

Understanding the Enemy: An Examination of Satan

Study Guide

“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors.”

C.S. Lewis

Understanding the Enemies

When someone mentions Satan or the Devil what are the first thoughts, images, and emotions that come to your mind?

What is Satan? Reference **Ezekiel 28:11 – 19** and **Revelation 12:9**.

What kind of being is an angel? See **Hebrews 1:14**

“An angel is a heavenly messenger who either delivers a message to humans, carries out God's will, praises God, or guards God's throne. Bible Terms The term "angel" is derived from the Greek word angelos which means "messenger." Angelos and the Hebrew equivalent, malak (which also means "messenger"), are the two most common terms used to describe this class of beings in the Bible. In general, in texts where an angel appears, his task is to convey the message or do the will of the God who sent him. Since the focus of the text is on the message, the messenger is rarely described in detail. from Holman Bible Dictionary

What are some different types/ranks of angels?

Isaiah 6: 1 – 2 _____

Ezekiel 10:3 – 5 _____

Colossians 1:16 _____

1 Thessalonians 4:16 _____

Let's examine the characteristics of angels and how God differs from an angel.

What kind of being is God? **John 4:24** _____

“Angels are not spirits in the same sense in which God is spirit. The nature of the angel is different from the nature of God in the same manner as the nature of the creature is different from that of the Creator. God is infinite spirit, angels are finite. That is, they are dependent on God.” From The Abiding Word Vol.3 – The Doctrine of Angels

What are the major differences between the attributes of angels and the attributes of God?

Jeremiah 23:24 vs Daniel 9:20 – 21 _____

Matthew 19:26 vs Psalm 91:11 _____

John 21:17 vs Matthew 24:36 _____

From where did angels originate? **Colossians 1:16** _____

How long will they live? **Luke 20:34 – 36** _____

From where did God originate? **Psalm 90: 1 – 2** _____

When were the angels created? **Genesis 2:1** and **Colossians 1:16**

How were angels originally created? **Genesis 1:31** _____

How many angels are there? **Daniel 7:9 – 10, Matthew 26:53, 2 Kings 6:15 – 17**

*“Their number is fixed. Jesus said that angels neither marry nor are given in marriage (**Matthew 22:30**). While a masculine pronoun is invariably used when reference is made to an angel, these creatures have no bodies and are, therefore, sexless. Being immortal, their number never decreases; being sexless, they have no power to propagate their species, and so never increase. Marriage was instituted among human beings on earth to preserve mankind from extinction,...Since there is no death in heaven or hell, marriage is abolished*

there, although, in heaven, love will abide forever.” From The Abiding Word Vol. 3 – The Doctrine of the Angels.

What do the following verses tell us about the nature of angels? See **Luke 15: 8 – 10, Luke 2: 13 – 14, and James 2:18 – 19.**

The Origin of Sin

Imagine for a moment how the world would change if somehow all sin was abolished overnight but yet the earth in its physical form was still present and all the people of earth were still here. How would this affect your day-to-day life? How would this change the world in general? Discuss this for a few minutes and jot down some of the changes that would occur.

As we have learned, God created the angel that became Satan. How/when did Satan become evil? See **Isaiah 14:12 – 15, Ezekiel 28:11 – 19, and 1 John 3:8.**

Who caused Satan to rebel and sin? **John 8:44** _____

What is considered the basic sin of Satan? _____

How many evil angels are there? **Revelation 12:3 – 4, 9** _____

What persuaded sinless angels to rebel against a perfect and holy God?

Can Satan or his evil angels be saved? See **Revelation 20:7 – 10, 2 Peter 2:4, Matthew 8:28 – 29.**

“The state of the evil angels is a hopeless one...awaiting the execution of their sentence...In their confirmed state of wickedness the evil angels are no longer morally indifferent and free to choose either good or evil, but they have a choice only between this form or that form of wickedness...Devils are unredeemed simply because God in His eternal purpose made no provision for their salvation...” From The Abiding Word Vol. 3 – The Doctrine of the Angels.

The Characteristics of Satan

What does the word “Satan” means? **Revelation 12:9 – 10** _____

In the same verse what are two other names for Satan? _____

What are some other names for Satan? See **2 Corinthians 6:14 – 15, Matthew 12:24, 1 John 3:12.**

We have discussed that Satan is the chief evil angel and has the attributes, powers, and limitations of angels. How are Satan and his evil angel’s described in Scripture?

John 8:42 – 47 _____ & _____

Ephesians 2:2 _____

Ephesians 6:11 _____

2 Corinthians 11:14 _____

John 14:30 _____

1 Peter 5:8 (Compare NIV and KJV) _____

To whom is Satan an “adversary/enemy”? (Take another look at the last two verses above.)

