

LET THE BIBLE SPEAK SERIES

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Is Satan A Fool?

Intro: Good morning. Welcome to Let The Bible Speak. We are really glad to have you with us. Today we are going to be discussing a topic titled Is Satan a Fool?

In 1 Peter chapter 5 and verse 8 we read "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour." We are first introduced to the word "Satan" in the Old Testament where it is used 19 times.

Its meaning in Hebrew is "to lie in wait," or "to set oneself in opposition to," "to oppose."

In the New Testament the word is used 36 times, and the corresponding Greek word means "an adversary, opponent, or enemy." The word "devil" is used 33 times in the New Testament and means "a slanderer, treacherous informer and, traitor."

Exactly who is this devil, Satan, who has established himself as God's archfiend and mankind's ardent foe? Is he real? If so, why has he arrayed himself against both God and man? What is his mission?

What are his powers? And what is his ultimate destiny?

It has become fashionable in many circles to deny the reality of Satan.

Some who stand in pulpits either deny his existence or declare that belief in him has no real bearing on our lives. To reject the reality of Satan is to reject the reality of hell.

If there is nothing to be saved from, what is the sense of a doctrine of salvation?

One who denies the devil is stripped of all motivation toward righteousness and all restraint against evil. To begin our study, we want to address the question Whence Cometh The Devil? Satan is not a deity, because he does not possess the qualities of a divine being. Deity is eternal, "the eternal God"

Deut. 33:27. Deity is omnipotent, He is referred to as "God almighty..." "Who cannot be restrained"

Job 42:2. Deity is omnipresent, "There is no creature that is not manifest in his sight..." Heb. 4:13

Deity is omniscient "Known to God from eternity are all his works" Acts 15:18 On the other hand, Satan is not omnipotent, all powerful, because scripture affirms "greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world." Satan is not omnipresent, present in every place, for his position as "god of this world." 2 Cor. 4:4 was delivered to him according to Luke 4:6. Satan is not omniscient, all knowing, for if we are knowledgeable of the Word of God, and resist him, "he will flee from you." James 4:17

Hence, if he is not a divine being, then he must be a created being. But when was he created? Was he created evil? Surely not, since God created all things good. Gen. 1:31

1. He apparently was a spirit being, a created being, who was lifted up with pride.

1 Tim. 3:6 "Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil."

2. He was cast out of heaven and became the leader of all fallen angels who were also in rebellion against God. 2 Peter 2:4 "For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment." Jude 6 "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of that great day." Satan is not a myth, or the result of an overworked imagination. Christ, nor any other inspired person, ever made light of Satan. Thus, we must take him seriously.

Is he a fool? One might well answer "yes" in the light of some doctrines that are currently being taught.

If universalism is true, the devil is a fool for working to get souls.

Jesus said "Simon, Simon, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat" Luke 22:31. He desires all of us. But if all are saved, why would Satan try to entice us to sin? The idea that all are going to be saved is prevalent today. (Regardless of lifestyle)

Universalism cannot be true in the light of the following passages: Mt. 7:13-14 "Enter ye in at the strait

gate, for strait is the gate and narrow..." 2Thess. 1:8-9 "in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power." Gal. 6:7-8 "Be not deceived, God is not mocked..." 1Peter 4:17 "For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of Christ?" Satan is no fool, he knows what he is doing.

If the doctrine of election and predestination is true, then the devil is a fool to be engaged in his business. He would already have you and could not lose you, or would not have you and could not get you. The doctrine essentially says that some men and angels are predestinated before the world began for heaven or hell, and that the number of them is so fixed that it can neither be increased nor diminished. Rev.3:20 "Behold, I stand at the door and knock..." Condition: hear and open 2Chron. 7:14 "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." Note 4 conditions: humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from wicked ways. 1Tim. 2:4 "who desires all men to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth." John 3:16 "God so loved the world that **whosoever**..." Mark 16:16 "Go preach the gospel to **every creature**." The devil is smart. He is no fool, for he knows people can resist the invitation of Mt. 11:28 and be lost as a result.

If there is no hell, the devil is a fool for working to get people to go there. Scripture plainly indicates that the devil is actively engaged in deceiving people so that they will be lost. 1Peter 5:8 "Your adversary the devil goes about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour." If there is no hell, such conduct and deception would be foolish. There is a hell: Mt. 13:41-42 "The Son of Man will send out His angels and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire, there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

John 15:6 "If anyone does not abide in me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned." The devil will be there according to Rev. 20:10 "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." The devil is no fool, he knows there is a hell.

If there is no power in God's word, then the devil is a fool, for stealing it out of man's heart. Luke 8:12 "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."

The devil knows the power of the word of God, hence the desire to get it out of the heart of one who receives it. If left, it has an effect on the life of the individual.

James 1:21 "Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."

1Peter 1:23 "having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever." Acts 2:37 "Now when they heard this..." The devil steals the word of God out of the hearts of men by: 1. prejudice

2. family loyalty 3. the cares of this world The devil is no fool, he knows the transforming power of the word of God.

If the children of God cannot so sin as to be eternally lost, then the devil is a fool for trying to get them.

1. He does try: 1 Peter 5:8 "Your adversary the devil goes about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour." Eph. 6:11 "Put on the whole armor of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Luke 22:3 "Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve." Acts 5:3 "But Peter said, 'Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit

and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? A child of God can sin and be lost. 1Cor. 10:12 "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." Gal. 5:4 "Ye have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law, you have fallen from grace." The devil is smart, he is no fool.

If one religion is as good as another, then Satan is a fool for engaging in religious business.

1. The devil does engage in religious activities. Rev. 2:9 "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are of the synagogue of Satan." 2Cor. 11:14-15 "And no wonder for Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works."

2. One religion is not as good as another. Acts 4:12 "there is salvation in no other name under heaven, given among men..." Gal. 1:8-9 "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel, which is not another..." Mt. 15:9 "In vain they do worship me teaching for doctrines the commandments of man." The devil is not a fool. He knows that one religion is not as good as another. Even though devil is no fool, he is very foolish. His ultimate doom is certain. Scripture reveals that our Lord will be victorious over Heaven's great adversary for "to this end was the Son of God manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil" 1John 3:8. The fate that awaits this traitorous tyrant is clear: "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where are also the beast and the false prophet; and they shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever." Rev. 20:10 The eternal punishment of hell has been prepared for "the devil and his angels." Mt. 25:41.