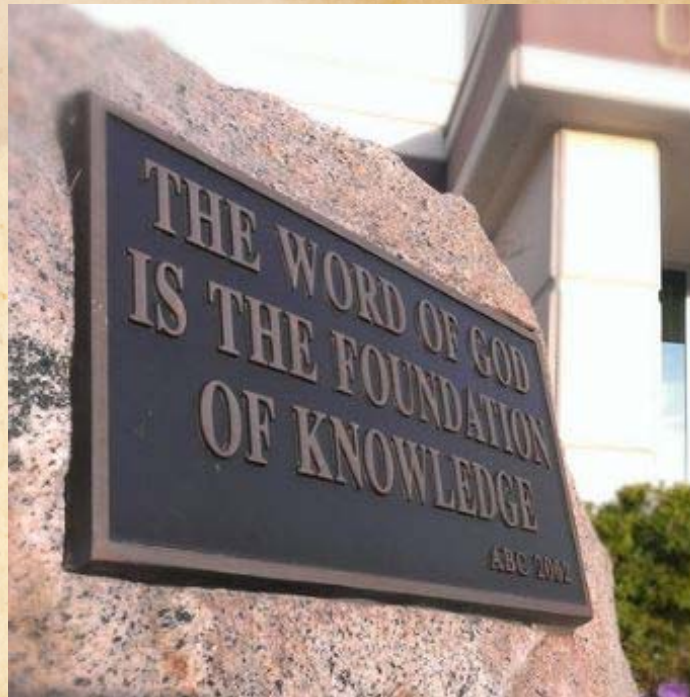


Weeknight Bible Study

January 06, 2022

Fundamental Beliefs of the United Church of God (Booklet)

United Church of God, SF Bay Area



Check-In Goals:

1. Fellowship in a Spiritually Uplifting focus in God's Word
2. Hear from All Participants as equally as possible

Please limit comments to no more than 2 minutes until everyone has had an opportunity to speak.

3. Discuss / Highlight / Collect Wisdom

Discussion Topic: Fundamental #3. Satan the Devil

- > It is striking the reality that we are under attack.
- > He is extremely powerful and we of ourselves are no match for him without God.
- > He is out to deceive the whole world... and is active in the here and now.
- > Prince of the power of the air... he's got active surveillance and is studying how to get to us!
- > This is a being that is NOT afraid to challenge God... (he, by nature, is insane even if judged on this one point)
- > He has nothing to lose at this point... he won't give up until he's restrained and ultimately banished.
- > He's extremely cunning, deceitful and he knows how to seduce us in our minds to get us to fall into temptation.
- > He's been at this for about 6,000 years... he can read our energy, our body language, etc... He really understands human nature as he's influenced it...
- > He knows he can only go as far as God will let him... he pushes right to the limits.
- > His ultimate goal is to keep us from salvation... we need to keep this in the forefront of our minds!
- > Scary to think how deceptive and convincing he is as he was able to persuade a third of the angels...
- > Our learning to resist him is to build spiritual character.
- > He was not created as he is... he (and the fallen angels) made choices to become as he (they) is (are)... He was perfect in all his ways until iniquity was found in him.
- > Mankind can become evil by influence of Satan and the demons but he had no one influencing him.

Discussion Topic: Fundamental #3. Satan the Devil

- > He desired and thought he was worthy of worship...
- > People can fall into the trap to use him as an excuse “the devil made me do it”
- > God has it in His plan to resist evil and repent.
- > Our resistance to the influence will prove above all else that we want God’s way of life...
- > We can and must resist the devil! Eph 6:11 We must ask God to armor us up!!
- > The Holy Spirit in us is stronger than the devil!!
- > Satan & his demons can be rebuked in the name of God and Jesus Christ.

Belief Statement:

#3.Satan the Devil

Fundamental Belief Statement:

We believe that Satan is a spirit being who is the adversary of God and the children of God; Satan has been given dominion over the world for a specific time; Satan has deceived humanity into rejecting God and His law; Satan has ruled by deception with the aid of a host of demons who are rebellious angels, spirit beings who followed Satan in his rebellion (Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 8:12; 2 Timothy 2:26; John 12:31; 16:11; Revelation 12:4, 9; 20:1-3, 7, 10; Leviticus 16:21-22; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 11:14; Ephesians 2:2).

