

Doctrine of the Devil

The Christians Conflict with the Devil

1. The believer's battle with the Devil is not a theological abstraction, but a real battle. Satan is a real person.

Special Note.

So real was the devil to Martin Luther that the Reformer once threw an ink well at him.

2. Created as an angel named Lucifer, he fell from his exalted position in heaven due to pride, which led to an angelic revolt against God.
 - *Isaiah 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! 13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. 15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.*
3. Today, many people do not believe the devil is a real person. That is a dangerous position to take, and an unreasonable one. If God exists to influence people for good, and He does, why is it so difficult to believe that the devil exists to influence people to do evil, especially when there is so much evil in the world?
4. Even in a scientific world, there is no need to dismiss the reality of the devil. No argument, and no discovery has come out of the scientific realm to cast doubt about the devil.
5. To diminish the reality of the devil, he has been cast in literature to the same level as witches, warlocks, and goblins.
6. Satan is something different than goblins. His reality is affirmed in Scripture by God. The Bible has been subjected to scientific scrutiny, and has been proven to be a reliable document.
7. Jesus believed in the reality of Satan and prayed for His people to be kept from the Evil One.
 - *Matthew 6:9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.*

Special Note.

The general word for evil in the New Testament is *poneron*, which is the basis for our English word, pornography. The word used by Jesus is *poneros*, and refers to a specific person. The correct translation is "Evil One."

8. In order to make the idea of the devil more palatable to the alleged intellectual progress of modern man, concession is made for the existence of an evil force, which influences individuals in a negative way, while denying the existence of a personal devil.

Special Note.

How is it possible for an evil force to influence a person unless that force is personal? The wind cannot influence a person in the area of morality, nor can a tornado, hurricane, rain, or fire. Sheer forces have no moral capability to them. Flowers do not perform sin. The Devil has will, intelligence, and feelings. He is a real person that can influence people in a moral way.

9. One reason for the demise of Satan is a misunderstanding of Medieval History. Because of its belief in the Devil, the church decided the best way to resist the devil was to mock the sin which brought his fall from heaven. The church began to mock the devil in order to humiliate him.
10. One way the church tried to mock the devil is to dress him as a goat, or a little guy in red with horns, a pitchfork, and a tail. This was done because the church knew that he was once a beautiful creature.
11. Unfortunately, succeeding generations saw the pictures and forgot why they were drawn. People could not believe that their forefathers believed in such silly looking creatures and so “the baby was thrown out with the bathwater.”
12. Satan is not a buffoon in a red suit. Satan is presented in Scripture as a crafty creature with extraordinary gifts, which he used on Adam and Eve.
13. Satan appears as an angel of light. He is a “sub species boni”. He manifested himself under the auspices of good, but he was malevolent.
- *2 Corinthians 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.*
14. When Satan appears as an angel of light, he appears in the form of an anti-Christ.
15. The term “anti” in the Greek can mean two things. It can refer to being against something. John declares that a person who is against the incarnation of Christ is an antichrist. The doctrine of the incarnation is opposed.
- *1 John 2:22 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist that denieth the Father and the Son.*
16. The word “anti” can also refer to someone who takes the place of someone else. The leader of the Catholic Church claims to be the Vicar of Christ on earth. Many Protestants believe such a claim is the spirit of antichrist, of which there are many.

- The Pope is an Antichrist. London Baptist Confession 1689. Chapter 26. 4. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Head of the church, in whom, by the appointment of the Father, all power for the calling, institution, order or government of the church, is invested in a supreme and sovereign manner; neither can the Pope of Rome in any sense be head thereof, but is that antichrist, that man of sin, and son of perdition, that exalteth himself in the church against Christ, and all that is called God; whom the Lord shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.
- There are many Antichrists. *1 John 2:18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.*

17. So clever is the Devil and his minions that they will try to deceive the elect, which is why Jesus said, “Let no man deceive you” (Matt. 24:4).

18. The Devil does desire to destroy individuals, including Christians. Satan wanted to devour Peter, and might have, had the Lord not prayed for him.

- *Luke 22:31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: 32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.*
- *1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

Special Note.

Christ is called the Lion of Judah, the symbol of kingship. Satan is called a lion as well, for he is the king of darkness. No one should underestimate the power of Satan, or think they can, in themselves, take authority over him. Not even the elect angels do that.

- *Jude 9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.*

19. Because of Satan’s craftiness, because of his subtlety, because the devil is able to appear as an angel of light, Christians would do well to learn his devices.

- *Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

20. In order to defeat Satan, the Christian must put on the whole armour of God.

- *Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.*