

# Bible Studies

## Satan I

### What do people believe about the devil today?

Most people don't believe he exists, others think; sulphur, horns and a pitchfork.

### Is either view Scriptural?

Among Christians there are very opposite ideas about Satan.

Either we have an unhealthy fascination with things demonic. Or we ignore him.

We either see him as all-powerful, or so weak that he is not worth worrying about.

### Are any of these views scriptural?

### Do you think these views depict Satan's own propaganda?

You will find reference to him frequently in the Scriptures. It is dangerous to be ignorant or to disregard something Scripture mentions so often. Nor can we choose the bits of the Bible we will believe and ignore the bits that don't appeal to us.

*Ignoring Satan will not make him go away.*

*Being innocent will afford us no protection.*

Paul says: *For we are not unaware of his schemes.* 2 Corinthians 2v11. Yet frequently we are unaware of his schemes and consequently we are often outwitted them.

When you look at the world around us you have to believe in the devil, otherwise you have to believe that God is either very weak, or Himself evil. There has to be an explanation of the work of evil in the world.

*"As far as God goes I'm a nonbeliever.. But when it comes to the devil- well that's something else... the devil keeps advertising.. the devil does lots of commercials."*

William Blatty (The Exorcist)

*Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*

*Resist him, standing firm in the faith, 1 Peter 5:8-9*

### What we do believe.

Jesus Said *"I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Luke 10v18*

Basically we believe that Satan was one of the angelic host, an archangel, along with Gabriel and Michael, who because of rebellion against God, was thrown out of heaven. All this rebellion happened prior to the creation, but seems to be linked to it. The Bible only gives us very veiled references to this event.



### Read Isaiah 14v12-15

The Latin for 'Morning Star', is where the name 'Lucifer' comes from, it means *shining one*. Did you notice the 5 'I wills'? Each of them refers to a different area of deity, Satan wanting to be like God.

**When Satan tempted Eve what did he promise?** Genesis 3v5

**According to 1 Timothy 3v6, what was Satan's problem?**



### Read Ezekiel 28v12-19

The king of Tyre is here presented as a cipher for Satan.

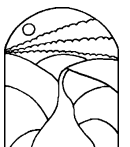
**How does this passage describe Lucifer in his pre fallen state?**

**Why was he cast down?**

**Did not fall alone**    *Revelation 12v7-8 & 4*                      *2 Peter 2v4*                      *Jude 6*

Some people think the reference in Revelation 12 to a third of the stars falling to earth, means a third of the angelic host fell with Satan. In other places angels are alluded to as stars. Job 38v7.

Satan is a fallen angel - fallen on account of pride.



## The battle

God & Satan are not equal forces nor do they need each other.

Satan, an angel is powerful                      God is all powerful

Satan, one place at a time                      God is everywhere

Satan - great knowledge & wisdom      God is all knowing and His wisdom is total.

If you want to find an equal, look at another Archangel, Gabriel or Michael

**If Satan can only be in one place at a time, what are our chances of meeting him?**

Consequently when we say talk about Satan what we really mean is Satan's forces, of which there are plenty.

**In what way do we give the Devil undue credit?**

Christians often end up blaming Satan for things he never did.

It is quite obvious that there is a battle going on between God and Satan. Even a quick read of Revelation reveals that the book is as much about the final defeat of Satan as it is our salvation.

**Why did Jesus Come to earth?** 1 John 3v8

**What 'work' do you think John is talking about?**

It is also clear that this battle is being fought in the hearts and minds of human beings.



**So why doesn't God snap his fingers, destroy Satan and save us a heap of grief?**

As I understand it, the battle between God and Satan is an ideological issue. It is not about power, God is all powerful, Satan is not. Somewhere down the line Satan has accused God of being wrong in his actions. In all likelihood, regarding the creation of man, his free will and God's desire for fellowship with him.

*His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, Ephesians 3:10*

**What is God proving through mankind?**

**Who is he proving it to?**

In other places rulers and authorities in heavenly realms, speaks of the enemy. Eph 6v12

God is looking for a people who will love Him unconditionally. I believe the world we live in is the only kind of world in which such love and faith can be proved genuine. God is using you to condemn Satan's sin & to prove him wrong. At the same time to call a people for himself, not forced to obey, not even awed by God's majesty into obeying, but following Him by our own free will.

## Names

**Think about what these names tell us about this nature.**

**Isaiah 14v12**

Morning star, Light bearer (Lt)

**Zechariah 3v1**

Lit *the* Satan.

Satan is a Hebrew word, it means the accuser or adversar. One who is against God and us. It is a description not a name, in Hebrew it is never *Satan*, but '*the satan*' lit '*the accuser.*'

**Revelation 12v10**

This is what he is doing all the time.

