

# Angels, DEMONS

# & the Devil



The Forum Terrace Church of Christ

Wednesday Evening Adult Bible Class – Spring 2024

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# Are Angels for Real?

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## Modern Angel Mania

During the 1970's and 1980's Hollywood and novels were obsessed with the idea of demons. This was followed by a period that extended through the nineties where angels became the greater focus. It is believed by some that Sophy Burnham's *A Book of Angels* opened the floodgates in 1990. Soon angels had their own national magazine called *Angel Times*. Angel merchandise became a hot item in many stores across the nation, including: calendars, postcards, T-shirts. In Denver a store opened called *Angels for all Seasons*. Hollywood produced such movies as: *Angels in the Outfield*, *City of Angels*, *Touched by an Angel* and Michael Landon's *Highway to Heaven*. Angel monitoring attracted more enthusiasts than those on the outlook for UFO's or extraterrestrials. Angel seminars were held and focus groups met. National magazines such as, Time, Newsweek, Ladies Home Journal and Red book devoted special issues to the subject. Patty Duke hosted a two-hour prime-time special in 1994 entitled *Angels: The Mysterious Messengers*. Even now you can go to new and used book stores and find entire sections dedicated to the study of angels.

Why has the world gone angel crazy? How is it that so many have become obsessed with angels to the extent of overlooking the God who not only created angels but every human being? Perhaps, the best explanation comes from an article in Time: "for those who choke too easily on God and his rules...angels are the handy compromise, all fluff and meringue, kind, nonjudgmental." (Gibbs, *Angels Among Us*). Christianity Today Magazine proposes that "angels too easily provide a temptation for those who want to 'fix' of spirituality without bothering with God himself" (Jones, *Rumors of Angels*, p. 20). To some the idea of angels are more compassionate, more tolerant, and less confrontational and judgmental than dealing with an Almighty God. Perhaps, modern man has lost confidence in mainstream religions to meet their needs in a ever growing materialistic and secular environment. They give some a sense of security, purpose or direction in their troubled and meaningless lives. It may be easier for some to believe in angels as special guardians watching over them than it is to believe in an all-knowing, all-powerful, all-seeing God watching over them.

If angels are so comforting and helpful why wait for them to come to you? Why not find ways to contact them? Various techniques are being developed and employed to contact these supernatural aids. These include Eastern meditation, visualization, breath control, tuning into angel frequencies, channeling, and divination. (Ask Your Angels, p. 3,110,124,125,157). Some have resorted to praying directly to angels. However, Jesus taught His disciples to pray, "in this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name" (Matt. 6:9). Others argue that we pray not to angels, but through them so they might expedite our prayers to the throne of God. Yet, Christ, God's Son, is the only mediator between God and man (1 Tim. 2:5).

If none of the above methods work in attracting the attention of angels perhaps the problem is in your wardrobe not your prayers. It has been suggested that certain angels are attracted to certain colors. Or you could use floral scents like rose and jasmine. Others encourage us to buy New Age crystals to intrigue angelic beings. If all else fails maybe a good old fashion letter will do the trick, simply begin by writing "Dear angel..." You do not even have to worry about postage just write it, burn it and the angels will be looking for your smoke signals. A variation of this is to use channeling in order to dictate your letter directing to your guardian angel. The Bible is totally silent concerning any of these methods of contacting angels. In all the Word of God there is not one time where instructions have been given on how to contact angels.

No matter what our view of contacting angels, many people believe they have been touched by an

angel. Angels they say have manifested their presence with nudgings, intuitions, coincidences, happy emotions, tingling of the skin, especially the back of the neck. In less subtle ways they may appear as a light, cloud, rainbow or even an animal. Likened to Biblical times some believe certain people who have influenced their lives are really angels. Moreover, a whisper, a uncertain sound or voice, an idea that just pops into the mind, we are told are manifestations of angels. Angels are said to be very creative in their methods of contacting us, such as, a heading in the newspaper or a message imbedded into the lyrics of a song.

Angels are believed to always leave you calm and peaceful and have a positive effect upon the one they visit. However, the effect an angel's visit had on Zechariah, father of John the Baptist left him mute. Often when angels were sent their message was one of excitement commanded men and women to "get up!" and "get going". We see this in their visits to Lot and his family in Sodom, Peter when in prison, Elijah depressed under the broom tree, Joseph and Mary when they were to flee from Herod the Great into Egypt and to Gideon. Furthermore, angels have appeared to many in the Bible and cause them anything but comfort and peace. When Daniel saw an angel he was left without strength (Dan. 10:8). Zechariah was seized with terror when an angel appeared to him while he was in the Temple (Lk. 1:12). Roman guards quaked with horror and became as dead men when angels appeared at the tomb of Christ (Matt. 28:2-4).

Even more interesting than how angels contact us is why they are contacting us. According to the modern angel mania, these beings provide us with a numerous assistance. They have been described as "Brain Program Editors" to improve that way your thing. Angels helps us reach our goals by acting like consultants. They heals us when modern medicine cannot. They cheer us on with little voices. They guide and give modern man the answers to life. It is even argued that angels can help you create your own religion. "Angels do not care what name you give to God, or what gender you assign to God; the basic common denominator they respond to is simply that God is love" (Taylor, Guardians of Hope, p. xix).

### **Definition of "Angel"**

According to Kittle the Hebrew word *malak* means "messenger". The word can be applied to any one man (1 Kings 19:2) or supernatural being (Gen. 28:12) that is dispatched as a deputy or a messenger. Specifically, it has been applied to the prophet Haggai (1:13) to the priest (Mal. 2:7), and to John the Baptist who who was to prepare the way of the Lord (Mal. 3:1). In order to know whether the term meant a mere man or a divine being the context must be considered.

In the same manner the Greek word "angelos" also meaning "messenger" can refer to mortals or immortals. "It occurs 179 times in the New Testament, as angel and 6 times as messenger referring to men" (Strong's Hebrew Lexicon). For example in Luke 9:52 Jesus sent "messengers" ahead of Him. In a more generic sense of the term it is applied to men, even of Christ who came as a Messenger of God to mankind (1 Cor. 10:4,9; 11:3). Some believe that the angels of the seven churches of Asia refer to leaders in each congregation (Rev. 2,3). Again, each context must be considered to determine the mean of the term "angelos".

### **Reality of Angels**

During New Testament times some did not believe in the reality of angels. The Sadducees doubted the existence of angels (Acts 23:8). They viewed angels simply as symbolical gestures of God's accomplishments. Modern liberal theology has discarded the belief in angels. Mary Baker Eddy explained that angels were simply "pure thoughts" or "exalted thoughts". Some believe that due to the cessation of their mediating work, angels are no longer essential.

Unlike leprechauns, elves, or others among fairies, angels belong to the realm of reality, not to fantasy and fiction. They are abundant in the Biblical narrative and cannot be explained away so easily. The Bible does not offer argumentation as to the existence of angels, but merely states their actuality as a fact. From the beginning of the Bible in Genesis to the end of the Book of Revelation and everywhere in between angels abound. They are mentioned either directly or indirectly nearly 300 times in the

Bible. "Thirty four books of the Bible make reference to angels (seventeen in the Old Testament; seventeen in the New Testament" (Paul Enns, *The Moody Handbook of Theology*. p.288). Only a few books make no reference to them: Ruth, Nehemiah, Esther, the epistles of John, and James. Try removing angels from the Bible and you will be left with a lot of unexplained events throughout Scripture and the book of Revelation would be reduced to shreds.

Christ, the Son of God, believed in angels. Was He mistaken? Did He teach error to appease the populous?

Our belief in angels is the result of revelation from the Bible. Not the mythologies of men. Not the over active imagination of a few or even man's attempt to explain the unexplainable. We do not believe in angels because of someone's close encounter with a supernatural being. Yet, as John Calvin said, "We should not indulge in speculations concerning the angels, but search out the witness of Scripture." (90 p. 58).

## Angels in World Religions

The background of nearly all nations and civilizations exposes at least some belief in angelic beings. A poll in 1993 by Time showed that 69% of adults in America believed in the existence of angelic beings. Of these 32% believed they had experienced angelic influence or visitation at least once in their lives. A more recent Gallop poll disclosed that 76% of modern teens believe in angels.

- **Judaism**

Judaism is not the same as the Old or New Testament Jews. However, the Sadducees of the New Testament times did not believe in angels. Some modern Jewish sects hold Michael to be the guardian angel over Israel. Judgment is the role of Gabriel. The power of healing is the domain of Raphael. Uriel is the angel who lights the way. Raphael and Uriel are found nowhere in the Bible.

- **Hinduism**

*Devas* are the ones in Hinduism which most resemble angels. They are the shining ones. They are beautiful and elegant. Slain warriors are said to be escorted to the afterlife by angels known as *Apsara*. There is a possibility that the *Asuras* who are evil can become *devas* after reincarnation.

- **Buddhism**

Buddhists also believe in angel-like beings known as *devas*. They find great joy in the goodness seen among mankind and are supposed to torment those who do wrong.

- **Islam**

Angels are a very important part of Islam. Belief in them is one of the six elements of the Muslim faith. Allah created them from light. Unlike the jinn and man they do not have a free will to choose to commit sin. Most Muslims do not believe in fallen angels. They are servants of Allah who worship him continually with song and are always ready to do his bidding.

Allah created several types of angels. First, there are the four archangels. Gabriel is the most prominent of the four. He is the archangel of revelation and is the one who dictated the Qur'an word for word to Muhammad. Another angel whose name is also found in the Bible, is Michael or Mika'il. He is the archangel of the Jews. The archangel of the resurrection is called Isra'il. When Allah decides that the time is right, Isra'il will blow the trumpet summoning the dead from their graves so they can be gathered at judgment. Finally, the angel of death is known as Izra'il or Azrail. He has the duty of ending the lives of men.

Additionally, two angels of interrogation, called Munkar and Nakir, will visit each corpse as it enters the grave. They will ask three questions: "Who is your Lord? What is your faith? Who is your messenger?" If one answers correctly ('Allah,' 'Islam,' and 'Mohammed,' respectively) these angels will depart the body and allow it to rest."

- **Mormonism**

According to the teachings of the Latter Day Saints or Mormons angels have been resurrected men. Moroni is the angel who gave the golden tablets of the book of Mormon to Joseph Smith; he was once the son of the Prophet Mormon. His gold statue adorns the top of Mormon temples. Their list of archangels include: Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Barachiel, Jeremiel, Uriel, Selaphiel, Jehudiel, and Satan is a fallen angel.

- **Catholicism**

Catholic church as a well developed doctrine concerning angels. The hierarchy of angels is well developed in great detail. An archangel named Lucifer is believed to have rebelled with one third of the fallen angels.

**Questions:**

1. Why do you think some are more focused on angels than God?
2. How do some try to contact angels?
3. Why can we not pray to God through angels?
4. Some believe they have been influenced by angels, why to they think this?
5. How did people react in the Bible when visited by angels?
6. What do people think angels do for them today?
7. What is the basic meaning of the Hebrew and Greek terms for "angel"?
8. What argument does the Bible make for the existence of angels?
9. Why should a Christian believe in angels?
10. According to Judaism who were Raphael and Uriel?
11. Who are the devas?



12. Who is Izra'il according to Islam?
13. What do the angels Munkar and Nakir do according to Islam?
14. In the Mormon religion what is the origin of angels?
15. What is special about Catholic angelology?

**Application & Discussion:**

1. Instead of looking for guidance and comfort from angels, where should we seek these?
2. Explain while unbiblical views and teachings about angels can be a serious issue.

**Homework:** Ask a friend what they think about angels this week to start a Bible discussion.

# Origin & Organization of Angels

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Does God need angels? God is both all-knowing, all-powerful and omnipresent. God is fully capable of accomplishing His ends without the assistance of a single angel. God is always in total control with or without His angels. They are His angelic host. The only two whose names we know emphasize this relationship. The “el” ending in Michael and Gabriel means “God”. Whenever angels are sent to do God’s bidding we are to glorify God who sent them not the angels themselves. Like us, angels need God, God does not need them.

## Where Did Angels Come From?

Unlike God angels are not eternal they are created beings (Col. 1:16-17; Psa. 148:2,5; Neh. 9:6). *“Let them praise the name of the Lord, FOR HE COMMANDED AND THEY WERE CREATED”* (Ps.148:1,2,5). A time existed in the universe when no angels existed only the Trinity. Christ created the angels (Col. 1:16,17). All things were made by Christ (Jn. 1:1-3) without Him none would exist (Col. 1:16).

According to human tradition it has been commonly believed that angels were formerly humans. In the Time poll, 15% of Americans believe angels are the spirits of departed human beings. The fact that angels are created beings should be sufficient to show that people do not become angels when they die. 1 Cor. 13:1 draws a distinction between the “tongues” (languages) of human beings and angels. Both are created beings; both are finite and limited; both are dependant upon God for their continued existence and well-being; both are responsible and accountable to God. However, they are not the same.

Just when were the angels created? The term “*sons of God*” is used in Job in reference to angels (Job 1:6; 2:1). These angelic spirit beings sang as a massive choir when God created the earth. When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? (Job 38:7). The angels were present when Adam and Eve were created. Therefore, their creation was sometime before the creation of the world and man.

Since they do not die Angels were created permanent beings (Dan. 12; Rev. 12). Perhaps, they were all created simultaneously. Further, God has given them no ability to reproduce, and they neither marry nor are given in marriage (Mk. 12:25).

## Organization of Angels

Our God is a God of order (Col. 1:16; 2:10; 1 Pet. 3:22; Eph. 1:20-21). God has set up an authority structure within the church, family, and He has ordained governments among men. God has also organized the ranks in the angelic realm Although we do not know with great certainty the exact order certain angels rank within the hierarchy, we do know that God has created one.

- **The Archangel, Michael**

Only Michael is said to be the Archangel. The prefix “arch” suggests a chief, principal or great angel. The term archangel occurs just twice in the New Testament and in both instances it is used in the singular and is preceded by the definite article “the” (1 Th. 4:16; Jude 9). When Paul states that the voice of the archangel will sound at the coming of the Lord he does not mention who it is, indicating that most of his readers would know that it is Michael. On the other hand, Jewish tradition has always held that there are seven archangels.

Some have confused Michael with Christ. Yet, the archangel is never called kurios, that is, Lord. Jesus is clearly the sovereign Lord of the universe. In Dan. 10:13 Michael is called “*one of the chief princes.*” Jesus is never called “chief prince” in the Bible. Michael is never referred to as the Son of God.

Jesus is the only Son of God, not just one of them. The Greek word used to describe Jesus in John 3:16 is monogenes - which means "unique," "one of a kind".

The Hebrew name "Michael" means "Who is like God". He is called a chief prince (Dan. 10:13) and "the great prince" (Dan. 12:1), and the other angels seem to be led by him in battle against the forces of Satan (Rev. 12:7). He fought with devil of Moses body (Jude 9). He has never lost a fight. Michael, though an archangel, would not damn Satan, after all this judgment belongs only to God (Dan 12:1). He does protect God's people and in the end will summon all God's people both dead and living to meet with the Lord in the air at the end of the world (1 Th. 4:16).

- **Cherubims**

The word "cherub" occurs twenty-one times in the Old Testament. The plural "cherubims" occurs fifty-six times in the Old and once in the New Testament. The term literally means "to guard". They are guardians of the holiness of God.

According to the Will of God cherubims were to be used in Old Testament art. They were a formed out of and at each end of the Mercy seat (Ex. 25:18-20). God is therefore often referred to as the One who "dwells between the cherubim" (1 Sam. 4:4; 2 Sam. 6:2; Ps. 80:1; 99:1). They were pictured on the ten curtains in the tabernacle (Exod.26:1), on the bases of bronze lavers (1 Ki. 7:28,36), on the veil of the tabernacle (Ex 26:31), on the curtains of th tabernacle (Ex. 26:1), on the veil of the temple (2 Ch. 3:14), and on the walls of the Temple (2 Ch. 3:7; 1 Kings 6:29). In the inner sanctuary there were two very large cherubim made of olive wood overlaid with gold, which were approximately 15 ft. in height, with a wingspan of 30 feet (1 Ki. 6:23,-28; 2 Chr. 3:10-13). Cherubims were carved on the doors to the inner sanctuary in Solomon's temple (1 Kings 6:35). Israel was not to give undue attention to the cherubim themselves, but were to realize that these were all symbols of the abiding presence of Yahweh.

Just what function did cherubims serve. They guarded the way to the tree of life in the garden of Eden (Gen.3:24). God is said to ride on cherubim (2 Sam. 22:11) As the chariot on which God descends to the earth (Ps. 18:10). They are to guard and accompany God.

Their appearance is described in Ezekiel. Each had the face of a man, an ox, a lion and an eagle an each had four wings and they had hands. Ezekiel 1 speaks of four living creatures in the midst of a burning fire. Later on, they are explicitly identified as cherubim (Ezk. 10;1). Ezekiel 10 pictures the cherubim being "full of eyes" encompassed by "wheels within wheels". The sound of their wings was as the voice of God (Ezek. 1:24; 10-15). They are portrayed as being indescribably beautiful and powerful spirit-beings of the highest order (Ezek. 1:5-14; 28:12-14,17).

- **Seraphim**

It is assumed that cherubim and seraphims are different orders of angels or possibly other creations of God. The term "seraphims" lit. "burning one" (Ibid., Enns, p.290).

Seraphim are described in the throne scene in Isaiah 6:1-7. They are stationed above God's throne. Their were more than one. Each had six wings. Two wings covered their faces may express that even the holy angels cannot look upon the full, unveiled glory of God. The two wings covering their feet typifies their reverence for God. They use the final set of wings to swiftly carrying out commands they receive from God on the throne. During this they are proclaiming God's holiness. One of them takes a coal from the fire to purge Isaiah from his sin.

- **Sons of God**

The phrase "sons of God" can be used in one way in regard to angels and quite another way when used of the person of Jesus Christ. Every angel that exists was a direct creation of God. "Sons of the prophets" meant "of the order of prophets" (1 Ki. 20:35). Likewise, the phrase "Son of God," used of Christ, means "of the order of God" and represents a claim to undiminished deity. "Son of..." indicates likeness or sameness of nature and equality of being. Jesus is represented as already being the Son of God before His human birth in Bethlehem. As the Son of God, was sent into the world implies that He was the Son before the incarnation (Jn. 3:16,17). Hebrews 1:2 speaks of Christ's eternal sonship.

- **Hosts**

Angels are referred to as God's "host" (Ps. 103:20-21; 148:2; 2 Chr. 18:18). The term "host" has a distinctive military ring to it. God is often called the "Lord of hosts" in the Bible.

- **Ministering Spirits**

Collectively angels are referred to as ministering spirits (Ps. 104:4; Heb. 1:14). The angels are specifically appointed by God to carry out tasks on behalf of believers. This amounts to the strong aiding the weak, the enlightened aiding the ignorant, the pure aiding the impure, the unfallen aiding the fallen.

- **Holy Ones**

Angels are the “holy ones” brought the Law of God’s chosen people (Ac. 7:53; Gal. 3:19; Heb. 2:2). Holy means “set apart”. Set apart from sin and set apart unto God’s service. God used His “holy ones” as a means of helping His people become holy, too.

- **Watchers**

In Daniel 4:13 angels are called “watchers”. The cherubim being “full of eyes” (Ezk. 1:18; Rev. 4:6,8). God’s reconnaissance agents and representing God’s all-seeing power.

- **Elemental Angels**

Oddly enough there appears to be angels over certain elements, such as, “*the angel of water*” (Rev. 16:5), and the angel “*who has power over fire*” (Rev. 14:18), and the “*angel of the bottomless pit*”.

- **Fallen Angels**

Angels fell because they had sinned against God (2 Pet 2:4; Jude 1:6). Jude 6 affirms that originally all the angels were holy creatures. Originally they were created good and holy. When God created anything is was good (Gen. 1:31; 2:3).

The fallen angels are at war with God. The fierceness of the battles among mortals in the would pale to compare to the one going on in the spiritual realm. There appears to be ranks among fallen angels (Eph. 6:12) and varying degrees of depravity (Mt. 12:45). Satan is their master, he is “*the prince of demons*” (Mt. 12:24). Whether or not angels are demons one thing is for sure Satan is in charge of the “*spiritual forces of evil*” (Eph. 6:12). Is Satan a Fallen Angel? Since Satan was not created evil. God created all things. Satan was not created evil.

### Questions:

1. Does God need angels? Explain.
2. T F Angels are eternal beings like God they have always existed.
3. T F Faithful men and women become angels when they die.
4. T F Angels were created before the creation of the world and man.
5. Give a Bible passage that indicates angels were created by God.
6. Do angels marry and reproduce? Explain.
7. Is Michael the only archangel? Explain.
8. What roles did Michael play in the Bible?

9. Where were the cherubims depicted in the Tabernacle or Temple? Is this form of graven images? Explain.
10. What does seraphim mean?
11. How are seraphim described by Isaiah?
12. Why are angels called "*sons of God*"?
13. What are angels referred to as "*hosts*", "*ministering spirits*", "*holy ones*" and "*watchers*"?
14. Give an example of an elemental angel?
15. Who were the fallen angels?

**Application & Discussion:**

1. What are the implications being the idea of "fallen angels"?
2. Is Satan and fallen angel? Explain.

**Homework:** Praise God for his orderly creation including the spiritual beings.

# Authority & Attributes of Angels

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## Authority of Angels

- **Inferior to Christ**

Hebrews 1:1-14 speaks to the inferiority of angels when compared to the Son. Verse 6 reveals that when Jesus Christ came into the world, the angels were commanded to worship Him. In verses 7-8 the writer makes a comparison of their roles. *“And of the angels He says: ‘Who makes His angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire.’ But to the Son He says: ‘Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.’”* The angels were the ministers of God’s work (vs 7), but Christ is the heir of the throne (vs 8). Angels are a higher order than humans, Angels are not to be classed as Deity. For awhile, the Lord of all creation took a human birth. For a little while, Christ was *“a little lower than the angels”* as a human, but now Jesus is *“crowned with glory and honor”* (cf. Hebrews 2:7).

- **Subject to Christ**

Angels exist as eternal servants to God. *“Bless the Lord, you His angels, who excel in strength, who do His word, heeding the voice of His word”* (Ps. 103:20). They are subject to Jesus. *“Jesus Christ who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him”* (1 Pet 3:22). Creation is “for” Christ in the sense that He is the end for which all things exist. They are meant to serve His will, to contribute to His glory (Col. 1:16). Hebrews 1:5 tells us that no angel can ever be called God’s Son. Since Jesus is the Son of God, and since no angel can ever be called God’s son, then Jesus cannot possibly be the archangel Michael. Hebrews 1:6 tells us that Christ is worshiped by the angels. Christ is worshiped with the same kind of worship shown to the Father. Jesus is not an angel. He is worshiped by the angels. Paul commands the women to keep their heads covered in church because of the angels (1 Cor.11:10). The woman was made in subjection to the man and angels were made in subjection to Christ.