Booklet section audio... <https://www.ucg.org/system/storage/serve/1344991/03-satan-the-devil.mp3>

Discussion Scriptures

#3. Scriptures (Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 8:12; 2 Timothy 2:26; John 12:31; 16:11; Revelation 12:4, 9; 20:1-3, 7, 10; Leviticus 16:21-22; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 11:14; Ephesians 2:2)

Matthew 4:1-11 NKJV Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. (2) And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. (3) Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." (4) But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD.' " (5) Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, (6) and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'HE SHALL GIVE HIS ANGELS CHARGE OVER YOU,' and, IN THEIR HANDS THEY SHALL BEAR YOU UP, LEST YOU DASH YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.' " (7) Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'YOU SHALL NOT TEMPT THE LORD YOUR GOD.' " (8) Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. (9) And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." (10) Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND HIM ONLY YOU SHALL SERVE.' " (11) Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

Luke 8:12 NKJV Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

2 Timothy 2:26 NKJV and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will. .

Discussion Scriptures

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John 12:31 NKJV Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

John 16:11 NKJV of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Revelation 12:4 NKJV His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.

Revelation 12:9 NKJV So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Revelation 20:1-3, 7, 10 NKJV Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. (2) He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; (3) and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

(7) Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison

(10) The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Discussion Scriptures

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Leviticus 16:21-22 NKJV Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, confess over it all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions, concerning all their sins, putting them on the head of the goat, and shall send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a suitable man. (22) The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to an uninhabited land; and he shall release the goat in the wilderness.

2 Corinthians 4:4 NKJV whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

2 Corinthians 11:14 NKJV And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

Ephesians 2:2 NKJV in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

Example Apologetic Discussion

Fundamental #3. Satan the Devil

Discussion w/ Someone Who Does NOT Believe Satan Exists?

- > Start by asking why they do not think Satan exists?
- > Ask them what reason there is then why so much evil pain and suffering is happening today and throughout history. (evidence for Satan's existence is evident similar to that for God's existence as well)
- > Ask if they doubt the validity of the inspiration of the Bible? If not, start walking them through the scriptures.
- > If they don't believe the Bible's inspiration... then we take the tact of a little philosophy... ask them why? Then share with them 'The Why' you have for the reason of the hope that lies within you!!
- > Provide a personal testimony of how God has worked personally with us... answered prayers are an example, Fulfilled prophecies from scripture... walk through summary of creation account and examples all around us.
- > Humanity's wars and foment through history is evidence of an unseen force stirring things up (like we can't see the wind but we know it exists) Ask them to read Matthew 24 with you.
- > **1 John 4:4 NKJV You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.**

Example Apologetic Reference-1

Fundamental #3. Satan the Devil

<https://www.barna.com/research/most-american-christians-do-not-believe-that-satan-or-the-holy-spirit-exist/>



Four out of ten Christians (40%) strongly agreed that Satan “is not a living being but is a symbol of evil.” An additional two out of ten Christians (19%) said they “agree somewhat” with that perspective. A minority of Christians indicated that they believe Satan is real by disagreeing with the statement: one-quarter (26%) disagreed strongly and about one-tenth (9%) disagreed somewhat. The remaining 8% were not sure what they believe about the existence of Satan.

Restated Summary of Christians polled in 2009:

59% Believed Satan “is not a living being but is a symbol of evil.” (40% agree / 19% agree somewhat)

8% Are not sure what they believed about the existence of Satan.

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35% Believed Satan is real (26% strongly / 9% somewhat)



## Example Apologetic Reference-2

### Fundamental #3. Satan the Devil

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satan>

#### Satan

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Satan**,<sup>[a]</sup> also known as **the Devil**,<sup>[b]</sup> and sometimes also called **Lucifer** in Christianity, is an entity in the Abrahamic religions that seduces humans into sin or falsehood. In Judaism, Satan is seen as an agent subservient to Yahweh, typically regarded as a metaphor for the *yetzer hara*, or "evil inclination." In Christianity and Islam, he is usually seen as a fallen angel who has rebelled against God, who nevertheless allows him temporary power over the fallen world and a host of demons. In the Quran, **Shaitan**, also known as **Iblis**, is an entity made of fire who was cast out of Heaven because he refused to bow before the newly-created Adam and incites humans to sin by infecting their minds with *waswās* ("evil suggestions").

