COGMA

Church of God Mission Academy

STUDY GUIDE
84

Exposing the Myth of Satan's Fall

STUDY GUIDE 5 OF 5:

Satan's Role in God's Plan

An overview of divine sovereignty over opposition and testing.



Equipping and empowering for effective service

2 Timothy 2:2

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE STUDENT

My Study Plan

Preparing a Study Plan before starting this Study Guide will assist you in completing it within a designated timeframe. It also helps in developing the discipline required for studying God's Word effectively.

Proverbs 16:3:

> *Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.*

My Study Guide Journal

Keep a record as you progress through your Study Guide, including the Personal Responses for each section, for future reference and goal setting.

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Important Points

- COGMA does not claim to be infallible or the authority.
- Infallibility and authority belong only to God and His Word.

COGMA therefore strongly advises that you prayerfully study the content of each Study Guide with the heart of a Berean (**Acts 17:10–12**).

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PREFACE

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Long-held religious traditions concerning Satan must be tested by the Word of God. The account of a holy angel who fell from heaven has been examined through the Scriptures commonly used to support it. The central distinction is between what those Scriptures say in their setting and what religious tradition has added to them.

This final Study Guide, Satan's Role in God's Plan, turns from the supposed history of Satan's fall to the purpose of his existence. His presence is neither accidental nor outside God's control. He exists within the limits God has set, serving as an instrument through which faith, love and obedience are tested and proven.

The purpose of this study is to show that even in the presence of opposition, God's sovereignty remains absolute. What Satan means for harm, God turns into an opportunity for the faithful to demonstrate steadfast love and loyalty. The teaching will consider Satan's identity, origin, nature, methods and destiny, while keeping the believer's confidence in Jesus Christ.

The module conclusion at the end brings the five studies together. It recalls the distinction between symbolic language and physical events, between a spirit and the human instruments through which it works, and between Christ's completed salvation and the daily expression of His life. The final emphasis remains the supremacy of Jesus Christ, not fear of the adversary.

Personal Response

Key Truth

Why does Satan's existence within God's limits direct confidence towards Jesus Christ?

Personal Reflection

What does God's sovereignty mean for your confidence when opposition is difficult?

Action Step

Name a situation where fear of Satan has been greater than your trust in Christ. What will you do differently because the adversary remains under God's authority?

INTRODUCTION: UNDERSTANDING PURPOSE UNDER GOD'S AUTHORITY

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Satan is the adversary, a spirit of opposition and unbelief that works through human systems, traditions and minds alienated from God. The descriptions of the dragon, serpent, tempter and deceiver reveal his nature and methods. They must not be turned into a physical portrait of a once-holy angel.

Having distinguished the traditional account from the Scriptural subjects, we now examine why Satan exists. His continuing presence serves a moral and spiritual purpose within God's plan. The question concerns a created adversary under divine authority, not an eternal rival to God.

The Divine Test of Love and Obedience

God, who is love, created man with the ability to choose. True love cannot exist without free will, and genuine obedience cannot exist without the possibility of disobedience. Therefore, temptation and trial are necessary parts of spiritual growth.

Satan was allowed to exist as the testing instrument through which man's loyalty to God might be proven. This does not make him equal to God, nor independent of divine control. As seen in the book of Job, Satan's actions are permitted, limited, and ultimately overruled for God's glory.

Every encounter between good and evil, truth and deception, becomes the stage on which faith is purified. The purpose is not destruction but demonstration, so that God's people may learn steadfastness and prove the reality of their devotion.

The intention of the tempter and the purpose of God must be distinguished. Satan seeks to turn the heart from truth, while God uses the permitted trial to prove faith and reveal willing love. The trial does not make sin necessary, and the adversary does not become the giver of spiritual life.

The Adversary's Boundaries

Throughout Scripture, Satan is portrayed as operating only within limits set by God. He may tempt, but he cannot compel. He may accuse, but he cannot condemn. His influence extends only as far as human unbelief allows.

Christ's victory on the cross exposed and disarmed him, showing that every believer, through faith and obedience, can overcome the adversary. Therefore, the presence of Satan in the world serves to highlight the supremacy of divine grace.

The Emphasis of This Study Guide

This closing study moves beyond identifying error to understanding purpose. It teaches that the existence of opposition is not evidence of divine weakness but of divine wisdom. Through adversity, the faith of God's people is made strong.

As this module concludes, we are reminded that every deception exposed and every truth restored points to a single eternal reality: God alone reigns. His sovereignty governs even the adversary, turning what was meant for evil into the proving ground of righteousness.

The Christian's confidence is not a claim of personal strength. Jesus Christ dwells within the person who is born again, and that believer is complete in Him. Endurance, obedience and discernment are the expression of His life, not later saving works that supply what He failed to give at the new birth.

Personal Response

Key Truth

How can a permitted trial prove willing love without making sin necessary?

Personal Reflection

What difference should that distinction make when you feel pressure to excuse disobedience?

Action Step

Think of a test that has tempted you to excuse wrongdoing. What choice will you make that demonstrates willing obedience rather than agreement with sin?

WHO IS SATAN?

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The first question we need to answer is who Satan is. Many people believe Satan was once a holy angel who rebelled against God and was cast out of heaven. However, this belief does not align with the teaching of Scripture. The Bible never records such an event.

Satan is the personal name given to the adversary of God. Yet the Bible also uses many other titles, symbols, and descriptions to uncover his true character, his actions, and the roles he plays in opposing God and His people. These names and titles are not accidental. Each one reveals an aspect of his deceptive work, his destructive purpose, and his influence in the world.

- Satan – from the Hebrew word meaning adversary or accuser. This is the earliest and most consistent name used for him in the Old Testament and carries over into the New Testament. It identifies him as the one who stands in opposition to God and His people.
- Devil – from the Greek word DIABOLOS, meaning slanderer or false accuser. This title is used most often in the New Testament.

While *"Satan"* highlights his role as the adversary, *"Devil"* emphasises his role in twisting the truth and bringing false accusations against God's people. Together, these names establish his identity as both an enemy and a deceiver.

The names direct attention to what the adversary does. An accusation may be presented openly, while a deception may borrow the language of truth. Both must be recognised by their relationship to God's Word rather than by the appearance of the messenger.

His Descriptions

Beyond his names, Scripture provides descriptive titles and images that reveal his nature and his methods.

- Serpent / Dragon – Symbols of cunning deceit and destructive power (**Genesis 3:1**; **Revelation 12:9**). As the serpent, he deceives through subtlety. As the dragon, he seeks to destroy openly.
- Tempter / Evil One / Accuser / Deceiver – These terms describe his constant activities. He tempts men to sin (**Matthew 4:3**), accuses them before God (**Revelation 12:10**), and deceives nations and individuals alike (**Revelation 20:10**).

- Ruler of This World / Prince of the Power of the Air / God of This Age – Titles showing his present influence over unbelievers and over worldly systems that resist the kingdom of God (**John 12:31**; **Ephesians 2:2**; **2 Corinthians 4:4**).
- Beelzebul / Belial – Names connected with idolatry and corruption, applied to him in contexts of false worship and wickedness (**Matthew 12:24**; **2 Corinthians 6:15**).
- Roaring Lion / Angel of Light – Vivid images of his contrasting tactics (**1 Peter 5:8**; **2 Corinthians 11:14**). At times, he attacks ferociously, like a roaring lion seeking to devour. At other times, he disguises himself with false beauty, appearing as an angel of light to deceive.

The Dragon as a System

Revelation chapter 12 reveals Satan under the symbol of *"the great red dragon."* However, this symbol does not describe Satan's personal appearance. It represents the earthly system or power through which he works to oppose God's purposes.

John explains this clearly in **Revelation 12:9**:

> *"And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."*

This verse shows that the dragon represents Satan's agency—his visible expression in the affairs of men. Throughout history, this power has appeared in many forms.

- Political Power – In one age, it was manifested through mighty empires that persecuted God's people.
- Religious Corruption – In another, it appeared through false institutions that mixed truth with error.
- Worldly Systems – In every age, it operates through powers that resist Christ and His Church.

Therefore, the dragon symbolises Satan's influence working through human systems—the visible powers of earth that war against truth, righteousness, and the Church of God.

Satan's True Identity

The Bible defines Satan as:

- The adversary of God and His people.
- The master deceiver, twisting truth into lies.
- The originator of false religion, setting up systems that counterfeit true worship.
- The spiritual force behind every ungodly power—political, religious, or cultural—that resists divine truth.

This definition goes far beyond seeing him as a personality alone. Satan is the hidden spiritual power behind Babylon, the dragon, the beasts, and every false spirit and system that war against Christ and His Church.

Summary — Who Is Satan?

Satan means adversary or accuser — the one who stands against God and His people. Devil means slanderer — showing his deceitful and accusing nature. He is not a fallen angel, but the spiritual power that opposes God's truth. Scripture reveals him through symbols and titles that describe his work.

The serpent and dragon speak of deceit and destruction. The titles tempter, deceiver and accuser describe continual opposition to righteousness. The expression ruler of this world identifies his influence over ungodly systems. The dragon in Revelation 12 symbolises Satan's agency—his power working through political, religious, and worldly systems that resist Christ.

In every age, he operates through human structures to deceive, corrupt, and oppose the Church of God. The distinction between Satan and his instruments remains important throughout the study. A person or system can express his influence without becoming the spirit himself. Recognising the instrument must not cause us to deny the spiritual power working through it.

