

# What About Job?

By B. D. Tate

## Introduction

It seems that no matter what our theology is the book of Job is brought up as a point of contention. The question, *“What about Job?”* must be asked thousands of times by people who sometimes may not know much about the Bible, but sure know about Job. It is like the question, *“What about Paul’s thorn in the flesh?”* that is often asked when someone shares that they believe it is God’s will for all to be healed.

### For Example Some Of The Issues:

If one believes that healing is for today, someone invariably asks, “What about Job?”

If one doesn’t believe healing is for today, he/she also asks, “What about Job?”

If one believes that God wants us to prosper, that person will say, “What about Job?”

If one believes that God lets us become sick to teach us, test, and try us, sure enough, “What about Job?”

If one believes that Satan brings sickness and disease, he/she will say, “What about Job?”

If one believes you can never know God’s will for your life, he/she will say, “What about Job?”

If one believes that the Lord gives and the Lord takes away, he/she will say “What about Job?”

If one believes that everything in life comes ultimately from God, he/she’ll say, “What about Job?”

### How Is It Possible That So Many Varying Opinions Turn To Job?

Job presents a very unique set of standards, or possible doctrines, most of which are found in the first two chapters. Is Job a book that is meant for doctrine? Is Job a book that is validated in other books of the Bible? Someone might be upset by the very thought of questioning Job’s validity for doctrine; but, with so many establishing or countering opposing beliefs from this book, something isn’t right.

Can Job be trusted as the inspired Word of God for doctrine? Just because a book is in the Bible doesn’t mean that everything about it is doctrine. There are many verses in other books such as from Ecclesiastes that are human opinion, not God’s inspired doctrines for us for life. For example, when Solomon writes,

Eccl. 1:2 "Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher; "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity."

This is true, if one doesn't know God; it is not true, if God is the center of our lives. The Book of Psalms is awesome, but there are many places that we need to understand that it is expressing human pain, human opinion, and not necessarily God's will. Even if we consider the Law of Moses, we must understand there has been a change in the New Testament regarding it.

Ps 1:2 But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

Prior to the New Testament this was God's will that we should know, keep, and walk according to the law (basically as best as we can); yet, because of sin in us, no one could do this perfectly then, or now. In fact, no one could do it very well. The New Testament records that we are no longer *under the law*, but under *grace*. (Rom. 6:4) Legalism kills (the letter of the law II Cor. 3:6), but the Spirit gives life and therefore, the scripture now testifies:

Ga 5:16 I say then: **Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.**

Every teaching is to be witnessed by other portions of scripture. Sometimes scripture can contradict itself, at least at face value such as these verses:

I John 1:8 8 **"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."**

1 Jo 3:6 whoever abides in Him **does not sin**. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.

We must discern doctrine from several witnesses. Our primary doctrines and understandings, must come from the **teachings of Jesus and the letters to the Churches**. There is a major difference between the covenant of the Old Testament based upon the Law of Moses, verses the New Covenant, based upon grace in Christ and the New Birth.

Therefore, just because the book of Job is in the Bible, doesn't mean we should accept it at face value, especially, if we find contradictory teaching somewhere else. Someone might say, *"The Bible doesn't contradict itself; we believe in the infallibility of scripture..."* Yes, we believe the Bible is infallible and inspired, **the problem is that scripture contains more than just God's Word!** It also contains **God's revealing** of the human condition, what actually happened, and what was done or **said**, by human beings. This would include **the opinions** of those human beings about God, the world, and what is the truth. The Bible is God's Word about His Word **AND** human experience. When for example, Job's wife says,

Job 2:9 Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!"

We all know this is her opinion in a very stressful and grievous time in life. There are many such examples of this. **Is it possible that Job's first two chapters are also evidence of what human beings thought took place between God and Satan, when bad things happen?**

## **I Have Many Conflicts With The Book Of Job!**

I have many problems with the book of Job that in my mind, actually contradict both the Old & New Testament. These are revelations of God's dealings, Word, Will, and doctrines for us. What I cannot do is deny that Job existed and the book is just a myth, because scripture validates Job in other places such as:

Eze 14:14 "Even *if* these three men, Noah, Daniel, **and Job**, were in it, they would deliver *only* themselves by their righteousness," says the Lord GOD.

Eze 14:20 "even *though* Noah, Daniel, **and Job** were in it, *as I live*," says the Lord GOD, "they would deliver neither son nor daughter; they would deliver *only* themselves by their righteousness."

Jas 5:11 Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance **of Job** and seen the end *intended by* the Lord--that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

These passages strongly validate Job's righteousness before the Lord, and James writes that Job's intended **end** is from the Lord. James strongly implies that God was indeed the author and deliverer of Job's distresses, howbeit, that Satan's was God's instrument. Or, one could argue that God's intended end for Job had been usurped by evil, wicked men, and demonic obstruction; however, it ended the way God wanted it.

From a general point of view, no one should have difficulty embracing the book of Job, it is when we begin to look at the details that problems arise. I call them problems because as I answer them, I realize that I'm flowing against a river of opinion that affirms the book of Job. I'm not God; I'm not the apostles, nor the church fathers that included this book in the Bible. I'm just being honest with myself as I compare scripture with scripture and see conflicts, **not just one, but many** with the theology, or doctrines being presented, mainly in the first two chapters.

