

Is There Really A Devil?



Discovering God's Word

Bible Study Series

Is There Really A Devil?

Learn from some evidence for the existence of a devil and consider what you should do with this knowledge

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My plea: It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

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Is There Really A Devil?

Is there really a living being who is called “the devil” who is behind everything that is evil? This is an important question in light of the evil that exists in this world. If there was nothing evil that existed in this world, we would not have to look for an explanation about how evil came into existence in a world that has been created by a perfectly holy God. But, since there is evil that exists in the world, we must consider whether or not there is someone who is trying to get us to be involved in wickedness.

There is some confusion that exists on the subject of evil and the devil. Although everyone can observe that people act in ways that are evil toward others and there are bad things that happen to people, the explanations for the presence of this evil differ greatly. People want to know how God could have allowed the holocaust to happen, why He allows wars to be fought, why He allows our loved ones to get sick and die, why He allows us to get sick and die, etc. Yet, all of these questions are tied in with this question of, “Is there really a devil?”

For some, every evil thing is blamed on God. Mass shootings. Disease. Cancer. Accidents. Wars. You name it. If there is something bad that happens, some turn directly to God and question how He could have possibly let that happen. Then, these individuals often get angry with God and turn away from Him, refusing to follow a God who could have allowed them or others to experience that kind of suffering.

Yet, as we will see later in this lesson, God did not create this world to experience suffering. Instead, whenever God created this world (according

to the Genesis record of creation), He created it completely free of evil and suffering. The man and woman He created were placed in the Garden of Eden (a true paradise on earth). However, it was only after one who is called “the devil” convinced them to disobey God that the world began experiencing evil, suffering, and death.

Still, some say that the devil is a figment of the imagination or a symbol for evil. They dismiss the devil’s reality entirely as the source of that which is evil in this world. Instead, the devil is often facetiously blamed for the evil decisions that people make (i.e. “the devil made me do it”).

Yet, as we will see later in this lesson, the Bible identifies and describes the devil as being quite real. He is one who walks and talks throughout the pages of the Bible. And, he is someone the writers of the Bible consistently warn us about, as they recognize the present danger that he poses to every person who is living on this earth.

Still other people attempt to explain evil and suffering through completely “natural” and physical causes. They reject the existence of God completely and, therefore, reject the Bible as the word of God. So, they can only explain evil and suffering in this world through the things that they can observe.

Yet, not only does this fail to ignore all of the evidence for God and the Bible as the word of God, but it also looks to the wrong sources for information about this great problem of evil and suffering. You see, the Bible gives very clear explanations about the presence of evil and suffering in this world. But, it is all tied back into spiritual forces (particularly the devil) at work in this world. And, if we want to have any understanding of the spiritual realm at all, we must look to the only true source of information that we have on the subject – the Bible. For, our physical senses can do very little to give us any kind of real understanding of the spiritual realm (including the devil).

So, there is a clear need for greater understanding on the subject of the devil. Certainly, those who deny his existence or marginalize his existence will not be prepared so as to defend against his attacks. But, in order to understand anything about the devil, we must look to the perfect word of

God that tells us all that we need to know about the devil's reality – and how the devil impacts the evil and suffering that exists on this earth.

In this lesson, we want to investigate some of what God has told us about the reality of the devil. We want to consider how the devil could have possibly come into existence. Then, we want to evaluate the devil's connection with the evil and suffering in this world. And, we will apply what we learn to our lives.

The Bible Identifies The Devil As Being Real

The book that claims to be from God (the Bible) tells us that the devil (who is also called "Satan") is real. In fact, not only does it tell us that Satan is real, but it also shows us that Satan is real. He is an unmistakable part of the Bible's story. And, he continues to be a real threat today that must not be dismissed in any way.

Consequences of dismissing Satan's reality

As I have mentioned, there are many people who will dismiss Satan's reality. Some consider the entire idea of Satan to be a make-believe story. Others consider Satan to be a symbol of that which is evil. Still others view Satan in a joking kind of way and see him as being someone to blame their errors on. And, there are some who intellectually believe that Satan is real, but they do not conduct their lives as if they have a real enemy who is trying to lure them away from serving God.

