

This Day Choose

Rick Railston

Recorded on July 10, 2021

It's hard to believe, but Herbert W. Armstrong has been dead now for thirty-five years. Mr. Armstrong was not a perfect man, but none of us is either. But our Father used him as an instrument to help with His calling of tens of thousands imperfect human beings just like us. Coming with that calling, each of us had to make a choice. Do we follow God Almighty or do we not? This is indeed the choice that all mankind must eventually make when their time comes. The fact is, it's not a onetime choice. Once we are called, it is a choice that must be made daily, hourly and minute by minute. We have to make that choice. It's not just one and done, it's every minute of every day of every year.

By way of introduction, let's look at the prime example of the choice that we all must make. During his life, Mr. Armstrong took a lot of criticism and a lot of heat because he kept referring back to a certain passage of scripture. I can remember him saying—he said it personally to the audience who were sitting there at refresher programs—“I will stop going over it when you start getting it.”

Of course, many never did get it. Almost every time he spoke, he stressed the reality of Satan. So, by way of introduction to our subject today, let's look at this passage of scripture that Herbert Armstrong so often referred to. I think you know where we are going, it is Genesis 3:1. We are going to take this and analyze it.

Genesis 3:1 *Now the serpent was more subtle ... (KJV)*

The Hebrew word for *subtle* means, “cunning in a bad sense”.

1) continued ... than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. (KJV)

The Hebrew word for *serpent* is interesting; it's Strong's #5175 and it's the Hebrew word nachash and it means “a snake from its hiss”. Then it references #5172—a derivative—and that is nachash and it means “to hiss”, that is “to whisper a magic spell”. It's an interesting choice of words in the Hebrew. Let's go on in that verse.

1) continued ... And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

2) And the woman said unto the serpent, we may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

3) But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst [the Hebrew can also mean “the center”] of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

4) And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: (KJV)

Here, the deception of humanity begins with this one statement. *You shall not surely die.*

5) For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. (KJV)

We know the Hebrew for gods is Elohim and it applies to God, yes and to pagan gods. It can also apply to magistrates, angels, or, something that is pertinent to this context—judges. Satan is basically saying,

“Once you eat of this, you can be like God. You can judge for yourselves what is good and what is evil; that is up to you and you will be like God.”

Going on in verse 6.

6) And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise,

[the Hebrew word for *wise* means “to be intelligent, to be an expert, to have understanding” and of course that all appeals to human pride and vanity]

she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. (KJV)

In verse 7, all of a sudden, things change.

7) And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; (KJV)

From that moment, their innocence was lost. They had a revelation that they were naked.

7) continued ... and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

8) And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. (KJV)

Why hide? Why did they do that? Obviously, they did not want to be in the presence of the One they had just disobeyed. Children do the same thing; they disobey mom and dad and they go hide somewhere and that’s exactly what happened.

9) And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

10) And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. (KJV)

So, after eating the forbidden fruit we see that the changes are starting to compound. Adam had never known fear before. This was a new emotion; it had never occurred before. Now he is afraid.

11) And he said, who told thee that thou wast naked? (KJV)

We have to ask, where did that emotion of embarrassment and shame come from? We know where it came from.

11) continued ... hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? (KJV)

Because of their disobedience and because of their eating that particular fruit of that particular tree, a door was opened to feelings of fear and guilt and shame; feelings they had never experienced before.

12) And the man said, the woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. (KJV)

Now here is a new thought, that of blaming Yehovah. Where did that come from? A thought of blaming God Almighty? We see here the first human display of narcissism.

“It’s not my fault, it’s somebody else’s fault. I didn’t do it, it’s their problem.”

The first human display of narcissism. Of course, the first display of narcissism was by Satan when he rebelled. The fact is, right here Adam is unknowingly following Satan. All mankind has done so since that moment in time.

13) And the LORD God said unto the woman, what is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, the serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. (KJV)

“It’s not my fault; the serpent is the one who tricked me.”

