

IS THERE REALLY A DEVIL?

Note to the speaker:

Using reason and the Bible, help audience to understand the reality of the Devil. Stress how we can protect ourselves against his schemes, and show the benefits of doing so

VIEWS PEOPLE HAVE ABOUT THE DEVIL (5 min.)

Many today believe that the Devil is “no more real than a child’s imaginary monster” (*g90* 1/8 12-13)

Popular view depicts Devil as having horns and tail and carrying a pitchfork

Some modern theologians consider Devil a product of myth, a symbolic personification of evil (*w92* 12/1 32)

Atheists reason that there is no God and likewise, no Devil (Ps 10:4; 14:1)

Christians believe that the Devil is a spirit person, having the whole world under his control (1Jo 5:19)

HOW WE KNOW THAT THE DEVIL REALLY EXISTS (10 min.)

Bible portrays Devil, not as a personification of evil, but as truly an evil person (*rs* 361-6)

The Bible is chief source of evidence that the Devil exists

It uses the word “Satan” 52 times, “Devil” 33 times

Job chapters 1 and 2 recount disputes between Jehovah and the Devil

Jesus repeatedly spoke of the Devil (Mt 25:41; Lu 22:31)

Temptation of Jesus proves that the Devil really exists (Mt 4:1-11; *w88* 9/1 13-14)

Christ’s apostles identified Devil as a person (Eph 6:11; 1Pe 5:8; Re 2:10)

Scriptures explain origin and schemes of the Devil (*rs* 363)

Devil was created perfect; he rebelled in a quest for power to rule over others (*dg* 13-14)

Said playwright Eugène Ionesco: “History would be beyond comprehension if we were to leave out the demonic element”

THE DEVIL’S METHODS OF OPERATION (13 min.)

We are not unaware of the Devil’s subtle designs (2Co 2:11)

Satan appeals to desire of flesh, desire of eyes, and showy display of one’s means of life (Read 1 John 2:16)

Desire of flesh can lead one to immorality

Israelites were drawn into fornication with Moabite women (Nu 25:1-3; 1Co 10:8, 11; *it-2* 419)

Desire of eyes and showy display of one’s means of life can lead people to become slaves to materialistic pursuits (*w86* 5/1 11-12)

Gambling, drunkenness, tobacco and drug addiction are part of Devil’s subtle designs (*rq* 20-1)

TV, videos, movies, music, and the Internet can serve Satan’s purpose

False religion is a snare of the Devil (2Co 4:4; 11:14)

Fascination with the occult, independent thinking, and fear of man are all part of Devil’s “crafty acts” (Eph 6:11, *ftn.*)

HOW WE CAN RESIST THE DEVIL AND REMAIN FAITHFUL TO GOD (12 min.)

Key to successful resistance to the Devil found in James’ twofold counsel (Read James 4:7, 8)

To “oppose the Devil,” must “hate what is bad” (Ps 97:10)

Hate what may seem pleasurable by thinking about the consequences

Halfheartedness and indecision can be deadly

To oppose the Devil, must be alert, watchful

“Draw close to God” through prayer, obedience, and faith (*w97* 11/15 20)

Must take a stand against the Devil and remain “solid in the faith” (Read 1 Peter 5:8, 9)

This requires self-examination to see if we have a weakness that the Devil could exploit (*w88* 9/1 15-18)

Control what you allow into your home through TV and videos (Eph 4:27)

Put on “the complete suit of armor from God” (Eph 6:11)

Includes faith, righteousness, peace, ability to make practical use of the Word of God

Schedule time for daily Bible reading and reflection (Ps 1:1, 2)

Make prayer a regular part of your life (1Pe 3:12; 1Jo 5:14)

Keep abreast of current publications of faithful slave class

Attend and participate in congregation meetings (Heb 10:23-25)

Have a meaningful share in field ministry (Mt 24:14)

Help others come to know of God’s promises for a new world, free of demonic influence

Teach people how to protect themselves now and how to avoid the many snares of the Devil (2Co 2:11)

BLESSINGS RESULT IF WE OPPOSE THE DEVIL (5 min.)

Taking a stand against the Devil results in strengthening the Christian brotherhood (1Pe 5:9)

Knowing that the Devil wants to destroy unity of God's people should increase our determination to serve loyally

Living a godly life brings peace of mind and happiness (Php 4:6, 7)

Also brings Jehovah's approval (Pr 27:11)

We can be among those who will survive "great tribulation" (Re 7:14)

Enjoy prospect of everlasting life in new world of righteousness as we experience grand fulfillment of God's purpose (Re 21:3, 4)

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read or commented on)

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TO BE COVERED IN 45 MINUTES

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