



## 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:** (NASB) *And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the **devil** <1228> and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.*

### Satan was the betrayer and opponent of Jesus:

**Matthew 4:1-3:** (NASB) <sup>1</sup>Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the **devil** <1228>. <sup>2</sup>And after he had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. <sup>3</sup>And the tempter came and said to him, If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.



An overview of Satanism, [Defining Satanism, youtube.com](http://DefiningSatanism.youtube.com)

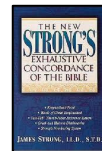
- Just as various Buddhists do not worship Buddha, Satanists do not worship Satan. Satanists believe, contrary to many other religions, in being selfish and to fulfill your own self-indulgent nature. Satanists disagree with the Christian concept of selflessness...

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:** (NASB) <sup>6</sup>Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, <sup>7</sup>casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. <sup>8</sup>Be of sober spirit, be on the **alert**. Your **adversary** <476>, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. <sup>10</sup>After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. <sup>11</sup>To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.

**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: (NASB) <sup>12</sup>How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, you who have weakened the nations! <sup>13</sup>But you said in your heart, I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. <sup>14</sup>I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High. <sup>15</sup>Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit.

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](http://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: (NASB) <sup>3</sup>And it will be in the day when the LORD gives you rest from your pain and turmoil and harsh service in which you have been enslaved, <sup>4</sup>that you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon, and say, How the oppressor has ceased, and how fury has ceased!

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: (NASB) <sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us? Then I said, Here am I. Send me! <sup>9</sup>He said, Go, and tell this people: Keep on listening, but do not perceive; Keep on looking, but do not understand. <sup>10</sup>Render the hearts of this people insensitive, their ears dull, and their eyes dim, otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and return and be healed.

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: (NASB) <sup>13</sup>Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. <sup>14</sup>In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, You will keep on hearing, but will not understand; You will keep on seeing, but will not perceive; <sup>15</sup>For the heart of this people has become dull, With their ears they scarcely hear, And they have closed their eyes, Otherwise they would see with their eyes, Hear with their ears, And understand with their heart and return, And I would heal them.

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



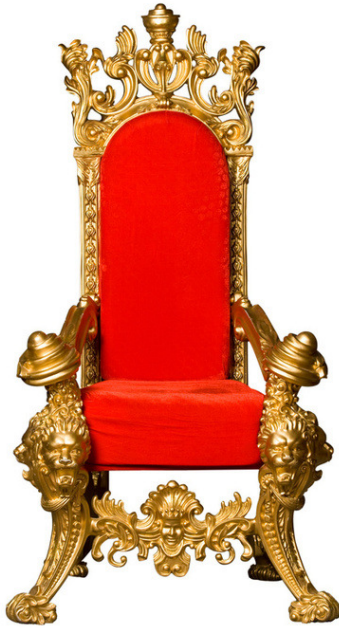
fulfilled at a later time. So when Jesus himself tells us that those things spoken of to Isaiah really meant him, it is easy for us to see that the things spoken of the king of Babylon really meant to describe Satan.



*"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) <sup>16</sup>*For 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.* <sup>17</sup>*The 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

Luke 22:31:

Jesus reminds Peter that Satan wanted to destroy him.

- 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) <sup>1</sup>Now 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? <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; <sup>3</sup>but 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. <sup>4</sup>The serpent said to the woman, You surely will not die! <sup>5</sup>For 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. <sup>6</sup>When 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: (KJV) <sup>2</sup>And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered. <sup>3</sup>And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. <sup>4</sup>But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Lust of the flesh! Seeking God refutes lust:

Matthew 4:5-7: (KJV) <sup>5</sup>Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup>And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. <sup>7</sup>Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

Pride of life! Lust of the eye! Giving God the credit refutes pride; looking to God refutes lust:

Matthew 4:8-11: (KJV) <sup>8</sup>Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; <sup>9</sup>And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. <sup>10</sup>Then saith Jesus unto



him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. <sup>11</sup>Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

(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](http://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: (NASB) <sup>11</sup>Again the word of the LORD came to me saying, <sup>12</sup>Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him, Thus says the Lord GOD, You had the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. <sup>13</sup>You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering:...On the day that you were created they were prepared. <sup>14</sup>You were the anointed cherub who covers, and I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire. <sup>15</sup>You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you. <sup>16</sup>By the abundance of your trade you were internally filled with violence, and you sinned; Therefore I have cast you as profane from the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. <sup>17</sup>Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, that they may see you.

