

Pastor John Miller, 08-30-2026, COTR Texarkana

Title: Unmasked, pt-1

Purpose: address 3 questions: (1) Is the devil real? (2) Who are the devil and demons and where did they come from? (3) What do the devil and demons try to do to us?

Truth for Today: Christians are in a spiritual war with the devil, but we can recognize and resist him until God crushes him under our feet.

Topic: Satan, Devil, Demons

Text: 1 Peter 5:8-9

Series title: Unmasked

Series purp.: Expose the schemes, tactics, and strategies of the devil and demons and provoke people to recognize and resist them.

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I. Introduction

- A. Text: [1 Peter 5:8-9 (NLT)] **Stay alert! (be constantly ready⁴) Watch out for your great enemy, the devil.** He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to **devour (destroy⁴).** (NCV) **⁹ Refuse to give in to him, by standing strong in your faith.]** Satan is like a lion, cruel and ferocious. Christians knew about the horrors of the Nero's persecution in the Roman Coliseum, in which lions killed Christians. Satan wants to do the same thing to us.⁴
- B. New Series, Title: Unmasked pt-1
- C. Series Purpose: Expose the schemes, tactics, and strategies of the devil and demons and provoke people to recognize and resist them.
- D. Today we'll address 3?'s: (1) Is the devil real? (2) Who are the devil and demons and where did they come from? (3) What do the devil and demons try to do to us?

II. Is the devil real?

- A. The modern, secular view believes there is no God, no devil, no angels or demons. **Pic** Psychology Today, The Devil? Seriously? How can people believe the manifestly absurd? Only a completely uninformed, poorly educated mind could believe in the devil. There is no such thing as the devil, just as there is no such thing as fairies, imps, or goblins. The two largest religions in the world-Christianity and Islam-teach that there is a devil. And they are wrong. There is no evidence for such a thing. It is simply something that germinated from the unscientific, irrational minds of early humans who tried their best to explain why bad things happen.¹
- B. Biblical response: [2 Cor. 4:4 (NLT)] **Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe...They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ...]** The Bible teaches emphatically **satan is real.** What a great strategy, to deceive people and make them believe he doesn't exist.
- C. Devil, satan and demons occur 185 times in the Bible. He's called: satan, Lucifer, god of this world, accuser, great dragon, Beelzebub, serpent of old, morning star, angel of light, father of lies, murderer, destroyer, prince of the power of the air and adversary.

III. Who are the devil and demons and where did they come from?

- A. Satan is a created spirit being who rebelled against God and now oppose God's plans and lead human beings into rebellion against God.³ Demons are fallen angels who rebelled against God and followed Satan. They're subject to the authority of believers.²
 - B. [Lk10:17-18 (NCV)] When the seventy-two came back, they...said, "Lord, even **the demons** obeyed us when we used **your name!**" 18 Jesus said, "**I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Rev. 12:9 (NKJV)** So **the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan**, who deceives the whole world; **he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.**] Whenever this event(s) happened, the traditional interpretation says Satan was created by God but rebelled and took fallen angels who became demons. They roam the earth now but one day will be cast into hell. Jesus on Judgment Day, [Mt. 25:41 (NIV)]... 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the **eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.**
- IV. What do the devil and demons try to do to us? i.e. his strategies, tactics
- A. (#1) Satan wants to stop God's Word from taking root in our life. Parable of the Sower [Mark 4:3-4, 14-15 (NIV)] ³ "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. (ESV) The sower sows the word. 15...the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, **Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them.**] This implies Satan can challenge our thinking process and cause us to forget, ignore or rationalize God's Word before it takes root in our lives, e.g. Eve Did God really say?' Have you ever been moved to believe and act on God's word, e.g. serve in a ministry but later gave yourself reasons why you couldn't and didn't? How about convicted of a sin in church and forget all about it when you leave?
 - 1. Action step: When you hear the Word of God taught and it applies to you, remember it, write it down, remind yourself later, start doing what it says today.
 - B. (#2) Satan influences people to do evil. Judas betrayal of Jesus at the Lord's supper, [Jn. 13:2 (ESV)] During supper, when the **devil had already put it into the heart (NIV prompted) of Judas Iscariot, to betray him,**] Satan baited a hook with the love of money, nurtured it a long time, Judas lied and stole to get money and got mad at Jesus and betrayed him for \$. What hook is he using on us? E.g. planning to steal tools or money from work, planning an affair, use your phone to cheat on a test.
 - 1. Action step: [Proverbs 4:23 (NLT)] **Guard your heart above all else**, for it **determines the course of your life.**] E.g. Judas, Jesus' treasurer, stole money. When woman anointed His feet with expensive oil it enraged him. The love of money had become the driving force of his life. It had taken root in his heart and blinded him. Out of greed and anger he betrayed Jesus. Take a look inside: what thoughts, values or rationalizations make us do what we do? e.g. porn won't hurt me, I can drink and drive, one pill won't addict me. Satan took a long time to groom Judas for the betrayal. What is he grooming us to do?
- V. Conclusion: Our battle plan: We are not powerless or helpless in this unseen war.
- A. Simple Biblical formula: [Ja 4:7 (ESV)] **Submit yourselves therefore to God. NCV give yourselves completely to God) Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**] Make 2 choices: (1) Say yes to God's commands, pathways and the Holy Spirit in our

