

OUR INVISIBLE ENEMY

The Devil and His Angels

Study #9

Is he? Who is he? Some people do not believe in the existence of a personal devil, calling “him” a medieval invention designed to scare people into the church, or a disciplinary tactic used by fathers to scare their children into obedience.

Others limit the devil’s existence to nothing more than a Halloween costume – a red flannel suit, complete with horns, cloven feet, and a long dragon’s tail – standing in Hell, tormenting folk with his pitchfork. **Both of these views of Satan are false!**

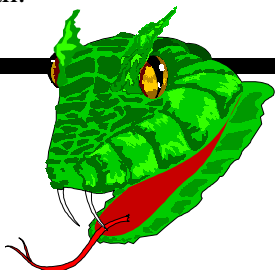
Lesson Overview

- I. Does Satan Exist?
- II. The Origin of Satan
- III. The Sin of Satan
- IV. Where is Satan Now?
- V. How Does Satan Operate Among the Unsaved?
- VI. How Does Satan Operate Among the Saved?
- VII. How Do I Deal With the Devil?
- VIII. A Final Warning Regarding the Deceptive Character and Works of Satan

Is there any evidence to believe that there is a devil – a personal, active being opposed to the plan of God? In this lesson we shall learn what the Bible teaches concerning Satan.

I. DOES SATAN EXIST?

A. *Philosophical Evidence*



1. There must be an adversary of God because absolute harmony does not exist in the world created by a powerful and perfect Creator. God would not create evil in this world.
2. In his book, *The King of the Earth*, Eric Sauer states, “The existence of sorrow and evil throughout the world proves the existence of a transcendental, real, dynamic, hostile power, not willed by God.” God would never create something perfect and then capriciously turn and destroy that which He has purposed in His wisdom. Continuing, Sauer says, “The fact is that the devil is a spiritual being . . . whose existence cannot in any way be assailed by philosophy nor natural science. Since it is just in our world and in the universe immediately surrounding us that we observe disharmony, death, destruction, even a purely speculative contemplation of nature focuses on the conclusion that this world and presumably the solar system connected with it, are the domain of this world-ruler and potentate.” It’s obvious that there is a being existing who is fighting the purposes of God.

B. *Biblical Evidence*

1. Seven Old Testament books and nineteen New Testament books refer to the existence of Satan.
2. Jesus Christ acknowledges Satan.
 - a. Look up: Matthew 4:1-11
 - (1) Satan was real in the life of the Lord Jesus Christ. List the three names or titles used of Satan in this passage.

- D_____
- T_____
- S_____
- (2) How many times did Satan tempt the Lord? _____
- (3) How did the Lord Jesus answer the devil?
 “It is W_____.”
 (He used the Bible.)
- b. Look up: John 16:11
 Jesus called the devil the prince of this W_____ and stated that he would be J_____.
3. Peter, James, and John acknowledge Satan.
- a. In 1 Peter 5:8, Peter calls the devil “your A_____.”
- b. In James 4:7, James instructs us to “R_____ the devil.”
- c. In 1 John 3:8, John informs us that Jesus will “D_____ the works of the devil.”

II. THE ORIGIN OF SATAN

Read Ezekiel 28:11-19. This prophecy is primarily spoken against the King of Tyre (probably Ethbaal 2). The first ten verses in the chapter were historically fulfilled by Nebuchadnezzar's invasion and 13-year siege of Tyre (598-585 BC).

Yet in this prophecy we see another personage – the one behind the wicked king of Tyre, Satan. (This is known as a “double prophecy” – it has a near and far fulfillment.)

- A. *Is Satan an eternal or created being? (see verse 13)* _____
- B. *What was Satan originally? (see verse 14)*
 The A_____ C_____ Cherubim (plural for Cherub) were the highest rank of angels. They possessed indescribable beauty and power and seemed to be protectors of God's holiness (Exodus 25:18-22; Ezekiel 1:4-28; 10:1-22). Sometimes they are seen proclaiming God's grace.
- C. *According to verse 15, what change took place that dramatically altered Satan's original status?*

III. THE SIN OF SATAN

According to Ezekiel 28:17, this indescribably beautiful, intelligent, powerful, celestial being sinned through PRIDE. The account is enlarged upon in Isaiah 14.

