

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE
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**WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES AND
WE BELIEVE ABOUT SATAN THE DEVIL**

EPHESIANS 6:10-18

This very familiar passage of Scripture teaches us that in order to defeat and conquer our arch enemy we must put on the whole armor of God. As **verse 12** tells us our enemy is spiritual and therefore, we are in a spiritual battle. There are several verses that define our enemy and his work. Paul tells us in **2 Cor. 2:11**; “lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.” The Enemy then uses DEVICES against us.

2 Cor. 12:7 tells us; “And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an *angel of light*.” Then Paul said in **1 Thes. 2:18**; “Therefore we wanted to come to you--even I, Paul, time and again--but Satan hindered us.” Jesus Himself had a direct encounter with Satan in the wilderness and **Mark 1:13** says; “And He was there in the wilderness forty days, *tempted by Satan*, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him.”

Listen to me this morning - You Must Know You're Adversary!
References to Satan fill the Bible. He is a major character in the beginning of the Bible—in Genesis and he's a major character at the end of the Bible, in Revelation. In the New Testament, Jesus mentions His adversary, Satan, no less than **twenty five times**. Every New Testament writer discusses Satan, and **nineteen of 27** New Testament books mentions Satan. This morning I want to take a look at what the Bible says about Satan, his origins and his destiny.

I. THE PERSON OF SATAN

Satan is alive and well and planet earth is his playground. He can be seen in witchcraft, Satanism, the occult and astrology. They are all his works and his tools in an effort to distract people from the truth that can only be found in Jesus Christ. Jesus called him the “enemy” in **Matthew 13:39**, the “Evil One” in **Matthew 13:38**, the “Prince of this world” in **John 12:3**, a “Liar” in **John 8:44** and a “Murderer” in the same verse. In **Luke 10:18** Jesus said he saw Satan fall from Heaven and in **Matthew 12:26** we are told that Satan has a kingdom, and in **Matthew 13:38** we're told that Satan was the one who sows evil weeds in with the good wheat.

II. THE PURPOSE OF SATAN

So why is he here? Well, that would fall under the category – the **Purpose of Satan**: To discover the purpose of Satan we need to go back to the beginning, which is usually a good place to start. In the books of **Isaiah 14:12-15** and **Ezekiel 28:12-17** in the Old Testament we discover that before God created the world and mankind that there was a different realm, a spiritual realm, one of Angels. In **John 13:2** we are told that it was Satan who enticed Judas to betray Christ. And it is still Satan who convinces Christians to backslide and betray Christ today. Listen to the warning that Jesus gives us in **John 8:42-45**.

III. THE POWER OF SATAN

Never underestimate the power of Satan. The Bible calls him the “Prince of this World” the “Prince of Demons” and the “Prince of the Power of the Air”. Understand that he was the greatest creation ever. **What are Satan's tools to destroy us? Deception – Discouragement – Distraction – Defeat – Depravity - Division and Disunity!**
But remember what Jesus said in **Matthew 28:18** - Jesus came and told his disciples, “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**” **Complete authority, including authority over Satan.** And in **1 John 4:4** we read this promise, “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because **He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.**”

IV. PUNISHMENT OF SATAN

Way back in **Genesis 3:15** when God pronounced the fate of Satan, he said that it would be the seed of woman who would deliver that punishment. As for his destiny Jesus said in **Matthew 25:41**, “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, “Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.” For all the detail read **Revelation chapter 20 and 21**, as the man said “I've read the back of the book and the Lamb wins.” **Amen and Amen!**

In closing this morning, I want to suggest four things that Satan wants to do and is doing right now. First, he wants:

- 1. To Make Sin Less Offensive**
- 2. To Make Heaven Less Appealing**
- 3. To Make Hell Less Horrific**
- 4. To Make the Gospel Less Urgent**