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: (NASB) <sup>39</sup>They answered and said to him, Abraham is our father. Jesus said to them, If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham. <sup>40</sup>But as it is, you are seeking to kill me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do. <sup>41</sup>You are doing the deeds of your father...<sup>44</sup>You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does



*not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*

**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: (NRSV) <sup>3</sup>And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

#### He is a preventer of truth!

#### He is the prince of the power of the air:

Ephesians 2:1-2: (KJV) <sup>1</sup>And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins: <sup>2</sup>Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience...

#### 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: (NASB) <sup>7</sup>Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; <sup>8</sup>the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

#### Satan cannot stop the will of God.

#### Satan and his messengers seek to distort truth amongst the faithful:

2 Corinthians 11:12-15: (NRSV) <sup>12</sup>And what I do I will also continue to do, in order to deny an opportunity to those who want an opportunity to be recognized as our equals in what they boast about. <sup>13</sup>For such boasters are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. <sup>14</sup>And no wonder! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. <sup>15</sup>So it is not strange if his ministers also disguise themselves as ministers of righteousness. Their end will match their deeds.

#### 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: (NASB) <sup>10</sup>Then behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. <sup>11</sup>He said to me, O Daniel, man of high esteem, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you. And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. <sup>12</sup>Then he said to me, Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words. <sup>13</sup>But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold,



*Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia.*

**1 Peter 5:8-9:** (NASB) <sup>8</sup>*Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.*

### 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) <sup>31</sup>*Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And 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:** (KJV) <sup>10</sup>*And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. <sup>11</sup>And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.*

**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) <sup>9</sup>*But 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. <sup>10</sup>For 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...<sup>14</sup>Therefore, 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) <sup>1</sup>*And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. <sup>2</sup>And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, <sup>3</sup>And 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: (RVIC) *And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where are also the beast and the false prophet; and they shall be put to the test day and night for ever and ever.*

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: (KJV) <sup>10</sup>*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

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...!*

*And now even more to think about...  
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*



First, we need to look at one of the last texts from the program, Revelation 20:10. In the broadcast we used a translation which we believe accurately reflects the intention of the text.

Here we will quote the KJV and give a brief explanation of what we understand the text to mean and why:

Revelation 20:10: (KJV) *And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

Revelation 14:11: (KJV) *And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.*

### These two texts from Revelation bear explanation:

Revelation 14:9-11: (KJV) <sup>9</sup>*And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship **the beast and his image**, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, <sup>10</sup>The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: <sup>11</sup>And the **smoke** of their **torment** ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.*



Symbols of the text: The beast and his image represent great religious systems. The mark, the forehead and the hand are all symbols as well, as is the wine of God's wrath, the cup of indignation - so is it any surprise that the fire, brimstone and smoke are symbolic as well?

**Torment:** Same root word as in the Rich man parable, Strongs #929 basanismo basanismo bas-an-is-mos' 1) to torture, a testing by the touchstone, which is a black siliceous stone used to test the purity of gold or silver by the colour of the streak produced on it by rubbing it with either metal 2) torment, torture 2a) the act of tormenting 2b) the state or condition of those tormented



Symbol of smoke: *the smoke of their torment rising up...* Consequently, a rising column or cloud of smoke came to be used symbolically as a token of warning, a portent of woe to come or of destruction. (Revelation 9:2-4; compare Joel 2:30,31; Acts 2:19,20; Revelation 9:17,18.) Smoke also symbolized the evidence of destruction. (Revelation 18:9,18) Smoke that keeps ascending to time indefinite therefore is evidently an expression denoting complete and everlasting annihilation, as in Isaiah's prophecy against Edom: *to time indefinite its smoke will keep ascending.* (Isaiah 34:5,10) Edom as a nation was wiped out and remains desolated to this day, and the evidence of this fact stands in the Bible account and in the records of secular history.

