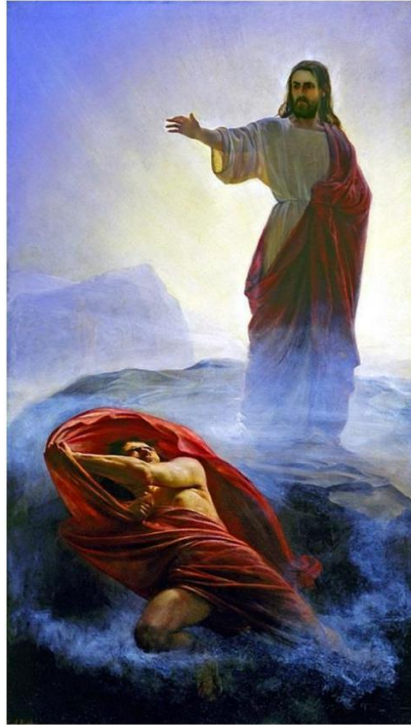


SATAN THE DEVIL : WHO IS HE?



Many people today say that Satan is not a real person. They claim that he was created in the imagination of men. Even some who profess to be Christians and to believe the Bible doubt the reality of Satan.

So is Satan a real person?

What do you think?

Do you think of him as a real person who tempts people to do wicked things, or does he merely represent the characteristic of evil?

But if he is real, where did he come from?

The Bible is the inspired Word of God, so we would be wise to take seriously what it says about the Devil. **Job 1:6**. It describes Satan as a real person who exists in the invisible spirit realm, as do the faithful angels. **Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7** Conversations between Jehovah God and Satan. If Satan only represents the evil within a person, the evil in this case would have to be within Jehovah. But that is illogical and in complete disagreement with what the Bible tells us about Jehovah **Psalms 145:17**. Further, how could evil, whether within Jehovah or within Job, inflict him with a malignant boil?

In the Bible he is repeatedly referred to by use of the definite article and a proper noun. (e.g. has-satan). In other words, by a proper name (Satan 52 times, Devil 33 times). Eyewitness evidence as to Satan's existence is also recorded. Who was the eyewitness? Jesus; who repeatedly spoke of the Devil by name. **Matt 25:41; Luke 22:31**

So Jesus believed that the Devil was real. Jesus was even tempted by the Devil, which could not be some evil inside himself. He was confronted by a real person whom he later called “the ruler of the world.” **Matt 4:1-11.**

He also knew that other spirit creatures joined forces with Satan; So he cured “demon- possessed” people, to free them from demon control

One Atheist Encyclopedia notes the significance of this when it says: “It has always been a [stumbling block] to theologians how the Jesus of the Gospels accepted the belief in devils.” When Jesus spoke about the Devil and his demons, he knew that they really existed. He had face-to-face encounters with the Satan

Revelation 12:7-9,12. Michael (Jesus) battled with the dragon (the Devil). This happened after Jesus was given the heavenly throne in 1914. Was Jesus fighting himself? Could he discard part of his inner character and throw it from heaven to earth?

Jude 9 - “Michael the arch-angel had a dispute with the devil about the body of Moses”. Does this mean that Jesus (Michael) was arguing with himself over some unstated use of Moses corpse? That is as good as saying that Jesus was schizophrenic.

It is not surprising that people are divided on the question of who the Devil is. It would be difficult to discover the true identity of someone who is a master of disguise. Yet the Bible describes the Devil this way. He has tried to conceal the extent of his evil and powerful influence. **2 Cor 4:4; 11:14.**

Though he is evil, the Devil disguises himself as good in order to misguide others. And if he gets people to believe that he simply does not exist, that suits him even better. A 19th-century poet wrote “The Devil’s deepest trick is to persuade us that he does not exist”.

What the Bible says about Satan the Devil makes sense. The evil that mankind experiences is far out of proportion to the general lack of kindness in humanity. The Bible’s explanation of Satan’s identity and his nature makes clear why mankind has been plagued with hatred, violence, and war for thousands of years despite the desire of the majority to live in peace.

If there really were no Devil, how can we explain the benefits a person experiences who breaks free from involvement with spiritism, such as those he released from demon-possession? In many instances, persons who once experimented in the occult or who belonged to groups practicing spiritism report that they were greatly tormented because of hearing “voices” from unseen sources, being “possessed” by superhuman beings, or by witnessing frightening and supernatural happenings.

