

THE WORD OF

TRUTH

Bible Study Course

Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 8:32

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SATAN AND HIS WORK

To fight an enemy, we need to understand how he works. *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (Ephesians 6:12).*

It was Satan, our arch enemy, who initially planted the seed of rebellion in the worlds first inhabitants. But where did Satan come from and who tempted him? Is God responsible for creating sin in the devil, or in man? How will he be stopped and his work brought to an end?

Let us now search the Word of truth, the Bible, for the answers to these and other questions concerning the origin of sin.

1. Where did Satan (the devil) come from?

Ezekiel 28:12-14

Note: Satan is here given under the figure of "king of Tyrus," and is seen to be a created being. Verses 11-17 cannot be the description of a mere man. In fact, it portrays the angel next to God.

2. What was Satan's condition when he was first created?

Ezekiel 28:15 _____

Note: When God created him, he was not the devil we know today.

3. What was Satan's name when he was first created?

Isaiah 14:12 _____

Note: The word "Satan" means adversary, or enemy. "Lucifer" comes from the Latin, meaning "light bearer". The Hebrew word means "shining one" or "brilliant one".

4. What led to Satan's rebellion and downfall?

Ezekiel 28:17 _____

5. Intoxicated and deluded by his pride, what did Satan presume that he was able to do?

Isaiah 14:13-14 _____

Note: All sin is selfishness, and pride is a form of selfishness; it leads a man to do just the opposite of that which love would lead him to do. Sin places "self" before all else, even before God.

6. When Satan rebelled in heaven, who was involved and what was the result?

Revelation 12:7-8 _____

7. After Satan and his angels had lost the war in heaven, to where were they cast?

Revelation 12.9 _____

8. What is Satan's attitude toward the inhabitants of the earth?

Revelation 12:12, 1Peter 5:8 _____

9. When man followed Satan's suggestion and disobeyed God, what change took place in him?

Genesis 6:5; Romans 6:16; Jeremiah 17:9 _____

Note: As soon as man chose to receive wisdom and knowledge from Satan, there was a change. Instead of being filled with holy thoughts and reflecting God's image and character, he became like his new master, whom he had chosen to follow.

10. Though it did not appear in the lie that Satan told to Eve, what would sin lead men to do?

John 8:44 _____

Note: We often regard our sins as being of little consequence and not causing a great deal of trouble to anyone. Yet what has developed from that "minuscule" violation in Eden? Men with a character that could crucify the Son of God (John 19:15,16; Acts 2:23).

11. From the smallest sin to the greatest. To what stage had sin developed in the first generation?

Genesis 4:5,8 _____

Note: Hatred is akin to murder (1John 3:15).

12. What is in us that enables us to be tempted? Also, is God ever a contributor to our temptation to sin?

James 1:13-15 _____

13. How does sin affect man's relationship with God?

Romans 8:7; Isaiah 59:2 _____

Note: "Carnal" refers to our natural mind, the mind we have when God is not in control of our lives.

14. At the time of the fall of Adam and Eve, what did God do for man to limit Satan's power over him?

Genesis 3:15; 1Corinthians 10:13 _____

Note: Once man sinned, the hatred of wrong doing was not natural, thus Satan would have great power to tempt men. But if mankind would choose to surrender his will to God, then God would put within him an enmity, or hatred of evil and give him the power to break the hold of the Destroyer.

A part of the promise given to the fallen pair, was that Satan would be overcome by the seed of the woman. At some time in the future, there would be born among men, Someone who would overthrow Satan. This was the first promise of a Saviour (Genesis 3:15).

15. What reason is given in the Scriptures, for the coming of Jesus to this world?

Hebrews 2:14; 1John 3:8 _____

16. By what means has God made it possible for you and I to break the hold that Satan has in our lives?

1Corinthians 15:57; Philippians 4:13 _____

Note: Satan will not open the prison house of his prisoners, only Christ can set the captive free (Isaiah 61:1; 14:17).

What then will be the ultimate end of the enemy of creation and how will it take place? But more importantly, when? This will be the subject of a later study. Our next couple of lessons will expand on the salvation plan, giving an answer to the question, "*what must I do to be saved?!*"

Would you like to join us in prayer? And united we may say -- *thank you dear heavenly Father that you have broken the power of the devil and through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, you have shown great love for me and all of mankind. Thank you for your grace in giving me the opportunity to become righteous and to escape the holding power of sin. Amen.*