## **Listing The Conflicts**

**Let Me List Those Conflicts Just From The First Chapter Of Job:**

- 1) (vs. 6) If the sons of God are angels, and this describes a scene in heaven, how is it that Satan can be among them?
- 2) (vs. 7) Since God cast Satan out of heaven, why would God entertain a discussion with him, or reason with him?
- 3) (vs. 8) Since when does God care about Satan's opinion?
- 4) (vs. 9,10) Since when does God listen to Satan?
- 5) (vs. 11) Since when does Satan have anything in God to provoke, or tempt, or incite?
- 6) (vs. 12) Since when does God place a blameless & upright man into the power of Satan (aren't we in a spiritual war?)?
- 7) (vs. 12) Since when does God make concessions, or deals, with Satan?
- 8) (vs. 12) Again, Satan was in the presence of God?
- 9) (vs. 16) Satan is given power over Job's life, except his physical body; does Satan have power to call down fire from heaven? Does Satan use God's power to accomplish this?
- 10) (vs. 19) Does Satan have power to produce a great wind?
- 11) (vs. 21) Job worships God and attributes to God, the giving and TAKING away, which appears strongly to be satanic power, is God working with Satan?

**Let Me Continue To List My Problems From The Second Chapter Of Job:**

- 1) (2:vs. 1) Again, can Satan come among the angels and be in the presence of God?
- 2) (2:vs. 2) Doesn't God know where Satan comes from?
- 3) (2:vs. 3) Does God admit that Satan incited Him? God destroys Job and without a cause?
- 4) (2:vs. 4,5) Satan takes this confrontation over Job, further with God? Who's doing the actual attacking of Job's body is it Satan, or God, stretching out His hand? Are they working together?
- 5) (2:vs. 6) God gives Satan Job's body to make sick, but spare his life?
- 6) (2:vs. 7) Satan leaves God's presence again? Satan strikes Job's body with boils, does he have this power? Did God give Satan this power?
- 7) (2:vs. 10) Job says we are to accept the good AND the bad from God?

Maybe initially, some of these issues may be answered quickly depending upon your own theology concerning satanic power, where sickness & disease come from, and if you strongly believe God's sovereignty means all things come from God. Or maybe, you might be a little shaken; having always believed Job is an inspired book of the Bible, that it would have any problems?

**What if I'm right that the Book of Job isn't a book for doctrine?** What if the main purpose of the book of Job is to convey what righteous men thought, and understood, about God and Satan, then? Maybe, we are being given what Old Testament believers believed about the world, evil, blessing and cursing, the causes,

and who's involved? After all, Job is considered by many scholars to be THE oldest book in the Bible, which means **they didn't have the comparative resources** that I'm about to present to you. They didn't have the Old, or New Testaments.

Let me take these issues, or problems, and **elaborate** upon each, comparing other scriptures and passages to support my concerns.

**Special Note:** One of the standards of recognizing, especially an Old Testament book of the Bible, as inspired by God was **the prophetic material** contained in them. For example, almost all of the Old Testament books contain prophecy that has been fulfilled. The following chart provides many:

<u>Book</u>	<u>Number of Predictions</u>	<u>% of Book covering predictions</u>
Genesis	77	14
Exodus	69	40
Numbers	50	36
Deuteronomy	58	36
2 Kings	50	20
Psalms	59	10
Isaiah	111	59
Jeremiah	90	60
Ezekiel	66	65
Daniel	58	45
Hosea	28	56
Joel	25	68
Amos	26	58
Obadiah	10	81
Micah	40	70
Zechariah	78	69
Zephaniah	20	89

As an interesting aside to my presentation is the fact that the book of Job **does not contain** this proof. Does this mean it is uninspired? I would put the book in *a lesser position* than the majority of books that do have the proof. We have called the book of Job part of the poetic literature of the Bible with others such as: Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes, Esther and parts of Psalms. Is there value in Job? Certainly, as I have mentioned, we learn what men of old thought about God, trials, evil, God's will, etc. We also have antiquity validating dinosaurs living with man in the great leviathan of chapter 41.

## **Comparing Scripture With Scripture: This Is Fundamental**

I'm going to present my questions, or problems, with the book of Job's statements, descriptions, and declarations, alongside verses of scripture that teach otherwise.

### **1) Is Satan Able To Come Among The Sons Of God Into The Presence Of God?**

If this scene is taking place in heaven, I don't think we have to look far to realize that is impossible.

Lu 10:18 And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning **from heaven.**"

Re 12:9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; **he was cast to the earth**, and his angels were cast out with him.

Isa. 14:12 "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *How* you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations!

Satan's domain is not hell (Matt. 25:41) or heaven, but the earth. His throne and kingdom are of this world (II Cor. 4:4). The question arises, can Satan return to heaven from where he was cast out? Did God change His mind? Did the circumstances of the fall and earth's dominion, having been given to Satan through Adam's sin, mean that Satan had access to God (sinful man does not have access)? Was the cross of Christ, death, and His resurrection, whereby Jesus obtained the keys of death and Hades, when Satan was totally defeated, the actual time when he was cast out of heaven forever? This verse from Revelations seems to imply something along those lines:

Rev. 12:10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, **who accused them before our God day and night**, has been cast down.

