

The Devil, God’s Enemy and Ours

Not all angelic beings are “angels,” that is, messengers of God. This week we will be learning what the Bible teaches about one of the chief angelic beings who rejected God’s will and became the originator of evil. He is still working in an attempt to thwart the divine plan for mankind.

We believe Satan is a person, also called the Devil, who was the serpent in the Garden of Eden

The Bible describes this person using various names, titles, or descriptions.

What do these Scriptures call Satan?

Names Describing Satan’s Position

- Ezekiel 28:14

Ezekiel 28:14 (NLT)

¹⁴I ordained and anointed you
as the mighty angelic guardian.

You had access to the holy mountain of God
and walked among the stones of fire.

- John 12:31

John 12:31 (NLT)

³¹The time for judging this world has come, when Satan, the ruler of this world, will be cast out.

- Ephesians 2:2

Ephesians 2:2 (NLT)

²You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God.

- 2 Corinthians 4:4

2 Corinthians 4:4 (NLT)

⁴Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don’t understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.

- Matthew 12:24

Matthew 12:24 (NLT)

²⁴But when the Pharisees heard about the miracle, they said, “No wonder he can cast out demons. He gets his power from Satan, the prince of demons.”

Names Reflecting Satan's Character

- Isaiah 14:12

Isaiah 14:12 (NLT)

¹²“How you are fallen from heaven,
O shining star, son of the morning!
You have been thrown down to the earth,
you who destroyed the nations of the world.

- Zechariah 3:1

Zechariah 3:1 (NLT)

Cleansing for the High Priest

Then the angel showed me Jeshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD. The Accuser, Satan, was there at the angel's right hand, making accusations against Jeshua.

- Luke 4:2

Luke 4:2 (NLT)

²where he was tempted by the devil for forty days. Jesus ate nothing all that time and became very hungry.

- Revelation 9:11

Revelation 9:11 (NLT)

¹¹Their king is the angel from the bottomless pit; his name in Hebrew is *Abaddon*, and in Greek, *Apollyon*—the Destroyer.

- Revelation 12:9

Revelation 12:9 (NLT)

⁹This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels.

- Revelation 12:3

Revelation 12:3 (NLT)

³Then I witnessed in heaven another significant event. I saw a large red dragon with seven heads and ten horns, with seven crowns on his heads.

- John 17:15

John 17:15 (NLT)

¹⁵ I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one.

Names Indicating Satan's Activity

- Matthew 4:3

Matthew 4:3 (NLT)

³ During that time the devil came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread."

- Revelation 12:10

Revelation 12:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice shouting across the heavens,
 "It has come at last—
 salvation and power
 and the Kingdom of our God,
 and the authority of his Christ.
 For the accuser of our brothers and sisters
 has been thrown down to earth—
 the one who accuses them
 before our God day and night.

- Revelation 12:9

Revelation 12:9 (NLT)

⁹ This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels.

- Ephesians 2:2

Ephesians 2:2 (NLT)

² You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God.

Satan is the author of sin.

Satan was created good and beautiful. Two passages in Scripture tell us what this being was like when God made him.

Why is the person described in Ezekiel 28:12-14 not the earthly king of the city of Tyre?

What was this angel originally like (Ezekiel 28:15)

... Satan was not created as an evil being, for the verse [Ezekiel 28:15] clearly declares he was perfect when created. Furthermore, God did not make him sin; he sinned of his own volition and assumed full responsibility for that sin; and because of his great privileges, it is obvious that Satan sinned with full knowledge.

What did Jesus teach about the character of the Devil (John 8:44)?

John 8:44 (NLT)

⁴⁴ For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.

What was the downfall of Satan (Isaiah 14:12-14)?

Isaiah 14:12–14 (NLT)

¹² “How you are fallen from heaven,

O shining star, son of the morning!

You have been thrown down to the earth,

you who destroyed the nations of the world.

¹³ For you said to yourself,

‘I will ascend to heaven and set my throne above God’s stars.

I will preside on the mountain of the gods

far away in the north.

¹⁴ I will climb to the highest heavens

and be like the Most High.’

How does this give us a warning?

Satan caused the Fall of mankind into sin

How does Paul describe Satan (1 Thessalonians 3:5)? Why?

1 Thessalonians 3:5 (NLT)

⁵That is why, when I could bear it no longer, I sent Timothy to find out whether your faith was still strong. I was afraid that the tempter had gotten the best of you and that our work had been useless.

