

1. Who is Satan?

Satan is the enemy of God. In the beginning when God created everything, he made the angels. Satan is a fallen angel. All angels were created good and splendid in their power. Many believe this passage reveals what happened to Satan: “You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you. In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you, O guardian cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I exposed you before kings, to feast their eyes on you.” (Ezekiel 28:15-17) Satan’s sin was pride. “You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’” (Isaiah 14:13-14) Satan wanted to be worshipped as God. God judged him and kicked him out of heaven. Many angels followed Satan. These angels are now called demons, and Satan is their evil leader. Jesus said, “He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” (John 8:44) Satan’s mission is to steal, and to kill and destroy all that is of God (John 10:10). Satan hates all men because they are made in God’s image. He attacks the people of God with deception. He disguises himself as an angel or messenger of light to deceive (2 Corinthians 11:14). Satan blinds people with his lies to keep them from seeing God’s truth (2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 Timothy 4:1). But even the Devil is God’s Devil (Job 1:9-12). God allows Satan to test his saints. God is sovereign over Satan. Those who trust in God can resist the Devil and see him flee (James 4:7; Ephesians 6:16). In the end, Satan will be thrown into the lake of fire forever and ever (Revelation 20:10). Satan’s rule in this world is only temporary, for God has already judged him. Satan is real and his powerful influence for evil is great, that is why we must pray that, “the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.” (Romans 16:20)

Bible passages to read: Genesis 3; Job 1; Ephesians 6:10-20

Questions to ponder:

1. Who is Satan?
2. What does Satan always seek to do?
3. How is God sovereign over Satan?
4. What happens to Satan in the end?
5. How can you stand against Satan?