

Title: Conversations

Subtitle: Who or what is the devil!

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When the natural desire of all normal persons is to live at peace, why is hate and make a practice of killing one another? It truly is a paradox

The Encyclopoedia Britannica (1966), under the heading "Devil," observe Protestantism tends to deny the necessity of belief in a personal devil, p biblical and other references to him as to personification of the principle

to believe in an "animal part of human nature," or a "principle of evil," r Thus, the once-common understanding that the Devil is a living, unseen p seriously by many. Even today the Devil is traditionally conceived as a c uniform, having horns, a tail, and a pitchfork in his hand.

do not be duped into accepting a purely materialistic view. the fact that there are unseen, invisible living creatures, and that these upon human affairs.

. "God is a Spirit," the Bible explains. (John 4:24) It also tells us that G (Heb. 1:7) These are real, living persons. So the Devil, too, is a spirit p

. He made all spirit creatures perfect. But one of these made a Devil out by his own improper desires. The Bible explains the process by which ev turn bad: "Each one is tried by being drawn out and enticed by his own d it has become fertile, gives birth to sin."-Jas. 1:14, 15.

The improper desire that this powerful spirit creature entertained was to creatures, which only the Creator, Jehovah God, deserves. He was able t serve him by misrepresenting to them what God had spoken about eating garden of Eden. He thus became a slanderer, or "Devil." He is also calle "dragon" and "original serpent." In time, even other spirit creatures joine God, and also became devils or demons.-Gen. 3:1-

God not immediately destroy the Devil and the human pair he had induce Jehovah God did not choose to do this. An issue had been raised by the question: Can the Devil succeed in turning all creatures away from God? allowed to bring forth offspring so that the integrity-keeping course of fa descendants would vindicate their Creator and prove the Devil a liar. So was set aside by God{6000 yrs} to settle this issue.-Job chapters 1 and 2

THE DEVIL'S TIME IS SHORT

Down the great dragon was hurled, the original serpent, the one called D misleading the entire inhabited earth; he was hurled down to the earth . you heavens and you who reside in them! Woe for the earth and for the s come down to you, having great anger, knowing he has a short period of other Bible passages show that the Devil is a person. For example, 1 Ch 3:1, 2 reveal Satan to be a resister of God's people and, therefore, of G 10:16) In fact, the name Satan is Hebrew and means "resister, adversary

The Scriptures closely associate the commercial element with the political (18:9-19) Does not commerce, too, manifest the spirit of God's chief adver and dishonesty are apparent, so much so that a common motto today is C the buyer beware."

But are not the great traditional religions of the world different? Do they bulwark against any superhuman evil influence? On the contrary, the reli Christendom and pagandom have intimately associated themselves with th leaders. As "friendship with the world is enmity with God," these systems themselves to be false religions.-Jas. 4:4.

The Bible describes the world empire of false religion, called "Babylon th woman "with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, whereas were made drunk with the wine of her fornication."-Rev. 17:2, 5.

Have not the world's religions blessed the nations and prayed for the tro efforts? And what about morals? It is clear that when the middle-class at does that of many religious leaders. Ignoring the Word of God, hypocritic wisdom of the world and seek the plaudits and approval of men. No wond described in God's Word as a place of protection from the Devil, Babylon dwelling place of demons."-Rev. 18:2.

many who profess Christianity-and who claim to believe the Bible-reject exists? Because, in truth, they do not accept the Bible as God's Word. (J psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud associated belief in the Devil with evils th hands of a harsh male parent in early life. It became popular to look upo Satan the Devil as referring merely to a personification of evil. That the front of respectability just as is done by the leaders of the Cosa Nostra logically expected. Those underworld bosses appear in the eyes of the p businessmen, operating legitimate businesses, but under their outward a their vile deeds and widespread illegal activities that are detrimental to working behind a respectable front is pursued expertly by the Devil, who

What better way can he deceive people and get them to serve him unwitting respectable religious front that outwardly appears to be good and enlight pattern of deception, he has used religions in Christendom that appear o but that are involved in many unscriptural practices and have made them worldwide system of things. This they have done contrary to the fact that

Christians would keep separate from the world, even as he did.-John 17:

Supposedly Christian religions have been involved in fiendish inquisition and savage wars. Whose influence is manifested by such actions-that of Jesus or his followers to love one another, or that of the Devil? What about religious faith in the written Word of Jehovah God by claiming that it is filled with lies? Who go so far as to say that God is dead? Is this not the sort of thing to do to the world," who is a constant slanderer of man's Creator?

That the Devil would, as the master of deception, mislead people by religion to serve the true God was foretold in the Bible at 2 Corinthians 11:13-15, where he is called a false apostle, a deceitful worker, transforming himself into an apostle of Satan. It is no wonder, for Satan himself keeps transforming himself into an angel of light. How great if his ministers also keep transforming themselves into ministers of righteousness. If, for example, there is no Devil, how can you reconcile the existence of evil with the continuing existence of God? As Howard R. Burkley writes in *God, Suffering and Evil*, "The factors which make belief [in God] difficult for moderns, however, are the facts of suffering." Denying the existence of the Devil might therefore be one breed of atheism that denies the existence of God!