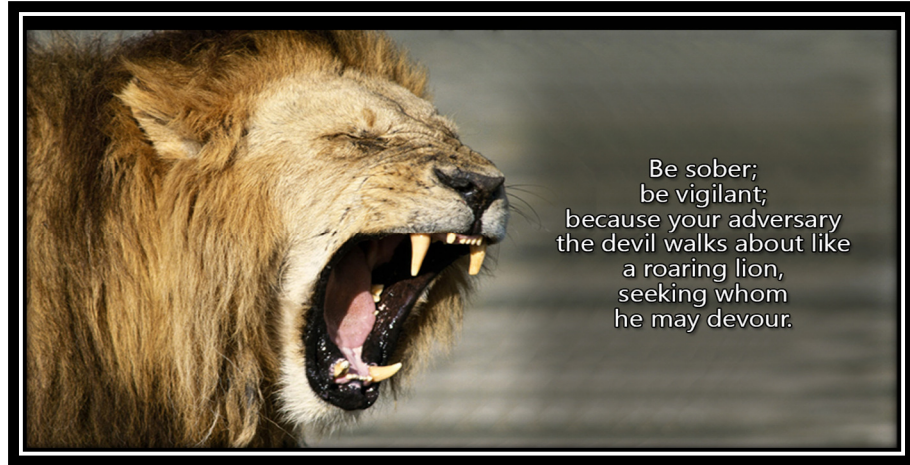




## Does the Devil Really Exist?

**Matthew 4:10:** (KJV) *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.*



Satan. The Devil. The Adversary. These are but a few of the names that describe that powerful spiritual being who fell from heaven and opposes God. Many people don't believe he exists. Still others look at the Bible and point out how Satan is such an infrequent player in the Old Testament and a dominant player in the New Testament. They use this observation as proof of the evolution of the "idea" of Satan. So, is he real or just a convenient fabrication of Christianity to keep people in line? If he is real, what kind of influence does he have? Should we be afraid?

 Introduction, *The Devil - Does He Really Exist (documentary)*, SBS TV Australia

- *Lucifer, Beelzebub, the Beast, Satan.*
- *Hail, Satan!*
- *When you say "Satan" to me, I think God.*
- *He has been called many names. He has taken many strange and different forms. The idea of God's evil enemy has been around for thousands of years and it's still as powerful as ever, but where did Satan's story begin? Where did he come from and how did he become the prince of darkness?*

Satan is given many names in Scripture that help us to identify his character.

Usually, we start at the beginning and build our reasoning step by step. Today we want to start in the middle and talk about Satan's greatest power grab attempt in human history!

Each aspect of the three temptations of Jesus addresses Satan from a different perspective. Each perspective helps us to understand who he is by what he does.

**Matthew 4:1-10:** (NASB) <sup>1</sup>Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be **tempted <3985>** 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 <3985>** came



and said to him, if you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.

**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.

**Satan tempts:** He enticed Jesus to do something helpful and needful to his body. He makes us second guess ourselves as to whether or not we are going in the right direction.

Jesus does not rely on his own personal strength to deflect Satan. Instead, he relies on the word of God. All of Jesus' answers are in relation to Israel being delivered as a nation.

<sup>4</sup>But he answered and said, it is written, Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. <sup>5</sup>Then **the devil <1228>** took him into the holy city and had him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup>and said to him, if you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, He will command His angels concerning you; and on their hands they will bear you up, So that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

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

(Merriam Webster) **Traduce:** to expose to shame or blame by means of falsehood and misrepresentation

**Satan traduces:** Satan tries to make things look one way when they are really another way. Today we would call that, "putting a spin on reality." He sought to expose a weakness of pride in Jesus by misquoting Scripture. Perhaps he assumed Jesus would think in the same way as he himself thought...?

Again Jesus quoted the Old Testament.

<sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, on the other hand, it is written, You shall not put the Lord your God to the test. <sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; <sup>9</sup>and he said to him, all these things I will give you, if you fall down and worship me. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to him, go, **Satan <4567>**!

