

Church of God Sunday School

WHO IS THE DEVIL?



DAILY READINGS:

- ❑ **Monday:** All things were created by Jesus Christ (Ephesians 3:9; John 1:1-5).
- ❑ **Tuesday:** Just as God is a Spirit, the devil is also a spirit (John 4:24; Ephesians 2:2).
- ❑ **Wednesday:** The devil mixes truth with lies to be more deceptive (Genesis 3:1-5; 2 Corinthians 11:12-14).
- ❑ **Thursday:** The devil was a murderer and a liar from his beginning (John 8:44; 1 John 3:8).
- ❑ **Friday:** The devil has many names and descriptions (Job 1:6; Matthew 12:24; 1 Peter 5:8).
- ❑ **Saturday:** God warns us about the devil (1 Peter 5:8; Ephesians 6:11-20).

MEMORY VERSE: ". . . the devil . . . was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. . . . he is a liar, and the father of it." —John 8:44

Who Created the Devil?

Have you ever had questions about the devil—who is he, what does he look like, or where did he come from? There are many beliefs and perceptions today about the devil, and many of them are wrong. Some ministers tell people that the devil was once an angel living in Heaven, but he became proud and was kicked out. Some people (even some professing Christians) do not believe the devil exists at all. Yet others believe the devil is worthy of being worshiped. What is the truth? The only way to know for sure is to read what God has to say about the devil in His Word—the Bible!

Genesis (the Book of Beginnings) tells the story of Creation. God created everything—people, plants, animals, the world, and even the devil—through "Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 3:9). "All things were made by him [the Word—Jesus]; and without him was not any thing made that was made" (John 1:3). God told us in Isaiah 45:7 exactly who created good and evil: "I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things." It was God who placed the "tree of knowledge of good and evil" (Genesis 2:9) in the Garden of Eden.

What Does the Devil Look Like?

If you were to sketch what you thought the devil looked like, you might draw a red creature with horns, a pitchfork, and a long tail. Many artists have painted pictures of the devil in just this way. But what does he really look like? Again, the best source of information is the Bible. Just as God is a Spirit (John 4:24), the devil is also a spirit (Ephesians 2:2). He does not have a physical body, as we do, but he can take on many appearances and disguises.

If the devil does not have a recognizable body, how does he speak to people? In the Garden of Eden, the devil spoke to Eve through a serpent. Many times he speaks through people ("a certain damsel" in Acts 16:16-17). But the most common method he uses to speak to you is through your mind. He will put thoughts in there, trying to tempt you and confuse you.

When the devil speaks, he mixes in just enough truth to sound very convincing. He will twist ("wrest"; 2 Peter 3:16) the Scriptures to change their meanings. This is how he changes himself into a (false) "angel of light" (2 Corinthians 11:14). Many times he disguises himself as a spiritual leader. Jesus warned of this in Matthew 7:15 when He said, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing."



What Is the Devil's Nature?

Although the devil portrays himself in various disguises, the Bible tells us exactly what his nature is. From the beginning (when God created him), the devil was a murderer and a liar (John 8:44). There are many names and descriptions of the devil in the Bible, and these names reveal much about the devil's nature.

Some of the names are:

- "Satan" (Job 1:6)
- "adversary" (1 Peter 5:8)
- "enemy of all righteousness" (Acts 13:10)
- "Beelzebub the prince of the devils" (Matthew 12:24)
- "Belial" (2 Corinthians 6:15)
- "god of this world" (2 Corinthians 4:4)

The devil has been described as a "roaring lion" (1 Peter 5:8), a (false) "angel of light" (2 Corinthians 11:14), and a "fowler" (Psalm 91:3). Each of these word pictures helps us to better understand and beware of how the devil works.

False Pictures of the Devil

If you were to ask people who the devil is and where he came from, quite possibly you will hear a story about how the devil was once a beautiful angel in Heaven whose name was Lucifer. He became proud and jealous, and he caused a third of the other angels to join him in his rebellion. God had to kick Lucifer and all of those angels out of Heaven, and now his name is Satan. He and his angels work to tempt people to sin against God.

If you have heard this story, you have probably been told some of the Scriptures that (supposedly) prove this is true. (This is an example of how the devil works in a little truth—Bible verses—to make something seem to be true.) It is God's will that you know the true origin of the devil. Paul wrote to the pastor Titus of the importance of teaching things that are "sound" (free from a mixture of truth and error). When you know the "truth," you will be "free" from the confusion of false doctrine (John 8:32).

Look at the context of the Scriptures referenced when people tell this false story of the devil's beginning. For example, look up the name "Lucifer." It is only used once in the Bible: "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer,



son of the morning!" (Isaiah 14:12a). Verse 4 of this chapter tells us who this is really talking about—"take up this proverb against the *king of Babylon*" (Nebuchadnezzar). Then verse 16 shows that this is about a "*man*" (not the devil).

Also, it is important to understand where this "heaven" is that the king fell from. There are at least three heavens spoken of in the Bible: the sky (Genesis 1:8), God's dwelling place (Matthew 6:9), and an exalted position (Ephesians 2:6). Which "heaven" did Nebuchadnezzar fall from? Did he fall from the literal sky or from God's dwelling place? Of course not! If you read the story of Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4:28-37, you will learn that because of Nebuchadnezzar's pride, God removed him from an exalted position (king) to become like a beast in the field.

What Does God Say About the Devil?

Because the devil is sly and crafty, we could easily be deceived. God's Word has much to tell us about who the devil is, how to recognize him, and how to resist him. The Bible is referred to as a sword (Hebrews 4:12). It is the weapon we should use against the devil! The best way to use this sword (our Bible) is to read it, know what it says, and obey it. Look at the many warnings God has given concerning the devil: he seeks to "devour" (1 Peter 5:8); he is deceptive (2 Corinthians 11:14); he causes blindness (2 Corinthians 4:4); he is everywhere (Job 1:7); and his children act just like him (1 John 3:10; John 8:44). God does not want us to be "ignorant of [Satan's] devices" (2 Corinthians 2:11). He has provided a "way to escape" (1 Corinthians 10:13) and a way for us to resist the devil (Ephesians 6:11-20).



1.) What are some different views or perceptions about the devil? _____

2.) Who created the devil? _____

3.) What are at least two ways the devil speaks to you? _____

4.) What is an example from the Bible of the devil speaking through someone or something? _____

5.) What does the devil do to make his lies believable? _____

6.) What are some of the names of the devil? _____

7.) Who was Lucifer? _____

8.) How did Lucifer fall from Heaven? _____

9.) What are the three heavens described in the Bible? _____

10.) What is the weapon we should use against the devil? _____

11.) How do we use this weapon? _____

**If the devil was once an angel in Heaven,
who or what tempted him to become proud and jealous?**

**If sin entered Heaven (supposedly through an angel named
Lucifer) in the beginning, how do we know sin cannot enter
Heaven again?**

**If the devil was cast out of Heaven, how do we know that people
who die and go to Heaven couldn't sin and be cast out?**

**If no one can leave Heaven or hell (Luke 16:26),
how was the devil cast out?**

**If God's will is always done in Heaven (Matthew 6:10), how did
the devil (while supposedly in Heaven) go against God's will?**