In Revelation 12:9, Satan, the serpent of old, is described as the one who deceives the whole world. It would not be the first time that he has done this. Paul writes that he deceived Eve into sinning.

How did Satan deceive Eve (Genesis 3:1-6)?

Genesis 3:1–6 (NLT)

The Man and Woman Sin

The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the LORD God had made. One day he asked the woman, “Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?”

²“Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,” the woman replied. ³“It’s only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, ‘You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.’”

⁴“You won’t die!” the serpent replied to the woman. ⁵“God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.”

⁶The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too.

Satan is the open and declared enemy of God and man.

What does Satan do to thwart God’s plan for unbelievers (2 Cor 4:4; Luke 8:12)?

2 Corinthians 4:4 (NLT)

⁴Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don’t understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.

Luke 8:12 (NLT)

¹²The seeds that fell on the footpath represent those who hear the message, only to have the devil come and take it away from their hearts and prevent them from believing and being saved.

What do the following verses teach that Satan does in the life of believers?

- Acts 5:3

Acts 5:3 (NLT)

³Then Peter said, “Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit, and you kept some of the money for yourself.

- Revelation 12:10

Revelation 12:10 (NLT)

¹⁰Then I heard a loud voice shouting across the heavens,
 “It has come at last—
 salvation and power
 and the Kingdom of our God,
 and the authority of his Christ.
 For the accuser of our brothers and sisters
 has been thrown down to earth—
 the one who accuses them
 before our God day and night.

- 1 Thessalonians 2:18

1 Thessalonians 2:18 (NLT)

¹⁸We wanted very much to come to you, and I, Paul, tried again and again, but Satan prevented us.

- 1 Corinthians 7:5

1 Corinthians 7:5 (NLT)

⁵Do not deprive each other of sexual relations, unless you both agree to refrain from sexual intimacy for a limited time so you can give yourselves more completely to prayer. Afterward, you should come together again so that Satan won’t be able to tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

- Ephesians 6:11-12

Ephesians 6:11–12 (NLT)

¹¹Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.

¹²For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

- Matthew 13:38-39

Matthew 13:38–39 (NLT)

³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed represents the people of the Kingdom. The weeds are the people who belong to the evil one. ³⁹The enemy who planted the weeds among the wheat is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world, and the harvesters are the angels.

- Revelation 2:10

Revelation 2:10 (NLT)

¹⁰Don't be afraid of what you are about to suffer. The devil will throw some of you into prison to test you. You will suffer for ten days. But if you remain faithful even when facing death, I will give you the crown of life.

Satan will be punished in the Lake of Fire.

What did Jesus, the Judge, say would be Satan's fate (Matthew 25:41)?

Matthew 25:41 (NLT)

⁴¹“Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, ‘Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons.’

The Book of the Revelation tells us in sufficient detail how all this will come about. It follows the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to this earth to establish His millennial kingdom.

When was Satan defeated (12:8-12)?

Revelation 12:8–12 (NLT)

⁸And the dragon lost the battle, and he and his angels were forced out of heaven. ⁹This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels.

¹⁰Then I heard a loud voice shouting across the heavens,

“It has come at last—

salvation and power

and the Kingdom of our God,

and the authority of his Christ.

For the accuser of our brothers and sisters

has been thrown down to earth—

the one who accuses them

before our God day and night.

¹¹ And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb
and by their testimony.

And they did not love their lives so much
that they were afraid to die.

¹² Therefore, rejoice, O heavens!

And you who live in the heavens, rejoice!

But terror will come on the earth and the sea,
for the devil has come down to you in great anger,
knowing that he has little time.”

What will be the order of events when the Lord returns (20:1-3, 7-10)?

Revelation 20:1–3 (NLT)

The Thousand Years

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven with the key to the bottomless pit and a heavy chain in his hand. ² He seized the dragon—that old serpent, who is the devil, Satan—and bound him in chains for a thousand years. ³ The angel threw him into the bottomless pit, which he then shut and locked so Satan could not deceive the nations anymore until the thousand years were finished. Afterward he must be released for a little while.

Revelation 20:7–10 (NLT)

The Defeat of Satan

⁷ When the thousand years come to an end, Satan will be let out of his prison. ⁸ He will go out to deceive the nations—called Gog and Magog—in every corner of the earth. He will gather them together for battle—a mighty army, as numberless as sand along the seashore. ⁹ And I saw them as they went up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded God’s people and the beloved city. But fire from heaven came down on the attacking armies and consumed them.

¹⁰ Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.