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Introduction

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs (Heb 1:3, 4).

One Greater Than Satan, like *God's Unfolding Story of Salvation*, is a Bible study based on *A Tale of Two Kingdoms*. Its title emphasizes the truth that King Jesus reigns over all, including Satan.

The Bible describes Satan's character and activity many times. However, it only records his conversation three times: in the Garden of Eden, in heaven concerning Job, and in the temptation of Jesus. From a human perspective, believers have a problem difficult to understand. How exactly does Satan try to thwart God's plan of salvation? The Bible contains examples of people whom Satan used to promote his evil intentions. It also explains how Satan tries to trip up believers. The resulting conflict boils down to a battle of the wills: God's, Satan's, and ours.

Thus we need to keep the following Scriptures in mind as we progress through these lessons:

When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death (Jas 1:13-15).

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever (1 John 2:15-17).

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath (Eph 2:1-3).

These verses help to explain two kinds of people: those who trust in God for salvation through Jesus alone and those who do not. Whether a believer or a nonbeliever, we all struggle to assert our wills at times. When our will conflicts with God's will, we are responsible for our sinful actions, not God. When true believers insist on their own way, they fall into Satan's traps, damage their witness for the Lord, and grieve the Holy Spirit. Meanwhile

nonbelievers become unwitting accomplices of Satan. No matter what happens, the Lord Jesus remains sovereign over Satan.