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## **Devil in the Old and New Testament.**

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

# Devil in the Old and New Testament.

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## Topics.

- The devil sowed false seed. (Matt 13:37-39)
- The devil takes word out of the heart. (Luke 8:12)
- Judas is a devil. (John 6:70) (John 13:2)
- The devil is the father of lies. (John 8:44-45)
- Jesus healed all oppressed by the devil. (Acts 10:38)
- Elymas the sorcerer is a devil. (Acts 13:10)
- Don't give place to the devil. (Eph 4:25-27)
- Stand against the wiles of the devil. (Eph 6:11-18)
- The condemnation of the devil. (1 Tim 3:6-7)
- The snare of the devil. (2 Tim 2:26)
- Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)
- Your adversary the devil and a roaring lion. (1 Pet 5:8) (James 4:7) (Genesis 4:7)
- Jesus destroyed the devil. (Heb 2:14)
- Jesus destroyed the works of the devil. (1 John 3:8-10)
- Michael contending with the devil. (Jude 9)
- The devil shall cast you into prison. (Rev 2:10)
- The great dragon the devil. (Rev 12:9-12)
- The serpent the devil. (Rev 20:1-2)
- The devil cast into the lake of fire. (Rev 20:10)

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## DEVIL IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

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Following are the only verses that use the word devils in the Old Testament.

- **Leviticus 17:7** <sup>7</sup> And they shall no more offer their sacrifices unto devils (*sa`iyr*), after whom they have gone a whoring. This shall be a statute forever unto them throughout their generations.
- **Deuteronomy 32:17** <sup>17</sup> They sacrificed unto devils (*shed*), not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to new *gods that* came newly up, whom your fathers feared not.
- **2 Chronicles 11:15** <sup>15</sup> And he ordained him priests for the high places, and for the devils (*sa`iyr*), and for the calves which he had made.
- **Psalms 106:37** <sup>37</sup> Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils (*shed*).

Obviously people do not offer sacrifices to goats and monsters or go whoring after them nor do they ordain priest for goats or sacrifice their sons and their daughters to them so the Hebrew word (*sa`iyr*) and (*shed*) have been translated to the English word devil in the King James Bible

whereas many modern versions of the Bible have used the English word demon (daimon) rather than devil (diabolos) which is a far more accurate translation since demons means an inferior deity or god (especially an evil one) whereas devil means an accuser or slander and is primarily used in relationship to behavior.

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## DEVILS AND DEMONS

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The word devils, is only used four times in the Old Testament and all four verses picture the people of Israel offering sacrifices to an evil inferior god that is why the translators of modern Bibles have used the word demon rather than devils as demon means an inferior evil god. These so-called evil gods called demons only exist in the mind of those who believe in them they are an image in the mind created in the imagination of the mind by a very strong belief in them. Though they are an illusion they have a very real effect on the emotions because the human nervous system of the human body does not have a mind of its own and therefore cannot tell the difference between a real image of the mind and a false one and so automatically reacts to the images held in the imagination of the mind. This is why these imaginary evil gods created in the mind can have a fearful effect on people's emotions and feelings which reinforce those that believe in demons that evil gods exist, this is why deception is so powerful. (Devil singular is not used in the Old Testament).

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## THE MEANING OF THE WORD DEVIL

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The King James Bible unfortunately translates the Greek word diabolos (devil) and the Greek word daimion (demon) both as devil instead of translating them to devil and demon accordingly. This over the years has led to confusion and a misunderstanding of the word devil and the word demons because the Greek word diabolos means an accuser and slander and never relates to mental or physical healing or sickness of any kind whereas the Greek word daimion which means a god, especially and evil one almost always relates to sickness. For further information see the title:

- Demons, in Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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## DEVIL IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

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**INTRODUCTION:** before beginning to shine a spotlight upon the word devil and how it is used in the New Testament it will help to know beforehand what dwells in the depths of the human heart. The easiest and most honest way to do this is to see what Jesus and James said concerning the heart. Jesus said:

- For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander (Matt. 15:19).
- For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery
- 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 (Mark 7:21-23).

