

Satan's method

“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, who deceives the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” (Rev 12,9)

The serpent, the Devil, Satan, and the dragon. These are the names of the guardian cherub (Ezekiel 28:14, 16) who was entrusted with guiding people on the path of life from the beginning of their creation according to God's plan. Instead, through the serpent, he tempted our first parents to break the only prohibition that people had, and they ate the forbidden fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 3:1-6). By doing so, he condemned them and their descendants to a much more difficult path, at the end of which is death (Prov. 14:12; 16:25) and then God's judgment (Eccl. 11:9). The guardian cherub became the Devil, or the slanderer, Satan, or the adversary, and also became a dragon, i.e., a devourer.

The dark development of this cherub is also reflected in the development of humanity, because to this day he rules the world of men (1 John 5:19). When the apostle Paul wrote his letters to the church in Thessalonica, the evil that this cherub creates and supports was still hidden¹. Today the situation is different. The sons of the Evil One (Matthew 13:38) already have powerful tools to control people and are succeeding in manipulating a large part of humanity. How do they do it, and what is the wickedness and insidiousness of their actions? That is the question we will address in this article.

The first deception, trickery, and lie

Adam and his wife lived in God's garden, which God had created for them. It was an ideal home for them. They had everything they needed to live without

¹ “ Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come the falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Do you not remember, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now you know what restrains that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity does already work: only he who now restrains will do so, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked One be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the breath of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deception of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.” 2 Thessalonians 2,3-10;

having to work hard to earn their livelihood and protect their lives. They had time to learn about God's work, to think about God's order, which governs everything, and to work on the tasks God had given them. Adam named all the living creatures that God brought to him. And so his cooperation with his Creator would have continued. But the serpent came to the woman and, through deceit, deception, and lies, deceived our first parents. Let's see how he did it.

“Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, has God said, you shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it, lest you die. And the serpent said unto the woman, You shall not surely die: For God does know that in the day you eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. 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, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.” (Gen 3,1-6)²

What can we learn from the fact that the serpent was the most cunning of all the beasts of the field?

What God said to man in Genesis 1:28 also applied to the serpent: God appointed man to rule over all living creatures on earth, in the water, and in the air. The serpent, who was the most cunning of all the beasts of the field, obviously knew this. He probably looked different from today's snakes. Did he deliberately lead the woman to make a wrong decision so that man would not rule over him? Did he think that the punishment for violating God's prohibition would be death and perhaps even the extinction of man? We do not know. We know from Revelation 12:9 that the real tempter was the guardian cherub who became God's adversary, Satan. We do not know how Satan used the serpent to seduce our first parents, but even though the serpent acted according to Satan's will, it bore some responsibility, and therefore it too was punished. God punished the serpent's actions by degrading its mode of existence.

² “ And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.”

With a manipulative question, the serpent turned the woman's attention to the forbidden fruit.

The serpent knew the same thing as the woman, but he let her say herself that God had forbidden man to eat from only one tree in the garden, lest they die. He thus turned the woman's attention to the forbidden tree and actively drew her into a conversation about the forbidden fruit.

Lies, deceit, and trickery in a single sentence

But he had to continue lying in order to carry out his evil plan (2 Timothy 2:14) when he said that they would certainly not die. This proved to be a lie, but only nine centuries later. This is a very strong warning!!! The treachery of Satan's method of deceit, lies, and deception lies in the fact that its deadly danger only becomes apparent after a long time. But also in the fact that he does not always lie, that he only speaks a partial truth. Why did the woman believe him at all? Perhaps she would not have believed him so easily, but the serpent again used a cunning and deceptive statement to give the woman the impression that God was denying people something valuable and important, wisdom and the possibility of being like God, and moreover, the fruit was attractive to the eyes. In this sentence, the serpent demonstrated masterful psychology and tactics of deception and cunning that even the greatest masters of propaganda would not be ashamed of. He made God out to be a liar in the woman's eyes (although she may not have realized it at the time), who does not want people to be godlike and wise. And we can also recall the words from Proverbs (Prov. 30:5-6): *"Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add not unto his words, lest he reprove you, and you be found a liar."* But the serpent deceived the woman into a conclusion that contradicted God's word with something that was not in it!

Satan's method has evolved to the present day and takes various forms.

Since this event, people have encountered lies, deceit, and deception throughout their entire history. We call it Satan's method because Satan is its father (Jn 8:44). The methods and content of lies, deceit, and deception used by people against each other have spread over time, but their basic method remains the same. Let us try to understand and recognize it.

