

## Sunday School Lesson for the Month of August 2015

# **What The Bible Says About The Devil!**

**(Matthew 4:1-11 ~ 1 Peter 5:8)**

**Sunday, August 2, 2015**

Satan doesn't want us to study his characteristics and learn about his tactics. He would much rather work behind the scenes and keep alive the fallacy that he is a "red-skinned" creature with horns, a forked tail, and a pitchfork with smoke coming out of his nostrils. This picture of Satan gives rise to the persuasion that he is not a real person at all but a fictional character that only represents an evil influence in the world. However, the Bible clearly describes the devil and carefully outlines his strategy.

### **I. The origin of the devil:**

- A. Satan is a created being. The fact that all things in heaven and on earth, "visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers," were created by Christ and for Christ as stated in (Colossians 1:16).
- B. We don't know when the Angelic host was created. The Bible doesn't tell us exactly when God created the Angels, but it does imply that their creation preceded all material things as we know them and were themselves preceded by the eternal existence of God (John 1:1-2).
- C. Among all the Angelic hosts, Satan's creation alone is mentioned in particular in Ezekiel 28:15. This fact suggests the supreme place that Satan held in relation to all the invisible creatures of God (Ezekiel 28:11-19).

**Sunday, August 9, 2015**

### **II. The Personality of the devil:**

- A. Satan exercises all the functions of a person. Isaiah describes him as having completed his course and having been judged at the end of time, addressing him with the heavenly title "Lucifer, son of the morning" and seeing him as fallen from his state of Glory (Isaiah 14:12-17). Verses 13 & 14 list five ways in which he set his own will against God's will.

- B. Because of his sinister and deceitful nature, Satan gained the title of “serpent” in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:1-15). Every word spoken there and the design of Satan’s strategy revealed our evidence of his personality (2 Cor. 11:3; 13-15 ~ Rev. 12:9; 20:2).
- C. Further indication of Satan’s personality is the fact that he apparently has access to God (Job 1:6-12; 2:1-13 ~ Luke 22:31 ~ Rev. 12:10). He also has access to men (Eph. 6:10-12 ~ 1 Peter 5:8). Therefore, he exhibits every feature of a true personality. Further insight into his personality is discovered in his temptation of Jesus (Luke 4:1-13).

### Sunday, August 16, 2015

#### III. The Power of the devil:

- A. Though morally fallen and now judged in the cross (John 12:31; 16:11 ~ Col. 2:15), Satan has not lost his position, and he’s only lost a little of his power.
- B. His personal strength cannot be estimated. The writer of the Hebrews said that Satan had the power of death (Heb. 2:14). But, that power has now been surrendered to Christ (Rev. 1:18). He had the power of sickness in the case of Job (Job 2:7) and was able to “sift Peter as wheat,” (Luke 22:31). He is said to have weakened the nations, shaken kingdoms, made the earth tremble, and made the earth a wilderness, destroying the cities thereof (Isa. 14:12-17).
- C. But Christians can have victory over Satan through the power of the Spirit of God and the blood of Christ (Eph. 6:10-12 ~ 1 John 4:4 ~ Rev. 12:11). Satan’s power and authority is only exercised within the permissive will of God.

### Sunday, August 23, 2015

#### IV. The Work of the devil:

- A. Isaiah 14:12-17 is one of many passages bearing on the work of Satan. This passage reveals Satan’s original and supreme purpose. He would ascend into heaven, exalt his throne above the stars of God and be like the most high. The supreme motive of Satan was to be like the most high, and that motive guided all of his activities. It was this same motive that was behind his approach to Adam and Eve (Gen, 3:5), and they adopted Satan’s idea of becoming self-centered, self-sufficient, and independent of God. This attitude has

been transmitted to all people to the extent that they are called “Children of wrath” and must be born again.

- B. Satan does all in his power to keep the unsaved from being delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom of God (Col. 1:13). To this end Satan will even promote extensive religious systems (2 Cor. 11:13-15 ~ 1 Tim. 4:1-3). Such satanic delusions are now in the world, and they deceive millions. These false systems are always to be tested by the attitude they take toward the saving grace of God through the blood of Christ (Rev. 12:11).

**Sunday, August 30, 2015**

**V. The destiny of the devil:**

- A. As the word of God is explicit in regard to the origin, personality, power and work of Satan, it is equally clear regarding his destiny. A perfect judgment of Satan has been secured through the cross (John 12:31; 16:11 ~ Col. 2:14-15), but the execution of that sentence is still in the future. It was predicted in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:15).
- B. Satan will be cast out of Heaven (Rev. 12:7-12) and confined to the abyss, making it impossible for him to be active and to continue to deceive the nations.
- C. Finally, Satan will be cast into the lake of fire to be tormented day and night forever (Rev. 20:10).

If the personality of Christ is accepted on the testimony of the Bible, then the personality of Satan must also be accepted on the same testimony. There is the same abundant evidence that Satan is a person as there is that Christ is a person. If the personality of Christ is accepted on the testimony of the Bible, then the personality of Satan must also be accepted on the same testimony.