And James wrote:

- Each person is tempted when they are lured and enticed by their own desire, then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death (James 1:14-15)

These verses shine a brilliant spotlight on the truth that every evil and sin manifested in the world today abides in the human heart and flows out from it. This means that all the many different aspects of sin and wickedness that we see in the world today ascends up from the depth of the bottomless pit of evil that resides in the human heart and is outwardly and globally manifested on the face of the earth in all forms of corruption and in all that is opposed to God and contrary to His will and His ways.

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## THE MEANING OF DEVIL

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This study is focused upon the word devil and not the word demon, but before proceeding it is important to understand the difference between the word devil and demon especially since the King James Bible has translated the Greek word *diabolos* (devil) and the Greek word *daimion* (demon) both as devil instead of translating them to devil and demon accordingly. This has over the years led to confusion and a misunderstanding of the word devil and demons. This is because the Greek word *diabolos* mean an accuser and slander and never relates to mental or physical healing or sickness of any kind whereas the Greek word *daimion* means a god, especially an evil one and almost always relates to sickness.

The word devil in the Bible refers to everything that is opposed to God and his will, it not only embraces everything in the human heart that resists God's will, such as self, ego, pride, greed, jealousies, hatred, anger and such like things, but also embrace every outward action that opposes God and his will. The word devil is the perfect word for biblical writers since it does away with the need to go into detail to explain what it is that is standing in opposition to God because the word devil carries the same meaning amongst every nation of the world. Whenever the word devil (*diabolos*) is used anywhere in the world all understand that it not only means that which is totally contrary to God and opposed to His will and His ways, but also refers to all that is opposed to what is good, just, decent and right. Following is an explanation of every Scriptures in the New Testament that uses the word devil.

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## THE DEVIL SOWED FALSE SEED

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**Matthew 13:37-39:** He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; <sup>38</sup> The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked *one*; <sup>39</sup> The enemy that sowed them is the devil (*diabolos*); the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

In this context the devil is the personification of everything in the human heart that is against God or opposed to God and in these verses primarily embraces false teachers and false prophets because they are the ones who spread false teachings

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## THE DEVIL TAKES THE WORD OUT OF THE HEART

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**Luke 8:12:** Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil (*diabolos*), and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

In this context the devil is the personification of everything in the human heart that is against or opposed to God. In these verses the word devil not only embraces false teachers and false prophets and people's families and friends who stop or hinder people accepting the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ but also embraces people who tempt and entice those who are saved to turn away from their faith.

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## JUDAS IS A DEVIL

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- **John 6:70:** Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? (diabolos).
- **John 13:2:** And supper being ended, the devil (diabolos) having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's *son*, to betray him;

Devil in this context does not refer to some evil god or evil deity, but a human man named Judas.

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## THE DEVIL IS THE FATHER OF LIES

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**John 8:44-45:** Ye are of *your* father the devil (diabolos), and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. <sup>45</sup> And because I tell *you* the truth, ye believe me not.

John says, the Jewish religious leaders (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) who are seeking to kill him are of their father the devil and have the same murderous and lying spirit. The Old Testament Jews rather than listen to the truth the prophets spoke constantly turned to false prophets, idols and pagan gods and even worse than this they killed the prophets. In the New Testament the Jewish religious leaders were the same, they did not listen to the truth that their Messiah the Lord Jesus Christ spoke and even worse they had him killed. The dominant spirit in the Jewish religious leader's heart that controlled the previous generations of the Jewish nation was murder and lying.

The devil in this context is the personification of the spirit of lies and murder in the heart of the Jewish religious leaders, but by extension applies to any human heart that is filled with lies and murder. Throughout the New Testament the evil desires, thoughts and attitudes of the human mind and the heart are often personified as a single entity called the devil especially when they are against Christ, his teachings and those who belong to him. The word devil can be seen as a single word that embraces every thought that is in the human mind, every attitude that is in the heart and every action that physically, financially, emotionally or spiritually opposes or slanders Christ's Kingdom or harms those who belong to him.

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## JESUS HEALED ALL WHO WERE OPPRESSED BY THE DEVIL

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- **Acts 10:38:** How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil (diabolos); for God was with him.