- **Angels are Not...**

Paul warned the Galatians *“But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed”* (Gal. 1:8). Furthermore, they are not even permitted to preach. Rather, God has commanded the church to preach. Only man can speak salvation’s experience to man. God has however assigned angels to assist those who preach. Angels have been sent to a preacher to tell him where to go preach and to the lost soul an angel was sent to tell him to send for a preacher. No angel can be an evangelist. No angel can pastor a church.

We do not pray to angels or through angels because Christ is the only mediator (1 Tim. 2:5). Jesus knows what it is like to live as a man. No Angel is equal to God. So only Christ can represent God to man to man to God.

Apparently there was a heresy flourishing in Colossae that involved the worship of angels. *“Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has [a]not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind”* (Col. 2:18). Paul connected the idea of the worshiping angels with “will worship” which is worship devised by the will of man - not according to the will of God. The worship of angels disqualify a man from the prize. We can respect angels, appreciate their work, admire their dedication to God, but never, ever are we to worship them. Twice while overcome with the revelation John tried to worship an angel twice (Rev. 19:10; 22:8-9). The angel refused to be worshiped, *“Then he said to me, ‘See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.’”* The angel gave several good reasons why you cannot worship angels. First, angels are our fellow-servants. Next, they are brethren to the prophets, fellow messengers of God. They must obey God’s Will just as we

must. Finally, they are to worship God! God Himself explicitly commands that only He is to be worshiped (Ex. 20:5,6).

## Angel Attributes

### ► Appearance of Angels

Angels are Incorporeal, that is, they are “lacking material form or substance.” Therefore they are normally not visible to the human eye. Incorporeal and invisible does not mean unreal. We cannot see the atom or electricity flowing through copper wiring, yet believe in their power and existence. The prophet Elisha had to ask the Lord to “open” the eyes of his servant; to see a multitude of angelic beings (2 Ki. 6;17). Recall that when an angel sopped Balaam, it was at first only the donkey that saw him standing with a drawn sword in the hand (Num. 22:23,31). If we were able to see the angels working for God among us with our physical eyes we would have a tendency to be distracted by them and even worship them.

When they are permitted to take on the appears of a man their resemblance to men can be so realistic, they are mistaken for human beings (Heb. 13:2). On the other hand, sometimes when appearing in human form they are instantly recognized as angels. Something about their appearance was unusual enough that they were quickly distinguished from ordinary people. Like, Jacob’s instant recognition of angels in Genesis 32:1,2. The angel who moved the stone from the entrance to Jesus’ tomb had an “*appearance...like lightning*” and “*raiment white as snow*” (Mt. 28;3). At the ascension John mentions “two men in shining garments,” while Luke refers “*two men in white apparel*” (Ac. 1:10). Ostensibly, angels have a beauty and nature that transcends anything known to men.

Awesomeness of angels is said to cause great fear and terror to overwhelm those to whom they appear. This is exactly how the shepherds reacted (Luke 2:9). Cornelius was afraid when an angel spoke to him (Acts 10:1-4). The Roman guards at the tomb of Jesus feel down as dead men when they saw the angels (Mt. 28:1-4). When Gabriel appeared to Mary it troubled her with mental turmoil (Luke 1:29). Zacharias was stricken with panic and terror at the sight of an angel (Luke 1:12).

Angels always appeared as men (Mt. 1:20; Luke 1:26; John 20:12). Not only are they male the terms used to described them always use the masculine pronoun. W.E. Vine writes concerning the Greek term used, “angels are always spoken of in the masculine gender, the feminine form of the word does not occur.” Many artist’s renderings of angels either show angels to be women or portrait them with such feminine features than it is have to tell with gender they are representing. Although we may call our girl friends, wives and little girls as angels, such term of endearment may reflect our emotions, but in no way are they reflecting what the Bible teaches about angels. God’s messengers like God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are always and only male.

In Acts 7 Stephen is said to have had the face of an angel. Just what does the face of an angel look like. Perhaps, Stephens appearance had not changed, instead this phrase was a explanation of his attitude or intention. It is said of Jesus that “*he steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem...*” His face spelled out his intentions. As we might say “his intentions were written all over his face.”

The resurrected saints are said to be in the likeness of angels (Mt. 22:30; Mk. 12:25). Those who rise from dead at second coming will be like angels (1 Cor 15:52). All these means is that we will be changed for a human form to a heavenly or spiritual form.

Do angels have wings or halos? The seraphim described in Is. 6:1-5 have wings. The cherubim Ezekiel saw in his vision have wings (Ezk. 1:6). The four creatures surrounding the throne of God are said to have wings (Rev. 4:8). Angels are said to fly to some this might imply wings. The wings in these various visions may be symbols of their swiftness to execute God’s wishes. No explicit reference can be found in the Bible suggesting that angels have wings. Nor is there any definite references in Bible that says they wear halos around their heads or appear in female form with a Roman toga.

### ► Number of Angels

Sundry calculations as to the number of angels have been given throughout the ages. Saint Albert the Great came up with the figure of 399,920,004 angels. Kabbalists of medieval Judaism came up with several million less at 301,655,722 angels. Clement of Alexandria said there were as many angels as there are stars in the stellar heavens (Job 38:7; Ps. 148:1-3; Rev. 9:1-2; 12:3,4, 7-9). Charles Ryrie wrote

“some have suggested that there are as many angels in the universe as the total number of all human beings throughout history.” (7 p88).

The Bible is clear about one thing angels are innumerable. They are referred to as “the innumerable company of angels” (Heb. 12:22) and “a great company of the heavenly host” (Lk. 2:13). The highest numerical figure used in the Greek language was “ten thousand”. Revelation tells us there were “Ten thousand times ten thousand” which if taken literally would work out to 100,000,000 (Rev. 5:11,12; Dan. 7;10). Job simply asks “*Can his forces be numbered?*” (25:3).

No one but God knows how many angels there are. However, the number of angels remains constant. After all, angels do not marry or procreate (Mt. 22:30). Nor is it like Brad Pitt in the movie “Meet Joe Black” where an angel falls in love with a human.

▶ **Power of Angels**

They are the “*mighty angels of God*”. From the Greek word for “mighty” we get the English word “dynamite” (2 Th. 1:7). There are “*angels that excel in strength*” (Ps. 103:20). It took only one angel to shut the lions mouths for Daniel. Only one angel was need to move the stone. Even though it was a wheel of granite that guarded the tomb - about eight feet in diameter and one foot thick - would weigh over four tones 8,000 pounds. Apparently, angels possess the power to perform miracles. When an angel rescued Peter from prison the chains simply fell off of him and the gates opened automatically (Acts 12:7). Imagine an angel more powerful than Satan. The Bible says that one angel will bind Satan and cast him into a bottomless pit (Revelation 20:1-3). God’s host of angels are said to war against Satan and his angels (Rev. 12:7f). Some angels are more powerful than others (Dan. 10:13). No matter how powerful God’s angels may be they are not omnipotent. Only God is omnipotent.

▶ **Knowledge of Angels**

Angels have great knowledge. They inherently command a superior knowledge than man. They evidently come by this knowledge without having to study the past, after all they have experienced it. They are said to possess great wisdom (2 Sam. 14:20) and discernment (2 Sam. 14:17,20). However, according to Jesus they do not know the Day of final Judgment (Mt. 24:36).

▶ **Emotions of Angels**

Angels are by no means emotionless creatures. They are called the “*joyful assembly*”, (Heb. 12:22). They are said to have “*shouted for joy*” (Job 38:7). According to Jesus every time someone repents there is “rejoicing in heaven” among the angelic host (Lk. 15:7,10).

▶ **Angels Are Holy**

The angels are simply referred to as God’s “*holy ones*” (Job 5:1; 15:15; Ps. 89:7; Dan. 4:13,17,23; 8:13; Jde. 14). The term “holy” means “set apart”. They messengers are set apart by God to do His service and to serve mankind.

▶ **Angels Are Immortal**

Angels are not subject to death (Lk. 20:36). The angle Gabriel appear to the prophet Daniel (Dan. 9). Then, more than 500 years later, this same unaged Gabriel appeared to Zechariah (Lk. 1). It appears that the number of angels is and always will be the same. Since they do not die nor do they procreate. Nothing in Scripture says that angels must eat to stay alive. Manna is said to be the bread of angels (Ps. 78:25). Elijah indeed ate angels’ food twice and went in the strength of that for forty days and forty nights (1 Ki. 19:5). Angels know nothing of the constraints that are part and parcel of having a physical body.

▶ **Names of Angels**

“My name...it is secret” said the angel to the would be parents of Samson (Jud. 13:17,18). Of all the millions of millions of angels we know the names of only two angels: Michael and Garbriel. In the Apocrypha Raphael, Uriel, and Jeremiel are also mentioned. Many mistaken Lucifer to be the name of the fallen angel, Satan. However, Isaiah never said Lucifer was a fallen angel. He was speaking of the king of Babylon, not Satan. The name Gabriel in Hebrew means “God’s hero” or “the mighty one” or “God is great”. He appears four times in the Bible each time bearing good news (Dan. 8:16; 9:21; Lk. 1:9,26). He appeared to the prophet Daniel (Dan. 8:16; 9:21). revealing the future by interpreting a vision from Daniel 8:17. Gabriel apparently has the ability to fly swiftly - perhaps faster than most of the other angels (Dan. 9:21). He gave understanding and wisdom to Daniel (9:22). Later, he brought the message to Zechariah about the birth of John the Baptist. Next he was sent to announce the birth of Christ Informing



the Virgin Mary. He is said to stand in the very presence of God (Lk. 1:19). Michael is called “prince” over Israel in Dan. 10:21 and “archangel” (10:13). He is said to have disputed with Satan over the body of Moses (Jude 9). He led the righteous angels in battle against Satan (Rev. 12:7-9).

▶ **Angels Are Localized**

Scripture clearly portrays them as having to move from one place to another. An example of this would be when the angel Gabriel engaged in “swift flight” to travel from heaven to Daniel’s side (9:21-23). Then, in Dan. 10:109-14, we read about a different angel who was delayed on his errand by another spirit being. “Here is time limitation corresponds with spatial limitation. If a time lapse is involved in their changing locations, this means they are localized.” (14 p74)

▶ **Residence of Angels**

Just where do the holy angels live? In heaven of course (Dan. 9:21; 2 Chr. 18:18; Dan. 7:10; Is. 6:1-6; John 1:51; Heb. 12:22; Rev. 5:11).

## Summary

Angels have appeared to man many times, but never were they to appear offering anyone salvation. The host of heaven are innumerable, yet not one of them or all of them can remove a single sin from a man’s soul. Indeed, they have great power but only the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation. Angels have great knowledge, but they cannot tell you How you can escape if you neglect so great a salvation or tell you when Christ will return. Any discussion of angels that considers them as a terminus in themselves is therefore not rational

### Questions:

1. Why is Jesus superior to angels?
2. Why did angels worship Christ?
3. Give an example in the Bible where the Gospel plan of salvation was preached by angels to men?
4. Why is it wrong to worship angels?
5. Does that fact we cannot see angels today prove they no long exist? Explain.
6. When angels showed themselves in physical form how did they appear or what did they look like?
7. How did men and women react to the appearance of angels? Why?

8. T F Some angels are men and some are women.
9. What does it mean that men and women will be like angels in the resurrection?
10. Do angels have wings or halos? Explain.
11. How many angels are there?
12. Give Biblical demonstrations of the power of angels from the Bible?
13. What does it mean that angels are immortal?
14. What two angels are named in the Bible? What do their names mean?
15. Just where do the holy angels live?

**Application & Discussion:**

1. Explain the limitations of the angel's power, knowledge and location? What does this prove about angels?
2. Why do you think God created all angels as male? Is it wrong to call ones wife or daughter or granddaughter an angel? Explain.

**Homework:** Joyfully contemplate the time when we will be like the angels and with them before the throne of God in Heaven.

# Actions of Angels in Bible Times

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## Actions of Angels in the Old Testament

### ■ Guarding

The first mention of angels comes after the sin of Adam and Eve in the garden. By way of punishment God *"drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life"*. (Genesis 3:24). This was done for the good of mankind, for to live forever in sin would have been a far grater curse.

### ■ Executing Judgment

When God sent judgment against the wicked He would often send an angel to execute it. The angels sent to Sodom warned Lot, *"For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the Lord, and the Lord has sent us to destroy it"* (Genesis 19:13). When Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites free from bondage God would execute the plagues by sending angels among them (Psalm 78:49). An angel almost destroyed Jerusalem because David sinned in numbering the people (1 Chronicles 21:16). David pleaded for mercy and the angel told him to set up an altar on the threshing floor of the Ornan the Jebusite. God then accepted David's sacrifice there and said to the destroying angel. *"It is enough: stay now thine hand"* (2 Samuel 24:16). Later, as the Assyrian army surrounded the city of Jerusalem. King Hezekiah had received a letter from the commander of the Assyrian forces and immediately sought God's counsel. God gave Isaiah the answer, saying that not one Assyrian arrow would be fired into the city. That night an angel was sent into the Assyrian camp and destroyed over 180,000 enemy soldiers (2 Kings 19:35; Is. 37:36). In Daniel 5 an angel appeared in the form of the fingers of a man's hand as the fingers wrote on the wall God's message to King Belshazzar, *"Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin"*. You have been weighed in the balances and been found wanting. Your kingdom is finished." Not only were the days of King Belshazzar's kingdom numbered, but also, God was finished with him and his life would be required of him that very night.

### ■ Interpreting Dreams

An angel interpreted Gideon's dream of the Median victory. During the period of the Judges God allowed the Midianites and the Amalekites to invade Israel. Gideon was selected to be the deliverer of God's people. He heard a man telling of a dream. *"I have just had a dream: To my surprise, a loaf of barley bread tumbled into the camp of Midian; it came to a tent and struck it so that it fell and overturned, and the tent collapsed."* Then his companion answered and said, *"This is nothing else but the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel; for into his hand God has delivered Midian and the whole camp."* And so it was, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, that he worshiped. He returned to the camp of Israel, and said, *"Arise, for the Lord has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand"* (Jd. 7:13-15). This angel had been sent to interpret the dream of victory.

### ■ Prophecy

Daniel informs us how the angel Gabriel was sent to him for the purpose of prophesying of Israel's future. *"Now while I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God for the holy mountain of my God, yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering. And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand" (Dan.9:20-22).* An angel gladdened the hearts of Manoah and his wife by the promise of Samson's birth. *"And the Angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, "Indeed now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son. Now therefore, please be careful not to drink wine or similar drink, and not to*

*eat anything unclean. For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines” (Jud. 13:3-5; cf. 9:21).*

- **Delivering**

While Jacob was en route home that *“the angels of God met him. When Jacob saw them, he said, ‘This is God’s camp.’ And he called the name of that place Mahanaim”* (Gen. 32:2). Mahanaim means “two camps”. But why did he see these angels what purpose did it serve. Having formerly cheated his brother Esau, he now feared him, not knowing whether he would be welcomed or killed, So Jacob prayed, admitting he was not worthy of the least of God’s mercies, He asked to be delivered from the hand of his brother Esau.

- **Worshiping**

In the throne scene witnessed by Isaiah he observed angels worshiping God (cf. Isaiah 6:3).

- **Revealing the Law**

Angels had a part in the giving of the law. Stephen so understood God’s process of giving the law (Ac. 7:38,53). According to Deuteronomy 33:2, ten thousand angels came down on Mt. Sinai when God gave the law to Moses.

- **Blessing**

The Angel of the Covenant that wrestled with Jacob at Peniel blessed him (Gen. 32:1).

- **Performing Miracles**

Angels were sent with the ability to perform miracles. When Daniel was thrown into the lion’s den he perceived the angel’s protection (Dan 6:22). An angel encouraged the faith of Gideon by touching a meal of meat and unleavened bread which were consumed with fire (Jdg 6:21,22).

- **Protecting**

One of the most beautiful promises in the Psalms states, *“No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways. They shall bear you up in their hands, Lest you dash your foot against a stone”* (Ps. 91:11). The history of Israel is replete with examples of angels sent forth to protect God’s servants. When Abraham sent his oldest servant to bring back a wife for Isaac he was confident that God’s angel would prosper his journey (Gen. 24:7,40). As Jacob traveled from home one night near Bethel he saw a ladder where the angels of God were ascending and descending (Gen. 28:11). The king of Syria sent his army to surround Elisha the prophet in Dothan. The next morning Elisha’s servant sized up their situation and was afraid *“And Elisha prayed, and said, ‘Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.’ Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha”* (2 Ki. 6:17). An angel protected Shadrach, Meshack, Abednego in the fiery furnace (Dan 3:20;25). Whether traveling, threatened or torched God’s angels could provide protection.

Providing

*“The people asked, and He brought quail, And satisfied them with the bread of heaven”* (Ps. 105:40). God made sure that the Israelites were able to be supplied food for the wilderness journey. This bread of heaven was also referred to as angels’ food, that is, manna (Ps 78:25). When Abraham placed Isaac upon the altar God sent an angel to stop the human sacrifice and provide a ram (Gen. 22:11-15). Abraham’s son by the handmaid Hagar was also saved by an angel. Hagar and Ishmael were about to die of thirst but an angel was sent to open her eyes to discover a well of water for their preservation (Gen. 21:17). Twice an angel was sent to make breakfast for the prophet Elijah (1 Ki. 19:1-8).

- **Guiding**

Two angels were sent by God to guide Lot and his family to safety (Gen. 19:16,17). God promised Moses in the thick of all his vexation in leading a mob of slaves through the wilderness that *“Mine Angel shall go before thee”* (Ex. 23:23). The presence of angels became part of “the Exodus experience” (Is. 63:9).

- **Warning of Danger**

Once the patriarch Abraham beheld that *“three men stood in front of him”* (Gen. 18:2). These were sent out to warn of the destruction of Sodom and the cities of the plain. Later two appeared to warn Lot of the impending doom (Gen. 19). Balaam’s donkey was stopped by an angel standing in the way. This

served to warn him to turn from his greedy ways (Num. 22:20-35). God often used angels as a means to warn both the righteous and the wicked of impending danger.

## Ministry of Angels to the Christ

From before Christ's birth until after His ascension to Heaven, the life of God's Son was visited by angels. An angel predicted the birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:11-20). Later an angel predicted the birth of Christ to Mary (Luke 1:26-33). She was very surprised at this announcement since she was a virgin. In a dream an angel appeared to Joseph to announce the pregnancy of the girl to whom he was betrothed (Mt. 1:20,21). The angel commanded "*you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins*". After His birth angels came to shepherds and announced the good tidings. "*Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people*". Then the angel gave them a clue on how to locate this babe (Luke 2:8- 11). When King Herod found out about the birth of a king among the Jews he set out to eliminate that threat. He has all the baby boys age two and under killed in Bethlehem. In a dream an angel appears to Joseph saying, "*Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him*" (Mt. 2:13-18). Joseph takes his new bride and child and flees to Egypt. Following Herod's death, an angel appeared to Joseph again in a dream tell him, "*Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead*" (Mt. 2:20).

From Christ's early childhood until He is 30 years of age we know very little about the life of the Savior of the world. As far as we know no angels appeared during this period. The next time angels are appear on the pages of the New Testament after Christ begins His ministry. After Jesus came to be immersed in the Jordan by John the Baptist he is led by the Holy Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. For 40 days he wander the deserted land alone being tempted to sin. Finally, Jesus said to Satan, "*Away with you, Satan! For it is written, `You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve*". After he left Jesus alone, angels came and ministered to Jesus. The Greek word for "ministered" is diaknoeo says it well, for they served Him as a deacon would serve the needs of their fellow man (Mt. 4:10,11). Although angels do not make appearances during the ministry of Jesus, He does make mention of them throughout His ministry (Mt. 13:29-49; 16:27; 18:10; 22:30; 24:31,36; 25:31,41).

Most of the angelic activity takes place at the end of Christ's life. While He wrestled in prayer in anticipation of his coming crucifixion He prayed, "*Father, if it is Your will, remove this cup from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done. Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. And His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground*" (Luke 22:42-44). The Greek word for strengthening is *eniskuo*, which means to make strong inwardly "to invigorate," "cause to be strong". Jesus had taken Peter, James and John with Him to the Garden. They could have provided Him with reinforcement and encouragement, but instead they fell asleep. Shortly thereafter, soldiers came with Judas to arrest Him. Peter drew a sword and cut off the ear of one of the servants of the High Priest. "*Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? "*" (Matt. 26:53). A Roman legion had 6,000 soldiers. Twelve legions of angels would thus amount to 72,000 angels. Richard Glover called this "The Unused prerogative". Jesus was willing instead to go through with His Father's Will. After His crucifixion His body was placed in a new tomb sealed with a rock and guarded by Roman soldiers. An angel came to moved the stone (Mt. 28:2-4). Women came to the tomb early that Sunday morning wondering who was going to move the stone. Suddenly they see an angel who tells them, "*Why seek ye the living among the dead?*" (Luke 24:4). "*Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay*" (Matt. 28:5,6). Finally, angels appeared to the disciples as Christ ascended into Heaven "*Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven*" (Acts 1:11). The day these angels were referring to is the Second Coming of Christ (1 Th. 4:13-18). Since the ascension of our Lord the host of heaven have been praising Him: "*Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom,*

*and strength and honor and glory and blessing!"* (Rev. 5:12).

## Ministry of Angels to the Gospel

After the ascension of Christ into heaven the apostles went to Jerusalem and waited. The Holy Spirit came with power upon them on the day of Pentecost. The church was established and they continued to preach the Gospel. However, preaching that the Jews had crucified the very Son of God landed them in jail. *"But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life."* (Acts 5:19, 20). No phone calls, no waiting for bail, no trial; you just walk out as the door opens, and go free.

Although angels could not preach the Gospel directly to men. They came time and time again to the aid of those men who did preach the Gospel. *"Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, 'Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza'"* (Acts 8:26). As a result Philip found an Ethiopian who was traveling home from worshiping in Jerusalem. He was reading from the prophet Isaiah and was in need of some one to explain it to him. Philip began at that same passage and told him about Jesus. On down the road they came to some water and Philip baptized the Ethiopian into Christ.