This verse seems to imply that the accuser (Satan) operated day and night before the Lord, before or about the time of Christ, and His Kingdom was birthed in the earth. Was Christ's finished work, inclusive of Satan's ultimate and final dismissal from heaven? **Or, does this mean that the accuser of the brethren spoke from earth's domain constantly, and God heard it?**

Did Satan's fall occur before Adam and Eve, or after? It is a strange thing trying to reconcile Satan's fall after Adam & Eve. This verse from James also contributes to the fact that Satan and the demons, were cast out immediately,

2Pe 2:4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast *them* down to **hell and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;**

I think most would agree that Satan (Lucifer) and his demonic hoard, were cast out of heaven once and for all time prior to the fall of Adam & Eve. If Adam and Eve, after they sinned, could not be in the presence of God anymore, neither could Satan. Adam and Eve were cast out of Eden, never to return.

## What If Satan And God Meet On The Earth?

If this scene reflects angels presenting themselves before God in **His presence on earth**, this doesn't make sense either. The angels have access to God in heaven; why would they do so here on the earth in man's dominion? In the Job discourse (vs.7):

“And the LORD said to Satan, **"From where do you come?"** So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."

This seems to imply that Satan had come *from* the earth, rather than being some place upon it in the presence of God. **Regardless, no sin can be in God's presence unless it is atoned for.** Satan has no atonement and cannot be in God's presence ever again (Heb. 2:14-16). Here are examples from the Old Testament of sinful man coming in contact with God's holiness.

### For Example: Once A Year In The Holy Of Holies

When Moses established the priesthood with the Tabernacle and later when the Temple was built, **only once a year** could the High Priest enter the Holy of Holies. That priest had to go through precise cleansings and sacrifices before entering to offer the yearly sacrifice of atonement. The priest would have his ankles tied with a rope, in case after entering, he'd failed to fulfill the prescribe preparations. The expectation was that he would fall dead, and no one would be able to enter to retrieve the body; it would have to be pulled out by the rope (Ex. 30:10, Lev. 16:34 & Heb. 9:7).

### Aaron's Sons Die

When Aaron's own sons offered up unholy (profane) fire in the Tabernacle, God struck them down with fire. If unholy men enter the presence of the Lord in unauthorized ways and are struck down, how much more would the "father of lies" not be permitted (Lev. 10)?

### Uzziah Dies

When one of David's men reached up to steady the Ark of the Covenant, when being brought back into the city, God's anger struck him down for touching the ark without atonement (I Chron. 13). The ark was the container of God's Holiness & presence among the people; no one was to touch it, except priests in the prescribed manner. If unholy people are put to death coming in contact with God's holiness and/or presence, how much more the devil and his angels?

## Conclusion:

**Satan can no more be in God's presence than any sinful human being.** Satan is not going to sneak into God's presence among the angels of God either. The only place where God and Satan **share interests is upon the earth, over the souls of men.**

- 2) **Since God Cast Satan Out Of Heaven, Why Would God Entertain A Discussion With Him, Or Reason With Him?**
- 3) **Since When Does God Care About Satan's Opinion?**
- 4) **Since When Does God Listen To Satan?**

Where do we find another example of God discussing anything with Satan? Where is there another witness to such an event from the rest of the Bible? I don't know of another encounter between God and Satan, other than Job, but listen to these verses:

Pr 15:29 The LORD **is far from the wicked**, But He hears the prayer of the righteous.

Pr 17:4 An evildoer gives **heed to false lips**; A liar listens eagerly to a spiteful tongue.

Jas 4:7 Therefore submit to God. **Resist the devil** and he will flee from you.

The Lord is far from the wicked, certainly, that would include Satan. He hears the prayer, or conversation of the righteous; Satan is far from being righteous. Then, an evildoer gives, or pays attention, to false lips, or a lie; Satan is the father of lies (John 8:44). A liar listens eagerly to a spiteful tongue and God, from Job's account, is eager to tell Satan about His righteous servant, knowing that Satan wants to destroy that servant? If ever there was a spiteful tongue it would be Satan.

James tells us to submit to God and then resist the devil, to actively fight against him, and Satan will flee from us. That's how we are supposed to deal with Satan and the demonic: fight, resist, and get them to flee, not discourse with them.

## **In Considering Jesus' Encounter With Satan: The Temptation Of Jesus By Satan (Matt. 4)**

When Jesus was tempted by the devil in the wilderness, we have a discourse between them. The uniqueness of this situation is obvious. Jesus is fully human (and fully God) and must defeat Satan's deceptions. Jesus does it by quoting scripture at every temptation. The confrontation is upon the earth, not in the presence of God in heaven. **Jesus is God, but operating as one of us!**

Satan has a right to be upon the earth because of the fall, but even still Jesus rebukes him and commands him to get behind him. I don't see Jesus entertaining Satan's proposals, but rather denouncing them; nor dealing with him over anyone's soul, or possessions. I don't see Jesus caring for one moment what Satan actually thinks. Jesus at no time gives Satan power, authority, and privilege, to destroy, steal, or kill anyone, or anything. In the Book of Job, God is supposed to have done that when he hands Job's possessions into Satan's hands. Satan then goes and inspires the death of Job's sons and daughters, servants, and animals!

### **Consider This Exchange Between Jesus And A Demon:**

Luke 4:33 Now in the synagogue there was a man who had a spirit of an unclean demon. And he cried out with a loud voice,  
34 saying, "**Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth?** Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are--the Holy One of God!"  
35 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "**Be quiet, and come out of him!**" And when the demon had thrown him in *their* midst, it came out of him and did not hurt him.

Jesus didn't discuss anything with this demon, and the only time he addresses one was to ask his name. The demons responded, "Legion" from out of the man in the tombs (Mark 5). In almost every other case, Jesus rebuked them, commanded them to be quiet, and then to leave.