Those who were oppressing the people were the religious leaders, (i.e., the chief priests, Pharisees and the scribes). Jesus while rebuking them said that they were hypocrites who shut the Kingdom of God in people's faces and who did not enter it themselves or even allow others to go into the Kingdom who wanted to enter in. Equally as wicked as this when the Pharisees did turn someone to God, they made that person an even worse serpent and viper than they themselves were (Matthew 23:13-23). The chief priests, Pharisees and scribes through their traditions and legalistic ceremonial and religious laws had brought the people of God under oppression and bondage, but Jesus through his death and resurrection has set everyone who comes to him in faith free from adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions to be saved.

Oppressed by the devil in this verse does not mean a powerful evil spirit creature called the devil is oppressing people, the word devil in this context applies to any Christian religious leader that brings his congregation under any form of bondage to be saved. This is because there is no bondage or oppression in grace and righteousness is granted as a pure and free gift given (imputed) to those who belong to Christ.

**The beauty of Christ:** in contrast to the religious leaders of Jesus era who refused to allow many to enter the Kingdom of God, Jesus said, "All who come to me I will in no wise turn away."

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## ELYMAS THE SORCERER IS A DEVIL

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**Acts 13:10:** And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, *thou* child (referring to Elymas the sorcerer), of the devil (diabolos) *thou* enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?

Elymas a human man is referred to as a devil because he is opposing the work of God and the work of Christ.

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## GIVE NO OPPORTUNITY TO THE DEVIL

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- **Ephesians 4:25-27:** Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. <sup>26</sup> Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup> and give no opportunity to the devil. (diabolos).

In the verses prior to and following Paul's statement, "Give no opportunity to the devil he has told the Ephesian brothers and sisters to put away deceitful desires, falsehood, anger, stealing, dishonesty and corrupting conversations which means in this this context the devil is the personification of every evil desire residing in the human heart.

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## STAND AGAINST THE WILES OF THE DEVIL

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**Ephesians 6:11-18:** Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil (diabolos). <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup> and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; <sup>17</sup> and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, <sup>18</sup> praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

We wrestle not against flesh and blood; means we do not go to war for the Kingdom of God or physically fight to protect the truth of God as they did in the Old Testament rather our battle is spiritual and involves spiritual weapons and not man-made swords and spears. The principalities, powers, and rulers of the darkness of this world that we wrestle against are false and corrupt religious leaders who have great authority and influence over the church and who are motivated by selfish ambition, ego, pride and money and the desire to be important and powerful.

They are priests or ministers who persecute the church or distort the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and secular rulers of the nations of this world that are against Christ and the church. For Paul at the time of writing this letter the principalities, powers, and rulers of darkness would have been the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes who aggressively set out to persecute the church; the Jewish religious leaders who had great influence in enticing the followers of Christ back under the law and the Caesars or rulers of Rome who were violently against those who declared Christ as their King.

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## THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD

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Paul tells the Christian Ephesians to put on the whole armour of God to protect their faith from these highly authoritative and influential false religious leaders and secular kings who are against anyone who proclaims the name of Christ and follows his teachings. The whole armour of God is:

- Truth and righteousness.
- Peace and faith.
- Eternal salvation and the word of God.
- Prayer and supplication in the Spirit.
- Enduring and supporting each other in the faith.

#### **The fiery darts of the wicked are:**

- Lies deceit, hatred and strife.
- Anxiety and fear.
- Salvation by self-effort and works.

In short, the fiery darts of the wicked is anything that is against God, the Lord Jesus Christ and his Gospel and that is against those who faithfully follow him. Standing against the schemes of the devil in this context carries the following two ideas:

1. To endure hardship and resist being enticed by the distorted teachings of corrupt religious leaders or denying the faith because of persecution by powerful secular authorities that are opposed to God, His will, His plans and His purposes.
2. Standing against the schemes of the devil also embraces the idea of resisting any thought that causes the mind to be troubled with anxiety, worry and stress etc., especially doubts about the Bible, Christ and one's own eternal salvation.

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### **SUMMARY OF THE DEVIL**

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The word devil which means an accuser, slander or one that opposes can be seen in the following two ways, firstly, as every thought in the mind and every attitude in the human heart that is opposed to God and the Lord Jesus Christ which is manifested outwardly in religious leaders who distort the Gospel of Christ for their own selfish gain and secular rulers who oppose God, the Lord Jesus Christ and the church and violently persecute those who faithfully proclaim his name. Secondly the devil can be seen as the personification of every thought in the mind and every attitude in the heart that brings a person into fear, anxiety and doubts about the Bible, their faith in Christ and their eternal salvation.

