

Myths About The Devil

'The devil who deceived them was thrown into the Lake of Fire and sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet are also. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever' (Revelation 20:10).

Question: Does the devil have any rights?

Answer: No, the devil does not have any rights. The devil is nothing more than a created being that sinned and has been rejected by God like all other sinners that will be rejected by God on Judgement Day, both humans and fallen angels. The only difference between him and earthly sinners is he had power because he was an anointed cherub and he was at one time blameless in all his ways. The Godly wisdom he once had has been corrupted by his sin. This is what the Bible tells us about his downfall. This is God speaking to him. "You were the sum of completeness, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God. Every precious stone adorned you, ruby, topaz, emerald, chrysolite, onyx, jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Gold work of tambourines and of pipes was in you. On the day you were created they (precious stones, gold etc) were prepared. You were the anointed cherub who covers (leads) and I set you, so you were on the holy mountain (highest heaven) of God. You have walked up and down in the midst of the precious stones of fire. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you. By the abundance of your traffic (wicked ways) they (fallen angels) filled the midst of you with violence and you have sinned. Therefore I have cast you as a profane (blasphemous thing) out of the mountain (heaven) of God and I have destroyed you, covering cherub, from the midst of the (precious) stones of fire. Your heart was proud and lifted up because of your loveliness and beauty. You have corrupted your wisdom by reason of your brightness and splendour. I have cast you to the ground. I have laid you before kings so they may gaze at you. By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your traffic (wicked ways), you have profaned your sanctuaries (holy places) therefore have I brought forth a fire from the midst of you. It has devoured you and I have turned you to ashes on the earth in the sight of all those who see you. All those who know you among the peoples will be astonished at you. You have become a terror and you will nevermore have any being (a spiritual body)" (Ezekiel 28:12 to 19).

God also said to him, "They (humanity) will ask you, 'Have you become as weak as we are? Have you become like us?' Your pride has brought down to Sheol with the sound of your stringed instruments. Maggots are spread out under you and worms cover you. How you have fallen from heaven O Lucifer, morning star, son of the dawn! How you are cut down to the ground who laid the nations low! You said in your heart, 'I will ascend into heaven! I will exalt my throne above the stars of God! I will sit on the mountain of assembly in the far north (the highest heaven)! I will ascend above the heights of the clouds! I will make myself like the Most High!' Yet you will be brought down to sheol to the depths of the pit. Those (humans) who see you will stare at you. They will ponder you saying, 'Is this the one who made the earth to tremble, who shook kingdoms, who made the world like a wilderness and overthrew its cities, who did not release his prisoners (people in bondage) to their home (heaven)?"' (Isaiah 14:10 to 17).

The devil was in the Garden of Eden but after he sinned, we can see he was relegated to the lowest status of a repulsive animal, a snake, when he deceived Eve. 'The serpent was more subtle than any animal of the field which God had made' (Genesis 3:1). The same word was used to describe him when he is judged. 'The great dragon was thrown down, the old serpent, he who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. He was thrown down to the earth and his fallen angels were thrown down with him' (Revelation 12:9). When the devil is in the Lake of Fire with all other sinners, he will no longer have any power and people will look at him and wonder why they were so afraid of him because he will have a horrible end (Ezekiel 28:18 & 19). People will taunt him and be astonished at how humiliated he will be.

Question: Was the devil one of three archangels?

Answer: No, he was never an archangel. He was an anointed cherub (Ezekiel 28:14), a heavenly leader of music who covered heaven with music played by stringed instruments. Angels and cherubim are different creations. Michael is the only Archangel (1 Thessalonians 4:16; Jude 1:9) and he works on behalf of Israel. Gabriel is the messenger angel and passes on messages from God to selected Jewish individuals (Daniel 9:21 & 22; Luke 1:19 & 26).

Question: Did a third of the angels rebel with the devil and are on earth as evil spirits?

