

# **SATAN BEARS WITNESS OF JESUS**

**By**

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**I am Satan, invisible, but nonetheless a person, who was in the wilderness with Jesus during the forty days between his baptism and his reappearance to John the Baptist. My wilderness experiences with Jesus climaxed with three great temptations in which I brought to bear upon him all the cunning devices at my command. Before relating these events to you, permit me to introduce myself.**

**I came into being by the creative power of God long before the existence of man. I was considered as the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. My abode was in Eden, the garden of God. My apparel consisted of stones most precious: carnelian, topaz, jasper, chrysolite, beryl, onyx, sapphire, carbuncle, and emerald. These were wrought in settings of gold made resplendent by the most beautiful artistic engravings. Originally, I was an anointed cherub, so designed and blessed by the wisdom and goodness of God. He allowed me to walk on the holy mountain in the midst of the stones of fire. I was blameless in my ways and pure in my motives from the time of my creation until iniquity entered my being.**

**I was named Lucifer, the son of the morning, and ranked as one of the seven angels who stood in the presence of God. Because of my war in heaven and as a result of my fall, the other angels were forced into defensive activities. Uriel was commissioned to preside over clamor and terror. Raphael was over the spirits of men. Raguel inflicted judgments on the world and luminaries. Michael was over human virtues and nations. Sarakiel was to record the actions of transgressors. And Gabriel was placed over Ikesat, paradise, and the cherubim.**

**Because of my beauty, wisdom, and position, I felt that being on a level with other angels was not befitting to my dignity, thus I purposed to elevate myself above the other angels of God. My plan was to gain a position in heaven above the stars of God and set my throne on high. In so doing, I would exert my influence and rule over all other angels and ultimately make myself like the Most High. My plan failed. The failure was due directly to the power and word of Christ.**

**Actually Christ, the second person of the Trinity was in the beginning with God, and he created all things both visible and invisible. At first, I did**

not consider that he would act in the affairs of angelic differences, but to my chagrin he did. In a righteous anger he thundered out his voice of condemnation and my plans were thwarted, my ambitions defeated. His authority removed me from my elevated position and cast me down to the ground.

My wickedness developed out of the blessing of freedom that God through creation gave to all angels. This freedom placed us on our honor to do right by our own choosing. Innate within this freedom was the personal liberty of wayward choices. I selected a wayward choice of self-elevation, which set me on a course of conflict with God and good. This ultimately resulted in my becoming completely evil in purpose and deed. I now hate all good, but my most intense hatred is reserved against Christ, whom I hold responsible for thwarting my purposes and defaming me before the hosts of heaven and earth. I have purposefully given myself and my energies to the defeat of his program.

When he placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, I misconstrued his motives and falsely accused God before them. I was successful in perverting their minds, in getting them to accept inferior values, and in seducing them into open rebellion against his commandment. Through my ingenious stroke, sin was penciled upon human nature causing Adam's offspring to be marked with my brand of ownership. I so thoroughly contaminated the early race with evil, that God swept most of them from the face of the earth with a destructive flood.

To give vent to my hatred, I became personally responsible for introducing to the human race every kind of idolatry, murder, dishonor, theft, adultery, false accusation, and covetousness. Everywhere among Adam's posterity I sowed discord, rivalry, sin, and war. These things I did out of sheer delight because my nature is evil beyond any hope of redemption.

On many occasions I recognized the pre-existence of Christ, admired his position, trembled in his presence, but never would I humble my attitude or give homage to his name. Through the history of his dealings with men, I observed him in conversation with Abraham, in his wrestling with Jacob, and in his striking Egypt with plagues of Judgment. I saw him roll back the waters of the Red Sea after smiting the first born of the wicked Egyptians. I observed him as a pillow of fire by night and as a cloud by day. I watched him pencil out the decalogue of moral truth on the tablet of stone and sprinkle manna to feed the Hebrew millions. I beheld him open the rock from which flowed refreshing water in the desert. I saw him preserve the clothing of these nomads. I was present when he choked back the waters of Jordan for Israel's passage and when he personally became the captain of the Lord's host.

