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#### WHERE IN THE WORLD IS THE DEVIL?

Pitchfork in hand, tail twitching with gleeful anticipation of souls he can capture, a leering grin on his face, the devil is pictured with the fires of hell at his feet, fiendishly enjoying the flames licking about him.

Satan has never been to hell. He doesn't want to go there. His demons want no part of it, either. Hell is to be the place of final punishment for him, prepared by God (Matt. 25:41).

(The reader of the King James Version must be careful to distinguish between the word translated hell meaning grave, and the word meaning the lake of fire. When the Book of Revelation says death and hell are cast into the lake of fire, it is the grave, over which Christ was victorious in His resurrection and which will finally meet its end.)

Where is Satan then? He is the Prince of the Power of the Air. Scripture indicates that he goes about, that his chief activity at present is to deceive, to intimidate, so that God will be deprived of the people He so dearly loves.

The Old Testament clearly shows efforts by Satan to prevent the Coming of the Messiah. But having been unsuccessful in those attempts, and having been defeated by Christ through His death and resurrection, he now concentrates on man who is the apple of God's eye, man whom God loves so intensely that He sent His Son to redeem them.



Even before the coming of Christ, he was the adversary of man. The Book of Job speaks of his accusations against Job in the presence of God. Zechariah 3:1 again presents him as an accuser of the high priest, and Revelation 12:10 says he relentlessly accused the believers day and night (but at last will be cast out).

Biblical records are given of his activity on the earth: tempting Jesus (Matt. 4:10), trying to tempt Peter (Matt. 16:23), taking possession of Judas (John 13:27), entering into the heart of Ananias to cause him to lie (Acts 5:3), seeking advantage over God's people (2 Cor. 2:11), impeding Paul's desire to see the Thessalonians (1 Thess. 2:18), and withstanding the angel who came to answer Daniel's prayer (Daniel 10:13). Revelation 2:13 identified the church at Pergamum as living where Satan sat enthroned, and that was an earthly location in which the unbelievers had given themselves to sexual vice and other ungodly activities (see Amplified Version).

So certain is it that Satan is not in hell, nor from hell, nor with any control over it, that the believer is admonished in Luke 12:5 not to dread or fear anyone who could harm only the body, but to fear Him who has power to cast into hell -- and that "Him" is clearly God, not the devil.

Hell is the place of ultimate punishment for Satan, for death, for the grave, and for all who have refused God's great mercy, have refused to be named in the Lamb's Book of Life (Rev. 20:10-15).

Let no one deceive us; Satan is here on earth, seeking to destroy through suffering or temptation to ~~be~~ intemperate



living (1 Pet. 5:8), and masquerading as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14).

Even as he fears hell but will ultimately find himself punished there, we, too, should fear it and accept God's wonderful offer of salvation to escape it. It is Christ who won the victory over sin, death, the grave, and the power of Satan. Only by severing our relationship with him whose end is hell, will we, too, escape. Christ invites us now: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."