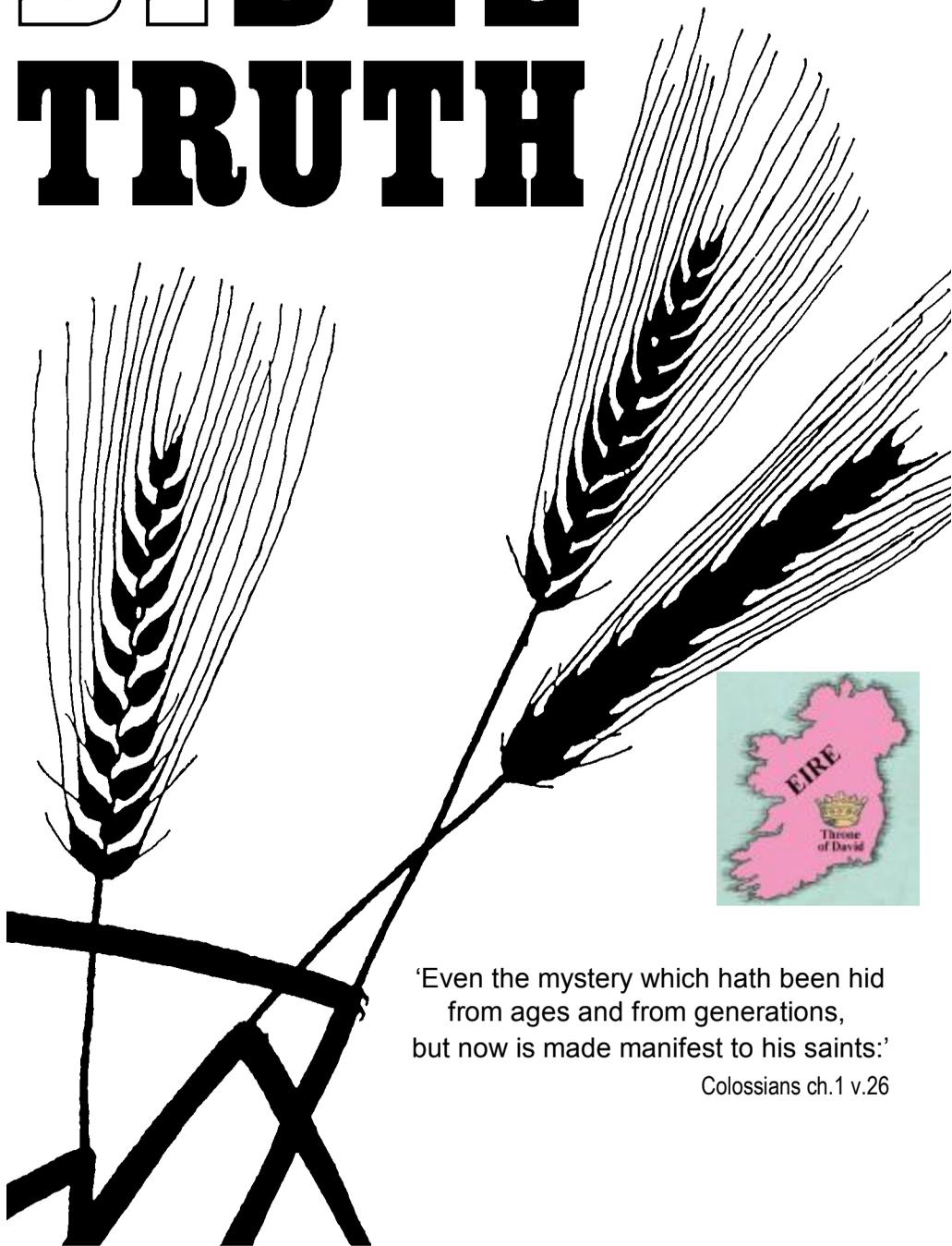


BIBLE TRUTH

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'Even the mystery which hath been hid
from ages and from generations,
but now is made manifest to his saints:'

Colossians ch.1 v.26

WHO IS SATAN?

by M. D. Bennett

(Partially edited and rearranged from 'What the Bible Teaches' by Dr Torrey.)

Satan is a being and not an influence or thing

The Bible refers to Satan as 'he' or 'him', and not as 'it'. For example, 'Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.'

1 Peter ch.5 v. 8

'Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.'

Jude v.9

It may be concluded then, that there is a personal devil.

The Bible reveals the following facts about Satan's history

- Satan was created by God, 'All things were made by him; [Jesus Christ, the Word] and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life...'
John ch.1 vv.3-4
- Satan was originally created perfect by God (everything that God creates is perfect because He makes it).
- His original name was Lucifer, which means 'shining one' according to Dr R. Young. As Lucifer, his position was extremely exalted; Ezekiel describes him as, '... the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.'
Ezekiel ch.28 vv.14-15
- One day Lucifer became lifted up with pride and sought to make himself like God. This was the origin of sin in the Universe, '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! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit

also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.'