Personal Response

Key Truth

How do Satan's names reveal his work while distinguishing him from his human instruments?

Personal Reflection

When a person teaches falsehood, do you become angry with the person or recognise the need for truth and mercy?

Action Step

When someone speaks falsely or acts under deception, how will you distinguish the person from the influence at work? What change is needed in your attitude or words towards them?

SATAN'S STRATEGY — UNDERMINING FAITH IN GOD'S WORD

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From the beginning, Satan's main method has been to make people doubt what God has said.

The record in **Genesis 3:1** reveals the first act of deception:

> *"Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"*

By questioning God's Word, Satan planted the first seed of unbelief. False doctrine always begins by questioning or twisting Scripture. When believers start trusting human reasoning, tradition, or emotional experience above the Word of God, their faith weakens. Unbelief is not simply the absence of faith — it is faith placed in something false.

False Doctrine — The Disguised Weapon

Paul warns of Satan's deceitful ministers in **2 Corinthians 11:14–15**:

> *"And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."*

False teachings often sound religious, compassionate, or even logical, yet they subtly turn the heart away from Christ and His truth. False doctrine may:

- Add to God's Word – through human traditions, visions, or philosophies.
- Take away from God's Word – by denying judgement, sin, or holiness.
- Distort God's Word – using verses out of context to support error.

Every distortion weakens faith, for faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (**Romans 10:17**). When the Word is replaced or corrupted, true faith cannot thrive.

Paul gives a strong warning against this danger in **Colossians 2:8**:

> *"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."*

Through this verse, we see that false doctrine enslaves the mind. It robs believers of spiritual riches in Christ and replaces the simplicity of truth with human reasoning and empty religion. The word *"spoil"* in **Colossians 2:8** comes from the Greek word SYLAGŌGEŌ, meaning *"to carry off as a captive or plunder."*

Paul uses this strong term to show that false teaching takes the believer prisoner. It captures the mind and leads it away from the liberty of truth in Christ. Instead of growing in the knowledge of God, those who follow man-made doctrines become spiritually robbed—their faith weakened, their understanding darkened, and their confidence in God's Word diminished.

This shows that false doctrine is not harmless opinion. It is a spiritual weapon that steals truth from the heart and replaces it with deception.

False Beliefs — The Seedbed of Unbelief

Once false teaching enters the heart, it reshapes belief.

- If someone believes "God doesn't really mean what He says," trust fades.
- If they believe "everyone's truth is equally valid," conviction dies.
- If they believe "grace removes the need for obedience," holiness declines.

These false beliefs create a spiritual dullness that blinds the soul to sin and to divine truth.

The writer of Hebrews gives this solemn warning in **Hebrews 3:12**:

> *"Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God."*

The Result — Prey for the Adversary

When unbelief takes root, Satan gains easy access to the soul.

Peter describes this danger in **1 Peter 5:8**:

> *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."*

Faith resists him; unbelief invites him. Those who drift from the truth of Scripture lose spiritual discernment. They become prey to deception, fear, and spiritual captivity. The enemy rarely begins with open rebellion — he begins with a question that replaces faith with doubt.

The answer is not to become suspicious of every sincere enquiry. The warning concerns replacing the authority of God's Word with a belief that opposes it. Honest examination brings teaching to Scripture; deception requires Scripture to serve an assumed conclusion.

From Deception to Divine Purpose

From the beginning, Satan has opposed truth and sought to corrupt every expression of God's Word. His lies have enslaved minds, distorted faith, and brought spiritual captivity upon the world.

Yet, behind this continuing conflict lies a divine purpose. Satan's existence is not outside God's control, nor is it without meaning. His presence serves a role within God's greater plan for the universe—a plan that reveals both the nature of God and the moral testing of mankind.

Personal Response

Key Truth

How does replacing God's Word with a false belief create spiritual captivity?

Personal Reflection

How willing are you to examine a belief that excuses disobedience while sounding religious?

Action Step

Is there a familiar religious explanation you have used to justify a wrong choice? What will you compare with God's Word, and what will you change if it is false?

THE NECESSITY OF SATAN

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The first question that arises is this: Why does Satan exist? Why is he necessary? The answer touches the very nature of God and His purpose for mankind.

Concerning the nature of God, John revealed this in **1 John 4:8**:

> *"He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."*

The Greek word for love is AGAPĒ. It denotes a deliberate commitment to act for the highest good of its object, rather than a passing emotion or feeling. As with all true love, its very nature seeks a response. Therefore, man was created with the ability to return God's love and to enter into a willing commitment to Him.

Nehemiah declares this in **Nehemiah 9:6**:

> *"Thou, even thou, art LORD alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee."*

The angels in heaven continually worship God, yet they are not creatures of free moral choice in the same way that man is. For man to truly love God, he must possess free moral agency—the ability to choose.

Free Will — The Foundation for True Love

For true choice to exist, there must be an alternative. A test of loyalty requires the possibility of disobedience. Therefore, God permitted the presence of Satan as the source of temptation,

giving mankind the opportunity to prove love and commitment to Him. There must be a genuine reciprocation of love, but for this to occur, two things must be present:

Human Dependence – Mankind must be created with weakness, an incapacity to direct his own life. This condition may be called dependence, as Jeremiah acknowledged in **Jeremiah 10:23**:

> *"O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps."*

A Source of Choice – To enforce the power of choice, there must be a real alternative—a voice presenting the opposite way. This reveals the necessity of Satan, who serves as the means by which human love and loyalty to God are tested.

Personal Response

Key Truth

Why do free choice and dependence upon God belong together in willing love?

Personal Reflection

How should dependence upon God change a choice you are trying to control alone?

Action Step

Identify a difficult decision in which you have tried to control the outcome. What will you surrender to God's guidance, and how will you express willing love through your choice?

The Test of Love — Job's Example

The book of Job gives a powerful demonstration of this principle. Chronologically, Job is the oldest book in the Bible, written around 2600 BC.

God's words to Satan in **Job 1:8** reveal the divine purpose behind Job's testing:

> *"And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?"*

Satan then struck Job's family, possessions, and health. Finally, he used Job's wife to present the choice, as recorded in **Job 2:9**:

> *"Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die."*

To this Job faithfully replied in **Job 2:10**:

> *"But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips."*

Through these trials, Satan was used by God to present Job with the opportunity to prove his love and commitment—and Job remained steadfast. This same spirit of devotion has echoed through time, as many faithful men and women have endured persecution, imprisonment, and even death for their testimony of Christ.

Job expresses his unwavering trust in **Job 13:15**:

> *"Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him."*

This verse captures the heart of true love for God. Job's loyalty was not dependent on blessings or comfort. He loved God for who He is, not simply for what He gives.

This is the true test of love—a devotion that remains firm even when everything else is lost. Job's testimony stands through the ages as living proof that genuine love for God can endure every trial.

No Neutral Ground: The Necessity of Allegiance

It is impossible for any human being to live in complete independence. Every soul must follow one of two masters. A person will either be motivated by Satan's influence and authority as *"the prince of the power of the air,"* or will live under the lordship of Jesus Christ.

Paul described this contrast clearly in **Ephesians 2:2**:

> *"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience."*

Without Christ, mankind remains under the influence of Satan's spirit. Paul also explained that the unconverted heart is spiritually blind apart from the light of Christ.

He wrote in **2 Corinthians 4:4**:

> *"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."*

This shows that there is no neutral ground. Every heart must choose—Christ, the Light of the world, or Satan, the god of this world. Furthermore, God created man with a built-in dependence upon divine guidance. It is impossible for man to successfully direct his own life without God's help.

Jeremiah recognised this in **Jeremiah 10:23**:

> *"O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps."*

This truth explains why allegiance is necessary. Man was not designed to walk alone. He must either submit to the leadership of Christ or fall under the dominion of Satan.

Deliverance Through the New Birth

Through the new birth—that is, being born again by turning to Christ—we are rescued from Satan's dominion and transferred into Christ's kingdom.

Paul declares this truth in **Colossians 1:13**:

> *"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son."*

Through this deliverance, believers now walk under God's rule—governed by His Word, His Spirit, and His righteousness.

Paul further explains in **Romans 6:14**:

> *"For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace."*

Through grace, the authority of sin is broken, and the believer is free to serve Christ in righteousness and love.

Victory Through Divine Authority

God's rulership destroys the power of sin and unbelief, leading the soul into a life of obedience, freedom, and divine fellowship. There is no middle ground. Every person is either under the influence of darkness or under the dominion of Christ.

The necessity of allegiance is absolute. Only those who are born of the Spirit can walk in victory, for Christ reigns within them as the conquering power over sin, self, and Satan.

This deliverance is complete at the new birth. The believer does not receive part of Christ and then obtain freedom through another Spirit experience. Continuing to resist deception is the faithful expression of the life already received in Jesus Christ.

The Purpose of Temptation — Proving Faith and Revealing Character

Temptation is not designed to make us fall, but to reveal what is within the heart. God allows testing so that faith may be purified, strengthened, and proven genuine.

James explains this clearly in **James 1:2–3**:

> *"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience."*

Temptation and trial expose the reality of faith. Just as fire tests the quality of metal, trials reveal whether trust in God is true or superficial.

Peter confirms this purpose in **1 Peter 1:7**:

> *"That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ."*

Through every testing, God refines His people. Satan may intend to destroy, but God uses the same circumstance to purify and mature the believer.

