mind and of the heart. And he comes along and says, Now I have a religion. That's the real stuff.

You just believe what I say. You follow what I teach and you'll be wonderful. You'll be built up, and you'll be a great, wonderful, marvelous, cultured, refined, polished, beautiful person. And so the poor, deceiving heart believes it and follows after that strange religion and all those religions that have started since Jesus was here are innumerable. I think somebody estimated there were over 700 different kinds of religions that have been invented since Jesus was here.

And every one of them is founded on something outside the Bible, some other translation or some other interpretation or some other explanation. And people tumble for it head over heels. You know why? Because it gives power to men and women. It makes people think that they are the ones that have the revelation of God.

They know all about it and what they say is the real stuff. And it's always something along good lines, nearly always. There are some religions that are very cruel. All you have to do is read history and see the blood that has followed in religious persecutions since the beginning. My, they're terrible.

Just get an encyclopedia and read it up the history of religion. It is the most terrible story in the world. There's never been any war so wicked, so cruel, never any personal persecutions so cruel, so hateful, so wicked as those because people didn't believe what some religions wanted them to believe. Beloved that isn't of God. That's the devil's trick.

And may I say to you that the devil has no mercy in his heart. I've told you that before and I hope you'll believe it. He has no kindness, no grace, no mercy in his heart. He is as cruel as he can be when he doesn't get his own way. And when he's crossed or thwarted in his plans, he knows no bounds, no limit to what he will do to a human being.

Well, here we read in this passage that the devil is an angel of light and the devil's ministers are ministers of righteousness. They come along with a philosophy of salvation that appeals to the pride of the human heart. Now, you just do this that I tell you, and you will earn a place in



heaven. You just quit that and take on this. You pay this amount, you do certain things and you follow out the religion that we give you.

And after you've had six months instruction in what that outfit teaches, then you feel you're on the way to heaven, or at least you have some chance. And every bit of it is antagonistic to the Lord Jesus. Every bit of it is against the word of God. I say every bit of it. I want you to notice that you take anything you want to in any false religion and compare it with your Bible, and you'll find the Bible is right and they are wrong.

Of course, people are deceived by this devil into thinking, my, I've got the real thing now. I remember a man told me over in an eastern city, a banker, he said, Dr. Wilson, I've tried six different religions. I've gone into them, I've done everything they told me to do, but I never got any peace in my heart.

It isn't money I need. I'm a wealthy man. I've got everything I want, but I don't have any peace in my heart. And I forget how many times he told me he'd been up to the mourners bench, up at the railing and wept over his sins. And nobody told him about the Lord Jesus saving.

They told Him to do this and follow this and obey this and quit this and a whole lot of things that omitted Christ. Well, that's the devil's trick. You see, the devil's ministers are ministers of righteousness. They tell you how to be right and how to do things right and how to feel right and how to follow the Lord right, as you should. You just cultivate the best that's in you, and you'll come out all right at the end of the journey.

Well, that's the Devil's trick, my precious friend. The Lord Jesus is the Savior, and he does all the saving, and nobody else helps Him to do it. You don't participate in it at all. Jesus does it all. He finished the work at Calvary.

He paid the debt, he did the suffering. He was punished for our sins, he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was on Him, and with his stripes we are healed and we read he bore our sins in his own body on the tree, not some of them, not part of them, not a portion of them. He bore all those sins, and St.

Peter tells it, and he ought to know. St. Peter tells us in Peter, first Peter 2:24, he bore our sins in his own body on the tree. Beloved why don't you believe it instead of trying a lot of schemes and plans and suffering and payments and all sorts of things that take the place, and you just say to God, I don't believe what you say about Jesus Christ. I have to do it myself.

The Savior wasn't able to do it all. I have to do my part. And so the pride of the heart and selfishness and egotism enters in, and that really shuts out completely the Lord Jesus, beloved, he's not going to be a part of a Savior. He's not going to be just a helper in salvation. We read, when he had by Himself purged our sins, he sat down.

Now, in Luke 18 at verse nine, we read about two men that went up to the temple to pray. Well, when you'd see them going, you'd say, well, isn't that lovely? There are two fine Christian men, they're going up to pray, and they're going to the right place, up to the temple, and their hearts

are heavy, and they're going up there to tell God about it. These are two fine Christian men. Well, let's see what happened.

They went up there to pray, and one of them, he prayed and said, God, I thank Thee. I'm not as other men are, then he enumerated the sins of other people. I don't do that. Not me. No sir.

I'm better than they and they are worse than I am somebody. I tell you, I pay tithes and I go to the temple and I carry out the religious practices and I am the real goods. And the other fellow, he beat his hand on his breast and he said, Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner. And then Jesus said, the first fellow didn't get anything. The second fellow got redemption and justification.

He went down to his house justified, but the first fellow didn't. His self righteousness and his egotism and his pride kept him from the Lord Jesus, and kept him from being saved and kept him from getting what the Savior wanted to give him. One time a man came in the office selling a book on how to be perfectly sinless. And my father in law said to him, my, have you reached that place? And he said, yes sir, I haven't sinned for twelve years.

And my father-in-law said, well, that's wonderful. I wish I could get to that place. And the man said, when you buy this book, it'll show you how. And Mr. Baker said, well, if I get to that place, I'd be awful proud of it.

I think you would be proud of it. He said, I am. See, the very worst sin in the Bible, he was committing pride over thinking he was as good as Jesus Christ. He was as good as God, he was perfectly sinless. And pride's the worst sin in the Bible.

It was pride that cast the devil off his throne. It was pride that took Eve down into the depths of sin. Beloved, let's be very careful about what we say, because the devil wants to deceive us into thinking black is white and thinking we're somebody when we're really nobody. Then in Psalm 14, verse one, we find the devil doing a little bit different. With some folks he makes them think they're awful nice.

