

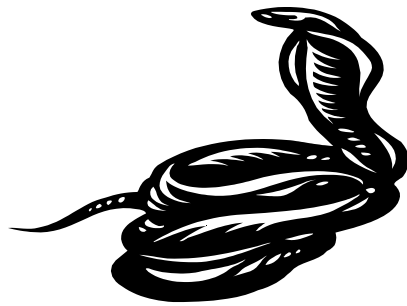
CONTRADICTIONS

When we take a good look at the subject of the Devil and Satan, we discover that there are several **contradictions and inconsistencies in the traditional view.**

If there really were a supernatural being called the devil, the scriptures that are related should all be in harmony with this concept. This is certainly not the case.

Following are a list of issues that you owe it to yourself to resolve, before you make any final conclusions on the subject:

- ◆ When did the devil fall from heaven? Was it before the creation as is commonly taught?
- ◆ (see Isa 14:12, Luke 10:18, Rev 12:7)
- ◆ How did the serpent survive the flood, if he was the devil?
- ◆ How do you explain Isa.45:7 where God is said to create evil?
- ◆ If God spares not angels that sin, then how did the devil survive? (see 2 Pet 2:4)
- ◆ If the serpent was sentenced to crawl on his belly, why is he said to walk about like a lion in 1 Pet 5:8?
- ◆ Why would God use a messenger of Satan to help Paul to grow spiritually? (2 Cor 12:7-9)
- ◆ Read Acts 5:-4. Was it Satan that tempted Ananias, or was it his own heart (mind)?



- ◆ Why would the devil cast someone into prison? (Rev 2:10)
- ◆ Why did Jesus refer to Peter as Satan? (Matt 16:23)
- ◆ If Christ destroyed the devil through his death, then why would he still be around? (Heb 2:14)
- ◆ In Luke 20:35-38 we learn that angels are immortal. We have also just seen in Heb 2:14 that the devil will be destroyed. How could a fallen angel be destroyed?
- ◆ In 1 Tim 1:20 we read that two brethren were delivered to Satan to “learn not to blaspheme. Would not this be inconsistent with the role of the devil?
- ◆ In 1 Cor 5:5 the Corinthians are exhorted to deliver an erring brother to Satan, to help to save him. How would you explain this?
- ◆ Why does James teach that a man is tempted by his own flesh if there is a devil? (James 1:14-15)
- ◆ Isaiah 14:12 is commonly applied to the devil. Why then is this proverb actually spoken to the king of Babylon, who is clearly referred to as a man? (see verses 4 &16)



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Things Concerning

The Kingdom of God and the Name of Jesus Christ

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“ That old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world.”

“That old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan.” (Rev 12:9) The world has been deceived, not only by the influence represented by these words, but by the terms themselves.

This subject is one of the most confusing in the Bible. The traditional view has been greatly influenced by ancient superstitions. Today, most Christians have been led to believe that there is a supernatural being who is the enemy of God and the author of evil.

This view is not only incorrect, it is also likely to distort our understanding of the Bible message and may jeopardize our hope for salvation. If we believe that an outside tempter is responsible for all of our sin, then how can we truly repent and be converted?

Enmity

To understand the Bible teaching on the subject of the Devil and Satan, we must start at the beginning when the serpent which was the most subtle beast of the field, tempted Eve by lying about God’s commandment.

For this deceit, “the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: **And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed;** it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.” (Gen 3:14-15)

This sentence had far reaching implications and it is a prophecy that

outlines the entire plan of redemption.

The Descendents

The descendent of the serpent is **sin**. He was the father of all lying and deceit. The future descendent of the woman would be **Christ** He would overcome sin in his own body and destroy it on the cross, to redeem mankind from the curse of sin and death.

From the time that Adam and Eve were cast out from the garden as mortal creatures, there has been a constant struggle between man and the sin influence that the serpent planted.

The Apostle Paul describes this battle that is being waged inside of us in Romans 7:18-25.

