

64 A STUDY OF “SATAN” BY FRANCIS BEFFERT

Those who are skeptical of the lack of Biblical evidence for the fallen angel “Satan” mythology, may find this study of interest. Our commitment is to the veracity of scripture and rejection of traditions that depart from that commitment, regardless of how entrenched, popular or widely assumed they may be. Francis Beffert is a preterist student and teacher of the Bible and has put together an intriguing exploration of the subject of Satan.

In our effort to interpret the book of Revelation, it became evident that, without a clear view of the serpent, dragon, “Satan,” and devil, we would run into entrenched assumptions and traditional interpretations that would make our exegesis appear invalid. And so, in Preterist Paper 58 and subsequently, we have endeavored to deal with the subject of Satan Biblically.

Preterists who maintain a belief in the concept of an entity named Satan, come up against a serious problem. They must believe Satan was destroyed in AD 70. However, evil continues on to this day seemingly stronger than before. One could logically reason that if the super human enemy of God was eliminated in AD 70, there would be a sizable abating of evil thereafter in the world. That is not evident. This problem is solved when “satan,” that is “the adversary,” is seen to be the principalities and powers of the day — the Jewish leadership — who made it their business to persecute Jesus and his followers, often “to the death.” On a personal level, it is individuals who are satans or adversaries of God when we allow ourselves to be lured and enticed by our own desires.

We believe Beffert’s work will be of special interest to those who are bothered by the lack of evidence for the assumed, but absent, fallen angel mythology in the Bible. Also, those who can plainly see we really don’t need outside help to be sinners, will perhaps be relieved of this extraneous doctrine.

SATAN: THE GREAT DECEPTION

CONTENTS

SATANAS

SATANAS IN JOB

THE GARDEN OF EDEN

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

“SATANAS” IN THE GOSPELS

“SATANAS” IN ACTS.

“SATANAS”

“DIABOLOS”

DEMONS

SATAN: THE PRINCE

THE GOD OF THIS WORLD

SATAN: THE FALLEN ANGEL

THE ORIGIN OF SATAN?

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE POWER OF DEATH

CONCLUSION