**I was there when he crushed the walls of Jericho and bayed the sun over Gibeon. I witnessed his holding the moon over the valley of Ajalon and his sending the hail stones that assisted in battering the Amorites into defeat.**

**I know him and his works. I was by the river Kishon when he assisted the forces of Deborah in defeating Sisera and the armies of the Gentiles. I was in Babylon when he locked the Jaws of the lions while Daniel was in their den. I was there when he appeared in the fiery furnace to protect the three Hebrew men. I was in Israel when he inspired the prophets to blast me with their messages of truth.**

**As a matter of fact, I was present in Nazareth when Gabriel announced to Mary that she would be overshadowed by the Holy Ghost and would become the mother of Jesus. I did not understand how this person who was so active through the affairs of Old Testament history, the second person of the God-head possessing almighty power, unlimited wisdom, and a presence that was everywhere, could be born of a woman and take upon himself the nature of a human being, but this is actually what happened. In the womb of this woman his divine nature joined with perfect untainted human nature and he became one person, very God and perfect man.**

**This is the person whom John baptized and whom the Holy Spirit led into the wilderness to meet me in conflict. Not only had I met him in the eternity and in the ages past, as the pre-existent Christ, but after he was made flesh, I incited Herod to attempt his murder which resulted in his slaying the innocent children of Bethlehem.**

**My meeting him in the wilderness arena inspired within me fresh hope of a victory over him. This was so different from my ageless conflict with him prior to his taking on himself the nature of man. Against his divine person I had absolutely no hope of enticing him to do evil, or of tempting him to do wrong. This was impossible because God cannot tempt anyone nor can he be tempted to do wrong. Nor did I have hope of defeating him here in the wilderness through his divine nature. MY hope was inspired by reason of his being a human being, and yet this fact gave me disturbed apprehension. Willfully he had become a human being for the purpose of subjecting himself to all the infirmities of flesh and for the purpose of meeting me on my most skillful battleground.**

**I had enticed Adam and his race away from God and enslaved them to my gleeful passions. Even in the birth of children I have the advantage. Early in the lives of these babies, I create rebellion against God and His will.**

**I have become a master at creating lust in their flesh, at appealing to their pride of life, and in painting glittering pictures before their eyes. I know every weakness of man and how best to press the battle in destroying his soul and his body. Yes, I will meet this Jesus and teach him not to challenge me in the field where I am strongest and most skillful.**

**I will have him know that I am Satan, the wicked one, a liar and the father of lies. I hate, murder, and sow discord with absolutely no remorse of conscience or will to repentance. I speak evil of dignities, entice men to evil, falsely accuse men before God, and slander God before men. I am the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that works in the Children of disobedience, the leader of fallen angels, and the god of this world.**

**I rule over the spirits of the unregenerate dead, am the source of all evil on earth, hold the kingdoms of this world under my control, and administer the sting of fear at death. The titles of Satan, Lucifer, the serpent, the devil, the accuser, the wicked one, the tempter, and the god of this world know me. Sometimes I appear as an angel of light, as a wolf in sheep's clothing, as a deluder of men, and as a roaring lion seeking whom I may devour. I am cunning, powerful, wise, wicked and proud. I will accept his challenge and tempt him through his humanity. I will entice him to disobey God and before me his kingdom will crumble.**

**So into the wilderness arena Jesus came, quiet, reserved and aggressive. I observed his entrance and knew his purpose. He had come to uproot my kingdom and establish his. Before he could do this he had to meet me in conflict. He would have to battle through every temptation that is common to man and I know them all. He had to meet me as a man representing men before he could score victory for a kingdom of men. His followers would be made, and his kingdom established, only to the extent that he was successful in this struggle.**

**As he proceeded into the wilderness, I was reminded of my first encounter with man, which was through Adam. These two had many things in common. So alike were they, until I considered Jesus as a second Adam. Both were placed in a position to contest ownership of the earth. Both were under a compulsion from God: Adam was not to eat of certain fruit; Jesus was driven into the wilderness by the Spirit. Both were sinless in nature, but capable of yielding to my temptations. Both were in a state of free moral agency with success or failure depending upon their will to be, or not to be, absolutely obedient to God and his purposes.**

**Between the two, there were also differences. Adam was in Eden surrounded with good, beauty, pleasantness, companionship, and food in abundance; Jesus was in the wilderness surrounded with evil, bareness,**

repulsiveness, loneliness, want and hunger. My kingdom was begun in the first Adam on the basis of choice. It would fall or be maintained in the second Adam on the basis of choice and contest. The first Adam was sinless and unfallen. Jesus was sinless, but was made in the likeness of sinful flesh and was subject to all the temptations of the flesh as well as the spirit.