**Satan:** Strongs #4567 Satanas (sat-an-as') (with the definite affix); the accuser, i.e. the devil (a borrowing from Hebrew and Aramaic meaning literally 'adversary')

**Satan accuses:** He accused Jesus of weakness and stands in opposition to the stated purpose of God.

For it is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.

### What does all of this tell us about how Satan works?

Satan is **SMART!** His intelligence is beyond human comprehension. We need to stay close to the method Jesus used to combat him...Scripture!

Satan is aware of where we are and why we are there and seeks to turn our location against our mission.





**Mark 1:9-11:** (NASB) *<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>Immediately coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opening, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him; <sup>11</sup>and a voice came out of the heavens: you are My beloved Son, in you I am well-pleased.*

Satan would have observed this happening.

#### **Our circumstances:**

**Philippians 4:11-12:** (NASB) *<sup>11</sup>Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. <sup>12</sup>I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.*

The Apostle Paul learned how to manage spiritually in all circumstances by staying close to Jesus and far away from Satan. Satan knows our circumstances in life. He is aware of what we are doing and why and seeks to corrupt our focus.

**If you are a follower of Christ, you are an enemy of Satan.**

**Mark 1:12:** (NASB) *<sup>12</sup>Immediately the Spirit impelled him to go out into the wilderness.*

Satan was aware that the Spirit of God moved Jesus out into the wilderness.

#### **Our focus:**

**Philippians 3:13-14:** (KJV) *<sup>13</sup>Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, <sup>14</sup>I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

Even after years of following Jesus, the Apostle Paul had to constantly strive to be better and press forward.

**As his enemy, Satan is aware of our weaknesses and seeks to capitalize upon them!**

**Matthew 4:2:** (NASB) *And after he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he then became hungry.*

Jesus had a physical weakness at this time - hunger.

#### **Our weakness:**

**2 Corinthians 12:9:** (NASB) *And he has said to me, my grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.*

Sometimes it is our weakness that makes us strong so we rely on the Lord. Where does your strength come from...self? Or God? Our strength has to come from some place stronger than our enemy. We receive strength to compensate for our weaknesses.

**Satan is aware of our strengths and seeks to redirect them.**



**Matthew 4:6:** (NASB) *and said to him, if you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, He will command His angels concerning you; and on their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.*

Jesus' strength was that he was the son of God with God's protection. Satan knew of that protection and tried to manipulate it for a proud purpose.

**Our strength:**

**Ephesians 6:10:** (NASB) *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.*

**Once Satan tires of the godly strength that repels him, he leaves...but then what?**

**Matthew 4:11:** (NASB) *Then the devil left him; (Luke 4:13 adds "...until an opportune time") and behold, angels came and began to minister to him.*

The angels fulfilled all that the devil was after!

- They probably fed and strengthened him. (The very definition of "minister.")
- They "bore him up" and fulfilled the text that Satan misquoted.
- They came as messengers of the Most High, whom they and Jesus served.

This gives us a clear view of Satan and his New Testament beginnings. What about the Old Testament?

 **Old Testament introduction, *The Devil - Does He Really Exist (documentary)*, SBS TV Australia**

- *More than three thousand years ago in the deserts in pasture lands of the Middle East, unknown hands wrote the earliest chapters of the Hebrew Bible. If the devil had a birthplace surely it was here, somewhere in the book known to Christians as the Old Testament. In the oldest books of the Bible, a character called Satan does appear, but he's nothing like the Satan we imagine.*
- *When we read the Old Testament we find that from time to time there is this strange dark figure that pops up called "The Satan." The word "The Satan" is actually a title. The word means "the accuser," and to begin with, it seems that "The Satan" is one of the angels or attendants in the heavenly court, one of God's servants who in a sense had to do some of the dirty work.*

Was Satan actually in God's court and assigned to "do the dirty work?" We will get back to that point shortly.

**So, was it really Satan in the Garden of Eden doing the deceiving?**

 **Satan and Eden, *The Devil - Does He Really Exist (documentary)*, SBS TV Australia**

- *When Satan isn't being a dragon, he's a snake. The serpent said to have tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden has long been believed to represent the devil, although the Scriptures don't actually say so. In fact, Christian leaders disagree, sometimes violently, about what the devil is like, but one thing they do agree on: he is busy working with and through their enemies.*



What does Satan want? He wants CONTROL! He wants humanity to follow him!

