

Everyone's Worst Enemy!



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Many people mock the idea of an actual *devil*—they think he is a joke, but he is no joke—and for those who refuse to believe he even exists, the devil will have the *last laugh!* One wicked strategy of Satan is to have people believe he does *not* exist—therefore he works undercover.

Some people think we do not fight an actual enemy—that he is someone made up in our mind. Most will admit there is much evil in the world but do *not* want to admit that there is a real *enemy* to fight. If Satan can convince people that he is not real, then he can effectively hide his identity.

The average person assumes that the comic book figure is a description of the devil—if he even *does* exist! Scripture reveals, however, that Satan is *not* red with horns, a pointed tail, or a pitchfork—and that he is *not* in the lake of fire—yet!

Many make fun of those who believe there *is* a *devil*, but the Bible says there *is* such an evil being—and he is everyone's worst enemy! Scripture paints a much different picture of Satan than what is depicted in comic books.

To know that Satan is a real enemy, is to know we fight a dangerous adversary—one who is out to destroy our *soul!* The devil *must* be resisted by the ability God will give. Names in Scripture often tell about the person, so knowing what the devil is called, helps us understand how he deceives, oppresses, and harms God's people.

The *most* used title for the devil is *Satan*. Jesus rebuked him ^{Matthew 4:10} “*Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written.*” The word *Satan* ^{Hebrew/Greek} means *adversary or enemy* and refers to someone who opposes and wants to destroy us. The first reference to him is ^{1 Chronicles 21:1} “*Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel.*” Satan has always been everyone's enemy!

Satan can lead individuals or nations into *sin* by putting wrong ideas in their *mind*. He influenced King David to *count* the Israelites, which did *not* have God's favor.

As a consequence of David's wrong decision, 70,000 people died, and Jerusalem was almost destroyed. Satan is a dangerous *enemy* who constantly seeks to destroy God's *people*.

The common name of *Devil*—means *Tempter* ^{Greek}. Satan is called *the devil* thirty-one times in the New Testament—as he continuously *tempts* people to sin.

When Jesus began His ministry, He was led into the desert to be tempted by the devil. Satan wanted to *tempt* God's Son, so two gospels use the title *devil* or *tempter* in their accounts ^{Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13}.

Adam disobeying God's Word began by listening to a lie. ^{Genesis 3:1} “*The serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?*”

The apostle referred to this momentous event ^{2 Corinthians 11:3} “*I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*” Satan is called *evil* because he is characteristically evil by nature.

Jesus taught His disciples to pray, ^{Matthew 6:13} “*Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;*” or protect us from sin and wickedness—things which always lead back to Satan. Jesus

prayed for His disciples and asked the Father ^{John 17:15} “*That thou shouldest keep them from the evil.*”

Satan is called *Beelzebub* eleven times in the Bible—a name which refers to Egypt's pagan god *Baal*. Jesus often used the term *Baalzebub* when referring to the devil. Twice in the NT the devil is called the *Adversary* ^{1 Timothy 5:14; 1 Peter 5:8}—because Satan is everyone's worst enemy.

He is called ^{Ephesians 2:2} “*The prince of the power of the air,*” due to the destructive force of the wind—tornadoes, hurricanes, cyclones, and typhoons—with much loss of life and property. It is easily seen how the devil uses the *wind* and extreme *weather* to destroy lives.

The apostle wrote ^{Ephesians 2:2b} saying the devil is, “*The spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience,*” because of Satan's constant attempts to destroy God's people through rebellion, resentment, arrogance, pride, or other wrong attitudes.

Satan is “*The accuser of our brethren*” ^{Revelation 12:10}, because he constantly *accuses* believers and reminds them of past sins, mistakes, or failures. He always hides the truth—like when we sincerely *repent*, does God truly *forgive*, he suggests! ^{1 John 1:9}. Satan, however, can no longer *accuse* us of sins that have been confessed to God and forgiven by the Blood of Christ.