So, there are many different ways in which people have dismissed Satan's reality. However, we need to consider that there are serious consequences if we do not act upon Satan's reality. First, if an individual dismisses Satan's reality, he/she will also dismiss the power of Satan's influence and will easily be led captive by him. For instance, 2 Timothy 2:24-26 speaks of the need for those who serve the Lord to teach the gospel of Christ to the lost because those who are lost have been caught in the "snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his

will." Thus, there are many people who are caught in Satan's traps and enslaved to him (just like a bird that is caught in a snare). But, they don't even know it, because they dismiss the reality that there is someone who is trying to capture and enslave their souls to him!

Second, if an individual dismisses Satan's reality, he/she will become a tool Satan will use to capture the souls of others. The Bible clearly teaches that Satan uses people to trap others. One excellent example can be seen in Matthew 16:21-23. In verse 21, Jesus revealed to His disciples that He "must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day." However (in verse 22), after hearing this, Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" Peter clearly recognized that Jesus could have been delivered from this suffering and death. Yet, according to verse 23, Jesus recognized Peter's statement as a temptation. "But He turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind Me Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.'" In Peter's statement, Satan was tempting Jesus not to fulfill the mission God had sent Him to accomplish. Now, please recognize that just as Satan used Peter, Satan can use other people today to tempt their friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc. Certainly, those who refuse to acknowledge Satan's reality are easy targets for Satan to capture and then use to help him capture others.

The Bible pictures Satan as being real

As you study the Scriptures, you must recognize that the Bible consistently pictures Satan as being real. Actually, you should recognize that the Bible pictures Satan as being just as real as God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, angels, etc. Therefore, there is no acceptable basis for accepting the reality of any of these and rejecting the reality of Satan. Consider a few passages that depict the reality of Satan.

First, consider Satan's reality in the Garden of Eden (read Genesis 3). In the Garden of Eden, a serpent is pictured as coming to Eve and tempting her. Although he is not identified as "Satan" in the text, other passages of Scripture identify him as "that

serpent of old” (see Revelation 12:9 and Revelation 20:2). Thus, Satan actively lured Eve to partake of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which God had forbidden. Now, please consider: Was Eve being lured away from God by a figment of her imagination? Was Satan just a symbol of evil or a make believe character Eve could blame her mistake on? Or, did Satan really exist? Certainly, the Bible pictures Satan as being real in Genesis 3.

Second, consider Satan’s reality in the story of Job (read Job 1-2). During the lifetime of a man named Job, “the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them” (Job 1:6). The following verses then record a conversation that was had between God and Satan – concerning Job. Job had been a very wealthy man. And, knowing this, Satan said that if God would stretch out His hand and take those things away from Job, then Job would curse God. Then, God granted Satan permission to take those things from Job. Now, please consider: Was God having a conversation with a figment of His imagination? Was God conversing with a symbol of evil? Or, did Satan really exist? Certainly, the Bible pictures Satan as being real in Job 1-2.

Third, consider Satan’s reality in Jesus’ temptation (read Matthew 4:1-11). When Jesus had fasted for forty days and forty nights, “the tempter came to Him” (verse 3). Three specific temptations are recorded by the text. The first, Jesus was tempted to use His power to satisfy His physical hunger and prove Himself to be the Son of God (verses 3). The second, Jesus was taken into Jerusalem and sat upon the pinnacle of the temple and tempted to prove Himself to be the Son of God by jumping from it so that the angels would save Him (verses 5-6). The third, Jesus was shown all of the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time and offered to have them all if He would worship Satan (verses 8-9). Yet, in all of these temptations, Jesus answered with Scripture and resisted Satan (see verses 4, 7, and 10). In fact, in verse 10, Jesus told the tempter, “Away with you, Satan!” Now, please consider: Was Jesus responding to a figment of His imagination? Was He responding to only a symbol of evil? Or, did Satan really exist? Certainly, the Bible pictures Satan as being real in Matthew 4:1-11.

