

deeper

word faith life

Season 5

Healing

Angels

The Devil and Demons

Strongholds and Spiritual Warfare

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Episode 5 – The Devil and Demons

“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight.” - CS Lewis Screwtape Letters (1942)

The Nature of Satan

Satan is a Fallen Angel - Therefore all that is true of angels in general is true of Satan. Like all angels, Satan is a creature, created by Christ, the Creator of all things.

Colossians 1:15-16 NIV

“The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him.”

There is no verse in the Bible that actually states that Lucifer is Satan, but an examination of several passages reveals that Lucifer can be none other than Satan. The fall of Lucifer described in Isaiah 14:12 is likely the same that Jesus referred to in Luke 10:18 “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.” A similar fall is depicted in Ezekiel 28.

Lucifer was cast out of heaven for his sin of pride and his desire to be God. Jesus referred to seeing Satan being cast out of heaven. Therefore, we can conclude that Lucifer and Satan are one and the same. He is NOT an equal opposite to God.

He is a Spirit Being - Hebrews 1:14 describes angels as spirits. Demons are unclean spirits.

(Matthew 8:16, 12:45; Luke 7:21, 8:2, 11:26, Acts 19:12, Revelation 16:14) Paul tells us that “we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places.”(Ephesians 6:12) Satan and his demons are spirit beings.(Colossians 1:16)

He has Limitations - Though extremely powerful, Satan is neither omnipotent, omniscient, nor omnipresent. He simply cannot be everywhere at once, he is not almighty, and he is not all knowing. He is however, very cunning and shrewd, he is a master deceiver.

John 8:44 NIV

“When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

As the chief of his forces of demons or as the “prince of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2), he is over a vast host of demons who are so numerous as to make Satan’s power and presence seem to be practically everywhere at once.(Mark 5:9)

Many of the references to Satan or the devil includes his whole kingdom. Satan himself does not personally tempt each of us because he simply cannot do that. He is only able to do so through his influence in world systems and hosts of demons.

We do have clear references to the person of Satan himself when we read not only of his appearance when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, (Job 1:6) in the temptation of Jesus, (Matthew 4:10) and his entrance into Judas, (Luke 22:3) but also in many other passages, Satan or the devil seems to stand for Satan’s kingdom. (Mark 3:23, 4:15, Luke 13:16, 1 Peter 5:8-9, James 4:7) It is also comforting to know that Satan is limited. The promise of Scripture for every believer is this:

1 John 4:4 NIV

“...the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.”

In spite of all his power and hatred against God and man, he could do nothing against Job that God did not expressly allow. Therefore, he can be resisted and made to flee,

James 4:7 NIV

“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

The strength of God is made available to every believer in Christ. (Ephesians 6:10-18)



The Names Applied to Satan

A study of the names of Satan will demonstrate that he has many faces, schemes, and strategies, and they aren't always obvious or even repulsive.

Satan and his demons are at war against God and His people. He is described as the adversary, the accuser, the destroyer, the deceiver, the father of lies, the tempter, a murderer, the evil one, and a real enemy.

Satan (Job 1:6-9; Matthew 4:10) - The title "Satan" occurs 53 times in the Bible. The primary idea is 'adversary, one who withstands.' It points to Satan as the opponent of God, of believers, and all that is right and good. We should note, however, that Satan often appears as an angel of light promising what is good.(2 Corinthians 11:14)

The Devil (Matthew 4:1, 5, 9; Ephesians 4:27; Revelation 12:9; 20:2) - "Devil" comes from the Greek which means "slanderer, defamer." This describes his aim, to dispute the character of God. 1 Peter 5:8 where he is called "our adversary", indicates Satan's adversarial activity as the defamer and maligner of God and believers. It refers to an opponent in a lawsuit, or a courtroom where accusations are made.

The Serpent (Revelation 12:9) - This name for Satan indicates his crafty deception and guile (2 Corinthians 11:2; Revelation 12:9).

