

Fundamental Belief: Who Is Satan the Devil - Part 2 (with Discussion Questions)

A Study Guide with Scriptures added by Daniel Deininger, Speaker Notes by Ken Murray

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Preface by Daniel Deininger regarding relevance of this Belief in today's society

A 2009 survey/study by The Barna Group of 1,871 self-described American Christians revealed the following:

Four out of ten Christians (40%) strongly agreed that Satan "is not a living being but is a symbol of evil." An additional two out of ten Christians (19%) said they "agree somewhat" with that perspective. A minority of Christians indicated that they believe Satan is real by disagreeing with the statement: one-quarter (26%) disagreed strongly and about one-tenth (9%) disagreed somewhat. The remaining 8% were not sure what they believe about the existence of Satan.

A 2022 poll by Gallup indicates the following:

A record-low 20% of Americans now say the Bible is the literal word of God, down from 24% the last time the question was asked in 2017, and half of what it was at its high points in 1980 and 1984. Meanwhile, a new high of 29% say the Bible is a collection of "fables, legends, history and moral precepts recorded by man." This marks the first time significantly more Americans have viewed the Bible as not divinely inspired than as the literal word of God. The largest percentage, 49%, choose the middle alternative, roughly in line with where it has been in previous years. [DD- the "middle alternative" is the Bible is inspired by God, but not all to be taken literally.]

From a 2025 Pew Research Report:

The first RLS (Religious Landscape Study), fielded in 2007, found that 78% of U.S. adults identified as Christians of one sort or another. That number ticked steadily downward in our smaller surveys each year and was pegged at 71% in the second RLS, conducted in 2014.

The latest RLS, fielded over seven months in 2023-24, finds that 62% of U.S. adults identify as Christians. That is a decline of 9 percentage points since 2014 and a 16-point drop since 2007.

Note: The same report shows in Montana 55% view themselves as Christian, 6% as other, 39% as unaffiliated

1. What is the consequence of not believing there is a devil?
2. What is required to believe the truth?
3. Why don't people want to believe there is a devil?
4. What are the consequences of believing there is a devil?

#3: WHO IS SATAN THE DEVIL?

We believe that Satan is a spirit being who is the adversary of God and the children of God. Satan has been allowed a limited dominion over the world, by God, for a specific time. Satan has deceived humanity into rejecting God and His laws. Satan has ruled by deception with the aid of a host of demons who are rebellious angels; spirit beings who followed Satan in his rebellion against God. (Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 8:12; 2 Timothy 2:26; John 12:31; 16:11; Revelation 12:4, 9; 20:1-3, 7, 10; Leviticus 16:21-22; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 11:14; Ephesians 2:2).

Matthew 4:1-11 NKJV - 1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.
3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."
4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' " (Deut 8:3)
5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple,
6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.' " (Psalms 91:11-12)
7 Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.' " (Deut 6:16)
8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.
9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."
10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.' " (Deut 6:13)
11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

Luke 8:11-12 NKJV - 11 "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.
12 "Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

2 Timothy 2:24-26 NKJV - 24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,
25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,
26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

John 12:27-31 NKJV - 27 "Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. 28 "Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came from heaven, saying, "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again."
29 Therefore the people who stood by and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to Him."
30 Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake.
31 "Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

NLT: The time for judging this world has come, when Satan, the ruler of this world, will be cast out.

John 16:7-11 NKJV - 7 "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.
8 "And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:
9 "of sin, because they do not believe in Me;
10 "of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;
11 "of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Revelation 12:4, 9-12 NKJV - 4 His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.

...

9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.
10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.
11 "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.
12 "Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."

Revelation 20:1-3, 7, 10 NKJV - 1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.
2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;
3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little

while.

...

7 Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison

...

10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Leviticus 16:21-22 NKJV - 21 "Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, confess over it all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions, concerning all their sins, putting them on the head of the goat, and shall send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a suitable man.

22 "The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to an uninhabited land; and he shall release the goat in the wilderness.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 NKJV - 3 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,

4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

2 Corinthians 11:12-15 NKJV - 12 But what I do, I will also continue to do, that I may cut off the opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the things of which they boast.

13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.

14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, **whose end will be according to their works.**

By their fruits you will know them”:

Matthew 7:15-20 NKJV - 15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

16 "**You will know them by their fruits.** Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?

17 "Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

18 "A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.

19 "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

20 "**Therefore by their fruits you will know them.**"

Ephesians 2:1-3 NKJV - 1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

5. Was it easier to believe in a devil during the first century? Why or why not?

1. Creation and the Role of Angels

Before the physical realm, God created powerful spirit servants who are referred to in Scripture as angels, literally meaning "messengers" ([Hebrews 1:7](#), [Hebrews 1:14](#)).

