

SATAN

THE ANTICHRIST

UNDERSTANDING THE
ENEMY'S STRATEGY AND DEVICES

HERBERT
LOCKYER



WHITAKER
HOUSE

All Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.
Boldface type in the Scripture quotations indicates the author's emphasis.

SATAN THE ANTICHRIST:
Understanding the Enemy's Strategy and Devices

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PREFACE

Spiritual minds are convinced that we live in days of advanced Satanism. As the god of this world, Satan is succeeding in flooding his domain with an ever-growing number of pleasures and pursuits. Souls must not be given time to think. And how occupied the worldling is!

And then these are days when people have cast off all restraint. Gone are the days when reserve held sway. Things that would have shocked our grandparents are now commonplace and taken for granted. We live in an age of unwholesome suggestiveness. The world is given over to sin! *Rotten* is a mild word to describe the moral condition of civilization. And we hold Satan responsible for the corruption in the world.

It is, therefore, imperative for the saints of God to understand the devices of the enemy in these last days. A thorough understanding of Satan and his works forces one to look out upon these tangled times with different eyes.

In the compass of this somewhat unusual book, as some would think, I have sought to trace the diabolical plan of Satan through the ages. Others have labored in this field of study, and, entering into their labors, I have herewith set forth the fruits of a meditation that has strengthened my faith in the coming overthrow of the usurper.

—Herbert Lockyer

SATAN THE ANTICHRIST, OR THE ROYAL SEED

From first to last, the Bible is a book of battles. God strives against man. Man defies God. Satan engages in deadly conflict with both God and man; and both man and God are found arrayed against their mutual archenemy, the devil. Man is also seen at war with man.

But the devil stands before us upon the pages of Holy Writ as the bitterest foe of heaven and earth. No matter where you turn, you find this created, personal, evil once represented as the adversary of God and man, of Christ and the Christian.

In fact, it is very interesting to think of God's Word as a record of the devil's antagonism to forces, human and heavenly, and studying such with spirit-anointed eyes, discover, thereby, the wiles and stratagems of Satan to overthrow the eternal counsels and purposes of God; and then to behold how gloriously he is defeated at every point by One who is "greater than he."

The purpose of this present study is to show how Satan is portrayed in Scripture as the great antagonist of our Lord Jesus Christ. That he bore intense hatred to God's beloved Son from the beginning of his evil career is evident to all who read their Bible with any purpose, seeing that such a theme forms a great and important subject of biblical study.

Into the truths of Satan's preexistence and personality, we are not venturing, as such are taken for granted at this stage.

It will be observed that we are naming our study *Satan and the Antichrist*. True it is that all who deny the Father and the Son are antichrists (see 1 John 2:22), as well as those who deny the incarnation of our Lord (see 1 John 4:3; 2 John 1:7).

It is also true that there are many antichrists abroad today; and that "*the man of sin*" (2 Thessalonians 2:3) of the tribulation period will be known as "*that antichrist*" (1 John 2:18), so called because he will be energized by the devil himself to lead the world in rebellion and antagonism to our Lord.

But seeing that Satan is at the back of all anti-Christian forces, and the instigator of all open hatred to God and to His Christ, he can be fitly termed—Satan, the antichrist.

Before pursuing our study, it may be as well to utter one word regarding the levity even among Christian people when speaking of the devil and his works. No one with any conception of the danger that he is to us, and to the cause we represent, can ever speak of him in a jocular way, or engage in flippant conversation regarding his personality and work. All unwarranted appellations such as "Old Nick" or "Black Face" are to be deprecated.

It behooves us to follow the example of Michael in his manner of dealing with Satan. When the archangel came into conflict with him, he spoke respectfully to him, remembering his previous glory and dignity. (See Zechariah 3:1–2; Jude 9.)

PART I

BEFORE THE CHURCH PERIOD

It may be somewhat instructive if we try to give a brief survey of our theme, before examining it more particularly. Satan's rebellion in the realm of angelic beings, over which he had control, caused God to destroy their habitable world so that it became "*without form, and void*" (Genesis 1:2). God then restored the earth He had devastated because of Satan's revolt, making it fair and beautiful so that He might fill it with sinless beings who would do His will.

But with this plan of God there followed another attempt on Satan's part to frustrate the desire of the Almighty, for the devil became, from the moment of the earth's re-creation and man's creation, the direct antagonist of both God and man. He immediately set out with all the wisdom he possessed to make man into a sinner like himself. He determined that since "*everlasting fire...for the devil and his angels*" (Matthew 25:41), then this selfsame devil will devise every means to drag mankind down with him. And, alas, from the beginning of our world, he has often succeeded.

With man's defeat by the devil, there came the immediate promise of *redemption*. From the woman beguiled by the deceiver, one was to spring who would overthrow the devil's kingdom, destroy his works, and make man "*more than conquerors*" (Romans 8:37). And our present study will show how Satan, from the time of the first pronouncement in Genesis 3:15, set out to thwart God's redemption

plan; and how, having failed to meddle in our Redeemer's ancestry throughout the Old Testament, as well as in our Lord's physical and resurrection body in the New Testament, he continues his antagonism against our Lord's mystical body, the church, throughout the succeeding ages.

Dealing, then, in the first place with the unfolding of Satan's diabolical purpose to checkmate God's redeeming purpose before the church period, our minds naturally turn to that portion of Scripture in which the truth of the church, as the body of Christ, is not fully unfolded—namely, the Old Testament and the four gospels.

THE OLD TESTAMENT

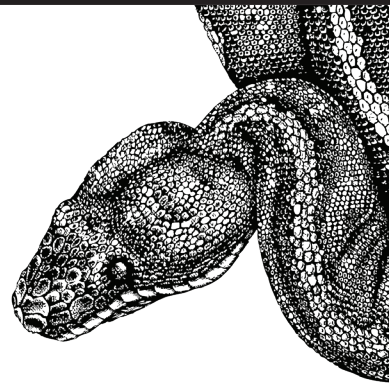
Although it is true that the Old Testament does not give us an adequate conception of the devil's personality and works, yet sufficient is revealed to indicate his determination to block God's promise regarding the sending of His Son into the world as its Savior. And, as we shall see, Satan employed many devices and arts to destroy the "Seed" that would ultimately produce Christ, his great antagonist and glorious Conqueror.

THE HUMAN RACE

Let us endeavor to trace the subtle workings of Satan from the time of Adam to Noah, which is the "primeval period" of biblical and human history.

THE FIRST HUMAN PAIR

Satan's antagonism toward God commenced the moment God sought to populate the earth with beings fashioned in His own image. Of course, Satan's own personal revolt and hatred commenced when God deposed him, but here in Genesis 3, we have the first recorded attempt of Satan to overthrow the purpose of God regarding man. And as one writer has pointed out, in each case, the human instrument had his own personal interest to serve, while Satan had his own great object in view. Hence, God had, in each case, to interfere and avert the evil and the danger of which His servants and people were wholly ignorant.



SATAN'S ANTAGONISM TOWARD
GOD COMMENCED THE MOMENT GOD
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