

BIBLE BRIEF:

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE DEVIL?

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Accompanying video can be found at: www.vimeo.com/95273989

WHO IS THE DEVIL

Some people think of the Devil (Satan) as a harmless cartoon character with a red suit and a pitchfork. This image is used in advertising for products such as vacuum cleaners, deviled ham, energy drinks, fireworks, and hot sauce. Others may think that “since God is the King of Heaven, the Devil (Satan) must be the King of Hell.” You may have heard people say that they would rather “party in hell with the devil than have to serve God forever in heaven.”

Who really is the Devil (Satan)? Satan literally means “adversary” or “an accuser in court.” He is the destroyer, the ruler of this world, a murderer, the father of lies, the tempter, the deceiver, (Matthew 4:3; Matthew 12:7; John 8:44, 12:31; 2 Corinthians 4:4, 6:15, 1 Thessalonians 3:5; Revelation 12:9-10). Originally he was created as a perfect heavenly being named Lucifer (Isaiah 14:12-15), son of the morning, the light bearer, the shining one. (Nehemiah 9:6; Job 1:6, 2:1; Ezekiel 28: 11-19; Matthew 25:41; Revelation 12:7-9). As Lucifer, he may have been charged with being an angelic guardian in the Garden of Eden (Ezekiel 28: 13-14) but his heart was filled with pride because of his beauty. His wisdom was corrupted by his love of his splendor. So he was thrown down and expelled (Ezekiel 28: 17; Luke 10:18; 2 Peter 2:4) and took with him (or will take with him) a third of the heavenly host (Daniel 8:10; Revelation 12: 3-9).

Now (as Satan) his unchanging purpose is to defeat God’s plans at every turn – including God’s plans for your life.

THE BIBLE SAYS

Satan (in the form of a serpent) **tempted** Eve and was part of “the **curse**” (Genesis 3)

Satan **possessed** Cain to commit murder (Genesis 4, 1 John 3:12)

Satan (along with other members of the heavenly court) **presented** himself before God (Job 1:6)

Satan **tested, brought disaster and disease** to Job (Job 1-2)

Satan **patrols the earth**, watching everything that is going on (Job 2:2)

Satan **lurks in the unseen world** (Ephesians 6:12)

Satan **prowls about like a roaring lion**, looking for someone to devour. (1 Peter 5:8)

Satan **argued** with the angel Michael about Moses’ body (Jude 1: 9)

Satan **blocked** the way of God’s messenger (Daniel 10: 12-14)

Satan **incited** King David’s census of the people of Israel (1 Chronicles 21:1)

Satan **accused** Jeshua the high priest in front of the angel of the Lord (Zechariah 3)

Satan **tempted** Jesus in the wilderness (Matthew 4: 1-11; Mark 1: 12-13; Luke 4: 1-13)

Satan **battles** against the Gospel by taking it away from hearers (Mark 4: 15)

Satan **crippled the health** of people with an evil spirit (Luke 13: 10-16)

Satan **possessed** Judas (Luke 22: 3-5; John 19:27)

Satan desired to **test** Peter as he had tested Job but Jesus interceded (Luke 22: 31-32)

Satan **filled Ananias' heart to lie** to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5: 3)
Satan **enslaved, ensnared, and trapped** sinners (Acts 28: 16; 2 Timothy 2: 26)
Satan uses **schemes** and **strategy** (2 Corinthians 2:11; Ephesians 6:11)
Satan **deceitfully opposed** God's people (1 Corinthians 7:5)
Satan **hinders plans** (1 Thessalonians 2:18)
Satan **imprisoned** and **tested** people (Revelation 2: 10)
Satan uses **counterfeit** power, signs, and miracles (2 Thessalonians 2:9-10)
Satan **masquerades** as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14)
Satan will **deceive** almost the entire world (Revelation 13: 3-4; Matthew 7:14, 21-23; Matthew 22:14)
Satan knows that his **time is short** (Revelation 12:12)

WHAT TO DO AND WHAT WILL HAPPEN

Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil (Ephesians 6: 11)

So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you (James 4: 7)

The Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3: 8b)

Satan will be thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

There he (Satan) will be tormented day and night ... forever and ever. (Revelation 20:10)

"I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." (Revelation 21: 3-4)

What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? **Who dares accuse us** whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. **Who then will condemn us?** No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us. **Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love?** Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep." No, despite all these things, **overwhelming victory is ours through Christ**, who loved us. And I am convinced that **nothing can ever separate us from God's love**. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—**not even the powers of hell** can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, **nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord**. (Romans 8:31-39)