Again, an angel figures in spreading the Gospel message. This time to Gentiles. An angel ordered Cornelius to send for Peter, who would then tell him the story of the gospel so he could be saved. Certainly it not have been much easier for the angel to have preached the Gospel to Cornelius? After all, Peter was not a willing preacher. However, it was God's plan that the Gospel be preached by a man, Peter to the first Gentile converts (Acts 10).

Once more the Peter's preaching landed him in prison. James the apostle had already been killed. Herod was waiting until after the Passover to kill Peter. Meanwhile the church was gathered at the house of Mary the mother of Mark praying for Peter. It is sometimes God's sovereign choice to use angels in answering people's prayers. *"Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, "Arise quickly!" And his chains fell off his hands. Then the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and tie on your sandals"; and so he did. And he said to him, "Put on your garment and follow me." So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him"* (Acts 12:7-10). Who knows, perhaps God has assigned an angel to answer the prayers you have made this very day?

The same Herod Agrippa who killed James and imprisoned Peter was now about to receive justice by means of an angel. He was giving a speech at a party held in his honor by the people of Tyre and Sidon, dressed in his royal apparel. When he finished the people shouted, *"it is the voice of a god, and not of a man'.* Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. *And he was eaten by worms and died"* (Acts 12:22,23). It is interesting to note what follows in the next verse, *"But the word of God grew and multiplied"*.

According to the book of Acts the final appearance of an angel during the spread of the Gospel during the first century took place while Paul was on a ship bound for Rome to appear before Caesar. Paul on his way to Rome faced shipwreck with more than two hundred others on board. The ship was in grave danger and an angel was sent with good news for Paul. *"Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar"* (Ac. 27:24). Although the ship was lost lives and souls were saved. Angels played an indirect role in the furtherance of the Gospel.

Angels were important in the spread of the Gospel in the first century. They rescued preachers from prison and certain death. They destroyed the enemies of the Gospel. They sent preachers to the lost and had the lost send for preachers. They gave encouraging words to preachers in peril. Although they never were permitted to preach the Gospel itself they were not just errand boys doing God's bidding. Angels were interested in spiritual things. Peter tells us that they long to search out the truths of salvation. *"To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which*

*now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven-- things which angels desire to look into" (1 Peter 1:12). If angels who are not the recipients of the Good News are interested in how God was saving lost mankind. What about you?*

**Questions:**

1. What did the cherubim guard in the Garden of Eden and why?
2. Give some examples of God sending His angels to execute His judgment in the Bible.
3. What did an angel do for Gideon?
4. What did an angel prophesy about Manoah and his wife?
5. What role did angels play in the giving of the Law of Moses?
6. What miracles did angels perform in the Old Testament?
7. Give examples from the Old Testament of angels providing protection?
8. What did angels do for Lot and his family?
9. What roles did angels play in the coming of Jesus and his childhood?

10. Name two times when angels came and ministered to Jesus? Why?
11. What role did angels play in the resurrection of Jesus?
12. What role did angels play in the spreading of the Gospel in the book of Acts?
13. Did angels know the details of the scheme of redemption before the coming of Christ? Explain.

**Application & Discussion:**

1. Are you as interested in God's plans as the angels are interested? Explain. Are you as obedient to serving God and your fellow man? Explain.
2. Why do you think God has restricted angels from preaching the Gospel directly to the lost?

**Homework:** Thank God for all his ministering angels of the past and present.



# Actions of Angels Today and in the Future

Our ability to sense reality is limited. A deer's keenness of smell far outdistances ours. We are unable to see the dimensions of a nuclear field or the structure of atoms. Although we know electricity flows through the copper wiring of our home we do not see it, but are witnesses to its power. How can bats fly by radar in a pitch dark room? This I cannot even imagine, yet I do believe it. Geese possess such sophisticated guidance systems that they can fly thousands of miles to land in the exact pond they intended to visit before their flight began.

If man fails to see these invisible benefits of nature why should we think it strange if men fail to perceive the evidence of angelic presence. Whether we see them or not God has created a vast host of angels to help accomplish His work in this world. The problem is we do not know how providence works. While I may not be able to specifically tell you how the angels of God serving the redeemed as a class have benefitted me as an individual God has said they are at work. Walking by faith, not by sight, I accept this truth.

## What are Angels Doing Today?

### ◆ **Worshipping God**

In Revelation 4 John is shown through a door the sight of the Heavenly throne. Glorious Praise and Worship to God. After the slain Lamb takes the scroll from God's hand the millions and millions of angels sing praise and worship God (Rev. 5:11-12).

### ◆ **Watching Over Us**

Paul wrote, *"For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men"* (1 Cor 4:9). Paul says we are a "spectacle" to them. A.S. Joppie points out that the word referred to the arenas where first-century crowds went to see animals killed for sport. The idea is that angels are watching over us as they shared the Gospel. As we run the Christian race we are being watched by *"So great a cloud of witnesses"* (Heb. 12:1). How would you live if you knew that you were being watched all the time, not only by your parents, wife, husband or children, but by the heavenly host? Such should vigorously impact the resolutions we construct. God is watching, and His angels are interested spectators too.

### ◆ **Giving Confidence**

When trapped by the Syrian army in Dothan Elisha comforted his servant by saying, "Don't be afraid, our army is bigger than theirs." We must understand that angelic presence are in control of the battlefield about us so that we may stand with complete confidence in the midst of the fight (2 Kings 6:17-18).

### ◆ **Rejoicing Over Saved**

Not only does God love you, but the angels love you too. They rejoice over the salvation of even penitent sinner (Luke 15:7-10). This chapter includes three parable about things that are lost, a lost coin, sheep, and son. All are of great value, but the lost of a soul is far more serious. Every time a man or woman is sinned from sin the host of heaven throw a party.

### ◆ **Ministering to Saints**

Angels are ministering spirits to the *"heirs of salvation"* (Heb. 1:14). The term "ministering" Gr. *leitourgika*, "does not convey the idea of slavery, but of official functioning. They have been duly commissioned and sent forth with the responsibility of aiding believers" (Ibid., Homer quoted by Enns, p.291). Just how or specifically angels are currently ministering we are not told. By faith we trust God to use them for the benefit of His saints.

◆ **Executing God's Judgments**

As in the Old Testament period angels are currently involved in executing the judgments of God. In Revelation 8 we are told of the seven trumpets which are sounded by the seven angels to carry out the judgments of God. God may be judging the various wicked men and women or nations and using His angels to carry out His will.

When Christ prophesied His coming in judgment against Jerusalem angels are said to be involved (Matt. 24:31).

◆ **Carrying to Paradise**

In the parable of the rich man and Lazarus when the poor man died he was *"carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom"* (Lk. 16:22). Apparently when the righteous die angels are sent by God to serve as Heavenly pallbearers. While the sting of death has been removed by the work of Christ on the cross (1 Cor. 15:55), and by His resurrection, yet the crossing of this valley still stimulates fear and mystery. It is an added comfort that angels will be there to help us in death.

◆ **Guardian Angels**

Norma Dimmer, star of the popular Lawrence Welk Show for 18 years, tells of when her son was very ill. "Suddenly I noticed a brightness behind me. I looked around. Standing near the bed was a lovely young blonde woman with a white blouse and a dark skirt. I was stunned! I was not sleeping-in fact, I was very wide awake. Transfixed, I watched her for what seemed like 30 seconds. She just stood there with a radiant smile on her face, looking down at Ron. Then she faded away. It was a glorious experience. I felt no fear-just awe. I have always believed that I was permitted to see Ron's guardian angel."

Many have testified of seeing angels on their death bed. The interesting thing is that males often see female angels, and females see male angels.

Belief in guardian angels is not a modern fad, but rather a very ancient belief. Plutarch wrote: "Alongside of each man there are two angels; one good and one bad." Epictetus said, "God assigns to every man a guardian angel." Many felt that the guardian was actually a look-alike of the one he was guarding. Angels were seen as doubles. If this theory is true, then it means everybody does have a twin. Scary thought! In his commentary on Acts, Hackett wrote, "It was a common belief among the Jews, says Lightfoot, that every individual has a guardian angel, and that this angel may assume a visible appearance resembling that of the person whose destiny is committed to him. This idea appears here not as a doctrine of the Scriptures, but as a popular opinion, which is neither affirmed nor denied" (Comm. On Acts, 200). McClintock and Strong shed some further details on this: "it was a favorite opinion of the Christian fathers that every individual is under care of a particular angel, who is assigned to him as guarding...The Jews (excepting the Sadducees) entertained this belief, as do the Moslems. The heathen held it in a modified form...There is, however, nothing to support this in the Bible" (Cyclopedia, Vol. 1, p. 228).

Many have appealed to Matthew 18:10 as a proof text for guardian angels. *"Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven."* This single passage has become the foundation for the idea that every little child has been assigned a guardian angel. The plural "angels" favors corporate rather than individual care. It would imply that each of "the little ones" does not to have his own angel, but angels. The idea that many angels watch after us seems to have some support in Scripture. For example,

*"And Elisha prayed, and said, "Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha" (2 Ki. 6:17)*

*"So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried" (Lk. 16:22)*

*"Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your habitation, No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways. They shall bear you up in their hands, Lest you dash your foot against a stone" (Ps. 91:9-12)*

Despite these scriptures there are several arguments offered to counter the idea of guardian

angels. After all the Word of God never uses the term “guardian” in connection with angels. However, there are many occasions in the Bible where they are doing just that, guarding people from danger. Others argue that angels are servants of God and not of man. However, Hebrew 1:14 asks, “*Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?*” Yet there are many questions brought up as to why guardian angels do not guard children from all harm. Where were the guardian angels of the five children who were drowned by their mother? Then again, where were the angels when Agrippa I killed James? Why save Peter and allow James to be killed?

Perhaps many are opposed to the concept of angels being active among mankind today because the false doctrines of angel mania has become so destructive to the truth. The “guardian angel” concept is conducive to the many errors of subjectivism. Our feelings become our guide, emotions rule, and we become less responsive to truth clearly taught in the Bible. Angels are even give the role of controlling our actions instead of just guarding us. This denies the free agency of man (Heb. 5:8,9).

The real issue that needs to be answered has to do with the current activity of angels. Are angels still active in the affairs of this world today? True, the visible activity of angels has come to an end, because their mediating work is done (Heb. 1:1,2). God’s Spirit speaks directly through the Word, not heavenly messengers. Since angels have served mankind throughout the Bible record, there is no reason to believe their service has ended.

## What Will Angels Be Doing in the Future?

### **Coming With Christ**

When Christ comes again angels will accompany Him to earth (Mt. 16:27; 25:31; 2 Th. 1:7-10). “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words” (1 Thess. 4:16-18). After the saints are safe in the air with the Lord “the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power” (2 Thess. 1:7-9).

### **Reaping the Harvest**

The Scriptures teach that the angels we come as reapers for the Judgment. In the Parable of the wheat and the tares (Mt. 13:24-49) the tares representing the wicked are gathered up to be burned while the wheat representing the good seed are gathered in the harvest. Again, in the parable of the Sheep and the Goats, God has empowered the angels to separate the sheep from the goats (Matt. 25:32-46). God’s angels will actually take hold of Christ-rejecting evildoers and “throw them into the fiery furnace.”

Jesus told His disciples, “*Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God*” (Luke 12:8,9). Such denial will result in those unconfessed not to be gathered into the harvest by the angels with the rest of the righteous.

### **Judged By Us**

There is a since in which angels will be judged by us. Paul is dealing with the problem at Corinth where one brother was going to court against another. “*Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?*” (1 Cor. 6:1-3). Just how is it that we will judge angels. In their purity they have escaped the effects of sin and are unable to comprehend what it means to be lost. They did not know what it really means to be delivered from the bondage of sin. God made provision for the salvation of fallen men, but He made no provision for the salvation of fallen angels. Angels are not heirs of God unto eternal salvation. Only Christians are joint heirs with Jesus Christ through redemption (Rom. 8:17). Jesus doesn’t give aid to angels (Heb 2:16), but He does give aid to you.

While I am sure that God is my ultimate protector, I am equally sure that God dispatches His holy angels to do much of the work here on earth. Still they watch the lot of man, and rejoice in his salvation, still they join in the praise and adoration of God, they are at work as “ministering spirits”, and they shall accompany Christ at His coming. We can know this because we walk by faith and not by sight. Faith that comes from hearing the Word of God about angels.

**Questions:**

1. What invisible things do you believe in and why?
2. T F The host of angels in Heaven have all retired.
3. Who are angels worshiping right now?
4. Why did Paul say we are a spectacle to angels?
5. Why should God's control of the hosts of Heaven give us encouragement?
6. What do angels do when the lost are saved?
7. Who transported Lazarus to paradise?
8. What is the man made definition of a guardian angel?
9. How old is the belief in guardian angels?
10. Upon what New Testament passage is the idea of guardian angels based?
11. What other passages teach that God has his angels watch over an guard men?

12. What role will angels play in the Second Coming?
  
13. How is it that we will judge angels?
  
14. Do we know of a plan of salvation for fallen angels? Explain.

**Application & Discussion:**

1. If you were to guess based on the scriptures, what sort of things is God having angels do today in the world you live in?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Do you believe in guardian angels? Explain.

**Homework:** Be comforted in knowing that at death you will be escorted by angels to paradise.

# Demons

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## Part One

### Are Demons Real?

The movie based on William Peter Blatty's novel *The Exorcist* has been re-released into the motion picture industry. It is joined by a myriad of other movies focusing on Demon possession. The number of best-seller books both in mainstream religions and the occult and the motion picture based on that book demonstrate the modern morbid curiosity in this demonology. Opinions stretch from outright denial of their existence to affirming that demons continue to possess men today. Our aim in this study is to investigate what the Bible teaches about demonology. God is the ultimate source of truth in the universe. He knows all about Demons. His book given to us has the answers we need.

### What are Demons?

The word translated "demon" comes from the Greek word *daimon*. This is a form of the word *daco* which means "divider, distributor." Etymologically it meant, "hairy-ones" or "he-goats". Demons are also called "*unclean spirits*" (Mt. 10:1; Mk. 6:7; 5:13) and "*evil spirits*" (Lk. 7:1). Josephus, a Jewish historian used the word to refer always to evil spirits. He said, "demons are no other than the spirits of the wicked, that enter into men and kill them, unless they can obtain some help against them" (Tobit 8:2,3).

Demons are not the same as the Devil. Since the Devil is the "*prince of demons*" (Mt. 12:24), it is clear that they are subordinate agents of Satan. The King James Translation has added to confusion concerning demonology as it translates both "devil" and "demons" as "devil". There are many demons but only one Devil. Like the devil, their origin is not revealed.

### Origin of Demons

Some view the occurrences of demon possession in the Bible to be simply mis-diagnosed mental or emotional disorders. Thus, they attempt to explain them in psychological and emotional disorders. The end result of this view is a passing them off as a figment of primitive superstition and ignorance of ancient societies.

Notice in the Bible that not all mental and emotional illnesses are attributed to demons. Such passages as Mt. 4:24 and 8:16 show clearly that there is a distinction between diseases resulting from demon possession and those resulting from natural causes. "*When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick*" (Matthew 8:16). Consider the demon-possessed man who was both blind and mute (Mt. 12:22-29). In the Bible, physical illness is one thing, demon-possession is something else.

Demons are characterized as having consciousness and abilities that are not comparable to human behavior or sickness. Demons are recorded as speaking; being afraid; recognizing Christ; and trembling (Lk. 4:33-37; 8:31, 4:41; Js. 2:19). The demons have intelligence, Lk. 4:34), emotions (Js. 1:19), and power (Mark 9:17). Attributes demonstrating a separate personality from that of the individual they possess.

Jesus, Himself, never denied the existence of demons. Nowhere did He confute the fact demons were real. Christ accepted the Jewish diagnosis as correct.

Contemporaries of Christ never cast doubt over the validity of demon possession. The very

enemies of Christ did not deny the existence of them. As a matter of fact, some opponents of John the Baptist accused him of being demon-possessed (Mt. 11:18), and a similar charge was leveled against Jesus (Jn. 7:20; 8:48-53; 10:20f). Any effort to deny the eyewitness testimony of Jesus, his apostles, and the multitudes which witnessed demonic activity is absolute folly.

The rejection of demon possession does great damage and harm to the New Testament text. If demons are not real personalities than how can *"many demons had entered him"* (Lk. 8:30) or *"the demons entreated Him (Christ) to permit them to enter the swine"*. At one point Jesus ask their name. "Legion" was the reply. In the time of Augustus a roman legion consisted of 6000 foot soldiers. They recognized their own distinct individuality independent of Jesus and independent of the person possessed (Mt. 8:31). They were cast by Christ into a distant herd of swine. The herd became frenzied when the demons were cast out of the demoniac of Gadara and allowed to enter into them (Mt. 8:30). The whole herd they hurled itself off a cliff.

Still others argue that they are nothing more then the spirits of the wicked dead. It is a belief that these spirits had somehow escaped Tartarus. Alexander Campbell mentioned this view (Popular Lectures and Addresses, pp. 379-402). This concept violates the contents of Jesus' parable of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31. It also implies impotence with God.

Others focus on the statement about the marrying of the sons of God with the daughters of men in Genesis 6:1-2 for an answer. They believe the passages is speaking about the intermarriage of angels and women of the pre-flood era. Their offspring resulted in the siring of evil spirits. Other Jews thought Adam also had children through Lileth, queen of the spirits. This is nothing more than Jewish mythology.

Could they be a special creation by God or even by the Devil? God is the creator, not the Devil. All the God made is only good. If He had made them they were originally good spirits and then choose to become evil spirits.

This leads us to the view that demons are fallen angels. These angels rejected God and broke rank with Him to serve the Devil. Satan is the prince of demons (Mt. 12:24,25). He also has angels (Mt. 25:41; Rev. 12:7-10). Demons, as wells as angels, are spirit-beings (Mk. 5:12,13; Heb. 1:13,14). Furthermore, there were *"angels that sinned"* (2 Pet. 2:4; Jd. 6). The Devil and his angels will eventually be cast into Hell (Mt. 25:41).

Another interesting fact about demons is that they knew Jesus as the Son of God as soon as they met Him, *"saying, 'Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are-- the Holy One of God!'"* (Mark 1:24). Surely a man afflicted with a mental disease could not have know such. Still another demon tried to worship Jesus. *"When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. And he cried out with a loud voice and said, 'What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me'"* (Mark 5:6,7). Others would entreat Christ (Lk. 8:31), obey Him, (Mt. 8:16) and even demonstrate the ability to comprehend prophecy and their inevitable doom (Mt. 8:29). Truly, truly Jesus believed in demons who also believed in Him albeit a dead faith (James 2:19).

## **The Nature of Demon Possession**

A demon entered into the body of its victim, seizing control of his faculties and thus inflicting him in a variety of ways, both mentally and physically. When demons possessed people they caused the symptoms of a variety of diseases and disabilities, madness (Mk. 5:4); epilepsy (Mk. 9:18); dumbness (Mt. 9:32); blindness (Mt. 12:22); antisocial behavior of nudity (Lk. 8:35); seizures (Mk. 1:26; 9:18, 20,26; Mt. 17:15); and performance of the involuntary function of spirit mediumship (Ac. 16:16-18; Mk. 1:24). The same diseases and disabilities are also recognized as having in other cases purely natural cases (Mt. 17:15; 4:24). Illnesses were healed by laying on of hands or anointing, demons were commanded to depart (Mt. 10:8; Mk. 6:13). They injured people mentally and physically. As a demon left he tore the one possessed (Mk. 1:26). The lunatic son was cured yet left *"as dead"* (Mk. 9:25-27). The statement of Mt. 12:43-45 infers demons cast out can not only return but also bring along others. Demons were quite indiscriminate. They possessed men, women, boys, girls, Jews and Gentiles.

Perhaps the most important effect demons had was the destruction of the free will of the

possessed. Several of the recorded cases indicate a complete personality and control of speech (Lk. 8:26:38; 4:33-41). Demon possession is not to be confused with simple temptation as is often done, such as, the "demon of greed" or a "demon of lust" etc. In these temptations there is certainly involved an activity of Satan. Neither is it related to sinfulness of victim. Demon possessed persons were regarded in the same manner as sick people in that they could be "healed" (Lk. 8:36). There is no record of any possessed person ever being chastised for wickedness or told to repent. No evidence exists of such a thing as "voluntary" possession or of anyone seeking possession. After healing those previously possessed often worshiped Jesus, in their right mind. The demon-plagued woman Mary Magdalene was cured and then have the esteemed privilege of being the first person to see the risen Lord. Demons hurt men physically, mentally, and emotionally but never morally.

## **The Purpose of Demon Possession**

Why did God allow demon's to take over and possess people? How does casting out demons fit in the Scheme of Redemption?

1) Demons were permitted by God in the contest between good and evil. From Job we know there are rules and limitations. In Christ's incarnation is it not only fair to allow special powers to the Devil in order that the triumph of the good over evil might even be the greater. Every physical manifestation of evil had its spiritual archetype. For every positive, there is a negative. Evil forces were in existence when miraculous forces from God were in operation.

2) Demons were used by Satan to hinder the work of Christ on earth. Since demons were primarily in connection with the earthly ministry of Jesus, they must of existed for the purpose of hampering His work on earth. "...the power of darkness would attempt everything to conquer Christ or at any rate hamper Him as much as possible" (Norval Geldenhys, New International Comm, on Luke, p. 172). Geldenhuis also suggests the demon possession was a sort of "mock incarnation," with the devil's forces seeking to take on human form as God did in Christ. By speaking through their victims in an attempt to prematurely reveal Jesus' identity, and thus perhaps cause Him to be put to death before His work was completed (Mk. 1:34; Lk. 4:41). Some of the best confessions of Jesus as the Son of God comes from those possessed of demons. Not once did the Lord accept their confessions, but consistently commanded them to be quite. Jesus was in opposition to the devil; thus He wanted no recognition from him or his agents.

3) Demons were used by Christ to demonstrate His power as the Son of God. By casting out demons Jesus demonstrated that He was the Son of God. He had the power of the Devil and all spiritual forces. Those who witnessed His exorcisims were amazed, "What a word this is! For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out" (Luke 4:36). On another occasion Jesus told them "But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you" (Luke 11:20). Jesus was empowered not by Satan, but by God. The casting out of demons testified to the character and rank of the demon's destroyer and the power of His coming kingdom.