Two Results of Temptation

Temptation produces one of two outcomes depending on the heart's response:

- If resisted through faith – it strengthens character, deepens trust, and brings glory to God.
- If yielded to – it exposes weakness, leading to repentance or spiritual loss.

The same fire that hardens clay will also purify gold. The difference lies in the substance being tested.

Temptation must also be distinguished from consenting to it. The alternatives described here concern the heart's response: resistance in faith or a yielding to sin. The presence of a test does not make obedience impossible or remove personal responsibility.

The Divine Purpose Revealed

Temptation, therefore, is not simply a conflict between good and evil, it is part of God's educational process. Through it, mankind learns the value of obedience, humility, and dependence upon God.

Paul affirms this in **1 Corinthians 10:13**:

> *"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."*

Every test comes under divine control. God's faithfulness limits the pressure and provides the way of escape. Satan may tempt, but God governs the process and uses it to reveal the strength of genuine love and faith.

Summary — The Necessity of Satan

God is love, and true love requires free choice. Satan's presence provides the alternative that tests love and loyalty. Man depends on God for guidance and cannot direct his own life. Through temptation, faith is tested and proven genuine.

Deliverance comes through the new birth, bringing freedom from Satan's dominion and victory under Christ's rule.

Personal Response

Key Truth

How does Job's example distinguish tested faith from loyalty that depends on comfort?

Personal Reflection

What does God's promised way of escape help you understand about your own response to temptation?

Action Step

Recall a disappointment that tested your loyalty to God. What will you change if you have been serving Him mainly for comfort or blessings rather than because you love Him?

THE ORIGIN AND NATURE OF SATAN

BACK TO CONTENTS

To properly understand the origin of the devil, we must first consider key truths about Creation. The beginning of all things reveals the order of divine purpose and exposes how evil later arose in opposition to God's work.

Who Was the Agent Employed in Creation?

Many readers are puzzled by Genesis chapter 1, which credits both God and the Spirit of God, seeming to suggest more than one divine being involved in Creation. This raises an important question: Who is the actual Creator?

Moses records this in **Genesis 1:1–2**:

> *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."*

These verses reveal God and the Spirit of God active in the beginning. To many, this appears to support the Trinitarian idea of multiple divine persons—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. However, the New Testament brings fuller light, showing that the Old Testament record contains types and shadows—earthly figures pointing to spiritual realities revealed in Christ. The natural account of Creation becomes the foundation for understanding the spiritual creation—the new creation in Christ—and clarifies who the true Creator is.

The origin of the devil must be considered in relation to the Creator of all things. The New Testament identifies that Creator and brings the meaning of God's revelation into focus.

Jesus Christ — The Creator Revealed

The New Testament gives fuller light upon the mystery of Creation. It unveils the spiritual meaning hidden in the Old Testament. The ancient record is more than a history of events. It contains types and shadows—natural figures that point forward to spiritual realities revealed in Christ.

The Gospel of John reveals that Jesus Christ is both God and the Creator spoken of in Genesis chapter 1. This shows that God is not plural in nature, but one divine Being. Christ is the visible expression of the invisible God.

John records this in **John 1:1**:

> *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."*

This verse identifies Jesus, the Word, as both with God and being God. He is not one of several divine persons. He is the one God expressed through His Word. Therefore, the agent of Creation was Jesus Christ—one God revealing Himself through His spoken Word.

Some confusion arises with the next verse, which appears to separate the Word from God.

John 1:2 says:

> *"The same was in the beginning with God."*

This verse does not describe another divine person. It confirms that the Word, who is God, also existed as God's expression. Throughout Scripture, the one God reveals Himself in different ways, yet remains one Being, not many.

The Word was the visible expression of the invisible God. The eternal Spirit manifested Himself through His Word, just as He later appeared in flesh through Jesus Christ.

John continues in **John 1:14**:

> *"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."*

This verse makes the truth clear. The Word, who was God, became flesh. This was not a second person entering a man. It was God Himself taking human form. There is no division of

persons in God—only a difference between His unseen essence and His revealed form in Christ.

The Word becoming flesh was genuine humanity, not an outward disguise. The man Christ Jesus possessed a real human life, while the eternal Spirit of God was revealed through Him. Affirming the one true God must not reduce the Son to a body only or weaken His complete humanity.

Paul confirms this same truth in **Colossians 1:15–16**:

> *"Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him."*

Here Paul describes Jesus Christ as the image of the invisible God. Through Him, all things were created. The unseen God was revealed through the visible person of Jesus Christ. He is not a representative of God. He is God Himself revealed to mankind.

The Spirit of God

The term *"Spirit of God"* does not refer to a second being or to a separate part of God. It describes God Himself working and revealing His power. The Spirit of God is a way of expressing God in action—His presence, power and activity in the world and among His creation.

Jesus Created Satan

Not only is Jesus the visible expression of the invisible God, but Paul also declares Him to be the Creator of all things, both visible and invisible. This includes the entire spiritual realm. Therefore, it is clear that every spiritual being—including Satan—was created by God.

Satan is a created spirit, not an eternal or equal power. He exists only because God created him, and therefore he must fit within God's divine plan and purpose. Satan is a spirit, but not equal with God. He exists only because God created him, and therefore he must form part of the plan and purposes of God.

Summary — The Origin of Satan

Creation began with one God, not a plurality of beings. The Spirit of God in **Genesis 1:2** refers to God Himself in action, not a separate person. The New Testament reveals Jesus Christ as the Creator. He is the visible expression of the invisible God, the Word made flesh.

All things were created by Him and for Him—both visible and invisible (**Colossians 1:16**). Satan is a created spirit, not an equal or rival to God. He exists only by God's creative will and therefore fulfils a role within God's larger purpose.

The Nature of Satan's Original Creation

The common belief describes Satan as a holy angel who later rebelled and fell from an exalted position. We must examine the account Scripture gives of his nature from the beginning.

Jesus' Description of the Devil's Nature

Jesus spoke of both the origin and nature of Satan in the Gospel of John.

He declares this in **John 8:44**:

> *"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."*

The word *"beginning"* is from the Greek term ARCHĒ, meaning origin or first estate. According to Thayer's Lexicon, it means *"the beginning of the thing spoken of."* In this case, it refers to the beginning of Satan's existence.

From the start, his nature was corrupt. Jesus clearly stated that the devil was a murderer from the beginning. This describes his inherent nature, not a later fall or change in character.

Importantly, Jesus did not say the devil became a murderer or that he was once righteous. Instead, He said *"from the beginning."* This means the devil's nature as a deceiver and destroyer was present from his origin. This beginning refers to the start of the devil's existence, not to the beginning of the world or to a supposed angelic rebellion.

John's Confirmation

John confirms the same truth in **1 John 3:8**:

> *"He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil."*

The word *"beginning"* here is the same Greek word ARCHĒ used in **John 8:44**. In both verses, it means *"origin"* or *"first estate."*

This shows that Satan's sin and corruption were present from his origin. He did not fall from a former position of holiness. He was created as the adversary—the deceiver and opposer of truth—from the beginning of his existence.

God's Sovereign Purpose

Isaiah records the words of the Lord in **Isaiah 45:7**:

> *"I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things."*

Here, God declares His absolute sovereignty. Even Satan, created as an instrument of evil, ultimately serves God's greater purpose—to provide mankind with the power of choice.

The Tempter

Matthew gives Satan another title in **Matthew 4:3**:

> *"And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread."*

From the beginning, Satan's work has been to tempt and oppose, providing mankind with opportunities to demonstrate faith and loyalty to God.

The Lord God Omnipotent

We must remember several vital truths about God:

- "The Lord God omnipotent reigneth" (**Revelation 19:6**) — He has all power and authority.
- His understanding is infinite (**Psalm 147:5**).
- He knows the end from the beginning (**Isaiah 46:10**).

These truths assure us that everything unfolds within God's sovereign plan.

God's Eternal Plan of Redemption

Before creating any being, God in His infinite foreknowledge knew all that would take place. In His eternal wisdom, He designed a plan for man's redemption.

Peter describes this in **1 Peter 1:19–20**:

> *"But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you."*

This shows that Jesus Christ was chosen before the world began to be the Redeemer. God's plan of salvation was not a reaction to sin but a foreordained purpose—perfectly aligned with His eternal knowledge and sovereignty.

The plan of redemption therefore does not depend upon Satan becoming stronger than God. The Creator knew the need and provided the Redeemer. The adversary is considered within that purpose, while salvation and every spiritual blessing are found in Jesus Christ.

Summary — The Nature of Satan's Original Creation

Satan was never a holy angel who fell. Jesus said he was *"a murderer from the beginning"* (**John 8:44**). The Greek word ARCHĒ means origin or first estate. Both **John 8:44** and **1 John 3:8** show that Satan's sin existed from his creation.

He was created as the adversary—the deceiver and opposer of truth from the start. God is sovereign over all. Even Satan, created as an instrument of evil, serves God's purpose in giving mankind the power of choice (**Isaiah 45:7**). Satan is the tempter (**Matthew 4:3**), used by God to test and reveal human loyalty.

God's plan of redemption was eternal. Before creation, Christ was foreordained to be the Redeemer (**1 Peter 1:19–20**).

Personal Response

Key Truth

How do Christ's creative authority and Satan's nature from the beginning establish the difference between Creator and adversary?

Personal Reflection

What does God's prepared redemption mean for your fear that evil could defeat His purpose?

Action Step

When evil appears powerful, what will you remember about Jesus Christ as Creator? How will that truth change the way you respond to fear or discouragement?

