

# **THE DEVIL AND HIS DEVICES**

Discipleship II - Chapter 8



## THE DEVIL AND HIS DEVICES

The Halloween caricature of the Devil in red flannels with horns, a long tail, and a pitchfork could not be further from the truth. Don't be deceived into believing that the Devil is a myth, like Santa-Claus and the tooth fairy!

The Bible is unmistakably clear in its teachings about Satan. Satan is a real personality with real goals, ambitions, and desires. The literal existence of Satan is taught in seven Old Testament books and by every single New Testament author.

Satan is a "deceiver" (Rev. 12:9). One of the greatest deceptions he has used in our day is the false notion that he does not exist. Biblical signs of demon possession (split personality, self-abuse, violence, etc.) are no longer attributed to demonic sources. In our days these problems are seen as psychiatric disorders.

Satanism is becoming one of America's fastest growing "religions." Inverted crosses, pentagrams, and goat heads are frequent reminders of the pervasiveness of satanism in today's rock culture. News stories about grave robberies and ritualistic child abuse remind us that satan is "alive and well on the planet earth." This should not cause us to "marvel; for satan himself is transformed into an angel of light" (II Corinthians 11:14). (Reflect on the Bible's "angel of light" description as it applies to modern "out of the body experiences" which report being drawn towards a great inviting light.)

With satan working so aggressively in our day, we need to be warned of his desires and his devices.

### SATAN'S DESIRES

Have you ever seen someone under deep conviction during a church service or while you are witnessing to him? You feel certain that he will answer the invitation to be saved. Yet, he turns away. When this happens Satan wins another battle.

1. Satan desires to keep people from being saved. Jesus said, "When anyone heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart" (Matthew 13:19). Satan makes every attempt to distract, harden, or confuse those who draw near to conversion.
2. Satan desires to destroy the child of God. 1 Peter 5:8 warns us that our "adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." He may snare us with temptation or discouragement. One thing is for certain, he does not want to see us prosper in the cause of Christ.

3. Satan desires to be worshiped like God. Isaiah 14:13-14 records Satan's thoughts at the time of his fall. He said, "I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God...I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High." Every advance of Satanic cultism gives the Devil great delight.

## **SATAN'S DEVICES**

Jesus said that Satan "is a liar, and the father of it" (John 8:44). As we look at Satan's devices, we would do well to remember that all of Satan's lures are based upon lies, for "there is no truth in him" (John 8:44).

### **HIS ALLUREMENT**

Satan has used three basic tools to entice men for centuries. 1 John 2:16 describes these tools as, (1) "the lust of the flesh, (2) and the lust of the eyes, (3) and the pride of life."

Satan used these three temptations to deceive Eve. Genesis 3:6 tells us that when Eve "saw that the tree was good for food [flesh], and that it was pleasant to the eyes [eyes], and a tree to be desired to make one wise [pride], she took of the fruit thereof."

Satan attempted to lure Jesus Christ with the same temptations that he used in his successful deception of Eve. Matthew 4 pictures Satan attempting to cause Jesus to fall by inviting Him to make stones into bread (flesh) v.3, to cast Himself down so the angels can deliver Him (pride) v.6, and to worship Satan so Satan would give Him rulership of the world.

### **HIS GOAL**

Satan will do anything in his power to draw you away from Christ. He will bring temptations. He will cause friends to discourage you. He will even bring adversity into your life to make you doubt God's kindness (remember Job).

When temptations assault you, remember "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28)

**" GREATER IS HE THAT IS IN YOU, THEN HE THAT IS IN THE WORLD"**  
(1 John 4:4)

**FROM YOUR READING**

1. What the Bible often calls symptoms of demonic activity, modern man often calls \_\_\_\_\_
2. What are Satan's three great desire?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Satan's fall was caused by his desire to be \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. All of Satan's lures are based upon \_\_\_\_\_
5. Satan's three great enticements are:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_

## GROUP TIME

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Punctuality is “showing high \_\_\_\_\_ for other \_\_\_\_\_ and their time.” (Bill Gothard)

1. Ezekiel 28 tells us that Satan is \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 12) and \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 13).
2. Satan deceives many men through much that is called psychological and much that is called “out of body.” Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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# BIBLE STUDY

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The following material is given for your personal Bible study and Christian growth. The basic assignments for the course are given and a special “achiever” assignment is suggested for those who desire to go the extra mile. Before you begin, pray that God will allow you to really grow through this endeavor.

## SCRIPTURE ASSIGNMENT

Read Your Bible and Answer the Following:

Before you look up the answer to these questions, pray that God would help you to learn about Satan so you can escape the many traps that he wants to set for you.

1. Describe Satan before his fall (Ezekiel 28:12-19). \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Find the following titles that the Bible gives Satan, and then make a note of what this title tells you about him.
  - a. II Corinthians 4:4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. II Corinthians 11:14 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What do you learn about the sources of temptation from the following verses?
  - a. Matthew 4:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. James 1:13 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What must we do to avoid temptation?

a. Matthew 26:413 \_\_\_\_\_

b. James 4:7 \_\_\_\_\_

5. What is Satan's destiny? (Revelation 20:3,7) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Achiever Questions

Read ephesians 6:10-18. Describe the conflict that we are in and our defense in this conflict. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### MEMORY ASSIGNMENT

**Books of the Bible:** Learn the names of the 12 books of "History" this week. Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I Samuel, II Samuel, I Kings, II Kings, I Chronicles, II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther.

**Verse:** I Corinthians 10:13

"There has no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

**Achiever's Verse:** I Peter 5:8

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."



### PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENT

Satan uses the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life to tempt us. Can you identify three ways in which you see Satan using each of these devices in the world today?

1. The lust of the flesh
  - a. Example - drugs
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The lust of the eyes
  - a. Example - promiscuous advertisement
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The pride of life
  - a. Example - love yourself philosophy
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_