



UNDERSTANDING
SATAN'S BATTLE PLAN
AND BIBLICAL STRATEGIES
FOR FIGHTING BACK

Unmasking Satan

Richard Mayhue

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Grand Rapids, MI 49501

*Unmasking Satan: Understanding Satan's Battle Plan
and Biblical Strategies for Fighting Back*

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F O R E W O R D

In recent years, so many books have been published about Satan and demons that I have questioned whether we need any more.

But I'm glad that at least one more has been written, the book you now hold in your hand.

Why? Because *Unmasking Satan* is a practical study that shows you how to recognize the enemy, understand his strategy, and defeat him. Dr. Mayhue is not content merely to pass along orthodox biblical theology. He shows you how to turn *learning* into *living* so that God's truth indeed becomes your shield and buckler in your warfare against the hosts of hell (Psalm 91:4).

A word of warning: if you *read* this book but fail to *apply* its practical counsel, then Satan will have won the victory. Remember, we get the blessing not just by hearing the Word, but by doing it. The enemy doesn't care how much we learn so long as we don't put it into practice.

"Satan deals in subtleties," said the late Vance Havner. "Our Lord deals in simplicities." Dr. Mayhue has explained, illustrated, and applied these profound "simplicities" in such

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a practical way that even the youngest believer can understand and practice them.

I pray that God will use this "manual of arms" to bring many of His people out of retreat and defeat and into victory.

Warren W. Wiersbe

I N T R O D U C T I O N

Wilsonian theology says, "The devil made me do it!" Comedian Flip Wilson was on the right track, because Satan is eager to influence our lives with his tricks. If Flip had only added, "But God will hold *me* personally accountable for my sin," he would have been totally on target (2 Cor. 5:10).

Having studied the schemes of Satan for many years, my point in writing is to warn you that Satan continues on his malignant rampage. Space-age Christians rank as leading candidates to become choice morsels in the mouth of the "roaring lion" (1 Peter 5:8).

Beloved radio commentator Paul Harvey pictured Satan's attack in his piece, "If I Were the Devil . . ."

If I were the prince of darkness, I would want to engulf the whole earth in darkness.

I'd have a third of its real estate and four-fifths of its population, but I would not be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree. So I should set about whatever necessary to take over the United States.

I would begin with a campaign of whisper. With the

wisdom of a serpent, I would whisper, "The Bible is a myth." I would convince them that "man created God," instead of the other way around. I'd whisper that "what is bad is good and what is good is square."

In the ears of the young married I would whisper that work is debasing, that cocktail parties are good for you . . .

And to the old I would teach to pray, to say after me, "Our father which art in Washington . . ."

Then I'd get organized. I'd educate authors in how to make lurid literature exciting so that anything else would appear dull, uninteresting. I'd threaten TV with dirtier movies and vice versa. I'd peddle narcotics to whom I could. I'd sell alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction. I'd tranquilize the rest with pills.

If I were the Devil I would encourage schools to refine young intellects, but neglect to discipline emotions, let those run wild.

I'd designate an atheist to front for me before the Highest Courts and I'd get preachers to say, "She's right." . . .

With flattery and promises of power I would get the courts to vote against God in favor of pornography.

Thus I would evict God from the courthouse, from the school house, then from the House of Congress. Then in His own churches I'd substitute psychology for religion and deify science. That way men would become smart enough to control everything.

If I were Satan I'd make the symbol of Easter an egg . . . and the symbol of Christmas a bottle . . .

If I were the Devil I'd take from those who have and give to those who wanted until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious. Then my police state would force everybody back to work.

Then I could separate families, putting children into

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unicamps.

If I were Satan, I'd just keep on doing what I am doing and the whole world would go to Hell as sure as the Devil.'

Satan's chief objective in your life is to allow your profession of faith while preventing its daily practice. He spies out your life regularly to determine advantageous attack points.

Over 300 years ago Puritan preacher Thomas Brooks wrote to his flock about Satan. His timeless "call to arms" is classic.

Beloved in our dearest Lord,

Christ, the Scripture, your own hearts, and Satan's devices, are the four prime things that should be first and most studied and searched. If any cast off the study of these, they cannot be safe here, nor happy hereafter. It is my work as a Christian, but much more as I am a Watchman, to do my best to discover the fullness of Christ, the emptiness of the creature, and the snares of the great deceiver; which I have endeavoured to do in the following discourse, according to that measure of grace which I have received from the Lord.²

Heeding Brooks' warning, our thoughts concentrate primarily on Satan's devices (Eph. 6:11). For only by knowing his battle plan can we be armed with a sure knowledge of Satan's attempts on our lives.

In *The Screwtape Letters*, C.S. Lewis makes a memorable statement that draws the boundaries for our study.

There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them.³

“Unmasking Satan is a practical study that shows you how to recognize the enemy, understand his strategy, and defeat him.”

—Warren Wiersbe from the Foreword

As C. S. Lewis observed a generation ago in *The Screwtape Letters*, humans tend toward one of two extremes regarding Satan. They either deny his existence completely or they fear his power excessively. Neither extreme is biblical. Satan is real and his power is real, but he is not God's equal. He is God's enemy and ours.

Unmasking Satan exposes the many tricks of the temptation trade that Satan employs to snare the unwary believer. For each of the devilish tactics our enemy can deploy, there is a correspondingly powerful biblical counterattack that we can launch. But believers can only achieve spiritual victory when we are aware that a spiritual war is being fought and we are prepared to stand against the enemy. *Unmasking Satan* provides us with a practical—and successful—battle plan.

DR. RICHARD MAYHUE (Th.D., Grace Theological Seminary) is Senior Vice President and Dean of The Master's Seminary, Sun Valley, California, where he also teaches theology and pastoral ministry. In more than twenty-five years of ministry Dr. Mayhue has served as a pastor, trained pastors, and written, edited, or contributed to more than fifteen books.

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