

Overcoming Satan's Deceptions

(appropriate for mid-schoolers or older)

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(Portions taken from Rev. John S. Mahon, Grace Community International, Houston, TX)

I'm going to make 7 statements as if I was someone else. All of the statements are true and the person making the statements is a real person. I want you to listen closely to all of the statements and then tell me who I am.

- 1) I will establish my kingdom on the Earth over every tribe and people, nation, and tongue.
- 2) I have in the past and will in the future perform miracles on the Earth, including resurrection from the dead.
- 3) I am Lord over both men and angels.
- 4) I am clothed in light.
- 5) I am a seeker of men.
- 6) The whole world belongs to me.
- 7) I have a plan for your life.

So, who am I? How sure are you of your answer? Would you be willing to be put to death if you are wrong? If you are sure the answer is God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit come stand in front of the class. I want everyone to take a good look at each of these kids up here – because every one of them is dead! The answer is Satan and I want to talk a little about him tonight.

People and angels are separate types of created beings

Angels have never been people and people will never be angels. The most notable characteristic of angels is they obey quickly the first time

(Hebrews 1:7, 14 - And of the angels He says, "WHO MAKES HIS ANGELS WINDS, AND HIS MINISTERS A FLAME OF FIRE." Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?).

They are more powerful and more knowledgeable than people

(II Peter 2:10-11 - and especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires and despise authority Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties, whereas angels who are greater in might and power do not bring a reviling judgment against them before the Lord).

They do not completely understand the concepts of grace, mercy, and salvation from the penalty of sin

(I Peter 1:10-12 - As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven--things into which angels long to look).

Their mindset is that anything less than complete obedience to God is worthy of death but they find the idea of salvation very interesting. Angels are sometimes referred to in the Bible as the Sons of God or as the Stars of Heaven or Stars of God. Angels are organized in kind of a military structure with clear rankings, characteristics and tasks.

Most of the time angels accomplish their missions among us without being visible. There are different types of angels with different characteristics. Some angels can interact with us with the complete appearance of being human without our knowing they are angels.

Messenger angels such as Gabriel and the angels that appeared at Jesus' tomb on Easter morning had a human appearance but also a supernatural appearance.

Angels that deliver prophetic visions often have some human characteristics but also have non-human characteristics such as faces like lightning, eyes like burning coals, or flesh like yellow crystal. Some angels, such as the one guarding the garden of Eden appear in great power with flaming swords and just seeing them causes people to collapse in fear.

Higher up in rank are the Cherubim and Seraphim whose main task is protection of the Throne of God (Ezekiel chapters 1 & 41 and Isaiah chapter 6 describe them). These angels are really weird looking and have characteristics of humans, animals, and even machines.

At the very top of the angelic hierarchy are the Archangels – the supreme commanders of the armies of heaven. The most powerful, intelligent, and intimidating creatures ever made by God.

(I Thessalonians 4:16 - For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first)

(Jude 9 - But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!").

God only created two archangels. Number 2 in command was Michael. Number 1 in command was Lucifer. Lucifer means "Shining One" or "Morning Star".

Isaiah 14:12-14

How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the Earth, You who have weakened the nations! But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'

What happened to Lucifer? He thought he was greater than God and decided to knock God off his throne.

Revelation 12: 4, 7-9

And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child.

And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon The dragon and his angels waged war, and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

What happened when Satan tried to rebel against God? How many of the angels followed Satan? Where was Satan and his angels thrown to?

Although Hell was originally created for the devil and his angels they are not there yet. They will be there someday but for now they live and roam about on the Earth causing trouble. Whether you know it or not they are here on the Earth and they are committed to your destruction.

The Bible says we are not ignorant of his schemes (II Corinthians 2:11 - so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes).

So lets look at some of his schemes.

But first lets look at the questions I asked you at the beginning of class.

I will establish my kingdom on the Earth over every tribe and people, nation, and tongue.

Revelation 13:5-8

There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him. And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven. It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him. All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.

I have in the past and will in the future perform miracles on the Earth, including resurrection from the dead.

Exodus 7:8-13

Now the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, "When Pharaoh speaks to you, saying, 'Work a miracle,' then you shall say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh, that it may become a serpent.'" So Moses and Aaron came to Pharaoh, and thus they did just as the LORD had commanded; and Aaron threw his staff down before Pharaoh and his servants, and it became a serpent. Then Pharaoh also called for the wise men and the sorcerers, and they also, the magicians of Egypt, did the same with their secret arts. For each one threw down his staff and they turned into serpents. But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs. Yet Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

Revelation 13:11-18

Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon. He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed. He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life. And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed. And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, and he provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name. Here is wisdom Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.

I am Lord over both men and angels.

Revelation 12:9

And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

II Timothy 2:24-26

The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

I am clothed in light.

II Corinthians 11:14

No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

I am a seeker of men.

I Peter 5:8

Be of sober spirit, be on the alert Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

The whole world belongs to me.

I John 5:19

We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

I have a plan for your life.

Revelation 12:17

So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Although Satan and his fallen angels are very intelligent and powerful they cannot do anything to you without God's permission. God has given Satan standing permission to try to deceive people. Deceive means to convince you that something bad is good or that something good is bad. They do this because they cannot destroy you directly but perhaps they can deceive you into destroying yourself! What fun!

I John 2:14

I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Intimate knowledge of what the bible says is really your only protection. In addition Satan will from time to time request special permission to test you.

