2) He tempts (Matt. 4:1; Mark 1:13; Luke 4:2). Temptations by Satan are purposed to draw the Christian away from God (James 1: 13, 14). But trials are sent by God to draw Christians closer to Him (I Cor. 10:13).

3) He binds (Luke 13:16). Satan binds the Christian in sickness and sinful habits. Demonic forces can cause sickness, weakening the spirit of man. Anger, pride, and a host of human weaknesses yield to the ways of the devil. When his ways prevail, the Christian is bound. Binding prevents God from using the Person's spiritual gift for the furthering of the Church of Christ. Binding keeps a lid on Spiritual growth. How useful are the contents of a bound package?

4) He Sifts as Wheat (Luke 22:31). Grain in Israel was shaken through a sieve to separate out all impurities and then was stored. Until the harvesting was completed, the farmer normally stayed with the grain to ensure the harvest was not stolen (Ruth 3). Satan desires to steal the Christian from the protection and use by God. Living God's word is the best assurance a Christian will not be sifted a wheat.

5) He Perverts (Acts 13:10). Satan is always working to present the ways of God falsely to have man's ways look like God's ways. Truth is turned into a lie by the Devil.

6) He Gains an Advantage (II Cor. 2:11). Satan gains an advantage whenever Christians fail to obey the Word. Lack of obedience is disobedience. Disobedience is rebellion, and rebellion is the backbone of all Satanic activity. "Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft" (I Sam. 15:23).

7) He Hinders (I Thes. 2:18). Satan tries to block the intended path of the Christian. He wants Christians to stumble and fall and stay on the ground eating the dust as he does.

8) He Devours (I Peter 5:8). To devour is to swallow as a lion swallows its meal. A Christian swallowed in the ways of the Devil is destroyed to the work of God. He will be judged as having shown no fruits of his Salvation and is in fact unsaved. This is a case of spiritual extinction.

9) He Deceives (Rev. 12:9). He misleads whomever will follow him in the broadway of life that leads to destruction. The deceptions of Satan have dangerous and longlasting consequences. His first deception brought death and sin nature into the world.

In opposing the plan and purpose of God, the Devil uses any roadblocks that he can to detour man from the straight and narrow path. A permanent detour is his goal. For man to exist in the Slough of Dispond is his joy. He is the enemy of God who is defeated by the Blood of Christ. For opposing the will of God, he will eternally suffer in judgment, thus ending Satan's purpose.

The Power of Satan

Limited is his power. Unlimited is God's power. All power is in the hand of Jesus Christ (Matt. 28:18) as given by the Father. As uncreated, God possesses all power. Any power that His creation has is at the will and pleasure of the Creator. Christ responded to Pilate who told Christ that he had power to crucify him: "Thou couldest have no power at all against me except it were given thee from above" (John 19:11). One of the limits, for example, upon Satanic power is there is no power to create. He can imitate, but even this is limited. The Magicians of Egypt calling upon powers of darkness imitated a serpent, but it had no power; it was swallowed by God's serpent (Ex. 7:11, 12). The Magicians could not call forth lice (Ex. 8:18) as God had done.

Satan's power is the power of death (Heb. 2:14). Christ came to defeat that power through the Cross. Saint Paul was sent by God to turn heathen Israel from the power of Satan unto God (Acts 26:18). The incarnate God came to "destroy the works of the devil" (I John 3:8). This was begun at the Resurrection of Christ and will be completed at His Second Coming. The depths of Satanic designs are infinite (Rev. 2:24), but the power of execution of his designs are finite. Before Satan could do anything to Job, he had to have God lift the hedge of protection (Job 1:10). God did this but put limits upon the devil's power to harm Job (v. #12).

Satan is powerless over the Christian as long as the Christian walks in Sanctification (John 5:18). The Christian has power to resist the devil. "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). This is possible because Christ has "delivered us from the power of darkness" (Col. 1:13) and bruised Satan (Romans 16:20). The power that Satan has, however, is dangerous and should not be taken lightly. The destruction of the soul is a serious matter. He can destroy the soul (spiritually). But this power is defeated in Christ and harnesses as long as the Christian walks in Truth.

The power that Satan has comes from God and is used to bring forth the purposes of Him (Pro. 16:4). Satan, then, is a tool not unlike Pharoah as a tool God used to discipline Israel. The Assyrians, the Babylonians, and Canaanites have all been tools of God to perfect His purposes.

The Destiny of Satan

The future for Satan is defeat, utter distruction of his rebellion. He is hopeless and helpless to improve his lot. He fights as a dying animal, but eternal fire is his destiny.

"The prince of this world is judged" (John 16:11). During the 1,000 year reign of Jesus Christ over His Kingdom upon this earth which will begin at His Second Coming, Satan will be bound and cast into the bottomless pit (Rev. 20:2). During this time he will be powerless over nations and peoples. This will be a period in which the world will view the devil as nonexistent. During this time, Satan will have nothing to do but think on his last stand and the eternal fire. The fire that is prepared for him and his angels that fell with him in the heaven will receive them in the end (Matt. 25:41). After the 1,000 year reign of Christ, Satan will be loosed to deceive and test the nations of the world. After this "the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be, tormented day and night for ever and ever" (Rev. 20:10). This completes the destiny of Satan.

In Conclusion

Satan is an angel created by God to serve Him. He chose not to serve God, but himself. This was sin. Sin separated him from God, making him an enemy. God sent Satan to earth and gave him limited powers. Satan used his powers to resist and wreck the plan of God for Israel. He has many helpers to help him do this. Some are angels that fell with him. Others live on the earth as people. When God calls this age to a close, they will be destroyed in the lake of fire (Rev. 20:10; St. Matt. 25:41).

When Man's Law Conflicts With God and Scripture

By Pastor Dan Gayman

What do Christians do when civil authorities command them to honor a law that conflicts with God and Scripture? The ***Church of Israel***, in seeking to provide good Biblical counsel to Israelites called to be Christian, sets forth the following response. Firstly, Christians are called to obey the laws of man. Jesus Christ, Head of the Church, establishes this principle by warning His followers that they would be subject to the power of the civil magistrate.

"And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and unto magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say: For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say." St. Luke 12:11-12. ***"Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou are in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison. Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou has paid the utter most farthing."*** (St. Matt. 5:25,26).

The apostolic fathers, ordained and commissioned by Jesus Christ, also instructed the Church to submit to the power of the civil magistrate. Hear what St. Paul says in Romans 13:1: ***"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God."*** The Apostle Peter confirms this position in I Peter 2:13, 14): ***"Submit yourselves to every ordinance***