

What About the Devil?

By Doug Hamilton

Question: Why cover the doctrine of the devil in a study on angels?

Answer: Understanding who devil is will better allow us to appreciate God.

Question: Has the devil always existed?

Answer: He is a created being of God.

Jesus revealed something of interest in John 8:44, “*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.*”

The phrase “*from the beginning*” referred to the creation account and the “*murderer*” beckons back to the curse of spiritual death set in motion in *Genesis 3:2–4* *The woman said to the serpent, “From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; ³ 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.’ ” ⁴ The serpent said to the woman, “You surely will not die!”* Their horizontal relationship with God was replaced with a vertical relationship, leaving the need for mankind to seek out reconciliation through the blood of Christ. The fact that the devil was already well-established by the beginning insinuates a pre-creation existence. Sometime before the creation account of Genesis, the devil had a blameless state, but went astray by the time of the above said.

Question: Are you saying God created evil?

Answer: No, He created choice, for God is Holy.

- Habakkuk 1:13, “Thine eyes are too pure to approve evil, and Thou canst not look on wickedness with favor...”
- Isaiah 6:3, "...Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory."
- I John 1:5, “This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”
- I John 3:8, “He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.”
- 1 Peter 1:16, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

Simply because God made the devil with a freewill choice to follow Him, this does not mean God made Satan to be evil. The devil prior to the creation of the Cosmos was once a beautiful angel in heaven, but rebelled along with a following of others.

- Paul revealed in *1 Timothy 3:6* concerning the selections of church leaders that they be “*not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.*”
- This is further captured by John in *Revelation 12:9*, “*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 exalted himself in pride against God in heaven, not because God made him evil, but that God gave him the possibility of choosing evil.
- When Jesus sent the apostles out to perform the miracles of God, He remarked in Luke 10:18, “*I beheld Satan fallen as lightning from heaven.*” He said this in reflection to the devil being defeated in his own worldly backyard through the powers of God.

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Question: When we take a path of pride in this life, are we not associating ourselves with Satan?

Answer: Absolutely! Pride is the primary path to association with the devil.

Peter demonstrated a prideful assault on God's plan wherewith he was called Satan.

- *Matthew 16:22-23 And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid {it,} Lord! This shall never happen to You." ²³ But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."*

David also self-exalted himself in pride in having a military census.

- *1 Chronicles 21:1 Then Satan stood up against Israel and moved David to number Israel.*

Paul received a thorn in the flesh to keep him humble

- *2 Corinthians 12:7 And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me-- to keep me from exalting myself!*

The King of Babylon was a type of Satan because of prideful self-exaltation.

- *Isaiah 14:11-17 'Your pomp {and} the music of your harps have been brought down to Sheol; Maggots are spread out {as your bed} beneath you, and worms are your covering.' ¹² "How you have fallen from heaven, O star (**Lucifer KJV and day-star ASV**) of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, you who have weakened the nations! ¹³ "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. ¹⁴ 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' ¹⁵ "Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit. ¹⁶ "Those who see you will gaze at you, they will ponder over you, {saying,} 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, ¹⁷ Who made the world like a wilderness and overthrew its cities, who did not allow his prisoners to {go} home?'*

The King of Tyre was a type of Satan because of prideful self-exaltation.

- *Ezekiel 28:2 "Son of man, say to the leader of Tyre, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Because your heart is lifted up And you have said, 'I am a god, I sit in the seat of gods, in the heart of the seas'; yet you are a man and not God, although you make your heart like the heart of God..."*
- *Ezekiel 28:13-15 "You were in Eden, the garden of God...On the day that you were created they were prepared. 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. "You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, until unrighteousness was found in you."*
- *Ezekiel 28:17 "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.*

All these are earthly examples of Satan, for they were brought down by God from their

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lofty, self-exalted, prideful positions. If we also take a prideful path in life, then expect Satan to have a strong association to us; and pride always comes before a fall (Proverbs 16:18).

Question: What is Satan's plan for us today?

Answer: Just look at the various names of the devil and you will know.

- He is called the Destroyer in Revelation 9:11.
- He is the Accuser of the brethren in Revelation 12:10.
- He is the Adversary in 1 Peter 5:8 and the enemy of Matthew 13:39.
- He is Beelzebub, the ruler of demons, in Matthew 12:24.
- He is the Dragon of Revelation 20:2, the Great Red Dragon of Revelation 12:3 and the Leviathan of Isaiah 27:1.
- He is the Father of Lies and the murderer of John 8:44 and the Lying spirit of 1 Kings 22:22.
- He is the power of darkness of Colossians 1:13, the Prince of the power of the air in Ephesians 2:2 and Ruler of the darkness of this world in Ephesians 6:12.
- He is the Tempter of Matthew 4:3, the wicked one of Matthew 13:19 and the god of this world of 2 Corinthians 4:4.

The devil made a bad decision to turn from God and was banished to condemnation. He convinced other angels to do them and receive the same condemnation. He knows his days in this realm are numbered and is seeking to take as many of us down the same path.

He is Hell-bent on Deception.

- 2 Corinthians 11:14, "And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light."
- Genesis 3:1, "Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made..."
- 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

He is Hell-bent on Distraction.

- Matthew 4:1, "Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil."
- 1Thessalonians 3:5 "...for fear that the tempter might have tempted you.
- 1Thessalonians 2:18, "For we wanted to come to you-- I, Paul, more than once-- and {yet} Satan thwarted us."

He is Hell-bent on Destruction.

- John 10:10 "The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have {it} abundantly.
- 1 Peter 5:8, "Be of sober {spirit,} be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

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Question: What is our strategy for dealing with the devil?

Answer: A Five-fold Strategy

1) Be mentally prepared.

- Job 1:9-12 Then Satan answered the LORD, "Does Job fear God for nothing? ¹⁰ "Hast Thou not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ¹¹ "But put forth Thy hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse Thee to Thy face." ¹² 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.

2) Be properly equipped.

- Ephesians 6:11-17, "Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil."

3) Be fully committed.

- 2 Timothy 2:26, "And that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will."
- James 4:7-8, "Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

4) Be spiritually-minded

- 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, ⁴ for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. ⁵ *We are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ..."

5) Be trusting in Jesus.

- Hebrews 2:14-15 Since then 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; ¹⁵ and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.