

James 1 - Sin / Temptation / The Devil

James 1v12-18: Temptation and Sin come from within Man.

Temptation: **1 John 2:16**. Lust of the flesh, lust of eyes, pride of life

12 'Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive ^{the} crown of life, ^o which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with ^{evil}, neither tempteth he any man:

14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away ^{of} his own lust, and enticed.

15 Then ^{when} lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, ^{bringeth} forth death.

16 Do not err, my beloved brethren.

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from ^{the} Father of lights, ^{with} whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

18 ^{Of} his own will ^{he} begat he us with the word of truth, ^{that} we should be a kind of ^{first-}fruits of his creatures.

No mention of a supernatural devil here. Temptation comes from our own lusts within us. If there really was a supernatural devil, then surely this would have been the Scripture to say so. Even though some temptations come from without, ultimately the temptation is within man.

v18 God's Word changes us into new creatures. Through Faith and Baptism, we become children of God. Our warfare against sin is through God's Word working in us.

How sin entered into the world:

Rom 5:12 "As by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

Eve was deceived by the serpent: **1 Tim 2:14**. She then enticed Adam to eat. Adam then deliberately took the fruit. They then fell from their "very good" state, suffering the consequences of sin - shame, a defiled conscience, and mortality: **Gen 2:25; 3:7,19**. As a result, the whole human race has a nature prone to sin: **Jer 17:9-10**.

"Sin" literally means "to miss the mark". That mark is God's glory: **Rom 3:23** "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" **1 John 3:4** "sin is the transgression of the law".

The 3 Natures of Man:

Very good: Man created "very good", **Gen 1:31**. A state capable of death, but not under the sentence of death.

Mortal: Subject to death: **Gen 3:19**. From the time Adam and Eve sinned, their descendents possessed this dying nature: **Rom 5:12**.

Immortal: To live for ever, to have eternal life. Our nature will be changed to immortality and incorruptibility when Christ comes: **Rev 2:7; 1 Cor 15:53**.

What is the Real Source of temptation?

Mark 7:21-23 Jesus says, "from **within**, out of **the heart of men**, proceed evil thoughts (etc.)... All these things come from **within**, and defile the man."

Sin began in the Garden of Eden:

Gen 3:6 Eve acted on the temptation.

Gen 3:12-13 They both blamed someone else.

Gen 3:15 Jesus Christ was the solution. He was the one who God would provide. Jesus overcame sin on our behalf.

How did Jesus Christ conquer the devil?

Heb 9:26 "(he) put away sin by the sacrifice of **himself**"

He put aside selfish ambition and gave his life for others.

Rom 5:19-21 By Adam's disobedience many were made sinners. By Christ's obedience many are made righteous.

1 John 3:8 Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil.

Isa 59:16; Psalms 80:17 Jesus had God as his Father. This enabled him to be sinless.

Our struggle against Sin:

Rom 7:18 "in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing"

Rom 7:18-25 describes the struggle in Paul's mind

We must face the reality of our present human nature.

We must not let sin take control of our lives.

Bible teaching about the Devil:

1. The devil has the power of Death: **Heb 2:14**

"**SIN** bringeth forth death": **James 1:15**

"The sting of death is **SIN**": **1 Cor 15:56**

"**SIN** hath reigned unto death": **Rom 5:21**

"The wages of **SIN** is death": **Rom 6:23**

2. The devil sinneth from the beginning: **1 John 3:8**

"By one **MAN** sin entered into the world": **Rom 5:12**

3. Devil was a murderer from the beginning: **John 8:44**

"By **MAN** came death": **1 Cor 15:21**

"For **SIN**... deceived me, and slew me": **Rom 7:11**

4. Jesus was tempted of the devil: **Luke 4:2**

He "was in all points tempted like as we are": **Heb 4:15**

"But every **MAN** is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed...": **James 1:14**

What is the real Bible Devil? It is ourselves, our own ungodly desires that produce sin. That is why Jesus came in our own mortal nature, to fight the enemy on its home territory, and to defeat it.

"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 2:14**

The importance of Jesus' humanity:

Hebrews 2:14-18 says Jesus came in mortal human nature so he could destroy the devil. If the devil was a supernatural monster, God wouldn't have sent a frail human being.

The devil is man's natural impulse to sin from within. Jesus was able to defeat the devil by totally overcoming sin. He knew intimately what it is like to be tempted, and was able to win the victory **on our behalf**. He is therefore our representative.

Jesus' humanity is so important that it is emphasised 7 times: "he also" / "himself" / "likewise" / "took part of the same" / "seed of Abraham" / "made like unto his brethren" / "being tempted"

Devil (Greek, Diabolos): Means "slanderer" or "false accuser".

Translated "slanderer" in **1 Tim 3:11**

Translated "false accuser" in **Titus 2:3; 2 Tim 3:3**.

Translated "devil" 35 times, including **Luke 4:2; Eph 6:11**.

"**Devil**" is used in various ways, particularly:

1. Sinful desires of the flesh, opposed to God, eg. **Heb 2:14**
2. Individuals described as "devils" because they falsely accuse, eg. **John 6:70-71; 1 Tim 3:11; 2 Tim 3:3; Titus 2:3**.
3. Organisations of men which are opposed to God, eg. **Eph 6:11,12; Rev 2:10; 20:2,10**.

Demons: The Greek word "daimonion" (translated "demon") is used for diseases, particularly mental sickness. To cast out a demon was to cure that person of their sickness: **Matt 12:22; 17:15-18; John 7:19-20**. This was to use the language of the day so common people would understand.

Satan: A Hebrew word meaning adversary or opponent. A "satan" may be good or evil. The first occurrence of the Hebrew word "satan" is in **Num 22:22-23** referring to an immortal angel.

The following are called "satan": Hadad the Edomite, **1 Kings 11:14**; David, **1 Sam 29:4**; Sons of Zeruiah, **2 Sam 19:22**; Roman authorities, **Rev 2v9**; flesh restrained in the millennium, **Rev 20:2**.

Matt 16:23 Jesus calls Peter "Satan" because Peter was speaking against God's purpose. Jesus says Peter's thinking is "**of men**". Peter was the adversary, tempting Jesus.

Colour code: Blue (God & Jesus); Red (sin/devil/judgment of wicked); Green (Kingdom); Orange (important words and phrases); Purple (Israel and return of Jews to the land); Yellow (practical exhortation).

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