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.*



**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. (We saw evidence of that craftiness in the previous exchanges with Jesus!) 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.*

What evidence do we have that this was in fact Satan?

**We believe the following texts to be clearly symbolic of Satan as it tells of the reasons he would have been in Eden and what went wrong as a result:**

**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.*

The King of Tyre personifies Satan here. How do we know? *You were in Eden* - we know the King of Tyre was never in Eden, as an angel of the Lord guarded the entrance so no one was allowed back in. *You were the anointed cherub* - surely the literal King of Tyre was never an angel!

This describes an angelic presence in Eden who was there to protect in a position of great responsibility. He was there as a servant of God but turned against God. This being was corrupted by his own selfishness and self-importance.



**This next text seems to verify the idea:**

**Revelation 12:9:** (NASB) *And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.*

Satan is described as *the great dragon, the serpent of old* - THE serpent of old would be the one in Eden, right?

So, if in Revelation Satan is *thrown down to the earth*, then where is he? What is he doing?



***Satan and Job, The Devil - Does He Really Exist (documentary), SBS TV Australia***

- *One of Satan's earliest appearances is as an angel in the book of Job. In one of the best known stories in the Bible, Satan argues that Job, one of God's most loyal servants, is only pious because he has a good life. God agrees that Satan can test Job by inflicting on him all kinds of diseases and calamities. In the end, in spite of dreadful sufferings, Job continues to worship God, and Satan loses the argument. The Satan who makes Job's life a misery isn't a demon or even a bad angel and he doesn't live in hell.*

**Was Satan a "bad angel" at this point?**

**Job 1:6-12:** (NASB) *<sup>6</sup>Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. <sup>7</sup>The LORD said to Satan, from where do you come? Then Satan answered the LORD and said, from roaming about on the earth and walking around on it.*

This does not imply that Satan was "good," it merely implies that Satan could come before God. Satan in his fallen state could still communicate with God.

*<sup>8</sup>The LORD said to Satan, have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil. <sup>9</sup>Then Satan answered the LORD, does Job fear God for nothing? <sup>10</sup>Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.*

This *does* imply mischief, for Satan is challenging a promise that God has always given those who honor Him - His blessing. In the Old Testament, God's blessing was physical. His blessing in the New Testament would be spiritual.

God's principle stayed the same, though: Obey Me and be blessed. Disobey Me and there will be consequences.

Satan is challenging God - that is not the work of a good angel.

*<sup>11</sup>But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face. <sup>12</sup>Then the LORD said to Satan, behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him. So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD.*

So the shackles are off regarding Job and Satan can now get to him. Satan is evil! He is looking to prove that Job will not be faithful to God. Job was protected because he was loyal. He was not loyal because he was protected.



## Satan further revealed in Isaiah...or is he?

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. (a future judgment)

Does the context show that these verses are about a literal king or Satan?

### Let's look at the context:

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!

It IS about a king in Isaiah's day - the King of Babylon - so are we out of line projecting this imagery onto Satan? We believe these words apply to both a literal king *and* Satan in a prophetic sense - two applications. Why do we think this is proper?

### Here is another instruction given to Isaiah who 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 physically hears God and accomplishes his mission. These verses are about Isaiah! But is there a deeper application?

### Jesus tells us that Isaiah's instruction was prophetic and meant to be fulfilled by Jesus himself!

Matthew 13:13-14: (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.

Jesus clearly tells us the Old Testament was for *its* time as well as a tool of prophecy with a more powerful meaning later on. If Jesus is telling us that is how the Old Testament prophets work, we should take him at his word. We can apply these descriptions to Satan and they make sense. The Old Testament was a tool for the future.

## What role did Satan play in the New Testament?

Satan is described in many ways as he who stands and would have us stand against God. That is his objective - to get us to stand against God. How does he do that?

