



A QUICK GUIDE TO: **{Satan}**

Is the Devil equal with God?

"There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about demonic forces. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors, and hail a materialist or magician with the same delight" (Lewis, C.S. *The Screwtape Letters*. San Francisco: Harper Collins, 1941, p.3). When it comes to the question of the existence of the devil and his demons, people frequently have one of two reactions: They dismiss him altogether, and even laugh at such a prospect as a personality known as the devil. Or, they have an exalted view of him, ascribing far more power to him than he has, and attributing far more deeds to him than he has ever done.

Did God create the devil?

Where did the devil come from? To put it another way, how could a God of love create someone as horrible as the devil? This question is based upon flawed reasoning, since it assumes that we are in a position to critique God. Many who refuse to look into what the Bible says on the subject simply decide that God seriously erred in this area, so we should not put our trust in Him.

God did not create the devil as we know him. When God created the world, we are told that God examined it and declared that it was good (Genesis 1:31). This means that even the angelic world did not have evil angels or demons in it at that time. But by the time of Genesis chapter three, we find that Satan, in the form of a serpent, was tempting Eve to sin. Therefore, sometime between the events of Genesis chapter one and Genesis chapter three, there must have been a rebellion in the angelic world, with many angels turning against God and becoming evil. This rebellion was led by Satan himself.

The Bible gives us this information about the devil before his fall:

- Named *Lucifer*, which means "star of the morning"
- Held a high-ranking position in the angelic host
- Had exquisite beauty and great wisdom
- Given a position of great power and influence
- Called "the guardian cherub"



"You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God...You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings" (Ezekiel 28:12–17 NIV).

Lucifer was not satisfied with worshipping God; instead, he wanted to be worshipped. Once a beautiful, powerful angel of God, he lost his former, exalted position in heaven.

"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit" (Isaiah 14:12–15).

Lucifer ("star of the morning") became Satan ("accuser") when he fell to the earth. Jesus, speaking of this event, said, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven" (Luke 10:18).

So, can the devil hear our thoughts?

Satan is not omnipotent.

He has great power—more than any man and most angels—but he is nowhere near the equal of our God. He must even seek God's permission before he can even do certain things! (Job 1:12, Matthew 5:1-20)

Satan is not omniscient.

He has a powerful intellect and knows many things from experience (far more than people), but only God is all-knowing.

Satan is not omnipresent.

Satan is an individual personality, so he can be in only one place at a time (as seen in Job 1:7). So when we say that the devil is personally tempting us, more than likely it is his power working through his network of demons.



Is Satan the ruler of Hell?

Satan is not the ruler of hell, and he does not have the power or ability to cast or drag anyone into hell. In fact, when we read about Satan's ultimate end, we see that God is the Being who will cast Satan into the "lake of fire and brimstone" (Revelation 20:2,10). Furthermore, the apostle Paul explained to the Christians in Rome that no "angels nor principalities nor powers" could separate them from the "love of God which is in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:38-39). Anyone can choose to reject God of their own free will, but no power in existence, including Satan, can pluck them from God's hand and cast them into hell.