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# BIBLE TALK

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This week the question is: **What does the Bible say about the Devil?**

We know very little about the origin of the Devil. We know only that:

- a) He is not equal with God. God alone is eternal (1 Tim 6:16). The Devil is as much dependent upon God for his existence as we are for our existence. If God wanted, He could annihilate the Devil just like He could annihilate us.
- b) The Devil, along with all the angels of heaven, was originally created to be good. After everything was created, God declared, "It is good" (Gen 1:31). God would never have created an evil being. So the Devil must have been a good angel to begin with.
- c) The Devil and other angels rebelled against God's authority and they were "cast out" of heaven (2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 1:6).

Now let's talk a little about the nature and destiny of the Devil.

## THE NAMES OF THE DEVIL

The scriptures use several names to describe the Devil. We learn quite a bit about him from the names given to him.

### He is called "the Devil."

This name means "adversary" or "opponent." This name was given to him because he is opposed to all that is good and right. Jesus said:

#### John 8:44

44 "You are of your father the **devil**, and the desires of your father you want to do. He 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.

Again:

**1 John 3:8**

8 He who sins is of the **devil**, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

These two passages demonstrate that from the beginning of the world, the Devil was opposed to God and His highest creation -- man.

**He is also called Satan.**

The name Satan means "accuser" or "slanderer." He was given this name because that's what he does.

- a) He slandered and accused God before the human race. In Gen. 3 he accused and slandered God by suggesting God was being unfair with Adam and Eve.
- b) He slanders and accuses God's people.

**Job 1:6-11**

6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and **Satan** also came among them.

7 And the LORD said to **Satan**, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."

8 Then the LORD said to **Satan**, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?"

9 So **Satan** answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing?"

10 "Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.

11 "But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"

This is just one example of the accusations and slanders Satan hurls about God's people.

### **Revelation 12:10**

10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who **accused** them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

In Zech. 3:1 the prophet sees Satan accusing Joshua the high priest as he stands before the angel of God.

## **THE REALITY OF SATAN**

Satan is a real person. Perhaps the greatest deception of Satan is his ability to deceive men and women into thinking he is not real. The scriptures, however, describe the Devil in very real terms.

- a) Moses believed Satan to be a real person (Gen 3).
- b) The writers of the NT believed him to be real (Mt 4:1-10).
- c) His ability to disguise himself makes people think he is not real.

### **2 Corinthians 11:14-15**

14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.  
15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

Though he disguises himself and appears to be harmless and even good, remember that his name means "accuser" and "opponent." His purpose in life is to destroy as many lives as he can. His goal is to take as many people to hell with him as he possibly can.

### **1 Peter 5:8**

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary **the devil** walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Why does Satan want to destroy the lives of men and women? Why does he want people to go to hell with him? Is it just because "misery loves company"? Hardly. The reason Satan does this is because he hates God. His goal is to do anything he can to hurt God. God loves mankind more than anything else in the world. Mankind was the only part of creation made in the image of God. God loved man so much that He sent His *"only begotten Son"* into the world to die for the sins of all men (Jn 3:16; 1 Jn 2:2). Any time a human soul is lost it grieves God (Gen 6:6). God "takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked" (Ezk 33:11). Because God is so obsessed with loving mankind, the Devil tries to drag as many as he can down to hell so he might hurt God as much as time will allow.

My friend, think about that the next time you're tempted to sin. Realize that sin *"grieves God at his heart"* and realize that more than anything in the world God wants you to live right so you can come to heaven with Him and live eternally one day. He sent His very own Son to die on a cross that this might be possible.