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Is the Devil Real?

1 Peter 5:8: (NASB) *Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*

Evil exists. The world in which we live accepts this fact and sometimes even seems to relish it. For the Christian, defining evil can easily be done within the context of Satan as the Bible says he is a murderer and the father of lies. However, the very existence of Satan has become a very real question for many - they say he is just a convenient way of having the necessary bad guy so the good guys can win. So, does Satan really exist or is "Satan" just a concept?

Who is Satan?

The Devil: Strong's #1228 diabolos (dee-ab'-ol-os); a traducer; specially, Satan KJV-- false accuser, devil, slanderer.

tra-duce: (transitive verb) to expose to shame or blame by means of falsehood and misrepresentation

Generally, Satan is the betrayer and opponent of all that is good: Revelation 12:9:

Satan was the betrayer and opponent of Jesus: Matthew 4:1-3

🔊 **An overview of Satanism, *Defining Satanism*, youtube.com**

- *Just as various Buddhists do not worship Buddha, Satanists do not worship Satan. Satanists believe, contrary to many other religions, in being selfish and to fulfill your own self-indulgent nature. Satanists disagree with the Christian concept of selflessness...*

So they worship certain principles, not a being. Self-indulgence sure sounds attractive to many people.

Satan is the betrayer and opponent of the true church: 1 Peter 5:6-11: Selfishness vs. humility: The Christian focus, according to Peter, is focused on humbling ourselves under the mighty hand of God.

Adversary: Strong's #476 antidikos (an-tid'-ee-kos); an opponent (in a lawsuit); specially, Satan (as the arch-enemy):

When that lion roars, it is paralyzing and makes it easier to pounce on the prey.

Where did Satan come from?

Isaiah 14:12-15: He is given the name Lucifer and he is again defined as selfish. Some people do not believe this describes Satan, such as in our next audio segment:

🔊 **Lucifer was just a king, *Imaginenosatan.com***

- *Why isn't context considered in this passage about Lucifer? When we look closely at the context, we see this is about a man - the Lucifer of the Old Testament is simply a fallen king - it means "bright morning star" and this king didn't do his job as a ruler, so he was going to fall from heaven, in the Biblical metaphorical language.*

Interesting...he does have a point...

Isaiah 14:3-4: So, are we out of line projecting this imagery onto Satan?

Well, here is another instruction given to Isaiah directly from God - one to which he responds personally! Isaiah 6:8-10: Isaiah volunteers to be sent to tell the people specific instructions.

Jesus tells us that Isaiah's instruction was prophetic and meant to be fulfilled by Jesus himself! Matthew 13:13-15: Jesus tells us that he spoke in parables in order to fulfill the prophecy in Isaiah. Jesus is saying that God talking to Isaiah was just a picture of God talking to Jesus. Here is the principle of prophecy: while spoken to an individual at a specific time for a very specific reason, it always has a greater meaning to be fulfilled at a later time. So when Jesus himself tells us that those things spoken of to Isaiah really meant him, it is easy for us to see that the things spoken of the king of Babylon really meant to describe Satan.

🔊 **"Devil Bird," Richard Dawkins reading his book, *The God Delusion***

- *The argument "From Personal Experience:" An account of someone who, while camping in the Scottish Isles in the middle of the night, he and his girlfriend were woken in their tent by the voice of the Devil, Satan himself. There was no doubt, the voice was in every sense diabolical.*



My friend would never forget this horrifying experience and it was one of the factors that later drove him to be ordained (as a minister). I recounted the story to a gathering of zoologists. Two of them happened to be experience ornithologists and they roared with laughter. "Manx Shearwater," they shouted in delighted chorus! The diabolical shrieks and cackles of this species is "Devil Bird."

We all have personal experiences that drive us to do something, but we want to stay close to scriptural principles that "override" personal experiences.

Jesus elsewhere alludes to the imagery in Isaiah:

Luke 10:18: (NASB) *And he said to them, I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.*

- *I will ascend into the heavens - but he was already "on the Holy Mount of God."*
- *I will exalt my throne above the stars of God - but he was already one of the stars of God. (He was already called "star of the morning.")*
- *I will sit in the mount of congregation in the uttermost parts of the north - this is where God abides, according to Scriptures in Job.*
- *I will ascend above the heights of the clouds - above the influence of God's presence with man.*
- *I will make myself like the Most High - not replacing, but rivaling the Most High.*

Lucifer was looking for dominion, power and authority and to usurp that which he had no right to because he had not created it. The Scriptures testify to the personality of Satan.

What does Satan want?

CONTROL! He wants to be like the Most High!

How does he go about gaining and maintaining this control? With subtlety: 1 John 2:16-17:

(NASB) *¹⁶For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. ¹⁷The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.*

These things take us away from God. It is the battle of the Christian - and some don't even realize they are facing these.



Live as the other animals, an overview of Satanism

- *Humans are just another animal and should live as any other animal in nature does. This form of Satanism is known as "Laveyan" Satanism, which has an assortment of rules and rituals that makes it a unique and interesting religion.*

Animals live by their instincts. But we were created in God's image - we have reasoning. De-personalizing Satan can be dangerous in our efforts to fight against him.

Genesis 3:1-6: (NASB) *¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, Indeed, has God said, You shall not eat from any tree of the garden? ²The woman said to the serpent, From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; ³but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die. ⁴The serpent said to the woman, You surely will not die! ⁵For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. ⁶When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, (lust of the flesh) and that it was a delight to the eyes, (lust of the eyes) and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, (pride of life) she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.*

Satan told Eve a measure of truth with a big lie: You surely will not die. Truth mixed in makes lies more palatable.



