THE STORY...

Absalom was the most handsome, cunning, and ambitious of David’s sons. The Bible says, “Now in all Israel there was no one who was praised as much as Absalom for his good looks. From the soles of his foot to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him.” 2 Samuel 14:25.

But this determined young prince wanted more than just the admiration of the people for his stunning appearance. He wanted the power of his father’s throne. He wanted to be king of Israel—at any price.

First Absalom killed his older brother, Amnon, after Amnon mistreated his sister Tamar. Amnon was David’s firstborn son and the first to display an interest in their welfare in order to deceive them.

Next Absalom wanted the power of David’s leadership, judgments, and laws until he “stole the hearts of the people for his stunning appearance. He began to sow subtle seeds of doubt throughout the kingdom about David’s leadership, judgments, and laws until he “stole the hearts of the people for his stunning appearance. He wanted to be king of Israel— at any price. First Absalom killed his elder brother, Amnon, after Amnon mistreated his sister Tamar. Amnon was David’s firstborn son and the first to display an interest in their welfare in order to deceive them.

After Absalom wormed his way back into his father’s favor, he displayed an interest in their welfare in order to deceive them. When is the devil most dangerous? In one respect, Satan has an advantage over God in the battle between good and evil. God uses only truth, but Satan can use truth or lies in any combination, to best serve his purposes. In our story of Absalom, we notice that he likewise did very little of his own dirty work. Absalom ordered his servants to execute his wishes. 2 Samuel 13:28 Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, “Watch now, when Amnon’s heart is merry with wine, then kill him. Do not be afraid. Have I not commanded you?”

2 Samuel 14:30 So he said to his servants, “See, Joab’s field is near mine, go and set it on fire.”

5. What methods does Satan use in his work?

A. Revelation 12:9 Satan, who is called the Devil and his angels.
B. Mark 1:13 And he was there in the wilderness forty days, by Satan.
C. Revelation 16:14 For they are spirits of demons, performing signs.
D. Revelation 12:10 For the _______________ of our brethren, who _______________ with the Devil.

6. When is the devil most dangerous?

A. Revelation 11:14, 15 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an _______________ of the _______________ .
B. 2 Samuel 15:5, 6 And it was, when anyone came near to bow down to him, that he would put out his hand and take him and kiss him. In this manner Absalom acted toward all Israel who came to the king for judgment. So Absalom took the hearts of the men of Israel.

Satan is most dangerous when he poses as a spiritual being working inside the church. (See supplement entitled ‘A Brilliant Angel!’)

7. Does Satan know the Bible?

A. Matthew 4:5, 6 Then the devil… said to Him, “If you are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is _______________ that said, ‘He shall give _______________ to _______________.’”
B. Revelation 12:9 And the dragon was enraged with the _______________ of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

NOTE: Satan is so cunning that he was able to deceive one-third of the angels of heaven into following him in his rebellion against God. Now called ‘demons,’ these fallen angels carry out Satan’s plans. In our story of Absalom, we notice that he likewise did very little of his own dirty work. Absalom ordered his servants to execute his wishes. 2 Samuel 13:28 Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, “Watch now, when Amnon’s heart is merry with wine... then kill him. Do not be afraid. Have I not commanded you?”

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14. How does God feel about the destruction of the wicked?

Ezekiel 33:11 Say to them, “As I live,” says the Lord GOD, “I have no sin in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from your evil ways! For why should you die?”

ANSWER:

Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not be ashamed when I speak in the presence of men.

Ephesians 6:17 The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword.

SUPPLEMENT

Satan Symbolized by the Kings of Tyre and Babylon

In Isaiah 14:4-15, the Bible uses the king of Babylon as a symbol of Satan, and in Ezekiel 28:11-19, Satan is symbolized by the king of Tyre. In both cases we know that the symbolism goes beyond earthly kings because God’s description of the being could not apply to any mortal man. Notice the ways Lucifer (now called Satan) is described in these passages of Scripture:

• was the anointed cherub that covereth (verse 14)
• was upon the holy mountain of God (verse 14)
• was perfect in his ways (verse 15)

Since the kings of Babylon and Tyre exhibited the same policies and suffered the same complete destruction as will Satan’s kingdom, God used them to represent Satan himself. Virtually all Bible authorities are in agreement on the symbolism. Incidentally, the Bible records many other references to Lucifer (see Luke 4:5, 6; 10:18; John 8:44; 2 Peter 2:4; 1 John 3:8; Jude 6; Revelation 12:7-9), but without Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14, we would not have the complete history.

Expect the Unexpected

Many people expect Satan to openly appear as God’s enemy in the end time, but this is not so. Satan is indeed God’s bitterest enemy, but his approach will be to feign righteousness (Matthew 24:24). He can appear as a glorious, angelic being (2 Corinthians 11:13-15) and will seek the worship of people (Revelation 13:12). Scripture is clear that his godly front will be so convincing that “all the world” will wonder after the beast (Revelation 13:3). Talk about a tragedy! Satan will be so effective in posing as Christ that virtually the entire world will follow him, thinking all the time that they are following Jesus. Will you be deceived? Not if you heed the Bible warnings presented in this series.

A Brilliant Angel

Satan is delighted when people portray him as an ugly, red, bat-winged creature that is part-man and part-beast, having split hooves and a long, pointed tail, or carrying a pitchfork and stoking the fires of hell. Nothing could be further from the truth. Such concepts come from Greek mythology. No such nonsense can be found in Scripture. The Bible describes Satan as a brilliant, highly attractive angel with an uncanny ability to communicate. He is also well acquainted with Scripture (Matthew 4:5, 6). The devil is a self-proclaimed enemy of God whose aim is to defame His character and capture His kingdom. Satan also despises you and your loved ones and has plans to destroy you. This series will help you understand his plans and learn how to thwart them. Just place your life in the protective care of your mighty Saviour, and pray earnestly for His guidance.

NOTE: Our only safety from Satan’s clever deceptions is in storing God’s Word in our minds to keep us from sin. The same tools Jesus used to fight the devil are needed and available to us today.

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