

THE DEVIL – THE UNHOLY GOD – Part 4

II Corinthians 4:4

“The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

In our previous three studies we covered the following: **The Devil’s Origin, Original State, Downfall, Nature, Names, Domain and the Devil’s Demons.** We continue with:

THE DEVIL’S DANGERS.

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith....” (I Peter 5:8,9)

Illustration: The Devil’s Museum

“There’s something unnerving about being alone with 2000 Devils”, said Rachel Bignell, a journalist who visited the world’s only Devil’s Museum in Kaunas, Lithuania. The three-story building houses a stunning array of devils in all shapes, sizes, colors and materials from all corners of the globe.

When the museum opened in 1966, it housed 260 statues. As of 2009 the diabolical collection had swollen to over 3,000, and a special new building has been built to house the numerous fiends that continue to be collected.

The museum was begun when an atheist died at the age of 90 and left his collection of Devils. The report is that about 2000 people visit the museum every day to see the likenesses of the Devil.

The guide at the museum said that "Devil mugs and drinking cups are as plentiful as lost souls." Souvenir pens decorated with the Devil’s head are sold in shops all over the city. This Lithuanian town has capitalized on the popularity of the Devil and has built up an entire industry of tourism based upon people’s infatuation with the lord of the bottomless pit.”

The Devil is on display in that museum, but if you want an accurate idea of who the Devil is and what he is like you can see him on display in the Bible as nowhere else. The Bible presents him as an evil and sinister being who is to be avoided and resisted.

A. The Devil’s Reputation.

1. He is a liar. Gen. 3:4 *“Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.”*

2. He tempts. He is called *“the tempter”* (Matt. 4:3) He tempted Jesus: *“Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed”* (Luke 4:13)

3. He steals. Luke 8:12 *“....the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.”*

4. He motivates to evil. John 13:2 *“And supper being ended, the devil put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray Him....”*

5. He is a subtle trickster. Eph. 6:11 *“Put on all the armor that God gives, so you can defend yourself against the devil’s tricks.”* (CEV)

6. He sets snares. I Tim. 3:7 warns us not to *“.....fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.”*

7. He deceives. **Rev. 20:10** *“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire....”*

Wherever there is mischief afoot, the devil is sure to be involved. Some of the Devil’s activities are as follows::

- he is the one who precipitates wars;
- he encourages people in their lusts;
- he causes persons to doubt the Word of God, as is seen in Eve’s encounter with him in the Garden of Eden;
- he tells people that they can play with sin and win;
- he stands at every drunk’s elbow;
- he beckons into every house of prostitution;
- he looks over the shoulders of every thief;
- he feeds the words into every blasphemers mouth;
- he controls the mind of every pornographer;
- he laughs silently beside the graves of his victims;
- he claps his hands with glee every time a sinner steps into eternity without a knowledge of Jesus Christ as Savior;
- he rejoices every time a child of God sins, for all sin is against God and all sin weakens a Christian’s testimony.

He is our adversary. He is against God and every godly person! *“your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”* (I Peter 5:8)

B. The Devil’s Religion.

The Devil is very religious, he his own religion. It is a counterfeit religion: *“The things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord’s table and of the table of demons.”* (I Cor. 10:20-21)

1. He has his own ministers.

“Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.” (II Cor. 11:14-15)

“But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.” (II Peter 2:1-2)

2. He has his own doctrines.

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.” (I Tim. 4:1)

3. He has his own churches.

The Devil has always used apostate ministers and churches to further his satanic schemes and to oppose God and the true church of Jesus Christ. However, in our present day, some of his followers have waxed bold and openly promote The Church of Satan.

The Church of Satan is an organization “dedicated to the acceptance of the carnal self,” as articulated in *The Satanic Bible*. The Church of Satan has its own Central Administrative Office and address in New York City, N.Y. The Church of Satan was founded in In Los Angeles, CA in in 1969 by Anton Szandor LaVey with many branches.

“The Nine Satanic Statements that the church of Satan advocates, outline what Satan represents in the Church of Satan. The following is from their web site:

1. Satan represents indulgence instead of abstinence.
2. Satan represents vital existence instead of spiritual pipe dreams.
3. Satan represents undefiled wisdom instead of hypocritical self-deceit.
4. Satan represents kindness to those who deserve it instead of love wasted on ingrates.
5. Satan represents vengeance instead of turning the other cheek.
6. Satan represents responsibility to the responsible instead of concern for psychic vampires.
7. Satan represents man as just another animal, sometimes better, more often worse than those that walk on all-fours, who, because of his "divine spiritual and intellectual development", has become the most vicious animal of all.
8. Satan represents all of the so-called sins, as they all lead to physical, mental, or emotional gratification.
9. Satan has been the best friend the Church has ever had, as He has kept it in business all these years.
10. If someone bothers you, ask them to stop. If they don't stop, destroy them.”

4. He has his own Bible.

The Satanic Bible is the official name and it contains books named as follows: The Book Of Satan; The Book of Licifer; The Book of Belial; The Book of Leviathan. The contents are vile and blasphemous. In the Book of Satan is this statement: “Satanism, as an atheistic religion,

holds that as there is no afterlife and therefore no paradise or heaven or hell, all happiness and satisfaction must be attained here, on earth. LaVey therefore advises that you indulge to the greatest extent possible, how that your days on earth may be best spent.”

Should We Fear The Devil?

NO! We are to fear God – *“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all.”* (Eccles. 12:13)

What are we to do?

- Give the Devil no opportunity – Eph. 4:27 *“do not give the devil an opportunity.”*(NASB)
- Submit to God – James 4:7a *“Submit therefore to God....”*
- Resist the Devil – James 4:7b *“Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”*
- Draw near to God – James 4:8 *“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”*
- Put on God’s armor – Eph. 6:10-13

Ephesians 6:10-13 from *The Message*:

“God is strong, and he wants you strong. So take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the Devil throws your way. This is no afternoon athletic contest that we’ll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the Devil and all his angels. Be prepared. You’re up against far more than you can handle on your own.”