It’s interesting, the Hebrew word for *beguiled* is “to lead astray, that is mentally to delude or morally to seduce”. Its basic meaning is “to utterly deceive”; not just deceive but to utterly, totally deceive. If we are honest with ourselves, we have all been deceived by Satan. Before we were converted and if we’re honest, after we have been converted. We have all been deceived by Satan.

16) Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow [in the next couple of verses, pay attention to the word sorrow] and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. (KJV)

That sorrow was not long in coming when Cain murdered Abel. Think of what it would be like to be a parent and have one child murder another child. Talk about sorrow.

17) And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; [here comes this word again] in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; (KJV)

Because of their disobedience, both are now condemned to live in sorrow. The Hebrew word *sorrow* in these verses means “worrisomeness” or “pain”. If you’re worried and if you’re in pain and if you’re in a state of tension, you have no peace. God Almighty is telling them, you are going forth in a state of no peace, in a state of worry, constant worry and constant sorrow. In verse 18 He explains part of the reason why.

18) Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

19) In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread ... (KJV)

The implication here is that in the Garden of Eden, to eat and have your daily bread you didn’t have to sweat a lot. It was right there for them.. It was an easy harvest every time you wanted to eat. But now you have to do so in the sweat of your face.

19) continued ... till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return. (KJV)

Just stop here and let’s just look at the fruit and the cost of disobedience. The cost of not putting Yehovah’s instruction first, of not believing God Almighty; look at the cost.

22) And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: (KJV)

The Hebrew here for *evil* means “wickedness or wrong”. Before this choice, Adam and Eve only knew good things. They only knew the good. They had never experienced something that was not good. Now, because of what they did, they are exposed to the opposite of good. They are exposed to evil and to wrong. We know they made the choice without having the very Spirit of God Almighty. Their choice demonstrates the future of mankind, which we are all experiencing to this day. That of living a life apart from Yehovah, God Almighty.

22) continued ... and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, [a second tree is introduced] and eat, and live forever: (KJV)

This second tree is being introduced and remember what Eve said in verses 2 and 3;

...that we may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden except this one tree in the middle of the garden.

This tells us that they could have eaten of the Tree of Life, but they chose not to. So now, the Father could not allow humans to have eternal life when they are being influenced or driven by the spirit that is in Satan.

Going on in verse 23 out of the NLT.

23) So, the Lord God banished them from the Garden of Eden, and he sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made. (NLT)

Verse 24, back to the King James.

24) So, he drove out the man; (KJV)

It's interesting that the Hebrew words *drove out* can mean "divorced". That in many ways is appropriate, because once this happened, humans now had a different relationship with God Almighty. Not the relationship they had in the Garden of Eden.

24) continued ... and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep [the Hebrew word means "to guard or protect"] the way of the tree of life. (KJV)

The Hebrew word for *the way* can mean "a road or a pathway", but figuratively, it means "a course of life". To guard the course of life. It's obvious that Adam and Eve never ate of this Tree of Life. So, we see in this account that Adam and Eve had a choice and they chose to reject Yehovah. They chose to reject His teachings, His instructions, they chose to listen to Satan and they chose to decide for themselves their own path in life. A sad choice. Later, Yehovah called a nation, as we know—a people—to follow Him; Ancient Israel.

Let's notice whom Ancient Israel chose to follow. As with Adam and Eve, we know they didn't have access to God's Holy Spirit. In Proverbs 1:23. Solomon is writing to Israel but He is quoting God Almighty; he is quoting the God of the Old Testament—Yehovah, God the Father.

Proverbs 1:23 [Yehovah is speaking] *Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.*

24) Because I have called, and ye refused; [just like Adam and Eve] I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;

25) But ye have set at naught all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: (KJV)

You did not want to listen to Me.

26) I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;

27) When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. (KJV)

That came to them and is now coming to this world in the not too distant future.

28) Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:

29) For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear [the Hebrew means the “reverence”] of the LORD:

30) They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.

31) Therefore, shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. (KJV)

Of course, that is exactly what is happening today. The whole world is drifting farther and farther away from God Almighty and His teachings. We see that in the governments today. Now to one more scripture talking about Ancient Israel; Isaiah 65:2. We see here that Yehovah is speaking to Ancient Israel.

