

## “YOUR ADVERSARY, THE DEVIL”

### 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:8

#### I. ORIGIN

##### A. Colossians 1:16

1. “By Him,” that is the Lord Jesus Christ, “all things were created.”
  - a. Satan’s origin is not in himself. If he were self-existent, he could accurately claim equality with God.
  - b. Satan was created by the Lord.
2. “All things were created through Him and for Him.”
  - a. When Satan was created, he was made for the Lord.
  - b. All mankind has been made to serve God, but chooses to sin.
  - c. Satan was created good, but chose evil.

##### B. Angelic beginning?

1. Because Satan possesses supernatural abilities, yet is less than God, it seems highly **probable** that he was originally an angel.
2. Angels are fallible.
  - a. **2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 2:4; Jude 6**  
Some have forsaken the role God intended for them.
  - b. **Matthew 25:41**  
Some angels are in the service of Satan.
3. **Revelation 12:7-9**  
At some point, Satan and his angels have been ejected from heaven.

#### II. ACTIVITY

##### A. 1<sup>st</sup> John 3:8, 10

1. He is the source of all sin.
    - a. **John 13:2, 21-27**  
*"The devil... put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot to betray Him."*
    - b. **Acts 5:1-3**  
When Ananias lied, Satan had filled his heart to do so.
    - c. **Revelation 2:9; 3:9**  
Hypocrites in the church are referred to by Jesus as "a *synagogue of Satan*" in contrast to a legitimate church of Christ.
    - d. **Revelation 2:24**  
Those espousing false doctrine are considered to know "*the depths of Satan*" as opposed to "*the deep things of God*" (1<sup>st</sup> **Corinthians 2:10-16**).
  2. What is sin?
    - a. **Romans 10:17; 14:23**
      - i. *"Faith comes by hearing... the word of God."*
      - ii. *"Whatever is not from faith is sin."*
      - iii. Therefore, whatever is not from God's word is sin.
    - b. **1<sup>st</sup> John 3:4**  
*"Sin is lawlessness".*
    - c. **1<sup>st</sup> John 5:17**  
*"All unrighteousness is sin".*
    - d. **James 4:17**  
To "*know to do good and... not do it... is sin*".
- B. **Matthew 13:3-8, 18-23****  
*"The wicked one",* that is Satan (**Mark 4:15**) or the devil (**Luke 8:12**), diverts attention away from the gospel (**19**).

1. **2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4:3-4**

He veils the truth, blinding people to the glory of the gospel.

2. **Acts 26:17-18**

Darkness is his weapon.

C. **John 8:44; Revelation 12:9**

As the father of lies, it is his work to deceive the world.

1. **2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 11:3; Genesis 3:1-13**

The devil has been deceiving mankind throughout history.

2. **2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 11:14-15**

If you are curious as to the appearance of Satan, you may disregard classic images that depict a horned, pointy-tailed, pitchfork-wielding beast.

- a. Imagining him as the picture of evil is to ignore his deceptive nature.
- b. It renders him harmless to expect him to **look** bad.
- c. Instead, he ought to be perceived as having the appearance of “*an angel of light*”, not that we know what an angel looks like, but the point is that Satan looks innocent!

3. **2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:9-12**

- a. “*The working of Satan*” involves “*lying*”, “*deception*”, and “*delusion*”.
- b. This lie is often perpetrated through “*power, signs, and lying wonders*”.

4. **Matthew 4:5-6**

Satan deceives by distorting God’s word to say something other than what He meant by it.

- a. **2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:15**

Therefore, we understand the need for “*rightly dividing the word of truth*”.

**b. 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:16**

To do otherwise is to twist the scriptures unto our own destruction.

**c. They serve Satan who suggest God’s word can mean different things to different people.**

**III. POWER**

**A. Subordinate to the Lord.**

**1. Matthew 28:18**

Jesus possesses all authority; therefore Satan is less powerful than He.

**2. John 19:10-11**

Even the power to crucify the Son of God comes from above.

**B. His actions require permission from God.**

**1. Job 1:6-12; 2:1-6**

Satan was powerless to do Job harm until God put it in his hand.

**2. Luke 4:1-13**

That with which the devil tempted Jesus was delivered to him (6).

**3. Luke 22:31**

Satan required permission to work against Peter.

**4. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:13; 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 2:9**

Ultimately, God decides the limits of temptation.

**IV. DOMAIN**

**A. Earth**

1. **Job 1:6-7; 2:1-2**

Satan roams the earth.

2. **John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11**

Jesus spoke of “*the ruler of this world*” as one who will be judged and who has nothing in Christ.

3. **1<sup>st</sup> John 5:18-19**

“*The whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.*”

4. **Revelation 12:9**

He was cast to the earth, where he works to deceive the world.

5. **James 4:4; 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:15-17**

Inasmuch as the world is Satan’s realm, we should desire to have no part in it.

**B. Not Hell**

1. **Matthew 25:41**

“*The everlasting fire*” of Hell has been “*prepared **for***”, not **by** the devil.

2. **Revelation 20:1-10**

In “*the lake of fire and brimstone*”, the devil will receive his torment. He will not be tormenting others.

**V. RESISTANCE**

**A. 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:8-9**

To “*resist him*”, one must be “*sober*”, “*vigilant*”, and “*steadfast in the faith*”.

**B. James 4:7**

1. None “*resist the devil*” who do not “*submit to God*”.

2. The devil flees from those who know how to withstand him.

a. **Matthew 4:1-11**

The tempter departed from Jesus when He quoted scripture to answer each temptation.

**b. Psalm 119:11**

We can avoid sin by treasuring God's word in our hearts.

**c. Ephesians 6:10-18**

*"The wiles of the devil"* should be confronted with *"the whole armor of God"*.

**d. 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 2:11**

Knowledge of the enemy's tactics is a valuable asset to use toward his defeat.

**C. Ephesians 4:27**

We must not provide the devil any opportunities.

**1. Luke 11:24-26**

By failing to be busy with God's work, we leave a vacancy that Satan is happy to fill.

**2. James 1:12-16**

We must keep our desires in check.

**CONCLUSION**

**A. Hebrews 2:9-18**

By conquering death, Christ overcame the Devil. We can overcome him by submitting to Christ.

**B. Invitation**