Satan

Christians traditionally think of Satan as Lucifer, God's enemy, who rebelled against Him out of pride and then caused Adam and Eve to sin. But, as Henry Ansgar Kelly shows, this portrayal is not Biblical but a scenario invented by the early Fathers of the Church which became the “New Biography of Satan.” The “Original Biography” must be reconstructed from the New Testament where Satan is the same sort of celestial functionary we see in the Book of Job – appointed to govern the World, specifically to monitor and test Human Beings. But he is brutal and deceitful in his methods, and Jesus predicts that his rule will soon come to an end.

Kelly traces the further developments of the “New Biography”: Humankind's inherited guilt, captivity by Satan, and punishment in Hell at his hands. This profile of Satan remains dominant, but Kelly urges a return to the “Original Biography of Satan.”

HENRY ANSGAR KELLY is Emerit Distinguished Professor in the Department of English at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). His books include The Devil, Demonology, and Witchcraft (1968, 1974, 2004) and The Devil at Baptism (1985, 2004). He is the former Director of UCLA’s Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies and the current Editor of the Center’s journal, Viator.
The Fall of Satan as Lucifer. Detail [inverted] of Illustration 7, “The Fall of the Angels,” by the Limbourg Brothers, from the Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry, Musée Condé, Chantilly, France. Reproduced by permission of Réunion des Musées Nationaux/Art Resource, NY
Satan
A Biography

HENRY ANSGAR KELLY
Contents

List of illustrations .............................................................. ix
List of abbreviations ............................................................. xi
Introduction .............................................................................. 1

Part I  Hebrew backgrounds

1  The Old Testament .............................................................. 13
   1.1  The first supernatural satan in the Hebrew Bible: the Angel of Yahweh and a talking ass ........................................... 13
   1.2  A Son of Elohim as a satan: the spy and tester of the Book of Job .................................................................. 21
   1.3  A celestial satan as accuser: the trial of Joshua the High Priest in the Book of Zechariah ......................................... 23
   1.4  Revisions and translations: Satan and satans, Devil and devils ................................................................. 28

2  Apocryphal works and the Dead Sea Scrolls ......................... 32
   2.1  Sins of Humans, sins of Angels: Genesis 1–11 and the Book of Enoch .............................................................. 32
   2.2  Mastema/Satan and the Giant-Ghosts as punishers: The Book of Jubilees ......................................................... 35
   2.3  Dueling dualisms at the Dead Sea: Belial, the Principle of Darkness, Lady Folly – but no Satan! .................. 41

Part II  The New Testament: Satan comes into his own

3  St. Paul, the first Christian writer ......................................... 53
3.1 Thessalonians, 1 Corinthians: Satan as tester and punisher – and rehabilitator 53
3.2 2 Corinthians, Romans: Pseudo-Angel-of-Light, due for a crushing 59
3.3 Other sinister figures: Beliar, the God of this World, the Elements, the Powers 64
3.4 St. Paul and the Wisdom of Solomon: on Adam, Eve, the Serpent, and the arrival of Death 69
4 The four Gospels 80
  4.1 Satan in Mark, the earliest Gospel: testing and obstructing Jesus 80
  4.2 Satan and Jesus in dialogue: Matthew’s three-act drama of temptation 84
  4.3 Luke’s two books (Third Gospel and Acts): Satan in charge, and his predicted fall “like lightning” 93
  4.4 Satan according to John: homicidal liar, and Archon of this Cosmos 107
5 Later Epistles 114
  5.1 Pseudo-Paul 1: 1–2 Timothy, 2 Thessalonians: Satan and/or Devil 114
  5.2 Pseudo-Paul 2: Colossians and Ephesians: the Heavenly Powers and Devil 120
  5.3 The Epistle to the Hebrews and the Epistle of Jude: Devil as the Angel of Death – who deserves respect 125
  5.4 Excursus: the non-Diabolical fall of the Angels in Jude and 2 Peter 131
  5.5 Ecumenical Epistles: 1 Peter and James: Devil as lion, Devil as coward 134
6 The Apocalypse of John the Divine 141
  6.1 Satan and the Angels of the Seven Churches 141
  6.2 Dragon-Satan-Devil and his predicted ouster from Heaven 147
6.3 Another John, another world-view: Devil and anti-Christs in the Epistles of John the Presbyter 159
6.4 Excursus: Jesus as the good Lucifer in Revelation and 2 Peter 164

7 Putting the New Testament together: a composite portrait of Satan in canonical order 168
7.1 Gospels and Acts 168
7.2 The Pauline Epistles 169
7.3 The other Epistles and Revelation 171

Part III Satan and Adam 175
8 Satan’s original sin: felling Adam 175
8.1 The early post-Biblical explanation: Satan fell because of Adam, Adam fell because of Satan 175
8.2 Satan’s jealousy in the Life of Adam and Eve 182
8.3 The history of Iblis in the Koran 184

Part IV The rise of the fallen Lucifer 191
9 Lucifer and the New Biography of Satan 191
9.1 Satan as the rebel Lucifer, well before Adam: the hijacking of Isaiah 14 by Origen of Alexandria 191
9.2 The slanderous New Biography of Satan: re-reading the Bible with Lucifer as God’s enemy 199
9.3 Satan and his Angels as Pagan Gods: renouncing the Devil and his pomps 208

10 Satan and the Human Race 215
10.1 Mankind enslaved by Satan – and redeemed (purchased back!) by Christ 215
10.2 Satan and the Saints: straight man, fall guy, persistent meddler, bungling loser 218
10.3 Satan’s last assignment: Superintendent of Hell and punisher – right now! – of damned souls 229
11 Theorizing Satan 242
  11.1 Satan as a Pure Spirit: the synthesis of Thomas Aquinas 242
  11.2 Satan and the Magical Malefactors: Sorcery Diabolized 249
12 Satan in literature and art 265
  12.1 Literary and dramatic presentations of Satan: Dante, Milton, et ceteri 265
  12.2 Satan in the visual arts: scary and suave 277