WHAT KIND OF BEING IS SATAN?

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Satan is not a human creature with a body. Nowhere in Scripture is he described as the world often imagines him—with horns, a red suit, a tail, and a pitchfork. These are human inventions, not biblical truths.

The Bible gives no physical description of Satan because he is a spirit being. His power lies in deception, influence, and temptation, not in physical strength or form.

Satan is a Spirit

At times, Satan may work through physical forms or human instruments to advance his deceptions. Yet in himself, he remains a spirit being.

Paul describes him clearly in **Ephesians 2:2**:

> *"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience."*

Here, Satan is called *"the spirit that works in the children of disobedience."* This reveals that his operations are spiritual in nature, working invisibly through influence, not by physical presence. Paul also explained how Satan works through false teachers and prophets as instruments of deception.

He writes in **2 Corinthians 11:14–15**:

> *"And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."*

This shows that Satan disguises himself as something good to deceive. He works through false ministries that appear righteous, spreading error under the appearance of truth. Thus, Satan is a spirit being of deception, influencing the world through false teaching, false ministers, and false religion.

Satan's Activity Throughout the World

Satan's influence operates in many places at once. This does not make his presence equal to God's or give him unlimited power. His activity remains created, subordinate and under divine authority.

Just as the Holy Spirit indwells and directs believers throughout the world, Satan's spirit works globally. If he could act only in one place at a time, he could tempt only one person at once—which is clearly not the case.

Consider these questions: While Satan was working on Job, was the rest of the world unaffected? While Christ was tempted in the wilderness (Matthew chapter 4), was no one else under his influence? The answer to both is no. Satan's work is global and continuous.

Job describes this clearly in **Job 1:7**:

> *"And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it."*

This verse shows that Satan's sphere of operation covers all of humanity. He moves freely, working in many places and influencing countless lives at the same time.

When Job was tempted, the world was not left untouched. Likewise, while Christ was tempted, Satan's power continued elsewhere. His operations have never been limited to one person or place.

In this way, Satan's activity may be compared to the Holy Spirit's influence. Just as the Spirit indwells believers everywhere, Satan's spirit works in the disobedient across the world. He is not divine, yet as a spirit being, he possesses supernatural ability to operate globally, deceiving and influencing mankind everywhere.

Personal Response

Key Truth

Why does Satan's activity in many places not make him divine or equal to God?

Personal Reflection

What do the limits on Satan's power mean for the attention you give frightening accounts?

Action Step

If dramatic stories about Satan occupy your attention, what will you do to give greater attention to Jesus Christ and the truth of His Word?

Satan Has a Kingdom

God is a God of order. His creation, from the smallest atom to the greatest galaxy, functions in perfect harmony and arrangement.

Paul reminds us in **1 Corinthians 14:40**:

> *"Let all things be done decently and in order."*

Just as God's kingdom is orderly, so is Satan's. He is not a being of chaos but rules over an organised kingdom.

Jesus declares this truth in **Matthew 12:26**:

> *"And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?"*

Here, Jesus clearly states that Satan has a kingdom. A kingdom requires structure, rank, and authority.

Paul refers to him in **2 Corinthians 4:4**:

> *"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."*

Jesus also called him *"the prince of this world."*

John records this in **John 12:31**:

> *"Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out."*

Again in **John 14:30**:

> *"Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me."*

And once more in **John 16:11**:

> *"Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged."*

The word *"prince"* comes from the Greek term ARCHON, meaning first in rank or ruler. If he is first in rank, it follows that other ranks exist beneath him.

Paul describes this hierarchy in **Ephesians 6:12**:

> *"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."*

This shows that Satan's kingdom is structured and organised, made up of various ranks of spiritual power working under his authority. This shows a chain of command within Satan's kingdom:

Rank	Description	Scripture Reference
Satan	*"The god of this world,"* first in rank	**2 Corinthians 4:4**
Prince of devils	ARCHON — ruler over other spirits	**Matthew 12:24**
Principalities	Ruling spiritual powers	**Ephesians 6:12**
Powers	Authorities exercising control	**Ephesians 6:12**
Rulers of darkness	Controllers of worldly evil	**Ephesians 6:12**
Wicked spirits	Demonic agencies in unseen realms	**Ephesians 6:12**

Thus, Satan's kingdom is highly organised, operating with order, rank, and agencies of evil. Before we take a closer look at demons and devils within Satan's ranks, we must pause to recognise a vital truth—one that is central to our victory in Christ.

Summary — What Kind of Being Is Satan?

Satan is a spirit being, not a physical creature. His power lies in deception, influence, and temptation—not in bodily form. He works invisibly, influencing minds and hearts through false teaching, false ministers, and false religion (**Ephesians 2:2**; **2 Corinthians 11:14–15**).

Satan's presence is global. As a spirit, he operates in many places at once, deceiving and tempting mankind everywhere (**Job 1:7**). He rules over an organised kingdom with order, rank, and authority (**Matthew 12:26**; **Ephesians 6:12**). His kingdom functions under structure, with principalities, powers, and wicked spirits serving under his command.

Personal Response

Key Truth

How does an organised spiritual kingdom differ from a physical picture of Satan?

Personal Reflection

What draws your attention first in religious ministry: titles and displays or faithfulness to God's Word?

Action Step

Have you trusted a religious title or impressive display without examining the teaching? What will you now test by the Bible, and how will you respond to what you find?

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD OVER EVIL SPIRITS

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Though Satan rules over an organised kingdom, he is still a created being. God remains the ultimate Sovereign. Scripture shows that even evil spirits are subject to God's control, decision, and purpose.

The writer of Samuel records this in **1 Samuel 16:14**:

> *"But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him."*

Here the Lord allowed an evil spirit to trouble King Saul. This spirit was not independent but acted under God's permission and direction.

A vision of the divine throne appears in **1 Kings 22:20–23**:

> *"And the LORD said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him. And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so. Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil concerning thee."*

In this account, the Lord sent a lying spirit to accomplish His judgement upon King Ahab. Even this spirit fulfilled God's sovereign purpose.

Christ's Authority Over Evil Spirits

The same truth appears in the New Testament. Evil spirits were subject to the authority of Christ. Before Christ came, demonic powers had greater freedom in the lives of men.

Matthew records this in **Matthew 4:16**:

> *"The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up."*

With the advent of Christ, everything changed. His coming brought light, exposing and overcoming the works of darkness. From the very beginning of His public ministry, Jesus confronted demonic power.

Matthew records this in **Matthew 4:24**:

> *"And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them."*

Casting out devils was a central part of His work. It demonstrated His divine authority and revealed the presence of God's kingdom among men. When Jesus commissioned the twelve, this same authority was included.

Matthew 10:1 says:

> *"And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease."*

Later, He sent out the seventy, who returned with joyful testimony of that power.

Luke 10:17 says:

> *"And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name."*

This shows that Christ's name represents divine authority, and through it, every force of darkness must submit.

The Great Commission

Before His ascension, Jesus confirmed that this power would not end with the apostles, but would continue through all believers.

Mark records this in **Mark 16:17**:

> *"And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues."*

This shows that the authority to cast out devils was not a temporary provision. The Great Commission carries a perpetual quality, valid in every generation of the Church. The book of Acts provides repeated examples of this authority in action.

Acts 5:16 says:

> *"There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one."*

Acts 8:7 adds:

> *"For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed."*

Acts 16:16–18 describes Paul casting the spirit of divination out of a young woman. The early Church regarded this ministry as a regular part of the Gospel work, continuing the same authority that Christ had first exercised.

Once again, God's sovereignty is clear. No evil spirit operates outside His authority. Every power remains subject to His will and serves His eternal purpose.

Summary — The Sovereignty of God Over Evil Spirits

Satan is a created being and remains subject to God's supreme authority. Evil spirits act only by God's permission, never independently (**1 Samuel 16:14**). God used a lying spirit to carry out His judgement on King Ahab (**1 Kings 22:20–23**). Jesus exercised full authority over unclean spirits, and they obeyed Him (**Mark 1:27**).

Even devils are subject to Christ's name and power (**Luke 10:17**). No evil spirit operates outside God's will. All serve His sovereign purpose.

The authority belongs to Jesus Christ, not to the personality of the messenger. His servants minister in His name because they depend upon Him. The accounts direct confidence to the Lord who delivers, rather than to human prestige or a method presented as possessing power in itself.

Personal Response

Key Truth

How do Saul, Ahab and Christ's ministry show that evil spirits remain under divine authority?

Personal Reflection

What does authority belonging to Christ mean for the way you regard a powerful human minister?

Action Step

When a minister helps someone, how will you speak so that Jesus Christ receives the honour? Identify any attitude of dependence on a human personality that needs correcting.

DEVILS, DEMONS AND SPIRITS

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When studying the agencies of Satan, it is essential to use Scriptural terms accurately. The Greek New Testament uses the words DAIMONION and DAIMONIZOMAI, meaning demon and to be under the power of a demon. The King James translators chose to render these words as devil and devils, rather than demon or demons, because in their time the term demon carried

pagan and mythological associations. Later English versions reintroduced demon and demons to reflect the original Greek terms more closely.

In the KJV, the Bible therefore uses devils or spirits to describe evil beings. In the Gospels, the term devils appears most often; In the Epistles, the word spirits is more common.

Why the Difference?

The difference in wording reflects the audiences being addressed.

