

“YOUR ADVERSARY, THE DEVIL”

1st Peter 5:8

I. ORIGIN

A. Colossians 1:16

1. “By Him,” that is the Lord Jesus Christ, “all things were created.”
 - a. Satan’s origin is not in himself. If he were self-existent, he could accurately claim equality with God.
 - b. Satan was created by the Lord.
2. “All things were created through Him and for Him.”
 - a. When Satan was created, he was made for the Lord.
 - b. All mankind has been made to serve God, but chooses to sin.
 - c. Satan was created good, but chose evil.

B. Angelic beginning?

1. Because Satan possesses supernatural abilities, yet is less than God, it seems highly **probable** that he was originally an angel.
2. Angels are fallible.
 - a. **2nd Peter 2:4; Jude 6**
Some have forsaken the role God intended for them.
 - b. **Matthew 25:41**
Some angels are in the service of Satan.
3. **Revelation 12:7-9**
At some point, Satan and his angels have been ejected from heaven.

II. ACTIVITY

A. 1st John 3:8, 10

1. He is the source of all sin.
 - a. **John 13:2, 21-27**
"The devil... put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot to betray Him."
 - b. **Acts 5:1-3**
When Ananias lied, Satan had filled his heart to do so.
 - c. **Revelation 2:9; 3:9**
Hypocrites in the church are referred to by Jesus as "a *synagogue of Satan*" in contrast to a legitimate church of Christ.
 - d. **Revelation 2:24**
Those espousing false doctrine are considered to know "the depths of Satan" as opposed to "the deep things of God" (1st Corinthians 2:10-16).

2. What is sin?
 - a. **Romans 10:17; 14:23**
 - i. *"Faith comes by hearing... the word of God."*
 - ii. *"Whatever is not from faith is sin."*
 - iii. Therefore, whatever is not from God's word is sin.
 - b. **1st John 3:4**
"Sin is lawlessness".
 - c. **1st John 5:17**
"All unrighteousness is sin".
 - d. **James 4:17**
To "know to do good and... not do it... is sin".

- B. Matthew 13:3-8, 18-23**
"The wicked one", that is Satan (Mark 4:15) or the devil (Luke 8:12), diverts attention away from the gospel (19).

1. **2nd Corinthians 4:3-4**

He veils the truth, blinding people to the glory of the gospel.

2. **Acts 26:17-18**

Darkness is his weapon.

C. **John 8:44; Revelation 12:9**

As the father of lies, it is his work to deceive the world.

1. **2nd Corinthians 11:3; Genesis 3:1-13**

The devil has been deceiving mankind throughout history.

2. **2nd Corinthians 11:14-15**

If you are curious as to the appearance of Satan, you may disregard classic images that depict a horned, pointy-tailed, pitchfork-wielding beast.

- a. Imagining him as the picture of evil is to ignore his deceptive nature.
- b. It renders him harmless to expect him to **look** bad.
- c. Instead, he ought to be perceived as having the appearance of “*an angel of light*”, not that we know what an angel looks like, but the point is that Satan looks innocent!

3. **2nd Thessalonians 2:9-12**

- a. “*The working of Satan*” involves “*lying*”, “*deception*”, and “*delusion*”.
- b. This lie is often perpetrated through “*power, signs, and lying wonders*”.

4. **Matthew 4:5-6**

Satan deceives by distorting God’s word to say something other than what He meant by it.

- a. **2nd Timothy 2:15**

Therefore, we understand the need for “*rightly dividing the word of truth*”.

b. 2nd Peter 3:16

To do otherwise is to twist the scriptures unto our own destruction.

c. They serve Satan who suggest God’s word can mean different things to different people.

III. POWER

A. Subordinate to the Lord.

1. Matthew 28:18

Jesus possesses all authority; therefore Satan is less powerful than He.

2. John 19:10-11

Even the power to crucify the Son of God comes from above.

B. His actions require permission from God.

1. Job 1:6-12; 2:1-6

Satan was powerless to do Job harm until God put it in his hand.

2. Luke 4:1-13

That with which the devil tempted Jesus was delivered to him (6).

3. Luke 22:31

Satan required permission to work against Peter.

4. 1st Corinthians 10:13; 2nd Peter 2:9

Ultimately, God decides the limits of temptation.

IV. DOMAIN

A. Earth

1. **Job 1:6-7; 2:1-2**
Satan roams the earth.
2. **John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11**
Jesus spoke of “*the ruler of this world*” as one who will be judged and who has nothing in Christ.
3. **1st John 5:18-19**
“*The whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.*”
4. **Revelation 12:9**
He was cast to the earth, where he works to deceive the world.
5. **James 4:4; 1st John 2:15-17**
Inasmuch as the world is Satan’s realm, we should desire to have no part in it.

B. Not Hell

1. **Matthew 25:41**
“*The everlasting fire*” of Hell has been “*prepared **for***”, not **by** the devil.
2. **Revelation 20:1-10**
In “*the lake of fire and brimstone*”, the devil will receive his torment. He will not be tormenting others.

V. RESISTANCE

- A. **1st Peter 5:8-9**
To “*resist him*”, one must be “*sober*”, “*vigilant*”, and “*steadfast in the faith*”.
- B. **James 4:7**
 1. None “*resist the devil*” who do not “*submit to God*”.
 2. The devil flees from those who know how to withstand him.
 - a. **Matthew 4:1-11**

The tempter departed from Jesus when He quoted scripture to answer each temptation.

b. Psalm 119:11

We can avoid sin by treasuring God's word in our hearts.

c. Ephesians 6:10-18

"The wiles of the devil" should be confronted with *"the whole armor of God"*.

d. 2nd Corinthians 2:11

Knowledge of the enemy's tactics is a valuable asset to use toward his defeat.

C. Ephesians 4:27

We must not provide the devil any opportunities.

1. Luke 11:24-26

By failing to be busy with God's work, we leave a vacancy that Satan is happy to fill.

2. James 1:12-16

We must keep our desires in check.

CONCLUSION

A. Hebrews 2:9-18

By conquering death, Christ overcame the Devil. We can overcome him by submitting to Christ.

B. Invitation