Misleading ideas

Man is created for spiritual development (1 Cor 15:44) and is capable of responding to spiritual stimuli and ideas and drawing his own conclusions from them. The idea does not even have to be directly expressed. We have already read about this in the conversation between the serpent and the woman. First, he drew the woman's attention to the tree from which they were not allowed to eat, and then he said to her, *"And the serpent said unto the woman, You shall not surely die: For God does know that in the day you eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."* There is no lie in this sentence. When Adam and his wife ate the forbidden fruit, they did not die. Seemingly, nothing bad happened to them. They did not know that they would not die immediately, but not even one GOD'S day had passed before they died. Then it became clear that God was not talking about a day that lasts one rotation of the earth around its axis, but about a day of God, which lasts many years (Psalm 90:4; 2 Peter 3:8). The psalm shows that it is not about a number. The night watch is terribly long for the one who keeps it. The emphasis is therefore on the incomparable length. The serpent took advantage of the woman's inexperience and ignorance. Adam was not deceived, but at that moment he abandoned (perhaps because of his wife?) his covenant with God (Hosea 6:7). But both were at the beginning of their existence, without experience, and were just learning to know God the Creator and his order. God did not create man omniscient, as some people think, for then he would have known good and evil and would not have needed the tree of knowledge before him as a reminder that there was something he did not know. He did not know what good and evil were. This was not God's evil intention, but rather a plan for humans to gradually attain knowledge of good and evil and wisdom without dying. They were created very well for this purpose. Satan's wickedness lay in the fact that he must have known about God's plan, since he was supposed to lead humanity according to it, and yet he did not at least prevent the serpent's actions. Satan knows how to work with time, and his tricks, lies, and deceptions only become apparent after a long time. The lie that they would not die if they ate the forbidden fruit was only proven almost a thousand years later.

It is clear from the whole story that the key to the success of lies, deception, and trickery is the ignorance or inexperience of the deceived victim. Taking advantage of this ignorance or inexperience is despicable and insidious. However, God created humans in such a way that, with His help, they can find

their way back to the path of life, at the end of which is eternal life without death.

A word to the wise is enough ...

Note that the serpent did not say anything directly evil about God. He did not say that God was evil and unkind. **He let the woman come to the wrong conclusion herself.** And in this highly intelligent way, humanity has been deceived throughout its existence. This does not mean that we are not responsible for our actions, because God has always made sure that people have the opportunity to know Him. They can know His existence, His invisible power, and His divinity from His works and later from His Word. People have known God, so they are without excuse (Romans 1:19-21; Acts 14:16-17) . They did not glorify him or show him gratitude, even though he sends us the sun and rain so that we may have sustenance. People preferred to worship false gods. Note that the serpent allowed the woman's reason to work, which was, of course, without the experience and knowledge she had yet to acquire. The same thing has been happening throughout human history, and it applies to both men and women. Even today, smart, reasonable people are often very blind because their minds work with deceptive ideas and information, even if it doesn't seem that way at first glance.

People have always had a choice

Despite the deception that people believed, from the beginning they had a choice based on the information communicated to them by those who believed in God, did not deny Him within themselves, and spread His word. For example, in Genesis 4:26, we read that already during the lifetime of Seth's son Enosh, people began to invoke the name of God (יהוה, JHVH, Yahweh, Jehovah). Even before the flood, people began to distinguish between the true God and other heavenly beings.

However, most people at that time did not listen to Enoch (Genesis 5:21-24; Jude 1:14), the seventh from Adam, or to Noah (Matthew 24:38), who was tasked with building an ark of salvation before the flood and was also a preacher of righteousness (1 Peter 3:20; 2 Peter 2:5). God warned people in many ways, with the possible exception of Sodom and Gomorrah. However, Jesus said that these cities would fare better than Capernaum at the judgment (Matthew 11:23 and 24).

Religious obfuscation

Before the flood, people encountered God's sons, and several of God's sons even lived on earth with human daughters. After the flood, after the confusion of languages and the division of mankind during the construction of the Tower of Babel, as many religions arose as there were nations and languages. Some of the same stories appear in them, such as the story of the flood, but there is little room for the one true God. Instead, they accept as their main gods idols created by human hands, representing heavenly or even demonic beings. The Creator God is often pushed into the background in these religions, as if He did not intervene in events on earth at all or was not interested in the further development of humanity. This, of course, is another falsehood. In reality, God observes everything that happens very closely. His son Jesus even says, "*Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?*" (Luke 12:6; Matthew 10:29). All the religions of the nations were actually a spiritual fog that gradually turned into darkness. No wonder people fell into vanity in their thoughts and their foolish hearts found themselves in darkness. Yet darkness never prevailed over the light of the living (Job 33:28-30; Jn 1:4-5).