- "Devils" was familiar among the Jews, who held long-standing traditions about unclean spirits.
- "Spirits" was more easily understood by Gentile readers, to whom Paul and others wrote.

Thus, while both terms describe the same kind of evil beings, the terminology reflects context and audience, not difference in nature.

The Working of Evil Spirits

To understand how evil spirits operate, we must first understand the nature of man.

Man Is Spirit, Soul, and Body

Paul explains this clearly in **1 Thessalonians 5:23**:

> *"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

This verse shows that man is made of three distinct parts:

- Spirit – gives man God-consciousness.
- Soul – involves mind, will, and emotions.
- Body – connects man to the physical world.

Paul further explains this in **1 Corinthians 2:11**:

> *"For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God."*

The spirit of man is the seat of God-consciousness. For the saved person, the Spirit of God dwells within, giving strength to live a godly life. For the unsaved person, the human spirit remains open to satanic control through influence or possession by evil spirits.

How Spirits Influence

Satan appeals to the human spirit through temptation, and when a person yields to that appeal, they open themselves to spiritual influence or possession. The kind of spirit that gains control depends on the nature of the temptation, whether lust, pride, lying, violence, or other forms of sin. Thus, evil spirits work by presenting appeals, and if these appeals are accepted, the spirit gains power to influence or even possess the person who yields.

The Greek Words for "Devils"

In the King James Bible, the English word *"devils"* appears frequently in the Gospels. However, in the Greek wording, two closely related words are used. These terms describe both the condition of demon possession and the beings that cause it. Understanding the difference helps us see how the Bible distinguishes between a person under demonic influence and the spirits themselves that operate through deception and control.

DAIMONIZOMAI

- Meaning – To be under the power or control of a demon.
- Usage – Describes the state or condition of being possessed or influenced by an evil spirit.
- Examples – **Matthew 4:24; 8:16**, 28, 33; **Mark 1:32**.

In these verses, the word is used when individuals were *"possessed with devils"*—that is, under the control or oppression of demonic power, though this does not always indicate full possession, as it can also refer to various degrees of spiritual influence or affliction.

Personal Response

Key Truth

How does the teaching about spiritual influence distinguish an evil spirit from the person it influences?

Personal Reflection

What does the distinction between spiritual influence and personal responsibility mean for the way you explain a temptation?

Action Step

Recall a temptation for which you blamed an evil influence. What responsibility must you accept for your choice, and what will you do differently?

DAIMONION

- Meaning – A demonic being, or spirit.
- Usage – Refers to the entity itself—the spirit being that causes oppression, deception, or possession.
- Examples – **Matthew 7:22; 9:34**; 10:8; **Mark 1:34**.

This term focuses on the personal existence of these spirits, showing that they are real spiritual entities—not symbolic ideas or mere forces—but intelligent and active beings working under Satan's authority to deceive and destroy. Together, these two Greek words reveal a complete picture of demonic activity in Scripture: DAIMONIZOMAI describes the experience of being under demonic influence or possession. DAIMONION identifies the actual beings or spirits that exert that influence. This distinction helps us read the Gospels accurately, for when the Bible says someone was *"possessed with devils,"* it describes the condition (DAIMONIZOMAI) caused by the presence of evil spirits (DAIMONION), reminding us that the battle between light and darkness is not physical but spiritual.

Our defence lies not in human strength, but in the power and authority of Christ, who came to destroy the works of the devil. John declares in **1 John 3:8**:

> *"He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil."*

This shows that Christ's mission was one of complete triumph over sin and deception. Through His Spirit, believers share in that victory, standing firm not by their own might, but by the indwelling power of the Son of God.

Summary — Devils, Demons, and Spirits

The King James Bible never uses the words *"demon"* or *"demons."* It uses *"devils"* and *"spirits."* *"Devils"* appears mainly in the Gospels, while *"spirits"* is used in the Epistles, reflecting Jewish and Gentile audiences.

Man is spirit, soul, and body (**1 Thessalonians 5:23**). The spirit gives God-consciousness, the soul holds mind and emotions, and the body connects to the world. God's Spirit dwells within the saved person, giving power for godly living. The unsaved person remains open to satanic influence or possession.

Evil spirits influence through temptation, gaining control when a person yields to sin. Two Greek words describe demonic activity. DAIMONIZOMAI concerns being under demonic influence or possession. DAIMONION refers to the demonic spirits themselves.

These terms show that the conflict is spiritual, not physical, and that victory is found only in Christ's power and authority (**1 John 3:8**). These distinctions prevent the language of spirits from being reduced to a label for ideas alone. The teaching concerns actual spiritual beings and their influence through human lives. At the same time, the human instrument remains responsible for the response made to truth and temptation.

Personal Response

Key Truth

Why must the spirit itself be distinguished from the condition described by DAIMONIZOMAI?

Personal Reflection

What does Christ's authority mean for the way you speak about someone under spiritual oppression?

Action Step

Think of someone suffering spiritual oppression. How will you show compassion, pray or offer help without shaming that person or claiming power apart from Christ?

THE INDWELLING OF SPIRITS AND THEIR WORK THROUGH HUMANITY

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The contrast here concerns accountable people and their response to truth. It must not be used to deny the original spiritual innocence of children or to confuse natural birth with the

new birth after sin. Those who have sinned need deliverance through Jesus Christ; those born again possess His Spirit and live under His authority.

Every person's spirit is governed by a greater spiritual power—either the Spirit of God or a devilish spirit.

John declares this truth in **1 John 4:4**:

> *"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."*

This verse reveals that there are only two spiritual realities; either the Spirit of God dwells within a person, or a spirit of Satan does; there is no neutral ground.

Paul explains this clearly in **Romans 6:16**:

> *"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"*

The key word is yielding, for whoever we yield ourselves to—God or Satan—becomes our master.

Multiple Spirits in One Person

The Bible shows that some individuals were influenced by multiple spirits at once.

Luke records this about Mary Magdalene in **Luke 8:2**:

> *"And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils,"*

This reveals that *"spirits"* and *"devils"* are used interchangeably, and that a person may yield to more than one evil spirit at the same time. The most striking example is the man called Legion.

Mark records his words in **Mark 5:9**:

> *"And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many."*

Luke adds further detail in **Luke 8:30**:

> *"And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him."*

A Roman legion contained about six thousand soldiers, and when the spirits left the man, they entered into about two thousand swine.

Mark describes this in **Mark 5:13**:

> *"And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea."*

This shows that spirits are not confined by space or size; they are not physical beings but spiritual powers with the ability to influence, control, and dominate.

Personal Response

Key Truth

How do Mary Magdalene and Legion show Christ's authority over multiple evil spirits?

Personal Reflection

What feelings arise when someone appears beyond help, and what does that reveal about your confidence in Christ?

Action Step

Is there someone whose difficulty has seemed too great for Jesus Christ to overcome? How will you change your words, prayers or support in the light of His authority?

Spirits Desire Inhabitation

Evil spirits do not wish to remain without influence; their design is to inhabit and control human lives.

Paul warns of this in **1 Timothy 4:1**:

> *"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils."*

These seducing spirits cause people to depart from truth, often working through human instruments.

John writes of this in **1 John 2:26**:

> *"These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you."*

What begins as the influence of seducing spirits soon becomes the action of seducing people.

John continues this thought in **1 John 4:1**:

> *"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."*

Here John begins with *"spirits"* but ends with *"false prophets"*; this shows that spirits pick up bodies, manifesting their work through people who yield to them. You can see how dangerous false doctrines are, and how vital it is to be a Berean—testing every teaching by the Word of God.

The Berean Example

Luke commends the believers in Berea for their spiritual diligence in **Acts 17:11**:

> *"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."*

The Bereans did not accept teaching blindly. They received the Word with open hearts, yet tested every message by the Scriptures. This is the safeguard for every believer today—to measure every doctrine, vision, or revelation against the unchanging truth of God's Word.

Summary — The Indwelling of Spirits

Every person is ruled by one of two powers — the Spirit of God or the spirit of Satan. Yielding determines mastery — the one we yield to becomes our master. Scripture gives examples of people influenced by multiple evil spirits. Seven devils were cast out of Mary Magdalene.

The man called Legion was possessed by many unclean spirits. Evil spirits seek to inhabit and control, working through those who open themselves to their influence. Believers must be discerning, testing every teaching by the Word of God, just as the Bereans did.

The Devil Works Through Humanity

The devil works through human beings to accomplish his purposes in the earth, just as God works through those who yield to His Spirit to advance His own. Whom we are used by is determined by whom we choose to serve.

The devil has never been human, nor has he ever possessed a fleshly body. Neither have any of his demonic spirits. The only way he can act through flesh is by inhabiting or influencing those who reject God and choose to serve him. We see this truth confirmed throughout Scripture: **John 13:2** shows that the devil *"put into the heart of Judas Iscariot"* to betray Christ.

Acts 5:3 reveals how Satan *"filled the heart of Ananias"* to lie to the Holy Ghost. **Ephesians 2:2** describes him as *"the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience."* **Matthew 16:23** records Jesus saying to Peter, *"Get thee behind me, Satan,"* showing that Satan spoke through Peter's lips to oppose the truth.

These verses make it clear that the devil works through human hearts and minds, not by possessing a physical body of his own. His influence is spiritual, operating wherever the truth is resisted and self-will is allowed to rule.

Personal Response

Key Truth

How does yielding explain spiritual influence without removing human responsibility?

Personal Reflection

What does the Bereans' willingness to search the Bible mean for your trust in a respected teacher?