Since he was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to meet me in the contest of temptation, and since this was a test to prepare or disqualify him to be a real King of a new kingdom, and since the establishment of that kingdom depended upon his absolute and complete obedience to the will of God, I felt it my gleeful delight to strike him in ways and at places where he was most vulnerable and where I would most likely succeed in defeating him.

Quickly I made an attack upon him that did not cease until just before he left the wilderness forty days later. I was with him during the gray dawn of new days, at high noon, and at evening tide. On numbers of occasions he was surrounded with wild beasts which I used in an attempt to frighten and intimidate him. He was neither frightened nor intimidated because he had power over the beast of the wilderness. Most of the time he was either praying, or thinking of ways and means by which he could establish the kingdom of God.

I suggested to him that he assemble an army and march with weapons of carnal warfare against the Romans and soon he would re-establish the ancient empire of David with all of its glory and be the king of a mighty force on the earth. When this suggestion failed, I directed his attention to Israel pointing out the great blessing that this nation had been in the world and how they were eagerly awaiting their promised Messiah, and that if he would fit into their preconceived ideas, his task would soon be fulfilled and his opposition among those whom he loved so greatly would be quickly overcome. He rejected this idea by implying that he would do only God's will. I made it clear to him that if he followed God's will, his would be a life of sufferings, sacrifice, and terrible misunderstandings. I implied to him that following the plans which he was about to adopt would meet neither with popular favor, nor acceptance with the kingdoms of this world.

I pointed out to him that God was unreasonable, unfair, and expected too much; that if he followed God's will in the matter, it would lead to helpless and hopeless agonies to the bitter end; even to the extinction of life, in being rejected his own people, and in his crucifixion on a cross where God would forsake him and leave him to die alone, betrayed, and denounced.

**Our struggle was lengthy. Weeks grew into a month and at no point in the contest had I been successful. He resisted every temptation in the most foolish way, neither by reason nor by argument, but merely by applying the word of God and by submitting himself to the will of God.**

**By reason of his fasting, I observed him, as he grew weak physically. He seemed to be faint with hunger and occasionally I heard him groan with pain. My hopes of his growing weary with the contest were brightening and I felt more encouraged that he would succumb and I would succeed. He had sympathy and fellowship from no one. He heard neither the voice of God, of angels, nor of men. Around him was desolation and I hoped within him despair.**

**It was on the thirty-ninth day that I laid final plans to unleash against him my greatest volley of temptations. This was my opportunity. He was weakened to his lowest physical ebb and I was still strong and capable. I purposed to defeat him on the fortieth day of our conflict. I would do it by despair, by presumption, or by enticing him to take a short cut to the control of the kingdoms of the world. I would prove to him by example and by the word of God that absolute obedience to the will of God is both foolish and impracticable.**

**As the light streaked the east with gray dawn of the fortieth day, I was already positioned close by his side. Capturing his interest and his ear, I directed his attention to the agonizing hunger of his famishing body. How unfair this is for God to allow you to be in such a state of hunger, and equally as unbecoming of you to continue submitting to such an unnecessary procedure. After all are you not the Son of God? Do you not possess the same power to perform miracles that you exercised in the wilderness when you sprinkled the hillsides with manna to feed the Hebrews? With just one word of your power, you can correct this hunger and end this set of foolish circumstances into which the Spirit of God has placed you.**

**In the early light of this day, look, how like bread these stones appear. Now, if you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread. Thirty-nine days have already passed in this struggle and your obedience to God has not merited you one mouthful of food. How long will it take for you to learn that God is unjust and unconcerned about you? You have miraculous power, take things into your own hands now, and we will show God that you do not have to put up with his lack of interest and unkindness. Speak the word and in a moment's time you can satisfy this gnawing hunger with appetizing bread which you yourself will miraculously make from these stones.**

Though he was famishing with hunger in his weakened state, he did not hesitate in responding to my suggestions. He quoted from the word of God by saying, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." His answer was his decision and I knew it. He absolutely refused to exercise his miraculous power, unless that power was exercised in perfect harmony with divine morality as is written in God's word. I was convinced that he would die physically before he would disobey this principle. I was further convinced that he would attempt to build his kingdom not on power alone, but on the total moral truth of God. Because he would not yield on this issue, I was forced to continue the battle with another type of temptation.