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### **THE CONDEMNATION OF THE DEVIL**

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- **1 Timothy 3:6-7:** He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil (diabolos) (False accuser).<sup>7</sup> Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil (diabolos).

In the context of these verses the snare of the devil refers to the desires that come with pride such as the craving to be esteemed and exalted by others or to be considered, important, famous, rich and wealthy. A prideful person will use other people to achieve their own selfish ambition



and their own goals. This why Paul tells Timothy that it is not wise to appoint a young Christian to leadership to quickly because there is a danger that instead of remaining humble and happy to serve others they will get puffed up with pride, because of their exaltation to a position of honour. The danger in this is that because of their new found importance they may be driven by the craving to be esteemed and exalted and even worse use others for their own selfish gain and their own glory which will result in them falling into all kinds of behaviour that is opposed to God and to the fruits of the Spirit and to the teachings of Christ. The word devil as used in these verses is simply a word that embraces in the one word everything that is opposed to God, the Lord Jesus Christ and the fruits of the Spirit (humbleness, kindness, truth, love, forgiveness etc.) Therefore, the condemnation of the devil refers to the condemnation of those who are prideful, lie, deceive, hate and use others for their own selfish ambition and gain.

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## THE SNARE OF THE DEVIL

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- **2 Timothy 2:26:** and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil (diabolos), after being captured by him to do his will.

In this chapter Paul tells everyone who names the name of Christ to: -

- Not get entangled in the affairs of this world (v4).
- Never quarrel about words that ruin those who are listening (v14).
- Avoid conversations that lead to ungodliness and away from Christ (v16-17).
- Depart from iniquity and what is dishonourable (v19, 21).
- Flee youthful passions and not be argumentative (v22, 24).
- Have nothing to do with contentious topics that begin quarrels (v23).

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Therefore, in the context of this chapter the snare of the devil refers to getting entangled in the affairs of this world, quarrelling about words that ruin those who are listening and entering into conversations that lead people to ungodliness and away from Christ. It is living in iniquity and doing what is dishonourable, chasing after youthful passions and arguing over contentious topics that begin quarrels. The word devil which simply means an accuser, slander or one that opposes in these verses is simply a word that embraces in the one word everything that leads to ungodliness, discord and away from Christ. (See the previous notes following 1 Timothy 3:6-7).

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## RESIST THE DEVIL AND HE WILL FLEE FROM YOU

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- **James 4:7:** Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil (diabolos), and he will flee from you.

In this chapter James explains to his listeners that there are passions in the human heart that are at war with each other, then explains that these passions arise from a person wanting something but not being able to have it. James says it is these craving passions that desire to have the things of this world that causes a person to commit murder, fight and quarrel because they do not have the ability or the means to obtain what they desire and crave legitimately, honestly or legally.

The devil in this verse refers to the desire in the human heart that craves to have something that it cannot obtain (see the following section for greater detail).



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## YOUR ADVERSARY THE DEVIL PROWLs AROUND LIKE A ROARING LION

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- **1 Peter 5:8-9:** Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil (diabolos) prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

The LORD in the book of Genesis says to Cain:

- If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it” (Gen 4:7).

Peter describes the devil as a roaring lion prowling and seeking someone to devour and the LORD pictures sin as a creature who desires to feed on humans hiding behind a door waiting for its victim to enter into the room so it can take hold of them. The Old Testament picture of sin is the same as the New Testament picture of the devil therefore resisting the devil and resisting sin are the same thing. When the devil and sin are personified, they can both be seen as the same entity because they both have the same desire, the same character and the same motivation which is to lead a person away from Christ and into ungodly behaviour. James in his letter wrote:

- Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil (diabolos) and he will flee from you (James 4:7).

In this chapter James explains to his listeners that there are passions in the human heart that are at war with each other and then explains that these passions arise from a person wanting something, but not being able to have it. James says it is these craving passions that desire to have the things of this world that causes a person to commit murder, fight and quarrel because they do not have the ability or the means to obtain what they desire and crave legitimately, honestly or legally. The devil in this verse refers to the desire in the human heart that craves to have something that it cannot obtain. This Old Testament picture of sin is the same as the New Testament picture of the devil they are the same entity the devil is simply a personification of sin one is pictured as a roaring lion while the other is pictured couching behind a door, but both are waiting for their opportunity to pounce. Resisting the devil and resisting sin is the same thing. We overcome sin and the devil by doing what is right and good, but being watchful and submitting to God and standing firm in our faith rather than doing what is wrong and doing those things that brings a bad testimony to God, the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith.