**Satan:** Strongs #4567 Satanas (sat-an-as') (with the definite affix); the accuser, i.e. the devil: (a borrowing from Hebrew and Aramaic meaning literally 'adversary')

Mark 8:33: (KJV) *But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, **Satan <4567>**: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men.*



Do you see how easy it is for us to end up serving Satan? This even happened to Peter! We need to be aware and careful because when we go against the will of God we are following the will of Satan. That is a sobering thought, because none of us are in line with the will of God all the time. We would like to be, but we are weak and imperfect.

1 Thessalonians 2:18: (KJV) *Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but **Satan <4567>** hindered us.*

Satan actively tried to stop the Gospel from being spread.

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

Ephesians 6:10-13: (NASB) <sup>10</sup>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. <sup>11</sup>Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the **devil <1228>**. <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

The Scriptures say our lives are "hid with Christ." If we are hid with Christ, how can Satan find us? It means you are hidden in the strength of Christ. If we sit under the authority of Jesus, our weaknesses are covered and we can overcome. We put on the armor of God, not our own armor. This is a battle way beyond our own capacity.

**The Adversary:** Strongs# 480 antikeimai (an-tik'-i-mahee); to lie opposite, i.e. be adverse (figuratively, repugnant) to: KJV-- adversary, be contrary, oppose.

1 Timothy 5:14-15: (KJV) <sup>14</sup>I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to **the adversary <480>** to speak reproachfully. <sup>15</sup>For some are already turned aside after Satan.

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

1 Peter 5:8-9: (NASB) <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.

How much does Satan know? It is speculation, but we believe God does hide certain things from him. We assume he reads the prophecies but sees them through his own filter and thinks he can change the outcome to his will, thwarting God's plans.

We can take heart even if we have fallen. If you fall, you don't stay down. You get up, brush yourself off and find your hiding place in Christ again. Make sure you are armed *this* time and learn from how you fell before.

RESIST  
the devil, and he will flee from you.





Of course, there is the history of Christianity *after* the New Testament, and it is a sad story!



**Constantine and power, *The Devil - Does He Really Exist (documentary)*, SBS TV Australia**

- *Four centuries after Christ, a Roman emperor, Constantine the Great, converts to Christianity. Within a generation the once persecuted religion is the official creed of the mightiest empire on earth. Christian bishops now have real power backed up by the state, and they use Satan to help them keep it. Again and again, church leaders claim that those who disagree with them - especially other Christian groups - are working for the devil.*
- *As Constantine made it a state religion and a state church and an established religion, what Constantine and his immediate successors found hardest to put up with was heresy.*

Christianity took a turn for the worse in the Dark Ages. The church at that time really took on the role of Satan to those who were trying to follow after Christ - as an accuser, adversary and traducer. "If you don't see it our way, you will be burned, tortured, killed, etc." This was an amazing victory of Satan! He controlled Christianity to try to control the world.

Did the persecuting Christians have "real power" as the sound byte described? No, real power is the power and influence of God in your life, the Holy Spirit. Christianity does not need governments or authority; it simply needs the power of God.

John 17:14: (NASB) *I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.*

Christianity is supposed to be about the word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit - not running governments.

**Satan gathers followers - often times 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.*

True Christianity is comprised of a very tiny category of people.

**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.*

The history of Christianity shows darkness posing as light within the Christian movement, actually corrupting the name of Christ.



## Why has Satan's influence escalated? What will be the end result?



**Executions for Christ, The Devil - Does He Really Exist (documentary), SBS TV Australia**

- Catholic theologians would have said that because "heretics" didn't believe the "correct" Catholic faith they must be worshipping the Evil One instead - God's enemy.
- The logic is relentless: It's "us" and "them." If you're not with the church and the empire, you're with Satan. It's a short step for the church to demand that heretics be put to death. The first executions come 450 years after Christ. Over the following centuries, the numbers of people killed for supposedly working for Satan grows to many tens - possibly hundreds - of thousands.



This history of Christianity was not good, proper, Christian or godly. It was Satanic. Never again should we allow the name of Christ to go in that direction. How are we as individuals standing for the true Gospel of Jesus Christ?