Look up and read Isaiah 14:12-17.

- A. *Underscore in your Bible the five “I will's” of Isaiah 14:13,14.*
- B. *What was Satan's original name?* _____
- C. *What was Satan's last “I will”?* _____
- D. *According to verse 15, where is Satan's final destiny?* _____

IV. WHERE IS SATAN NOW?

- A. **Look up: Revelation 12:10**
Satan can appear before G___ to accuse believers.
- B. **Look up: Ephesians 2:2**
Satan is the “prince of the power of the A___.”
- C. **Look up: 1 Peter 5:8 and Job 1:7**
Satan also walks about the E_____.

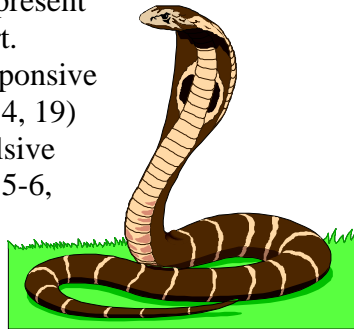
From these Scriptures, we learn that Satan is alive and active in many areas. But read Matthew 25:41 and Revelation 20:10; Satan will end up in the lake of fire, though he is not there yet! When he *is* cast into hell, he will **not** be the “king of hell” – he’ll be tormented forever!

V. HOW DOES SATAN OPERATE AMONG THE UNSAVED?

Read Matthew 13:38; John 8:44; Acts 13:10; and 1 John 3:10. According to these verses, what does God call those who are lost? _____

A. *His Work of Preventing*

- 1. Satan snatches the Word of God away from those with unresponsive hearts. Read the Parable of the Soils (Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23). Four soils represent four types of heart.
 - a. The unresponsive heart (vv. 4, 19)
 - b. The impulsive heart (vv. 5-6, 20-21)
 - c. The



B. *His Work of Perverting*

- d. The responsive heart (vv. 8, 23)

NOTE: The parable teaches that the result of hearing the gospel is always dependent upon the condition of the heart, and it is only where the heart is hard that Satan can move in and take away the Word. Before the person can meditate on it, allowing it to become significant in his thinking, Satan snatches it away by dragging new allurements in that are more appealing. These allurements divert the person’s attention and the Word is lost.

- 2. Look up: 2 Corinthians 4:4
What is Satan's major work among the lost?

NOTE: Satan blinds the mind of those who willfully won’t believe. It isn’t the idea that God wants you saved and Satan wants you lost – and you cast the deciding vote. Neither is it the idea that Satan is victimizing you – you’re sort of trapped: you’d like to vote for God but you’re blinded. It’s the idea that because there is an unbelieving heart, Satan can move in and make you blind. Satan is in the business of preventing, and to such people with hard hearts, the gospel seems irrelevant. This is why “the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness . . . “ (1 Corinthians 1:18).

Satan desires to pervert the truth so that what people are hearing isn't the truth at all. How does He do it?

1. Look up: 1 Timothy 4:1-2
Satan has his own doctrine. It is called "doctrines of D_____."
2. Satan perverts through distorting the purpose of life. He molds damning life-styles to trap man and make it difficult for him to free himself. Read Ephesians 2:1-3 and Romans 1:24-28.
3. He oppresses individuals through sickness and "mental illness."

What is Satan's false doctrine?

He denies the authority of Scripture (Genesis 3:1; 1 Timothy 4:1-3). He denies the deity of Christ (2 Peter 2:1). He denies that salvation is by grace and substitutes a "works salvation" instead. He denies the Second Coming of Christ (2 Peter 3:4).

VI. HOW DOES SATAN OPERATE AMONG THE SAVED?

A. *He Creates Doubt.*

Satan tempts us to doubt God's Word and His goodness (Genesis 3:1-5). In verse 4 Satan said, "Ye shall _____ surely die."

B. *He Incites Persecution.*

Look up: Luke 22:31
Jesus told Simon Peter that Satan wanted to "S_____ him as W_____."

