

## **Question: "What does the Bible say about the Devil (Satan)?"**

The Devil, otherwise known as Satan, is a spiritual being. The scripture helps us to understand who he is and what he does:

He tempted Eve to eat the fruit forbidden by God -- Gen 3:4.

He provoked David to take a census -- 1Chr 21:1.

He inflicted upon Job terrible suffering -- Job.

He tried to divert Jesus from His mission -- Mt 4:3-11.

He is called "the tempter...Beelzebub...the wicked one" -- Mt 4:3 12:24 13:19.

He is wholly inclined to evil, and is the author of it -- Jn 8:44.

He has faithless and disobedient people under his power -- 1Jn 5:19.

Thus, he is man's adversary (enemy) -- 1Pt 5:8.

### **He had a beginning:**

The scriptures do not explicitly detail the origin of the devil. However, since "All things were made through" Christ (Jn 1:3), the devil must be a created being. Perhaps he was one of "the angels who sinned...cast...down to hell and delivered...into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment" (2Pet 2:4).

### **He has limited power:**

God once granted the devil power to cause physical, mental and emotional distress in a man's life (Job 1: 8-11, 12). However, his most destructive power is in the area of man's spiritual well being, which he is intent upon destroying.

He has power to steal the gospel out of a heart not ready to receive it (Matt 13:18-19).

He has power to plant evil workers next to the sons of the kingdom (Matt 13:28, 38).

He has power to blind the hearts of men from seeing the truth (2Cor 4:4).

He has power to work through disobedient people (Eph 2:2).

As powerful as the devil is, Jesus proved that Satan's power is no match for the word of God (Matt 4: 1-11). James said, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (Jas 4: 7). When we resist the devil, we build character and prove our love for God. So "just say no!" to temptations that will bring you under the devil's power, like social drinking, immodest clothing, indecent movies and music, unchaste physical contact, etc. "Abstain from every form of evil" (1Th 5:22).

### **He will have a sorrowful end:**

The devil knows of his future state and he wants man to share in it. Therefore, he is behind all sin (I Jn 3: 8), and works tirelessly for man's spiritual death through sin (Rom 6:23). He will use whatever deceptive means at his disposal (Rev 20:10). He appears as an "angel of light," and his servants appear as "ministers of righteousness" (2Cor 11:13-15; Matt 7:15 ff). The devil is a master when it comes to "handling the word of God deceitfully" (2Cor 4:2-4). While the devil may enjoy much success today, we note that,

His end and final destiny is "everlasting fire...punishment" (Matt 25:41, 46); and

His end is "the lake of fire and brimstone...tormented day and night forever" (Rev 20:10).

You do not want to follow him there! Study you Bible and search the Truth. Contact us today if you are interested in taking a six lesson Bible correspondence course by mail. Thanks for reading!