

The Grinch that Tried to Steal Christmas

There are many miraculous things that occurred the night that Jesus was born: the Star in the East, the appearance of the angels, and the incarnation of Christ Himself. However, one of the greatest miracles was that Christ was even born. Since the very first prophecy of Christ's coming, Satan was working to stop His birth. Revelation 12:1-5 illustrates Satan's work of seeking to destroy the Christ child.

To understand how Satan tried to prevent the birth of Jesus we must understand his limitations. He is not omniscient, omnipresent, or omnipotent. He only knows what has been revealed by God. Keep in mind that he understands God's revelation very well, but he is limited in knowledge. Therefore, he had to wait for each revelation and prophecy as it was given and seek to use this knowledge to stop the birth. The very first prophecy given in Genesis 3:15 not only predicted the coming of a Messiah but also predicted him conquering Satan. This was his driving motivation to stop His coming. By keeping the Messiah from coming, he saved himself.

Prophecy: **Genesis 3:15 – The Messiah would be of the seed of woman**

Grinch Attempt #1

Genesis 4:1-8 – Cain & Abel

- Satan tempted Cain to murder Abel (4:7)

God's Response

Genesis 4:25 – Birth of Seth, a replacement for Abel

- Noah, and consequently all of mankind are descended from Seth

Grinch Attempt #2

Genesis 6:1-7 – The corruption of the human seed through demonic influence

- This was an unredeemable creation – not of pure human seed
- God has already judged and condemned these demons – **2 Peter 2:3-6 & Jude 6-7**

God's Response

Genesis 6:8 – God preserved the pure seed (Noah) and destroyed the impure seed

- Genesis 6:9 says that Noah was perfect (pure) in all his generations – he was 100% human

Prophecy: **Genesis 12:1-3 – The Messiah would be of the seed of Abraham**

Grinch Attempt #3

Genesis 12:10-16 – Famine in the land

- Abram appeared to be weak in faith going to Egypt – this put him in jeopardy
- He lost his wife and the hope of his blessing to Pharaoh for a time

God's Response

Genesis 12:17-20 – God struck Pharaoh with plagues until Sarai was released

Prophecy: **Genesis 28:1-4 – The Messiah would be of the seed of Jacob**

Grinch Attempt #4

Genesis 27:41; 33:1-4 – Jacob's meeting with Esau

- The last time they met, Esau desired to kill Jacob – he had to flee

God's Response

Genesis 33:4 - God worked in Esau's heart to soften it before their meeting

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Grinch Attempt #5

Genesis 42:1-5 – A worldwide famine threatened the lives of Jacob and his sons

God's Response

Genesis 41:53-57; 50:20 – The Lord had placed Joseph in a position with the ability to save his family

- Even though Satan intended evil, the Lord used it for good

Grinch Attempt #6

Exodus 1:15-22 – Pharaoh attempted to kill all the Israelite males

- The Egyptians worshipped false gods and were tied in with demons – **Exodus 7:22**
- Moses was saved in the little ark and was able to eventually deliver Israel

God's Response

Exodus 2:1-10 – God preserves the life of Moses so that he can lead the Israelites to freedom

- A clear prophesy had already been given about their bondage and freedom – **Gen. 15:13-16**

Prophesy: 2 Samuel 7:13 – The Messiah would be of the seed of David

Grinch Attempt #7

2 Kings 11:1 - The attempted annihilation of the David line

- Athaliah was the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel – very evil and wanted to introduce Baal worship
 - Obviously demonically influenced
- She murdered all of her grandsons so that she could reign

God's Response

2 Kings 11:2-16 – Joash was revealed and anointed as King. Athaliah was killed

Grinch Attempt #8

Esther 3:1-11 - The attempted annihilation of the Jews

- Hamaan hated Mordecai – convinced King to slaughter all Jews – gallows for Mordecai

God's Response

Esther 2:16-20, 7:1-10 – Esther becomes queen and later convinces the King to spare Jews

- Hamaan goes to Esther to plead for life – falls on her bed – King finds him – Hamaan killed

The Birth of Christ

Galatians 4:4-5 - "But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."

Obviously Satan didn't give up once Christ was born. He coerced Herod into trying to kill Jesus and worked throughout His entire life to seek to thwart His mission (temptation, betrayal of Judas Iscariot, crucifixion, etc...). However, at every point, God defeated Satan and repeatedly used his own efforts against him. Satan's proudest moment at the crucifixion turned out to be the defeating blow three days later when Christ rose from the dead and secured salvation for all who would put their faith in Him.

What does this teach you about God's ability to protect you and the ministry He has given you? (Romans 8:31-39)