Luke 22:31-34

Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers. But he said to Him, "Lord, with You I am ready to go both to prison and to death!" And He said, "I say to you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know Me."

Job 1:6-12

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. The LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it." The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil." Then Satan answered the LORD, "Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face." Then the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him." So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD.

Job 2:1-7

Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD. The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it." The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, although you incited Me against him to ruin him without cause." Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. However, put forth Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh; he will curse You to Your face." So the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your power, only spare his life." Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.

Satan also can harass you or he can battle angels who are trying to help you.

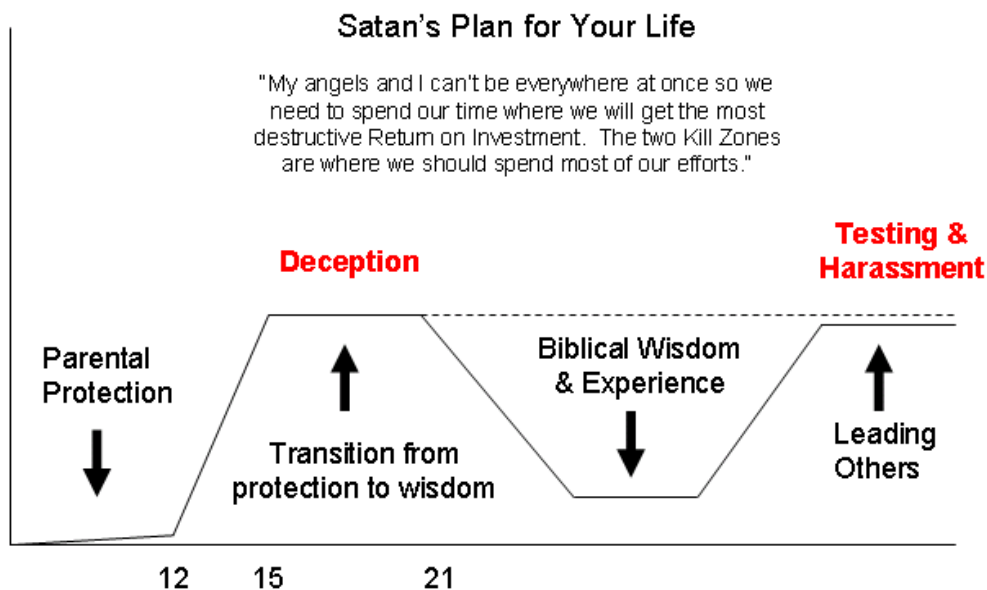
Daniel 10: 5, 6, 11-14

I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, there was a certain man dressed in linen, whose waist was girded with a belt of pure gold of Uphaz. His body also was like beryl, his face had the appearance of lightning, his eyes were like flaming torches, his arms and feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a tumult.

He said to me, "O Daniel, man of high esteem, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you " And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. Then he said to me, "Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words. "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia. "Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet future."

Kill Zones

Up until age 12 or so you are under the protection of your parents. It is difficult for Satan to get to you as long as you are under the protection of your parents – possible but difficult. As an adult later in life you will have gained Biblical wisdom as you continue to follow Christ and study the Bible (make sure you do), you will also gain some wisdom from experience. As a result it will be harder for Satan to deceive you – to convince you that something bad is good or something good is bad – you will sin but not so much because you were deceived but because you wanted to. During the teen years you are in a transition. You are coming out from under the protection of your parents but you have not yet acquired a significant amount of wisdom. If I was Satan and I wanted to inflict maximum damage on someone this would be the time to do it.



As it becomes harder for Satan to deceive us he will request permission to test and harass us. Just as we need to be wary of deception during the teen years we also need to be wary of falling later in life due to testing.

One of Satan's deceptions is that he has set up a different world system for teenagers and adults. He has a cruel trick he wants to play on you. The value systems of teenagers and adults are almost opposite of each other.

<u>Teenagers</u>	<u>Adult</u>
Attractive	Family
Experience	Work
Social Life	School
Sports	Sports
School	Social Life
Work	Experience
Family	Attractiveness

Don't sacrifice your future by buying in to the teen culture – in a few years its values will be meaningless.

Don't be surprised if you see the captain of the High School football team collecting shopping carts in front of Walmart.

Don't be surprised at your 20 year HS reunion if all the quiet kids that followed the rules have become bosses and the popular kids haven't done so well and are still struggling to find the popularity that was so easy for them in High School.

Conclusion

At the beginning of class you saw that it is relatively easy to be deceived by me – just imagine how easy it is for an archangel to deceive you.

Your only protection is to study and know what the Bible says and apply it to your life. This is particularly important during the teen years – one of the kill zones.

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Overcoming Satan's Deceptions*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Hebrews 1:7&14, II Peter 2:10-11, I Peter 1:10-12*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Ezekiel chapter 1, Ezekiel 41:18-19, Isaiah 6:1-7*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Thessalonians 4:16, Jude 9, Isaiah 14:12-14, Revelation 12:3-4&7-9*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

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QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD
JEREMIAH 15:16
THEME: *Overcoming Satan's Deceptions*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Corinthians 2:11, Revelation 13:58*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Exodus 7:8-13, Revelation 13:11-18, Revelation 12:9, II Timothy 2:24-26*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Corinthians 11:14, I Peter 5:8, I John 5:19*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Overcoming Satan's Deceptions*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Revelation 1:17, John 10:10, I John 2:14*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Luke 22:31-34, Job 1:6-12, Job 2:1-7*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Daniel 10:1-6 & 11-14*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?