Isaiah 65:2 *I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts; (KJV)*

Just as with Adam and Eve, they decided for themselves what is good and what is evil.

3) A people that provoketh me to anger continually to my face; that sacrificeth in gardens, and burneth incense upon altars of brick; (KJV)

Verse 6.

6) Behold, it is written before me: I will not keep silence, but will recompense, even recompense into their bosom ... (KJV)

Meaning, to make it personal. Verse 11 out of the NLT.

11) But because the rest of you have forsaken the Lord and have forgotten his Temple, and because you have prepared feasts to honor the god of Fate [the King James has troop] and have offered mixed wine to the god of Destiny, [the King James uses numbers. (NLT)

In other words, they are worshipping pagan gods of fate and destiny] (KJV)

Verse 12 back to the King James.

12) Therefore, will I number you to the sword, and ye shall all bow down to the slaughter: because when I called, ye did not answer; when I spake, ye did not hear; but did evil before mine eyes, and did choose that wherein I delighted not. (KJV)

This theme continues on into Isaiah 66 but for sake of time we won't go through it. You can read that at your leisure. The fact is, Ancient Israel followed in the very footsteps of Adam and Eve. What we're going to see is that this factual, historical narrative that we find in Genesis 3 is a microcosm of the choices that we have to make daily. What path do I choose? Whom do I put first? Whom do I listen to? What choices do I make? That leads us—this is a long introduction—to the subject today. The title is:

This Day, Choose

This day, we must make choices. We will find, as we go through this, that the choices before us are very clear. There are no areas of grey—very clear. Do I choose black or do I choose white? Do I choose evil or do I choose good? Do I choose the way of Satan or do I choose the way of the Father and His Son?

What we're going to do in the time we have, is spend the time comparing and contrasting these two different ways in which, are the choices that we have to make every minute of our lives. We only have two points.

1. What is the way of Satan?

What we want to do is look at Satan's creation, his nature, his conduct and his ultimate fate. We will go to the very familiar scripture of Isaiah 14:12; We're going to go through these scriptures in considerable detail today, to glean every bit of knowledge we can about Satan and his devices. We are going to stop at this first phrase.

Isaiah 14:12 *How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!*
(KJV)

We are going to stop there. This is the only time in the entire Bible that the word Lucifer is used. The Hebrew word for *Lucifer*, if you go to Strong's, it's #1966 and the Hebrew word Heylel. The only time this word is used. I'm quoting Strong's now:

In the sense of brightness, the morning star or Lucifer.

Then it goes on to say it's from Strong's #1984; this is #1966, but it's from #1984 and that word in Hebrew is halal. Notice the meaning of this root word; it means "to shine, hence to make a show, to boast or to rage". This gives us the background of this word. It's involving vanity; to make a show, to boast or to rage in anger.

Let's spend some time to get the background on how this word *Lucifer* came into the Bible. How did it come to be? In A.D. 382, Pope Damasus commissioned a scholar, Jerome—he was later sainted, so today in the Catholic church he is known as Saint Jerome—to translate the Bible into Latin. Jerome based his translation on the Septuagint, which is a translation into Greek of the Old Testament Hebrew. The result of Jerome's efforts was the Latin Vulgate Bible completed about 405 A.D. So the Latin Vulgate ended up in Latin, had started with Hebrew which was then translated into

Greek and then Jerome translated the Greek into Latin. In 1592, the Vulgate was adopted as the official text of the Catholic church.

Going back to the Septuagint, which was the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament, the Septuagint translated the Hebrew *halel* into the Greek word *phosphoros* from which we get our English word *phosphor*. Jerome translated the Greek word *phosphoros* as “Lucifer”, which was a common Latin word in his day. In fact, the name of the planet Venus in his day was named Lucifer. Venus was one of the morning stars and it was a “light bringer” so he translated the Greek word *phosphoros* into the name “Lucifer”. Lucifer is a combination of the Latin word *lux*, which means “light” and the Latin word *fer* which means “bearing”. So, Lucifer, in common Latin of the day of Jerome, meant “bringing light” or “light bringer”. It was applied to the planet Venus.