### **Conclusion: God Knows The Nature Of Satan**

John 10:10 "**The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.** I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

If Satan's is God's enemy wanting to **only** to steal, kill, and destroy, just as Jesus testified, why would God for a moment entertain him? I don't see it anywhere else in scripture, and it actually conflicts with God's word to resist the devil, not listen to evildoers, and to not pay attention to lying lips.

### **5) Since When Does Satan Have Anything In God To Provoke, Or Tempt, Or Incite?**

We have Satan from the Book of Job provoking, or inciting God, to do harm to Job (stretch out your hand), as if God could be manipulated. This contradicts these following verses:

Jas 1:13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; **for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.**

John 14:30 “I will no longer talk much with you, **for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me.**

God cannot be tempted, provoked, or incited, as if He were a human being and vulnerable to manipulation. Can God be encouraged, driven, impelled, to do us harm because Satan is not happy? Does God actually care what Satan thinks, when all he is about is to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10)? Satan is the essence of evil, and the father of lies as the scripture testifies:

John 8:44 “You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, **and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him**. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for **he is a liar and the father of it**.

Jesus spoke these words to the Pharisees, addressing that the true desires of their hearts were of the devil. Further, He says that Satan was a murderer and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him! Far be it from God to relate, discuss, deal, or enter into any agreement with evil, lies, and murder. In fact, the Holy Spirit is called the “**Spirit of truth** (John 14:17)!” What fellowship does the truth have with a spirit that has “no truth?” When we speak of fellowship, Paul the apostle, told us not to be unequally yoked with non-believers, reasoning this way:

2Co 6:14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. **For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?**

I think it is very clear that this discourse recorded in Job was the writer’s opinion about what happened. God cannot lie, change, or violate His nature, and this discussion contradicts, in my opinion, the very nature of who we believe God to be.

The second passage (John 14:3) is recorded in John’s gospel. Jesus said this in regards to His coming suffering. Although Satan was involved with His crucifixion, and would have power over Jesus’ life, it was all by God’s design. **God would be using Satan to accomplish His salvation plan.**

Someone might say that is what the Book of Job is telling us that God was using Satan to prune, test, try, and teach Job. The Book of Job has God being incited by Satan, reasoning with evil, agreeing with the father of lies to do harm! It is a completely different matter when it comes to Jesus and the cross. Where do we see God discussing with Satan what God is about to do? Where do we see God agreeing with Satan about God’s Salvation plan and the cross? **This verse tells us that God didn’t converse with Satan at all!**

1Co 2:8 “which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they **would not have crucified the Lord of glory**.

God is at war with Satan, and there are no peace treaties, negotiations, bargains, or deals—winner takes all. The second verse plainly reveals that, although the evil one is coming, **he has nothing in Christ!** There is no place, no desire, no temptation, no appeal, no manipulations; there is nothing that Satan could use to move, change, direct, or make Jesus do, according to evil plans.

### **Why God Can Be Trusted!**

**Consider this:** It is precisely this fact (God cannot be manipulated or tempted), that we can trust God completely with our lives. We know that our souls do not have to worry about another influence to change God's heart about, or towards us. Unlike humanity, where we are often put into very insecure positions by so-called friends, family, or even mates; who are incited, impelled, tempted, and manipulated by others, to change towards us. No, we do not need to worry for one second that God will somehow be changed towards us, deal with us, test, or try us, according to the desires, wishes, or plans of Satan. Jesus said:

John 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, **that in Me you may have peace.** In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, **I have overcome the world.**"

Tribulations come from the world, not from God. Jesus overcame the world and when He did, He wasn't overcoming God! **We will never have peace,** if we are in doubt about God's intentions towards us. If we see everything of this world as God's direction, we are in trouble (we will have no peace), because so much of the world's events happen because God's will **IS NOT BEING DONE!**

### **6) Since When Does God Place A Blameless & Upright Man Into The Power Of Satan (Aren't We In A Spiritual War?)?**

Consider these verses, how they practically speak for themselves about how God deals with the wicked, and blesses the just. If God is one way and then turns around in dealing with the blameless, we'll have a problem within ourselves in being able to trust, have faith, and stand in peace (because we'll never really know what God's will is).

Pr 3:33 The curse of the LORD **is on the house of the wicked, But He blesses the home of the just.**

Pr 26:2 Like a sparrow in *its* flitting, like a swallow in *its* flying, **So a curse without cause does not alight.**

Ps 76:9 When God arose to judgment, **To deliver all the oppressed** of the earth.  
Selah

Ac 10:38 "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

1Jo 3:8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. **For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.**

I think these verses from the Old and New Testament, are enough to bring into question the idea, **that God would deliver a blameless and righteous man into the hands of His enemy!** Jesus destroyed the works of the devil, to deliver all who were oppressed. That oppression included many who were *not blameless*, or righteous, such as the woman caught in adultery! Remember, from John 8:11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more." Jesus delivered many who were condemned, how much more is it God's will to deliver, keep, and protect, the blameless and righteous?

Consider Psalms 91, for it is filled with God's protection for those who are blameless and righteous; for those who abide in the shadow of the Almighty!

Ps. 91:1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the LORD, "*He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust.*"

God uses terms and conditions we understand, in order to help us understand what He is like. If He is our refuge; however, He turns around and delivers us to His enemy, that creates a crisis for trust!