**Matthew 4v1**

The word Devil is from the Greek (diabolos {diabolical = of the devil} it means slanderer. It is the Greek equivalent of Satan.

**John 12v31**

**2 Corinthians 4v4**

**What do you think these names mean?** cf 1 John 5v19

**Matthew 6v13**

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or the enemy, 1 Timothy 5v14

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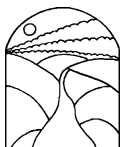
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Accuser of brethren.

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**Matthew 4v1**

Devil

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**John 12v31**

Prince of this world

**2 Corinthians 4v4**

God of this age

**What do you think these names mean?** cf 1 John 5v19

**Matthew 6v13**

The Evil one

**1 Peter 5v8**

Your enemy

or the enemy, 1 Timothy 5v14

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## Satan II



### Satan is a defeated foe.

*Christ Jesus... disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. Colossians 2:15*

*that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, Philipians 2:10*

*And God placed all things under his feet Ephesians 1:22*

*The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. 1 John 3:8*

*who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him. 1 Peter 3:22*

Yet Satan is still active, the Bible tells of his final demise, but that is still in the future. "In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him. Hebrews 2:8

Satan is currently defeated, but still active. Jesus has triumphed, but sentence has yet to be fully carried out. This leaves us with an enemy who will attack, but it also leaves us with more than enough resources to defeat him.



### We have authority over the enemy.

*I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. Luke 10:19*

*Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. 1 Peter 5:8-9*

*Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. James 4:7*

You do not have to fear the enemy. He doesn't have authority over you. You have authority over him.



### The Work of the Enemy

John 8:44

Four times in this verse Jesus tells us that Satan is a liar. This implies something else, Satan is active in communicating.

**How does Satan lie to us?**

**What effect are these lies going to have if we believe or even entertain them?**

**Can you trust anything Satan says?      What can you trust?**

Matthew 4v3

**What does this mean the enemy is going to do?**

**What is his goal in doing this?**

Revelation 12v9

**What does this mean?**

**Why do you think diversion works so well?**

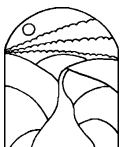
John 10:10

**What do you think he wants to steal from us?**

Your Joy, your peace, your faith, your time, your assurance of salvation etc.

Stealing, murdering and destroying, as I understand it is a process. What Satan steals

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from you sooner or later God will give you back. While it is gone you are weak and hopefully he can kill you. God can give life to the dead and He will do so, but while you are spiritually dead (not responding to God), Satan hopes to destroy you. Put you in a place where you will not find your way back to God. The only one who can let this happen is you, God is, after all on your side. Watch what he steal from you.

Most of all Satan wants to steal people from God's Kingdom.

Most of the time Satan is not an armed robber, he is a cat burglar, you may not even realise you have been robbed until way down the track.

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**What does this mean?**

**How is he going to accuse you?**

**Who is he going to accuse you to?**

We call this condemnation, it is when Satan starts to point the finger at us. Most of the time it is internal. It is Satan lying to us.

**How are you going to overcome this voice of condemnation?**

1 Thessalonians 2:18

**What is he going to try to hinder?**

**What kind of things is he not going to oppose?**



### **Blinding the eyes**

*The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 2 Corinthians 4:4*

**What does Satan do to the unsaved?**

**Why?**

When you get save, you wonder why everyone else can't see the amazing truth you have found. Well this is why.

**What implications does this have for us in our witnessing?**

Witnessing needs to be accompanied by prayer warfare. People will not respond to our witnessing unless we pray. Like always the spiritual and the physical have to go together.

**If Satan has blinded their eyes does this mean witnessing is a waste of time?**



*The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, 2 Thessalonians 2v9*

*And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. 2 Corinthians 11v14*

**What do these verses tell us about the way Satan operates?**



### **How do you defeat the Enemy?**

*I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. 1 John 2:13*

At this point a lesson of spiritual warfare always seems the order of the day, but this would be to miss the obvious.

When you throw out his lies you have defeated the enemy.

When you resist temptation you have defeated the enemy.

When you love your enemy you have defeated the enemy.

When you do God's will and what is right you have defeated the enemy.

*They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. Revelation 12v11*

The blood speaks of our redemption, the word our lifestyle and authority.

Keys in overcoming.

**Recognise his work,  
Stand firm**

**Resist him  
Bind & loose**

Enemy can only work in your life if you let him. You have the authority.

Look at the thing that are stopping you being effective as a Christian - that is where you will find the enemies work

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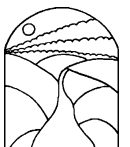
*He is a Thief a murder & destroyer*

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