Fourth, consider Satan’s reality in Jesus’ warning to Peter. In Luke 22:31-32, Jesus said to Peter, “Simon, Simon! Indeed Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.” This statement was in direct reference to Jesus foretelling the fact that Peter would deny Jesus three times (see verse 34). Consider that Satan had asked for Peter. This would seem to be similar to the circumstances involving Job that we considered earlier. Satan was going to put Peter’s faith to the test (compared to sifting him as wheat) to see if Peter would remain faithful to God or not. Now, please consider: Was Jesus warning Peter about a figment of his imagination? Was Jesus warning Peter about a symbol of evil or about someone he could blame his mistakes on? Or, did Satan really exist? Certainly, the Bible pictures Satan as being real in Luke 22:31-32.

The Bible warns of Satan’s reality

Clearly, the Bible pictures Satan as being real and working to influence people to rebel against God. But, the Bible does not stop at just presenting pictures about Satan. Instead, it also presents statements of warning to you and to me that Satan continues to work in the world today and must be resisted. Certainly, if Satan was not real, we would not need to be warned in these ways. Consider the following passages.

Consider James 4:7. While writing to Christians, James said, “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” So, these Christians needed to resist the devil so that he would flee from them. Consider the implications of this statement. First, this passage teaches that the devil is real. Certainly, you cannot resist something that is not real. Second, the fact that the devil can flee from you implies that he can be near to you and works to influence you. Thus, even in this simple passage, the Bible clearly teaches that Satan is real – and that he must be resisted.

Consider 1 Peter 5:8-9. When Peter was writing to Christians, he said, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist

him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.” These Christians needed to be in full control of their minds at all times and remain watchful. But why? Peter said it was because they had an enemy who was seeking to destroy them. This enemy was the devil (Satan). Peter said that Satan stalks people on this earth like a lion stalks its prey. Therefore, they needed to resist him and remain steadfast in the faith. Thus, Satan is pictured as being a real enemy who is actively working in this world to destroy each one of us.

Consider Ephesians 6:10-18. The apostle Paul encouraged those who were Christians to put on the whole armor of God. This was important so that they would “be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (verse 11). Later, Satan is pictured as hurling fiery darts at us. Therefore, God has provided armor for those who desire to overcome the attacks of Satan. This armor is identified as being truth, righteousness, the preparation of the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, and the word of God. Thus, Satan is pictured as being a real enemy who is trying to defeat us all in a spiritual war. In fact, he is so real that we need to put on the full set of armor that God has provided so that we can prevail against him.

The Devil’s Origin

Since the Bible consistently pictures the devil as being real, the next logical question is: Where did Satan come from? Is he a fallen angel? Did God create this very wicked being? There are many questions surrounding the origin of the one the Scriptures call “Satan.” Fortunately, the Bible does help us arrive at some definitive conclusions about Satan’s origin. Let’s investigate.

Does it matter?

Before we specifically investigate the questions involving Satan’s origin, we need to consider whether the answer to this question even matters. For, as we will see, we do not have every piece of information that we would like to have concerning Satan. Yet, there have been many people

who have developed sensational ideas about Satan and his origin based upon very little information that is actually presented in the pages of the Scriptures. So, we must consider whether Satan’s origin truly matters.

In some respects, Satan’s origin does not matter. For instance, regardless of how Satan came into being, the Scriptures repeatedly warn us about our adversary, the devil, who walks about like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour (see 1 Peter 5:8-9). This great enemy must be resisted because he wants to destroy us spiritually. These things remain true regardless of how Satan came into being. Therefore, our responsibility toward Satan is the same no matter how he came into being.

But, in some respects, Satan’s origin does matter. For instance, there are some definite conclusions that we can and should reach concerning his origin. Particularly, it is essential to recognize that Satan is a created being. If he was not created (i.e. if he was eternal), this would put him on the same level as God in that respect. Certainly, this kind of belief would have significant consequences as to whether we could overcome Satan’s temptations or not. Furthermore, if Satan is a created being, we need to consider whether God is responsible for creating evil. If He is, this also has a significant impact on how we view sin, evil, and suffering in this world – and whether or not we are responsible for our own sin.