The desire to **sin comes from within** our own minds. “For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.” (Mark 7:21-23)

Devil, Satan

With this background we can begin to understand how that the words **Devil and Satan** were chosen to describe **sin in all of its manifestations.**

When we “resist the devil”, we are overcoming the **sin in ourselves.** (James 4:7). When Jesus told Peter to “get thee behind me Satan”, the sin was being manifested in **another person.** In the example chosen at the top of this page, (from Rev 12:9) the sin was manifested in **the government**

Hope and Comfort from the Scriptures

As we learn more about the way that sin is presented in the Bible, we understand that words such as the Devil and Satan are only representative of the various manifestations off sin.

The curse of sin

One of the significant effects of the sin of our first parents was that we have inherited a nature that is cursed. We are therefore subjected to suffering, sorrow, sickness and pain as we endure our few days filled with trouble leading us all back to the dust of the ground.

Thorn in the Flesh

Suffering and disease were more than a punishment. Such adversities are also intended to instruct us and hopefully lead us to repentance.

Paul's "thorn in the flesh" is an excellent example of the the way that God may use an affliction to lead us to the humility that he desires in us. Paul expressed it this way: "To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a **thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.** Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for **my power is made perfect in weakness.**" Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." (2 Cor 12:7-9 NIV)

This account demonstrates the language of the Bible. Paul's adversity, (which many believe was very poor eyesight) was called a messenger of Satan.

It is obvious from the context that this thorn was under God's control and that it was applied for His purpose. The popular superstitions about Satan would find no support in this story.

The Destruction of the Devil

When we consider the redemptive work of Christ, we are told in Heb. 2:14 "that **through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that**

is, the devil."

What was it that Christ actually destroyed when he died on the cross? He died for our sins, and "**the wages of sin is death.**" (Rom 6:23) It was the sin that dwelled in his own body that he destroyed by his death.

The destruction of the Devil (that is sin in the flesh), was accomplished first in Christ, and even as promised in Gen. 3:15, he will return to **bruise the serpent on the head.**

With this victory **sin in all of its manifestations** will have been removed from the earth. All of the affliction, all suffering, sorrow, sickness and pain will no longer be remembered, "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." (Rev 21:4)

Our comfort from the scriptures is in the knowledge that all of the effects of sin will be removed. (Including the confusion in the terms and the superstitions that have deceived us). "For he must reign, till he hath **put all enemies under his feet.**The **last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.** For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all. (1 Cor 15:26-28)



"Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice?"

WISDOM

"Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice? She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths. She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors. Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the sons of man. O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart." (Prov 8: 1-4)

TWO WOMEN?

There are two women who have a prominent role in the instruction found in the book of Proverbs. The first is called WISDOM and the other is a HARLOT, a strange woman that leads young men astray.

When we read the language about these women it might seem logical to conclude that there are two literal, supernatural women out there in the streets. One is calling for men to be wise and avoid evil, and the other is tempting them to sin. Would this approach be any less reasonable than believing in a literal devil?

PERSONIFICATION

To my knowledge however, no one is actually promoting such a conclusion. In fact it seems silly to think that this language is any more than a "**personification**" of the opposing influences in our lives.

Strange as it is however, the same sinful influence that is personified by the harlot, is believed to be real when the word devil is applied.

MOTHER OF HARLOTS

In the book of Revelation, (which is a book that is filled with symbols) we find another very clear use of the **harlot** as a personification of sin manifested in the apostate church.

We are told in Revelation 17: "Come hither; I will show unto thee the judgment of **the great whore** that

sitteth upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, **BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.**

This "whore" represents a system of false worship that has been influential in deceiving the people with lies about the "old serpent, the Devil and Satan".

Why? By promoting hell (the grave) as a place of eternal torment, ruled by their fabricated "Devil", their parishioners are coerced into paying their tithes, in the hope of being saved from this terrible end.

The true servants of God are warned not to be deceived by the wine (teaching) of the harlot. They are instructed to "come out of her my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." (Rev 18:4)

Do not be deceived. The "devil" is only a word used to personify sin. It is the sin itself that leads to our eternal rest in the dust. If we resist this "devil", we can hope for the gift of eternal life, through Jesus Christ