How Satan dealt with man's desire for eternity

Because God has placed in man an awareness of eternity and a desire for it (Ecclesiastes 3:11), Satan could not ignore this fact either. Therefore, in some religions, especially Eastern ones, various ideas about the continuation of human existence after death are offered. To this day, some people cling to the possibility of reincarnation, hope for life after death in various forms, or believe that they are experiencing an endless cycle of lives, and so on. They believe the experiences of people who describe their experiences during clinical death and who have returned to life. These experiences are probably authentic, but did these people really cross the boundary between life and death? People believe without being able to verify the truthfulness of the stories of people who supposedly remember their past lives (which cannot be proven or confirmed). All these teachings almost or completely ignore God the Creator and His plan to bring man back to the path of eternal life according to His plan. They do not deny His existence, but they do not mention His plan to give man hope for eternal life without dying. They do not tell the whole truth and allow people to believe in unverifiable teachings.

God's law as a beacon in the fog

In the beginning, Satan could not deny God's existence or authority. People knew who had created them and began to call upon God's name (Genesis 4:26). The biblical account is brief, but it implies that even before the flood, people like Enoch and Noah obeyed the Creator, and God listened to them. But the apostle Peter writes in his second letter about the world before the flood as a world of ungodly people (2 Peter 2:5). That is why people did not recognize the approaching destruction. After the flood, people began to worship other heavenly beings, and each nation had its own gods, to whom they sacrificed and worshipped. God chose Abraham and his descendants from among the nations to show his power, justice, wisdom, and love. He gave the Israelites the law through his servant Moses so that the surrounding nations could also know the true Creator God. The surrounding nations could also observe his power, justice, and other attributes when they saw how God dealt with his people.

However, the moral and spiritual level of the Israelites deteriorated over time, and with it, the relationship of God's people to their God deteriorated over the centuries to such an extent that God brought punishment upon them, which He had warned them about long in advance and repeatedly. He allowed Jerusalem and the temple in it to be destroyed and the rebellious people to be taken into exile. This happened in the 6th century before the coming of Jesus Christ. God the Creator continued to gradually fade from people's minds. The informational and spiritual fog created over time by various cults and religions eventually turned into darkness. Only God's word continues to shine like a beacon in the darkness.

The gradual abandonment of God and Jesus Christ continues

With the arrival of Jesus Christ, the attention of nations, mainly in the Roman Empire and later during the colonization of nations on other continents and islands (including newly discovered ones), turned directly to God the Creator, Jesus Christ, and the hope of eternal life. Over time, however, more and more people began to turn away from God, Christ, and hope, and the relationship between people and [the Creator gradually deteriorated again](#). The sons of the Evil One (Mt 13:38) patiently take every opportunity to weaken the authority of the Church. They publicly present themselves as servants of righteousness and bearers of new light (2 Cor 11:14-15). From the end of the 15th century and especially from the 16th century onwards, the ideas of humanism began to spread, a distinctive feature of which was the attempt to replace God with

man. Philosophical constructs appeared, arguing that man and his characteristics are the determining factors in his own life. The Creator and Jesus Christ were, and still are, being pushed out of people's minds. The ideas of humanism spread among intellectuals and thoughtful people across all strata of society. This resulted in human pride: "I don't need God, I know best what is good." Scholars and church reformers did not consciously have evil intentions. But experience tells us that even the road to hell can be paved with good intentions. In sincere efforts to purify the church³ and in honest attempts to seek the truth and verify the correctness of not only church teachings, one cannot immediately look for Satan, even though the church used this as a whip against its opponents. The sons of the Evil One did what their father did. They allowed misleading ideas⁴, of which there were and are many, to take effect and tried to create favorable conditions for these ideas to fall on prepared ground. Jesus described the work of God's word in people's hearts (Luke 8:5-15). But just as Christ's disciples sow God's word in people's hearts, so God's adversary and his servants spread their word, which, however, has the opposite effect. Their ideas and efforts create false hopes, often fueled by half-truths, lies, and cunning false pretenses of good intentions. Their true intentions often only become apparent after a long time. This is one of the main features of Satan's method. That is why Jesus advises us not to judge them by their words or deeds, but by the fruit they bear. The fruit of their actions is the current moral, ethical, and spiritual state of Western civilization in particular. The result of the evil that Paul wrote about to the Thessalonians is the loss of life-giving spiritual roots. After many centuries of the Christian era, God's word and the message of the Gospel have been forgotten, rejected, or ignored by many people. Upon closer examination of the developments that led Christian civilization to this state, you will find that the influence of humanism is not as positive as it seems at first glance. Humanism offered an attractive (and, after centuries of dogmatic pressure from the church) refreshing idea that man can rely on himself and thus "free" himself from dependence on God (i.e., on the church) and from blind obedience not to God's word, but to blind obedience to church dogmas, often insensitively enforced. Once again, people had to wait centuries before it became apparent that

³ The Reformation was an effort to reform the misleading ideas of the church, which had become entangled with secular power and strayed from the path shown by Jesus Christ.