God from the Psalms, tells us how He deals with the blameless:

Ps 18:25 With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful; **With a blameless man You will show Yourself blameless**;

Job **speaks in his distress**, and says that God destroys the blameless with the wicked.

Job 9:22 *It is all one thing*; Therefore I say, '**He destroys the blameless and the wicked.**'

From Matthew Chapter 13:27-30, we find Jesus teaching us a parable about the wheat and the tares, saying **that God will not destroy them together**. God will not weed out the tares from among the wheat, lest the good seed be destroyed with the bad:

27 "So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?'

28 "He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?'

29 "But he said, '**No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them.**

30 'Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Therefore, from both the Old & New Testaments, we can clearly see that **God does not hand over the blameless to Satan!**

## **7) Since When Does God Make Concessions, Or Deals With Satan?**

Jas 4:7 Therefore submit to God. **Resist the devil** and he will flee from you.

This verse tells us as God's sons & daughters, to resist and fight against Satan. We are to be imitators of God (Eph. 5:1) and as His body on earth, to act as Jesus did, doing the same things He did:

Joh 14:12 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, **the works that I do he will do also;** and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

Jesus spent His mission on earth destroying the works of the devil by delivering all who were oppressed (Acts. 10:38; I John. 3:8). God is not going to tell us to do one thing, while Jesus and His body do another. Nowhere else in the Bible do we see God dealing, or conversing with Satan, except in the book of Job.

We are in a spiritual war, and the Apostle Paul wrote:

Eph 6:12 **For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood,** but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, **against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.**

This means we do not make deals, or give concessions. The war is for us to win, overcome, and defeat Satan, because Christ defeated Him in the cross:

Col 2:15 **Having disarmed principalities and powers,** He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it..."

God does not concede, or make deals with the devil, who only comes to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10). Who would give their son, or daughter, over to the hands

of their evil enemy? I don't think any loving parent would even consider talking to a sex predator, with the idea of giving their son or daughter, over to his/her control, for the purpose of teaching some mysterious good. Certainly, God in His holiness, purity, and love, would not mislead us, misinform us, and keep us in suspense for some mysterious unknowable good either, by delivering us into the hands of Satan.

## **8) Satan Is Given Power Over Job's Physical Body? Does Satan Have Power To Call Down Fire From Heaven? Does Satan Use God's Power To Accomplish This?**

### **Satan Is Given Power Over Job's Physical Body?**

We have limited examples, where Satan *appears* to have power to attack the human body. In all of the Old Testament, there is **not one example** (except Job) where the scriptures give credit, or power to the enemy, to make a person sick. From the Old Testament however, we do see the Law of Moses in Deuteronomy describing the ***curses of the law***, with the power to make sickness and disease (among other curses) happen. Many times in the Old Testament, the scripture actually presents God with this power *directly* as these reflect:

Le 26:21 "Then, **if you walk contrary to Me**, and are not willing to obey Me, **I will bring on you seven times more plagues, according to your sins."**

Deut. 28: 21 "**The LORD will make the plague cling to you** until He has consumed you from the land which you are going to possess.  
22 "**The LORD will strike you with consumption, with fever, with inflammation, with severe burning fever**, with the sword, with scorching, and with mildew; they shall pursue you until you perish.

And,

27 "**The LORD will strike you with the boils of Egypt, with tumors, with the scab, and with the itch**, from which you cannot be healed.

28 "**The LORD will strike you with madness and blindness** and confusion of heart.

Then when God called Moses, this happened:

Ex 4:6 Furthermore the LORD said to him, "Now put your hand in your bosom."  
And **he put his hand in his bosom, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous**, like snow.

Then when God dealt with Miriam and Aaron concerning Moses, the scripture again testifies that God has this power:

Nu 12:10 And when the cloud departed from above the tabernacle, **suddenly Miriam became leprous, as white as snow.** Then Aaron turned toward Miriam, and there she was, a leper.

I think it would be ludicrous to believe that God employed demonic power to make these curses true; or, used demonic power to prove to Moses, and then to Miriam and Aaron, who the Lord is—whom they should fear.

In the book of Job, we are encouraged to believe that God and Satan, were discussing and deciding, what would happen to Job physically. In one place, the book testifies that Satan wanted God to, "(Job 2:5) "stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" In the very next verse, God is reported to have said, "(Job 2:6) And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life."

The more I look into these things and see Jesus, who is the fullness of the Godhead in bodily form, the more I reject this discourse found in Job, as revealing God to us. There is no way God employs Satan to work His will in Job's life. There is no way that God would say to His enemy, "Behold, he is in your hand..."

Let's remember that God already knows what is in the heart of sinful man (John 2:24). He knows we are not trustworthy, faithful, or safe. God doesn't need to prove anything to Satan, nor have Job pass some kind of test—we all fall short of God's glory (Rom. 2:23). When Jesus comes to save us, it is a **full and complete salvation.** We are totally depraved of righteousness and must rely fully upon the work of Christ.

Heb. 7: 25 Wherefore he is able also **to save them to the uttermost** that come unto God by him, seeing he ever lives to make intercession for them..

The real power of sin and the curse of sickness and disease is not Satan, or the demonic, but the law itself!

I Cor. 15: 56 **The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.**

### **What About The New Testament Places That Seem To Give Satan Power To Make One Sick?**

Remember what Jesus said?

Lu 13:16 "So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, **whom Satan has bound**--think of it--for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?"

