

Lifting Up Jesus

#13

HOW EVIL BEGAN

The word, “Satan” is mentioned 53 times in the Bible. In Hebrew, the word means ‘opponent’ or ‘adversary’. The word, “devil” is mentioned 60 times in the New Testament Bible. This word literally means “traducer”. It is defined as a false accuser or as one who slanders, misrepresents or maligns. But where did the devil come from and why hasn’t God destroyed him? We shall find the truth surrounding these questions once again in the reliable word of God.

1. Where did Satan come from? Luke 10:18

2. What type of being was he? Ezekiel 28:14, 15

Note: God created this angel to be a “model of perfection”. He was once in the presence of God in the courts of heaven until “wickedness” was found in him.

3. What was this “wickedness” that was found in him? Isaiah 14:12–14; 1 Timothy 3:6

Note: “Lucifer” became proud because of his beauty and position and wanted to be exalted higher than the stars of heaven. Little by little, he began to indulge the desire for self-exaltation.

4. How was he expelled from heaven? Revelation 12:7–9; Ezekiel 28:16, 17

Note: The word “trade” in the Hebrew comes from a root word, “rakiyl” (raw-keel) which means to slander and tell falsehoods. Lucifer began to spread lies against the character of God as well as to entice discontent to the other angels. He wanted to spark a rebellion against God.

5. How many angels fell with him? Revelation 12:4

6. Because he deceived Adam and Eve, what does Satan now claim as his? Luke 4:5, 6; John 12:31

Note: When God created the world, he gave it to Adam to become its ruler. However, when Adam sinned, Satan then took control of the earth. Notice that Jesus did not argue when Satan said, “it has been given to me”. Jesus even refers to Satan as the “prince of this world”.

7. Why didn’t God destroy Satan when he caused rebellion? Deuteronomy 32:3, 4; Isaiah 48:9, 11

Note: Several times in the book of Hebrews, (in the original Greek), it says that God made the “worlds” plural. Is it plausible that God who is a creative genius was sitting for billions and billions of years in heaven and one day thought he would make a world? No, the universe appears to be inhabited by many worlds.

God certainly could have destroyed Satan at the time of his rebellion but what would the angels have thought? God would have made a martyr out of Satan and caused doubt and distrust in their minds. Of course, God could have destroyed all the angels and started all over but what about the other worlds? What would they have thought? How far back would God have to go in dealing with sin and being fair and just by allowing free choice at the same time? He needed to allow sin to run its ugly course in order to vindicate His true and loving character.

8. What is the main goal of our enemy, Satan in this world? 1 Peter 5:8

9. What are some of the ways that the devil uses his deceptions to try to destroy us?

- A. 2 Corinthians 4:4; Mark 4:13–15
 - B. Matthew 26:41; 1 Corinthians 7:5
 - C. Zechariah 3:1; Revelation 12:10
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Note: Satan not only prevents our understanding of the good news of the gospel but he also tries to drive a wedge between God and ourselves. He tempts us to sin and when we fall prey to his schemes, he accuses us by telling us how bad we are. He whispers in our ear that God cannot forgive us. He even mocks God by flaunting our sins in God’s face.

“Satan is ready to steal away the blessed assurances of God. He desires to take every glimmer of hope and every ray of light from the soul; but you must not permit him to do this. Do not give ear to the tempter, but say: “Jesus had died that I might live. He loves me, and wills not that I should perish.” Steps to Christ p. 53

10. How can we resist the devil? James 4:7, 8

Note: Our only safety is in submitting and coming close to Christ. Allow our Saviour to shield you from the wiles of the enemy. You are not strong enough to deal with Satan on your own.

11. Does God ever tempt us? James 1:13

12. When does temptation become sin? James 1:14, 15

Note: Temptation only become sin when we agree to it in our minds. Sometimes we may be tempted with an evil thought or desire but we turn away from it. Such things are not considered sin until we consent to them.

13. What promise does God make for us? 1 Corinthians 10:13

14. At what point did Christ replace Satan as the new representative of the world? John 12:31; Hebrews 2:14

Note: When God created the world he made Adam the leader or representative of the human race. Satan then took control of this world and became its new representative when he deceived Adam into sin. Jesus rightfully took back possession of the world when he won it back for us at the cross.

Conclusion: God did not create evil. Lucifer was created as a beautiful and transcendent angel in heaven until pride corrupted him and he led a rebellion against God taking a third of the angels with him. He is still in rebellion with God and is considered our enemy. He is looking to see whom he may devour and while temptation is not sin it is the means he uses to lead us into sin. Although sometimes we may fail and fall, we have Jesus, our High Priest who lives to make intercession for us. He loves us so!¹

¹ Lewis, K. A. (2010). *Lifting up Jesus: Bible Study Lessons*. Walla Walla, WA: Karen Ann Lewis.