Answer: No. It is not written anywhere in the Bible any angels rebelled at the same time as the devil. The devil rebelled before God had created mankind approximately 7,000 years ago. After Adam and Eve were created, the devil deceived Eve but he acted alone. Angels did not rebel and leave heaven until after mankind was created and were beginning to increase their population. Some angels lusted after the human women, so they left their place in heaven, came to earth and raped the women. That terrifying behaviour produced half human/half fallen angel wicked offspring called Nephilim. 'When mankind began to multiply on the surface of the ground (increasing the population) and daughters were born to them, 'sons of God'

(wicked fallen angels) saw the human daughters were beautiful and they took for themselves the women of all they chose (raped them) ... The Nephilim were on the earth in those days and also after that when the 'sons of God' came in to human daughters. They bore children to them. Those were the (wickedly powerful) mighty (half breed) men who were of old (ancient) men of renown (well known)' (Genesis 6:1 to 4). Those fallen angels who sinned by leaving their proper place in heaven, brought great harm to humanity by their violence and rape. They were eventually stopped by God from doing any more harm by their savage violence and for that reason the Lord did not spare them but cast them into pits of gloom until Judgement Day. 'God did not spare fallen angels when they sinned but cast them down to sheol and committed them to pits of darkness to be reserved for (the final) judgment' (2 Peter 2:4). 'The (fallen) angels did not care for, keep, guard or hold on to their own first place of power but abandoned their proper dwelling place, and these fallen angels are reserved in custody in eternal chains under thick darkness until Judgement Day' (Jude 1:6). The pre-judgement sentence on those fallen angels came about the time of Noah's flood. When the devil deceived Eve, which resulted in bringing sin and death to this world, the devil acted alone. What the fallen angels did wrong, was they chose to remove themselves from the special place the Lord had for them in heaven. Their sin was not only disobedience, which is rebellion against God's will, they forced women to have wicked offspring. We can only imagine the terror those poor women went through. Some of those wicked angels were as tall as three metres. Every one of the fallen angels died out in Noah's flood along with all of humanity and all air breathing animals and birds, except those eight people and the animals and birds that were saved by Noah's Ark.

The erroneous myth that says a third of the angels fell at the same time as the devil, is taken from Revelation 12:4 where it says the devil swept his tail across the sky and dragged down a third of the stars. However, to understand this verse accurately, we need to study the timeframe plus the circumstances surrounding this event. The angels did not all fall into sin at the same time. The two occasions when the angels fell into sin occurred thousands of years apart. Some of the fallen angels sinned and left heaven soon after creation as we have already read but those fallen angels are bound up waiting the final judgement and cannot do any more harm. However, more of them sinned and left heaven about the time Jesus was born only about 2,000 years ago, and did all they could to destroy God's plan of salvation through the blood and cross of Jesus by trying to kill Jesus then they tried to destroy the new early church. The two attempts on the life of Jesus are described by Matthew and are a fulfilment of prophecy. 'An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream saying, "Arise and take the young Child and His mother and flee into Egypt. Stay there until I tell you for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." Joseph arose and took the young Child and His mother by night and departed into Egypt ... Then Herod, when he saw he was tricked by the wise men, was exceedingly angry and sent out and had killed all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all the surrounding countryside, from two years old and under according to the exact time which he had learned from the wise men. Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled saying, "A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children. She could not be comforted because they are no more"' (Matthew 2:13 & 14 then 16 to 18).

This is how the Bible explains the second group of fallen angels. "A great sign was seen in heaven (Jesus was born) a woman (the new church) clothed with the sun and the moon under her feet. On her head was a crown of twelve stars (the twelve apostles). She was with child (the new early church). She cried out in pain labouring to give birth (the new church started amidst terrible persecution). Another sign was seen in heaven. Behold, a great red dragon (the devil) having seven heads and ten horns and on his heads seven crowns (all utterly wicked). His tail drew (enticed) one third of the stars (more rebellious angels) of the sky and threw them to the earth. The dragon stood before the woman (Mary) who was about to give birth (to Jesus) so that when she gave birth he might devour her child (there were at least two attempts to kill Jesus when He was a baby). She (Mary) gave birth to a Son, a male Child (Jesus) Who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron. (Thirty years later, after Jesus was crucified then resurrected), her Child (Jesus) was caught up to God and to His throne' (Revelation 12:1 to 5).