Action Step

Choose one statement from a respected teacher that you have not checked. How will you examine it in the Bible, and how will you respond respectfully if it proves wrong?

THE DESTINY OF SATAN

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We understand now that Satan was created, and that he is a spirit being with a defined role in the plan of God and the redemption of mankind.

- In time, he serves as God's agent, presenting temptation and testing to give man a choice between obedience and disobedience.
- However, when time ceases and is no more, Satan will continue to serve God—this time as a tormentor.

Nowhere in Scripture does it teach that the devil himself will be tormented. Rather, he will fulfil the role of tormentor, serving as an instrument of divine judgement even beyond the limits of time. This shows that Satan's purpose, though evil in appearance, remains under God's sovereign control, accomplishing His will in every age.

Revelation 20:10 — The System, the Spirit and the People

Revelation 20 is part of the prophetic vision given to John. In this vision, God uses pictures and scenes to reveal spiritual truths. John is recording what he was shown, and chapter 20 continues that account.

John wrote in **Revelation 1:1**:

> *"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John."*

The word *"signified"* introduces the revelation communicated through signs. John also expressly calls what he saw *"the vision"*.

John wrote in **Revelation 9:17**:

> *"And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone."*

John does not leave this prophetic setting when he reaches chapter 20. He continues describing what he was shown in the vision.

John wrote in **Revelation 20:1**:

> *"And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand."*

The words *"And I saw"* continue John's account of the vision. **Revelation 20:10** must therefore be read as part of that symbolic revelation, not as a separate literal account. Within this setting, we must distinguish the religious system, the spirit motivating that system and the people through whom that spirit operates.

John wrote in **Revelation 20:10**:

> *"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."*

Here the devil symbolises the adversarial power of paganism, particularly the pagan Roman religious system and the deceptive influence working through it. The beast represents papalism, and the false prophet represents Protestantism. These are religious powers opposing Jesus Christ and His truth, not three literal creatures.

The connection with the dragon appears earlier in **Revelation 20:2**:

> *"And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,"*

The name given to a prophetic symbol must not make us forget what that symbol represents. The dragon portrays a religious power through which Satan works; it is not a description of Satan's personal appearance. **Revelation 16:13–14** likewise distinguishes the dragon, beast and false prophet from the unclean spirits working through them.

The system is the organised expression of false religion. The spirit is the deceptive power motivating it. The people are those who receive, practise and defend its teaching. These are closely connected, but they are not interchangeable.

Personal Response

Key Truth

Why must the religious system, its motivating spirit and its people be distinguished in Revelation 20?

Personal Reflection

What does distinguishing a system, its spirit and its people help you reconsider about an explanation of judgement you have repeated?

Action Step

Before discussing Revelation 20, how will you distinguish a religious system, its motivating spirit and the people involved? What mistaken claim or harsh judgement might you need to correct?

The Torment of Those Who Resist Truth

A religious system has no consciousness of its own and cannot experience suffering as a person does. Yet the people who embrace and defend that system can experience the consequences of God's judgement upon its false teaching. The vision describes that judgement through the symbolic powers with which they are identified.

Jeremiah wrote in **Jeremiah 23:29**:

> *"Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?"*

During the Gospel Day, the fire represents God's Word exposing and judging falsehood. Brimstone represents His judgement expressed through the saints who receive His Word and live according to it. Their witness is not independent human authority; Jesus Christ dwells within them, and His truth is expressed through their words and conduct.

People who resist that truth can experience conviction, distress and opposition as their false confidence is exposed. What they have believed and defended is brought under judgement. The torment is experienced by people who maintain the deception, not by a religious organisation as though it were a conscious individual.

The spirit motivating the system is exposed through the truth that condemns its teaching. This does not turn the spirit, the institution and the human instrument into one being. The distinction explains how judgement upon a religious power has consequences for the people through whom it operates.

The Lake of Fire and Enduring Judgement

Revelation 19:20 places the beast and false prophet in the lake of fire before the devil joins them in **Revelation 20:10**. The same symbolic setting must govern both descriptions. The presence of religious systems in the vision does not make them physical creatures being burned.

John wrote in **Revelation 19:20**:

> *"And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone."*

John also places death and hell in the same lake. Death is not a physical creature that can suffer burns; the vision uses personification to portray divine judgement.

John wrote in **Revelation 20:14**:

> *"And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death."*

The expression *"for ever and ever"* emphasises the enduring nature of God's judgement. It does not change the religious symbols into literal individuals. Neither does the symbolic language remove personal accountability or weaken the seriousness of everlasting punishment.

Revelation 20:10 therefore portrays the deceptive power of paganism joining the other powers of false religion under God's judgement. The system is condemned, its motivating spirit is exposed, and the people who uphold its deception face the consequences of resisting truth. The verse must not be turned into a literal account of Satan personally suffering bodily flames while the beast and false prophet are still understood symbolically.

Everlasting Punishment

Some lift verses out of context to teach that hell—and therefore punishment—are reserved for the devil and his angels.

However, such interpretations must be tested by examining the Scriptures in the light of God's Word, where we lay, as Isaiah teaches in **Isaiah 28:13**:

> *"But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken."*

This careful comparison ensures harmony and accuracy, rather than drawing conclusions from isolated verses without proper spiritual understanding.

Prepared For the Devil and His Angels

It is often assumed from Jesus' words in Matthew 25 that the devil will be tormented in hell.

Matthew records this in **Matthew 25:41**:

> *"Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."*

However, notice what is absent in this verse—nothing is said about torments or punishment being inflicted on the devil and his angels. When the Scripture says, *"prepared for the devil and his angels,"* it simply means that they were assigned a role in that place.

This agrees with the truth expressed in **2 Peter 3:9**:

> *"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."*

If the Lord had His way, no one would be in hell but its keepers.

Yet, in His infinite foreknowledge, He knew the response of many hearts. Jesus warns of this in **Matthew 7:13**:

> *"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:"*

In the plan of God, punishment had to be incorporated as part of divine justice. This is confirmed in **Matthew 25:46**:

> *"And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."*

For there to be punishment, there must be those who administer it. In this role, Satan and his angels function as agents of that punishment, not as its victims.

Torment in the Synoptic Gospels

Some lift the accounts in the Synoptic Gospels—particularly the story of Legion found in Matthew, Mark, and Luke—and use them to teach that devils and demons fear torment. Let us now consider these records carefully to understand what is truly being said, and whether such interpretations are supported by Scripture.

Matthew records the event in **Matthew 8:28–29**:

> *"And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way. And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?"*

Mark gives his account in **Mark 5:6–7**:

> *"But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him, And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not."*

Luke also records this moment in **Luke 8:27–28**:

> *"And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not."*

These verses clearly reveal the devils' recognition of Christ's authority, but they do not teach that the spirits feared eternal torment. Rather, they acknowledged His power to restrict or remove their activity *"before the time"* appointed by God.

Mark and Luke's Accounts

It is evident that both Mark and Luke describe the same man in this encounter. *"A man"* (**Mark 5:2**) *"A certain man"* (**Luke 8:27**) In both records, when the Scripture says, *"When he saw Jesus,"* it is referring to the man, using singular language.

Mark records the man's cry in **Mark 5:7**:

> *"And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not."*

All of this was spoken in the singular form—this was the man speaking, not the devils. Later in the account, Mark records a further exchange.

Mark continues in **Mark 5:9**:

> *"And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many."*

When the devils spoke, they said *"we"*; but when the man spoke, he said *"I"* or *"me."* This distinction shows that it was the man himself who feared torment, not the devils within him. The evil spirits expressed their presence only after Jesus addressed them directly.

Matthew's Account

In Matthew's record of the event, there is a clear difference: two men were possessed with devils, not one.

Matthew writes in **Matthew 8:28**:

> *"And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way."*

Then observe the next verse and note carefully who cried out.

Matthew continues in **Matthew 8:29**:

> *"And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?"*

Who cried out? It was not the devils, but the two possessed men. They were the ones who feared future torment. This becomes even clearer in the following verse.

Matthew 8:31 says:

> *"So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine."*

Here, the noun *"devils"* is reintroduced because the earlier *"they"* in verse 29 refers back to the two possessed men mentioned in verse 28. The structure of Matthew's account makes it unmistakable: the fear of torment belonged to the men, not to the devils.

Satan's Destiny: Tormentor

It should now be evident that Satan serves two purposes in the plan of God:

- In time: he serves as the tempter.
- In eternity: he will serve as the tormentor.

This twofold role is clearly illustrated in the Scriptures.

In Time: The Tempter

Paul warns of this danger in **1 Thessalonians 3:5**:

> *"For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain."*

In time, Satan acts as the tempter, seeking to weaken faith, hinder obedience, and produce unbelief in the hearts of men.

In Eternity: The Tormentor

This second role is illustrated in the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant, where Jesus describes the fate of the unmerciful man.

Matthew records this in **Matthew 18:34**:

> *"And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him."*

Jesus then applies this lesson in **Matthew 18:35**:

> *"So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses."*

These verses show that in eternity, Satan will serve as the tormentor, fulfilling a role in God's eternal judgement, just as he fulfils a role in God's redemptive plan during time. The Scriptures make this pattern plain—Satan continues to serve a purpose: first as a tempter in time, and later as a tormentor in eternity.

The Justice of God

It would be most unjust to create a being for a specific purpose, have him perform that purpose, and then torment him for doing what he was created to do.