Isaiah ch.14 v.12-15

'Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.'

1 Timothy ch.3 v.6

After his sin, the Bible refers to Satan by many names and titles.

Here are some of them.

- **The Devil** Revelation ch.12 v.9
- **The Serpent** Revelation ch.12 v.9
- **Beelzebub.** A heathen deity to whom the Jews ascribed supremacy among evil spirits.
'But some of them said, He casteth out devils through Beelzebub the chief of the devils.'
Luke ch.11 v.15
- **Belial**
'Certain men, the children of Belial, are gone out from among you, and have withdrawn the inhabitants of their city, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which ye have not known;'
Deuteronomy ch.13 v.13
- **The god of this world**
'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.'
2 Corinthians ch.4 v.4
- **The wicked one**
'...I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one...'
1 John ch.2 v.13
- **The prince of this world**
'Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.'
John ch.12 v.31

'Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.'
John ch.14 v.30

'Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.'
John ch.16 v.11

- **The prince of the power of the air**

‘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:’
Ephesians ch.2 v.2

- **The tempter**

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

Matthew ch.4 v.3 & see also 1 Thessalonians ch.3 v.5

When Lucifer’s name was changed to the names and titles given above, his followers’ names were also changed to those below.

- **Devils**

‘But some of them said, He casteth out devils through Beelzebub the chief of the devils.’

Luke ch.11 v.15

- **Various titles mentioned by Paul in Ephesians**

‘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.’

Ephesians ch.6 v.12

The principality mentioned is a type of being spoken of in Daniel.

‘But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.’

Daniel ch.10 v.13

When Satan sinned certain other beings followed him and sinned also.

‘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.’

Revelation ch.12 v.9

‘And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.’

Jude v.6

‘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:’

Matthew ch.25 v.41

Satan was responsible for introducing sin into this world.

‘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? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.’

Genesis ch.3 vv.1-5

NB Satan is the serpent (see Revelation ch.12 v.9 above).

Subsequent to his own fall, and that of Adam, Satan could enter into the presence of God.

‘Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them. 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.’

Job ch.1 vv.6-7

At the time of Our Lord Jesus Christ’s victory over Satan, as proven by his bodily resurrection, Satan and his followers were thrown out of God’s presence, and banned from it for ever.

That Satan had the power over death is shown by Hebrews ch.2 v.14,

‘Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;’.

But Christ now has that power over death.

‘I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.’

Revelation ch.1 v.18

The expulsion of those evil beings from heaven is described as,

‘And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. 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. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony, and they loved not their lives unto the death. Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitors of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.'

Revelation ch.12 vv.7-12

That this was the time when Satan was cast out, and not when he first sinned is shown by the following statement of Jesus.

'Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.'

John ch.12 v.31

Satan is responsible for many terrible things in this world, amongst which are:-

- **Death** - Satan is the author of sin.
'... the wages of sin is death ... '

Romans ch.6 v.23

Therefore Satan is responsible for death, and until the Resurrection of our Lord, he held the power of death; this he no longer has.

'Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;'

Hebrews ch.2 v.14

'I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.'

Revelation ch.1 v.18

- **Sickness.**

Sickness results from disobedience of God's laws. This by definition is sin or transgression of the law. Satan was the author of sin, and hence sickness.

'Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.'

1 John ch.3 v.4

'How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.'

Acts ch.10 v.38

'And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?'

Luke ch.13 v.16

Satan lays snares or traps for men. He is a tempter.

'Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.'

1 Timothy ch.3 v.7

'And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.'

2 Timothy ch.2 v.26

Satan puts wicked purposes into the hearts of men.

'But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart, ... to keep back part of the price of the land?'

Acts ch.5 v.3

'And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him;'

John ch.13 v.2

Satan blinds the minds of men to truth.

'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.'

2 Corinthians ch.4 v.4

Satan hinders God's servants.

'And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him.'

Zechariah ch.3 v.1

'Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.'

1 Thessalonians ch.2 v.18

Satan accuses God's servants.

'And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethen is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.'

Revelation ch.12 v.10

The Bible gives Christians the following advice in their dealings with Satan.

‘Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:’

1 Peter ch.5 v.8

‘Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.’

James ch.4 v.7

‘Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.’

Ephesians ch.6. v.11

At the Second Coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ to this World, Satan will be bound and imprisoned for 1,000 years.

‘And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled:’

Revelation ch.20 vv.1-3

At the end of the millennium (1,000 years), Satan will be loosed for a little while, and will again seek to oppose God.

‘And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. 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.’

Revelation ch.20 vv.7-10

Satan will be eternally punished, and will never again be able to hinder or oppose God or his servants.
