

THE DEVIL – THE UNHOLY GOD – Part 1

II Corinthians 4:4

“The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

The Devil is alive and well on planet earth! Ahem! Well? Well, he is alive but he is not wholesome or clean for he is the personification of evil. This is no new revelation to any astute observer of evil schemes and human conduct. However, a studied approach to the subject, with the Bible as our textbook, will yield a vast amount of information which will give us an understanding of what this enemy’s intentions toward God and mankind are.

In II Corinthians 4:4 there are two spirit beings are mentioned. One is holy and the other is unholy. One is the God of the universe and the other is called "*the god of this world*" - generally known as the Devil. There are among us, however, those who object to this truth and reject the thought of an anti-God, evil super-human being. Some say that he does not exist except as a figment of the imagination.

However, Jesus had a personal encounter with the Devil. In Matthew 4:1 we read, "*Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.*" ("*And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan.*") (Mark 1:13) Jesus Christ would not have been fooled by a myth, illusion, fantasy or figment of His imagination.

Jesus’ statement to some in His day makes it clear and definite that the Devil is a real person. He said, "*You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*" (John 8:44)

There are many questions that are asked about the Devil and, because of the eternal importance of getting the answers right, human speculation will not suffice. We must have concrete answers to our questions about his satanic majesty, the Devil. Therefore, let us consult the writings of the Creator of the being who became the Devil. Let us begin with:

THE DEVIL’S ORIGIN

All things and all beings were created by God, including the Devil. Colossians 1:16-18 says, concerning the Lord Jesus Christ: "*For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.*"

When were the angels created? They were created by God during six literal days of creation. Exodus 20:11 "*For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them....*"

THE DEVIL'S ORIGINAL STATE

Ezekiel 28:12-15 - *"You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared. You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you."*

THE DEVIL, AN OUTCAST

The downfall of the devil should reveal to all his true nature. On one occasion the disciples were exulting in the fact that they had power to cast out demons. Jesus injected the following revealing statement: *"I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven."* (Luke 10:18)

When Did Satan And His Followers Sin?

Satan rebelled against God and led a whole host of angels to sin with him. This is confirmed in:

Jude verse 7 - *"And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day."*

II Peter 2:4 - *"God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment...."*

Satan sinned sometime after the end of the creation week because, according to Genesis 1:31, *"God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day."*

"Heaven was their native abode or dwelling-place. They left it by sin; but the expression here would seem possibly to mean that they became "dissatisfied" with their abode, and voluntarily preferred to change it for another. If they did become thus dissatisfied, the cause is wholly unknown, and conjecture is useless." (Albert Barnes)

Jesus Saw Satan Fall!

"I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven." (Luke 10:18) Think about that statement - when did that happen? Why did it happen? Jesus' statement reveals several truths:

- It asserts Christ's deity;
- It announces Christ's pre-incarnate existence;
- It accentuates the reality and personality of Satan;
- It attests to the dismissal of Satan from the heavenly court;

- It authenticates the Old Testament accounts of Isaiah and Ezekiel;
- It affirms the disguise that the Devil often uses – light.

It will be a great encouragement to us in dealing with the Devil, to keep in mind that we are dealing with one who has already been judged and demoted by the holy God of heaven and earth.

Why Did He Fall From Heaven?

These and other questions God answers in His Word. Even though He does not go into detail about the origin of the Devil, he does give us some information. He was the highest order of beings with great power and beauty before he sinned. Two extended passages of Scripture reveal the following about the Devil:

Ezekiel 28:15-17 – *“You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you. In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you, O guardian cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground.....”*

Isaiah 14:12-15 - *“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the p it.”*

What Was The Devil’s Cardinal Sin?

It was PRIDE which led to rebellion. Notice the "I's" in the Isaiah passage:

- *‘I will ascend into heaven,*
- *I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;*
- *I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north;*
- *I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,*
- *I will be like the Most High.’*

Proverbs 16:18 - *“Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.”*

I Timothy 3:6 – Speaks about the qualifications of a pastor: *“not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil.”*

God created every creature good but some became bad by their own choice. There was a time when Lucifer sought greater power and higher glory for himself. Consequently, instead of ascending, he descended because of God’s judgment upon him.

He fell from the heights to the depths. Since his expulsion and fall he has not been content to be alone in his downward plunge, but has sought to drag the whole of God's creation down with him.

What Is The Difference Between The Designations “Satan” And “Devil”?

- **“Satan”** means “adversary” or “opposer.”
- **“Devil”** means “slanderer” or “accuser.” These are names used for the same person.

What Are Christians To Do In Reference To The Devil?

1. Do not give any place to the Devil.

Eph. 4:27 *“Neither give place to the Devil.”*

2. Be properly armed against the Devil.

Eph. 6:11 *“Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil.”*

3. Resist the Devil.

James 4:7 *“Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you.”*

4. Be on guard.

1 Peter 5:8 *“Be vigilant; because your adversary the Devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour.”*

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