

Standing Strong

The Enemy is Real

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Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Ephesians 6:10-13

Why this study?

1. The Old Testament assumes the existence of Satan.
2. The story of Job is based upon the challenge of Satan to God.
3. Satan's existence is acknowledged by every New Testament author.
4. The Gospels have 29 references to Satan; 25 of these are made directly by Jesus Christ and refer to Satan as a real person, not as an impersonal force.
5. He is a created angelic being who exalted himself in prideful rebellion against God, and continues to act in an ultimately futile attempt to overthrow God's purposes in the world. (Isaiah 14:12-14; Ezekiel 28:12-15)

The Reality of Satan

Devil = _____

Satan = _____

Ruler of this world

*Now judgment is upon this world; now **the ruler of this world** shall be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.* John 12:31, 32

God of this world

*And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case **the god of this world has blinded the minds** of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.* 2 Corinthians 4:3, 4

Ruler of demons

*But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, "This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul **the ruler of the demons.**"* Matthew 12:24

Prince of the power of the air

*And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to **the prince of the power of the air**, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.* Ephesians 2:1

Evil one

*We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him and **the evil one** does not touch him. We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the power of **the evil one.*** 1 John 5:18, 19

Matthew 13:19, 38; John 17:15; Ephesians 6:16; 1 Thessalonians 3:3; 1 John 2:13, 14.

Tempter

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
Matthew 4:1 (1 Corinthians 7:5)

Accuser

*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 brethren** has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night.* Revelation 12:10

Deceiver

*And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, **who deceives the whole world**; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.* Revelation 12:9

Liar

*You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for **he is a liar, and the father of lies.*** John 8:44

The Judgment of Satan

1. First promised at the fall of man. Genesis 3:15
2. Demonstrated by Christ's victory over temptation. Matthew 4:1-11
3. Is one purpose of the incarnation. 1 John 3:8
4. Was accomplished at the cross. Colossians 2:15; Hebrews 2:14

Our Battle with Satan

The primary arena of his work is the _____.

Our battle is not so much a contest of _____ as it is of

_____.

We will be careful not to give Satan too much _____ or

_____.

God has provided all the _____ we need to be

_____.

LIFEGROUP Questions

1. Why do think many people do not believe in the reality of the devil?
2. Scripture compares Satan to certain animals. Why? (See John 10:12; 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 12:9 & 20:2)
3. What is our primary defense against Satan? (See John 8:31, 32; Ephesians 6:14)
4. Examine the following verses and describe why our "minds" are crucial for victorious living, and how we prepare our minds to live this way. (Philippians 4:8; Ephesians 4:23; Colossians 3:2; 1 Peter 1:13; 2 Corinthians 11:3)
5. Read and discuss these two key verses: James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:9.