I checked on that and one blog I found was [Etymology Online](#) and they said this about Isaiah 14:12:

The belief that Lucifer was the proper name of Satan began with its use in the Bible to translate the Greek “phosphoros” which translates the Hebrew heylel in Isaiah 14:12.

After the [Vulgate Bible](#) was completed in 1535, the [Cloverdale Bible](#) and then in 1587 the [Geneva Bible](#) all used the word Lucifer to translate the Greek *phosphoros* or the Hebrew *heylel*. By the time the [King James Bible](#) was commissioned in the early 1600’s, “Lucifer” had already become a proper name for the devil. I’m sure you have heard of [Dante’s Divine Comedy](#), that was published in 1321 and Dante linked the name Lucifer with Satan in his divine comedy.

So, the King James translators, in 1611, were very familiar with Latin. In fact, it is on record that all of their deliberations and the notes they made in translating the Bible, were written in Latin. So obviously they were very familiar with Latin. In fact, the [Vulgate Bible](#) had been around for over a thousand years. So, the King James translators chose to translate *heylel* into the popular Latin word, “Lucifer”. They made that choice. They followed the Cloverdale, the Geneva and the Vulgate.

[Clark’s Commentary](#) says this:

Heylel, which we translate Lucifer comes from yalal which means “to yell, howl or shriek” and should be translated, “Howl, you son of the morning”.

That is rather than *Lucifer, son of the morning*.

All modern translations don’t use the word Lucifer, they use *star of the morning* or *day star* or *morning star*. But there is a problem with that. There’s a problem with the appellation (the action of giving a name to someone or something), “day star”. Go to Revelation 22:16 because there is a problem with this translation, because it frankly can’t be true. Jesus is quoted here.

Revelation 22:16 *I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am [one of the things He is] the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. (KJV)*

Christ is the “Bright Morning Star”, Christ is the “Light Giver” and the “Light Bringer”, not Satan. In addition, in verse 12 of Isaiah 14, the Hebrew word “sun”—sun of the morning—is Strong’s #1121 and it’s the Hebrew word “Ben” (pronounced Bain), but for the Hebrew word “Ben” I counted twenty-three meanings for this word and one of them is “rebel”. Instead of “sun” it can be translated “rebel”. Therefore, instead of

“Lucifer, son of the morning”

you could more appropriately translate it as,

“Howl, you rebel of the morning”.

It is pertinent when you consider the rest of the verse of Isaiah 14:12, where it could be translated, “Howl, you rebel of the morning” instead of “Lucifer, son of the morning”

Continuing verse 12...

Isaiah 14:12 *... how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! (KJV)*

Being ‘cut down to the ground’ could be the reason for this being’s howling and rage. Any way you look at this verse, the word Lucifer should not be used; should have never been used.

Continuing in verse 13, to pick up the flow of this being we are talking about.

13) For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne ... (KJV)

That is an example of gross pride.

13) continued ... above the stars of God [or the angels of God]: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: (KJV)

“I’m going to push Yehovah aside.”

14) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most-High. (KJV)

These passages of scripture could only apply to a spirit being; this cannot apply to a human being. We see here that Satan was obviously jealous of Yehovah and wanted to elevate himself and replace Yehovah.

The American film director and screen writer and producer, Oliver Stone—maybe you've heard of him—he is a Hollywood insider and works in the film industry and would be an expert on jealousy and envy. He says this, about the subject:

Never underestimate the power of jealousy and the power of envy to destroy. Never underestimate that.

We see that certainly in Hollywood and the film industry and business—we see it everywhere; envy and jealousy and the desire to destroy somebody else. With that in mind notice verse 15.

15) Yet [despite you trying to push Yehovah aside] thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

16) They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man [reading out of the King James, the Hebrew can mean “person” or “individual”] that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; (KJV)

Verse 17 out of the New Living Translation.