The Church of Satan, Do something naughty, History Channel

- *Founded by Anton Lavey in San Francisco, CA, in 1966, the Church of Satan sees belief in God as delusional, so they practice self-reliance and self-worship. We believe in greed, selfishness and all of the lustful thoughts that motivate man, because this is man's natural feeling. If you're going to be a sinner, be the best sinner on the block. If you are going to do something naughty, do it, and then realize you're doing something naughty and enjoy it.*



Yes, Satan planted those seeds early for us to be evil. He has such a grip on our world. Even Jesus was tempted by Satan in Matthew 4:1-11.

How does Satan approach Jesus? Matthew 4:2-4

Lust of the flesh! Seeking God refutes lust: Matthew 4:5-7

Pride of life! Lust of the eye! Giving God the credit refutes pride; looking to God refutes lust: Matthew 4:8-11: (Interesting to note that all of the kingdoms were Satan's to give...he had dominion.) Satan tried to get Jesus hooked the same way he did Eve.

Is Satan a real spiritual being or just a concept?

🔊) Satan doesn't make sense, Question for Christians, afterfaith.com

- *Why would Satan knowingly help God whom he is supposed to hate? Wouldn't he be able to subvert God's plan by simply doing nothing? If Satan stopped tempting people right now, how would the prophecies in Revelation come about? And if they don't need to come about, then why is Satan needed at all? Wouldn't Satan be better labeled as an accomplice to God, since by doing what he is doing, he is helping to fulfill God's plan? Maybe Satan is working for God by being a good little devil and tempting the riffraff away from God.*

Satan continues, even when he knows God is the Creator. EGO is first; everything else is second to him. This is just like humanity. Look at anyone who is rebellious against righteousness and you will see the same patterns of behavior!

- Disregard for authority;
- Complete focus on "my way;"
- Short-sighted actions;
- Belief that they can rewrite the rules.

Ezekiel 28:11-17: This is similar to the Isaiah scripture we just looked at - here is another king personifying Satan. God placed Lucifer in Eden as a protector, so he was trusted, high and mighty, but he was unrighteous and violent. Lucifer had been magnificent! He was beautiful! But his ego was strong and the end result was awful. Satan is somebody we need to understand in order to protect ourselves.

Jesus certainly saw Satan as a being: John 8:39-44

🔊) An overview of Satanism, Anton Szander Lavey, *Nine rules of Satanism*

- *The nine Satanic statements of Satanism: Indulgence, vital existence, undefiled wisdom, kindness to those deserving of it, vengeance, responsibility to the responsible, man as just another animal, gratification of all one's desires, and best friend of the Christian Church. (that last one was said in mockery)*

What does Satan do?

He is the god of this world: 2 Corinthians 4:3-4: He is a preventer of truth! He is the prince of the power of the air: Ephesians 2:1-2: He is in a position of strong authority, working in the children of disobedience.

🔊) The Church of Satan - Ritual Magic Decompression, *History Channel*

- *Ritual Magic Decompression: We stop rationalizing and thinking. We go inside a darkened room lit with candles and we release our emotions in a way to clear out anything that might be hindering us from pursuing all the kind of things we would like to do.*

Satan gathers followers - oftentimes they are unknowing followers: 1 John 3:7-8: Satan cannot stop the will of God. Satan and his messengers seek to distort truth amongst the faithful: 2 Corinthians 11:12-15: He makes himself look like the light, and so do his ministers. Satan has always sought to short circuit the plan of God: Daniel 10:10-13 1 Peter 5:8-9



Does Satan have a destiny?

The Church of Satan - The Destruction Ritual, History Channel

We do unto others as they do unto us. If someone harms us, we fully believe you have the right to avenge yourself against them. Vengeance is part of our philosophy. We have a destruction ritual which is meant to clear away any kind of hatred that might arise in us because someone has wronged us. Whoever has harmed you, you might make a doll of this individual, stick pins or nails into it or rip it into pieces - that is the destruction ritual -the elimination of the person who has harmed you.

Satan, the ruler of this world, has a destiny:

John 12:31-32: (NRSV) ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; **now the ruler of this world will be driven out.** ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.

Satan, the accuser of our brethren, has a destiny: Revelation 12:10-11: **We are helpless and hopeless against him unless we find our strength in Jesus.**

Satan, the Devil, has a destiny: Hebrews 2:9-14: (NASB) ⁹But we do see him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. ¹⁰For it was fitting for him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings...¹⁴Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise also partook of the same, **that through death he might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil...**

Satan had the power of death because he instituted it into the human experience through Eve. He is very powerful and dangerous and wants to walk us away from God and toward evil.

Here is the process of Satan's demise: Revelation 20:1-3: (KJV) ¹And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ²And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, ³And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, **that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.**

Satan's influence is completely taken away for 1,000 years, and then allowed to return for a little time. This "little season" makes sure that those who profess goodness and righteousness are true at heart.

He is then destroyed: Revelation 20:10: How may we stay far, far away from this diabolical being? **Live with great intention, according to the word and will of God.** Ephesians 6:10-12: This is the struggle for the Christian. We win this match by wearing the whole armor of God.

1 Kings 18:21: (NASB) *Elijah came near to all the people and said, How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him. But the people did not answer him a word.*

We can overcome the very real Satan because our strength is in God.

**So...is the devil real?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!**