



True Bible Teaching About... “The Devil and Satan”

THE DEVIL AND SATAN

In the Old Testament, there is no mention of the “devil”. (The four times the King James Version uses the words, can be seen from a concordance to mean pagan idols. e.g. Psa. 106:37, 38)

In the whole of the Old Testament, God never warns His people against a superhuman monster which tempts them to sin. Man, alone, is held responsible for his sins.

Gen. 6:5 : *“And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”*

Isa. 59:2 : *“But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear.”*

The New Testament does use the word “devil” from a Greek word “diabolis” meaning a “false accuser”; or “slanderer” and is sometimes used of human beings.

John 6:70 : *“Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a Devil?”*

1Tim. 3:11 : *“Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers (diabolous), sober, faithful in all things.”*

The word “satan” is a Hebrew word and means “an adversary”. In our English Bibles, it is seen as “adversary” or transposed just as is, “satan”.

1 Sam. 29:4 : *“...let him not go down with us to battle, lest in the battle, he be an adversary to us...”*

1Kings 11:25: *“And he was an adversary to Israel all the days of Solomon...”*

Job 1:6 : *“Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.” (margin reads, or, adversary)*



These three meanings of the original words do not suggest that devil or satan is the name of a supernatural being.

In the temptation of Christ, the words “Devil” and “Satan” are used interchangeably.

Matt. 4:1 : *“Then was Jesus led up of the spirit into the wilderness, to be tempted of the devil.”*

Mark 1:13 : *“And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan...”*

The meanings “False accuser, Slanderer, and Adversary” would certainly describe the nature of the temptation.

Who or what was Jesus contending against?

Heb. 2:14 : *“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.”*

We are told here that Jesus shared our flesh and blood nature in order to destroy the devil, which had the power of death.

What has the power of death?

Rom. 5:12 : *“Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”*

Rom. 7:11 : *“For sin...deceived me, and by it, slew me.”*

Rom. 6:23 : *“For the wages of sin is death...”*

1Cor. 15:56 : *“The sing of death is sin...”*

James 1:15 : *“Sin bringeth forth death.”*

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How are we tempted to sin?

James 1:13-15 : *“But every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust (unlawful desires), and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin; and sin, when it is finished bringeth forth death.”*

Mark 7:21-23 : *“For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders...All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.”*

Jer. 17:9 : *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked...”*

Rom. 7:18 : *“For I know that in me, that is, in my flesh dwelleth no good thing...”*

What did Jesus destroy in his death?

Heb. 9:26 : *“...he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.”*

Heb. 10:12 : *“But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins, forever, sat down on the right hand of God.”*

Rom. 8:3 : *“...God, sending his own son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and (by a sacrifice (margin) for sin, condemned sin, in the flesh.”*

The battle Jesus was fighting was with his own flesh and blood nature, which tempts us to please ourselves instead of God. The human desires which were conquered in the Temptation were destroyed at Cavalry. This was done by the destruction of the source of these ungodly desires - the nature inherited from Adam. So the Lord Jesus destroyed SIN in the place where it resided, - in the flesh; that is, the DEVIL.

SIN, the great enemy, and its temptations, which come from our nature, is “personified” as THE DEVIL, THE FALSE ACCUSER, THE SLANDERER, and THE ADVERSARY.

“Personification” is not new in Scripture.

Wisdom is personified as a woman:

Prov. 9:1: *“Wisdom hath builded her house; she hath hewn out her seven pillars.”*

Prov. 3:13-16: *“Happy is the man that findeth wisdom...she is more precious than rubies...length of days is in her right hand.”*

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Sin is personified as a master and a king:

John 8:34 : *“Whosoever commiteth sin is the servant of sin.”*

Rom. 5:21 : *“Sin hath reigned unto death.”*

The people of God are personified as a body and a chaste virgin:

1Cor. 12:27 : *“Ye are the body of Christ.”*

2Cor. 11:2 : *“I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.”*

Riches are personified as a master:

Matt. 6:24 : *“No man can serve two masters;...ye cannot serve God and Mammon.”*