A fallen angel?

Perhaps the most common explanation about Satan’s origin is that he is a fallen angel. It is commonly believed that Satan (commonly called “Lucifer”) was a very powerful angel who rebelled against God in Heaven and was, consequently, cast from Heaven. Typically, this story (or a similar one) is presented as being entirely factual. However, please consider the following passages and examine for yourself whether the Scriptures present this as absolutely factual information about Satan.

First, consider Isaiah 14:12-14. The passage references one who is called “Lucifer.” It says that “Lucifer” had “fallen from heaven,” being “cut down to the ground.” Furthermore, he is said to have

“weakened the nations” and determined to ascend into Heaven and exalt his throne “above the stars of God.” Yet, because he attempted to exalt himself to “be like the Most High,” he would be “brought down to Sheol” and to “the lowest depths of the Pit.”

Yet, the problem is that this passage never mentions Satan. Although Satan has often been forced into this passage, an individual must ignore the actual context in order to arrive at this conclusion. In fact, even the name “Lucifer” has been widely interpreted to mean “Satan” because of the misapplications from this passage. Nowhere in Scripture does the Bible refer to Satan in this way. In fact, the term “Lucifer” was a Latin word that meant “light-bearing” and was applied to the planet Venus when it appeared as a morning star. Then, instead of applying this term to Satan, Isaiah was referring (in vivid language) to the fall of the Babylonian kingdom and the king of Babylon. This is the entire context of Isaiah 14. Now, why would Isaiah insert a random section in this context to teach about the origin of Satan? The fact is that he did not do so – as there is nothing in the text that suggests such a transition from the fall of the Babylonian kingdom.

Second, consider Ezekiel 28:12-16. The text references one who was in the Garden of Eden, with every precious stone as a covering. He is pictured as being “the anointed cherub who covers” and being perfect from the day he was created – until sin was found in him. He became filled with violence and was, therefore, cast out by God from His mountain “as a profane thing.”

Again, this passage is commonly believed to be a reference to Satan once being pure while living in Heaven, sinning against God, and being cast out of Heaven. Yet, this passage identifies who the subject is – and it is not Satan! Instead, this passage says that the Lord was speaking about “the king of Tyre” (verse 12). Both Ezekiel 28:1-10 and Ezekiel 28:11-19 contain similar messages about this king. And, sarcastic language is used in both of these passages – indicating that this king really thought he was something. But, God would bring him low! Simply put, this passage has to do with the king of Tyre – and has nothing to do with Satan!

Third, consider Luke 10:18. The passage records Jesus as saying to the seventy who had been sent out and returned, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.” This statement, when separated from its context, appears that Jesus is confirming part of the story that Satan was cast out of Heaven.

However, this is not so conclusive whenever you consider Jesus’ statement in its proper context. In context, the seventy Jesus had sent out “returned with joy, saying, ‘Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name’” (verse 17). Verse 18 is Jesus’ response to this statement. Then, in verses 19-20, Jesus continued to talk about the power and authority they had been given over the enemy and the fact that their names were written in Heaven. Therefore, Jesus’ statement in verse 18 is one of victory over Satan. Although this passage may provide evidence that Satan was once in Heaven, in context, it *could* simply refer to this victory over Satan (which Jesus had been accomplishing Himself, see Luke 11:14-23), as symbolic language of Satan’s defeat.

Fourth, consider Revelation 12:7-9. This passage pictures a war that broke out in Heaven between Michael and his angels, and the dragon (Satan) and his angels. When they fought, the passage states that Satan and his angels “did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.” Instead, the dragon was cast out and he has great wrath that would be demonstrated toward the inhabitants of the earth.