Jesus heals this woman of physical disease. Does this absolutely mean that Satan bound her with this disease? I think there is an argument that would be consistent

with what Jesus is saying, without giving actual power to the devil to make her physically sick. When Jesus says, "whom Satan has bound" this could mean being bound in sin. **Sin is the actual source of the curse of the law, and the curse of the law is the source of all sickness and disease.** When Jesus heals a paralytic, He said to the man:

Matt. 9: 2 Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "**Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.**"

3 And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, "This Man blasphemes!"

4 But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts?"

5 "**For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'?**

6 "**But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" --then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."**

7 And he arose and departed to his house.

I think this is pretty clear that Jesus was connecting healing with forgiveness of sins! The woman prior to Jesus' encounter would have been bound in trespasses and sins, and that produced in her a physical condition representing it. It is also clear that Satan deceived and led Adam and Eve into sin, and has oppressed man ever since. When Jesus came, the Bible describes His healing mission this way:

Ac 10:38 "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and **healing all who were oppressed by the devil,** for God was with Him.

Oppressed could easily be understood to be the attribute to influence, deceive, and blind others, so that they sin and remain under the curse of the law. The definition of oppression validates this understanding:

**katadunasteuo** (kat-ad-oo-nas-tyoo'-o)

1) to exercise harsh control over one, **to use one's power against one**

2) to oppress one

If God actually pins sickness and disease on the curse of the law in Deuteronomy chapter 28, and then affirms that the power of sin **is the law** from I Cor. 15:56, where is there room for demonic power? I think we would find that these passages would include direct connection to demonic power to make one sick, if they actually could. Furthermore, Paul the apostle wrote:

Gal. 6: 7 **Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.**

8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

If Satan has power to make us sick and diseased, then the law of sowing and reaping could be stopped, overridden, altered, and/or skewed. This verse is adamant that whatsoever a man has sown, will also be reaped, placing the curse of the law completely within God's created programming. This means Satan can't change the programming! If sickness and disease are caused by sin operating under the law, then being redeemed from the curse of that law has meaning.

Gal. 3:13 But **Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law**. When he was hung on the cross, **he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing**. For it is written in the Scriptures, "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."(NLT Version)

### **What Can Satan Influence?**

The Bible calls Satan the devil, the deceiver, oppressor, a liar and the father of them; the untruthful spirit, someone who steals, kills, and destroys, a devourer, the god of this world, the one who had the keys of death, and the enemy. The Bible doesn't call Satan the curse bringer, the power of sickness and disease, or, the one who makes you sick!

A whole other booklet could be produced at this time, to describe each of these names and characteristics Satan. How does Satan devour? He devours by deception, deceiving, lying, and blinding the minds of people to keep them in ignorance, darkness, and under the curse of the law. He steals, kills, and destroys *indirectly* through the power of God's programming in the earth. Mainly, it is people that commit evil acts, murder, rape, kill, and steal, but the influence is Satanic.

The same nature of the demonic is in us of selfishness and pride, it is the source of all pain and destruction in life. The major point is this, Satan and the demonic can do nothing directly, unless they possess someone. Even then, their power is greatly limited, in comparison to faith in God's grace through Jesus.

### **Satanic Involvement With Sickness In The New Testament**

We do find in the gospels and book of Acts, some examples of **demon possession** described by physical conditions. In one place, it is described as an epileptic spirit and further in the story, it is a "deaf and dumb" spirit:

Mr 9:20 Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately **the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.**

Mr 9:25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "**Deaf and dumb spirit**, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!"

If a demon possesses a person, they surely can power someone in limited *supernatural* ways, of which we could be convinced, it is a sickness or disease. Maybe, we have some people in sanitariums today that are actually *demon possessed*?

We also know that people can mimic being sick in order to get out of going to work. Certainly, the demonic would mimic sickness in people, to perpetuate the idea that all sickness and disease come from them.

When it comes to the demonic, they are *riding the back of the curse of the law* with sickness and disease, in someone's life. Jesus said that we needed to bind the strong man in order to plunder his house (Mr. 3:27). **This could explain, that when Jesus cast out demons, people were also healed.**

If an evil spirit possesses a man, it would be such a powerful negative, that the man's body may manifest sickness. His spirit is sick, his soul is sick, and his body would become sick. In a way, this whole situation could be similar to one coming into a very dirty kitchen, to find mice, cockroaches, and other insects infesting it. In order to clean the kitchen, we must first remove the vermin! Once the vermin are gone, we are free to clean up the place.

### **Why Is This Important?**

Why is this important to make such a distinction in the source of sickness and disease? Why "split hairs" as it were, to make such a separation in powers? I think if we give Satan and the demonic too much power, we are glorifying them. **In other situations, we might even be encouraging people to be afraid of them, because quite frankly, there is a tremendous amount of sickness and disease in the earth.**

If Satan and the demonic are actually making us sick, then they are winning a great battle, so to speak. We have millions upon millions who have fallen sick and died. This power of death is fearful to the natural man. In other words, if sickness and disease in all of its manifestation in the human physical condition, is from demonic power, then indeed, they are as gods to us!

Think of all of the plagues that have hit humanity through the animal kingdom. Insects like flies, mosquitoes, fleas, lice, including bacteria, have dominated the ill health of man for centuries. Does Satan have the power to make us sick through the animal kingdom? If he could, he certainly would; however, that would give him divine power of which the scriptures reserve only for God.

