

What Does The BIBLE Say?

As you read this study, I encourage you to study the corresponding scriptures for yourself to develop a personal, confident understanding of biblical truth. Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. Study like the Bereans, who listened to Paul but did not take his word for it. They studied the scriptures for themselves so they would know for sure.

Acts 17:11 “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” I ask that you do the same with this study. Please pray before you begin.

Does Satan Exist?

Who is Satan? Many believe he is merely a mythical figure, but the Bible says he is very real and determined to deceive you and destroy your life. Indeed, this brilliant but cruel mastermind is far more than you have been told. He’s entrapping individuals, families, churches, and entire nations to increase sorrow and pain in this world. Here are the Bible’s facts about this dark enemy and how to overcome him!

1. With whom did sin originate?

Read 1 John 3:8. The devil has sinned from the beginning.

Turn to Revelation 12:9. Here he is called a serpent of old, the Devil, and Satan.

Answer: Satan, known as the devil, originated sin. Without the Bible, the origin of evil would remain unexplained.

2. What was Satan’s name before he sinned, and where was he living?

Read Isaiah 14:12. We see what he is called, O Lucifer, son of the morning!.

Turn to Luke 10:18. Here, Jesus speaks of seeing Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

See Ezekiel 28:14. We are told that he was once on the holy mountain of God.

Answer: Satan’s name was Lucifer, and he lived in heaven. The king of Babylon also symbolizes Lucifer in **Isaiah 14** and the prince of Tyre in **Ezekiel 28.3**.

3. What was Lucifer’s origin, and how does the Bible describe him?

Read Ezekiel 28:12, 13, 15. He was created. He was the seal of perfection, with wisdom and perfect in beauty. perfect until iniquity was found in him. **In Ezekiel 28:14**, we find he was a covering cherub.

Answer: Lucifer was created by God, and all the other angels, **see Ephesians 3:9**. Lucifer was a covering cherub, or angel. One covering angel stands on the left and right of God's throne (**see Psalm 99:1**). Lucifer was one of these highly exalted angels. Lucifer's beauty was flawless and breathtaking. His wisdom was perfect. His brightness was inspiring.

4. What happened in Lucifer's heart so that he sinned, and what sin did he commit?

Read Ezekiel 28:17. Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. You have said in your heart: 'I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will be like the Most High' (**Isaiah 14:13, 14**).

Answer: Pride, jealousy, and discontent arose in Lucifer's heart. He began to desire to unseat God and to have everyone worship him. He wanted to be greater than God.

Note: Why is worship vital? It's crucial in the battle between God and Satan. Mankind was created to find fulfillment in worshipping God. Even angels are not to be worshiped, as **in Rev. 22:8, 9**. Satan, longing for the worship that belongs to God, sought it selfishly. During Jesus' temptation, his desire for worship remained a key test (**see Matthew 4:8-11**). In these last days, as God calls all to worship Him, according to **Rev. 14:6-7**, Satan, enraged, will try to force everyone to worship him or face death, **see Rev. 13:15**.

Everyone worships someone or something: money, power, prestige, food, pleasure, possessions, and more. But God says in Exodus 20:3, "You shall have no other gods before Me". Like Lucifer, we have a choice about whom or what we worship.

Read Matthew 12:30. If we choose to worship anyone or anything other than the Creator, He will honor our choice, and it will be counted against us. If anything or anyone other than God takes first place in our lives, we will end up following in Satan's footsteps. Does God have first place in your life, or are you serving Satan? It is a sobering question.

5. What happened in heaven as a result of Lucifer's sin?

Read Rev. 12:7-9. There was war in heaven: The dragon and his angels were cast out, and now the Devil or Satan and his angels, deceive the whole world.

Answer: Lucifer deceived a third of the angels, **see Rev. 12:3, 4**, and he led a rebellion in heaven. God had no choice but to cast out Lucifer and the other fallen angels because Lucifer aimed to usurp God's throne, even if it meant murder **see John 8:44**. After his expulsion from heaven, Lucifer is called Satan, meaning adversary, and the devil, meaning slanderer. The angels who followed Satan are called demons.

6. Where is Satan's current headquarters, and how does he feel about people?

Read Job 2:2. We see Satan roaming back and forth on earth. We are warned that he has

great wrath, because he knows he has a short time **see Rev. 12:12**. If we read **1 Pet 5:8**, Satan is described as an adversary, the devil, and a roaring lion, seeking to devour people.