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## CHRISTIANS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD SUFFER

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The following words:

- Resist the devil firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world (v9).

Show that the devil in this context is outwardly manifested in some form of persecution by those against the Christian faith. This is the reason Peter says “The same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.” This persecution most likely refers to the Romans and the Jewish priesthood at Jerusalem who, were strongly opposed to the Christian faith and aggressively did what was in their power to do to destroy it. But the word devil can apply to any individual, group of people or government etc. that is opposed to God and His will. Whoever opposes God, the Lord Jesus Christ and those who belong to his Kingdom are simply outwardly manifesting the deep and gross horror of sin dwelling in the human heart. The devil and sin are the same entity manifested outwardly in many various and different forms of corruption and wrongdoing.

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## JESUS DESTROYED THE DEVIL

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- **Hebrews 2:14:** Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil. (diabolos).

Though it appears at a quick glance that this verse is stating that the devil is the one that has the power of death this is not exactly what the author of Hebrews is saying. The apostle Paul tells us that sexual immorality, idolatry (meaning excessive and extreme admiration), sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, rivalries (contention), rebellion, conflict, hostile disagreements envy, drunkenness, orgies and things like these dwell in the human heart (Gal. 5:19-21) and all fall under the title of sin and Paul tells us that the wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23) these words of Paul shine a brilliant spotlight on the truth that it is sin that leads every human to death. The Bible sums up all these evil attitudes dwelling in the human heart in the word devil and it is in this sense that the writer of Hebrews says Jesus will destroy the devil that had the power of death, it would be the same as writing Jesus will destroy sin which has the power of death. The Lord Jesus Christ through his death and resurrection has destroyed the devil (sin personified) that had the power of death because those who belong to Christ are given (imputed) righteousness as a free gift from God, and that gift sets them free from the law of sin and death which proclaims, if you sin you die. The devil in the context of this verse is sin personified as the devil.

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## JESUS DESTROYED THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL

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- **1 John 3:8-10:** Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil (diabolos), for the devil (diabolos) has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil (diabolos). <sup>9</sup> No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. <sup>10</sup> By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil (diabolos): whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

Prior to these verses John said if Christians say they have not sinned they make the Lord a liar, and his word is not in them (1 John 1:10), but in these verses John appears to be contradicting that statement by saying, Whosoever is born of God does not commit sin and John even goes further by adding that they cannot sin (1 John 3:8-10). But John is not contradicting his previous statement or denying reality, in these verses John is not saying that Christians will never sin, but that they will not live a lifestyle of sin or constantly practices sin because God's seed (Spirit) is in them and living a worldly lifestyle of sin goes against the Spirit of God that is in them. John is saying that is how a person can tell the difference between a person that is born of God and one that is not. The person that is born of God will be living a lifestyle that outwardly evidences their inward belief, whereas the lifestyle of a person who is not born of God will outwardly show that they have absolutely no interest in pleasing God.

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## HE THAT COMMITS SIN IS OF THE DEVIL

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The words, "He that commits sin is of the devil," does not mean that they are grossly and extremely wicked people controlled by some evil spirit god, but that they are living a lifestyle without any thought toward God and solely to satisfy the flesh meaning they are controlled by the desires of self, ego and pride etc., without any thought toward God.

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## MICHAEL CONTENDING WITH THE DEVIL

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- **Jude 1:9:** But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil (diabolos), was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you.”

The following words of Paul:

- Brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea (1 Cor. 10:1-4).

Show that the body of Moses does not refer to the physical dead body of Moses, but to the children of Israel that were plucked up out of Egypt and all baptized into Moses as they passed through the sea. The body of Moses Michael the Archangel contended for was the people of Israel and not the dead body of Moses.

**Contending with the devil:** to understand these words it helps to take a little time looking into the meaning of the word, devil, since the King James Bible has translated the Greek word diabolos (devil) and the Greek word daimion (demon) both as devil instead of translating them to devil and demon accordingly. This has over the years led to confusion and a misunderstanding of the word devil and demons because the Greek word diabolos means an accuser and slander and never relates to mental or physical healing or sickness of any kind whereas the Greek word daimion which means a god, especially and evil one almost always relates to sickness.