Part V Satan in the modern world
13 Temptation and possession 299
  13.1 Satan as ever-present invisible Tempter: “The Devil made me do it!” 299
  13.2 Pathetic marvels: the phenomena of Diabolical possession 303
14 Doubts and affirmations 308
  14.1 Satan contextualized and demythified: the Reformed Reformer Friedrich Schleiermacher takes a hard look at the Bible 308
  14.2 The many lives of Satan today 315

Summary and conclusion 323

Index of passages 329
General index 336
Illustrations

Frontispiece: The Fall of Satan as Lucifer. Detail (inverted) of Illustration 7, “The Fall of the Angels,” by the Limbourg Brothers, from the Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry

1 Nuremberg Bible (Biblia Sacra Germanica 1483): “The Angel of the Lord opposes Balaam and his jenny” (in Hebrew: “as a satan”). page 278

2a “Satan smiting Job with sore boils” (1825), from Illustrations to “The Book of Job” by William Blake. 279

2b “Satan smiting Job with sore boils” (ca. 1826), William Blake. 280

3 “The Angel of the Lord against Balaam,” from The Holy Bible (1866), illustrated by Gustave Doré. 281

4 “Satan’s third temptation of Jesus [Matthew 4.8–9],” from The Holy Bible (1866), illustrated by Gustave Doré. 282

5 “Apocalypse” [1498], Albrecht Dürer. 283

6 “Abaddon, King of the Locusts” [Rev. 9.11], identified as Satan, from Apocalypse of Saint-Sever (ca. 1050) 284

7 “The Fall of the Angels,” Limbourg Brothers, Les Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry (ca. 1415), fo. 64v. 286

8 “The Devil in Hell,” Limbourg Brothers, Les Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry (ca. 1415), fo. 108r. 288

9 “The Fall of Eve and Adam, with Satan as womanized Serpent,” Limbourg Brothers, Les Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry (ca. 1415), fo. 25v. 289
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Illustration</th>
<th>Artist</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 “Michael fights the Dragon (Rev. 12.7),”</td>
<td>Limbourg Brothers</td>
<td><em>Les Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry</em> (ca. 1415), fo. 195r.</td>
<td>290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 “The Last Judgment, with Hell-Mouth,”</td>
<td>Limbourg Brothers</td>
<td><em>Les Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry</em> (ca. 1415), fo. 34r.</td>
<td>291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 “The Gates of Hell,”</td>
<td>Jean Colombe</td>
<td><em>Les Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry</em> (ca. 1485), fo. 103v.</td>
<td>292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 “Purgatory,”</td>
<td>Jean Colombe</td>
<td><em>Les Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry</em> (ca. 1485), fo. 113v.</td>
<td>293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 “The Grateful Dead,”</td>
<td>Jean Colombe</td>
<td><em>Les Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry</em> (ca. 1485), fo. 90v.</td>
<td>294</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Abbreviations

AB    Anchor Bible series of commentaries and monographs
ANF   Ante-Nicene Fathers, 10 vols. [New York: Scribners, 1908–13; repr. Grand Rapids MI: Eerdmans, 1971–86]. Most of these texts are online; for an overview and partial texts, see http://www.searchgodsword.org/his/ad/ecf/ant. For complete texts, search for other sites
D.H.   Deuteronomistic Historian. See chap. 1.1
KJV   The King James Version of the Bible [1611]
LCL   Loeb Classical Library (Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press)
LVB   Latin Vulgate Bible, translated by St. Jerome (d. 420) and others
LXX   The Septuagint (translation of the Hebrew Bible into Greek by the Jews of Alexandria and elsewhere, mainly between...
the third and first century BC, includes the Book
of Wisdom [Wisdom of Solomon], dated between
50 BC and AD 50). For an English translation,
see The Septuagint with Apocrypha: Greek and
English, ed. Lancelot C. L. Brenton (London
1851, repr. Peabody MA: Hendrickson, 1986,
2003)

NJB  The New Jerusalem Bible [New York:
Doubleday, 1985]

PNP F 1, NPNF 2  A Select Library of Nicene and Post-Nicene
Fathers of the Christian Church, series 1,
Grand Rapids MI: Eerdmans, 1983], series 2,
14 vols. [New York: Christian Literature,
1890–1900; repr. Grand Rapids MI: Eerdmans,
1986–89). For an overview and first parts of
texts, see http://www.searchgodsword.org/his/
ad/ecf/nic and http://www.searchgodsword.org/
his/ad/ecf/pos. Search other online sites for
complete texts of works of individual authors

NRSV  New Revised Standard Version of the Bible in
English

NTA  New Testament Apocrypha, ed. Wilhelm
Schneemelcher, tr. R. McL. Wilson, 2 vols.
[Cambridge: James Clarke, 1991]

OAB  The New Oxford Annotated Bible with the
Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books: An
Ecumenical Study Bible, 3rd edn. [New York:
Oxford University Press, 2001]: uses the NRSV

OTP 1, OTP 2  The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha, ed. James
H. Charlesworth [New York: Doubleday,
1983–85], vols. 1 and 2

PG  Patrologia Graeca, ed. J. P. Migne
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS xiii

PL Patrologia Latina, ed. J. P. Migne

PL John Milton, Paradise Lost [1667]

Q Qumran: site of the Dead Sea Scrolls. See chap. 2.3

Q Hypothetical common source for the Gospels of Matthew and Mark. See chap. 4.1