The Spirit had led him into the wilderness, but I took him to the Temple in Jerusalem. This was his Father's house where he at the age of twelve had announced, that he must be about his father's business. We arrived here while it was still early morning at the time when the pale light of the east was gradually changing from a rosy color to a deep crimson. Only moments later the light trimmed in gold was rapidly spreading across the rugged mountains of Moab into the hill country of Judaea. We took our position on the elevated pinnacle of the Temple where moments earlier a white robed priest had blown his trumpet calling for sleeping Jerusalem to arise and worship the God of Israel. Far below us in the Court of the Temple a busy priest had just finished placing on the grate of the brazen altar a lamb which was offered as the morning sacrifice. The fires of the altar, being rekindled, were sending lazy smoke up into the sweet-scented aroma of the early morning air, which had casually drifted up from the balsam plantations of Jericho.

Into his ear I whispered, "This is your grand opportunity. Israel through centuries of suffering, oppression, and war has held an undimmed hope of a coming Messiah. On this very day a semi-legal deputation will be sent to John the Baptist to make inquiry regarding the Messiah. This hope is expressed on the lips of rich and poor, bond and free, in city and village, from hamlet to country. They are expecting someone great and challenging.

If you will meet their expectations, you can at this moment be accepted and hailed as the unexcelled religious leader of the whole nation. You must perform an act of spectacular greatness here in connection with your Father's house, where the priests offer their incense, and where the people gather by the thousands to worship. What would stir their imagination more or capture their esteem quicker, than your leaping from this lofty position and slowly floating to the court below on the hands of angels? With one accord they would shout their acclamation and with bended knees and bowed heads they would give their undivided homage and sincerest worship. The priest is now blowing his silver trumpet in final

call for worship, the gates of the Court are swinging open, and thousands of people are pouring into the court. This is your moment.

Leap now, if you are the Son of God, cast yourself down from hence: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee, to guard thee; and on their hands they shall bear thee up, lest haply thou dash thy foot against a stone."

His response to this suggestion was brief, scriptural, and to the point. He said, "Again it is written, thou shalt not tempt (or make trial of) the Lord thy God."

He did not fall for my suggested presumption. He seems interested only in submitting to the absolute will of God and in doing only what the word of God teaches as he interprets it. However, this struggle is not over. I will bring before him the riches and glitter of this world and make him an offer that I have never made before to any man.

I led him away from the narrow streets of old Jerusalem, away from the national prejudices of Judaism, away from the burning smell of sacrificial animals and the perfume of temple incense. I took him to the summit of a very high mountain where he could view the wide world in all of its dazzling splendor and wondrous glory.

We looked east, west, north, and south beholding the grandeur of organized governments, the wealth of fertile valleys, the commerce of laden ships traveling the sea lanes of the great deep, the armies of Rome marching with rhythmic step and flouting banners, and the cities of the earth with their majesty, their beauty, and their strength. I directed his attention to the living masses that were joyously satisfied as they spent their happy lives under my dominion. I tuned his hearing to their world-melody and allowed him to listen to their songs of jubilation.

Look to the realm of the horizon and beyond. Think of all the kingdoms of the earth wherever the sun blazes down its radiance. Be reminded of the precious stones, the streams and lakes, the grain and fruit, the people and the work of their hands. These are mine. The kingdoms of the world are mine. They are all mine to give or keep according to my plan or purpose.

I have the power to elevate you to a position of world leadership and the ability to place all the kingdoms of the world under your control. In fact, all of these with their glory, I will give unto you if you will fall down and worship me. You may be the king of these vast dominions with prestige and power to rule according to your noble and righteous desires. Think of

**the good, which you could accomplish, the wealth you would control, and the personal satisfaction you would attain. No human being in history or the future would excel, none greater, nobler, more famous. My terms are reasonable, my demands right. Serve me and take my orders and our kingdom will herewith be established.**

**At the time when I placed upon him my greatest pressure, he seemed unmoved and uninterested. Rather in his eyes was a faraway look as though he was reading from the deep blue of the heavens. I think I heard him mutter, "My Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Finally, turning to me, he said, "Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written: thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."**

**I felt empty, frustrated, defeated and desired to tear him to shreds, but decided to leave him and make an attempt on another day. As I left, I saw angels descending.**