C. *He Hinders Service.*

Paul wanted to come to the Thessalonians. His reason for not coming was "Satan H_____ us" (1 Thessalonians. 2:18).

D. *He Infiltrates and Divides the Church.*

- Look up: 2 Peter 2:1-2
1. Who shall be among you? F_____ T_____
 2. What shall they bring in? Destructive H_____

E. *He Tempts Us to Sin.*

1. Read 1 Corinthians 7:5. Satan will directly tempt a Christian with immorality.
2. Read 1 Thessalonians 3:5. Satan can still T_____ me.

F. *Look up: Revelation 12:9,10*

1. Satan A_____ me.
2. When he does, my advocate is J_____ C_____ the Righteous. (1 John 2:1)

G. *Look up: 1 Timothy 4:1*

Satan will try to get Christians to depart from the F_____.

H. *Sometimes, God will permit Satan to afflict Christians physically – but always for His glorious purpose. See: Job 1:12; 2:4-7, and 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.*

VII. HOW DO I DEAL WITH THE DEVIL?

If the truth about Satan ended here, many Christians would become discouraged. Praise God for He has made provision for us to overcome Satan and his works.

A. Look up: 1 John 4:4b

1. Who is the One “that is in you”?
The H_____ S_____
2. Who is the one “that is in the world”?
S_____
3. Who is the greatest?

It is essential for you to know this fact because Satan is a powerful being. The Bible teaches that he has an entire kingdom of darkness that is made up of angels that sinned with him at the beginning. Scripture refers to these beings as “devils” (demons). See: Jude 6; Matthew 12:26; Ephesians 6:12.

B. Step 1: Remember Satan is a defeated foe.

Look up: Hebrews 2:14 and John 16:11. When Jesus died on the cross, He broke the power of the devil. Satan is on “borrowed time.” Someone said: “When the devil reminds you of your past – remind him of his future!”

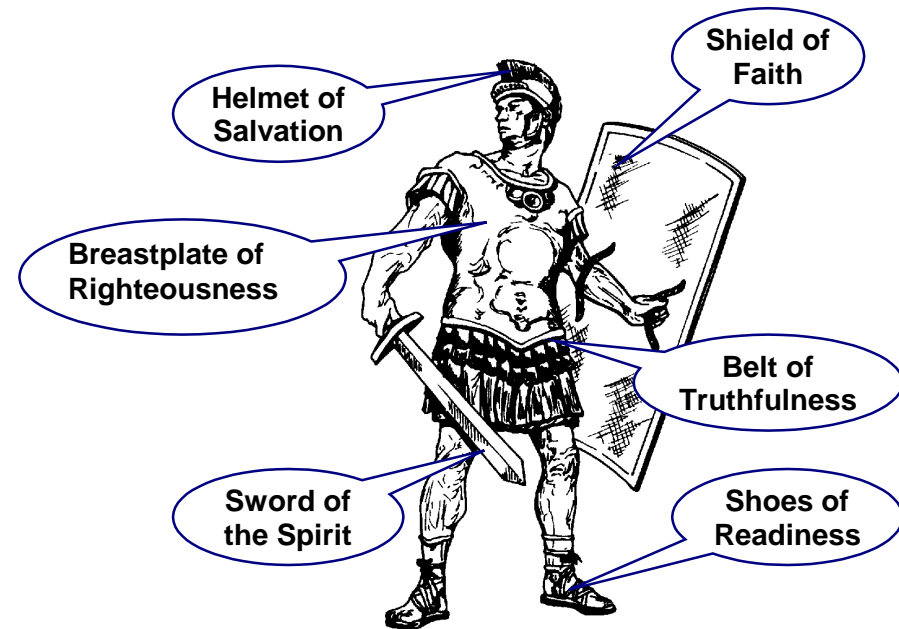
C. Step 2: Remember you are on the winning side.

Write out 1 John 4:4. Modify this verse by using your name in place of the personal pronouns “ye” and “you.”