Hebrews 1:7 And of the angels he said, Who makes **his angels spirits**, and his ministers a flame of fire.

Hebrews 1:14 Are they not **all ministering spirits**, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation

Described in some verses as "sons of God" by virtue of their creation by God, they witnessed the formation of the earth ([Job 38:4-7](#)).

Job 38:1-7 NKJV - 1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said:
2 "Who is this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge?
3 Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me.
4 "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.
5 Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? 6 To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone,
7 When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

There are hundreds of millions of righteous angels serving God ([Revelation 5:11](#)).

Revelation 5:11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

NLT: Then I looked again, and I heard the voices of thousands and millions of angels around the throne and of the living beings and the elders.

6. What is the purpose for the creation of angels?

2. Satan's Origin and Fall Before the Creation of Adam & Eve

Originally created perfect as Heylel (Lucifer), the "morning star" (Isaiah 14:12),

Isaiah 14:12 **How are you fallen from heaven, O Lucifer**, son of the morning! how are you cut down to the ground, which did weaken the nations!

13 For you have said in your 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.

Satan was the "anointed cherub who covers" (Ezekiel 28:14–16; cf. Exodus 25:20–21; Hebrews 9:23–24; Revelation 11:19).

Ezekiel 28:11-19 NKJV - 11 Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

12 "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created.

14 **"You were the anointed cherub who covers;** I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.

15 You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, **Till iniquity was found in you.**

16 "By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, **And you sinned;** Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones.

17 "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you.

18 "You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities, By the iniquity of your trading; Therefore I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you, And I turned you to ashes upon the earth In the sight of all who saw you.

19 All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; You have become a horror, And shall be no more forever." ' ' "

Description the Ark of the Testimony that had the cherubs that cover:

Exodus 25:19-21 NKJV - 19 "Make one cherub at one end, and the other cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim at the two ends of it of one piece with the mercy seat.

20 **"And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings,** and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat.

21 "You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you.

Hebrews 9:5, 11-14, 23-24 NKJV - 5 and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

...

11 But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.

12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh,

14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

...

23 Therefore it was necessary that the **copies of the things in the heavens** should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

24 For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;

Revelation 11:19 NKJV - 19 Then **the temple of God was opened in heaven**, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

7. What was Satan's original name and what was his role?
 8. How do physical things help us understand the spiritual?

3. Satan's Rebellion Against God

But a large contingent of angels rebelled against God prior to the creation of mankind. They chose the way of vanity and selfishness instead of God's way of outflowing love for others. The leader of this rebellion is now known as Satan. He and his evil cohorts are referred to in the New Testament as unclean spirits or as demons.

He fell through pride and led a third of the angels in rebellion (Ezekiel 28:12–17; Revelation 12:4; Luke 10:18; Isaiah 14:12–15; 2 Peter 2:4).

Ezekiel 28 verses - see section above

Revelation 12:3-4 NKJV - 3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.

4 His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.

Satan = the dragon

Revelation 12:9 NKJV - 9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Revelation 20:2 NKJV - 2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

Now his kingdom is darkness, though he masquerades as an angel of light (Luke 22:53; Ephesians 6:12; Colossians 1:13; 2 Corinthians 11:14).

Luke 22:53 NKJV - 53 "When I was with you daily in the temple, you did not try to seize Me. But this is your hour, and **the power of darkness.**"

Ephesians 6:12 NKJV - 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against

powers, against **the rulers of the darkness of this age**, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Colossians 1:13 NKJV - 13 He has delivered us **from the power of darkness** and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 NKJV - 13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, **transforming themselves** into apostles of Christ.

14 And no wonder! For **Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light**.

15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also **transform themselves** into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

A large number of angels, led by Satan, rebelled against God before humanity's creation. Choosing pride, vanity and their own way, over God's love, they became known as demons or unclean spirits. Satan means "adversary" (Hebrew) and "devil" (Greek, diabolos) meaning "slanderer" (Zechariah 3:1).

Zechariah 3:1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and **Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him**.

2 And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?"

9. How did Satan cause other angels to join him in rebelling against God?

10. What tools does Satan use in his efforts to get humans to rebel against God?

3. Satan's Corrupt Character and Mission of Destruction

Satan opposes God's plan and hates humanity. Satan is referred to by different names and descriptions that denote some of his evil roles, characteristics and actions. Besides "the devil," he is also called Apollyon and Abaddon, meaning "destroyer" and "destruction," respectively ([Revelation 9:11](#));

Revelation 9:11 NKJV - 11 And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is **Abaddon**, but in Greek he has the name **Apollyon**.