4) Casting out demons was employed by the Apostles to confirm the Word preached or written. A most humourous attempt to imitate Paul's ability to cast out demons is found in Acts 19. A certain group of Jewish exorcists in Ephesus known as the seven sons of Sceva, were going about casting out demons. They tried to cast out a demon using the name of Jesus whom Paul preached. The demon admitted that he knew Jesus and he knew Paul, but did not recognized them or their authority. Then the demon possessed man jumped upon the would-be exorcists and they fled into the streets naked and wounded. These frauds being clearly exposed caused a sensational outbreak of faith in the Gospel which Paul was preaching. Many in Ephesus burned their pagan books at the price of 50,000 pieces of silver. The Word of God grew in Ephesus because of Paul's triumph over demons.

What was the purposed of miracles? Miracles were the badge of authority for the servant of God, to convince people that God had sent him, as in the case of Moses (Ex. 4:5,8,31). The apostles, like Moses, were to preach something new to the people (Mk. 16:15,16). God did for them what He did for Moses, and for the same reason (17-20). The apostles needed this power to convince people they were servants of the Lord, and that this message they were preaching was from heaven. The purpose of writing



about certain miracles was for confirmation and belief (Jn. 20:30,31).

5) Demons were used to prophesy of Christ's victory over Satan. By casting out demons Jesus was proving His superiority over Satan. To conquer the devil, Jesus had to first bind him. *"But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house"* (Mt. 12:28,29). He could foresee His victory over Satan when He said to the 70. *"I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven"* (Lk. 10:18). Casting out demons was a prophetic way of announcing the total defeat of Satan. What is important is that no matter what demons are, where they came from, or how great their power, Jesus is greater and more powerful, and He brings complete deliverance from evil in all its forms.

### Questions:

1. What relationship do demons have through etymology with male goats?
2. What other names are given to demons in the Bible?
3. Who is the ruler of the demons?
4. What characteristics to demon possession showing them to being actually beings?
5. Did Jesus believe demons were real? Explain.
6. True False Some argue that demons are nothing more then the spirits of the wicked dead.
7. Are demons eternal like God having always existed? Explain.
8. How did demons react to Jesus?
9. What diseases are associated with demon-possession?

10. How did demons affect the possessed free-will?
  
11. How did Satan use demons?
  
12. What did Jesus' power to expel demons demonstrate?
  
13. What did casting out demons prove concerning the apostles?
  
14. True False Demons were used to prophesy of Christ's victory over Satan.

**Application & Discussion:**

1. Explain why demon-possession could not be just a manifestation of mental illness.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Where do you think demons came from or how are they?

**Homework:** Start a Bible discussion with someone over what they think about demons and demon possession.

# Demons

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## Part Two

### Modern Demon Possession

The belief in the power of demons in modern times is widespread and can be found in most religions and cultures. Slavic vampires; the one-eyed Norse *troll*; the Hindu *rakshasa*, a menacing ogre who can assume any shape at will; and Japanese *oni*, who bring on the winds and live at the center of the storm.

One of the most systematic hierarchies of demons is that elaborated by the Muslim theologians. The jinns were created 2000 years before Adam but sinned against God and were degraded from their original high estate. the greatest among them was Iblis; he was cast out by Allah for refusing to worship Adam, who was made of earth, basing his refusal on his own origin in smokeless fire. Eminent among the evil *jinns* were the five sons of Iblis, who variously cause calamities, inspire evil and hatred, and preside over places in which illicit activities are conducted. Inferior demons include the ghul, female cannibals who sometimes prostitute themselves to men in the desert (F&W, Vol. 8, p. 127).

Among early Christians after the time of St. Augustine the rite of exorcism came to be administered to all infants before baptism. Exorcists still form one of the minor orders of the Catholic Church. Merrill F. Unger in his book, *Demons in the World Today*, indicates a belief in modern day demon possession. Even the popular writer, Charles Swindoll, shows he believes in a form of demon possession in his chapter on "Demonism" in his book, *Stress Fractures*. He states, "I have witnessed this on several occasions". He speaks of "the demon of nail-biting". Swindoll points out identifying marks of demon possession: "sudden and unreasonable changes of moods; aggressive, unrestrainable expressions of hostility; and extreme, enslaving habits" (pp. 193-210).

Even some well-known reference works among denominations state a belief in modern demon possession.

Although a non-Christian may be said to be "possessed" by a demon, the Christian cannot be so possessed, for he belongs to Christ and his human spirit has been sealed by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13). Demonic spirits somehow know and acknowledge this seal...Involvement with tarot cards, horoscopes, or any other form of fortune-telling may give demons opportunity to enter. Such contacts may seem innocuous (harmless, DRV), but Satan utilizes the smallest foothold to gain advantage over people. (Baker Ency. Of the Bible, Vol. 1, P. 611).

### Demon Possession was Only a New Testament Phenomenon

The New Testament has several examples of demon possession.

- ▶ Man in the synagogue (Mk. 1:23-28; Lk. 4:33-37).
- ▶ Legion, (Mt. 8:28-34; Mk. 5:1-20; Lk. 8:26-40).
- ▶ Dumb man (Mt. 9:32-34; Mk. 7:24-30).
- ▶ Syro-Phoenician woman's daughter, (Mk. 7:25,29,30; Mt. 15:21-28).
- ▶ Lunatic Son (Mt. 17:14-23; Mk. 9:14-29; Lk. 9:37-43).
- ▶ Mary Magdalene (Mk. 16:9; Lk. 8:2-7)

- ▶ Girl Diviner (Ac. 16:16-18).
- ▶ Exorcists (Ac. 19:13-16).
- ▶ Beelzebub accusation (Mt. 12:22-30; Mk. 3:22-30; Lk. 11:14-23).

Demon possession seems to be limited to the ministry of Jesus and early church. Although a frequent occurrence in the earthly ministry of Jesus, after this time, there are only four other cases recorded in the rest of the Bible, all in the Book of Acts. You will find no warnings against possession in the epistles. No instructions to Christians telling them how to deal with possession. Even in the lists of miraculous gifts of the Spirit recorded in I Cor. 12:8-10,28 and Eph. 4:11, there is no mention of the power of casting out demons. Demon possession had a significant part of Jewish writings only after the early ministry of Jesus. Of the 85 Biblical references there are only a few mentions of demons in the Old Testament. None of these refer to an instance of demon possession. In contrast, Old Testament angelology is rather highly developed compared to demonology. "...it may be stated that the belief in demons and their effect upon mankind increased in Judaism from 150 to 450 A.D" (ISBE:R, 921). "A first century Galilean rabbi, Hania ben Dosa, reportedly restrained the queen of the demons herself, Agrat bat Maholat. The texts of several Jewish Exorcists formulas have apparently been preserved" (ISBE:R, 922).

## **Modern Demon Possession Is Not Parallel to That of The New Testament**

In the New Testament cases of possession, there was no doubt as to the cause. The same is certainly not true today. In the New Testament those possessed could not be bound even with chains. Not one of these who claim they are possessed of demons is too strong for a straight-jacket.

### ■ **No Exorcism Today Fits the New Testament Pattern**

To "exorcise" means "to expel a demon; the recitation of formulas or conjuration" (Vine). "Exorcist" is used only once (Ac. 19:13) in a derogatory reference to the wandering Jewish wonder-workers who attempted to imitate Paul's power to cast out demons. There is no similarity whatever between this and the "casting out" of demons practiced by Jesus and His apostles. The exorcism practiced by modern man sometimes involves long rituals, including incantations, prayers and ritual signs. Christ simply ordered the demons out, with immediate results (once without even seeing the victim - Mk. 7:24ff). The apostles did likewise, invoking Jesus' name. Christ did not have a single formula but said, "*Be silent and come out of him!*" (Mk. 1:25), "*Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!*" (Mk. 5:8), and "*you dumb and deaf spirit, I command you come out of him, and never enter him again!*" (Mk. 9:25).

### ■ **Demon Possession Was Prophesied to Cease**

Both the good work of the Holy Spirit, and the evil work of the devil, which resulted in demon possession, would come to an end at the same time. "*Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy!*" (Daniel 9:24). Daniel, in this passage, is looking forward to the coming of the Messiah, to the period of time when sins are remitted - the church age. The most Holy is Christ. Thus, the prophet is foretelling a time when visions, prophets, and prophecies will cease.

Again in Zechariah is a prophecy of the cessation of demon possession. "*In that day,*" when from the house of David shall come the Deliverer. "*It shall be in that day,*" says the LORD of hosts, "*that I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, and they shall no longer be remembered. I will also cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to depart from the land!*" (Zech. 13:1,2). This "time" of Matthew 8:29 which coincides with "that day" of Zech. 13:1-6.

According to other New Testament writers this time has been fulfilled. Notice the use of past tense.

### ■ **Demons Realized They Had a Limited Time of Freedom**

A demon actually begged Jesus "*that He would not command them to go out into the abyss!*" (Luke 8:31). While traveling in the country of the Gergesenes Jesus was approached by two demon possessed men who lived among the tombs. "*Suddenly they cried out, saying, 'What have we to do with*

*You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?"* (Matthew 8:29). Permitted by God to come out and to possess men, they did not want Jesus to command them to go back before their time was up.

Demon possession ceased by the end of the first century A.D. Even among the early Christian writers there is little mention of this phenomenon.

### **Caution: Demons at Work**

According to extra-Biblical sources Jesus had a lingering reputation as a sorcerer in the literature of rabbinic Judaism and among the Greco-Roman pagans confirms the historicity of His ministry of healing and exorcism (ISBE:R, 923). The use of Jesus' name appears in pagan exorcisms. "Exorcisms were performed 'in the name of Jesus Christ, crucified under Pontius Pilate'" Demons "...could be exorcised by means of roots and the name of Solomon (Josephus, Antiq. VII,2,5), or driven away by fumes from the roasting heart and liver of a fish (Tob. VI, 7,16,7)" (Zondervan Dict., p. 181).

What about those who claim to cast out demons today? Jesus Himself knew that there would be some psuedo disciples who would call Him Lord and claim this power. He said, *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!"* (Mt. 7:21-23). Those practicing demon exorcism today are practicing lawlessness, that is, acting without authority from the Lord. They are fakes, just as the seven sons of Sceva (Ac. 19:13-17). Evil spirits recognized and obeyed the Holy Spirit as He operated through man. Yet they did not nor would they if they still existed recognize a modern exorcist.

### **Demons Still Exist Today**

"If there is no more demon possession, do demons still exist at all?" Angels of God once worked visibly and vocally (Heb. 2:1,2), but no longer! Angles still work, but not in a supernatural way (1:14). Likewise, demons may exist today, but they do not exercise the power of possessing men today.

Although demons may not possess anyone today they have been associated with idolatry (Ps. 106:36-37; I Cor. 10:19,20; Rev. 9:20) and the seduction of false doctrines (1 Tim. 4:1-3). It is stated that the demons work through men, *"liars whose consciences are seared"* (Js. 3:15; I Jn. 4:1). Satan and his deceitful workers seek to transform themselves into what they are not in order to lead people astray (2 Cor. 11:13-15).

Demons assist Satan in whatever work he does. There is no reason to rule out continued demonic activity in inspiring false doctrine and idolatry. The devil's real work, is temptation, not possession. Satan is described as the world's "tempter," not its possessor. If possession is his primary work, why did he not possess, rather than tempt, Adam and Eve in the beginning? Temptation must be constantly battled, even by the Christian. It was a problem that even Christ had to deal with. Richard Woods, a Dominican priest and an expert on occultism at Chicago's Loyaola University, concerning THE EXORCIST: "...the film never really grapples with the problem of evil. the devil's true work is temptation. He leads us into sin. Evil as we know it is basically, fundamentally sin. That is almost entirely missing from the movie. The devil in the movie was an easy devil to deal with" (Time, Jan. 21, 1974).

False doctrine of modern demon possession is used as an excuse for not resisting evil. As Flip Wilson used to say, "the devil made me do it." People employ such arguments to avoid personal responsibility for what they do. This is much easier than confessing our sinfulness, repenting, and resisting temptation. Satan's control over men today is of a voluntary nature, not that they are "possessed" in some miraculous sense that renders them incapable of resisting him.

### **A Greater Concern**

The bottom line is that there is no demon possession today. It was only a New Testament. Only

a New Testament phenomenon. Not according to the Old Testament prophecies. Satan is still very much alive and active, but those who are his servants are willing servants. You have a choice in the matter.

Temptation and sin, not possession, should remain our biggest concern today. Christ is the Victor over Satan (Jn. 10:27-30; 1 Jn. 2:13; 4:3,4). If we "*resist the devil*"... "*he will flee from*" us (Js. 4:7). Demons defeated beings and pose no threat to the Christian. Like the Devil, the wings of demons have been "clipped." The armor of God can protect you from any and every attack of Satan or his army (Eph. 6:10-13).

If you are not a Christian, demon possession is not your problem, because you're under Satan's power anyway as long as you remain in sin. This work of Satan is far worse than any demonic possession, for it can lead one into eternal ruin in the flames of Hell.

Both Christian and non-Christian alike should ask "Is my name written in heaven?" instead of wondering "Can demons take possession my life?" Christ sent out the 70. On their return, they seemed to be more elated over this power of casting out demon than any of the other abilities given to them by Christ. Jesus informed them that having their names written in heaven was more cause for rejoicing than being able to expel unclean spirits (Lk. 10:20). After all, those whose names are not written in the Book of Life will be cast into the eternal abyss with Satan and His demons (Rev. 20:12-15).

### Questions:

1. What are demons called in other cultures and religions? What do you think belief in demons is such as world-wide phenomenon?
2. True False Belief in modern-day demon possessions is limited to the Roman Catholic church.
3. List some examples of demon possession from the New Testament.
4. True False The duration of demon possession seems to be limited to the ministry of Jesus and early church.
5. Is there an example of someone apart from Jesus, one of the seventy sent out in the limited commission or the twelve apostles who could cast your demons?
6. True False There is a gift of the Holy Spirit giving one the authority to cast out demons.
7. True False There is no extra-biblical evidence in history for the existence of demon possession.

Matching:

8. \_\_\_\_\_ No Exorcism Today Fits the New Testament Pattern

9. \_\_\_\_ Demon Possession Was Prophesied to Cease
10. \_\_\_\_ Demons Realized They Had a Limited Time of Freedom
11. \_\_\_\_ Time of when visions, prophets and prophecies will cease.
  - a. Zechariah 13:1-6
  - b. involves long rituals, including incantations, holy water and ritual signs.
  - c. Daniel 9:24
  - d. Matthew 8:29
12. True False Among the early Christian writers there is little mention of demon possession.
13. In which passage did Jesus claim false disciples who claim to cast out demons but instead are practicing lawlessness?
14. What is a greater concern for us today as it was for the Seventy than concerning over demon possession?

**Application & Discussion:**

1. Why is it important to believe in demons? Why is it important for a Christian to believe that demon possession has ceased?
2. If there is no demon possession today, what might Satan be using his demonic horde for today?

**Homework:** Do not fear demons, but rejoice that your names are written in Heaven.

# Definition, Derivation & Descriptions of the Devil

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What difference does it make if one believes in a supernatural being called Satan or the devil? Do you believe in Jesus as the Son of God who did not lie? He believed in the Devil? If we do not believe in the Tempter we will stop watching out for him. Next we will take of your armor and go to sleep. Remember, to be forewarned to to be forearmed.

## Definition of the Devil

Back in 1941 G.N. Deck of Austin, Texas wrote a booklet titled: *The Devil, or Satan*. In it he sets out to prove: "The devil is not a supernatural being, but he scriptural personification of sin in its various manifestations among men." On page three he declares, "Now, we make hold at once to assert that the popular doctrine of the personal devil has no foundation whatever in the truth, but in the hideous conception of the heathen mind, inherited by the moderns from the mythologies of the ancients, and incorporated with Christianity by those 'men of corrupt minds'..."

The Barna Group Survey which was reported in the New York Times. The called a thousand random Americans and asked, them if they agreed with the statement: "Satan is not a living being, but is a symbol of evil." Sixty-two percent agreed while thirty percent disagreed the rest were uncertain.

"The greatest trick the devil ever pulled was convincing the world he didn't exist." The devil doesn't want you to know is that he exists. If God is the great "I AM", Satan is the great "I AM NOT"! The world today struggles with the idea of Devil being fact or fiction. Is he a real historical personality or an invention from the minds of man to explain the existence of evil in this world. He would thus be nothing more than a metaphor for or personification of evil. A boogey man invented to frighten children and motivate them to be good.

One day two boys happen to drop by a church to see what the preacher was yelling about. It was a sermon on Satan. One boy asked the other, "Do you believe in the Devil?" The other answered, "Naw, I bet he is like Santa. Just your dad dressed up in a red suit."

In the book of beginnings, Genesis, Moses did not prove the existence of God in 1:1 nor the existence of Satan in 3:1. From the first book of the Bible (Genesis) to the last (Revelation), the existence of the devil as a real not fiction. The Bible is the Word of God and God is not a liar. The Bible is non-fiction. It tells of real people, places and things unless using metaphors.

When first introduced the Devil comes as a real serpent is contrasted with the other animals (Gen.3:1). Moses believed in the Devil or Satan. "The definite article, "the Satan" refers to the personal devil" (Hiebert 282). Personal singular pronouns in Job 1:6-12 Zech. 3:1; Matt. 4:1-10; Jude 9 show him to be a real historical character. Jesus believed in the Devil and spoke of him and to him. If you believe in Jesus you will believe in what he believed in. In the two dozen times Jesus speaks of the Devil, He shows His belief that the Devil is a real person. The Devil has traits of personality: intelligence (Gen. 3:1) emotions like desire (Luke 22:31) and anger (Rev. 12:17). Demon possessions is powerful proof of Satan existence along with Jesus' power to cast them out. Jesus believed the Devil was real enough that he warned Peter of his danger (Matt. 16:22-23; Luke 22:31-34). Paul believed in the Devil. All those who are tempted by the Devil show his real influence to chose evil. Judas gave into temptation and betrayed Jesus (Luke 22:3-6). The death of Jesus is evidence that Satan is real. Peter asked Ananias and Sapphira "Why has Satan filled you heart to lie?" (Acts 5). Peter was a believer. The fact the Bible warns Christians concern the Devil shows him to be a real threat (Eph. 4:27; 2 Cor. 2:11; 2 Cor. 11:2-3).



## Derivation of the Devil

What is the origin of the Devil? Is he eternal like God? Or did God create the Devil? If God created him, does this mean God created evil? Did Satan sinning and is a fallen angel created with a free will? Is he all-powerful?

### ◆ **Satan is NOT Deity**

Some claim that the Devil is derived from the Persian religion Zoroastrianism which has a religious philosophy of dualism. There are two gods. One is good and the other evil. And they are equal in power and nature. God and Satan is not dualistic. The Devil is not equal to God in any way. God has no opposite. If Satan has an opposite it would be the archangel, Michael not God the Father or His Son, Jesus. The Devil has a beginning and he will have an end. He cannot alter this. His fate had been predetermined.

In order for the Devil to be Deity or god, he would have to possess the attributes of Godhood. He would have to be eternal, that is, he has to always have existed. God *"alone has immortality"* (1 Tim. 6:16). God is eternal and possess His eternal nature inherently/intrinsically (Psalm 102:27),

To be a god Satan must also be omnipotent or all-powerful. God is not limited in His power, however Satan is limited. Paul told the Romans *"and the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly"* (Romans 16:20). Satan can be resisted (James 4:7). *"You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world"* (1 John 4:4).

Additionally, to be Deity Satan must be omnipresent, that is, everywhere all the time. God is omnipresent (Psalm 139:1-6). Satan is not omnipresent. *"And the Lord said to Satan, 'From where do you come?'" So Satan answered the Lord and said, 'From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it'"* (Revelation 20:10).

Finally, God is omniscient or all-knowing and Satan is not. Angels desired to see the fulfillment of God's plan of salvation (1 Pet. 1:12). The Devil did not know that by having Jesus killed, God will resurrect Him and defeat the Devil's power of death. Since Satan is not portrayed in the Bible as possessing omnipotence, omnipresence, or any of the other characteristics of the Godhead, he cannot be deity.

### ◆ **Satan is Created by God**

Satan is not an eternal being and does not possess the attributes of deity, he must have been created. *"For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him."* (Col. 1:16).

All things have been created by God. God created the physical and spiritual realm. Therefore the angels were created sometime before the creation of the physical universe. *"Before creation of the world He created the angels, for they observed the process and rejoiced over it"* (Ps. 148:2,5). Job 38:6,7 tells of their singing and their shout for joy at the creation of the earth. *"We do not find that the devil created anything whatsoever. For, indeed, he is himself a creature of God, like the other angels"* (Irenaeus 1.524).

Satan and the angels were created spirits and thus immortal will always exist. But only God is uncreated. He has always existed. He alone is the "I AM." There is no uncreated being except God.

Did not create Satan to be evil? God made everything *"very good"* (Gen. 1:31). There is no evil associated with God (James 1:13; 1 John 1:5).

### ◆ **Satan Was Created with a Free-Will**

Satan like the angels were created with the freedom to chose to disobey God and rebel. *"And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day"* (Jude 1:6). *"Sin is lawlessness"* (1 John 3:4). Thus, Satan of his own free-will chose to break the law of God.

### ◆ **Satan Chose to Sin**

The *"devil has sinned from the beginning"* (1 John 3:8). The angels sinned 2 Pet. 2:4. The Bible does suggest that pride was the cause of the devils demise (1 Tim. 3:6). Perhaps Satan became proud of his position as an angel and reached out, wanting more power and authority.

### ◆ **Satan Has Been Retrained By God**

God *"did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into*

*chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment*" (2 Peter 2:4). God has defeated Satan and has restrained him in his realm or sphere of influence. *"Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time"* (Revelation 12:12). Satan may be the *"god of this world"* and *"the ruler of the demons"*(Matthew 12:24), but there is no redemption for *"the devil and his angels"* (Matthew 25:41).

## **Designations & Descriptions of the Devil**

The Bible gives several names to the spiritual archenemy of man. These are not just names but terms which are used to identify various aspects of the Devil's nature. It will be noticed that the name Lucifer is absent from this list. *"Lucifer"* is term used in Isaiah to refer to the king of Babylon never to the Devil (Is. 14:12). Lesson thirteen will explain this in detail.

Several designations of the Devil are used to show the animal he has used or illustrate his character. From the beginning he was a "cunning" serpent. Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, *"Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'"* (Gen. 3:1). The word translated "subtle" is "arum." meaning clever." (Leupold). The term is used of someone or something that is seldom obvious but subtle. John also calls the Devil *"the great dragon"* in Revelation 12:9. Dragon is from the Greek term *drakon*. A serpentine like creatures so immense in size and awesome ferocity. A dragon is used to show the Devil's great strength and power. Peter speaks about his lion like characteristics (1 Pet. 5:8). He is hungry with an appetite that is never satisfied for the souls of men. He is fierce, viciously attacking his prey without mercy. As a insatiable lion Satan is always on the prowl for new victims. He is wandering through the earth looking for the who are not alert. He will attack everyone at anytime but like real lions likes to prey upon the weak and vulnerable. So beware Satan is predatory in his territory.

