

CHRISTADELPHIAN BIBLE POSTAL COURSE

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**LESSON 7**

The Devil and Satan: What does the Bible say: A Supernatural Being or Sin?

To read: James 1-5 , Genesis 3

To learn: 1 John 2:16

QUESTIONS

We have learnt in lesson six that sin came into the world through one man, Adam (Romans 5:12). This, as we know, was the result of the serpent's lie to Eve. The Apostle John tells us in 1 John 2:16 that the way Eve thought and reacted to temptation is of the world, and not of the Father. "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh (good for food) and the lust of the eyes (pleased the eyes) and the pride of life (to make on wise) is not of the Father, but is of the world." (Genesis 3:6) Jesus confirms that sin comes from our own desires when he told his disciples that evil thoughts come out of the heart, and so defile us. (Read Matthew 15:10-20).

We are now going to study the Bible teaching about the devil and Satan.

DEVIL

The word "devils" occurs only four times in the Old Testament (Authorised Version- other more modern versions use the more correct rendering). Read Leviticus 17:7 and 2 Chronicles 11:15. Here the translators have chosen to use the word "devils" whereas in fact it should be "he-goat". The Israelites had taken on the animal worship of the pagan nations around them. In Deuteronomy 32:17 and Psalm 106:37, the word "devils" should be rendered "demons". These demons were also the gods of the pagan nations. Carefully read Psalm 106:35-39 where it explains that demons were idols. The Apostle Paul quotes this in 1 Corinthians 8:4-6 that there is only one God, and idols are nothing.

We can therefore conclude that a devil (in a supernatural sense) does not exist at all in the Old Testament. "Devil occurs many times in the New Testament. In the original Greek (the language the New Testament was written in) the words "diamonion" (meaning demon) and "diabolos" (meaning "false accuser" or "slanderer") were used.

"Demon is used to describe anyone affected with a disease that was not visible e.g. epilepsy Luke 9:39 "A spirit seizes him and he suddenly screams; it throws him into convulsions so that he foams at the mouth. It scarcely ever leaves him and is destroying him," Luke 9:42 "the demon threw him to the ground in a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the evil spirit, healed the boy." 2000 years ago, people did not understand what caused these attacks, and so attributed it to the work of a pagan idol! The word "diabolos" was used whenever the truth or someone was slandered or falsely accused. The translators of the Bible have translated this word as "Devil" every time, except on three occasions, where they have obviously felt a supernatural devil would not fit into the content of the passages.

Let us consider these:

1. 2 Timothy 3:3 "Without love, unforgiving, _____ without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good," Here Paul is speaking of men (v2) being lovers of themselves in the last days.

2. 1 Timothy 3:11 the wives of the deacons must be worthy of respect not _____.
So wives are admonished not to be deceives or false accusers.

3. Titus 2:3 "the older women of the church must be reverent in the way they live, not to be _____. We can conclude therefore, that when we find the word in the New Testament, we have to remember that its meaning is "slanderer". Now let us look at a few passages where "devil" is used:

4. Revelation 2:10, who was going to put some of the believers into prison? _____.
We know that the authorities imprison transgressors of the law. Thus the devil of this verse refers to persons or a government which was against the Christians in the first century. What was this government? The only answer is, the pagan government of Rome. The "devil" of Revelation 2:10 is Rome acting against the Christian Church.

5. What name did Jesus give to Judas Iscariot? John 6:70; "One of you is a _____!" Judas was a devil or slanderer because according to verse 71, he was the one who was going to betray Jesus (read Mark 14: 10 -11). We can see from these verses that the word devil is used of one who falsely accuses. Judas he who betrayed Jesus, was a slanderer, or a "devil" too.

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SATAN

Satan is a Hebrew word meaning "adversary" and this word occurs in the Old and New Testament. Let us read some passages of the Old Testament to see how the word is used.

6. Who stood up against Israel and provoked David to number Israel according to 1 Chronicles 21:1?

7. The parallel account is found in 2 Samuel 24:1 Who provoked David? _____ In this case we see that God is Satan! How can this be? In this case God was an adversary against Israel and David, in other words, He was a "Satan".

8. Numbers 22:22 tells us that the angel of God stood in the road to _____ him, (to be an "adversary"). We see from the Old Testament that Satan was in one case God and in another His angel. We know that God and His angels are good and cannot sin (Mark 10:18, Psalm 103:20). These verses make sense when we understand the meaning of the word Satan, which is adversary!

9. In Matthew 16:21-23 we find an interesting incident. On hearing Peter's words, what name did Jesus give him according to verse 23?

"Get behind me _____!" Jesus called him an adversary because Peter was trying to dissuade him from fulfilling his Father's will i.e. to die on the cross. Read verses 24-26 as well.

We have seen that it is not difficult to understand what the Bible says when using the word's "devil" and "Satan" when we remember their meanings. Sin is personified as "devil" or "Satan". What is the biblical evidence?

10. Paul tells us in Romans 7:11, " _____ deceived me." Revelation 12:9 says, "that ancient serpent, called the _____ or _____ who leads the whole world astray."

11. What is the wages of sin according to Romans 6:23? _____
According to Hebrews 2:14 the devil has the power of _____

12. Romans 8:3 tells us that Jesus condemned _____

13. According to 1 John 3:5, why was Jesus manifested? _____
According to 1 John 3:8, the reason the Son of God appeared was to _____

14. Romans 5:21, tells us that _____ reigned in death.
According to Luke 11:18 _____ has a kingdom.

15. Jesus tells us in John 8:34 everyone who sins is a _____ to sin. 2 Corinthians 2:11 says that Satan can _____
_____ 1 Timothy 3:7 tells us that we can fall into _____ and the _____ of the devil.

16. According to Romans 8:7 the sinful mind is _____ to God. Another word to describe one who is not of God according to 1 John 3:10 is son of _____.

The answers to the seven previous questions tell us the following about sin and the devil or Satan: the two deceive (9), they have the power of death (10), were destroyed by Christ (11.12), have kingdoms (13), they can enslave and dominate(14), and are against God (15). What the Bible says about sin, it also says about the devil. For this reason we can say that biblically the devil is sin, or better said is the personification of sin.

17. In agreement with this conclusion, Mark 3:23 tells us that Jesus spoke to his disciples about Satan in _____. The next chapter, 4:11, Christ explains to the disciples why he uses parables; "He told them, "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables." Read carefully the parallel account in Matthew 13:10-14.

Where does sin dwell?

18. According to Romans 7:17, where does it live? _____

19. According to Romans 7:18, what does not live in us? _____
According to these verses (and there are many in the Bible), sin lives in us. We are the devil! In this word picture, and it is a miserable picture, we see ourselves, hateful and without hope. Nevertheless, the Bible is a book of hope.

20. We read with joy in Romans 7:25, who will free us from this body of death? "Thanks be to God - through _____."

In conclusion we note:

- 1) The devil is a personification of sin.
- 2) The word "devil" does not exist in the Old Testament.
- 3) Jesus came to the world to destroy the devil (sin).
- 4) Satan simply means "an adversary".
- 5) All evil comes from the heart of man.