Answer: Contrary to widespread belief, Satan's headquarters is the earth, not hell. God gave Adam and Eve dominion over the world **see Genesis 1:26**. When they sinned, they lost this dominion to Satan **see Romans 6:16**, who then became the ruler, or prince, of the earth **see John 12:31**. Satan despises humans, who were created in God's image. Since he can't harm God directly, he directs his anger against God's children on the earth. He's a hateful murderer whose aim is to destroy you and, thus, hurt God.

7. When God created Adam and Eve, what did He command them not to do, and what did He say would be the consequence of disobedience?

Read Gen. 2:17. Do not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, or you will die.

Answer: Adam and Eve were told not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The penalty for eating its fruit was death.

Note: God created Adam and Eve, placed them in a beautiful garden so they could enjoy every tree except one, giving them a fair choice. If they trust God and avoid the forbidden tree, they will live forever. Listening to Satan meant turning away from God and facing death. Today, we face the same choice: trust God and live or listen to Satan and perish.

8. How did Satan deceive Eve, and what lies did he tell her?

Read Genesis 3:1, 4, 5. The serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "You will not surely die."

Answer: Satan used a serpent, one of the wisest and most beautiful animals God had made, to deceive Eve. Some scholars believe the serpent originally had wings and flew. **See Isaiah 14:29; 30:6.** Remember, it did not crawl until God cursed it in **Genesis 3:14**. Satan's lies were: (1) you won't die, and (2) eating the fruit will make you like God. Satan, who invented lying **see John 8:44**, mixed truth with the lies he told Eve.

Lies with some truth are the most convincing deceptions. They did learn about evil after sinning. In love, God kept from them knowledge of evil, such as heartache, grief, pain, suffering, and death. Satan makes evil seem appealing by distorting God's character, knowing people are likelier to reject a loving God if they misunderstand His character.

9. Why was eating fruit so bad that Adam and Eve were expelled from the garden?

Read James 4:17. If we know good and don't do it, it is sin. **Read 1 John 3:4:** "Sin is lawlessness. **See Genesis 3:22, 24.** The Lord God cast Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden and placed a flaming sword to guard the Tree of Life.

Answer: Eating the forbidden fruit was a sin due to disobedience to God's command and rebellion against His law, leading to separation from God, as seen in **Isaiah 59:2**. Satan likely hoped they would continue eating from the tree of life after sinning, becoming immortal sinners. To prevent this, God removed them from the garden.

10. How does the Bible reveal Satan's methods of hurting, deceiving, discouraging, and destroying God's created people? Read Revelation 13:13,14. The Bible reveals that Satan uses every conceivable approach to deceive and destroy people.

Answer: Satan and demons can appear as righteous people, even as angels of light or Jesus. **Revelation 1:7** says everyone will see Jesus return, and **1 Thessalonians 4:17** states He will stay in the clouds, with His feet not touching the earth. Don't be deceived.

11. How effective are Satan's temptations and strategies?

Read Rev. 12:3-9. Satan convinced one-third of the angels; Adam and Eve in **Genesis 3**; all but eight people in Noah's day see **1 Peter 3:20**; and in **Rev. 13:3**, almost all the world will follow him. **Read Matthew 7:14; 22:14.** Many will be lost due to his lies.

Answer: Satan's success rate is so high that it is almost unbelievable. He deceived a third of God's angels. In Noah's day, all but eight people on earth were deceived. Before Jesus returns a second time, Satan will appear as an angelic being, posing as Christ. His deceptive power will be so great that our only safety will be in refusing to see him **read Matthew 24:23-26**. If you refuse to listen to him, Jesus will protect you from Satan's deceptions, **read John 10:29**.

12. How does God really feel about people?

Read John 16:27; John 3:16 and 17:22, 23. The Father Himself loves you.

Answer: God the Father cares deeply for people. Jesus' main goal was to show His Father's nature so that everyone would understand how loving, warm, and compassionate the Father really is; see **John 5:19**.

13. Satan Misrepresents the Father

Satan portrays God as distant, harsh, and unfeeling, even attributing His own destructive violence to God. Jesus came to correct this false image and show that the heavenly Father's love surpasses even that of a mother for her child; see **Isaiah 49:15**. His main message emphasized God's patience, compassion, and mercy.

The Father Can Hardly Wait

For the sole purpose of making you happy, our heavenly Father has prepared a fabulous eternal home for you. Your wildest dreams here on earth are no match for what He has waiting for you! He can hardly wait to welcome you. Let's spread the word! And let's be ready, because it won't be long now!