

## WE WILL CONSIDER

- The meanings of words “devil” and “satan”
- Different ways these words are used in the Bible
- The source of sin and its destruction

# The **B**iBLE EXHIBITION

## THE TRUTH ABOUT

# *the Devil and Satan*

### *Satan*

“Satan” is a Hebrew word that means “an opposer”.

Here are some examples of the use of the word in the Old Testament:

'Balaam rose in the morning and saddled his donkey and went with the princes of Moab. But God's anger was kindled because he went, and the angel of the LORD took his stand in his way as his adversary.'

Numbers 22:21-22

God's angel tried to prevent Balaam from sinning. He is described as an “adversary” (or, in the Hebrew, “satan”) to Balaam. This is because he was “opposing” him.

'The commanders of the Philistines said to [Achish], "Send the man back, that he may return to the place to which you have assigned him. He shall not go down with us to battle, lest in the battle he become an adversary to us." '

1 Samuel 29:4

The Philistines are concerned that David will become an “adversary” (or, in the Hebrew, “satan”) to them.

Other examples:

PASSAGE	PERSON DESCRIBED AS SATAN
1 Kings 5:4	Enemy Nations
1 Kings 11:14	Hadad the Edomite
1 Kings 11:23, 25	Rezon
Psalms 109:6	An Accuser (of Ahithophel)
1 Chronicles 21:1; 2 Samuel 24:1	God

Here are two examples from the New Testament:

“Peter took [Jesus] aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter , "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

Matthew 16:22-23

'Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? ...Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." '

Acts 5:3-4

These examples show that the Hebrew word “satan” applies to many different “opposers” (even God Himself) in lots of different situations.

### *Devil*

The word “devil” simply means “false accuser”. It is never found in the Old Testament. Here are some examples from the New Testament:

'Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the Twelve? And yet one of you is a devil." He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the Twelve, was going to betray him.'

John 6:70-71

'Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things.'

1 Timothy 3:11

In this instance, the word “slanderer” is the same Greek word as “devil”. A “devil” is anyone who accuses falsely.

## *The Source of Sin*

Some people teach that we sin because an external force called "satan" or "the devil" makes us sin. The Bible teaches that 'each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire' (James 1:14), and Jesus taught that "there is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him." (Mark 7:15) Jesus further explains:

"What comes out of a person is what defiles him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

Mark 7:20-23

Sin comes from inside us. There is nothing from outside that can make us sin.

"The Devil" is a symbol for sinful desires, which Jesus destroyed

We are told in Hebrews 2:14 that Jesus destroyed the devil in his death. Why, then, does the Bible refer to the devil after Jesus' death? The devil was destroyed in a symbolic way because it is a symbolic thing. It is the sinful desires inside us:

'...through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil...'

Hebrews 2:14

'He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.'

Hebrews 9:26

## *More information*

For more information, please don't hesitate to contact:

# THE TRUTH ABOUT

## SUMMARY

The word 'Satan' means 'opposer'

'Devil' means 'false accuser'

In the Bible, these words describe many different people in many different situations

Sin comes from inside us

"The devil" is used in the Bible in a symbolic way to describe our sinful desires

Jesus destroyed "the devil" in his death

# *the Devil and Satan*

*The* **BIBLE**  
EXHIBITION