However, they get genuine relief when they learn what the Bible says about Satan and apply the Bible’s counsel to shun spiritistic practices. This is not just because of some radical change from a previous unstable mental condition. It is because Jehovah helps free them from involvement with wicked spirit beings.

So where did such an evil being come from? Some may ask: ‘If God is the good and loving Creator, how could he create a wicked spirit creature like Satan?’ The Bible informs us that all of Jehovah God’s works are perfect **Deut 32:4**

It also tells us that all his intelligent creatures are endowed with free will, able to make choices **Deut 30:19**

Long before man existed, God created his “firstborn” Son, who eventually came to be known as Jesus. Then, in time, other “sons of God,” called angels, were created. **Col 1:15-17; Job 38:4, 7.**

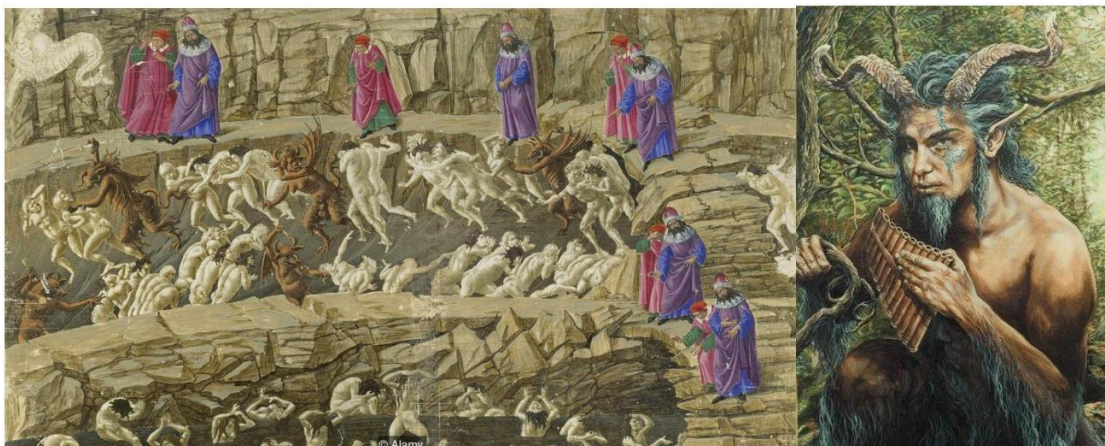
All these were perfect and righteous. However, one of those angels would become Satan. He chose to stray from the way of truth and righteousness by deliberate action. **James 1:14, 15:** “Temptation comes from the lure of our own evil desires. These evil desires lead to evil actions, and evil actions lead to death”.

Satan was not his given name at the time of his creation. It was a new descriptive name, which means “Adversary; Enemy; Accuser.” He came to be called Satan by Jehovah because he chose a course in opposition to God.

Feelings of pride, jealousy and rivalry toward God grew within this spirit creature. He wanted others to worship him. Remember what happened in Eden. He told Eve that she could be like God, whereas really it was he who wanted to be like God. Also recall that Satan even attempted to get Jesus to “do an act of worship” to him. Through his deceitful ways, he achieved his selfish desire: Eve accepted Satan as her god. He had implied that God was a liar, when, in fact, it was Satan the liar. **John 8:44**

So it was by his rebellion, this once trusted angel made himself Satan—an enemy of God and man. Jesus identified Satan as the real mastermind behind the corrupt world we live in. He called him “the ruler of this world” (John 12:31) Which again confirms that he was talking about a real person.

Believing that Satan really exists does not mean we have to accept the idea that he has red skin, horns, a pointed tail, and a pitchfork and that he roasts people in a fiery hell. The Bible gives no such description of Satan. Remember he was one of Jehovah’s glorious angels, and must have been stunning to look upon. It would not be scriptural or logical for Jehovah to have deliberately disfigured him this way. That is the image created of the minds of medieval artists who were influenced by representations of the mythological Greek god Pan and by the Inferno written by the Italian poet Dante.



The Bible gives a strong warning about resisting Satan. **1 Peter 5:8**. It is vital that we accept the reality of Satan's existence and allow God to 'make us firm' and 'make us strong.' In that way we can take a "stand against [Satan]" and put ourselves on God's side. **1 Peter 5:9,10**.

The End of Satan's Rule Is Near Bible prophecy shows that the Devil only "has a short period of time" left to wreak havoc before being abyssed and then eventually destroyed.

Revelation 12:12; 20:1-3,7,10 After the end of Satan we will see a righteous new world, where life will be perfect, completely free of Satan's influence. **Revelation 1:3,4**.