In contrast with God's holiness Jesus calls Satan *"the evil one"* (Mt. 13:18,38) and *"the wicked one"* (Mt. 13:19).

### **\* The Devil or Accuser**

The term "Devil" is found some thirty-six times in the New Testament. It is used interchangeably with Satan in the temptations of Jesus. In Matthew 4:1, 5, 8 the Devil is said to tempt Jesus but in verse ten, Jesus calls him Satan. In the very next verse is claims this Satan is the Devil who left off tempting Jesus. The noun "Devil" is derived from *diaballo* meaning "to throw, or fling an accusation" (Bowman 22). Ballo means to throw and is from which the English word "ball" is derived. It is also defined to means "to accuse to malign." The Devil is one who slanders and maligns others throwing out accusations of guilt at them. The Greek term for Devil is not to be confused with *diamon* or *daimonion* terms for demon.

In Revelation 12:9 the Devil is also referred to as "that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan". In the next verse is is called "the accuser of our brethren." A different Greek term is used for accuser. It is

*kategopos*. It is a compound term with *kata* meaning "against" and *agora* "a place fo public speaking. "Signifies a speaking against a person before a public tribunal" (Vine 28). As the Devil "accused" Job of worshipping God only because of all that Job had received from God.

### **\* Satan or The Adversary**

The term "Satan" is a English word transliterated from the Hebrew Word *Sa -Ton* which means "adversary". The verb form is related to an Aramaic verb that means "to lie in wait. He is the adversary who lies in wait." He is the enemy of God and thus the enemy of all mankind. It is used fifty-four times in the Bible. Eight of those times is came be found in Revelation.

A different Greek term is used for the Devil as our *"adversary"* in 1 Peter 5:8. It is the Greek word *antidikos* means a opponent in a lawsuit or a legal adversary in a court trial.

### **\* Beelzebub**

In order to explain away the power of Jesus over demons "the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebub," and, *"By the ruler of the demons He casts out demons"* (Mark 3:22).

In the original text it reads beelzeboul. This rendering “beelzebub” came from Jerome and means “Lord of the flies.” The New American Standard Bible translates it correctly as “Beelzebul.” It means the Devil is the The manure-pile god or dung-god, an expression intended to designate with loathing the ruler of demons as the Lord of excrement. Jews were fond of epitaphs to mock their opponent’s religion. Jews had applied this name as an insult to Baal and his worshipers. At some point in time it became a designation for the Devil. Jesus rejected the idea that He was using the power of the ruler of demons to cast out demons as grossly illogical. *“If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand?”* (Luke 11:18).

\* **Belial**

The phrase “the sons of Belial” is found several times in the Old Testament (Prov. 6:12). It means sons of wastefulness or reckless. Paul wrote, *“and what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?”* (2 Cor. 6:15). No peace or concord can exist between good and evil.

\* **Murderer**

In John 8:44 Jesus told the Pharisees, *“you are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning.”* Jesus testified that the Satan is a murderer. He brought death through sin to all mankind. Paul contrasts Adam who sinned by yielding to temptation and brought death and Christ who never sinned and brought life. *“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned”* (Rom. 5:12). *“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive”* (1 Cor. 15:22). Sin always brings death. Murdered the whole of the human family.

Through Judas and Jewish leaders the Devil murdered Jesus. *“Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve”* (Luke 22:3). Later, after the Last Supper *“ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray Him”* (John 13:2).

\* **Liar**

John 8:44 continues to tell us the Devil *“does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it”* (Jn. 8:44). He told lies to Eve about God in the beginning and he is the originator of lies.

\* **Tempter**

After His baptism, *“Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil”* (Matt. 4:1). In Matthew 4:3 he is called *“the tempter.”*

Paul was concerning about the brethren in Thessalonica wanted to know the status of their faith *“lest by some means the tempter had tempted you, and our labor might be in vain”* (1 Thess. 3:5).

\* **Abaddon and Apollyon, the Destroyer**

John calls the Devil *“the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon”* (Rev. 9:11). The meaning of each is destroyer. The Devil is the Destroyer. He sought to destroy God’s servant Job. *“And the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person.” So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord”* (Job 1:12). He went and destroyed Job’s family and livestock. Next, came the destruction of Job’s health. Later he destroyed Job’s relationship with his wife and friends. However, he could not destroy Job’s relationship with God.

**Questions:**

1. What do some believe about the existence of the Devil?
2. What arguments does the Bible make for the existence of the Devil?

3. What agreements can be made for the existence of a real historical personality or spiritual being called the Devil?
4. What is Zoroastrian dualism? Does the Bible teach this? Explain.
5. Is the Devil all-powerful? Explain.
6. List a passage showing that the Devil is not omnipresent?
7. List a passage show that the Devil must have been created by God.
8. True False The Devil is eternal but he is not immortal.
9. List all the evil things God created?
10. How can it be argued that Satan has a free-will?
11. What three animals is Satan compared to? Why?
12. Why does the Devil accuse and slander God and his servants?
13. What is the meaning of the word "Satan" in Hebrew?
14. What is the correct translation of Mark 3:22: "beelzebul" or "beelzebub"?
15. What is the Devil considered a murderer?

16. What is the meaning of Abaddon and Apollyon?

**Application & Discussion:**

1. Why is important for Christian be believe in a real spiritual being known as "The Devil?"
2. Is the Devil a fallen angel? Is so what do you think his sin was?

**Homework:** Strike up a conversation with a neighbor about what they believe about the Devil this week.

## Domain & Designs of the Devil

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The Bible does not give many details about Satan's origin or insight into his motives and there are many have entered into wild speculation. For example, there is a Latin Proverb: "Talk about the Devil and he'll appear." The religious sect found in Iran and Armenia called the *Yezidis* call the Devil "Peacock in their language because it sounds least like the name for the Devil in their language. The battle between Michael the archangel and the Devil over the body of Moses as spark many wild explanations (Jude 1:9). That fact is, *"the secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law"* (Deut. 29:29). We do not know much about this event. If you would like to learn more you will just have to wait till you get to Heaven and ask God. If you don't make it to Heaven you will just have to wait will you can ask the Devil what all the fuss was about over corpse of Moses.

### Domain of the Devil

#### ◆ Domain of Darkness

The Devil has his kingdom or dominion, but it is of darkness not one of light (Col. 1:13). "Darkness" is representative of the realm in which these evil forces rule. Sinners *"loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil"* (John 3:19).

#### ◆ God of this World

The Devil is *"the ruler of this world"* (John 12:31;14:30;16:11). It would seem more logical to thing that God of this world wold refer to the Almighty God. "World" identifies the scope of his rulership. The "world" Satan's empire, or his sphere of operation. The inhabitants of the earth or the wicked among them represent his citizen or his world. *"In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother"* (1 John 3:10). Kingdom of God and the kingdom of the devil the World is made up of people who are "the children of God" and the children of the devil"

He is also called the *"god of this age"* (2 Cor. 4:4). This is the time of the Devil using his influence upon those who would love the world or be worldly minded. *"The whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one"* (1 John 5:19). The Devil boasted of his authority in the world when he tempt Jesus with the offer to give to Him all the Kingdoms of the world if Jesus would just bowed down and worship him. *"And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish"* (Luke 4:6).

#### ◆ Prince of the Power of the Air

Paul in reminding the Ephesians of their past before coming to Christ was a time "in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience" (Eph. 2:2). Prince is from *archon* ruler meaning leader or chief. The

air is the place where such spirits live,

#### ◆ Ruler of Demons

The Pharisees not being able to disprove the miracles of Jesus, claimed that His power come from the Devil. *"Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons."* (Matt. 12:24). During the time of Christ the Devil's demons were able to affect people physically. Satan's power no longer involves demon possession. Homer Hailey wrote, "Likewise, unclean spirits, the antithesis of the prophets, would cease. In the conquest of Christ over Satan and his forces, unclean spirits have ceased to control men as they did in the time of the ministry of Christ

and the apostles” (Hailey 392).

## Power of the Devil

### ■ Limited Powerful

Satan is powerful and that power should not be underestimated. He fought with the archangel Michael over the body of Moses (Jude 9). Satan demonstrated the power he had when he used lightning, tornado, Chaldeans and Sabaeans to destroy Job’s family and property (Job 1:6-2:7). His power is seen in how he was able to afflict boils upon Job’s body from head to toe. The Devil also used his power to transport Jesus to the pinnacle of the Temple and to a high mountain during his tempting of the Son of God. In Luke’s account of the temptation of Christ he says it took place *“in a moment of time”* (Lk. 4:5). *“In a moment of time”* was some supernatural operation. In neither of these last two incidents are we told how Jesus was transported from one to the other (Luke 4:5).

However, it is equally tragic to overestimate the powers of the Devil. Although he had the power to afflict Job in many ways, his power was limited by the authority of God. He could destroy Job’s property and family but *“Lord said to Satan, ‘Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person’”* (Job 1:12). After God gave him authority to use his power to afflict Job’s person, *“the Lord said to Satan, ‘Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life’”* (Job 2:6).

Satan is by no means invincible nor can he just do anything he wants to whomever he wants and anytime he desires. He could not directly afflict Job without God’s permission. To tempt Peter he had to have permission from God. Jesus knew this and said, *“Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat”* (Luke 22:31). It would appear that Satan can do miracles but must seek authority from God. Although he is powerful with God’s help Christians can overcome him (1 John 5;13).

### ■ Limited in Temptations

God has promised: *“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it”* (1 Cor. 10:13). *“When God permits Satan to light the furnace, he always keeps his own hand on the thermostat!”* (Wiersbe 36). The Devil is hedged in by the providential regulation of God and essentially limited in what he can do in any temptation.

### ■ Limited by Man’s Free Will

God had given man a great power. The power of free will to choose to give into the temptations of the Devil or to reject them. Satan’s power cannot overcome anyone’s power of choice. The Devil cannot make us do anything. No one can rightly claim today that *“the devil made me do it”*. The late, Flip Wilson popularized this saying years ago in his character, Geraldine. The Devil could not force the fruit down the throats of Adam and Eve. He could not make Job curse God and die. Satan’s only power over people is through manipulation and deceit. If he could actually make us do things, he would not need to go to all the trouble of deceiving us. If Satan could make us sin, the temptation process would be superfluous.

## Designs of the Devil

What is our adversary busy twenty-four/seven/three sixty-five. What is his angle, his mission, his goal, his plan of design? Satan’s names describe his mission: accuser, tempter, destroyer, etc. His is that lion *“seeking whom he may devour”* (1 Peter 5:8).

### ✓ To Accuse and Slander

“The Devil” means the slanderer or accuser. In verse five of Genesis chapter three he accuses God by asking Eve, *“Has God been holding out on you? You will not die, but be wise like God.”* Satan tried to cast doubt as to whether God had her best interest at heart or was just holding out on man by holding him back from the tree. Why was any tree withheld? Was God restricting their freedom? Satan re-interpreted God as a devil, a liar possessed by jealous pride.

When God approached Adam about his role in this sin, he said, *“The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.”* (Gen. 3:12). It was as if he was saying to God, *“If you had created a better help meet perhaps I would have ever sinned.”* To get us to accuse our accuser is a

ingenious poly of Satan.

During his attempts to overthrow the faith of Job, Satan hurled many accusations toward God maligning his servant's character. He implied that Job only served God because of all the blessings he had from God. "So Satan answered the Lord and said, 'Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land'" (Job 1:9-10). After the Devil removed all of God's blessings Job still maintained his devotion to God. In his next attempt to destroy Job's relationship with God, 'Satan answered the Lord and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life"' (Job 2:4). The idea is "if you have you health you have everything." Job would drop God if he suffered physically. When this failed Satan used Job's friends to make all kinds of discouraging accusations. Job's friends hurt him with their words (Job 16:1-2). They accused him of some great sin or sins. They reasoned that very bad things can only happen to very bad people.

Satan is also seen before the throne of God making accusations against the high preist, Joshua. "Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. And the Lord said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?" Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel. Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, "Take away the filthy garments from him." And to him He said, "See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes" (Zech. 3:1-4). God is the Judge. Joshua the high priest is the defendant, Satan is the prosecutor trying to accuse and prove the guilt of Joshua and the people of Israel. Joshua represented the people before God and the people were sinful. Satan "they are disobeying you again. If you are as holy and just as you claim, then you must judge Israel." God has the filthy garments removed from Joshua and clothed with high priest's garments. His people are made holy before Him.

Today, Satan accuses us with "You are not a very good Christian. You have sinned in the past." Satan wants you feel guilt. Let Jesus Christ, your High Priest ever lives to make atonment for us through the blood of His sacrifice, Himself. So don't permit Satan to remind you of What God has already forgotten.

Someone has said, "the next time the devil reminds you of your past, you remind him of his future."

During the ministry of Jesus Satan often used the Pharisees to falsely accused Jesus of casting our demons by the power of the Devil (Matt. 12:22-24). They claimed you was a blasphemer for claiming to be equal with God. On many occasions they slandered Jesus as a Sabbath day breaking sinner.

Today, the Accuser of the brethren has spread many slanderous accusations upon the Lord's Church. These include but are by no means limited to: "You al don't believe in the Old Testament;" "You believe in water salvation"; "you church of Christ people are nothing but a bunch of Campbelites"; "You do not believe in music the worship of God' etc. Because we believe in book, chapter and verse authority for all we do some label us as "legalist" or libel us "antis". The early church suffered the same misrepresentations. The were accused of cannibalism because the ate the flesh and drank the blood during the Lord's Supper. The Romans rejected their infant children leaving them in towers on high hills to be opposed to wild animals and the elements to die. Christians would rescue them and raise them as their own. The pagans claimed this is where these "cannibals" obtained their flesh and blood. The saints of hte first century were considered atheists because the had nor idols or visible gods. Because the called each other brothers and sisters. And loved one another, the Gentile world claimed they practiced incest.

#### ✓ **To Tempt Men to Sin**

Sin did not originate with God "for the devil has sinned from the beginning" (1 John 3:8b). Those who do what is right are identified with Christ and "he who sins is of the devil" (1 John 3:8a). The Devil wants you and that means you have to chose to follow him into sin.

If Satan cannot force man to sin, how does he turn men and women into sinners? "Tempt" comes from the Greek term *peiradzo* meaning to entice others to sin. Temptations suggests evil thoughts to the minds of men. A good advertiser can manipulate your thoughts and emotions to the point of believing you must have his product now! Then car commercial ad comes on. You think how nice it would be to be behind the wheel of a brand new car and breathing in that new car smell. .



Peter also condemned Ananias for allowing Satan to fill his heart. *“Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart?’”* (Acts 5:3a). This couple did not have to give into Satan’s temptation anymore than Adam and Eve were forced to eat from the forbidden tree. Satan may be the father of lies (John 8:44) but no one has to take it to heart and believe and act upon those lies. Peter knew all too well the persuasive influence of the Devil when he denied Jesus three times (Lk. 22:31,32). Remember, Satan’s temptation does not remove culpability from the tempted.

This processes of temptation is described concerning Judas twice as *“Satan entered him”* (John 13:27; Luke 22:3). This described Satan targeting the mind of Judas. *“And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray Him”* (John 13:2). *“Put”* means placing out the bait for him. Just like a fish, Judas had to see the bait and chose to take the bait.

Early on Jesus said of Judas, *“Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?”* (John 6:70). Judas had already entertained Satan in his life by covetousness before he made the choice to betray the Lord for thirty pieces of silver. Judas had not real care *“for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it”* (John 12:6). Jesus warned and warned Judas putting up road block after road block to discourage his sinful choice. Judas decided to run every last one of these to the point of sin and destruction.

Remember, temptation is not sin. Jesus was tempted and sinless. *“For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin”* (Heb. 4:15).

#### ✓ **To Hinder the Gospel**

During his third missionary journey Paul had to leave Thessalonica for Berea due to persecution by Jews. Regardless of the opposition Paul told the young church that he *“endeavored more eagerly to see your face with great desire”* (1 Thess. 2:17b). The will never be able to stop earnest efforts of the saints. *“Therefore we wanted to come to you even I, Paul, time and again but Satan hindered us”* (1 Thess. 2:18). The Greek word for *“hindered”* in this verse is *egkptien*. It means *“to impede one’s course by cutting off his way.”* The term was used by the military to describe the actions of a retreating army who would breaking up the road or place obstacles in it to impeded their enemies from following them. Paul recognizes that it is Satan who is ultimately behind the opposition to the preaching of God’s Word and his effort to return and encourage the Thessalonian congregation.

The Devil is still working to hinder the spreading of the Gospel and the edification of the saints. He will use arguments like: *“The Gospel has no power of appeal to this generation.”* Or he will use his false teachers to hinder the truth being preaching by countering it with their lies.

#### ✓ **Corrupt God’s Creation**

The Devil is is the spoiler of the Creator’s Perfect Creation. Satan was using God’s creation, such as, the serpent and the tree to destroy God’s creation. He took God’s creation which was very good (Gen. 1:31) and create a world in his own evil image. God created two genders male and female. Satan comes along and claims there are now over sixty or none at all. When God made marriage between a man and a woman that is a heterosexual union. The Devil claims there came be homosexual marriage. God made Adam and Eve and Satan made Adam and Steve. God told man to have dominion over all the animals. The Devil claims that animals are free and man has no authority over them. God made man in His image. The Devil says man has no soul. And when he dies, he is like the dead dog Rover, he is dead all over.

#### ✓ **Destroy Man’s Relationship With God**

It is man’s sin which separates him from a holy God (Is. 59:1,2). Therefore, *“he who sins is of the devil”* (1 John 3:8). Satan goal has been to separated the creature from the creator and the child from the father. We were created to have loving relationship with our Creator and Satan wants to destroy that. Verse ten of 1 John 3 between *“the children of God and the children of the devil.”* One can easily tell the difference between the two by whether or not they continue to practice righteousness. A true son will listen to and obey his father. To call God *“Father”* and continue to practice sin is to prove that the devil, not God, is their true progenitor. In his Gospel John sheds some light on this. Jesus warned, *“you are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do...”* (John 8:44).

#### ✓ **Promote the Love of the World**

Why does the Tempter tempt? He wants to get man to fall in love with this world, we will not be able

to love God. The Devil does not want man to love God their Father and Creator, but to fall in love with the sinful world he has created. John warns, *"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love the father is not in him"* (1 Jn. 2:15). Love of the world is proof of not loving God.

A paradigm for getting man to love this world has been created by the Devil. He uses his three pronged trident to move our love toward his world. The Devil's Triangle *"in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the father but is of the world"* (1 John 2:16).

First, is the Lust of the Flesh. Eve *"saw the tree was good for food"* (Gen. 3:6). Jesus was tempted by Satan to turn stone into bread (Mt. 4:3). David lusted after Bethsheba. Samson: "I saw a woman" and the rest of his life was from thence exemplified as a He-man with a She-weakness. There are many avenues for the lust of the flesh as listed in Galatians 5:19-21.

Sexual sins are perhaps the best known forms of this lust. Women affect men by their looks and by how they dress and the way they look to men. Men affect women by what they say and by what and how they touch. So gentlemen, guard what you say and how you say it. Also, be careful how you touch a woman. You have a responsibility before God to assist in her purity. Hands off! "Pull down the window shades" when the women in the world, like Bathsheba, fail to use their shades.

Peter warns, *"Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul"* (1 Pet. 2:11).

Today, we are tempted by this through the philosophy of Hedonism. "1. the doctrine that pleasure is the only proper goal of moral endeavor. 2. The pursuit of pleasure." Call it what you may, the lust of the flesh demonstrates a great love for this world.

Next, comes the Lust of the Eyes. Eve saw *"that it was a delight to the eyes"* (Gen. 3:6). Jesus was shown all the kingdoms of the world and was promised them, if He would just fall down and worship Satan. The eyes can be an avenue for light or darkness. It depends upon your choice.

The lust of the eyes is what we commonly refer to as "Materialism." A few years ago pop star Madonna sang about being a material girl. Today, most of those in the world can aptly be described as materialistic (2 Tim. 3:2). Yes, the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil (1 Tim. 6:9) and leads to departure from the faith (6:10). Having, needing or just wanting things is not wrong. The temptation is to covet, hoard, and be greedy. Such men are never satisfied (Pr. 27:20; Eccl. 5:20). Yet, in this land of opportunity and prosperity we rarely see covetousness and greed as a sin. One Catholic priest who had spent forty-two years listening to confessions said that covetousness was about the only sin he never heard anyone confess. The Rich Young Ruler would not obey Jesus because of his love for his worldly goods. Remember, life is more than possessions (Lk. 12:15).

Finally, many turn their affections to the love the world by The Pride of Life. Once more, Eve saw *"that the tree was desirable to make one wise,"* (Gen. 3:6). Satan so tempted Jesus by trying to get Him to cast Himself off the Temple wall (Mt. 4:5). Nebuchadnezzar's heart was lifted up with pride when he observed the greatness of his capital, Babylon (Dan. 4:30; 5:2). When King Uzziah's pride got the best of him God cursed him with leprosy (2 Chr. 26:16).

The Devil is proud so he wishes to make us alike him (1 Tim. 3:6; Rom. 1:30). An oversized ego leads to contempt and rejection of God's Word and ministers (Jer. 13:2) and leads to self-deception (Jer. 49:16). It is a hindrance to seeking God (Hos. 7:10). "God is for weaklings" or "Religion is a crutch" they claim.

Today, Egotism abounds. Success and self-improvement seminars and programs focus on the power of self. Self-absorbed man is cries out "My rights, my life, my body, my future..." God warns that he resists the proud. *"But he gives more grace. Therefore, He says: 'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.' Therefore submit to God. Resist he devil and he will flee from you."* (Js. 4:6,7).

## **Deity & the Devil**

It God is good and all-powerful, why does He continue to allow the Devil to exist? What is God's motive or design? God appears to have "allowed Satan to retain his power, temporarily, until he is through using him to test and purify a people for his ultimate glory and purposes." Ever since the Paradise of Eden there have been testing trees in the forests of life. God used the tree of the knowledge of good and evil

for the purpose of giving Adam and Eve free will to choose to obey and pass His test of their faithfulness. The Devil used it to destroy their faith in God.