17) Is this the one who destroyed the world and made it into a wasteland? Is this the king who demolished the world's greatest cities and had no mercy on his prisoners?

18) The kings of the nations lie in stately glory, each in his own tomb,

19) but you will be thrown out of your grave like a worthless branch, Like a corpse trampled underfoot, you will be dumped into a mass grave with those killed in battle. You will descend to the pit. (NLT)

We see and we know that pride and jealousy and ambition are all sins. It doesn't make any difference if you are a spirit being or a human being, they are still sins.

Romans 6:23 ...and the wages of sin are death. (KJV)

This gives us the picture of the activity, the mind, the motivation of this being, Satan. The one who appeared to Adam and Eve.

Now go to Ezekiel 28; these are the two classic passages of scripture that tell us a lot about this being. We begin in verse 12 in the NLT.

Ezekiel 28:12 *Son of man, sing this funeral song for the king of Tyre. [The King of Tyre is a type of Satan, as we will see.]. Give him this message from the Sovereign Lord: You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and exquisite in beauty.*

13) *You were in Eden, the garden of God.* (NLT)

Now being perfect or complete in wisdom and beauty and being present in the Garden of Eden could only apply to a spirit being. That obviously doesn't apply to a human being.

13) continued ... Your clothing was adorned with every precious stone— red carnelian, pale-green peridot, white moonstone, blue-green beryl, onyx, green jasper, blue lapis lazuli, turquoise, and emerald—all beautifully crafted for you and set in the finest gold. They were given to you [all of these riches and wealth] on the day you were created. (NLT)

Remember Yehovah is speaking and Yehovah is a God of giving and this is an example of His gifts to this being. Verse 14, we'll go back to the King James.

14) Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I [referring to God Almighty, the Father] have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. (KJV)

It could only be a spirit being.

15) Thou wast perfect [the Hebrew can mean “undefiled”; we could say “sinless”] in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. (KJV)

Sin, lawlessness, was found in you.

16) By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence ... (KJV)

This is a head scratcher. The Hebrew word for merchandise is Strong's #7404 and it means, “trade as pedaled”. A peddler, a merchant and it can also mean traffic. What kind of trade would cause violence; we have to ask? Hold that thought because we are going to come right back to it. Going on in verse 16.

16) continued ... and thou hast sinned: therefore, I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. (KJV)

The Almighty created spirit beings, the Almighty can destroy spirit beings.

17) Thine heart was lifted up [the Hebrew word for “heart being lifted up” can also be translated “pride”] because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: [You have now become corrupt] I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

18) Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, [notice this] by the iniquity of thy traffick; (KJV)

This is the same Hebrew word translated *merchandise* in verse 16 and it means “trade”. The New International translates it, *dishonest trade*. You have to think about that and ask what did Satan have to trade? If this is a word that describes a merchant that trades—gives something to get something—what did he have to trade? We don’t have time to turn there to these passages of scripture, but in Hebrews 1:13, we are told that the angels were created as ministering spirits. They were sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation, for human beings. The angelic kingdom in part was created to minister to human beings who are going to become the children of God eternally, in God’s Kingdom. With that in mind, could it be that this is what Satan traded? In other words, he went to the angels—the angelic realm—and he said something to the effect of,

“If you support me, you will not be ministering spirits to a group of humans, you will be their rulers; this is what I offer you. You follow me and this is what I will give you. You will be in charge and not humans. You will be in charge and not Yehovah.”

With that, the rebellion began.

This is my speculation but I think it’s a logical speculation as to why these words *traffic* and *merchandise* are used.

18) continued ... therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. (KJV)

At some point Satan will account for his atrocities and the Father is saying

“I’m going to stand before you and look at you and a fire is going to start in the middle of you and it’s going to consume you.”

18) ... therefore, will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.

19) All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more. (KJV)

Once again, the Almighty can create spirit beings, the Almighty has the power to destroy spirit beings.

Notice what Christ had to say about Satan. Go to John 8:37. This is critical to understanding the nature of Satan. Christ is confronting the Jews and notice what He says and notice whom the Jews had been following.