Once again, this passage is commonly said to describe the story previously identified concerning Satan’s fall. However, this is only the conclusion whenever John’s revelation is taken literally (and even this interpretation has problems). Instead, the student of the book of Revelation must recognize that the book contains a great deal of symbolic and apocalyptic language which must not be interpreted literally. Any attempt to take the book of Revelation literal will encounter many problems and will fail to understand the book properly. Please note that this passage does not identify this war as occurring prior to the time man was in the Garden of Eden. Instead, notice that the victory was “by the blood of the Lamb” (verse 11). Therefore, in context, this passage depicts a war that Satan was fighting with God and God’s people through the Roman Empire at that time

(which was engaged in widespread persecution of the church). Those Christians who died under Roman persecution would be saved by the blood of Jesus and those who remained alive were to recognize that the devil had great wrath. Ultimately, the picture of this passage is that God is victorious over Satan.

Things we know for certain about the devil's origin

Is there anything that we can know for certain about Satan's origins if these passages have often been misinterpreted and misapplied? Yes! Actually, there are some facts that we must understand properly.

First, Satan is a created being. God represents the only one who has not been created. [Note that this includes the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.] Psalm 90:2, for instance, says that before the mountains, earth, or world was made, God was God – “from everlasting to everlasting.” Revelation 4:8 says that God was, is, and will always be. But, this same thing is never said or implied about Satan. Instead, Satan was created by God – along with every other thing that was created (see Colossians 1:15-17). Therefore, since God is eternal and Satan is created, God is greater than Satan.

Second, Satan is a spiritual being. Satan is not a being who is physical in nature. Instead, Satan is spiritual in nature. This is how Satan can exist for such a long period of time. The Scriptures force us to this conclusion. However, the Bible does not definitively say whether Satan is an angel or some other kind of spiritual being (as there are a variety of spiritual beings, see Revelation 4:6-8 as an example).

Third, Satan was created to possess free will. How could a perfectly holy God possibly create Satan? The answer lies in the fact that God created Satan as a spiritual being who was (at one time) innocent and pure. But, God created him with free will. This is the same way that God has created mankind. However, the Scriptures plainly teach that spiritual beings (generally) can exercise their free will and sin against God (see 2 Peter 2:4 and Jude 1:6 regarding angels who sinned against God). Likewise, the Scriptures teach that Satan chose to sin against God (1 John 3:8; John 8:44; 1 Timothy 3:6). Thus,

God did not create Satan's wickedness. Satan himself is responsible!

How The Devil Is Connected With Everything Evil

The fact is that God is entirely pure and righteous. He is not responsible for anything that is evil. James 1:13 says that “God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.” Instead, it is the devil who is called the “ruler” of this world and the “god” of this age (see John 14:30 and 2 Corinthians 4:4). While the devil does not have more authority or power than God, these passages do illustrate how most people in this world have chosen to follow Satan's ways rather than God's. So, rather than attributing all evil and suffering to God, the Bible points to Satan as the one who has brought such into the world. For instance, Jesus told some people in John 8 that they were of their “father, the devil” because they wanted to do the desires of their father. He said that the devil “was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it” (verse 44). Now, let's see the connection between the devil and the evil and suffering that exist in this world.

The Garden of Eden

As I have already mentioned, when God created the world and mankind, He placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. This was a true paradise on earth. At this point, there was no death or suffering that existed on this earth. And, there was no sin that mankind had ever committed.

But, God gave Adam and Eve two things. First, He gave them free will so that they could choose to either listen to Him or disobey Him. The choice was theirs to make. Second, God gave Adam and Eve a law to live by. God's law was this: “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall

surely die” (Genesis 2:16-17). The choice was theirs – either to obey this law or to disobey it. Yet, you should notice that death would only be present *if* they did not obey this law from God.

Then, the Bible introduces us to the devil. Genesis 3:1 says, “Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, ‘Has God indeed said, “You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”’” The devil, using the serpent, had now begun tempting Eve. Although Eve knew the law God had given them and the consequence of breaking that law (see verses 2 and 3), the serpent told her, “You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil” (verses 4 and 5). Then, she decided to listen to the devil and eat the forbidden fruit rather than listen to God – and give it to her husband, who also ate of it (verse 6).

This combination of the devil’s temptation and the free exercise of Adam and Eve’s will to disobey God had serious consequences. Not only had mankind just done the first thing that was evil on earth, but there would be suffering and physical death that would result (see Genesis 3:16-24). And, not only was there physical death that entered the world, but spiritual death (separation from God) also happened the moment that they committed sin. From this point forward, the Bible continues to describe evil and suffering as part of mankind’s existence on this earth.