The prophet declares in **Isaiah 45:21**:

> *"Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me."*

The Scriptures do not teach that Satan will be tormented, but that he will be the tormentor. Just as he has served as God's agent in this time world, so shall he continue in eternity, fulfilling the role for which he was created—under the authority of a just and righteous God.

Summary: The Destiny of Satan

Satan was created by God with a defined role in His eternal plan—nothing in his work lies outside divine purpose. In time, he serves as the tempter, testing and trying mankind to reveal the heart's true allegiance. In eternity, he will serve as the tormentor, acting as an instrument of divine justice upon the unrepentant. The Scriptures show that Satan himself is not the object of torment, but the one through whom punishment is administered.

Through every age, God remains sovereign and just, using even Satan's activity to accomplish His perfect will.

Personal Response

Key Truth

How does the distinction between tempter in time and tormentor in eternity relate to God's authority and justice?

Personal Reflection

What does the seriousness of everlasting judgement mean for your willingness to forgive now?

Action Step

Think of someone you have been unwilling to forgive. What resentment must you acknowledge, and how will you respond to Jesus' instruction on forgiveness?

VICTORY THROUGH CHRIST — FAITH WHICH WORKS BY LOVE

BACK TO CONTENTS

We can now see clearly the origin, nature, operation, and destiny of the devil. Some may question why such a study is necessary. Yet, if we accept the false idea that the devil was once an angel who fell, the natural conclusion would be that we cannot live victoriously, since evil would then appear stronger than divine purpose.

The Truth Is: We Can Be Victorious

Paul declares this in **1 Corinthians 15:57**:

> *"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Through Christ's indwelling Spirit, believers can live in continual victory over sin, deception, and every work of darkness. The spirit behind the false teaching of a fallen angel is the spirit of unbelief—the same unclean spirit described in the book of Revelation.

John records the vision in **Revelation 16:13**:

> *"And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet."*

According to this verse:

- The dragon represents paganism.
- The beast represents Roman Catholicism.
- The false prophet represents Protestantism.

These are symbolically described as *"unclean spirits like frogs,"* and as the following verse explains, they are *"spirits of devils."* In other words, these religious powers are inspired by Satan to deceive, causing people to doubt and disbelieve the Word of God.

The "Frog-like" Spirit

People who possess a *"frog-like"* spirit are easily recognised by their unstable and noisy profession. They show the following traits:

- They make much noise, speaking loudly of their religion but lacking spiritual depth.
- They claim to love Jesus, yet also love the world, showing divided affection.
- They are unstable, believing one thing today and something different tomorrow.
- They are not firm in doctrinal truth, constantly shifting their stance to suit convenience.

In short, such people flip-flop in faith, demonstrating a spirit of unbelief and confusion, not the spirit of steadfast confidence in the truth of God's Word. These represent Babylon, the confused religious system examined more fully in the module Babylon Unveiled. For those who are truly born again, one vital truth must be remembered: Satan's chief weapon is to cause you to doubt the Word of God.

The Unchanging Tactic of the Enemy

Though Satan's methods take on different forms throughout history, at their core they remain the same. From Eden to this present day, his strategy has always been to undermine faith by weakening love. The Bible reveals that unbelief is not simply an intellectual issue, but a spiritual weapon designed to draw the heart away from Christ.

From the Beginning: A Test of Love

From the very beginning, the working of Satan has been one of subtle cunning, symbolised by the serpent in the Garden of Eden. The temptation in Eden was, at its heart, a test of love. Throughout history, this test has remained constant. The spirit of unbelief always attacks our love for Jesus Christ.

Many measure their Christian life only by what sins they avoid, not realising that the deeper issue is not simply sin, but the measure of their love for Christ. When Jesus spoke to the Ephesian congregation, His concern was not with their outward conduct but with their inward affection.

John records His words in **Revelation 2:4**:

> *"Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love."*

This reveals that losing love leads to losing faith. When love weakens, spiritual life begins to fade.

Jesus also warned of this in **Matthew 24:12**:

> *"And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold."*

The tactic of the enemy has never changed. Unbelief seeks to cool love, for love is the fire that keeps faith burning, obedience sincere, and the Christian walk steadfast.

Victory Through Willing Obedience

Many have been overcome by the spirit of unbelief during the Gospel Day, and especially in this present time. Yet this need not be so, if we will follow the counsel given through Isaiah.

Isaiah declares in **Isaiah 1:19**:

> *"If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land."*

True obedience is not mere outward compliance or religious duty. It must spring from a willing heart motivated by love. The only obedience that pleases God is that which is freely given and inspired by love for Jesus Christ.

Jesus confirmed this truth in **John 14:15**:

> *"If ye love me, keep my commandments."*

It is not simply what we do, but why we do it that matters before God. The intention of the heart is of greatest importance to Him.

Paul makes this principle unmistakably clear in **Galatians 5:6**:

> *"For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love."*

Faith, in its simplest form, is to believe the words of God and act accordingly. Only as we both believe and obey do we come to understand God's reasons and purposes, both in our personal lives and within His kingdom.

Love-motivated obedience does not earn the indwelling Christ or complete salvation. His life has already been received at the new birth, and His love governs the believer's willing response. The call is to walk faithfully in that life, not to produce spiritual life through outward performance.

Personal Response

Key Truth

Why does faith working by love require more than outward religious conduct?

Personal Reflection

What does Christ's warning about first love lead you to consider about your motives when obeying Him?

Action Step

Consider a time when you obeyed or served mainly from duty, fear or the desire for praise. What needs to change so your conduct expresses Christ's love within?

CONCLUSION: SATAN'S ROLE UNDER GOD'S AUTHORITY

BACK TO CONTENTS

This completes the Exposing the Myth of Satan's Fall series by revealing that Satan is not an independent or self-existent power, but a created being under God's authority. His role as the tempter belongs to this present world, while his service as the tormentor continues in eternity under God's sovereign rule. From Scripture, we learn that:

- Satan is a created being, not self-existent nor divine. He was never a fallen angel, but was made by God to fulfil a purpose within the moral order of creation.

- His existence serves divine purpose, providing the necessary contrast for free will and the proving of love and faith.
- He operates only under God's authority, never beyond the limits of divine control. Even his acts of opposition ultimately fulfil God's righteous ends.
- His main weapon is deception, using false doctrine and unbelief to corrupt faith and weaken spiritual discernment.
- Through Christ, the believer has victory, for the power of the cross exposes and overthrows every work of darkness.
- The presence of temptation is not a curse, but the stage upon which faith is purified and loyalty is demonstrated.

In short, Satan's role as tempter is temporary and subordinate, while his service as tormentor continues in eternity under God's authority. His existence serves a purpose through which God's glory, wisdom, and justice are displayed. Every trial permitted by God becomes a classroom for obedience and a testimony of divine love.

Personal Response

Key Truth

How does Satan's limited role explain testing without making him a rival to God?

Personal Reflection

What does Satan's limited role under God help you consider about resentment when loyalty is tested?

Action Step

When loyalty to God brings loss or opposition, what will you do to resist resentment and keep trusting His authority without excusing sin?

MODULE CONCLUSION — EXPOSING THE MYTH OF SATAN'S FALL

BACK TO CONTENTS

This module comprises five Study Guides examining the belief that Satan was a holy angel who fell from heaven. Each study has considered the Scriptures used to support that belief and the spiritual teaching they convey. The closing purpose is not greater fascination with Satan, but clearer confidence in Jesus Christ and the authority of His Word.

By comparing Scripture with Scripture, the module has distinguished human pride, unfaithful ministry and opposing spiritual systems from the traditional account of celestial rebellion. It has then examined Satan's identity and purpose as a created adversary under God's authority. These subjects belong together because correct understanding should lead to faith, discernment and a life governed by Christ within.

Satan: Not a Fallen Angel

How do we know that Satan was not a fallen angel? The Scriptures themselves are clear. Yet even basic reasoning raises serious questions about the fallen angel theory:

- Where in Scripture do we see angels given the power of moral choice?

- What tempted Satan (supposedly) to rebel in the first place?
- If imperfection caused his fall, what prevents another angel from doing the same?
- If Satan once lived in Heaven and fell, how could we be sure the same could not happen again?

These are contradictions within the fallen angel teaching. Finally, if Satan fell—when did he fall, and how many times?

Misunderstood Verses

Several verses are often misused to support the idea of a fallen angel. However, when we rightly divide the Word of truth (**2 Timothy 2:15**), a different meaning becomes clear.

The Five Studies Brought Together

Study Guide 80 — The Myth of Lucifer

Isaiah 14 identifies the king of Babylon, while Ezekiel 28 addresses the king of Tyre. Their language of splendour, privilege, pride and downfall must remain connected with the subjects the prophets identify. The name Lucifer does not turn Isaiah's human king into an angel who became Satan.

Daniel 4 records the fulfilment of Isaiah's warning in the humiliation of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, whose greatness was described as reaching heaven. God brought him low because of his pride, yet showed him mercy when he acknowledged the Most High. His judgement and restoration reveal that God is both righteous and merciful. The teaching concerning Eden, precious stones, the cherubim and the mercy seat remains centred upon the provision of God and its saving reality in Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 14

Isaiah records this statement in **Isaiah 14:12**:

> *"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!"*

Many claim this refers to Satan's fall. Yet **Isaiah 14:4** identifies the subject plainly:

> *"That thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased!"*

The context shows that these verses speak of a man: the king of Babylon.

