

Series: Faith in the Fire, # 16

Your Enemy the Devil

1 Peter 5:8-11

“Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith...”

Who is the devil, or Satan?

These names are given to Lucifer (means: morning star), formerly chief of the angels created by God. His rebellion is likely described in Ezekiel 28.

Satan in the Old Testament:

1 Chronicles 21:1

Job 1-2

Satan in the New Testament:

Matthew 4:1-11

John 13:27

Many NT accounts of Jesus and his followers casting out demons

Revelation 2-3

Where did demons come from? How many are there?

Revelation 12:4

Matthew 26:53

Luke 2:13-15

Do demons have real power, or is it just imaginary?

Exodus 7-8

Luke 8:27-33

Luke 9:38-39

Acts 8:9-25

Acts 16:16-18

1 John 4:1-3

The names Satan and Devil mean ‘the adversary’, indicating that we have an enemy in the spiritual life. In the NT Satan is also called: tempter, enemy, evil one, Beelzebul, deceiver, Belial, liar, father of lies, great dragon, murderer, sinner, prince of this world.

Ephesians 6:12 describes dark spiritual powers that war against us; in the OT we find references to mediums and spiritists. For what God thinks of these, see:

Leviticus 19:31

Leviticus 20:27

Deuteronomy 18:9-13

Should Christians fear the power of the devil or demons?

1 John 4:4

Romans 8:38-39

Colossians 2:15

1 John 3:8

Ephesians 4:27 warns us not to “give the devil a foothold.”

In the spiritual life, name some things that would be footholds:

Biblical postures for living in spiritual battle:

James 4:7

1 Peter 5:8

1 Peter 5:9

Ephesians 5:18

Philippians 4:8

Matthew 4:4, 6, 9

Matthew 12:43-45

Should we expect that Satanic activity will increase in the last days?

Revelation 12:12

* C. S. Lewis warns against these mistakes regarding devils: “One is to disbelieve in their existence; the other is to believe and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them.” (The Screwtape Letters)