

# Intersections: Christianity & Today

Stan Schmidt

## The Third Angel

1. The majority of the Christians I have asked, cannot answer this question:

There are three angels that are mentioned by name in the Bible. The first two are Michael (Daniel 10:13) and Gabriel (Daniel 8:16, 9:21; Luke 1:19, 26). What is the name of the third angel?

2. “I believe in angels, and I believe that some of these, by the abuse of their free will, have become enemies to God. . . . Satan, the leader or dictator of devils, is the opposite, not of God, but of Michael.”

C.S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters*, p. vii

3. Jesus said, “Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language.”

—John 8:43–44a NIV

4. “Conversion to a belief in God generally requires some kind of actual encounter—a personal experience—with the living God. Conversion to a belief in Satan is no different.”

—M. Scott Peck, *People of the Lie*, p. 184

5. Professor Jeffrey Burton Russell of the University of California, Santa Barbara, has written a five-volume work on the Devil. In the modern world, the Devil has become almost a joke. The civilizations of the modern world that have no sense of the evil one are headed straight to Hell.

6. Satan’s rebellion against God existed before the human species.

7. Pascal wrote, “Probably no one ever ventured to mourn at not having three eyes.”

Stan translation: *The evidence of our fall from our created perfection is found in our mourning of our present state.*

A mighty Fortress is our God, A trusty Shield and Weapon;  
He helps us free from every need That hath us now o’er-taken.  
The old evil Foe Now means deadly woe;  
Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in fight;  
On earth is not his equal.

Bonus on next page:  
How Satan Has Developed Over the Years

## *A Little History of Satan's Development*

8. “Every ancient religion that we know of, as well as many modern religions with hundreds of millions of followers, perceives a bewildering array of such spirits: gods, demigods, angels, devils, demons, sprites, imps, goblins, ghosts, fairies, funs, nymphs, jinns, poltergeists. Some of them are benevolent, some are malignant, though most of them alternate between the two extremes. . . . None of these ancient religions ever developed a single Devil concentrating all the essence of evil, any more than they ever concentrated the essence of good in a single God.”

—Robert Wernick, “Who the Devil Is the Devil?” Smithsonian magazine

9. “I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things.” Isaiah 45:7 KJV

“I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the Lord, do all these things.” Isaiah 45:7 NIV

“I make the light, I create the darkness; author alike of well being and woe, I, the Lord, do all these things.” Isaiah 45:7 Revised English Bible

Isaiah was an early book. Would you find this thought in the later writings of Scripture?

10. The books of Samuel are much older than the books of Chronicles.

2 Sam 24:1, 2: Again the anger of the [Lord](#) burned against Israel and he incited David against them, saying “Go and count Israel and Judah.” So the king said to Joab and the army commanders with him, “Go throughout the tribes of Israel from Dan to Beersheba. . . .”

1 Chron 21:1, 2: “[Satan](#) rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel. So David said to Joab and the commanders of the troops, “Go and count the Israelites from Beersheba to Dan.”

11. Raphael painted this picture of the defeat of the Devil.

For the first seven hundred years after Christ, the Devil does not appear in Christian art!

In the 800s, in *Utrecht Psalter*, the first recognizable Devil appears as a man holding a pitchfork.

In the 900s, the Devil was in art everywhere in the Western world: in books, on painted ceilings and walls, on carved doors and waterspouts—monstrous figures with boar’s tusks, lizard’s skin, as a potbellied old man with snakes growing out of his head.

Your question: Why did it take so long?

12. Speaking of taking so long, why did it take until December 8, 1854 for the Catholic church to officially proclaim that Mary had not been born like an ordinary person—and thus could no longer be thought of as an ordinary human? Or why did the Catholic church take until November 1, 1950 to officially declare that Mary never died?



1505

Bonus on next page: SEX TALK

# Sex Talk

M. Scott Peck writes in *People of the Lie* (pp. 11–12):

“Many readers are likely to be concerned about my use of masculine pronouns in relation to God. . . . Certainly I consider God androgynous. He is as gentle and tender and nurturing and maternal as any woman could ever be. Nonetheless . . . I subjectively experience His reality as more masculine than feminine. While He nurtures us, He also desires to penetrate us, and while we more often than not flee from His love like a reluctant virgin, He chases after us with a vigor in the hunt that we most typically associate with males. As C.S. Lewis put it, in relation to God we are all female. (*That Hideous Strength*, p. 316) . . .

“I shall, however, break with tradition and use the neuter for Satan.”

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