thoughts and actions. (2) Say no to satan when he tries to disobey God. God promises a guaranteed result; satan will let us alone. I bet Judas wishes he had done this.

VI. Response

- A. Prayer: Is Satan trying to influence you to do evil?
- B. Souls: 2 facts: (1) Satan tempted Eve and sin came into the world. (2) Jesus is the only One who can forgive our sin and restore our relationship with God. (3) You can experience this now by believing and following Jesus. Problem-Solution-Decision

VII. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

- 1. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-secular-life/201509/the-devil-seriously>
- 2. Manser, M. H. (2009). *Dictionary of Bible Themes: The Accessible and Comprehensive Tool for Topical Studies*. London: Martin Manser.
- 3. Elwell, W. A., & Beitzel, B. J. (1988). *Satan*. In *Baker encyclopedia of the Bible* (Vol. 2, p. 1907). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.
- B. Raymer, R. M. (1985). *1 Peter*. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 856). Victor Books.

VIII. Supplemental material

- A. This thinking isn't new. Enlightenment thinkers tried to push the Devil out of Christian consciousness as calling him a fantasy of the Middle Ages.¹
- B. Ephesians 6:10–12 (ESV) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the **schemes of the devil**. ¹² 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.**] i.e. demons
- C. Is. 14:12-15 (NKJV) "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, (Morning Star) son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground,¹³ For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God, ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' ¹⁵ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol,]
- D. *Psychology Today* article: How can people seriously believe in the devil? The year is 2015, not 1315. And yet, the fact remains that tens of millions of Americans continue to believe that there is a magical, wicked, evil—oh, and smart—being out there doing magical, wicked, evil deeds and presiding over a fiery realm, where demons crawl and witches cackle. Oh, wait. No cackling witches. Just demons, right? According to [a 2013 YouGov survey](#), 57% of Americans believe in the devil. And yes, that is 57% of American *adults*—not kindergarteners. But hey, it's probably the same percentage among that demographic, too. Only a completely uninformed, poorly educated mind with little knowledge of things like evidence, could believe in the devil. Oh wait, scratch that. Actually, top neurosurgeons and Supreme Court justices can. And millions upon millions of other well-educated, upstanding men and women, too. But there is no such thing as the devil, just as there is no such thing as fairies,

imps, or goblins. The two largest religions in the world—Christianity and Islam—teach that there is a devil. And they are wrong. There is no evidence for such a thing. Not a shred. It is simply something that germinated from the unscientific, irrational minds of early humans who tried their best to explain why bad things happen to good people, why good people sometimes do bad things, and why there is so much needless suffering in the world. But wrong and infantile as it is, the belief continues. Big time. And this is quite a problem: how can we understand and explain why people believe in such absurdities? ¹

- E. There is hope for victory and one day our battle with satan will be over. [Romans 16:20 (ESV) The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.]