**The word devil in the Bible,** refers to everything that is opposed to God and his will, it not only embraces everything in the human heart that resists God’s will, such as self, ego, pride, greed, jealousies, hatred, anger and such like things, but also embrace every outward action that opposes God and his will. The word devil is the perfect word for biblical writers since it does away with the need to go into detail to explain what it is that is standing in opposition to God because the word devil carries the same meaning amongst every nation of the world. Whenever the word devil (diabolos) is used anywhere in the world all understand that it not only means that which is totally contrary to God and his will, but also refers to the enemy of God and the enemy to all that is good.

The devil in the context of, “Michael the Archangel, contending with the devil” (v9) refers to Michael the Archangel hindering every king and every nation that pursued after Israel to destroy them by trickery, deception, war and battle. This is why the tiny nation of Israel whose population has been spread throughout all nations of the world, defeated by many enemies still exist as a most powerful nation in the world in fact so much so that when they are in a crisis not only are all the cameras of the world’s media upon them, but all the world is watching. They are a miracle nation that has survived enemies that by natural reasoning should have wiped them off the face of the earth long ago, but they keep surviving and rising up out of the ashes as a strong nation. The reason they have not been entirely destroyed is because God has his angels keeping them.

**NOTE:** though to be saved to eternal life Jews like everyone else must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the nation of Israel is God’s thermometer regarding Bible prophecy, this is because God’s eyes are always upon Israel and the city of Jerusalem and he will never allow the nation or Jerusalem the Holy City of God to be totally destroyed and annihilated from the face of the earth.

My personal belief is that the surrounding nations of Israel’s (and many others associated with them) will rise up with the intention of destroying Israel. When this happens an enormous amount of Bible prophecy will be fulfilled, the Lord Jesus Christ will return as King of kings and Lord of lords and save Israel from their enemies and the following prophecy of Zechariah will be fulfilled:

- God will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on him, whom they have pierced, they shall

mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great. The land shall mourn, each family by itself (Zech. 12:10-14).

For further information see the titles:

- The Devil in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).

**The Lord rebuke thee:** (v9) refers to Michael the Archangel rebuking the devil and is alluding to the following vision of Zechariah concerning Joshua.

- The LORD showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him and the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire? (Referring to Jerusalem and its inhabitants) (Zechariah 3:1-2).

When it is understood that the world Satan means one who withstands and opposes God and the word devil means slander and accuser it becomes clear that in the wider sense, they both mean the same thing which is of course: "An enemy of God." If we were to put a microscope on the differences between the word Satan and the word devil it would be seen that the world Satan mostly embraces a collective group that has great power and influence (i.e., governments, armies, institutions etc., that oppose God and his will whereas the word devil generally refers to an individual or those that have lessor power and influence. Zechariah vision shows the following two things:

1. Joshua (a righteous man and deliverer of Israel) is seen from heavens view and God's eyes as a man standing before the Lord as high priest on behalf of the nation of Israel.
2. When God looks upon the populations of the world, he clearly sees the sin nature of all its individual inhabitants and the heart and actions of those who are opposed to Israel and who act in some manner as an adversary against His people and his eternal plans and purposes. When these adversaries to God are referred to collectively as one spirit or one group, they are given the title Satan. The entire power of the collective sin nature of mankind worldwide that is opposed to God and acts as an adversary against God's eternal plans and purposes is seen from God's heavenly view as one spirit and is spoken of as being Satan.

This means when the individual sin nature of all mankind (the flesh) (self, ego, pride, lust, greed etc., that is opposed to God and His will is seen from heaven as one collective Spirit worldwide it is seen as an enormously powerful force acting as an opponent and an adversary against God, against His eternal plans and purposes, against Christ and against the people of God and therefore this Spirit is given the title Satan or the devil (the enemy of God and of Christ). This is because Satan means an opponent and adversary and refers to anyone who withstands and opposes what is good.

