

Satan in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

Judaism

Ha-Satan (the adversary) is identified with the yetzer hara (evil inclination) and one who leads man astray to only turn around and bring accusation against man.

Ha-Satan is completely under G-d's control and only carries out his mission with Divine approval.

The most well-known story about Ha-Satan is Job where he acts as an adversary testing Job.

Rabbinic literature states that Ha-Satan's job is to strengthen man's moral character by leading man toward temptation.

Satan is not a proper name belonging to a particular being who is an antagonist or rival to G-d.

"Satan" is a noun that applies to an adversary who opposes and obstructs. --The name is applied to human adversaries (I Samuel 29:4; II Samuel 19:23; I King 5:18, 11:14, 23, 25).

"Satan" as a verb is applied to a prosecutor (Psalm 109:6) or antagonist (Psalm 38:21; 109:4, 20, 29).

We are given free choice to choose good over evil. We can overcome the evil inclination.

Christianity

Satan is a synonym for the "Devil."

The Devil and the other demons are creations of G-d who became evil by their own act.

Man sins by the suggestion of the Devil and in the next world the wicked will suffer eternal punishment with the Devil.

Satan is an angel who rebelled against G-d and also the one who spoke through the serpent to seduce Eve.

Satan's ultimate goal is to lead people away from G-d.

Satan is also identified as: --the accuser of Job --the tempter in the Gospels --secret power of lawlessness (II Thessalonians 2:7) --the dragon (Book of Revelation)

Satan was the highest of all angels and the brightest in the sky before his insurrection and pride.

It is mostly through inference and not explicit statements that there is a belief in Satan having been a rebellious angel.

Satan will ultimately be thrown into a lake of fire where he will be tormented for all eternity (Revelation 20:10).

Islam

Satan is a djinn that was created from smokeless fire just as all djinns were created.

Djinns are like humans and as a result they do sin.

Satan's name in the Qur'an is Iblis who was a djinn who was raised and lived with the angels. Iblis eventually sinned against Allah and was expelled from heaven (18:50; 7:11-18).

Satan's main purpose is to tempt mankind in order for mankind to become spiritually raised.

©Rachel-Esther bat-Avraham, 2013
www.pathoftorah.com