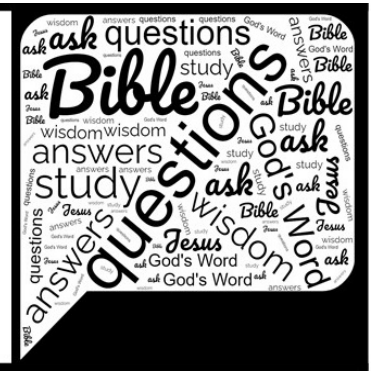


# Questions & Answers From the Bible

## Why Is the Devil Necessary, and What Kind of Being Is the Devil?



### WHY IS THE DEVIL NECESSARY?

The answer to this question speaks to the nature of God. First John 4:8 says, "God is love." The Greek word for "love" is *agape*. This word denotes not a feeling or an emotion, but as one theologian described it, "a commitment to action for the object's highest good." As with all love, its nature desires reciprocation; hence, the creation of man as a creature who could return that "love," or make a commitment to God.

Heaven was filled with legions of angels of whom Nehemiah 9:6 proclaims, "The host of heaven worshippeth thee" because they are not creatures of choice. For a genuine reciprocation of "love," the creature must have a free moral agency (the power of choice). To truly prove that "love," or commitment, the creature must be presented with choice. For that to occur, there must be a source to present that choice, therefore, the necessity of Satan.

Consider God's words to Satan in Job 1:8, when He said, "Hast thou considered my servant Job?" Here, in what is chronologically the first and oldest book of the Bible (penned in 2058 B.C.), Satan was established as the source utilized to present man with choice and the ability to prove his commitment to God, which Job did. The words of his commitment echo loudly down throughout the corridors of time when he cried in Job 13:15, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him."

### WHAT KIND OF BEING IS THE DEVIL?

Satan is not a human creature with a physical body. The Bible does not describe any physical appearance, contrary to the artist-drawn pictures of him in a red suit with horns, a tail, and a pitchfork. There is no Biblical description of him because he is a spirit-being. Ephesians 2:2 says he is "the prince of the power of the air, the spirit."

Satan has the ability to be *omnipresent* (to be present everywhere simultaneously). Just as I can possess the Holy Spirit in America and other saints can at the same time possess Him in other parts of the world, the Holy Spirit can indwell, influence, and direct me while simultaneously doing the same for other saints of God. Likewise, so can Satan. If he were not omnipresent, then he could only work on one person at a time, and that is plainly not so.

Consider, while Satan was working on Job, was the rest of the world being ignored? Or while Christ was being tempted in Matthew, Chapter 4, was the rest of the world enjoying a reprieve? Certainly not! As a spirit-being, Satan does not have the confinement of a human form or nature. Job 1:7 reveals Satan's sphere of operation when it says, "From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it." This indicates a certain amount of supernatural ability.

Brother Earl R. Borders

For further study on the subject of the devil, read *The Devil, His Origin, His Nature, and His Destiny*.  
Available at [GodsAcres.org](http://GodsAcres.org) (Click on "Resources" then "Study Materials")

## 2023 Camp Meeting Dates

The Church of God, God's Acres

June 18 - 25

July 30 - August 6

December 27 - 31

(The first service will be  
Wednesday evening at 7 p.m.)

Please join us for old-fashioned camp meetings next year.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**