From the NLT: Their king is the angel from the bottomless pit; his name in Hebrew is *Abaddon*, and in Greek, *Apollyon*—the Destroyer.

From the ESV: They have as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon.

[Footnote: *Abaddon* means *destruction*; *Apollyon* means *destroyer*.]

Abaddon = G3 = Ἀβδδών Abaddón, ab-ad-dohn'; of Hebrew origin [[H11](#)]; a destroying angel:—Abaddon.

From the Outline of Biblical Usage:
Abaddon = "destruction"

- A. ruin
- B. destruction
- C. the place of destruction
- D. the name of the angel-prince of the infernal regions, the minister of death and the author of havoc on the earth**

Apollyon = G623 = Ἀπολλύων Apollýōn, ap-ol-loo'-ohn; active participle of [G622](#); a destroyer (i.e.

Satan):—Apollyon. [only used 1x]

From the Outline of Biblical Usage:

- I. Apollyon = "Destroyer"
 - A. the angel of the bottomless pit, the Destroyer

Belial, meaning "worthless" or "wicked" ([2 Corinthians 6:15](#));

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 NKJV - 14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

15 And what accord has Christ with **Belial**? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?

16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."

17 Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."

18 "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."

Beelzebub, the name of a Philistine god meaning "Lord of flies" ([Matthew 12:24-27](#), compare 2 Kings 1);

Matthew 12:24-28 NKJV - 24 Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons."

25 But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.

26 "If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?

27 "And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges.

28 "But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.

2 Kings 1:2-4 NKJV - 2 Now Ahaziah fell through the lattice of his upper room in Samaria, and was injured; so he sent messengers and said to them, "Go, inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron, whether I shall recover from this injury." 3 But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite, "Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say to them, 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron?' 4 "Now therefore, thus says the LORD: 'You shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.' " So Elijah departed.

the great dragon and serpent ([Revelation 12:9](#));

Revelation 12:9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, **called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world**; he was cast to the earth, and his angels (demons) were cast out with him.

the tempter ([Matthew 4:3](#); [1 Thessalonians 3:5](#));

Matthew 4:1, 3 NKJV - 1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by **the devil**. ... 3 Now when **the tempter** came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

1 Thessalonians 3:5 NKJV - 5 For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter had tempted you, and our labor might be in vain.

and the prince of the power of the air ([Ephesians 2:2](#)).

Ephesians 2:1-3 NKJV - 1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to **the prince of the power of the air**, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

He is the deceiver, accuser, murderer, and father of lies (Revelation 12:9–10; John 8:44).

Revelation 12:9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, **called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world**; he was cast to the earth, and his angels (demons) were cast out with him.

10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for **the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.**

John 8:44 NKJV - 44 "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

He roams like a lion seeking to devour (1 Peter 5:8-9),

1Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because **your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.**

9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

working to deceive and destroy (Ephesians 6:11–18; 2 Corinthians 2:11; Luke 8:12).

Ephesians 6:10-18 NKJV - 10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against **the wiles of the devil.**

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--

2 Corinthians 2:11 NKJV - 11 lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

NLT: so that Satan will not outsmart us. For we are familiar with his evil schemes.

Luke 8:11-12, NKJV - 11 "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

12 "Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then **the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts**, lest they should believe and be saved."

11. What is Satan's purpose and goal now?

12. Or has he given up and is no longer relevant to us today?

4. Satan's Power is Limited by God

Satan can only act within God's limits (Job 1:12; 2:6).

Job 1:12 And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; **only do not lay a hand on his person.**" So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

Job 2:6 NKJV - 6 And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand, **but spare his life.**"

He tempted Jesus directly but failed (Matthew 4:1–11), proving he is a literal being with real, though restricted, influence.

Matthew 4:1-11 NKJV - 1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be **tempted by the devil.** 2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. 3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "**If** You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." 4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds

from the mouth of God.' " 5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.' " 7 Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.' " 8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." 10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.' " 11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

We have been delivered from the power of darkness:

Colossians 1:9-14 NKJV - 9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; 12 **giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.** 13 **He has delivered us from the power of darkness** and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

13. How is Satan's power limited today?

5. Satan's Temporary Rule Allowed and Restricted by God

Satan is currently "ruler of this world" and "god of this age" (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; 2 Corinthians 4:4).

John 12:27-31 KJV - 27 Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. 28 Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again. 29 The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him. 30 Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes. 31 Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

John 14:30 NKJV - 30 "I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me.