The Evil One (John 17:15; 1 John 5:9) - In these two passages, Satan is described of as "the evil one." The Greek implies "wicked, evil, bad, base, worthless, vicious, degenerate." This points to Satan's character as active and malignant. It denotes what is base and useless, what is injurious and destructive. Satan, as the evil one is actively engaged in destruction, causing pain, injury, and death.

The Dragon (Revelation 12:7) - In this passage Satan is called "the dragon." The Greek word refers to a "hideous monster, a dragon, or large serpent." This stresses his cruel, vicious, and blood thirsty character.

The Prince or Ruler of this World (John 12:31) - Some translations have "prince" and others "ruler" as in John 12:31. The Greek literally means, "the ruler of this world system." This points to Satan as the head and energy behind the arrangements of things as they are in the world today in their opposition to God.

The God of This World or Age (2 Corinthians 4:4) - The fact that Satan is called, "the god of this world", emphasises Satan's control over this final period of history which is marked by a growing increase in apostasy, deception, and moral decay. In Galatians 1:4, Paul calls this "the present evil age." Satan is the reason this age will never improve, it is an evil age that grows worse because of his presence and activity to both undermine the plan of God and set up his own rule and worship.

The Prince of the Power of the Air (Ephesians 2:2) - "the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience" This designation points to Satan as the head of the demonic hosts which includes all the fallen angelic beings who operate in our immediate atmosphere propagating deception, doubt and rebellion against God. Though the word "power" is singular, it refers to the demonic forces as a corporate entity, operating under Satan.(Ephesians 6:12) Like our expression "the spirit of the age" it can also refer to the disposition, the prevailing world, the way of thinking which we find in the children of disobedience.



The Accuser of the Brethren (Revelation 12:10) - When Satan is called "the Accuser," it refers to him at work constantly accusing believers when they sin. One of Satan's activities is to accuse believers before God.

In view of [Job 1](#) and 2, this is also an attempt to malign the character of God and His plan. It is of course true that none of us are sinless (1 John 1:9-10), we have the Lord Jesus as our continuous Advocate to plead our case. (Romans 8:33-34, 1 John 2:1-2)

The Tempter (Matthew 4:3, 1 Thessalonians 3:5) - Satan is also called the tempter. (Matthew 4:3, 1 Thessalonians 3:5) This was the origin on earth of all the misery that we know, Satan tempted Eve to sin, and sin brought with it the curse of God on the natural order.(Genesis 3:14-19, Romans 8:21-23) Since then Satan has been tempting all of humankind to do what will injure themselves and others.

Belial (2 Corinthians 6:15) - This name means "worthless" or "hopeless ruin." In 2 Corinthians, Paul uses it as a name for Satan as the epitome of worthlessness, hopeless ruin and the source of all idolatry and religion which is also hopeless and futile.

Beelzebul (Matthew 12:24; Mark 3:22) - Beelzebul means "lord of the dung," a name of reproach. Beelzebub means "lord of the flies." Either one of these are names of reproach and are names of uncleanness applied to Satan, the prince of the demons and uncleanness. Matthew, Mark, and Luke all define Beelzebul as the prince of demons. So this name epitomises Satan as the leader of the demonic hosts.

Abaddon, Apollyon (Revelation 9:11) - Abaddon is the Greek form and Apollyon, a Hebrew word for destroyer. Primarily, this title stresses his work of destruction; he works to destroy the glory of God and God's purpose for man. Jesus says elsewhere he comes to "steal, kill, and destroy." (John 10:10) That's what he does, instead of order, he brings disorder. He never brings harmony, only discord and conflict.

Father of Lies (John 8:44) - Jesus says the devil is the father of lies. The lie is the sphere in which he holds his place. Falsehood and manipulation is his naturally occupied space. Lying is his native language, he's been lying since the beginning, and he instigates people to speak lies.

When Peter rebuked Ananias for his deception, he attributed the source of the lie to Satan: "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back some of the price of the land?"(Acts 5:3)

Murderer (John 8:44) - He is also called a murderer. This is his final goal, he hates life. God is the living God and the author of life. Satan is the one who loves death and takes away life.

Memory Verse

James 4:7 NIV

"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