John 8:37 *I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you. (KJV)*

They are followers of Yehovah but Christ's Word has no place in them.

38) I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.

39) They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, if ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. (KJV)

Verse 40 out of the Amplified.

40) But as it is, you want to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God. This is not the way Abraham acted. (AMP)

“Abraham didn’t do what you’re doing. Abraham wasn’t plotting the way you are plotting.”

Going on in verse 41 in the King James.

41) Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, we be not born of fornication; (KJV)

What an accusation! Can you imagine standing before Christ and saying we be not born of fornication?

41) continued ... we have one Father, even God.

42) Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. (KJV)

Referring back to the authority of His Father.

43) Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. (KJV)

Here comes the condemnation.

44) Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do.

Here’s the key to understanding the nature of Satan. Lust was a primary characteristic of Satan, but notice the next sentence.

He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. (KJV)

Meaning he is the “originator of a lie”. Adam and Eve were the first human recipients of a lie. So, Christ reveals that Satan is a liar, a murderer, because of his lust and we see here that the majority of the Jews were following Satan and following in the footsteps of Adam and Eve.

We choose to follow Satan if we do the following; something to think about. We choose to follow Satan if we do what we read in this next verse. Go to 1 John 3:15. When we are tempted to have hate in our hearts, or being judgmental and condemning in our hearts, we need to remember this.

1 John 3:15 *Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: (KJV)*

We just read that Satan is the father of lies, a murderer from the beginning.

15) continued ... and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. (KJV)

Something to think about very seriously. With this background on Satan, as we finish toward the end of this first point, look at the danger Satan poses to us as God’s children. We know he has deceived the entire world; Revelation 12:9 tell us that. Let’s go to John 10 and see the danger that Satan poses to us. John 10:1, Christ is speaking and it applies to us. He is using a parable to instruct the disciples but it obviously applies to us because we are Christ’s disciples as well.

John 10:1 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. (KJV)*

Over the decades, frankly over the centuries, many have desired to break in, climb over the wall, to get into the greater church of God and have done so to get and take for themselves. To get a job, to find a mate, to get friends to be able to socialize with, to gain prestige through ordination, to gain power and control, to elevate the self, just like Satan. Who is the robber of the morning? Christ warns that there are going to be many who will try to jump over the wall to get into the greater church of God. Now we’re going to see what their motive is and what they will attempt to do. Verse 2.

*2) But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep
3) To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.
4) And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, [gently, kindly] and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. (KJV)*

This tells us that we must enter the sheepfold through Christ, who is the servant of His Father. We cannot forget that. Christ came as a servant, not only to serve us but more importantly to serve His Father. Let's stop here and just as a reinforcement let's see that. Go to Isaiah 52:13. Yehovah is directly quoted here, Yehovah is speaking. God Almighty, the God of the Old Testament, is speaking. Notice what He says right in the beginning.

Isaiah 52:13 *Behold, my servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high. (KJV)*

Who is this servant? Verse 14.

14) As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men: (KJV)

This obviously is referring to Jesus Christ. It is repeated in the next chapter; you can read that on your own, we don't have time. There is a second emphasis on Christ being a Servant in Philippians 2:5; a very familiar scripture and we, as the children of God, should have it etched into the inside of our eyeballs so that it is right before us, every minute of every day.

Philippians 2:5 *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: (KJV)*

Verse 6 out of the New Living Translation. Notice Jesus Christ's attitude.

6) Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.

7) Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave [some translations say "servant"] and was born as a human being. (NLT)

Christ came to serve mankind; He came to serve His Father in heaven. For us to recognize Christ's voice, we must have His mind and we must be close to Him and we must be close to His Father so we can hear Christ's voice and His Father's voice when scripture speaks to us. Now let's go back to John 10:5. We are talking about Christ coming as a Servant and the sheep follow Him and recognize His voice.

John 10:5 *And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.*

6) This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them. (KJV)

So, He had to explain to them.

7) Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.

8) *All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers [that's a characteristic of Satan]: but the sheep did not hear them.*

9) *I am the door: by me if any man enters in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. (KJV)*

This is a reference to a safe place where one can be fed. A safe pasture where sheep can be fed. For us, it is a safe place—the church of God—where God's children can be fed.