The word Satan In its original Hebrew language does not have a capital \*S\* and does not refer to a supernatural evil and powerful god that is at war with the immortal, invisible God Almighty the creator of all things and source of all life, but refers to anything (i.e., an individual man or woman, a king, a nation or government etc.), that is opposed to God, His people and his eternal plans and purposes. Like the word devil the word Satan is also the perfect word for biblical writers since it does away with the need to go into detail to explain what it is that is standing in opposition to God because it carries the same meaning amongst every nation of the world. Whenever the word Satan is used anywhere in the world all understand that it refers to that which is totally contrary to God and his will and to all that is good and right and that it carries the idea of being an enemy of God. This vision of Satan standing before Joshua, does not only apply to

Joshua, but by extension applies to whoever faithfully stands for God and lives with heartfelt passion to bring about God's eternal plans and purposes. This is clearly seen in the life of Jesus he stood for his heavenly Father while at the same time all the sinful fury of the Jewish chief priests, the Pharisees and scribes were unleashed toward him. If Zechariah was having the same vision today concerning Jesus it would read something like the following:

- The LORD showed me Jesus the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him and the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jesus rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire)?"(Referring to Jesus) (Zech. 3:1-2).

In Jesus life the Jewish chief priests, Pharisees and scribes were the Satan it was their indwelling sinful selfish ambition, pride, greed and lust for power that led to Christ's murder. John in the book of Revelation tells us:

- The dragon, that old serpent, is the devil, and Satan (Rev. 20:2).

These are not titles of powerful evil gods, but titles that embrace different aspects of sin dwelling in the human heart which are opposed to God and His will. The dragon that old serpent which is the devil and Satan, is not only the complete tittle that embraces the entire sin nature of mankind, but also embraces all the various evils of sin.

**The Great Dragon:** is a symbol of, political power.

**That old serpent:** is a symbol of, deception and temptation.

**The devil:** is a symbol of, the sinful mind or proneness to sin in human nature.

**Satan:** is a title which embraces the dragon, serpent and the devil (all of these deceive the world.

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**Satan's angels:** are symbols of, men in places of high places of influence who were called of God, but have become evil servants. For further information see the following three titles:

- Dragon.
- Satan.
- Serpent.

All titles are in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

**Showing respect where respect is due:** the focus of Jude so far has been on false religious teachers who are so arrogant and puffed up in pride that they speak against governments and those who hold high position of authority. Jude has used the vision of Zechariah to highlight the fact that even God's faithful ministers and angels do not show disrespect to dignities, governments and leaders of nations whether they belong to God's Kingdom or not. For further information concerning the Archangel Michael, see the following two titles:

- Revelation 12: in, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- Michael the Angel: in, Angels (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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## THE DEVIL SHALL CAST SOME OF YOU INTO PRISON

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- **Revelation 2:10:** Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil (diabolos) is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

It wasn't some invisible evil spirit that put those who confessed the name of Christ into prisons it was religious leaders who were motivated by selfish ambition, self-glory, power and money and Rome who sent their armies to destroy churches and to persecute Christians because they believed they were a threat to the Roman Empire. The devil in this context is the personification of all the evil in the human heart that rises up against those that belong to the Lord Jesus Christ. Though this evil (personified in the word devil) was manifested through false religious leaders and the armies of Rome during John's generation it is not limited to his era. Throughout any period of history, the devil in this sense is manifested outwardly in any individual or group (religious or secular) when they do harm to those who belong to Christ.

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## THE GREAT DRAGON, THE DEVIL AND THE SERPENT

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- **Revelation 12:9-12:** And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil (diabolos) and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. <sup>10</sup> And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. <sup>11</sup> And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. <sup>12</sup> Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil (diabolos) has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”
- **Revelation 20:1-2:** Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. <sup>2</sup> And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil (diabolos) and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years,

This amazing and heavenly vision of John's not only uses enormously symbolic language, but has also been grossly misunderstood in some circles of religion and for this reason is also far too large a topic to cover in this study. For further information concerning these verses, see the titles:

- Serpent and Dragon: in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- Revelation chapter 12: in, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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## THE DEVIL CAST INTO LAKE OF FIRE

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- **Revelation 20:10:** and the devil (diabolos) who had deceived them (the nations) was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Notice the verse also says a beast is cast into the lake of fire everyone knows this is not talking about a literal wild animal. The beast in this context is symbolic of a very powerful and influential human ruler that is opposed to God. The word devil which simply means an accuser, slander or one who opposes is used in the same way as the word beast. The devil is a word that symbolizes every godless thought in the mind and every evil desire or attitude in the human heart especially those that are against God's Kingdom, against the Lord Jesus Christ, against the faithful church and those who belong to the Lord.