NLT: "I don't have much more time to talk to you, because the ruler of this world approaches. **He has no power over me,**

John 16:7-11 NKJV - 7 "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 8 "And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 "of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 "of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 "of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

NLT: Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged.

NIV: and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

2 Corinthians 4:4 In whom the **god of this world** has blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

His reign ends at Christ's return (1 Corinthians 15:52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Revelation 11:15).

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 NKJV - 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, **at the last trumpet**. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 NKJV - 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of

the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Revelation 11:15 NKJV - 15 **Then the seventh angel sounded:** And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "**The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ,** and He shall reign forever and ever!"

He'll be bound for 1,000 years, then released briefly before final judgment (Revelation 20:1–3, 7–10; Matthew 25:41).

Revelation 20:1-3 NKJV - 1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and **bound him for a thousand years;**

3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

...

Revelation 20:7-10 NKJV - 7 Now when **the thousand years have expired**, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. 9 They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. 10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

NIV: And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Matthew 25:41 NKJV - 41 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:

14. Is God using Satan to fulfill His purpose and plan? If so, how or how not?

6. Demonic Influence and Christ's Authority to Overcome Satan

Demons can possess humans and animals (Matthew 8:28–33; 9:32–34);

Matthew 8:28-32 KJV - 28 And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way. 29 And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time? 30 And there was a good way off from them an herd of many swine feeding. 31 So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine. 32 And he said unto them, Go. And when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine: and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters.

Mark 5:18-20 KJV - 18 And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him. 19 Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee. 20 And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel.

From Expositors Bible Commentary:

Visible nature is not man's sole environment. There is an unseen universe besides; and He Who would be Saviour of mankind must be Master there as well. That this also is sure is now proved beyond a doubt. For it is important to

observe that this is not an ordinary case of healing, otherwise its true place would have been with the group of bodily diseases at the beginning of this series. When we consider its salient features, we see that it is just in its right place, closely following, as it does, the stilling of the storm. There are storms in the spiritual world, more terrible by far than any in the realm of nature; and it is necessary that these darker storms be also subject to the control of the Saviour of mankind. "The prince of the power of the air" and all his legions must be subject to the "Son of man." And this subjection, rather than the cure of the individual sufferers, is the salient feature of the passage. It is not the men, but the demons possessing them, who cry out, "What have we to do with Thee, Jesus, Thou Son of God? art Thou come hither to torment us before the time?" Well did these evil spirits know who He was; and well, also, did they know that He was mightier than they, and that the time was coming when they would be put entirely under His feet: "Art Thou come to torment us before the time?"

Matthew 9:32-34 KJV - 32 As they went out, behold, they brought to him a dumb man possessed with a devil. 33 And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake: and the multitudes marvelled, saying, It was never so seen in Israel. 34 But the Pharisees said, He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils.

From John Gill's Commentary on Matthew 9:32:

As they went out,... The Syriac version reads it, "when Jesus went out"; to which agrees the Arabic, against all the copies: for not he, but the men who had been blind, and now had their sight restored, went out from the house where Jesus was; which circumstance is mentioned, and by it the following account is introduced, partly to show how busy Christ was, how he was continually employed in doing good, and that as soon as one work of mercy was over, another offered; and partly, to observe how closely and exactly the prophecies of the Old Testament were fulfilled; in which, as it was foretold, that "the eyes of the blind" should "be opened"; so likewise, that "the tongue of the dumb" should "sing", Isa_35:5.

Behold, they brought to him a dumb man possessed with a devil. The word signifies one that is deaf, as well as dumb; as does the Hebrew word חרש, often used by the Jewish writers for a deaf and dumb man; one, they say, that can neither hear nor speak, and is unfit for sacrifice, and excused many things: and indeed these two, deafness and dumbness, always go together in persons, who are deaf from their birth; for as they cannot hear, they cannot learn to speak: but this man seems to be dumb, not by nature, but through the possession of Satan, who had taken away, or restrained the use of his speech, out of pure malice and ill will, that he might not have the benefit of conversation with men, nor be able to say anything to the glory of God. This man did not come of himself to Christ, perhaps being unwilling, through the power and influence the devil had over him; but his friends, who were concerned for his welfare, and who were thoroughly persuaded of the power of Christ to heal him, by the miracles they had seen, or heard performed by him, brought him to him; and, no doubt, expressed their desire that he would cast out the devil, and cure him, which he did.

Satan even entered Judas (Luke 22:3).

Luke 22:3 NKJV - 3 Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve.