◆ **The Testing of Job**

Notice in the temptation of Job it is God who twice brings up Job as an example of someone the Devil should consider tempting. *“Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?”* (Job 1:8; 2:3). Later God spoke of the Devil’s failure to entice Job to sin. God said, *“And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause”* (Job 2:3b). So why did God permit these temptations. God permits the devil to tempt to build our faith and patience. Job gives us a clue when he said, *“But He knows the way that I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold”* (Job 23:10).

◆ **The Testing of David**

Compare: *“Again the anger of the Lord was aroused against Israel, and He moved David against them to say, “Go, number Israel and Judah”* (1 Sam. 24:1) with *“Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel”* (1 Chronicles 21:1). Notice God and Satan were both against Israel and both “moved” David. God was angry with the sins of Israel and sought to punish them through the subsequent plague brought on by David’s choice to sin. Satan is the enemy of God’s people, Israel. The term “moved” in both passages is the same Hebrew verb *wayyaset*. God moved David in the sense that He permitted Satan to tempt him. God was testing David’s faithfulness. God gave David nearly ten months in which to repent and call off the census. Remember, God tempts no man to sin James 1:13 Satan had moved David for the purpose of tempting him to sin.

◆ **The Testing of Peter**

Peter knew all too well the power of the adversary. On the night before for Christ crucifixion Peter was told that he would deny the Lord that very night three times before the cock crowed. Jesus warned Peter that Satan was going to “sift” him and the other apostles. *“Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat”* (Lk. 22:31). Jesus said to Peter, “he is seeking to sift you,” that is, to put you through the sieve. The quality of flour is determined by how well it has been sifted. The grain is inedible until the chaff is winnowed away by the wind. He wanted to “sift” him as wheat, to see whether he was grain or chaff. Peter was going to be tossed to and fro to see if he had a kernel of true faith that would stand the testing of Satan. Note that the pronoun “you” in the Greek is plural, indicating that Satan wanted all of the apostles to be tempted.

◆ **The Testing of Paul**

Paul experienced God’s testing him through a temptation from Satan in 2 Corinthians 12:7: *“And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.”* The Devil designed by that evil one to trouble Paul with thorn in the flesh but permitted by God to keep Paul from becoming prideful. Paul passed the test. He said, *“Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong”* (2 Cor. 12:9,10). A Christian’s success in passing God’s tests against the temptations of the Devil brings glory to God. Job’s suffering brought God glory. *“Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter”* (1 Pet. 4:16).

**Questions:**

1. The Devil is *“the ruler of this world”*. What does *“world”* mean in this phrase?
2. What is the meaning of *“air”* in Ephesian 2:2?

3. Is the Devil still the ruler of demons even though demon possession has ceased?
4. Give some Biblical examples of the power of the Devil?
5. In what ways are the Devil's powers to tempt limited?
6. How does man's free-will limit the powers of the Devil?
7. What are some examples of the accusation Satan has made in the Bible against God and His servants?
8. Why does the Tempter tempt man?
9. How did Satan "*enter*" Judas?
10. How might Satan hinder the efforts to share the Gospel with the lost?
11. In what ways does the Devil try to corrupt creation?
12. What are the three ways Satan entices men and women to fall in love with this world?
13. How are these three manifested in the temptation of Eve?
14. Which of the three ways best fit the concept of....  
Materialism \_\_\_\_\_

Egotism \_\_\_\_\_

Hedonism \_\_\_\_\_

15. What did Job feel the outcome of his testing by fire would be?
  
16. Why did God test David and why did Satan tempt David in the numbering of Israel?
  
17. What was the outcome of the sifting of Peter?
  
18. How did Paul respond to the thorn in the flesh sent as a messenger of Satan?

**Application & Discussion:**

1. What are some modern-day accusations that the Devil is making against God and His saints?
  
2. Why is it dangerous to either overestimate or underestimate the power of the Devil?

**Homework:** Remember the next time the Devil tempts you to fail, remember God is testing you so you can succeed.

## Devices of the Devil

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Satan has many devices. *“Lest Satan should take advantage of us, for we are not ignorant of his devices”* (2 Cor. 2:11). In this passage, Paul makes reference to the discipline of a member of the church at Corinth. Satan can retain his influence by encouraging members to hold grudges and not forgive a sinful brother who has repented. Thus, the brother could become so obsessed with grief and guilt he would return to Satan.

These “devices” or “schemes” indicate that the Devil has a “plan”. Satan is not haphazardly wandering around tossing temptations here and there. He has a plan, a plan he has tested and perfected. If we are ignorant of this fact, we can be taken advantage of by the Bible. To think that the Devil does not have a strategy in mind to capture your soul is to leave oneself vulnerable to attack. Each temptation is “tailor-made” for the individual. What is a temptation for one may not be for another.

In 1 Timothy 3:7 Paul gives a qualification for an overseer related to his reputation among the men and women of the world. He *“must have a good testimony among those who are outside.”* It is essential *“lest he fall into the reproach and snare of the devil”*. Elders without this quality will succumb easily to the snares of the Devil. The Devil has snares and devices to trap the souls of men, even those who are seasons saints like that of elders. What are some of the devices he is still using to deceive us today?

### ✦ Deception

He is the master of deception. The Devil is called the deceiver (Rev. 12:9) and *“the Father of lies”* (Jn. 8:44). Therefore Paul warned the brethren at Corinth, *“but I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ”* (2 Cor. 11:3). Notice how lies are still more convincing if supported by half truths. Satan pressures us *“with all deceit of unrighteousness”* (2 Thessalonians 2:10).

Today, Satan is still pushing his lies of deception before the minds of those he tempts. He encourages them to fall the crowds to do evil because “everybody does it.” The temptation to fulfill the lust of the flesh is found in the lie: “You will if you love me.” To promote the indulges in drugs and alcohol the Devil reassures one with “It’s your body, just do what makes you feel good”. After all, “God wants you to be happy.” “It’s only harmless fun” ends up robbing one of the true joys of life and replacing it with the temporary pleasures of sin. When you do fall for his lies he encourages you to excuse your sinful choice with “I’m just human, and besides, nobody’s perfect.” Many are encouraged to avoid considering the church of Jesus’ choice because the Devil claims “you can join the church of your choice” or “one church is just as good as another” and “there is nothing in a name.” To rob us of a sense of urgency and leave us unprepared is the lie: “there’s still time what’s the rush.”

### ✦ Disguises

Satan did not approach Eve in his true nature. Instead he came to her in the form of one of God’s creatures, a serpent. Paul wrote, *“...For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light”* (2 Cor. 11:14). Yet, in John Milton’s “Paradise Lost” and Dante’s “Inferno” Satan is pictured as a hideous appearing creature. The Deceiver would be a lot easier to identify if he showed up in a red suit with a pointed tail, a pitch fork, and horns.

The Devil is the Master of Disguise. He even has his own church *“the synagogue of Satan”* (Revelation 2:9; 3:9). The false prophets of Satan come *“sheep’s clothing but inwardly they are ravenous wolves”* (Mt. 7:15). He has his own *“ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness”* (2 Cor. 11:15). They teach and preach *“doctrines of demons”* (1 Tim. 4:1). The Devil has his *“sacrifice to demons”* (1 Cor. 10:20). The great Deceiver even has his own communion service: *“communion service” the cup of demons...and the table of demons”* (1 Cor. 10:21). He has his own kingdom, but it is

of darkness not of light. He rules with his angels. He has *"false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ"* (2 Cor. 11:13). And needless to say the Devil has his own throne and worshipers (Rev. 13:2,4). He has a *"son of perdition"* who *"sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God"* (2 Thess. 2:3-4). He works false miracles *"according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders"* (2 Thess. 2:9). Finally, the Devil has disguised his children as fake saints. In the parable of the Wheat and the Tares Jesus explains, *"the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. The enemy who sowed them is the devil"* (Matt. 13:38,39). Tares have the ability to mimic the appearance of wheat, the good seed. Yet, when the head of grain is formed near harvest time, tares have black kernels and the good wheat have golden heads.

Jesus will one day expose to all who the Devil really is. At the Second Coming *"the enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire"* (Matt. 13:39,40). When Peter tempted him concerning Jesus' fate on the cross, Jesus rebuked him, *"get behind me Satan!"* He ripped off the disguise of his wayward disciple expose who Peter really was at that moment. The real need today is to expose the devil as the real monster He really is.

### ✚ **Distractions**

The Devil loves to use distractions. He will divert our attention from any necessary thing for spiritual growth and well-being. In Eden Eves focus was places on the fruit being good to look at and good for food while promising to be like God. Instead she should have remained focused on the Will of God. David was distracted by the body of the bathing beauty Bathsheba. Peter was showing great faith in walking upon the water to Jesus until he was distracted by the wind and the waves. Two brothers were distracted by greed when asking Jesus to service as a judge between them and their inheritance. *"He said to them, 'Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses'"* (Luke 12:15).

Paul warns the younger widows not to be distracted by idle gossip. *"They learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not. Therefore I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully. For some have already turned aside after Satan"* (1 Tim. 5:13-15). If the devil catches you idle, he will put you to work. A wife and a mother who know how to be a good manager is the first line of defense against the adversary. The term occasion refers to a place where an army can establish a base of operations. The wicked would like nothing more than to set up a headquarters in your home to destroy it from within. Was Paul just making some chauvinistic and misogynistic attacks on women? In fact, he is able to back up his concerns with proof that some of these younger widows have already abandoned their faith to follow Satan.

### ✚ **Doubt**

Casting doubt in the hearts of men has caused many to falter at God's command. The Israelites constantly doubted God's goodness in leading them through the wilderness to the Promise land. After hearing the discouraging report of the ten spies they cried out *"Why has the Lord brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?"* So they said to one another, *"Let us select a leader and return to Egypt"* (Numbers 14:3-4).

Twice while tempting Jesus in the wilderness the Devil said, *"If you are the Son of God"* (Matt. 4:3,6). The tempting was to test Jesus' trust in God. Would the Father let the Son starve to death and would God let the Messiah be crushed to death in a fall from the pinnacle of the Temple.

This device of doubt from the Devil goes all the way back to the Garden of Eden. He cause Eve to doubt God's motives. Perhaps God was holding out on mankind in keeping him from being like God in knowing good and evil. God is seen as one who would keep them for the fruit that was good for food and looked pleasing to the eye.

Today, many doubt God and good in that He allows us to suffering and permits evil. Other distrust the Word of God in that it is thousands of years old and could not possibly be relevant today.

### ✚ **Doctrines of Men**

Satan hates the whole truth and nothing but the truth. When it comes to the teachings of the Bible

he likes to sugar-coated error with just enough truth to make a lie seem plausible. Paul warned, “*now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons*” (1 Tim. 4:1). False teachers abound today look to scratching itching ears with the lies they want to hear. However, “*we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting*” (Eph. 4:14).

### ✎ **Deceitful Workers**

The Devil does not use his devices to do his dastardly deeds by himself. He has his partners in crime to assist him. These are often human agents acting as the Devil’s Advocates (Matt. 16:23; Mark 8:33; Luke 4:8; John 6:70; 8:44; Acts 13:10; 1 John 3:8). These may be in the form of false teachers and preachers. They come in sheep’s clothing (Matt. 7:15) and are found in abundance throughout his domain. “*Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world*” (1 John 4:1).

One such advocate for the devil was Elymas who tried to insert with the Gospel being preaching the Sergius Paulus the Roman governor. Paul said to Elymas, “*O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord?*” (Acts 13:10).

Sometimes Satan can even use a disciple of Christ. After Peter rebuked Christ for prophecying about his coming death in Jerusalem, He “*turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men’*” (Matt. 16:23). Jesus’ rebuke of Peter seems to be a bit overkill. This is especially true when you consider that Jesus had praised his confession with “*blessed are you*” (16:17). “*Jesus recognizes here His old enemy in a new and even more dangerous form. For none are more formidable instruments of temptation than well-meaning friends, who care more for our comfort than for our character*” (AB Bruce, “*The Gospel According to Matthew,*” 226).

Peter had unwittingly taken on the role of the Adversary and not a disciple. A disciple is to follow the Master, not lead Him.

The reason Jesus gives for His harsh rebuke is: “*You are an offense to Me.*” The word “*offense*” is from the Greek *skandalon* meaning “*stumbling block*”. Peter has gone from a little stone to a big stumbling block. Peter was out of place. Rocks that cause one to stumble along the path must be moved. Peter was exactly right one minute and went terribly wrong the next. Jesus accuses him of thinking like a carnal-minded man. Previously, his confession was not revealed by men but by God. Now his rebuke is based on thinking after the priorities of man and not of God.

Satan will even stoop to recruiting family members to aid in his temptations. When Job lost all and was suffering with boils from the top of his head to his feet, Job’s wife’s advice was for him to “*Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die*” (Job 2:9). Job’s wife was normally wiser than this. Job said to her “*You speak as one of the foolish women speaks*” (Job 2:10). Far too many Christians add to the lives unnecessary trials and temptations but failing to choose wisely when picking a mate. These do husbands and wives are of the world and are not seeking God’s righteousness and Kingdom (Matt. 6:33). Face the facts, if you marry a child of the devil expect trouble with your father-in-law.

### ✎ **Danger of Anger**

They say that “*anger*” is just one letter away from “*danger.*” We are commanded to “*be angry, and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil*” (Eph. 4:26-27). The Greek word for “*place*” is *topos*. It refers to a specific, marked-off, geographical location. It is from this word that we get the word for a “*topographical*” map. They say, “*if you give a man an inch, he will take a mile!*” And the Devil will take your soul.

Anger in and of itself is not a sin. A big difference exists between such a thing as sinful anger and righteous indignation. Anger is a God-given emotion. It is an emotion which is commanded by God “*be angry*” just as in verse we are commanded to “*be kind.*” All emotions when not under control can be expressed in a sinful way. All a man needs to do is get into the habit of letting this emotion run out of control and the Devil is given a destructive foothold in his life. With much ease Satan can turn sinful anger into wrath. The step is an exceedingly short one between wrath and malice.



Moses is an example of using anger righteously, when the people of Israel murmured against God. At other times the devil used Moses' anger to tempt him to sin. While prince of Egypt Moses "saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren. So he looked this way and that way, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand" (Ex. 2:11,12). His anger resulted in a premature attempt to rescue the Israelites from Egyptian bondage. Moses had to flee to the Midianites for forty years. Later as leader of the Israelites, Moses as one Mount Sinai receiving the then commandments. While there for forty days Aaron made a golden calf for the people to worship. See this when he came down the mountain "Moses' anger became hot, and he cast the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain" (Ex. 32:19). You could say he is the only one to break all Ten Commandments at once. When the people murmured at Kadesh because of a lack of water, "they angered Him also at the waters of strife, so that it went ill with Moses on account of them; because they rebelled against His Spirit, so that he spoke rashly with his lips" (Ps. 106: 32,33). God would not permit him to enter the land of Promise because he did not honor God. Apparently Moses was tempted all his life with letting his anger get out of control.

#### ✦ **Deluded by Pride**

Concerning the qualifications of one desiring to be an elder, Paul tells us in 1 Timothy 3:6 that he can, "not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil." Now there are two viewpoints as to the meaning of this reason: 1) the same condemnation into which the devil fell through pride or 2) the condemnation or accusation of the devil against the novice. Vincent defines the phrase "being lifted up" as meaning "the verb means primarily to make smoke; hence, metaphorically, to blind with pride or conceit...a beclouded and stupid state of mind as the result of pride." (v. 3, p. 232.) "beclouded...a confused state of mind, here due to conceit because of sudden elevation to office." (New Bible Commentary: Revised, p. 1171.) The new convert being so quickly elevated to this position would find himself in a cloud land of conceit and pride. It is the condemnation into which the devil fell. The cause of Satan's downfall: pride. As the novice grows and develops spiritual attitudes the danger of being puffed up with conceit will grow less and less. For a congregation to appoint a novice is to put his soul in jeopardy and rob themselves of having a fine elder in the future. It is wonderful that young Christians have a desire to lead. The church should strive to channel those desires in a positive way to develop elders for the future.

#### ✦ **Distress**

Watching video documentaries about lion's seeking their prey in the wild, will give one an idea of how they seek their targets. Normally, they will go after the small, slow, sickly, stragglers, and solitary. Satan is not any different as a lion seeking someone to devour.

The Devil will go after the discouraged. Job lost 11,500 head of cattle in one day. Later he lost his health, his wife, and the support of his friends. He cried, "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope" (Job 7:6).

Satan loved to target the sick and suffering. Sometimes it is Satan who is causing the suffering. "So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head" (Job 2:7). In New Testament times he used his demons to afflict some with sickness. Such as the woman who "had a sickness caused by a spirit" in Luke 13:16. And Paul the apostle was not exempt from the Devil's intentions when a throne in the flesh was sent as a messenger of Satan (2 Cor. 12:7-11).

To deal with this threat Christians need to take proper care of their body and not to use and abuse it as if it were their own to do with as they please. Paul wrote, "do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Cor. 6:19-20). To deal with temptations Paul sought to exercise the same level of self-control as that of an athlete in training. "But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified" (1 Cor. 9:27). One must devote their bodies to the Lord. Again Paul wrote, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service" (Rom. 12:1).

Like a lion, Satan seeks for the solitary. Jesus was alone in the wilderness when the Tempter sought him out. "And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild

beasts; and the angels ministered to Him” (Mark 1:13). He hinder Paul from coming to the young church at Thessalonica to keep the new converts alone and separated from apostolic encouragement (1 Thess. 2:18).

As a lion burst from suddenly from the savanna seeking his next victim, so does Satan. Right after Jesus’ baptism by John *“immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness”* (Mark 1:12).

John warned that there would be times of persecution coming to test their faith in Revelation 2:10: *“Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life”* (Revelation 2:10). Joseph mistreated by his brethren, Potiphar’s wife false accusations, forgotten by the servant of Pharaoh.

Those who are weak and hungry are especially targeted by the hungry roaring Lion (1 Peter 5:8). It was when Jesus was very hungry that the Tempter came to him. Jesus *“being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry”* (Luke 4:2). The Bible warns Christians to be alert to time of distress when suffering deprivation. Married couples need to be careful about depriving one another in their relationship. *“Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control”* (1 Corinthians 7:5).

### ✎ Denying God’s Word

Satan knows God’s Word. In the Garden he tempted Eve by referenceing God’s command concerning the forbidden tree. He likes to quote scripture as he did when tempting Jesus. Satan quoted Psalm 91:11-12, but he adapted it for his own purposes by omitting *“in all your ways.”* He loves taking scripture out of context. The Devil substituted God’s Truth with his lie *“You will not die but be like God.”* Eve rejected God’s word and believed Satan. He steals the Word of God from human hearts. In the parable of the Wheat and Tares it says, *“those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved”* (Luke 8:12 and Matthew 13:19).

### Questions:

1. What is it some important for us not to be ignorant of the schemes or devices of the Devil?
2. What are some modern-day lies used by the Devil to tempt us?

Matching: The Devil’s Disguises

- |                            |                                  |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 3. _____ Satan             | a. synagogue of Satan            |
| 4. _____ Satan’s church    | b. <i>“Get behind me, Satan”</i> |
| 5. _____ Devil’s Preachers | c. angel of light                |
| 6. _____ Devil’s Communion | d. lying wonders                 |
| 7. _____ Children          | e. tares                         |
| 8. _____ Peter             | f. wolves in sheep’s clothing    |
| 9. _____ Devil’s miracles  | g. cup and table of demons       |

10. What are some distractions the Devil has used?
11. List some deceitful workers who acted as the Devil's advocates in the Bible.
12. Why does out of control anger give the Devil an opportunity to tempt?
13. Why should a novice not be selected to be an elder?

Matching: Distresses of the Devil

- |          |                               |    |                               |
|----------|-------------------------------|----|-------------------------------|
| 14. ____ | Job lost everything           | a. | Seeking the solitary          |
| 15. ____ | Job's boils                   | b. | Persecution                   |
| 16. ____ | Jesus alone in wilderness     | c. | Preying on the sick           |
| 17. ____ | Immediate Temptation of Jesus | d. | Attacking the weak            |
| 18. ____ | Jesus fasting 40 days         | e. | Targeting the suffering souls |
| 19. ____ | Joseph's mistreatment         | f. | Attacking Suddenly            |
20. How does the Devil interfere with man's salvation?

**Application & Discussion:**

1. How does the timing of the temptation increase the potency of the temptation? How can a Christian counter this?
2. List some doubts the Devil uses against those he tempts today?

**Homework:** This week write down some of the lies Satan is using on you when he tempts you.

## Defying of the Devil

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One would be tempted to think the devil created the world when God was not looking. Satan is the ruler of the world, we are pilgrims in his world. Our citizenship is in heaven. As Christians we are soldiers of Christ. God's enemy is our enemy. We can fight with God's help and win or surrender to the Devil and lose our souls. However, if you choose to stand firm and defy the Devil there are some things you can greatly aid you.

### ⇒ **Know the Enemy & His Methods**

There was a motto used in World War 2: "Know your enemy." Military commanders never go into battle without carefully studying their opponents. The first mistake in any war or battle is to underestimate the strength and number of the enemy. Christians are clearly forewarned what they are up against. *"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places"* (Eph. 6:12).

Both Peter and Paul give the same advice. Paul commanded, *"...stand against the wiles of the devil"* (Eph. 6:11b). First, one needs to understand the Devil is not haphazard in his attack. He has wiles or schemes, strategies or methods to implement against Christians. The term *"wiles"* is translated from the Greek, *methodia* from which comes the English word "method." It describes the cunning craftiness and deception of the devil like a wild animal uses to gain advantage over its prey. A Christian is *"not ignorant of his schemes"* or methods (2 Cor. 2:11).

### ⇒ **Panoply of God**

Christians are engaged in a spiritual war with the Devil and his forces. Therefore saints must put on the whole armor or panoply of God. *"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil"* (Ephesians 6:10-11). When David went out to fight Goliath he did so without armor. King Saul offered his armor to David, but it did not fit and he had not been trained in its use. He put his trust in the same God who helped to face a lion and a bear. Today, we cannot but our faith in ourselves or carnal means to fight a spiritual foe. We need the armor of God. It is the armor of God because it is the armor which He provides. God is not going to send us into battle unarmed or ill-equipped. This armor was forged on the anvils of Heaven. It is also referenced as the armor of light (Rom. 13:12); and the armor of righteousness (2 Cor. 6:7). It is not carnal, but spiritual in nature (2 Cor. 10:4). If this armor is good enough for God to wear into battle, then it is good enough for us.

