

## In the Old Testament

The word 'Satan' is translated as opponent, adversary, someone who is against or withstands in the following references. Look up each and say to whom it refers. For some references, you will need an Authorised Version Bible, as the word in the original Hebrew is occasionally lost in some of the newer translations.

Numbers 22:22

1 Kings 11:25

Numbers 22:32

Psalms 38:20

1 Samuel 29:4

Psalms 71:13

2 Samuel 19:22

Psalms 109:4

1 Kings 5:4

Psalms 109:20

1 Kings 11:14

Psalms 109:29

1 Kings 22:23

Compare 1 Chronicles 21:1 with 2 Samuel 24:1. Who is being called Satan here?

**There are only two** other Old Testament references to Satan:

**Zechariah 3.** This is one vision in a prophecy full of symbol. It's not difficult to find out who the adversaries referred to here. If you want to study it further, compare Ezra 5.

**Job 1 and 2** - Read the two chapters.

- » Satan here is either a man or an angel. He could be a man, because 'sons of God' almost always refers to men who serve God, but the other reference in Job - chapter 38:7 - refers to angels, so he could be an angel.
- » Is he working against God, or does he do God's will?
- » Who does Job say had taken away all that he had? (chapter 1:21)
- » Was he right in saying this? (chapter 1:22)
- » From whom does Job say that we receive bad things? (chapter 2:10)
- » Was he right to say this? (chapter 2:10)
- » Then was this 'satan' doing God's work?
- » Who is in charge of all evil or calamity in the earth? (Isaiah 45:7)
- » Who makes a person deaf, dumb or blind? (Exodus 4:11)

## In the New Testament

Who is 'Satan' in Matthew 16:23?

The word 'devil' is also translated 'false accuser' or 'slanderer' in some of the following references. Who does each refer to?

John 6:70

2 Timothy 3:3

1 Timothy 3:11

Titus 2:3

## Demons and Idols

Have a look at the work 'devil' or 'demon' in the following verses. Who, or what, does each refer to?

Leviticus 17:7

2 Chronicles 11:15

Deuteronomy 32:17

Psalms 106:36-37

1 Corinthians 10:18-21

**Do these false gods** have any real conscious existence?

Isaiah 44:6-20

Psalms 115:3-8

Isaiah 41:22-24, 29

Daniel 5:23

Revelation 9:20

Which false god was called the 'prince of the devils' by the pharisees?

Matthew 12:24

Which nation was Baalzebub the false god of?

2 Kings 1:2-3

Note that Jesus in Matthew 12:25-30 does not try to prove that Beelzebub was one of the false gods of the nations around and therefore had no real existence. The Pharisees should have known that well from their own scriptures - in fact, they probably did; but they were interested in turning the ordinary people against Jesus and didn't care too much about the truth of the accusation. Jesus simply shows by healing all the people with demons that he (as one sent by his father) has power over all sickness and disease, whatever it is called.

## Personification

We should not be surprised at Jesus sometimes commanding the 'demon' to leave someone (e.g. Mark 5:8) since he commands the wind and the rain in the

same way (Mark 4:39) and in Luke 4:39, Jesus rebukes a fever - yet we do not think that either the wind, the rain or a fever is a person who consciously obeys him.

Many things or ideas may be referred to as a person without really being such. Look up the following references, and not what is being treated as a person in some way.

Proverbs 8:1-3

Proverbs 3:13-15

Job 28:22

## Temptation, sin and death

Who deceived Paul and put him to death?  
Romans 7:8-11

He also owns slaves (Romans 6:16) - who else does?

In Hebrews 2:14-15, who has the power of death?

In Romans 6:23, who pays out wages?

What does he pay?

All of these things are treated as people, but they are not, they are abstract things.

In Hebrews 2:14, Jesus destroys the devil by his death, yet he did not slay another living being by dying: he destroyed the power sin has in our lives to bring us to death. The 'devil' here means sin. It is a powerful force - but not a person plotting our downfall and trying to defeat God's plans. Certainly not a fallen angel, as angels cannot die. (Luke 20:36)

What does Hebrews 4:15 say about how Jesus was tempted?

What does that mean for us?

Is the voice in your head that suggests something wrong to your mind really another person, even if you refer to him as such?