

The Existence Of The Devil
Foreigners & Exiles: A Study of 1 Peter

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, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

1 Peter 5:8-9

The greatest trick the devil ever
pulled was to convince the world that
he didn't exist.

Keyser Soze

There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them.

CS Lewis

The driving motive in writing [this book] has been the conviction that if evil, with all the insidious complexity which Augustine attributed to it, escapes the reach of *our* imagination, it will have established dominion over us all.

Andrew Delbanco

The Death of Satan: How Americans Have Lost the Sense of Evil 234

Satan (Hebrew *Ha Satan*): adversary, opposer

Devil (Greek *Diabolos*): slanderer, accuser

The biblical picture of the satan is a nonhuman and nondivine quasi-personal force which seems bent on attacking and destroying creation in general and humankind in particular, and above all on thwarting God's project of remaking the world and human beings in and through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

NT Wright, *Evil and the Justice of God*

You belong to your father, the devil,
and you want to carry out your
father's desires. He was a murderer
from the beginning, not holding to
the truth, for there is no truth in him.
When he lies, he speaks his native
language, for he is a liar and the
father of lies.

John 8:44

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

John 10:10

Satan does not "create" by his own means. Rather he sustains himself as a parasite on what God creates by imitating God in a manner that is jealous, grotesque, perverse, and as contrary as possible to the upright and obedient imitation of Jesus. To repeat, Satan is an imitator in the rivalistic sense of the word. His kingdom is a caricature of the kingdom of God.

René Girard, *I See Satan Fall Like Lightning*

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be alert and of sober mind...

1 Peter 5:6-8a

Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and *do not give the devil a foothold.*

Ephesians 4:25-27

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like a roaring lion looking for
someone to devour. Resist him,
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1 Peter 5:8b-9

They triumphed over him [Satan, the devil] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

Revelation 12:11

Self-seeking so blinds the soul, that it cannot see a beauty in Christ, nor an excellency in holiness; it distempers the palate, that a man cannot taste sweetness in the word of God, nor the ways of God, nor in the society of the people of God. It shuts the hand against all the soul-enriching offers of Christ; it hardens the heart against all the knocks and entreaties of Christ; it makes the soul as an empty vine, and as a barren wilderness.

Thomas Brooks, *Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices*