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The Nature of Our Adversary

By “adversary” I am referring to the Biblical character “the serpent”, “the devil”, or “Lucifer”. The world presents a silly & false image of anything Biblical which makes believing difficult. And I too would rather not believe in such a character, but satanic activity is becoming too obvious. It possesses people, then promotes bizarre traits & actions. Our natural human desires can be magnified & altered into evil contortions. And it’s amazing to see people globally following a false concept of God into total self-destruction & mass murder. The “Nature of Our Adversary” has to be powerful & beautiful to lure people the way it does. Then in the end (likely near), the majority will be so charmed that they worship the adversary – Revelation 13.

Scripture reveals “the serpent” in Genesis 4 as Eve’s tempter. People often ridicule “the talking snake” of Genesis. But there are other instances of addressing Satan through another entity, like when Jesus Christ told Peter to “get behind me Satan”, in Matthew chapter 16 v.23a. That exchange gives a penetrating look at the “Nature of Our Adversary”. 23b gives this: “You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men”. Right there we have the practical nature of our spiritual adversary. This supernatural character persuades humans to highlight self-focus. We excessively dwell on our Pride, Possessions, Power, and Honor (note 41), rather than looking for ANSWERS above & seeking God, the true purpose of life. (Other direct & revealing references to the Nature of Our Adversary are Job 1:6-7, Zechariah 3:1-2, and Matthew 4:1-11.)

Besides having a very human agenda, & contradicting God/good constantly, what is he like?? Well, not only is he a supernatural entity in a higher dimension, but he almost resembles God by being a three-part being: The father - (Lucifer, Isaiah 14:12-15 KJV, Ezekiel 28:12-15.) The son? - (demons, fallen angels who still possess people today, and certainly that end time character of Revelation 13.) The spirit - “the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience.” Ephesians 2:2 (Of course we cannot fully understand ANY spiritual being, but a study of Scripture does reveal a hierarchy of evil, or chain of command, & network of dark spiritual powers.) And its sad when unchurched young people don’t understand or believe the subtle reality & power our adversary has. They fall for “supernatural” themes of the youth culture, and find themselves living the desires of the devil which are: “immorality, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, selfishness, dissention, party spirit, envy, murder, drunkenness, carousing, and the like.” Galatians 5:19-21

In spite of the OBVIOUS increasing evil & demonic activity in our troubled world, too many folks stubbornly reject Biblical answers & give complacent consent to living under the power of our adversary. Scripture defined the predicament some 2000 years ago: Paul’s mission from the ascended & glorified Jesus – “to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.” Acts 26:18 When I was about 21, I had my epiphany & made a decision for Christ & broke free of the desires of the worldly spirit as per above. Feeling the Holy Spirit & NEW direction in my life caused curiosity to study & figure out things most folks don’t bother with. The result is this “gospel note” on “The Nature of Our Adversary”, and indeed the whole GOSPEL NOTES series. And I am not ashamed to make literalistic conclusions on this subject. The alternative liberal conclusions on the Word of God have surely paved the way for spiritual blindness & the free reign of evil in the world today.

Now according to Scripture, and the Biblical world view, we are the puppets of a raging good vs. evil battle where our souls are at stake. For spiritual survival tips see Ephesians 6 which deals with the Armor of God. And choose Jesus, He is Alive. See also note 43 “The Demon” and note 110 “What’s in the Air”.