10) *The thief cometh not, [now He is describing Satan; the very nature and motivation of Satan] but for to steal [to take away from God the Father], and to kill [the Greek can mean “slaughter”], and to destroy [the Greek means “to destroy fully” as though the individual never existed]: (KJV)*

Notice the goal of those who climb over the wall and notice who is the ultimate thief and robber and notice who motivates those who attempt to climb over the wall. That is the one we have just been reading about. Following Satan in the future, from this point forward, is going to be compelling. It poses a great danger to us. Let's go to Matthew 24:24, just one verse. We are going to be tested as never before; this has yet to occur.

Matthew 24:24 *For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, [they are motivated by Satan and have been around since day one] and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. (KJV)*

Remember the context of Matthew 24—the disciples are asking what the time of the end is going to be like? This is describing the time of the end. There are going to be miracles and wonders and signs that originate from Satan and those that Satan provokes and influences and possesses that would fool just about everybody. It's going to fool the whole world and has a chance of fooling all of us. The point is, as we wind up this discussion and investigation into Satan, that Satan's way has always been and always will be attractive to the unconverted mind. If Satan's way is attractive to us, we have to analyze ourselves and ask where is my mind? Satan's way is the world's way and it's very attractive to anybody who is not exercising the Holy Spirit of God Almighty.

We've seen and analyzed and looked at Satan's way. Now let's ask the question:

2. What is the way of the Father and the Son?

Let's look at the Father's nature—the Son's nature is exactly the same. With what we've covered so far, let's contrast it with what we have read in scripture about Satan. Let's compare and contrast the two. It's so simple and so easy to understand when they are presented side by side. In John 10:10 Satan's nature is to steal, to kill, to destroy, to lie and to murder. Look at the nature of the Father.

1 John 4:8 *He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. (KJV)*

The defining characteristic of the Father and the Son is love. Now let's go to Galatians 5:22; this is not new; we know this but let's look at it in contrast to Satan. Let's look at the fruits of the Father's Spirit and the Spirit that permeates the Father and the Son.

Galatians 5:22 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love [that's the Greek word agape], joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23) Meekness, temperance: (KJV)*

Contrast that with what we have read about Satan; lying, murder, hate, jealousy, envy.

23) continued ... against such there is no law. (KJV)

These are the fruits of the very nature of the Father and just compare those to the nature of Satan. We have to ask, which one am I going to choose? Where am I going to go? Let's go to the most famous scripture in the Bible, John 3:16. Most of us know it by heart but let's look at it from the standpoint of comparing the nature of God Almighty to the nature of Satan. Look at the difference.

John 3:16 *For God so loved the world [meaning all the people, the billions that have ever lived], that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (KJV)*

The Father loves the world and He is willing to give every human being who chooses to follow Him, everlasting life. Compare that to John 10 which shows the nature of Satan, to steal, to kill, to destroy, to murder, to lie. The Father gives because He loves. Love comes first and the Father gives because that is part of Who and What He is.

Go to Romans 6:23. This was the first scripture I ever memorized in the Bible because back then, the emphasis was on obedience and the law of God and what would happen if we disobeyed. It was burned into the minds of all of us who came into the church in the '60's.

Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death; (KJV)*

Often the quote would stop there and would go onto a rant against whatever particular sin was being addressed at the time. But notice the rest of it.

23 continued) ... but [in contrast] the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (KJV)

Christ being the door of the sheepfold and Our Father's desire is to give and to give eternal life. Satan's desire is to murder and to destroy. With that in mind go back to John 10:10 and begin with the condemnation of Satan, who is the thief and the robber.

John 10:10 *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: [now notice the contrast] I am come [Christ says] that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

11) *I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.*

12) *But he that is a hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.*

13) *The hireling fleeth, because he is a hireling, and careth not for the sheep.*
(KJV)

Contrast that with the attitude of Jesus Christ.