How the devil works today

Physical death and suffering continue to exist today because of that series of events that transpired in the Garden of Eden. But, even more seriously, the Bible describes that Satan continues to work in the world today so that you will sin against God by refusing to obey Him. This will result in your spiritual death and your eternal condemnation with the devil to the fires of Hell (see Matthew 25:41, 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9, and Revelation 21:8).

The devil is attempting to accomplish this by tempting you in the same ways that he tempted Eve. He is a great deceiver and liar (remember what Jesus said about him in John 8:44). He wants you to believe

that it is okay to fulfill your own pleasures and desires rather than listen to God. He is trying to distract you in any way he possibly can so that you will not obey God’s way of truth.

James 1:14-15 describes the temptation process. “But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.” Like he did with Eve, Satan tempts you to please yourself – even if it means that you fail to obey God. Then, whenever you give in to this temptation and act accordingly, you commit sin. And, sin results in your spiritual death.

Living With The Reality Of The Devil

Because there really is a spiritual being who is called “the devil” and “Satan,” you must live every day of your life on this earth properly responding to this great threat. As long as you choose to deny his existence, he will be victorious over you and you will be used by him to defeat others. However, it is only when you face his reality that you can begin taking steps to be victorious over him. So, please consider how you should respond to the reality of the devil.

View him as a real enemy

The devil is *not* your friend. He is your greatest enemy. He never works for your good or betterment. And, although you may experience some temporary pleasure by giving in to his temptations, you will always suffer consequences for doing so. As we considered previously, 1 Peter 5:8 identifies the devil as “your adversary.” That is, he is your opponent. He stands in opposition to the good things you should be committed to accomplishing in your life on this earth. Then, his opposition to you is pictured as him walking about “like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” So, you must choose to view this fierce enemy as being *real* rather than imaginary!

Protect yourself against him

The devil is a fierce opponent in your life. But, God does not leave you unprotected against him. Instead, God has told you everything that you need to know in order to be victorious against his attacks. Once again, Ephesians 6:10-18 pictures Satan as hurling fiery darts at you with the intent to destroy you spiritually. But, God says that if you put on the entire armor He has provided, you will be able to withstand the devil's attacks. This armor is all spiritual in nature (as it is a spiritual battle). So, you must conscientiously put on God's truth, righteousness, the preparation of the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, and the word of God. If you have not done this, you have left yourself unprotected against this fierce enemy. And, you must recognize that each piece of this armor must be put on every single day (not just at one point in your life).

Resist him

Having put on all the armor that God gives you to overcome the devil, you must determine to resist his temptations. 1 Corinthians 10:13 says, "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it." Since you can overcome Satan's temptations, you must simply resist every attempt that he makes to deceive you and pull you away from God! If you do, he will flee from you (James 4:7). You do this, in part, by being sober-minded, being watchful, telling him "no" whenever he tempts you, and remaining steadfast in your faith (see 1 Peter 5:8-9).

Conclusion

Yes, there really is a devil! He is spiritual in nature and wages a spiritual war against each and every person on this earth. He is the one who is responsible for all the evil and suffering that exists on this earth. And, he is trying to destroy you spiritually. But, will you choose to believe in the

Bible's teachings about the devil so much that you will devote yourself to watching out for his temptations and resisting him at every point in your life?

Study Questions

What are some views of the devil?

1. The Bible Identifies The Devil As Being Real

What are some consequences of dismissing Satan's reality?

How does the Bible picture Satan as being real?

How does the Bible warn about Satan's reality?

2. The Devil's Origin

Does the devil's origin matter?

Is Satan a fallen angel?

What can you know for certain about the devil's origin?

3. How The Devil Is Connected With Everything Evil

How did Satan bring about evil in the Garden of Eden?

How does the devil work today?

4. Living With The Reality Of The Devil

Why should you view the devil as a real enemy?

Why should you protect yourself against the devil?

Why should you resist the devil?