⁴ The deception of misleading ideas lies in the fact that they do not lead to eternal life and its source, but to the proud conviction that man can do without his Creator on the path to a better future.

humanity was not heading in the right direction, but was instead sinking into ever greater problems. Historical experience with the influence of scientific and technological development, which has made life more comfortable and prosperous for many people, but has also brought incomparably greater dependence on these achievements and the risk of their misuse, for example in wars, is not enough. Nevertheless, even today, people prefer to blindly and trustingly accept new technologies that, on the one hand, help them, but on the other hand, their misuse can have even worse consequences than people have yet experienced.

Attractive technology and comfort, not only material

How did it happen that, despite all warnings, people foolishly believe once again that modern technology will lead to a better (i.e., more comfortable, prosperous, and safer) life? Above all, this is another manifestation of the insidious manipulative element of Satan's method. Modern technology has primarily brought new possibilities in the use of new energies (steam, electricity, oil) in the economy and in private activities, and in the case of digital technology, new possibilities for entertainment. People enthusiastically embraced steam locomotives and their electric and diesel descendants, heavier-than-air aircraft, faster ships, computers, mobile phones, the internet, social networks, "smart" appliances, and the possibility of cashless payments. They ignore the warnings of some scientists and experts about addiction to these products, harmful side effects, or the unexplored risks of their impact on mental development. They do not want to hear about the dangerous effects of the internet, social networks, and now AI (artificial intelligence) on the mental and spiritual development of young people in particular. Most media outlets downplay all warning voices without reliably refuting them. Why?

The standard of living in "developed" countries is increasingly dependent on these technologies. People in these countries refuse to admit that they can be (and already are) completely dependent on the "care" of those who control these technologies. They are blind without even knowing it (Matthew 13:15). And the influential media (the so-called mainstream) is owned by people who support the powerful and most powerful people in the world.

Since the first deception, trickery, and lie uttered by the serpent, Satan's method has remained the same. First, Satan and his servants lure us with new

possibilities that offer new perspectives on life, new ideas, discoveries, and inventions. They have given us hope that this will improve our lives. To avoid misunderstanding, some features of these technologies are indeed useful and beneficial, but they are also easily abused, which is already happening today, and they produce many negative side effects, including during production and subsequent disposal after they are discarded. Propaganda and advertising are also used to manipulate people's consciousness and thinking. We should also be aware of the risk of damage to the environment and health. Both are fiercely downplayed by the media. Not with scientifically based evidence, but downplayed, without indisputable evidence. The bond between us and our Creator and His Son, who died for us and redeemed our hope for eternal life, is being severed today not only by ideas, but by our entire way of life.

Before humanity reached this state, it had to travel a long way from the first deceit, lie, and deception. In essence, many people have gradually become accustomed to the fact that all three elements of Satan's method are a normal (not natural) part of life. We behave accordingly towards nature and towards each other.

Deception, lies, and deceit are most evident in people's spiritual development.

It has already been said that man was created for spiritual development (physically he was perfect). It took thousands of years for Satan to convince some people that there is no God, nor is there a Satan. It is sad that he succeeded especially in countries with a Christian past. However, this is also proof that his attention is focused mainly against the faithful people of God, Christ and Moses. Other people are his (Jn 15:19). Mark Twain said, "*It is easier to deceive people than to convince them that they have been deceived.*" And the servants of the Evil One take advantage of this.

God is Spirit, says his Son Jesus Christ. People can know him through his work, as has already been said (Rom. 1:19-21). To do this, a person needs to see what is hidden from physical sight. That is why Jesus says that the eye is the lamp of our body (Matt. 6:22-23). However, this is spiritual sight (Mt 13:15; Lk 19:42). Anyone who likes to read or watch detective stories has probably heard the saying, "The solution to the case was right in front of my eyes the whole time, and I was blind to it." Scientists also have the experience that when they make

an important discovery, it is as if their eyes are opened because they see the same things differently, in new contexts. The same applies to spiritual matters. How can a person who refuses to admit God's existence know God? How can a person know that he is blind when he has no idea what true light is? Even Satan masquerades as a light-bearer (2 Cor 11:14).