The devil wants us to defile our conscience, as it can eventually destroy us. ^{1 Timothy 1:18-19} “*This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck.*”

The devil, according to Jesus, was ^{John 8:44} “*A murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he*

speakeh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

Satan's worst lie is that God no longer *does things* for people, and that Jesus was *not divine*—the truth is, God does *everything* for us, and Jesus *is* divine. Believing the devil prevents us from meeting God's main requirement—and it would hinder our answers to prayer. John 6:29 *"This is above all the thing that God requires—that you should be believers in Him whom He has sent."*

Rejecting Satan's *lies* and believing God's *Word*, is our choice and our responsibility. If we will put our faith in the Atonement Blood of Christ for things in *this* life, we will prove that God really *does* things for believers today.

God has not changed, and the shed Blood of Christ is as effective *today* as it was *then*. That Blood sacrifice paid for every promise God has made. 2 Corinthians 1:20 *"For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us."*

Satan will do anything possible to have us think that God *has* changed, and that Jesus is *not* with us—even though God *cannot* change Malachi 3:6; Jesus *is* the same Hebrews 13:8; and His Holy Spirit is *still* with us John 14:16 to inspire faith *in* us to *know* that the Blood has lost none of its power.

Since all of those things remain the *same*, then the *conditions* for receiving answers to prayer remain the *same*—an uncompromising *trust* on God, and an unwavering *faith* in the Blood of Christ. We are to *believe* the Father of *Truth* and *reject* the father of *lies*.

Satan and his agents are not *natives* but *invaders!* Satan is a fallen-angel—he was *created* by God, so he *had* a beginning and is *not* eternal. The devil is *not* omnipresent—he can only be at *one* place at a time; he is *not* omniscient—he does *not* know all things; and he is *not* omnipotent—he *has* limitations.

Satan is invisible, however, as a spirit-being, so is *undetected* by the five senses. Luke 22:3 *"Then entered Satan into Judas,"* but no one *saw* that happen. The devil can appear in various forms—as a *serpent* in the Garden; and as a *spirit of fear* at other times 2 Timothy 1:7. The apostle warned 1 John 4:1 *"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."*

Satan can transform himself 2 Corinthians 11:14 *"Into an angel of light,"* and since he is always *lying* John 8:44, we must be ready to *resist*. He does *not announce* who he is and does *not say* that he has come to deceive us. If any suggestion, thought, or course of action opposes God's *Word*, then it was not *from* God and *must* be rejected.

Satan is a dangerous enemy, but the Blood of Christ destroyed his power. We are to fear *God—not* Satan. As a believer in Christ, we are in a battle and must *claim* our Atonement rights to be protected from harm, injury, loss, or deception.

Jesus began His ministry by healing the sick, raising the dead, and casting out demons Acts 10:38—and when He went to the *cross* for the sins of the *world*, Satan thought he had won a victory, but that *sacrifice* brought about his *doom*.

Galatians 6:14 *"God forbid that I should glory [boast], save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world."* Satan is everyone's *worst* enemy, but the cross means we can *claim* victory. 1 Corinthians 1:18 *"The preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."*

The cross is the *foundation* of all *faith*, and the greatest weapon in our fight against the enemy. The cross canceled our sins—Colossians 2:14 *"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross."*

Satan can no longer *accuse* us or falsely *charge* us, because Colossians 2:15 *"In this way, God disarmed the evil rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross of Christ."* *"And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it."*

Jesus came into the world to save *sinner*s 1 Timothy 1:15, but in order to *save* us from our *sins* Matthew 1:21, He had to defeat the *power* of the devil. Hebrews 2:14 *"As the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil."*

God said that He was going to send the *seed of the woman*, and that the *Seed* would crush the *head* of the serpent Genesis 3:15. God was sending Someone to defeat the devil. 1 John 3:8 *"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."*

Satan is *Everyone's Worst Enemy*, and he is determined to destroy our soul forever! The Blood of Jesus is the reason we *claim* victory over the devil.

If we truly *believe* that Jesus *is* who He *says* He is—God manifested in the flesh—and if we will trust in faith on the precious Blood He shed for us, Satan will *have* to flee, and we *will* enjoy our Blood-purchased rights to health and healing. We have God's *Word* on it—John 16:11 *"The prince of this world is judged."*



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