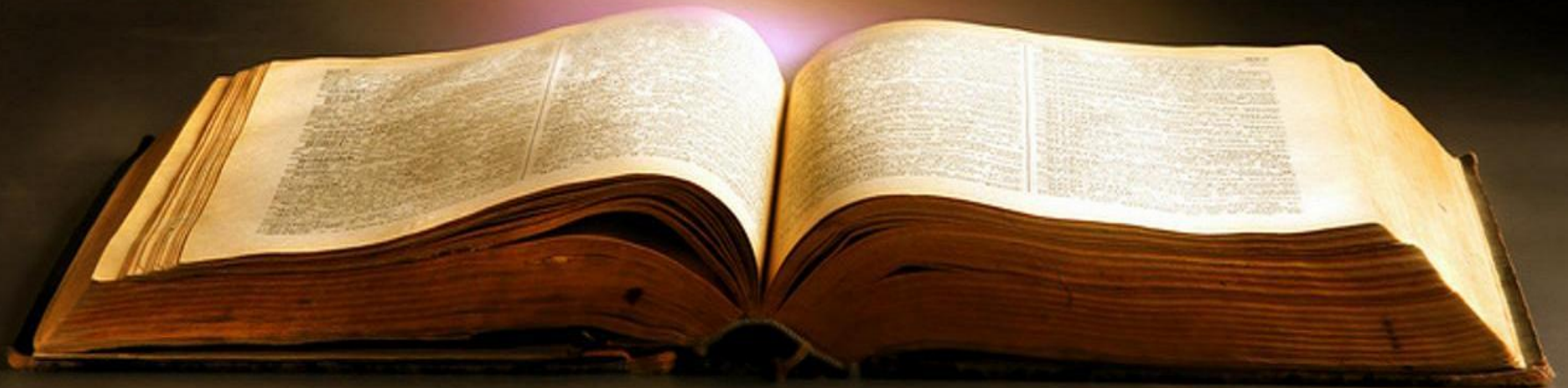


Stow Park Bible Fellowship

Bible Doctrines

Based on the teachings of Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

9. The Devil and the Fallen Angels



The Devil and the Fallen Angels

- We must continue with the doctrine of the angels, because, unfortunately, there is much more that the Bible tells us about these beings.
- In addition to those angels who help and care for us, there are others who are our greatest enemies and we must consider the teaching of the Bible concerning them for we cannot hope to understand man as he is today or the world unless we do so.
- The essence of the trouble so frequently found in people is that we have not realised the powers that are set against us. Sin and failure (perhaps even mental disease) is really to be attributed only to the mighty antagonist who in the Bible is described as the 'devil' and to whom reference is made from the very beginning to the end – from Genesis to Revelation.
- So what has the Bible to tell us about the devil? First of all, here are some of the names he goes by:

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- He is referred to as 'Satan', meaning 'adversary'.
- The 'devil' which means 'slanderer'.
- 'Beelzebub' which means he is the 'prince of the devils'.
- 'Apollyon' as the angel of the bottomless pit.
- He is called 'the prince of this world' and 'the god of this world'.
- 'The prince of the power of the air'.
- 'The spirit that now works in the children of disobedience'.
- 'He is referred to as the 'dragon', a 'lion',
- As 'Lucifer' that 'old serpent'.
- And perhaps as the most significant names of all - 'the evil one'.
- In the Authorised Version of the Bible the word 'evil' is used but this is incorrect and in the modern version it is more accurately translated as 'the evil one'.

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- As in the Lord's prayer where we say 'deliver us from evil', we more correctly should say, 'deliver us from the evil one'.
- The second thing that the Bible tells us about the devil is that he is a *person*. This is most important in today's world because it is the fashion NOT to believe in the devil as a person as we think we are more educated than to believe in an evil person working against us. If anything, it is just an evil influence, people say.
- Was it an evil influence that tempted Jesus in the wilderness?
- No, it was a person who spoke to him and our Lord addressed him as such, not an evil influence – see Luke 4:1-13.
- Even in the Old Testament, in Job, chapter 1 the devil appears quite clearly as a person and addresses God and God him.
- Today, we are told evil is a Force or some kind of 'Energy' or some Great Mind behind the universe denying his personality.

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- And what applies to the devil also applies to those who follow him, who are described as ‘devils’, or ‘demons’ or ‘fallen angels’.
- So we must realise that apart from the sin that is in us, and the evil of our nature as the result of the Fall (we shall be dealing with this shortly) we are confronted by a person outside us who is tracking us down, a person who has a kingdom, of which he is the head, and which is highly organised, and his one great concern is to destroy the work of God.
- Paul in his letter to the Ephesians 6:12 puts it very clearly: ‘against principalities, and against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world’ – that is the kingdom, the organised kingdom of Satan, the evil one.
- Never forget, it is this kingdom of Satan, the kingdom of this world that is set over against God’s kingdom and all those who belong to it.

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- Now if all that is so, we come to another difficult question. What is the origin of the devil?
- The Bible asserts there is a devil with a personality, so where does he come from?
- Now we are not told much about this in the Bible which simply states things about him and his activities and is *assumed* in Genesis but if we turn to Ezekiel, 28:11-19 we are given an account of the devil in the form of the King of Tyre who is obviously not any human being. Let us read this on page 1330.
- So the first thing we are told was that he was created – perfect in his ways till sin was found in him. Note, therefore, that the devil was not from eternity as some believe. He was made by God and had great power and ability – he seemed to sum up perfection.
- He was anointed and ordained as a Cherub, the chief of cherubs living in a garden of Eden. A magnificent being.