The phrase *"put on"* carries the idea of something done once and for all time. Put this armor on and keep it all permanently. Paul commands Christians to put this armor on. He did not say all that we need to do is research each piece.

The armor of God is the Christians Kevlar. It includes several pieces Christians must put on every morning before doing battle with the devil. The first piece mentioned is the belt of truth. It is the foundation for every other facet of his armor. Truth is the basis of what we believe, the source of what is right, the Word of God is truth, salvation is the result of obeying the truth, and the goes forth preaching the truth.

Paul demands that the saints at Ephesus put on the whole armor of God *"having on the breastplate of righteousness"* (Eph. 6:14b). Vine defines it as: "The character of quality of being right expresses the meaning. Righteousness embraces the idea of the right knowledge of the mind, leading to the right actions of life." It refers to moral conduct and character or being made right before God. It is as foolish for a believer to enter spiritual warfare without his shoes of peace, as it is for a soldier to go to war barefooted. The Christian soldier must have his *"feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace"* (Eph 6:15). Feet fitted with these shoes results in "battle-readiness." Christians are to be ready for every good work

(2 Tim. 3:16-17) *“and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear”* (1 Peter 3:15). *“Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one”* (Eph. 6:16). A helmet on the ground does not protect a soldier’s head. Christian soldiers need to put on the whole armor of God which includes *“the helmet of salvation”* (Eph. 6:17a). The final weapon in the Christian arsenal is the *“sword of the Spirit”*.

⇒ **Use the Sword of the Spirit**

A Christian soldiers must put on the *“sword of the spirit which is the Word of God”* (Eph. 6:17b).

Why or how is the Bible a sword? This is best answered in Hebrews 4:12: *“for the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”*

Just having a sword is not enough. Christians must become proficient in the swordsmanship. The Christian trains with the sword of the spirit by reading, studying, memorizing, meditating, and sharing the Word of God. In contrast to the literal Roman sword the more you use the Word of God the sharper in becomes in your mind while the more the Roman sword was used the duller it became. The better you know the Word of God, the easier it will be for you to detect Satan’s lies and reject his offers.

One can learn from the greatest spiritual swordsman of all time, Jesus Christ. After His baptism Satan attacks Jesus at His weakest point. *“If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread”* (Luke 4:3). Jesus blocks this attack by using His sword quoting from the book of Deuteronomy. He said, *“It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God’”* (Luke 4:4). The Devil does not give up easily. He takes Jesus *“up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, ‘All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours’”* (Luke 4:5-7). Jesus is offered a chance to switch sides, but instead He *“said to him, ‘Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve’”* (Luke 4:8). Satan picks a different battleground. He sets Jesus on the pinnacle of the temple and tempts Him by quoting scripture from Psalm 91:11-12. *“If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. For it is written: ‘He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you,’ and, ‘In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone’”* (Luke 4:9-11). Jesus does not fall for this trick sword play, He again quotes from the book of Deuteronomy. *“It has been said, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God’”* (Luke 4:12). With this Satan’s final thrust being block by the Master Swordsmen he retreats but only to wait for a more opportune time to renew his attacks. Christ will be ready.

With the sword of the Spirit we can overcome just as Jesus did. John wrote, *“because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one”* (1 John 2:13-14). The Devil has a crippling weakness. What the devil doesn’t want you to know is this: what kryptonite is to Superman, what light is to cockroaches, what the cross is to Dracula, so God’s spoken Word is to the devil!

⇒ **Be Sober**

To be sober is to gird up the mind with its thoughts so as to be ready for action. Whereas this word could be used in reference to being free from the influence of intoxicants, it is most likely used in a more general sense here to indicate a discipline of mind and body. To have one’s mind under control and then one’s body so as not to be vulnerable to Satan’s attacks. So one would gird or tie up any loose ends of their mind and have their thoughts collected at all times to deal with a sudden attack. All the days one spends on earth he will live in the Devil’s territory. The world is not a Christian’s play ground but the Lion’s hunting ground, therefore be seriously minded at all times concerning temptation. If one was walking through the savanna in Africa where lions were known to roam, he would walk quickly and safely with a watchful eye paying close attention at all times.

⇒ **Be Watchful**

To be watchful means a Christians must be vigilant or in a literal sense *“be or keep awake.”* Any one caught sleeping on the savanna without someone keeping watch is easy lion lunch. Consider the animal shows on television where a herd of wildebeests will have eyes always watching out for a pride of lions on the prowl.

In many passages watchfulness is often associated with prayer. Jesus told Peter, James, and John in the Garden. *"Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak"* (Matt. 26:41). What good is it to watch out for Satan if one is not going to call for the Shepherd of his soul to help when attacked.

⇒ **Persistent Resistance**

Concerning our struggle to defeat the Devil we are commanded to *"resist him"* (1 Peter 5:9). This is the same word used in James 4:7: *"therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."* This means to stand one's ground unwaveringly during attack so as not to give ground but constantly give resistance. When faced with a possible lion attack do not play dead. That might work with a grizzly bear but not a lion. Do not run away this will incite the lion to give chase. James says if you resist he will flee. Most information about dealing with a lion attack encourages the would be victim to hold their ground and fight back with whatever is at hand. The devil is like any bully and retreats when he is bravely resisted. Do not give him an opportunity to attack. Lion's will go for the throat or the back of the neck. So do not run or fall down but stand and fight.

This resistance is not a one time event. When Jesus defeated the temptations of the evil in the wilderness *"the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time"* (Luke 4:13). The lion will keep hunting you looking for you to ignore him when no longer feeling threatened.

⇒ **Be Steadfast in Faith**

When resisting a lion one must stand their ground and fight back. The ground we are to stand fast upon is our faith, not the "holy ground" supposedly found near the altar of a church building. "Faith" used here involves not only the idea of standing upon the truth found in the Word of God as Jesus did during His temptations, but it also includes trusting in God. Just as David took his stand against Goliath and did not allow himself to be intimidated by the size of his opponent but he trusted in the all-powerful God.

When Paul instructs the Christian soldier to put on the whole armor of God he also instructs God's warrior to *"stand..withstand...stand"* (Eph. 6:10-13). In a military since it has the idea of standing firm and holding ones ground. Eadie defines it as, "to stand in front of with the view of opposing." The word "stand" is used four times in verses ten through thirteen. The Christian is to *"stand...having fastened...having put on....having fitted...having taken up."*

⇒ **Remember, You Are Not Alone**

When dealing with a real lion attack there is strength in numbers provided that everyone sticks together and someone does not run away from the group. The "herd mentality" can be most effective in dealing with the Devil's attacks. Whatever you do, do not be separated from the herd. The stray little lambs make for an easy lunch for the lion. Some herds such as water buffalo will surround the young within a tight circle not allowing the lion to get at them. Although Christians are often attacked when alone there is nothing wrong with calling upon the brethren for help after a quick prayer to God. Many in the brotherhood have more experience in surviving these attacks from Satan.

⇒ **Perseverance**

James wrote, "Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful" (James 5:11). Job won over Satan's attacks because of his patience in suffering. Patience is a mark of maturity. Children often lack patience. Just take a road trip with one of them and they will ask over and over again: "are we there yet?"

Impatience leads to mistakes. Impatient with God blessing them with a son of promise, Abraham and Sarah used Hagar to produce Ishmael and all the troubles that came with this hasty decision. King Saul sacrificing and not waiting for Samuel resulted in God's rejection of him.

⇒ **Prayer**

Jesus taught His disciples to thus pray: *"And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one"* (6:13). God will not entice us to sin. He will allow Satan to tempt us. The Devil's motivation in temptation is to cause us to choose evil and fail the test (see Job. 1:9-11; Matt. 4:1-11). In contrast, God is like a good teacher who prepares his students to take a test for them to ace not fail. Again, it is the evil one (Mt. 13:19; 1 Jn. 2:13,14; 3:12) who wishes to lead us into evil or sin. When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness after His baptism it was the Spirit who drove Him to be tempted. But it was Satan who tried

to lead Him into temptation. All men will be tempted to commit sin or evil. Jesus demands His disciples to pray that they received God's help and deliverance with His providential protection. The request "lead us" suggest the need for God's guidance in the decisions of life (Jer. 10:23). God also promises His children deliverance from such temptation (1 Cor. 10:13).

In Jesus' intercession for His disciples Jesus prayed, *"I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one"* (Jn. 17:15).

At the last supper Jesus told Peter that Satan was going to sift him like wheat. Next, He said, "But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren" (Luke 22:32).

Jesus later took Peter, James and John into the Garden of Eden. While went off to pray, He wanted them to pray. The first time He finds them asleep, He *"said to Peter, 'What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak"* (26:40,41). First, Jesus rebukes Peter for not being able to stay awake for just one hour. Peter claimed to never desert Jesus but die for Him if necessary, but he cannot muster enough of that determination, loyalty, and commitment to watch with Him an hour. He gave them advice about watching and praying as a means of avoiding temptation.

After listing the armor of God Paul commands the Christian soldier to maintain communication with headquarters which is in heaven. *"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak"* (Eph. 6:18-20).

#### ⇒ **Punitive Discipline**

Instructive discipline is where one is informed of God's Will through teaching and preaching. When the Christian fails to heed God's instructions he must be corrected. If they refuse to repent then punitive measures are used. Paul warned Timothy of two men who have shipwrecked their faith: *"Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme"* (1 Tim. 1:20). This discipline was to teach these two men not to blasphemy. Timothy was probably already familiar with the case. Why remind Timothy about what had happened to these men? So Timothy could deal with others like them.

When a man was guilty of taking his father's wife at Corinth, Paul wrote, *"...deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus"* (1 Cor. 5:3-5). This is a form of disassociation from the members. This same action by the church is commanded in Matthew 18:15-17 and 2 Thessalonians 3:6-14. Notice, that the use of congregational discipline was not just a punitive measure but a reformatory effort to save souls. The idea is not to consign they impenitent Christian's soul to hell. It is to show them they are not in spiritual fellowship with God and his people but are in fellowship with the Devil.

#### ⇒ **Protected by God**

Man's wisdom is no match for Satan's cunning or the lions power. I have never seen one sheep or even a heard of sheep kill a lion. When the Devil stands up in court to accuse us we have not defense without an advocate or defense attorney. *"We have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous"* (1 John 2:1).

God has not saved us from sin and translated us into his Kingdom of light from the kingdom of darkness just to abandon us to the attacks of the Devil. *"But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one. And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command you. Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ"* (2 Thess. 3:3-5). The opposition to the Gospel is ultimately the Devil. God is able to help the saints fight off Satan. They could put their trust in Him because He has been able to defeat the Devil even while being tempted in the flesh (Matt. 4:1-11). With God's help every Christian can be strong enough to withstand the attacks of the Devil (Eph. 6:10-18) and they will be well protected by God who will not allow any saints to be tempted and tested beyond what they are able to handle. *"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able*

to bear it" (1 Cor. 10:13).

Paul told Timothy that he must *"in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will"* (2 Tim. 2:25-26). The overall motive of Timothy's efforts should be the saving of souls. It is God who grants repentance. It is His desire all repent (2 Peter 3:9). Repentance involves a change of mind. The attitude adjustment results in the individual being able to listen to the Word of God and come to the knowledge of the Truth. If he remains, quarrelsome, moronic, ill-informed, and in opposition to sound teaching, he will never know the truth. The second result of their change of mind and attitude is a coming to their senses. Matthew Poole says this means *"to awake out of a drunken sleep. A state of sin is a kind of drunkenness, in which men have lost the use of their reason."* Those who soften their hard heart long enough to receive the truth experience an awakening akin to those coming out of a drunken stupor. Next, this repentance results in being freed from the devil's trap which captured them. God wants men to come to repentance. Satan wants men to be trapped in their controversial speculations which blind them to the Truth. Devil only took them captive because they carelessly fell into his trap and are his willing slaves.

You can sell your soul to the devil or rent it out on weekdays. Better yet, you can resist him and he will flee from you. The source of your temptations and troubles cannot be restrained. However, the you have power over the result.

**Questions:**

1. What is the best way to get to know our enemy, the Devil?

Matching: The Armor of God

- |                     |                                       |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2. ____ Belt        | a. righteousness                      |
| 3. ____ Sword       | b. salvation                          |
| 4. ____ panoply     | c. preparation of the gospel of peace |
| 5. ____ breastplate | d. truth                              |
| 6. ____ shield      | e. armor of God                       |
| 7. ____ shoes       | f. faith                              |
| 8. ____ helmet      | g. word of God                        |

9. What can we learn from Jesus about good swordsmanship (using the Word of God in temptation)?
10. What does *"be sober"* mean? How can it help us in temptation?



11. List ways we can be watchful concerning temptations by the Devil.
12. Why must our resistance to the Tempter be persistent?
13. How can fellowship help protect us when the Devil attacks?
14. Why is Job such a great example of perseverance in temptation?
15. According to Paul what is the purpose of punitive church discipline or "deliver one to Satan"?
16. If the Devil is the accuser or prosecutor, who is our advocate of defense attorney?
17. List ways God protects us from the Tempter.

**Application & Discussion:**

1. What are some things we can either do or avoid to be more sober and watchful concerning temptations?
2. List some things we can pray for or about in our resistance to temptation.

**Homework:** List several passages of scripture you should memorize to help you battle temptation.

## Defeat & Destiny of the Devil

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The letter to the Romans dealt with the purpose of the Old Law of Moses and how no man could be justified apart from faith in the Son of God. The Judaizing teachers had been a pain in Paul's missionary journey's and a bane to the Gentiles for many years. Paul ends the letter with this reassurance. *"And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen"* (Rom. 16:20). All trouble will eventually come to an end. The God of peace, not the god of trouble, will reign victorious. God is the source of , and the one on whom, peace depends. Those who are sowers of dissension are not the servants of the God of peace. They too will be crushed with their master. When will this great event take place? *"Shortly"*. It was to be accomplished this while they lived. Shortly does not refer to the second coming of Christ. The destruction of Jerusalem would crush the arguments of the Judaizing teachers.

This leaves us with a question about the end of the all time Troublemaker: the Devil. When will his end finally come?

### Prophecy of the Devil's Demise

After Adam and Eve succumbed to the temptation of Satan in the Garden of Eden, God gave the first Messianic prophecy. *"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel"* (Gen. 3:15). The seed of woman is when the virgin Mary gave birth to the Jesus. When Satan used Judas, the Jews and the Romans to put Jesus on the cross, he bruised Jesus heel. This was but a temporary and minor injury. When Christ raised from the dead He bruised Satan head or gave him a crushing fatal injury.

### Initial Punishment and Restraint of the Devil

After the angels and Satan sinned they were *"cast them down to hell [literally, Tartarus that part of Hades which is the abode of the wicked dead] and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment"* (2 Pet. 2:4). Jude says they are *"reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day"* (Jude 1:6).

If this is so, why does the Devil and his demons or wicked angels tempt and afflict mankind. Spiritual beings are not literally subject to three-dimensional space and location as physical beings would be. They are kept and guarded under the restraints and jurisdiction of the power of God. He alone permits and restricts what they can and cannot do until the time of their ultimate demise. Chains limited in what they are able to do,

### Ministry of Jesus and Defeating the Devil

Until Jesus came no one had been able to avoid the snare of the Devil in that all sinned and all were under sentence of Death. Jesus came to change of that. No longer would Satan's power be unchallenged and absolute. Although it be the mission of the Devil to introduce and promote sin and death, the very purpose of Christ coming in the past was *"that He might destroy the works of the devil"* (1 John 3:8c). He came to seek and save the lost. He went to the cross for our sins so the we *"should live unto righteousness"* (1 Pet. 2:24).

Jesus asserted (John 12:31), *"Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out."* In view of His approaching passion He says again (Joh 14:30), *"The prince of the world cometh: and he hath nothing in me."* Once again in connection with the promised advent of the Spirit,

Jesus asserted (Joh 16:11) that the Spirit would convict the world of judgment, *"because the prince of this world hath been judged."*

After the Seventy whom Jesus had sent out preaching the coming of the Kingdom, they were excited about being able to cast out demons. In reference to this Jesus said, *"I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven"* (Luke 10:18). Jesus is not talking about an event in the past. Satan's power fell rapidly. Satan fell from heaven. But spiritual Heaven is a place of holiness and purity, and no sin can enter or be any part of it. The term "heaven" means the sky and is used metaphorically of one falling from a high place. Jesus Himself demonstrated His power of the ruler of demon, Satan, by casting out demons without fail and at the command of His mere word. Peter later said of Jesus, *"God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him"* (Acts 10:38).

In order to defeat the Tempter one would have to be perfect. As soon as they gave into a single temptation, they would be a sinner and separate from God. Jesus is the only man who lived a perfect, sinless life. How did He do it? Perhaps, clues can be gleaned from the time the Devil tempted Him in the wilderness.

### ▲ **First Temptation: Stone To Bread**

After Jesus baptism in the Jordan by John the Holy Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness for the purpose of temptation. *"And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, 'If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.' But He answered and said, 'It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God'"* (Matt. 4:2-4).

This is one of the greatest understatement of all time: *"He then became hungry."* Jesus was out his weakest when Satan tempted him to doubt. "If" played a significant role in this temptation. "If" is a small word with a big impact. It is powerful. Throughout Jesus' life on earth all the way to the cross. *"If you are the Christ, tell us plainly"* (Jn. 10:24). On the cross, *"If you are the son of God come down from the cross"* (Mt. 27:10). The Roman soldiers, *"If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself"* (Lk. 23:37). Even one of the thieves, *"If you are the Christ, save yourself and us"* (Lk. 23:39). Satan set the condition that Christ prove His son-ship by turning stone to bread. God set no such condition. Satan's temptations appear reasonable. But any sin would render Christ useless as a Savior for mankind. Beside God had just proclaimed from Heaven at Jesus' baptism: *"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well- pleased"* (Mt. 3:17). He believed Himself to be the Son of God based on this evidence.

To combat this Jesus said, *"It is written"*. He appealed to the authority of the scriptures to answer. The passage Jesus referenced is when God tested the Israelites in the wilderness with hunger. He gave them manna from heaven to sustain their lives. He gave them instructions as to how much they could gather for a day's provision and said if they gathered any more that it would breed worms and stink. Some gathered more manna and that is exactly what happened. Yet the Israelites were not just sustained by the manna they gathered, but by obeying the voice of God. Moses concluded explaining that God's lesson was: man does not live by the mere satisfaction of His physical needs, but Man lives by the care and provision of the Lord (Deut. 8:1-3). If Israel spent, not forty days, but forty years, Jesus could trust the Father.

### ▲ **Second Temptation: On The Pinnacle Of The Temple**

*"Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, 'If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'"* Jesus said to him, *"It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'"* (Matt. 4:5-7).

It would have been a 480 foot drop into the Kidron valley below. For Jesus to jump would mean certain death.

Satan knows the Bible. He can quote it. Satan supported his dare with an "edited" quotation from Psalm 91;11,12 concerning the protection of God over his children. The context of the Psalm teaches that the Lord protects those who love, follow, and obey Him (see Ps. 91:1,9,14). *"To keep you in all your ways"* which suggests one who has his feet in the ways God has directed. It is true, indeed, that God aids

those of His people who are placed by Him in trial or danger; but it is not true that the promise was meant to extend to those who wantonly provoke Him and trifle with the promised help.

Satan was asking Jesus, "Since You believe the Word of God, then why not prove one of God's promises?" Beware of taking promises out of their context or claiming promises when you have not met the conditions. Satan arrays scripture against scripture; he would misapply it. Christ knew His Bible and would not allow this

Christ was to prove His deity to Satan by testing the love of God and making an unnecessary show of God's power. He would not put the love of God to the test by a needless miracle. Miracles were preformed by the Lord to produce belief (Jn. 20: 30,31)

Christ replies, "*it is written, again*", thus showing the harmony of the scriptures. To get a right understanding of God's Will we must compare Scripture with Scripture. The Bible is not made up of isolated texts. The context of His quote is Deuteronomy 6:16. Obviously Moses was reminding the Israelites of a former occasion when they had tried God at Massah. In the wilderness the Israelites camped at a place where there was no water and they tempted or put the Lord to the test saying, "*Is the Lord not among us?*" (Ex. 17:1-7). The people were thirsty and murmured (Ex. 17:7). The Israelites saw the plagues God brought upon Egypt. They saw God divide the waters of the Red Sea while His pillar of fire stood between the Israelites and the Egyptians. He had enabled Moses to sweeten the waters of Marah and had fed the children of Israel with manna, but these were not sufficient grounds for faith for the Israelites. For them, God must needs continually prove Himself.

By the use of the word "*again*" Jesus is show that God does not contradict His Word. Scripture is harmonious. One verse is not to be used to nullify another or to counteract the whole tenor of Divine truth.

God does not give us conflicting duties.

#### ▲ **Third Temptation: The Kingdoms Of The World**

*"Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"* (Matt. 4:8-10).

Now Satan has resorted to a blatant temptation. There was no deceit and no mention of Jesus' Sonship. In fact, he has ceased now to present his temptations under the mask of piety, and he stands out unblushingly as the rival of God Himself in his claims on the homage of men. He throws off all disguise. Satan promised Christ all the kingdoms of the earth, but it would cost Him. Christ would have to worship Satan just once. Satan shows some generosity in this temptation, but it has its price tag. Satan is slow to show generosity and to give anything. Most will sell out to him for nothing. Any compromise with Satan puts one in the position of being his slave.

This temptation offered an easy path. The devil is offering Jesus a short cut to the achieving of His objective. God's way led to the cross (Mt. 26:39). The Son of man would not take the easy way out. Satan's sweetest temptation was the most repulsive to Christ.

To establish a Messianic kingdom by worldly means would produce a worldly kingdom. Satan obviously did not understand the nature of Christ's kingdom.

Then Jesus said to him, "*Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve'*" (Mt. 4:10). For the third time Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy (6:13). The scripture was written to the end that all might only worship God and serve Him. This text refers back to the incident of the golden calf (Ex. 32:1-6).

Christ would worship and serve only the Lord. Whatever we worship is the god we serve, we cannot do both God and the world (Mt. 6:24). Only by worshiping and serving God can a right end be attained. Jesus knew that by doing so, He would not only obtain all earthly authority, but all authority in heaven (Mt. 28:18).

#### ▲ **Victory Celebration**

Angels came to Jesus to serve Him, possibly to provide Him the sustenance as one did for Elijah (1 Kings 19:5-8) and the support that He had denied Himself during the forty days of His fast (Matt. 4:11). Remember there is joy in heaven over one sinner who repents. God is there through it all. He is faithful. We may feel alone, but we are not alone.