They're so good, they don't need a savior at all. They're so clean and sweet and pure. They don't need the Lord Jesus, they don't need imputed righteousness. They have their own righteousness, why should they bother with anything else? And they don't need Jesus to die for them because they never did anything wrong.

And so the devil gets that group to shut Christ out. Well, here's another group in Psalm 14, verse one, the fool has said in his heart, there is no God. Oh, that's a different approach, isn't it? Now the devil has dropped the scheme of making people think they're so good they don't need the Savior.

And now he's persuading people to believe there isn't any God at all, and there isn't any Savior at all, and there's no heaven and there's no hell. And when you die, you go out to wander around in some kind of an animal or else there's another group that believe that when you die, you're

annihilated, you're just blotted out and there's nobody around and no place to go, and you're just gone. You're extinct. Well, beloved, that's the Devil's trick.

In order to get rid of the punishment, why, we get rid of the judge. So that's the way to do it. Now you just close your eyes and say there isn't any judge and there isn't any jail, and there isn't any hell, and there isn't any God. And after a while, when you open your eyes, you find out there surely is. It's one thing to fool yourself into thinking there isn't, and let the Devil tell you there isn't.

And then we die and go out to meet God. For the Scripture says after this, after the coffin, after the undertaker, after the cemetery, after this, the judgment, and there shall be a meeting with God and read over, in Amos, prepare to meet thy God. Oh, yes. But the Devil either wants to make you think you're so good you don't need the Savior, or else he'll try to persuade you that there isn't any Savior, none at all. You don't need any Savior because he don't exist and God don't exist.

And when you die, that's the end of the journey. You see, what his claim, what his scheme is. You don't care whether you live a good life or a bad life, whether you're wicked, or whether you're sweet and nice and lovely and benevolent and kind and cultured and polished and educated. As long as you don't have any Savior, that's all he cares about. Keep you away from the precious, wonderful Lord Jesus.

Now, over in the book of first John, chapter three, at verse twelve, we read about Cain. And we read that Cain was a wicked one and that his works were evil. Now that's a strange thing, because when you look back, it looks as though Cain was doing the right thing. You remember he brought an offering for his sin. He felt he needed an offering.

He felt his guilt and he felt he needed an offering. And so he brought one of potatoes and cabbage and beans and onions and lettuce things he grew out of the ground. And yet the word of God says he was wrong, says he was a wicked person and his works were evil. Evil? How come?

Well, you see, he had that pride in his heart. He thought, I can cultivate the ground, I'm a good farmer, I'll raise my stuff and I'll give God what I have produced myself. And God wouldn't have it. And that roused in his heart all the sin that was there all the time, because pride brings in lots of other sins. And so he went after his brother and killed him, killed Abel.

And that was the first murder. Beloved, the trouble with him was the same old thing pride. He wanted his own way. And he thought he was good enough to bring the product and the fruit of his own hands and labor. And if he did that, he'd be all right.

Beloved, that's the devil's trick. He's still at it. Don't you believe what he says. He's a deceiver. You go to the Lord Jesus and he'll give you the gift of eternal life and make you his own dear child.

And now, beloved, let us think again about Cain. Cain, if you'd have seen him, you would have said, why, he's just as good as his brother is. Of course, he isn't doing like his brother, but everybody has his own way of doing things. There are many roads that lead to heaven. And Abel took one road and Cain took his road.

But they were honest and they were earnest. And each one thought he was doing the right thing. And God looks at the heart. He doesn't look at what we do. He looks at the motive.

And so these are wonderful men. And then when Cain brought his offering and God wouldn't accept it, that wakes us up, doesn't it? Doesn't that give us some idea that God has a plan of his own? And what was his plan? Why, the animal had to die.

You see, Abel brought a lamb that died for him. But Cain there wasn't any blood in Cain's offering. Cain just brought the fruit of the ground that he himself had produced. And God says those works are evil. To try to do a thing, to bribe God and to pay God with what we have produced is absolutely wicked and sinful and evil.

And every Sunday that you do it, beloved, you're just piling up the sins that are against you. I'll do this and I'll pay this and I'll give this. And therefore, because I do this, God will be merciful and God will be kind and I'll get to heaven or somewhere. Beloved, don't you believe that the devil is a minister of righteousness? Remember, a minister of righteousness trying to get you to be righteous and nice and lovely and give liberally like Cain did.

But God wouldn't have it. Cain was wicked even thinking about doing it. And the Lord remonstrated with him and said, you don't need to bring this stuff. You can get a lamb just like Abel did. You bring a lamb.

That's my pan. That's my place, that's my way. You bring the lamb and I'll accept your sacrifice. But no, sir, he wanted his own way. He was going to bring his own stuff, his own things that he grew.

And so he did, but God wouldn't have it. And that just roused up the wickedness. And don't you know, if you read history, you'll find it still the same way? Religious groups of various kinds and various beliefs and faiths just destroyed and killed everybody they could that wouldn't believe what they taught and what they demanded, what they said. It's the most cruel thing in the world, and Cain was the first one to do it.

And since then, people that don't believe God but believe the traditions and the teachings and the doctrines of men, they do the same thing. Burn them at the stake, pour hot lead down their throat, put them on the rack. Anything to get rid of them. Anything to make them suffer, because they won't accept what we say and what we teach, what we demand that people do. Beloved the devil is as cruel as he can be.

Don't you be like Cain. Don't you bring anything of your own to get salvation. The Lord. Jesus is the savior. You put your faith in him.



And he said himself, he that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life shall not come into judgment, but is passed out of death into life. I hope that will be true of every one of you dear friends, make Christ your Lord, your Savior, your Redeemer, and you will have peace.