Isaiah continues in **Isaiah 14:16**:

> *"They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms?"*

This confirms that Isaiah's subject is a man, not a spiritual being. Daniel chapter 4 records the fulfilment of Isaiah's warning in the humiliation of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. God brought him low because of his pride, yet showed him mercy when he acknowledged the Most High. His judgement and restoration reveal that God is both righteous and merciful.

Personal Response

Key Truth

Why must Isaiah's king of Babylon remain the subject of the warning and restoration?

Personal Reflection

What does Nebuchadnezzar's humiliation and the mercy he received mean for your willingness to admit pride?

Action Step

If pride is exposed in something you have said or achieved, how will you respond? Identify an honest admission or change that would give God the glory.

Study Guide 81 — The Fall from Heaven

Jesus' words in **Luke 10:18** were examined in the setting of the seventy returning with joy because devils were subject to them through His name. His comparison with lightning expresses the overthrow of satanic authority as the truth prevails. The account concerns Christ's authority and the defeat of the enemy, not the origin of a rebellious angel before mankind existed.

The visible heavens, God's eternal dwelling and the ecclesiastical heaven were distinguished so that one use of heaven would not govern every occurrence. Capernaum, Nehemiah, Zion and heavenly places in Christ supplied the connected explanations. The practical conclusion was deliverance from the rule of sin and present strength through the indwelling Christ.

Luke 10

Luke records the disciples' testimony in **Luke 10:17**:

> *"And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name."*

(Note: in verse 20 these devils are called spirits.)

Jesus replied in **Luke 10:18**:

> *"And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven."*

Here Jesus was not describing a literal fall of an angel in eternity past. He was speaking figuratively, showing the defeat of satanic power through the ministry and authority He gave His disciples. Satan's fall symbolised the loss of dominion as the Gospel advanced and the power of God overcame the works of darkness.

Study Guide 82 — The Angels That Sinned

The words of Peter and Jude were examined in relation to false teachers, unfaithful messengers, departure from truth and spiritual bondage. The Hebrew MALAK and Greek AGGELOS describe messengers, with the surrounding Scriptures establishing whether those messengers are celestial or human. The study identifies the fallen messengers as ministers who turned from the truth entrusted to them.

Chains of darkness describe the bondage of error and unbelief in the interpretation developed there. The teaching on judgement distinguishes the present searching of the heart from the settled sentence when earthly life ends. Genesis 6 was also examined in its human setting,

preserving the teaching about the sons of God, the daughters of men and the danger of joining truth with error.

The warning concerning fallen ministry was followed by the safeguard against apostasy. A pure heart, good conscience, sincere faith and continuing dependence upon the Spirit of Christ belong together. Faithful service expresses complete salvation already received; it does not add another stage of sanctification needed to make the believer whole.

Study Guide 83 — The Great Dragon and the War in Heaven

Revelation 12 was examined as a symbolic vision of the Church and the opposition against her. The dragon represents the earthly powers and religious systems through which Satan works, especially pagan Rome. The woman and the man child portray the Church in her spiritual labour and the redeemed who share Christ's life and victory.

The dragon's tail and the falling stars portray deception drawing ministers from their spiritual position. Michael represents Jesus Christ as the chief messenger and divine commander, while the war concerns truth and error in the spiritual realm. The redeemed overcome through the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony, not through bodily force.

The examples of Peter, Judas and people presenting themselves before the Lord preserve a further distinction. Spiritual language must be read within its actual setting rather than made to supply a physical history not stated by the writer. The whole vision directs attention to the authority of Jesus Christ and the life of His Church.

Revelation 12

John records this in **Revelation 12:9**:

> *"And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."*

This does not depict a literal angel cast from Heaven. It symbolises the visible systems through which Satan worked. Bible students widely recognise that *"the great dragon"* represents pagan Rome, whose military emblem was a dragon. It portrays worldly power under Satan's influence resisting the Church of God.

Therefore, this vision is prophetic and symbolic, not historical. It describes the overthrow of satanic influence on earth, not the fall of a literal angel from God's presence.

Summary — Satan: Not a Fallen Angel

The Bible gives no record of angels rebelling or falling from Heaven. Isaiah 14 speaks of the king of Babylon, not Satan. **Luke 10:18** describes the defeat of satanic power, not a fall in eternity past. **Revelation 12:9** is symbolic, showing the downfall of earthly powers under Satan's control.

Satan was created as the adversary from the beginning, fulfilling his role within God's sovereign plan.

Study Guide 84 — Satan's Role in God's Plan

The final study has examined Satan as a created spirit who remains subject to divine authority. His deception presents the alternative through which human loyalty is tested, but it does not make him a rival equal to God. The accounts of Job, Saul, Ahab and the ministry of Jesus Christ have been considered within that distinction between opposition and God's supreme rule.

The teaching has also distinguished the nature of a spirit from the condition of a person under its influence. It has preserved the examination of devils, spiritual indwelling, human instruments and the twofold role described as tempter in time and tormentor in eternity. Its practical instruction returns to the danger of unbelief weakening love and to faith which works by love.

The Principal Truths of the Module

- Satan was created by God and remains under His control. He is neither eternal nor equal with God, but a servant within divine purpose.
- The Bible nowhere describes a celestial rebellion. The supposed "fall" verses refer to earthly pride, not heavenly revolt.
- False doctrine is Satan's primary weapon. Deception thrives where Scripture is not rightly divided.
- The battlefield of truth is the human heart. The war of heaven and earth takes place within the conscience and mind.
- God's sovereignty rules over all. Even opposition and evil are ultimately turned to the fulfilment of His will.
- Temptation refines and proves faith. Through resistance, believers mature in love, discernment, and trust.
- Christ's triumph is absolute. Every believer who abides in the Word walks in victory over sin, self, and Satan.

These conclusions must remain joined to their Scriptural settings. A repeated symbol does not require every writer to describe the same event, and a shared word does not remove the need to identify the subject of a verse. Careful comparison protects the teaching from both religious tradition and explanations invented to replace it.

The module is therefore more than a correction of ideas about Satan. It directs us to Jesus Christ, whose completed work brings sinners from death into life. The Church is His born-again body, and its strength is the Person who dwells within its members.

Faith, Discernment and Assurance in Jesus Christ

The module calls us to recognise the limits of Satan's power, examine teaching by Scripture and understand spiritual warfare through faith rather than fear. These are not three new requirements that complete salvation. They express the confidence and discernment that belong to the life of Jesus Christ within His children. The revelation of this module frees the believer from superstition and restores confidence in the unchanging sovereignty of God.

The final message is one of assurance and rest: Satan is a created being, confined within divine boundaries. He cannot overthrow what God has established, nor defeat those in whom Christ reigns.

The last word belongs to Jesus Christ. The adversary may oppose, but he is not the Creator, the Saviour or the life of the Church. Our confidence rests in the Lord who gives spiritual life and whose love is expressed through those who are born of Him.

Personal Response

Key Truth

How do the five studies connect careful interpretation with confidence in Christ's complete salvation?

Personal Reflection

Where do fear, pride or unbelief most often challenge your confidence in Jesus Christ?

Action Step

As this module concludes, identify one fear, false belief or proud attitude you must address. What change will you make so your conduct expresses confidence in Jesus Christ and His complete salvation?

SUBMISSION TO COGMA FOR APPRAISAL

Instructions

Complete this section after you have finished the Study Guide. It must be completed online.

The link is located at the bottom of the online Study Guide — https://cogma.com.au/study-guides/

Your answers should reflect your understanding, your personal response, and how you intend to live by the truth you have studied. Answer honestly and be specific.

1. Main Truth

How does Job's testing help explain Satan's role within God's limits? Use the promised way of escape to explain why a permitted trial neither makes sin necessary nor removes personal responsibility.

2. Understanding

How do Christ's creative authority and the devil's nature from the beginning rule out Satan being God's equal or a holy being who later became evil? Use **John 8:44** *in your explanation.*

3. Personal Reflection

What has the warning about false beliefs undermining God's Word led you to reconsider about a religious claim you trust? Explain the difference between honest enquiry and making the Bible fit an assumed answer.

4. Response to Truth

How does the difference between DAIMONION and DAIMONIZOMAI help distinguish an evil spirit from a person under its influence? Explain what yielding means for your own responsibility when tempted.

5. Action Step

Jesus warned about leaving first love. What does faith working by love mean for your own reasons for serving when you feel pressure or disappointment? Explain anything you want to reconsider.

6. Early Response

Have you already reconsidered your reasons for serving in the light of faith working by love and Jesus' warning about first love? If yes, explain what you did or now understand more clearly. If not, explain what you are still considering or what has made it difficult to begin.

7. Ongoing Practice

How could the Bereans' readiness to receive and search the Bible guide your continuing response to a respected teacher? Explain how willing obedience differs from outward performance intended to earn salvation.

8. Doctrinal Clarity

How does the distinction between Satan as tempter in time and tormentor in eternity explain his role under God's authority? Use **Revelation 20:10** *and Jesus' teaching about torment to distinguish the spirit, its system and the people judged.*

9. Living the Truth

Someone credits a minister with personal power over evil spirits. How would Saul, Ahab and Christ's ministry help you answer? Describe a response that directs trust to Christ and shows compassion to someone needing help.

10. Final Response

How do Satan's identity, his limited role and faith working by love fit together? Use the examples of earthly rulers, fallen messengers and symbolic powers to explain what has become clearer to you and any personal response you want to make.