Satan is the strong man; Christ is the stronger than he (Mt. 12:29; Lk. 11:21f). Jesus showed us the way to handle Satan. Temptations are not sins, but they are the battles we all must fight. They will leave the victor stronger and the vanquished weaker. If we, like Christ, resist the devil, he will flee from us for a season

## **Resurrection & Ascension**

Genesis 3:15 is fulfilled in Revelation. 12:7-11:

*And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.*

Christ accomplished this as the Seed of woman when He came from heaven, went to the cross and died and arose again. In connection with Christ's ascension, that Satan was cast down to the earth and his angels with him. Jesus prophesied of this during His ministry. *"Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."* (John 12:31-32).

Revelation twenty tells of the limitations placed upon Satan as a result of the resurrection and ascension of Christ. To understand any passage one must interpret it in view of its context. Revelation 19 tells us what will become of the Sea Beast and the Earth Beast or false prophet. "Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone" (Rev. 19:20). Revelation 20 is not a chronological continuation of the events of chapter nineteen but it runs parallel to those events. It tells us what is going to happen to the Dragon *"that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years"* (Rev. 20:2). He is cast into the pit. This is different from the lake of fire he will end up in at the end of time (Rev. 20:10). As with most of the numbers and details in the book of Revelation the thousand years is not an exact literal period of time. Instead it is a large amount of time representing a full or complete period of holding Satan in chains. The idea of Satan being bound has to do with his powers being limited. Christ has resurrected. He now has the keys of Death and Hades. Satan's power has been diminished. *"Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage"* (Hebrews 2:14,15).

The period of time is not on earth but the figurative duration of time souls spend in the Hadean realm. John saw the binding of the Devil for a thousand years. But what about the dead saints during that thousand years? *"Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years"* (Rev. 20:4). Next, John saw what happened to the wicked dead during the thousand years. *"But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished"* (Rev. 20:5). What will the righteous dead souls be doing in paradise during the thousand years? *"They shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years"* (Rev. 20:6b). Satan is chained in the pit restricting his power to use the great deception: "There is no resurrection." Jesus is the Resurrection. The thousand years is thus not a period of time on earth but an unspecified period of time souls spend in the Hadean realm until the final resurrection.

## Final Destination of the Devil

Revelation 20 describes this final event in verses seven through nine: *“Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.”* This is not a literal battle taking place in the literal plain of Megiddo in Palestine. It is the final conflict and destruction of the wicked.

All the saints have left Paradise and Earth to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thess. 4:13f). The wicked dead are resurrected to the earth with the rest of those who are alive. Satan is no longer bound. And now the Bible talks about an extinction level event for the world and even for the entire universe. It is called “The Second Coming.”

After the destruction of the Universe, Hades and Death, John saw *“The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever”* (Revelation 20:10). Jesus spoke of the ultimate destiny of the Devil and his angels in Matthew 25:41: *“Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’”*

Satan’s doom is sealed; he wants as many humans as possible to share in it with him. No one has to share his doom. In Christ and with His help any man or woman and overcome the evil one.

Warren Wiersbe aptly explained, “the Christian life is a battleground not a playground.” According to the book of Revelation God will win - victory is assured. The only choice we have is which side are we going to chose to be on and fight. It is not the devil who will confine people to hell. We will judged on what we chose to do. *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad”* (2 Cor. 5:10).

### Questions:

1. What was the first prophecy against the Devil and how was it fulfilled in Christ?
2. What was the initial punishment of the Devil and his angels? Why did God chain them?
3. Why did Jesus come into the world?
4. What did it mean that Jesus saw Satan falling from heaven?
5. How did casting out demon demonstrate Jesus power over Satan?

6. True False Jesus was only tempt three times in the wilderness.
7. How did Jesus respond to this first temptation?
8. How did Jesus respond to this second temptation?
9. What did Satan offering to do for Jesus in the third temptation? What was the price tag?
10. True False Satan left Jesus never to return and tempt Him.
12. Match the temptation on the right and the scripture on the left with love of the world in the middle.
- |                                     |                   |                  |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Turn stone into bread               | pride of life     | Deuteronomy 6:13 |
| Jump off the pinnacle of the Temple | lust of the flesh | Deuteronomy 6:16 |
| Worship Satan for all the kingdoms  | lust of the eyes  | Deuteronomy 8:3  |
13. What prophecies does Revelation 12:7-11 fulfill? List the passages.
14. How long and where did the angel bind the dragon (Rev. 20:2,3)?
15. Whose souls did John see? What were they doing for a thousand years (Rev. 20:4)?
16. What was the situation with the rest of the dead for the thousand years (Rev. 20:5a)?
17. What three blessings do those have who take part in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:6)?
18. What eventually happened to Satan (20:10)?





## Is Lucifer A Scriptural Name for Satan?

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Many have held the view that Lucifer mentioned in Isaiah 14 is a Biblical name for Satan. Under "Bible Facts" on a certain website it says, "Gabriel, Michael, and Lucifer are the three angels mentioned by name in the Bible." In John Milton's *Paradise Lost* Satan is also called Lucifer. As he is in Dante Alighieri's *Inferno*. In *The Satanic Bible* of 1969, Lucifer is acknowledged as "Bringer of Light, the Morning Star, Intellectualism, Enlightenment." Even in Islamic writings Satan or iblis is referred to as Lucifer (Qur'an 17:61; 2:34; 17:62; 63-64; 7:11,12; 20-22). Is Lucifer a synonym for "Satan" in the Bible? Why do so many people believe that Lucifer is Satan?

Perhaps the belief stems in part from the fact that the name "Lucifer" is found in Bible prophecy (Is. 14:12-22). Some translations use this name (KJV, NKJV). The King James reads: "*How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!*" This popular translation borrowed the name from Jerome's translation of the Bible (A.D. 383-405) known as the Latin Vulgate. Keep in mind that the original Old Testament was written mostly in Hebrew. By the time Jesus came to earth the Scriptures had been translated into Greek (this translation was known as the Septuagint). If we are to understand the origin of the term "Lucifer" as it is found in some English translations we will have to look at the Latin. The name does not come from the Hebrew or even from the Greek translation (Septuagint), but from the fourth century AD Latin translation of this verse: *quomodo cecidisti de caelo lucifer qui mane oriebaris corruisti in terram qui vulnerabas gentes*.

The term *Lucifer* in the fourth century Latin language was a name for Venus, known as the morning star. The Latin word for Lucifer comes from the words *lucem ferre*. First, *lux* means "light" and *ferre* means "to bear" or "to bring." Thus, it literally means "bearer of light." In fact, the Latin Vulgate uses the term in Job 11:17; 2 Peter 1:19; and in Job 38:32 where it occurs in the plural (*luciferum*) in reference to an astral constellation. The translator's of the Latin Vulgate may have never had in mind a name for Satan in any of these passages.

Another reason some think Lucifer is the same as Satan is the similarities Isaiah 14 has with other passages. For example, Ezekiel 28:11-19 regarding the "*king of Tyre*" has also been applied to the Devil due to phrases which have been associated with Satan in the New Testament. Others have been convinced that the word "*sheol*" which is sometimes translated "hell" in verse fifteen represents further proof that Satan in being discussed in Isaiah 14. According to Jesus, hell is a place which has been prepared for the Devil and his angels (Matt. 25:41). In Revelation 12:9-12 Satan is cast out of heaven because of pride. In Luke 10:18-19, at the return of the Seventy, as they comment on their success, Jesus says: "*I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.*" In 2 Corinthians 11:14 Paul wrote, "*And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.*" At first glance a casual reading of these passages could cause some to conclude that the Devil/Satan is somehow associated with light and the sky. Therefore, all these verses must be talking about Satan. Verse twelve of Isaiah fourteen says, "*How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!*" The context does show this "*Lucifer*" to be someone with a great ego. "By adding these three passages together without regard to context, a jigsaw picture of a long ago historical event described in great detail [as been developed]...we have to put the pieces together from various bits scattered through literature written 800 years apart!" (Dennis Bratcher, "*Lucifer*" in *Isaiah 14:12-17: Translation and Ideology*).

Another reason so many have come to believe that Lucifer is the same as Satan is the abundance of traditions dating all the way back to the second century. An early Christian writer by the name of Origen (185-254 A.D.) first made this new connection between Satan and Lucifer. He argued that Lucifer, the Prince of Tyre, and the Leviathan of Job, were all identical with the Devil. He wrote, "Lucifer, star of the morning, fell from heaven to be warred against and destroyed by Jesus" (Origen c. 228 9:304). Later

Tertullian (155-After 220 A.D.) taught that before Satan's fall he was not only an angel but the foremost angel. He believed that the Devil was jealous of humans. Augustine believed that the Devil's envy arose from pride. In the Catholic Encyclopedia it states, "(Hebrew helel; Septuagint heosphoros, Vulgate lucifer): The name Lucifer originally denotes the planet Venus, emphasizing its brilliance. The Vulgate employs the word also for 'the light of the morning' (Job 11:17), 'the signs of the zodiac' (Job 38:32), and 'the aurora' (Psalm 109:3). Metaphorically, the word is applied to the King of Babylon (Isaiah 14:12) as preeminent among the princes of his time; to the high priest Simon, son of Onias (Ecclesiasticus 50:6), for his surpassing virtue."

The meaning of any term must be determined by its usage in context. In this case "Lucifer" mentioned in Isaiah 14:12 must be interpreted in relationship to the paragraphs associated with it. Isaiah begins this chapter with the promise of Israel's return from Babylonian exile. God will "*give them rest from their sorrows and hard bondage*" (v.3). Verse four makes it very clear as to whom this prophecy concerns: "*you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon*" (Isa 14:4,NIV). This monarch lived in and abided over a "*golden city*" (vs. 4). In contrast to this, Satan is the monarch of a kingdom of spiritual darkness (cf. Ephesians 6:12). The golden city ceased! Babylon was called the "*golden city*", and is referred to as the "*glory of the kingdoms*" (Isaiah 13:19), "*lady of the kingdoms*" (Isaiah 47:5), the "*praise of the whole earth*" (Jeremiah 51:41). In 14:5-7 God's people are celebrating the fall of Babylon, not the fall of Satan. Concerning the king's body, it will be eaten by worms (14:11). This is what happens when the flesh is placed into the grave. Isaiah makes reference to the pride of the Babylonian kings in 14:13,14. Nebuchadnezzar was a very proud king whom God punished until he learned to humble himself before God (Dan. 4:28-32). Daniel was called upon by the proud king Belshazzar to interpret the hand writing on the wall (Dan. 5:22-23a). The interpretation by Daniel was against this proud king. While Lucifer was alive he made the earth tremble with his power and military might (14:16) by overthrowing cities and refusing to release his captives (14:17). He was not to be buried like others kings but only find dishonor in death (14:18). This passage may be making reference to the demise of the last king of Babylon. Lucifer is "*thrust through with a sword*" and is cast out of his grave and into the pits reserved for the downtrodden masses (14:19-20). He is a man. Isaiah calls him the father of descendants who will be slain for his iniquities (14:21). Isaiah is most certainly describing Babylon and her evil kings (14:22). Nowhere within the context of Isaiah 14, however, is Satan depicted as Lucifer.

Isaiah chapter fourteen is found within a section of the book where God explains how He punishes all nations for their sin. Isaiah 13 begins a long section of the book known as "Oracles Against Foreign Nations" beginning with the destruction of Babylon in chapters thirteen and fourteen. "*The burden against Babylon which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw*" (Isaiah 13:1).The judgement or "*day of the Lord*" is coming against Babylon (13:6-16) and it will fall to the Medes (13:17-22). The prophecies of destruction for many nations are covered in this section: Assyria (14:24-28); Philistia (14:29-32); Moab (15); Damascus (17); and Egypt (19).

When considering the broader context of the book of Isaiah the prophet spends the first chapters denouncing the sins of Israel and its failure to be God's people. But he does not make a direct mention of Satan in the entire book. Furthermore, no where does the Bible support the belief that Lucifer is Satan.

Within the context of the paragraph, section, book of Isaiah and the whole Bible there is no evidence for Lucifer being Satan. However there does seem to be plenty of archeological evidence for the term "lucifier" to be a metaphor for the king of Babylon. An old Canaanite story says that the Morning Star made a move to become dominant in the sky but was cast down into the underworld. Isaiah even used two names of Babylonian astral deities within the context: Helel meaning morning star, and Shaha meaning dawn. Often ancient kings were deified as gods. The Babylonians worshiped the celestial bodies in their astral religion. The effects of God's punishment upon Babylon is described as a failure of the heavenly bodies to give light. "*And He will destroy its sinners from it. For the stars of heaven and their constellations; Will not give their light; The sun will be darkened in its going forth, And the moon will not cause its light to shine. I will punish the world for its evil*" (Isaiah 13:9-11). The habit of the kings of the east to be considered incarnations of the gods the people worshiped is being turned against them in this prophecy.

The actual meaning of the term "Lucifer" as the "morning star" is supported by the context and the

archeological evidence. Many translations, such as the ASV, NIV, NRSV, NASB, NJB and ESV, use "day star", "morning star" or something similar, and never use the word "Lucifer". For example, *"How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn!"* (Isaiah 14:12, NRSV). The planet Venus' orbit lies within the orbit of the Earth around the Sun. So just before dawn Venus (the morning star) can be seen in the eastern sky for an hour before the rising of the sun. Lucifer is the name for the dawn appearance of the planet Venus, heralding daylight. It is not another name for Satan.

Neither the Jews or the early Christians of the New Testament ever referred to Satan as Lucifer. The Universal Jewish Encyclopedia defines Lucifer: "the rendering of the Vulgate for the Hebrew phrase *helal* ('day-star') in Isa. 14:12; the verse is rendered in the Authorized Version as: 'How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!' The passage in question is a song of derision over the downfall of a Babylonian king; the figure used may trace back to a Hebrew or Babylonian astral myth like the Greek story of Phaethon, in which the day-star is cast out of heaven because of presumption. The term Lucifer is never used in Jewish legend" (229). In the New Testament the Adversary has many names, but "Lucifer" is not among them. It was not until the time of Origen do we find Lucifer being used to refer to Satan.

Although there is no reference to Lucifer in the New Testament, it does mention the morning star. It is Christ, the Son of God, who is the morning star in the New Testament - not Satan or even the king of Babylon. In the book of Revelation Jesus calls Himself *"the Bright and Morning Star"* (Rev. 22:16). Peter makes reference to the morning star rising in the hearts of Christians. *"And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts"* (2 Peter 1:19). Surely Peter was not a making reference to Satan.

### **Is Ezekiel 28:12-16 Discussing Satan or Lucifer?**

In reference to the twenty-eighth chapter of Ezekiel the early Christian writer, Tertullian said, "If you turn to the prophecy of Ezekiel...for in the person of the prince of Tyre, it says things in reference to the devil" (Tertullian 5.305). In the general context in chapters 26 through 28, Ezekiel is rebuking the city of Tyre. He first prophecies the fall of the nation and chapter 28 is specifically about the fall of that nation's king. The first ten verses of chapter twenty-eight describe the king of Tyre from God's viewpoint. *"Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre"* (Ezek. 28:12a). Like the king of Babylon in Isaiah 14, the king of Tyre was proud, arrogant, and boastful. He thought of himself as divine, and thus he claimed glory that did not belong to him (vv. 2, 6, 9). Due to some similarities with Isaiah some claim that Lucifer is under discussion. *"You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: ...The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you. By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones"* (Ezek. 28:13-16). The King of Tyre helped with supplying David with materials for the construction of the Temple in Jerusalem and later craftsmen in its construction under Solomon. They had a covenant with Israel. However, they did not aid Judah but rejoiced in its fall to the Babylonians. *"Aha! She is broken who was the gateway of the peoples; now she is turned over to me; I shall be filled; she is laid waste"* (Ezek. 26:2). They are going to thus reap the judgment of God and brought low. The king may have thought himself a privileged creation of Eden but after a thirteen year siege by Nebuchadnezzar Tyre would be ruin.

#### **Questions:**

1. Why did so many people believe that "Lucifer" is another Biblical name for Satan?

2. What is the Latin meaning of "Lucifer"?
3. List the early Christian writers who equated Lucifer with Satan?
4. How many times is the word "Satan" or "Devil" found in Isaiah 14? How many times in the book of Isaiah?
5. Who is identified as Lucifer in Isaiah 14?
6. What is the actual meaning of the Hebrew term for "Lucifer"?
7. Who is the morning star in the New Testament?
8. List the early Christian writer who connected Ezekiel 28 with Satan?
9. Who is being discussed in Ezekiel 28:12-16?
10. What ties did Tyre have to the Temple of Solomon?
11. What was to become of the city of Tyre? Why?

**Application & Discussion:**

1. Why does it matter what one believes about the use and meaning of the term "Lucifer"?

2. List the ways the studies in this workbook has added you in being a Christian (see Acts 26:18).

**Homework:** Examine you other beliefs which you have held simply because of the traditions of men and improve you study habits to avoid such mistakes in the furture.

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99 Job 2:2

And the Lord said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."

99 Lithner: It is clear from this that the devil hurls accusations; he slanders, tears down, or defames God

to man and man to god.

99 The devil goes to vacation resorts, too, but you can be sure he is not on vacation.

99 Satan Caused Man's Downfall - Not God!

99 "Hidden things of dishonesty" has to do with deceiving people

99 Job 2:1

Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the Lord.

99 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, Eph. 2:2

99 French Proverb: "When the Devil finds the door shut he goes away."

99 Pilot after a rough landing: "That was quite a bump, and I know what you all are thinking. I'm here to tell you it wasn't the airline's fault, it wasn't the pilot's fault, it wasn't the flight attendant's fault....it was the runway's fault!"

97 "I did it, and I accept full responsibility for my actions"

99 Jack Evans The devil's daughters Misinformation Misinterpretation Misunderstanding Misapplication Misconception

"in the image and likeness of God" man,  
God's master creation"

Eve didn't get up one morning with the idea, "I think I'll break God's law today." No! Satan had to deceive her with his bag of tricks. "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world-- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-- is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever." (1 John 2:15-17). "The woman saw the tree was good for food". As Satan tempted Jesus trying to get him to turn stone to bread (Mt. 4:3). Today, he uses hedonism. Next, she was lured to the tree through the lust of the eyes "and that it was a delight to the eyes." Satan showed Christ all the kingdoms of the world promising Him them if He would worship him but once (Mt. 4:5-7). Today, Satan uses materialism. Finally, she saw "that the tree was desirable to make one wise" This is the "pride of life." Satan tried to get Jesus to cast Himself off the Temple to show God's care for His Son (Mt. 4:8-10). Today, Satan appeals to egotism - a love of self. Satan hinted to Eve that she had the legitimate desire - to be like God - which God had forbidden her to fulfill.

Give entire social security checks to some televangelist.

Their sin consisted in their not observing the rank and order that God set.

Habitation is from oiketerion which literally means a dwelling where an inhabitant resides.

Matthew 12:26

If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?

By using the term "Satan" Jesus exposed his true character and showed him to be the adversary that he

was.

Satan does not cast out Satan. Jesus is stronger than Satan.

If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? Matt. 12:26

1 John 3:8 ...For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

A story of the birth of a male child who becomes the ruler of the nations.

Herod's proclamation to kill all babies two and under.

Tempting the Lord in the wilderness

Placing him on the cross.

The strong man

Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man?

And then he will plunder his house. Matt. 12:29

*"Resist the Devil and he will flee from you"* (Js. 4:7).

It is but a Temporary Victory

Satan only left *"for a season"* (Lk. 4:12). Certainly Jesus faced many other occasions of temptation (See, Jn. 6:15; Lk. 22:28; Mt. 27:39-44).

99 Nor are we taught anywhere that Satan is able to any extent to introduce disorder into the physical universe or directly operate in the lives of men.

Muhammad to wash out their noses with water every morning because Satan has "stayed in the upper part of his nose all the night" (Hadith 4:378; 54.10.516).

97 Acts 26:18

to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

97 If you don't believe in the Devil's existence, try working for God for a while.

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97 Eve tried to transfer responsibility for her sin to the serpent.

"Transference of responsibility: the blame game

97 By Remembering Who You Are

0 Samuel Butler wrote in *Higgledy-Piggledy: An Apology for the Devil*, "It must be remembered that we have only heard one side of the case. God has written all the books."

0 The Scriptural doctrine of Satan is nowhere systematically developed.



Islam Satan He is called *Shatan* derived from the Hebrew "shaitan" or *Iblis* from the Greek "diabolos." Since, angels cannot sin, Islam teaches that Satan came from the Jinn and led a group of them away (surah 18:50). The Qur'an tells of his falling out with Allah over the command for all angels to fall down and worship man. Satan refused and was rejected and accursed till the day of Judgment (surah 38:71-78). He is believed to be responsible for tempting Adam to sin. To this day he acts as a tempter to all men. Though Islam teaches against the doctrine of original sin, Muhammad said, "Satan reaches everywhere in the human body as blood reaches everywhere in one's body" (Hadith 3:140; 33.8.251). He also said, "No child is born but that Satan touches it when it is born whereupon it starts crying loudly because of being touched by Satan, except Mary and her Son" (Hadith 6:54; 60.54.71). Why they are exempt is not known. Even so there is no need to assume that Muslims believe sin is inherited, instead it only claims that Satan begins his work as soon as one is born.

The Muslim Satan is not omnipotent. Still, he is very power. Muslims are encouraged by

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0 Revelation 12:7

And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,

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0 Milton's Paradise Lost

Dante's Inferno

The Devil and Daniel Webster

5 Jude 1:8-10 Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries. 9 Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

In verse nine Jude elaborates on the third characteristic of these corrupted dreamers by relating a story not found in the Bible. In fact, it may be for oral tradition or from the pseudepigraphical Jewish work called the Assumption of Moses found by the Catholic church in the fifteen hundreds written in Latin. No matter where Jude obtained this information, it does not prove the letter of Jude to be uninspired or that everything found in this ancient manuscript or oral tradition is true. It only means that the Holy Spirit guided Jude to write down this truth to illustrate a point about how the archangel Michael would not dare to be so presumptuous to rebuke the Devil himself "but said, 'The Lord rebuke you!'" (see Zech. 3:1-5).

When Osama bin Ladin was killed his body was taken to a secret location and buried at sea. No Muslims will be able to make pilgrimages to venerate their fallen hero and rally at his grave site. When Moses died on Mt. Nebo God perhaps sent Michael to bury his body as some unknown location. "So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord. And He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth Peor; but no one knows his grave to this day" (Deut. 34:5,6). Satan would not have liked this at all. He would not have a grave site to distract future generations of Jews.

Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