## What Makes God, God?

God made a distinction in the Old Testament, between the one true God and false gods. One of the ways **He did it, was to show that signs, wonders, and miracles belong to Him, and no other.** Included in those supernatural powers, is the ability to strike with plagues.

When God called Moses, this is what He said:

Ex 7:1 So the LORD said to Moses: "**See, I have made you as God to Pharaoh,** and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet.

2 "You shall speak all that I command you. And Aaron your brother shall speak to Pharaoh to send the children of Israel out of his land.

3 "And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, **and multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt.**

**What distinguished Moses as God to Pharaoh?** It was the power of signs, wonders, and miracles that were done through him by God. God said these things will happen to **show the children of Israel, and the world, that He alone is God—and there is none like Him in all the earth.** Some of those powerful signs included plagues such as: boils, death of the cattle, and ultimately the death of the firstborn. This theme is repeated again and again:

Ex 8:10 So he said, "Tomorrow." And he said, "Let it be according to your word, **that you may know that there is no one like the LORD our God.**

Ex 8:22 "And in that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there, **in order that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of the land.**

Ex 9:14 "for at this time **I will send all My plagues** to your very heart, and on your servants and on your people, **that you may know that there is none like Me in all the earth.**

Ex 9:29 So Moses said to him, "As soon as I have gone out of the city, I will spread out my hands to the LORD; the thunder will cease, and there will be no more hail, **that you may know that the earth is the LORD'S.**

Ex 10:2 "and that you may tell in the hearing of your son and your son's son the **mighty things I have done in Egypt, and My signs which I have done among them, that you may know that I am the LORD.**"

There are other places in the Old Testament that affirm this understanding, that God is the only one who can alter the seasons, times, and perform miracles that override the created order. **If Satan and the demonic could do these things, then there is no uniqueness, and we wouldn't be able to know that there is only one God.**

Isa 46:9 Remember the former things of old, **For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me,**

### **The Payment For Sin Is To God's Justice, Not Satan**

When Jesus died, He didn't pay off Satan, or appease the demonic. The Bible says **that they were stripped of their power over us.** What was that power? It was the power of the law, in principalities and powers, that were contrary to us that He "has taken it out of the way." Re-read the following:

Col. 2: 13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, **having forgiven you all trespasses, 14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.**

15 **Having disarmed principalities and powers,** He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

This is important to understand, because if Jesus bore the penalty of our sins on the cross, who was demanding that payment? The scripture testifies that, *"by His stripes we were healed."* Why would Jesus bear our sorrows, our pains, and our grief to pay off Satan? Satan has no creative power, and does not own the earth. The laws that govern do not come from him. If Jesus wanted to redeem us just from his power alone, that would be nothing and no sacrifice would be needed. By His little finger Jesus could flick the demonic away, and we would be free; however, Jesus didn't pay off Satan, He paid off the law of God!

**It is God's laws that are bringing charges against us.** It is God's laws that are judging and condemning us! Jesus pays off the law of God completely, satisfying holy justice. When we are set free, it is directly from the condemnation of the law! When we are free from the law because of the blood of Christ, we step into His righteousness and grace. In truth, Satan and the demonic are side issues and spoilers, who deceive the whole world with lies. Romans 8:32-39 elaborate on this very point:

Rom. 8: 33 **Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.**

34 **Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died,** and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, **who also makes intercession for us.**

Sickness and disease are the direct result of sin! When sin is paid for, we are healed. Satan comes along to bring in unbelief, doubt, confusion, and deception to keep us from walking in right believing! We remain sick and diseased, because we do not

rightly discern the body and blood of Christ. We remain sick and diseased, because we have not understood the truth.

### **Conclusion:**

All of this has been written, to explain that Satan and the demonic are not the power behind sickness and disease. They have very limited power, and that only manifests when they can possess a person. This is the reason they want to possess someone: so that they can express themselves in this realm.

Can Satan make Job sick? No. even according to the book of Job, He needed to ask God to stretch out His hand to strike Job's body to accomplish this. The question would then become, is there really any way that God would agree with, and cooperate with Satan, to do it? No.

### **Does Satan Have Power To Call Down Fire From Heaven?**

There is one particular account given in the Old Testament, that makes it pretty clear that this is not the case.

#### ***The Account of the Prophets of Baal verses Elijah***

1 Kings 18: 19 "Now therefore, send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

20 So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel.

21 And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "**How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.**" **But the people answered him not a word.**

22 Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men.

23 "Therefore let them give us two bulls; and let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other bull, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it.

24 "**Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD; and the God who answers by fire, He is God.**" So all the people answered and said, "It is well spoken."

25 Now Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one bull for yourselves and prepare it first, for you are many; and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under it."

26 **So they took the bull which was given them, and they prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even till noon, saying, "O Baal, hear us!" But there was no voice; no one answered. Then they leaped about the altar which they had made.**

27 And so it was, at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, "Cry aloud, for he is a god; either he is meditating, or he is busy, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened."

**28 So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them.**

**29 And when midday was past, they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice. But there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention.**

30 Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down.

31 And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, "Israel shall be your name."

32 Then with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD; and he made a trench around the altar large enough to hold two seahs of seed.

33 And he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood, and said, "Fill four waterpots with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice and on the wood."

34 Then he said, "Do it a second time," and they did it a second time; and he said, "Do it a third time," and they did it a third time.

35 So the water ran all around the altar; and he also filled the trench with water.

36 And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, **and that I have done all these things at Your word.**

37 "Hear me, O LORD, **hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD** God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again."