D. Step 3: Put on the “whole armor of God.”

Look up Ephesians 6:10-18. This spiritual armor is designed by God to equip you. If you wear it, Satan cannot defeat you. List the parts of this “suit of armor”:

1. Belt (loins girt about) = _____
2. Breastplate = _____
3. Shoes = _____
4. Shield = _____
5. Helmet = _____
6. Sword of the Spirit = _____



E. Step 4: Don't give the devil an inch.

Look up Ephesians 4:27. Here we are instructed to not give P _____ to the devil.

F. Step 5: Always be on the alert.

1. Look up 2 Corinthians 2:11

We should obey God “lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his D _____.”

- 2. Write out 1 Peter 5:8.

_____.

G. Step 6: Never retreat, always RESIST.

- 1. Look up James 4:7
What happens when you stand up to the devil? _____.
- 2. Look up 1 Peter 5:9
We are to resist the devil steadfastly
_____ F_____.
- 3. Look up Matthew 4:4,7,10. What weapon did the Lord Jesus use to resist the devil?
_____.
- 4. Look up Matthew 16:23
What might we say to Satan as we quote Scripture at him?
“GET THEE B_____ ME,
S_____.”

even *benevolent*. Notice Satan's ambition in Isaiah 14:14. “I will be *LIKE* the Most High.” This teaches us that Satan imitates God. Everything good that God is and has done, the devil imitates with a counterfeit “look-a-like.”

- A. **Look up 2 Corinthians 11:4; 1 John 2:18, Matthew 24:5**

Another J_____.

- B. **Look up 2 Corinthians 11:4; 1 John 4:1-3**

Another S_____.

- C. **Look up 2 Corinthians 11:4; Galatians 1:9**

Another G_____.

- D. **Look up 2 Corinthians 11:13-15**

Other M_____.

- E. **Look up 2 Corinthians 2:17**

Another W_____ of _____ (Bible).

- F. **Look up Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

Satan also has a counterfeit ministry. True Gospel preaching results in W_____ (believers); Satan sows T_____ among the wheat (unbelievers). Do you know what this means? There are unsaved people in the church!

- G. **Look up Acts 8:9-11; 2 Thessalonians 2:9**

Satan can also work miracles. Claiming to do religious miracles doesn't mean the person is from God.

- H. **Look up 2 Corinthians 11:2**

Satan has a counterfeit *church*. God likens the church at Corinth to a “chaste virgin,” and in Ephesians 5:25-27 each true New Testament church is called the “bride of Christ.” But in Revelation 17

VIII. A FINAL WARNING REGARDING THE DECEPTIVE CHARACTER AND WORKS OF SATAN

Don't be fooled into thinking the devil always appears in the form of ugliness, hideousness, vileness, and overt wickedness. Though he is the instigator of sin, the destroyer of lives, the wrecker of homes, the great deceiver, the liar, and the Wicked One, many times he masquerades as an angel of light. He comes across as *nice*, *harmless*, and

we read of another religious organization that God calls the “great whore” (verse 1) and the “mother of harlots” (verse 5). A study of this chapter shows this church to be made up of the mass of apostate Christendom, with man-made systems, unsaved people, great wealth, etc.

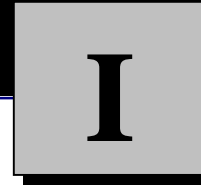
HOW CAN WE PICK THE DIFFERENCE????

Answer: Isaiah 8:20.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH ASSIGNMENT:

- Read your J Lesson (**J**esus Christ) and answer all the questions. Look up the lesson’s Bible references in God’s Word.
- Continue reading through the New Testament *at your own pace*.
- Take sermon notes using your *Spiritual Journal* and be prepared to share highlights next week.
- Give out copies of *Life’s Greatest Discovery* or *The Amazing Story Behind Amazing Grace*.
- Where would you like to meet for next week’s session?
- Be sure to bring your Bible, pen, **J** Lesson, and *Spiritual Journal*.

Discipler Report Back



I met with _____ on _____/_____/_____ and reviewed the contents of this lesson. My comments regarding the discipleship time together are:

(make comments only if they are needed to help the Pastoral staff assist you in ministering to this person)

Discipler’s Name _____

Please drop this off at the Hospitality Booth in the church foyer on the first service after conducting this session. This will help the Pastoral staff stay current with the status of our new converts and new members being disciplined.

Thank You