

The devil operates by deception. He has always appeared as a benefactor when his work is bent on destruction. His supreme aim is to prevent people from receiving eternal life. Some ask "What chance do we have against such a crafty foe?"

1 John 4:4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

The devil's death knell was rung at the cross of Jesus. If Jesus abides in us, we have no need to fear the devil. The Christian is on the winning side, for Christ is far more powerful than Satan.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Here is the solution. Submission to God. Then resist the devil.

To reverse the procedure would bring defeat. We have nothing to fear while we constantly surrender our lives to Jesus Christ. We need never fear the devil – in fact it is better to think of Jesus.

"There are Christians who think and speak altogether too much about the power of Satan. They think of their adversary, they pray about him, they talk about him, and he looms up greater and greater in their imagination. It is true that Satan is a powerful being; but thank God, we have a mighty Saviour, who cast out the evil one from heaven. Satan is pleased when we magnify his power. Why not talk of Jesus? Why not magnify His power and His love?" Desire of Ages, page 493.

Here is good counsel. We can be overcomers at last – not in our own strength – but in His strength. In Rev.12:11 it states "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony." Dear friend, will you determine to be on the side of Jesus – the winning side? Satan's way leads to death – God's way leads to life.

Have you chosen to be on God's side – the way that will conquer at last? _____



Life's VITAL ANSWERS

The Origin of Evil.



The Bible reveals an unseen mastermind behind the trouble, woe and suffering in this world of turmoil. This super-human personality is called the devil or Satan, who was originally created a perfect angel, but fell from his high position. Since his fall, his efforts have been devoted in hardened rebellion against God. The devil is mentioned 71 times in the New Testament. There are some who disbelieve in a personal devil, but if we believe the Bible and Jesus Christ we have no alternative but to believe that such a disastrous creature exists and is actively engaged in his work of destruction.

Jesus Believed In The Existence Of A Devil

John 8:44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for _____

Not only did Jesus clearly show the devil's existence, but He also revealed the evil one's character – a murderer and a liar.

Matthew 13:28,39 'An enemy did this,' he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' . . . and the _____. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

This parable speaks about weeds (called tares) that were sown amongst the wheat, and points out that the weeds were sown by an enemy. The enemy is exposed as the devil. Satan is responsible for 'sowing the seed' or originating evil that culminates in the development of evil men and women (the tares). The wheat represents those who have accepted Christ and through His strength overcome the devil.



Jesus taught people about a real Devil that is the source of all evil

1 John 3:8 He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because _____

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

The devil is clearly seen as the originator of sin.

How did it all begin?

Ezekiel 28:12-15 Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: "_____' full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx

Even Satan will be destroyed. His outcome is eternal death. The lake of fire will bring about his destruction. He will be tormented (i.e. to try, or test) for eternity. Torment does not mean torture. His trial in the fire will result in his eternal end.

The Destruction of Sin and the Devil.

Ezekiel 28:18,19 By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching. All the nations who knew you are appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more.



The devil is to be destroyed forever.

Nahum 1:9 Whatever they plot against the LORD he will bring to an end; trouble will not come a second time.

Sin will never reoccur anywhere in the universe throughout all eternity. Its results in this world will forever put the question beyond doubt, that sin has something worthwhile to offer. It will be brought to an utter end.

Revelation 12:12 Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short."

The devil is having his last fling. His end will come soon.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for _____. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

Adam and Eve and all have inherited the tendency toward evil.

Some will ask “Why didn’t God blot out Adam and Eve and start again?” What do parents do with disobedient children? Do they destroy them and adopt others? Of course not! Parents are sorry for their children’s disobedience, but they still love them and hope they will turn out right in the end. And so God did not destroy Adam and Eve. He had a better way. He solved the problem by love. This love sent Jesus to Calvary.

What Has God Done About The Problem Of Suffering?

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

God Has Done Something.

Because of what Jesus has done, there will be an end to sin and the suffering it causes.

Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

God Is Doing Something About Suffering Now.

Through His earthly representatives the gospel message is being proclaimed. This message extends an invitation to be part of God’s kingdom where there will be no more suffering.



Revelation 21:4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.

God Will Yet Do Something About Suffering.

Those who accept the gospel are given the reward of living in God’s eternal kingdom where sin and suffering will never arise. Soon Satan, sin, sinners and suffering will be gone. The wickedness of sin will have filled its cup of iniquity and will prove beyond doubt to the whole universe that sin and its government must be shunned for eternity.

and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared.

_____ for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you.”



The king of Tyre is here used as a symbol of Satan, for although Tyrus was the literal king, the real ruler was Satan himself who had control over the monarch. It is quite evident that this text is not speaking about the literal king. Notice the statements, “You were in Eden” – Satan had been there, but Tyrus had not. “You were created” – the devil as a fallen angel certainly was, but not Tyrus – he was born. Also notice “You were the anointed cherub”, and “You were on the holy mountain of God.”

Lucifer was created perfect by God

Did God Create a Devil?

God created a perfect being – an angel that excelled in beauty. As it states here “You were perfect in your ways”, but then “iniquity was found in you”. God made a perfect angel, but “Lucifer” (which was his name when God created him) rebelled against God and made a devil of himself. Some will say, “Then is not God responsible?” The answer is “NO”. For example; God made pure grapes, but some allow the juice to ferment which turns it into alcoholic wine. Alcohol robs us of our reason and induces unworthy behavior. Is God to be blamed for the woe caused by alcohol? Of course not! Sin made a devil out of Lucifer. Sin made a race of rebels from perfect humanity. God hates sin and will ultimately eliminate it.

Ezekiel 28:17 Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings.

The devil became infatuated with himself and his own beauty. His whole existence became self centered instead of God centred.

Isaiah 14:12-14 How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!

Lucifer was cast out of heaven because of a long succession of selfish choices. He came to live in one narrow dimension: "I". This is how Lucifer, the Archangel, perfect and sinless, de-based himself into Satan, the devil. So selfish had he become that he aspired to take God's position of rulership. He wanted God's power, but not His character of love.



Lucifer and his sympathisers were removed from heaven.

Some then ask, "Why didn't God make Lucifer without freewill so that he could not sin?" God could have made him like clockwork – a machine – not capable of choosing evil, but then neither could he choose good. Voluntary worship, obedience, and the development of character would not have been possible. God wanted His creatures to give Him spontaneous, chosen love and affection. This could only be possible if he created beings with freewill.

Then the question is often asked, "Why didn't God destroy Lucifer when he sinned, to save the woe brought about by his evil work?" God could easily have done this, but his destruction would have been misunderstood by the other angels. Satan had boasted of great promise in disobedience to the law of God. His claims were undermining God's perfect government. He claimed God was a tyrant, a dictator, with no right to impose His restraints upon His creatures. If the devil had been destroyed immediately, his charges would have been supported. The angels would say, "Satan was right", and would remain loyal to God through fear instead of love. Time was needed to give sin and its results a chance to grow.

Revelation 12:4,7,9 His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born. . . And there was war in heaven. Michael and his

angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. . . _____, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

When the devil was cast out of heaven, a large number of angels (a third of the stars of heaven), were cast out with him. These fallen angels are often referred to as demons.

Jude 6 And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.

These wicked angels live in anticipation of the judgment.

The Origin of Sin on Planet Earth

Genesis 3:2-6 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" "_____

_____ "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.



The devil, speaking through the serpent, deceived our first parents, Adam and Eve, into disobeying God. This brought the troubles, woe and suffering we see in the world today.

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned. . .

The one man refers to Adam. The whole human race descends from