The devil was poised to devour the male Child, the One Who is destined to rule all the nations, and the new Christian church as it was brought to birth, which happened approximately 2,000 years ago. When John wrote the Book of Revelation, some of it was to happen at that time, but a great deal of it was to happen in the future. John knew Jesus well and John was one of those who helped bring the early church to 'birth'. Some modern pastors say the first half of this verse is placed about 7,000 years ago or more, then the second half of the same verse places the time period at just 2,000 years ago. That does not make sense. If we study deeply Revelation 12:1, we see the stars on the 'woman's' head are in fact the twelve apostles, helping the 'woman' to give 'birth' to the new church. In verse 6 we see that the 'woman' had special protection from God. If those stars were evil, they would not have been worn by the holy 'woman', nor would they have received any protection from God. If we look at Revelation 1:20, we can see the hidden meaning of the stars. They are holy angelic messengers, one for each of the churches mentioned in Revelation 1:11.

This myth has taken that verse in Revelation 12:4 completely out of its context and timeframe, and the erroneous myth does not fit in with the surrounding verses.

Question: So if fallen angels are not evil spirits, where did the evil spirits come from?

Answer: When those angels rebelled, left heaven, came to earth and raped the women, they produced wicked half human/half evil angel offspring called Nephilim. During Noah's flood they all died along with almost everything else although their evil spirits did not die but remained on the earth and have been vexing mankind ever since. Because their evil spirits remained on earth and they need a human body to inhabit, that resulted in a resurgence of the Nephilim found again during the days of Joshua. 'There we saw the Nephilim, the sons of Anak who come of (an offspring of) the Nephilim. We were in our own sight as grasshoppers and so we were in their sight' (Numbers 13:33). The Nephilim were giants, some as tall as three metres. They were also called Rephaim. 'Only Og, king of Bashan remained of the remnant of the Rephaim. Behold his bedstead was a bedstead of iron ... nine cubits (about 4 metres) was its length, and four cubits (2 metres) its breadth after the cubit (height) of a (normal) man' (Deuteronomy 3:11). 'There went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines named Goliath of Gath, whose height was six cubits (3 metres) and a span' (1 Samuel 17:4). 'There was again war at Gath where there was a man of great stature who had on every hand six fingers and on every foot six toes, four and twenty in number and he was born to the giant (Goliath)' (2 Samuel 21:20). Several giant skeletons have been unearthed and the photographs of the giant skeletons can be seen on the internet.

'There were giants on the earth in those days' (Genesis 6:4). 'There we saw the Nephilim (or giants) the sons of Anak who come from the giants' (Numbers 13:33). 'These are known as Rephaim (meaning of giant stature) as are the Anakim' (Deuteronomy 2:11). 'That is known as a land of Rephaim (giant stature)' (Deuteronomy 2:20 & 3:13). 'All the kingdom of Og in Bashan who reigned in Ashtaroth and Edrei, alone was left of the Rephaim (giants), for these Moses had defeated and driven out' (Joshua 13:12 & 14:12). 'Ishbi-benob, who was of the sons of the giants, the weight of whose spear was 300 shekels of bronze, was girded with a new sword and thought to kill David' (2 Samuel 21:16). 'After this, there was again war with the Philistines at Gezer. Then Sibbecai the Hushathite slew Sippai, who was a descendant of the giant' (2 Samuel 21:18; 1 Chronicles 20:4). 'There was again war at Gath, where there was a man of great stature who had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot, twenty-four in number. He also was a descendant of the giants' (2 Samuel 21:20; 1 Chronicles 20:6). 'These four were descended from the giant in Gath, and they fell by the hands of David and his servants ... These were born to the giant clan in Gath, and they fell by the hands of David and his servants' (2 Samuel 21:22; 1 Chronicles 20:8). Gath was once called the Valley of the Giants, (Jeremiah 47:5). The giants were called Philistines and were the enemies of Israel. They were wicked and extremely violent. They wanted to destroy Israel and its people. The word Philistine is where we get the word Palestine and just like their namesakes, the Palestinians are still wicked and violent and still want to destroy Israel and its people.