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- Dr. Lloyd-Jones suggests this was not the same garden of Eden as occupied by Adam and Eve which was full of flowers but a different one that was full of precious stones and gold and silver.
- He suggests this was a garden that existed before God created the world as we know it.
- Then we are told that he became proud and dishonest and corrupt. Instead of leading the worship of God, he wanted to be worshipped himself as being equal with God and was thrown out by God – **the Fall of Satan.**
- There is no doubt that the power of the devil is greater than human power and is able to influence our bodies – you remember he did this to Job. He, in effect is ‘the god of this world’. The evil one in whom all evil is concentrated.
- Hebrews 2:14 tells us he is the one who controls the power of death! It was Christ’s death that destroyed Satan’s ‘death’ power.

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- However, his power is limited, he is not all-mighty. In Job 1 we are told that God as it were, gave the devil permission to do certain things to Job, but he put a very definite limit upon them, and the devil could not go beyond that.
- Now here is another of these mysteries. Ultimately the devil acts within the power of God, and yet the Bible teaches quite clearly that for some inscrutable reason that we cannot understand, God seems to accord to the devil a certain status and position.
- God in His eternal wisdom has allowed the devil to maintain a certain amount of power until the end, and yet that power is ultimately under the control of God.
- It is His permissive will that allows it, and the devil, as in the case of Job, was only allowed to go so far and no farther (Job 1:12,2-6)
- Now, where does the devil exist? Where does he work? We read of him going around in this earth, but here is an important point.

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- He is a created being, therefore finite and as such is limited and can only be in one place at a time.
- However, he has many agents who are everywhere and because of them, we can sometimes think the devil is everywhere at the same time, but that is not so – he is a deceiver – his is not omnipresent.
- The Bible speaks about the ‘works of the devil’ and John tells us that Christ came to destroy the works of the devil. (1 John 3:8). So what are his works?
- These are shown in his attacks upon the Son of God – his one great objective always is to destroy the work of God and to set himself up as God. **So the first activity of the devil recorded in the Bible is the Fall of Man.** We have discussed the Fall of Satan, now we have the Fall of Man through the fallen angel, Satan or the devil as recorded in Genesis 3:1.

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- He appeared to Adam and Eve in the form of a serpent and because Eve listened to him, and fell, the devil became the one who controlled the power of death.
- We have already mentioned the verse in Hebrews 2:14 where this is mentioned and it is a difficult verse to understand, because ultimately the power of death is in the hands of God, but it seems to mean this: the moment man listened to the devil he put himself under the power and under the dominion of the devil, and thereby the sentence of death was pronounced upon him.
There is now an inherent sinfulness / all of us humans.
- Therefore anyone who breaks god's law automatically belongs to the devil and is in the devil's hands. It is only in that sense that the devil has the power of death.
- Then we are told that he controls all unbelievers, all who are not Christians, in their lives and in all their activities.

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- Jesus declares that they are the children of the devil (John 8:44).
- Then Paul in 2 Corinthians 4:4 describing the devil as the god of this world says he has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel.
- If the gospel is hidden from people and they cannot see it, they are lost, says Paul, and that is the great pity for so many people in today's world, they are lost because the devil has hidden the gospel from them.
- The devil also works to control the lives of people. He is the spirit that works in the children of disobedience. He is the father of lust and desire and evil in every form in the life of the ungodly.
- If then that is what he does to unbelievers, what are his activities with respect to believers? The Bible describes him as our 'adversary' – one who is always opposed to us in every way and accuses us to God *and accuses us to ourselves*.

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- But what does he do in particular? He tries to foil our works and our activities. Paul in his 1st Thessalonian letter 2:18 says that even he on occasion wanted to go to God about something but Satan hindered him.
- The devil also discourages us. He is always waiting to try us and deceive us. He tempts us with his wiles, his snares, his fiery darts, his deceits and his suggestions. He excites our passions; he affects our minds He is responsible for most of our moodiness, our depressions, our sense of hopelessness and our despairs.
- Can anyone here deny that for we have all been tempted by the devil or his agents. Every time we are turned in upon ourselves, and find ourselves looking at our weaknesses, our failures, our disabilities, or anything else in ourselves like that, it is because the devil is at work in us, making us accuse ourselves.
- He can even produce sickness and illness and he used that power.

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- As we have seen, he does this directly himself but he also does it through his angels. The Bible often refers to ‘the devil and his angels’. For they were the angels who sinned at the time of the devil and God cast them down as well. They are undoubtedly the fallen angels, Satan’s emissaries.
- They were not created by Satan for he cannot create or produce such followers because he himself is a created being.
- That then is in its essence the Biblical doctrine of the devil and of the fall of man and the fallen angels but we must always remember that the devil’s power is limited; it is under God. **Christ in His life, His death and His resurrection, has already vanquished the devil.**
- We, as Christian people enabled by the Holy Spirit and Christ, should be able to resist the devil. James tells us ‘to resist the devil, and he will flee from us’.

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- Not that we refer to him disparagingly, nor do we do so jokingly. No!
- Rather we do so in the power of the risen Lord and the Holy Spirit, that is how we can resist and we can defeat him.
- We are told in Revelation 12:11 that the saints overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and the word of their testimony.
- How important it is to remember both sides. We must never be light or flippant, for the devil is ever watchful to catch us out, yes, but we need not spend our lives in a craven fear of him, mighty as he is. For the Bible encourages us through 1 John 4:4 where it is stated:
- **‘Because the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world’.**