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## SUMMARY OF THE DEVIL (DIBOLOS) FROM ALL THE SCRIPTURES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

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The devil (diabolos) is called the father of lies, it is humans that lie, mostly for their own gain and lying stems from self, ego and pride etc., and is manifested outwardly in speech therefore the word devil is a name that

embraces in its meaning everything humans do that is opposed to what is good and right and offensive to God. Judas and Elymas the sorcerer are both spoken of as a devil, Jesus tells us the devil sows false seed and takes the word out of the heart, false teachers and prophets do this. Saints are told to stand and resist the ways of the devil and not to fall into the snare of the devil, the ways of the devil and the condemnation of the devil.

- The snares of the devil refer to anything that will lead a person away from God (i.e. deception, false teaching, etc.).
- The ways of the devil refer to anything that is offensive to God.
- The condemnation of the devil refers to anyone who harshly judges and condemns those in Christ (i.e. legalistic religious teachers who know nothing of the Lord's love and grace).

Jesus tells his disciples that the devil will cast some of them into prison (the religious leaders (the chief priests, the Pharisees and the scribes) and Romans did this. We are told that the Lord healed all that were oppressed by the devil it was the Pharisees and scribes who oppressed the people. The devil is that entity (self, ego and pride etc.), within the human soul that is against God and against what is right and good.

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## THE DEVIL AND SIN ARE THE SAME ENTITY

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God told Cain, "Sin is crouching at the door, its desire is for you, but you must rule over it" (Gen. 4:6). This is the same as saying, "Sin is seeking to devour you Cain." In the New Testament Peter says, "Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8). Peter is saying the same thing to the Lord's disciples as God said to Cain (i.e. the devil's desire is for you).

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This shows that sin and the devil are the same entity therefore resisting the devil and resisting sin is also the same thing. The Old Testament picture of sin is the same as the New Testament picture of the devil. Sin and the devil are personified as an entity that is always looking and waiting for its opportunity and chance to pounce on its victim. God says we can master it, meaning control its behaviour or bring it into submission. From these verses we learn that the devil is the personification of sin.

The following is the meanings of the devil the serpent and Satan in their simplest terms:

**The serpent:** is anyone that comes as a tempter or entices to sin

**The devil (diabolos):** is anyone that comes as an accuser or slander

**Satan:** is anyone that acts as an adversary and opposer to God

**A simplistic and practical example of the devil, the serpent and Satan:** a young apprentice starts a new job, on his first day a fellow worker approaches him and says, "All the boys are buying ecstasy drugs how many do you want?" The young lad says, "Sorry I don't take drugs it is against what I believe." This man is a serpent to the boy by tempting him to compromise his principals. The man goes and tells the rest of the workers, "Hey guys this new apprentice is a wowser a self-righteous religious nut."

Now the man is a devil by being an accuser and slander. Later in the same day one of the stronger men gets the boy by himself and says, "Listen you little runt of a kid, don't pull that religious stuff on us. I'll mess your face up good." This man is a Satan to the boy by being an adversary and opposer to what the young apprentice believes. The poor kid has confronted the serpent the devil and Satan all on his first day of work.



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## CONCLUSION

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Throughout the New Testament the evil desires, thoughts and attitudes of the human mind and the heart are often personified as a single entity called the devil especially when they are against Christ, his teachings and those who belong to His Kingdom. The word devil can be seen as a single word that embraces:

- Every thought, attitude and action that physically, financially, emotionally and spiritually brings harm and hurt to another person.
- Every spoken word that not only slanders, but also demeans, degrades and lies about another person.
- Every thought and action that opposes slanders and acts against God and Christ's Kingdom and those who belong to him.

The works of the devil refer to actions that are manifested in some form of mental, spiritual or physical harm that is directed toward another person; a group; an organization (religious or secular) or a nation or to any thought or action that is harmful and directed toward self.

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### **For further information see the titles:**

- Beelzebub.
- Demons.
- The temptation of Jesus.
- A man named Legion.
- All titles are in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).