By their fruits you will know them. The fruits of darkness are the deeds of human willfulness, „*Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, impurity, licentiousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, strife, jealousy, wrath, selfishness, divisions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such like: of which I tell you beforehand, as I have also told you in time past, that they who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*“ (Gal 5:19-21)

The fruit of light is the fruit of God's Spirit, „*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, self-control: against such there is no law.*“ (Gal 5,22-23)

Judge for yourselves what fruit your actions bear. Paul writes that the bad fruit is the works of the flesh. Without God's spirit, the flesh is completely in darkness. God's spirit is the source of life, which is the light of mankind (Jn 1:4-5). Satan succeeded in leading humanity into darkness, without hope for eternal life, without dying. First, through deceptive ideas, he drove God, Christ, and the hope for humanity redeemed by Him out of the minds and hearts of many, and instead offered them a higher material standard of living, a large number of other spiritual directions to choose from "freely," and an inexhaustible amount of entertainment. However, the level of entertainment does not lead to intellectually uplifting and morally better behavior, but motivates mindless dependence on instincts. This, too, is a manifestation of the spiritual uprooting of Christian nations.

Conclusion

Satan's method consists of three basic steps. The first step is to divert man's attention away from God the Creator and from the path to eternal life that God has laid out for him. The second step is to offer a path through life that at first glance appears to be more advantageous and independent. The third step is to offer Satan's concept for solving the problems in which humanity has become entangled under Satan's leadership.

Evidence of the effectiveness of this method can be seen in the development of humanity, especially Christian civilization, over the last four centuries. The first step is an attack on Christian values arising from faith in God's promise and the hope of eternal life through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. This began to manifest itself more visibly in the 16th century. Satan's servants patiently exploited the mistakes of the Church and its disintegration during the Reformation to offer an alternative to the loss of faith in Church teachings in the ideas of humanism and enlightenment.

This was the second step, offering a seemingly better and more just society without God. Man replaced God, in whose name the hitherto all-powerful Church had appointed rulers, kings, princes, tsars, and emperors. All this was greatly aided by a great leap in new discoveries and inventions that changed people's lives and offered, at first glance, great hope for an easier and more comfortable life, the elimination of social inequality, greater freedom, greater opportunities to live one's own life without subservience to the church and feudal lords, without being bound by strictly enforced moral and ethical standards, and thus a seemingly better, freer future for future generations. It is similar to when a child raised too strictly and unkindly, without love, breaks away from their parents at the first opportunity and rejects their upbringing, rather than if they had been raised with the same moral and ethical values, but with kindness and understanding of their capabilities.

What is currently happening in the field of digital technology and many scientific disciplines is obvious progress for most people. Their undeniable benefits in communication, the economy, transportation, and medicine fuel many people's belief in a better life without God and His Son. They do not yet realize that what helps them today may make them completely dependent tomorrow. We can see this in the use of cell phones, GPS, the internet, smart appliances, and now also in the use of AI. A large number of people cannot imagine life without these aids. Yet they do not want to admit their growing dependence on these devices and their services, nor that all these excellent aids can be misused against people, as has always been the case. Two world wars, newly developing systems of increasingly destructive weapons, and now the development of systems of human control leading to the loss of all privacy (e.g., digital money), free will, and above all, the possibility of free choice are proof that the intentions of those who truly rule and finance the development of all this are not only good and certainly not godly.

In fact, the third step is to bring most people into complete dependence on Satan's concept of world development. Satan's concept of eternal life for everyone is probably not the case. It is the same as in the beginning. The serpent turned Adam's wife's attention to the forbidden fruit and cunningly convinced her that God was not telling the truth, that they would die if they ate the fruit. He even said that God was denying them the opportunity to gain wisdom that would make them equal to God. The woman saw that the fruit was tempting to eat and that it promised wisdom. In other words, she thought that a better path was opening up for them than the one their Creator had intended for them. We all know that this ended in death for Adam, his wife, and their descendants. It is up to God the Creator to decide what their fate will be when they stand before God's judgment. Since the expulsion of our first parents from God's garden, which Satan had to reckon with when he knew God's plan for the development of man, God's adversary has been doing everything in his power to turn man completely away from God the Creator, and after more than five and a half thousand years, he has been largely successful. You may think that I am wrong, but historical experience shows that the fruits of Satan's actions and those of his servants are beautiful and attractive to the eye on the surface, but ultimately lead to death. Let us be warned by historical experience and trust in God.

Let us not remain in darkness, but let us seek life, light, and truth from the Creator, the source of life, truth, and light. We still have the freedom to choose. As it is written at the beginning of the Gospel of John: "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in darkness; and the darkness overcame it not.*" John 1:1-5;