Isaiah 34:5-10: (ASV) <sup>5</sup>For my sword hath drunk its fill in heaven: behold, it shall come down upon Edom, and upon the people of my curse, to judgment. <sup>6</sup>The sword of Jehovah is filled with blood, it is made fat with fatness, with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams; for Jehovah hath a sacrifice in Bozrah, and a great slaughter in the land of Edom. <sup>7</sup>And the wild-oxen shall come down with them, and the bullocks with the bulls: and their land shall be drunken with blood, and their dust made fat with fatness. <sup>8</sup>For Jehovah hath a day of vengeance, a year of recompense for the cause of Zion. <sup>9</sup>And the streams of Edom shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch. <sup>10</sup>It shall not be quenched night nor day; the smoke thereof shall go up for ever; from generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it for ever and ever.

While the above text does not use the actual word "Gehenna," the destruction of Gehenna is certainly implied...To attempt to put it more plainly, (especially in light of the Isaiah text where the same fire, brimstone and ascending smoke are used as a clear description of utter destruction) we would suggest the following interpretation:

*All of the great religious systems that lead people away from truth (the Beast, his image) and any who worship them will be subject to the wrath of God and be clearly and utterly exposed as false and hypocritical, and as such will meet with total and complete destruction (fire and brimstone), in the presence of Jesus and his true followers (the lamb and his angels). Though destroyed, the remembrance of their now revealed false systems and hypocrisy (the smoke of their torment) will be forever (they have no rest day or night) in the minds of men.*

Revelation 20:7-10: (NRSV) <sup>7</sup>When the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison <sup>8</sup>and will come out to deceive the nations at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, in order to gather them for battle; they are as numerous as the sands of the sea. <sup>9</sup>They marched up over the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from heaven and consumed them. <sup>10</sup>And the devil who



had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

This text is very similar to the Revelation 14 text discussed above and we believe that it warrants the same answers as already given. We get a sense that all evil in all of its forms ends up in this "Lake of Fire," this total destruction.

### A couple of examples of "torment" used in these two Revelation texts:

Matthew 14:24: But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, **tossed <928>** with waves: for the wind was contrary.

Matthew 8:29: And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to **torment <928>** us before the time?

### Now, a few more descriptive names for Satan:

**The Tempter**: Strongs #3985 peirazo (pi-rad'-zo); to test (objectively), i.e. endeavor, scrutinize, entice, discipline: KJV-- assay, examine, go about, prove, tempt (-er), try.

1 Thessalonians 3:5: (NRSV) For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith; I was afraid that somehow the tempter had tempted you and that our labor had been in vain.

**Beelzebub**: Strongs #954 Beelzeboul (beh-el-zeb-ool'); of Aramaic origin dung-god; Beelzebub, a name of Satan: KJV-- Beelzebub.

Matthew 12:24: (NRSV) But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, It is only by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons, that this fellow casts out the demons.

**The evil (wicked) one**: Strongs #4190 poneros (pon-ay-ros'); hurtful, i.e. evil (properly, in effect or influence, and thus differing from 2556, which refers rather to essential character, as well as from 4550, which indicates degeneracy from original virtue); figuratively, calamitous; also (passively) ill, i.e. diseased; but especially (morally) culpable, i.e. derelict, vicious, facinorous; neuter (singular) mischief, malice, or (plural) guilt; masculine (singular) the devil, or (plural) sinners: KJV-- bad, evil, grievous, harm, lewd, malicious, wicked (-ness).

Matthew 13:19: (NRSV) When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path.

Matthew 13:38: (NRSV) the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one,

**Belial**: 955 Beliar (bel-ee'-ar) or Belial (bel-ee'-al); of Hebrew origin [1100]; worthlessness; Belial, as an epithet of Satan: KJV-- Belial (Beliar).

2 Corinthians 6:14-15: (KJV) <sup>14</sup>Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? <sup>15</sup>And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

### One last motivating text relating to the work of spreading the Gospel...

Acts 26:12-19: (NKJV) <sup>12</sup>While thus occupied, as I journeyed to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, <sup>13</sup>at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me. <sup>14</sup>And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads. <sup>15</sup>So I said, Who are You, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>16</sup>But rise



*and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. <sup>17</sup>I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision...*

Let's spread the good news!!!