A figure known as *ha-satan* ("the satan") first appears in the Hebrew Bible as a heavenly prosecutor, a member of the sons of God subordinate to Yahweh (God), who prosecutes the nation of Judah in the heavenly court and tests the loyalty of Yahweh's followers. During the intertestamental period, possibly due to influence from the Zoroastrian figure of Angra Mainyu, the satan developed into a malevolent entity with abhorrent qualities in dualistic opposition to God. In the apocryphal Book of Jubilees, Yahweh grants the satan (referred to as Mastema) authority over a group of fallen angels, or their offspring, to tempt humans to sin and punish them.

Although the Book of Genesis does not mention him, he is often identified as the serpent in the Garden of Eden. In the Synoptic Gospels, Satan tempts Jesus in the desert and is identified as the cause of illness and temptation. In the Book of Revelation, Satan appears as a Great Red Dragon, who is defeated by Michael the Archangel and cast down from Heaven. He is later bound for one thousand years, but is briefly set free before being ultimately defeated and cast into the Lake of Fire.

In the Middle Ages, Satan played a minimal role in Christian theology and was used as a comic relief figure in mystery plays. During the early modern period, Satan's significance greatly increased as beliefs such as demonic possession and witchcraft became more prevalent. During the Age of Enlightenment, belief in the existence of Satan was harshly criticized by thinkers such as Voltaire. Nonetheless, belief in Satan has persisted, particularly in the Americas.

Although Satan is generally viewed as evil, some groups have very different beliefs. In Theistic Satanism, Satan is considered a deity who is either worshipped or revered. In LaVeyan Satanism, Satan is a symbol of virtuous characteristics and liberty. Satan's appearance is never described in the Bible, but, since the ninth century, he has often been shown in Christian art with horns, cloven hooves, unusually hairy legs, and a tail, often naked and holding a pitchfork. These are an amalgam of traits derived from various pagan deities, including Pan, Poseidon, and Bes. Satan appears frequently in Christian literature, most notably in Dante Alighieri's *Inferno*, all variants of the classic Faust story, John Milton's *Paradise Lost* and *Paradise Regained*, and the poems of William Blake. He continues to appear in film, television, and music.



## Example Apologetic Reference-3

### Fundamental #3. Satan the Devil

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Devil>

## Devil

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

A **devil** is the **personification** of **evil** as it is conceived in various cultures and religious traditions.<sup>[1]</sup> It is seen as the objectification of a hostile and destructive force.<sup>[2]</sup>

It is difficult to specify a particular definition of any complexity that will cover all of the traditions, beyond that it is a manifestation of evil. It is meaningful to consider the devil through the lens of each of the cultures and religions that have the devil as part of their mythos.<sup>[3]</sup>

The history of this concept intertwines with theology, mythology, psychiatry, art and literature, maintaining a validity, and developing independently within each of the traditions.<sup>[4]</sup> It occurs historically in many contexts and cultures, and is given many different names—**Satan**, **Lucifer**, **Beelzebub**, **Mephistopheles**, **Iblis**—and attributes: It is portrayed as blue, black, or red; it is portrayed as having horns on its head, and without horns, and so on.<sup>[5][6]</sup> While depictions of the devil are usually taken seriously, there are times when it is treated less seriously; when, for example, devil figures are used in advertising and on candy wrappers.<sup>[3][7]</sup>





# Article / Reference / Sermon... Recommendations (w/ url links):

> Beyond Today Daily: **“Spiritual Danger”**

url = <https://www.ucg.org/beyond-today/beyond-today-daily/spiritual-danger>

> Beyond Today: **“Satan’s Four Great Deceptions”**

url = <https://www.ucg.org/beyond-today/beyond-today-television-program/satans-four-great-deceptions>

**Four deceptions...** He wants us to believe:

1. he doesn't exist
2. he has little influence on people
3. faith replaces obedience
4. God's love accepts everyone

> UCG Booklet: **“Is There Really a Devil?”**

url = <https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/is-there-really-a-devil>

> UCG Member Apologetics Podcast: **“Truth Be Told”** Hosted By Micah Gunn

url = <https://truthbetoldpodcast.podbean.com/>

> General Audio Resource: ABC Comparative Religion

Review of the world's major religions and the beliefs of each compared with Scripture.

Comparative Religion I url = <https://abc.ucg.org/courses/comparative-religion-i>

Comparative Religion II url = <https://abc.ucg.org/courses/comparative-religion-ii>







**~ The End ~**

**& FELLOWSHIP :-)**

