

The Study of Satan and Fallen Angels

A. Objections to Satanology

1. Dualism

Some people reject the existence of Satan because they argue that if Satan did exist then dualism would be true and evil would have the same status as good. Dualism is the belief that forces of good are in continual battle with forces of evil. This is not true, since evil is only being allowed to exist by God for a very small period of time. An infinitesimally small period of time when we consider the infinity of eternity.

In addition, good and evil are not equal forces. The current battle in the spiritual realm is over the faithfulness of men. God will not lose this battle and He has never been in danger of losing it. Moreover, God is not a “force.” God is the Supreme Being by whom and for whom everything exists.

2. Supernaturalism

Other people have rejected the existence of Satan on the grounds that the supernatural does not exist. “Some evolutionists define evil as the ‘vestiges’ of man’s lower nature.” (Sarles) In other words, these people think that as man has evolved we have become better than we were and we are getting rid of the evil in our nature. A lot of people believe that society is getting better and that we can improve it, that is, that we can rid the world of evil. This was the prevalent belief of Liberal theology before World War One but it still exists in many realms. Our own President has declared war on evil, which he likely believes he can fight through human means. This is man’s way of dealing with evil, failing to recognize its supernatural aspects.

Some modern beliefs, like Neo-orthodoxy, do emphasize the reality of evil, but de-emphasize the reality of personal evil (Sarles). Neo-orthodoxy, for example, teaches that everyone is elect and that therefore there is no eternal punishment for sin, nor a real hell.

B. Why should we study about Satan?

We are at war against evil, but the way to defeat it is not with human armies or any other human means. We need to be aware that our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the spiritual realm. Therefore, as any good warrior, we need to know our enemy in order to defeat him. We need to study about Satan to know how he operates and how to resist him.

In our modern day, the understanding of the spirit world is wanting, and many, even believers are being easily carried away into believing what amounts to mere myths. This is the case because believers are misinformed and easily deceived by Satan.