**1 Timothy 4:1-3:** (KJV) <sup>1</sup>Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; <sup>2</sup>Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; <sup>3</sup>Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

**Revelation 20:4:** (NASB) ...And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Will we stand firm in our faith? Satan fights harder because the Redeemer of the world has arrived and challenged his authority! That is why he went after Jesus right at the beginning of his ministry.

**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.



Jesus' faithfulness is what will drive out Satan permanently.



A caller from Connecticut suggests: Romans 7:22: *For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self.* The Christian is strong in Christ when he is weak. When the Christian is focused on God and on being in love, he is safe. Romans 7:23: *But I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.* Satan is a real being of hurtful intelligence, who whispers to us, "You can do this yourself. You don't need God." But the Christian does not listen to this or his own noisy mind but leans into Christ. James 4:8: *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.*

**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.*

Satan is active in trying to undermine the faithfulness of true Christians.

**Satan, the Devil, has a destiny:**

Hebrews 2:9-10,14: (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.*

Jesus is described as the pivot point of the plan of God. Because of that, he renders the devil powerless! Jesus is the answer to all Satanic influences.

**Satan is to be bound during the 1,000 years of Christ's reign:**

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.*

**... and 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.*

**Cast into the lake of fire and brimstone: a picture of destruction**

**Where do we find our sure footing in this battle against evil?**

Romans 8:35-39: (NRSV) *<sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written, for your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered. <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*



Satan is alive and flourishing in this present world...but not for long! Our responsibility is to recognize and respect that and be hid in Christ under the armor of God so we can fight a battle that is beyond our ability to fight.

*So, does the devil really exist?  
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!*

*Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make man a more clever devil.  
- C. S. Lewis*

*The devil's voice is sweet to hear. - Stephen King*

**Other descriptive names for Satan:**

These two are closely related: Beelzebub and Belial

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

**Matthew 12:24:** (NRSV) *But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, it is only by **Beelzebul <954>**, the ruler of the demons, that this fellow casts out the demons.*

**Luke 11:18:** *If Satan also be divided against himself, how shall his kingdom stand? Because ye say that I cast out devils through **Beelzebub <954>**.*

**Belial:** Strongs #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 <955>**? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?*

**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 <4190>** 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 <4190>**.*

**Matthew 5:11:** *Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of **evil <4190>** against you falsely, for my sake.*



**Matthew 7:11:** *If ye then, being **evil <4190>**, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?*

**Romans 12:9:** *Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is **evil <4190>**; cleave to that which is good.*

### **The father of lies and murderer:**

**John 8:44:** (NRSV) *You are from your father the devil, and you choose to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*

### **These next three all related:**

#### **The ruler of this world:**

**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.*

**The god of this world:** Strong's #2316. *yeov theos theh'-os; of uncertain affinity; a deity, especially (with 3588) the supreme Divinity; figuratively, a magistrate*

**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 <2316>** 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.*

#### **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.*

#### **The accuser of our brethren:**

**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.*

### **How do we deal with his attacks?**

#### **He seeks to devour any who would stand for God:**

**1 Peter 5:6-10:** (NRSV) *Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you in due time. <sup>7</sup>Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. <sup>8</sup>Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. <sup>10</sup>And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you.*

(Source: Biblical commentary by Dr. J. Vernon McGee) Satan is a created being. He was created perfect in beauty. If you think of Satan as a creature with horns, a forked tail and cloven feet, you are wrong. You have been reading the literature of the Middle Ages which has its origin in Greek mythology that goes back into Asia Minor...

The Word of God does not present Satan in that manner. The Bible presents him as perfect in beauty. If you could see him, you would find that he is the most beautiful creature you have ever seen. I have heard many people say how good-looking the men of certain cults are. When I was a boy, I heard such a man. He was in one of the cults. He had silver gray hair and was a



fine looking man—in fact, he was very handsome. Some women would almost swoon at his presence. People treated him as if he were a god, a claim that he almost made. Do you know what he was? He was a minister of Satan.

**Job 38:5-7:** (KJV) *<sup>5</sup>Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? Or who hath stretched the line upon it? <sup>6</sup>Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? Or who laid the corner stone thereof: <sup>7</sup>When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?*

The moral of the story - BE VERY CAREFUL - BE VERY SCRIPTURAL!