14) *I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. [My sheep know Me.]*

15) *As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: [notice His attitude, instead of fleeing like the hireling or coming to destroy or kill] and I lay down my life for the sheep.* (KJV)

He's willing to give His life for the sheep; what a contrast to Satan, who wants to take over and kill and destroy.

16) *And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold [referring to us]: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be [eventually, there will come a point] one-fold, and one shepherd.* (KJV)

Notice what the scripture says about our part that we have to play if we want to follow our Father's way. We have a part to play in that. We'll talk about two very quickly.

FIRST - We have to know the Father and the Son—that's our responsibility.

Let's go to John 17:3; just one scripture but it says it all. Our job is to come to know the Father and His Son. Once we are called, it is a lifelong pursuit to know the Father and His Son which we have to pursue with zeal and energy and consistency.

John 17:3 *And this is life eternal, [what is that?] that they might know thee the only true God [the Father, Yehovah, the Almighty, the Most-High], and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.* (KJV)

Our elder brother, the Anointed One, the Messiah, the Head of the Church, our redemption. Our job is to know the Father and the Son and over time to come to know them more accurately and more completely and more fully. We are so thankful to God Almighty in these recent years to open our minds to understand that.

The second thing we have to *do*, but first we have to *know*. But that is of no use until we *do* the second part;

SECOND – We have to follow the Father and His Son.

Go to John 12:25 where Christ is speaking. This is out of the NIV.

John 12:25 *Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.*

26) *Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. (NIV)*

You cannot get around that; we have to follow Christ if we want to be His disciples. Our job is to emulate our older Brother and follow in His footsteps. With that in mind go to 1 John 4:9. We know John talks a lot about love.

1 John 4:9 *In this was manifested the love of God toward us, [why?] because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.*

10) *Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us [He loved us first before we came to love Him], and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

11) *Beloved, if God so loved us, [then the only right thing to do] we ought also to love one another.*

12) *No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. [The Greek can mean “accomplished”.]*

13) *Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.*

14) *And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.*

15) *Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.*

16) *And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.*

17) *Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is [God the Father is], so are we in this world. (KJV)*

We do that by obeying the two great commandments of course.

18) *There is no fear in love; (KJV)*

Remember Adam and Eve had fear; first thing, “I was afraid and hid myself”. There is no fear in love.

18 continued) ... but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. [Adam and Eve were in torment after listening to Satan] He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

19) *We love him, because he first loved us. (KJV)*

He loved us enough to call us and then once that happens, we learn to love Him.

20) If a man saith, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

21) And this commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God love his brother also. (KJV)

Notice the gulf between Satan's way and our Father's way and His Son's way.

Let's conclude now. Nothing that we have read today is new. Those with itching ears will criticize because there is nothing new to tickle the ears today. What we've covered today is at the core of what we as Christians must be doing every minute of every day. The choices that we must make are right before us, every minute of every day. It goes back to Joshua. We don't have time but Joshua 24, toward the end of his life, told the Israelites, "You choose this day of whom you will serve." He says "As for me and my family, we will serve Yehovah". Joshua made that choice. In Isaiah 56:4 Yehovah is speaking.

Isaiah 56:4 *For thus saith the LORD unto the eunuchs that keep my sabbaths, and choose the things that please me, and take hold of my covenant; (KJV)*

In our case, the New Covenant.

5) Even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off.

6) Also, the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the LORD, to serve him, and to love the name of the LORD [which we do], to be his servants every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant;

7) Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called a house of prayer for all people. (KJV)

Contrast that with the fate of Satan and the mind of Satan. Final scripture, 1 John 2:23.

1 John 2:23 *Whosoever denieth the Son [never want to deny the Son], the same hath not the Father: but he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.*

24) Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father. (KJV)

Here is what we look forward to.

25) And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life. (KJV)

Contrast that with Satan. You see in the end, the choices we must make couldn't be clearer. Do we want eternal death or eternal life? Do we want extinction or do we want joy forever? We must choose every minute of every day; evil or good? Darkness or light? Extinction or joy for eternity? Choose Satan or choose our Father and His Son. The emphasis is, this day, this moment we must choose.