But Christ cast out demons (Mark 16:17) and empowers His servants to do the same.

Mark 16:14-18 NKJV - 14 Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. 15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. 17 "And these signs will follow those who believe: **In My name they will cast out demons;** they will speak with new tongues; 18 "they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

We have been called out of this world and are no longer under the power of Satan.

Ephesians 2:1-3 NKJV - 1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which **you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,** 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the

desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

Colossians 2:11-15 NKJV - 11 In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,
12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, **having forgiven you all trespasses,**

14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

15 **Having disarmed principalities and powers,** He made a public spectacle of them, **triumphing over them** in it.

Amplified: When He had **disarmed** the rulers and authorities [**those supernatural forces of evil operating against us**], He made a public example of them [exhibiting them as captives in His triumphal procession], having triumphed over them through the cross.

Disarmed (in the NKJV), spoiled (in the KJV) = G554 = ἀπεκδύομαι apekdýomai, ap-ek-doo'-om-ahee; middle voice from [G575](#) and [G1562](#); to divest wholly oneself, or (for oneself) despoil:—put off, spoil.

From Outline of Biblical Usage:

- I. wholly put off from one's self
 - A. denoting separation from what is put off
- II. wholly to strip off for one's self (for one's own advantage)
- III. despoil, disarm

From Barclay's Daily Study Bible:

*(iii) One other great picture flashes on the screen of Paul's mind. Jesus has stripped the powers and authorities and made them his captives. As we have seen, the ancient world believed in all kinds of angels and in all kinds of elemental spirits. Many of these spirits were out to ruin men. It was they who were responsible for demon-possession and the like. They were hostile to men. **Jesus conquered them for ever. He stripped them; the word used is the word for stripping the weapons and the armour from a defeated foe.** Once and for all Jesus broke their power. He put them to open shame and led them captive in his triumphant train. The picture is that of the triumph of a Roman general. When a Roman general had won a really notable victory, he was allowed to march his victorious armies through the streets of Rome and behind him followed the kings and the leaders and the peoples he had vanquished. They were openly branded as his spoils. Paul thinks of Jesus as a conqueror enjoying a kind of cosmic triumph, and in his triumphal procession are the powers of evil, beaten for ever, for every one to see.*

*In these vivid pictures Paul sets out the total adequacy of the work of Christ. Sin is forgiven and **evil is conquered**; what more is necessary? There is nothing that Gnostic knowledge and Gnostic intermediaries can do for men--Christ has done it all already.*

1 John 4:4-6 NKJV - 4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because **He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.**

5 They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them.

6 We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

John 14:23 NKJV - 23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and **We will come to him and make Our home with him.**

Romans 8:11 NKJV - 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ

from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies **through His Spirit who dwells in you.**

2 Corinthians 6:16 NKJV - 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? **For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them** And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."

Ephesians 3:17 NKJV - 17 that **Christ may dwell in your hearts** through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

15. How has God equipped us to deal with our enemy, Satan the Devil?
16. How can commentaries and bible aids help us in our study of God's word?
17. What do we need to be aware of in our use of commentaries and bible aids?
18. What was the basis of the Berean's study in Acts 17:11 and what can we learn from them?
19. What was the chief tool Jesus used when he was tempted by Satan?
20. What is the most important thing you have learned from this study of Who is Satan the Devil?



Condensed from the booklet *Fundamental Beliefs of the United Church of God, an International Association*.
<https://www.ucg.org/learn/bible-study-aids/fundamental-beliefs-united-church-god/fundamental-beliefs-united-church-2>
Published by the United Church of God, an International Association. Copyright 1998, 2009.

Additional Resources:

Barna Report: Most American Christians Do Not Believe that Satan or the Holy Spirit Exist
<https://www.barna.com/research/most-american-christians-do-not-believe-that-satan-or-the-holy-spirit-exist/>

Gallup Poll: Fewer in U.S. Now See Bible as Literal Word of God
<https://news.gallup.com/poll/394262/fewer-bible-literal-word-god.aspx>

Pew Research Center: Decline of Christianity in the U.S. Has Slowed, May Have Levelled Off
Findings from the 2023-24 Religious Landscape Study
<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2025/02/26/decline-of-christianity-in-the-us-has-slowed-may-have-levelled-off/>

UCG Study Guide Is There Really a Devil?
<https://www.ucg.org/learn/bible-study-aids/there-really-devil>

UCG Study Guide: The Fundamental Beliefs of the United Church of God
<https://www.ucg.org/learn/bible-study-aids/fundamental-beliefs-united-church-god>