Evil spirits can only walk around while angels can fly. They need a human to inhabit and sometimes several evil spirits can possess one person. They enter the person's body, soul or mind or all three. Evil spirits can leave a person. That often results in the person getting their life back in order, or being 'swept clean' after the influence of the evil spirits have either left or been cast out. If that person does not embrace the Lord and walk in holiness but opens the door to evil again, the evil spirits can return. See how Jesus described it. 'The unclean (evil) spirit can go out of the man, he passes through dry places seeking rest and when he does not find it, he says, "I will return into my house (the previous person) from which I came out," and when he has come back he finds it empty, swept and put in order. Then he goes and takes with himself seven other evil spirits more evil than he is, and they enter in and dwell there. The last state of that man becomes worse than the first' (Matthew 12:43 to 45). Wicked behaviour gives evil spirits the opportunity to inhabit the person and cause chaos. We cannot see evil spirits but their behaviour can be recognised. They can cause terrible illnesses, earthquakes, famine causing drought, serious mental illnesses, incite violence and a host of terrible things humans have to endure.

The devil being utterly wicked seeks who he can devour or destroy and uses evil spirits to help him cause destruction. 'Be sober and self-controlled (vigilant, cautious). Be watchful. Your adversary the devil walks around like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour or destroy. Withstand him, steadfast in your faith' (1 Peter 5:8 & 9). The devil cannot attack born-again, righteous Christians unless God gives His expressed permission but even then there are limits. The devil wanted to destroy Apostle Peter but Jesus did not allow it (Luke 22:31 & 32). There is one occasion in the Scriptures where the devil worked with evil spirits in an attempt to destroy Job but they could not do anything to Job until God gave them permission but there were limits. 'On the day when 'sons of God' (evil spirits) came to present themselves before God, that Satan came among them. God said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered, "From going back and forth on the earth and from walking up and down in it" ... (Job 1:6 & 7; 2:1 & 2). God said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power. Only on himself do not put forth your hand." ... God said, "Behold, he is in

your hand. Only spare his life” (Job 1:12; 2:6). So the devil was walking around seeking someone to destroy but the Lord limited the attack on Job.

Question: How could a snake talk to Eve? How could a snake speak in a voice Eve could understand? Was the serpent the devil? ‘The serpent was more crafty, sly or subtle than any animal of the field God had created. The serpent said to Eve, "Has God really said, 'You will not eat of any tree of the garden?" ... Eve said, "The serpent deceived me"' (Genesis 3:1 & 13).

Answer: There is a long dialogue between Eve and the serpent. These verses only say the serpent was crafty and subtle but we read in the Book of Revelation the serpent was in fact the devil and he is the most evil being ever. ‘The great dragon was thrown down, the old serpent, he who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world was thrown down to the earth’ (Revelation 12:9). The serpent that spoke to Eve would have been a false incarnate, the devil masquerading in the guise of a snake for the purpose of deceiving her. The devil can take on whatever form he chooses to achieve his goals. He can even pretend to be an angel of God. ‘Satan masquerades as an angel of light’ (2 Corinthians 11:14). But he only comes to kill, steal and destroy (John 10:10). He is a murderer and the father of lies (John 8:44).

On a positive note, Jewish people and Christians can overcome the devil by our faith and obedience to God. ‘Be subject to God, resist the devil and he will flee from you’ (James 4:7). Jesus resisted the devil at least three times by quoting Bible verses. Jesus said, “It is written, ‘Man will not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God’” ... ‘Again it is written, “You will not test the Lord your God” ... “Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, ‘You will worship the Lord your God and you will serve Him only.’” Then the devil left Him and behold, holy angels came and served Him’ (Matthew 4:4, 7 & 10 & 11). ‘Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good’ (Romans 12:21).

Amen and God bless you.

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