**38 Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench.**

39 Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!"

If ever there was a chance to prove Satan had power to call down fire from the heavens, it would have been at this confrontation. The prophets of Baal are worshippers of demons. Paul the apostle wrote:

I Cor. 10: 19 What am I saying then? **That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything?**

20 Rather, that the things which the **Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.**

This confrontation was God's idea, and He told Elijah to set it up. The passage says that this was the challenge: **"How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him."**

How was God to declare Himself? It was by performing a sign, wonder, and miracle, to call down fire to consume the sacrifice! If Satan can do this miracle, then there would be no point to this challenge. Maybe, God held back Satan's power? Maybe, God wouldn't let Satan show himself at this time? Try to think of some other time in the Old Testament, where Satan and the demonic did manifest in such powerful ways. There is no place written where Satan had this power, except for Job.

If we fast forward to the days of the tribulation, we read where the antichrist with the beast, and the false prophet, have power over the nations. In some places, the power is described this way:

Re 13:2 Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. **The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.**

Re 13:15 He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many **as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.**

But, these must be tempered by this verse:

2Th 2:9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, **with all power, signs, and lying wonders,**

Power in these passages could easily represent authority, influence, and political strength. **Signs, wonders, and miracles that are supernatural according to scripture again and again, are God's alone.** They are what God said, we'd be able to judge who the real God is. If Satan can perform real supernatural powers, then there is no way to judge between them.

## **Conclusion:**

I don't believe God would declare that signs, wonders, and miracles distinguish Himself as God in the Old Testament, and then use them to affirm Jesus is the Christ (Acts 2:22), if Satan could do the same things.

Ac 10:38 **"how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.**

And,

Ac 2:22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, **a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs** which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know--

Only Job implies that Satan has the power to call down fire, albeit at God's permission. If Satan could perform these powerful signs, wonders, and miracles, then why don't we see it happening anywhere else in scripture? It seems to me, that if the demonic seek to possess someone to express themselves in them (demon possession), there must be a reason to do it. If they had powers without doing this, then we'd see it; but, we don't.

## **Does Satan Use God's Power To Accomplish This?**

I believe the book of Job is strongly suggesting that God gave permission to Satan, and possibly provided the power to do it. I can't think of a more mixed up understanding than to think that God would empower His enemy. We would call it foolishness at best, and treason at worst, for us to empower our enemy against us, or someone we love. Where else do we find such a case in all of scripture?

The devil oppresses and by definition, this means he gets us to use our own power and authority against us. The power of sin is the law! The curse of the law is when that power is used against us, to condemn us, and to judge us!

We could say, that Satan uses God's power of the created order, or programming, against us; but, he can only do it, if we are willing victims. We must disobey God, and take the bait of temptations, deceptions, and lies to sow to corruption and death (Gal. 6:7, 8).

## **What About Jesus' Temptations By Satan?**

This is a very curious thing indeed. We find in this passage, Satan manifesting in powerful ways to Jesus. Let's examine them.

Matt. 4: 3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" {#De 8:3}

**5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple,**

6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" {#Ps 91:11,12}

7 Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'" {#De 6:16}

**8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.**

9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."

10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" {#De 6:13}

11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

The power manifested here, is that the devil took Him up to the temple, and then up on an exceedingly high mountain. The power of transporting Jesus to these places isn't necessarily a small matter. Yet, there is a curious thing going on, because in Matthew's account, and then Luke's account of this, it begins with Jesus coming up out of the Jordan river and being led into the wilderness. After the temptations were completed, and Jesus rebuked Satan saying, "Away with you," Jesus is seen not coming down the high mountain, or getting down off the Temple, but returning to Galilee.

**Could it be that this temptation occurred in Jesus' imagination?** Often our temptations occur in our imaginations. It seems possible, and even logical, because the scripture doesn't report that Jesus climbed down the high mountain. It strongly seems to imply, that Jesus returned to Galilee from the wilderness.

I supposed it is possible that the angels in ministering to Jesus, carried Him back to the wilderness, but we'd have to assume this. The account seems clear in saying that Satan took Him, and then, "showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory." Did Satan take Jesus on a worldwide tour? Could Jesus see all of the kingdoms from one very high mountain? Or, is it likely that Jesus was tempted to imagine all of the kingdoms of the earth and their glory?

We don't have fire being brought down from heaven by Satan. We don't have Satan putting sickness and disease on Jesus. We don't have Satan stirring up the winds and sending lightning bolts, to intimidate Jesus. If there were consistent testimony from other scripture giving Satan such power, I wouldn't be questioning this passage—I would just accept it as it appears. Nevertheless, even as it is written, there are questions that rise as I have presented. It does fit far better, with all of it having taken place in Jesus' imagination. It would also be consistent with the absence of true satanic signs, wonders, and miracles, anywhere else in the Bible.

Then there are these verses that summarize Satan's actual influence in the earth:

Isa. 14: 16 "Those who see you will gaze at you, and consider you, saying: **'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms...'**"

Re 12:9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, **who deceives the whole world**; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Re 20:10 The devil, **who deceived them**, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Satan's real power is the law of God (I Cor. 15:56 & Gal. 6:7)! His influence is his deceptions. His reign in the world is manipulation of sin nature in human beings. Would God give Him power, knowing that Satan's every desire, is to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10)? No. He is the god of this world only by oppressing humanity through the lies, deceptions, and manipulations of our own power against us.

(This message is in progress...)