Satan’s Goals & Plan

An Examination of the Fall of Mankind

What exactly is God’s command to Adam and Eve regarding the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in **Genesis 2:15 – 17**?

Read **Genesis 3:1 – 7** and compare it to **Genesis 2:15 – 17**. Note Satan’s tactics.

What is Satan saying/doing in verse 1? _____

What is Eve's response in verse 2? _____

What is Satan's next tactic in verses 4 – 5? _____

What is verse 6 saying about Eve's response? _____

Why did Adam eat the forbidden fruit i.e. what is the difference in their sins? See **1 Timothy 2:14** and **2 Corinthians 11:3**.

Whose fault is the fall of mankind? See **Genesis 3:11 – 19**.

How is the fall of Satan and his angels similar to the fall of mankind by Adam and Eve?

“Now it would seem that to make Satan pre-eminently the deceiver would make man an innocent victim and thus relax the moral issue. But according to the Bible man is “particeps criminis” in the process of his own deception. He is deceived only because he ceases to love the truth and comes first to love and then to believe a lie... This really goes to the very bottom of the problem of temptation. Men are not tempted by evil, per se, but by a good which can be obtained only at the cost of doing wrong. The whole power of sin, at least in its beginnings, consists in the sway of the fundamental falsehood that any good is really attainable by wrongdoing. Since temptation consists in this attack upon the moral sense, man is constitutionally guarded against deceit, and is morally culpable in allowing himself to be deceived.”

(from *International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia*)

An Examination of the Temptation of Christ

Read **Matthew 4:1 – 11** and note Satan's tactics.

Why would it have been a sin for Jesus to turn the stones to bread?

What tactic is Satan using in verse 3? _____

What tactic is Satan using in verse 6? _____

Why would it have been sinful for Jesus to jump from the temple?

What tactic is Satan using in verses. 8 – 9? Reference **Luke 4:6 – 7**.

How did Jesus combat Satan? _____

“The significance of Jesus’ temptations...seems best understood in terms of the kind of Messiah he was to be. He would not accomplish his mission by using supernatural power for his own needs (first temptation), by using his power to win a large following by miracles or magic (second temptation) or by compromising with Satan (third temptation).”

Concordia Self-Study Bible Study Notes

As we learned Satan means “opposer” or “accuser”. Compare the fall of mankind in Genesis with the temptation of Jesus. Who is Satan specifically “opposing” in each instance?

What is the work of the Holy Spirit? _____

What are some of Satan’s tactics in “opposing” the Holy Spirit?

2 Corinthians 4:3 – 4 _____

Matthew 13:18 – 19 _____

Acts 20:29 – 31 _____

2 Corinthians 11:3 _____

1 Thessalonians 3:2 – 5 _____

1 Thessalonians 2:17 – 18 _____

1 Timothy 5:9 – 15 _____

2 Corinthians 12:7 – 10 _____

“Satan's methods are designed ultimately to silence the Gospel. He seeks to stop the spread of God's Word...When the Gospel is preached, Satan tries to blind people's understanding so they cannot grasp the meaning of the message.” (From Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

“First the devil suppresses the sense of shame and guilt in his victims. After the sin has been committed, he restores these feelings in order to induce the sinner to cover the old sin with new ones rather than to seek refuge in Christ. At first he makes sin appear no greater than a grain of sand. Afterwards he magnifies it into a mountain that crushes the sinner. Thus the course of sin is a threefold one. First the devil whispers: Commit this evil; it is only a trifle. Second, the devil tells his victim: You have plenty of time for repentance, there is no need to hurry. Third: You have waited too long; it is too late to repent; you are condemned and forever rejected; there is nothing left for you but despair. The devil urges us to commit sin; when we have done so, he accuses us before God and our own conscience.” From The Abiding Word – The Doctrine of the Angels.

What does **Proverbs 22:6** imply as another “attack point” of Satan?

What provision does God make for children to help them?

Matthew 18:4 – 7, 10 – 14 _____

How can we as guard our children/families from this attack? _____

Recognizing the Work of Satan in Our Lives and World

Read **2 Corinthians 11:3 – 4, 13 – 15** and then answer the following questions.

Who/what is a true “angel of light” in the church? _____

...in the world? _____

...in our lives? _____

What is meant by “Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light”?

What would be the characteristics/purpose of this type of activity of Satan?

The “rebellious people” described in **Titus 1:10 – 11** are masquerading as angels of light. What common deception/methodology of Satan are they using in their attack on the Gospel?

Think for a moment how the other two “members” of the “unholy trinity” will react to Satan masquerading as an angel of light.

How does our “flesh” react to or defend a satanic “angel of light”?

How does “the world” react to or defend a satanic “angel of light”?

What do the following verses say about how we can learn to recognize Satan’s work and his “angels of light”?

Hebrews 5:11 – 14 _____

1 Corinthians 12:4 – 11 _____
