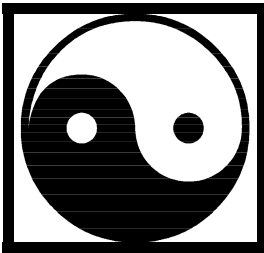


THE DEVIL

Some people say that evil cannot be blamed on God because it stems from a second almighty being, an Anti-god. This is sometimes referred to as Dualism, a good force and an evil force. Christians **do not** believe in dualism.



It is the Anti-god who is responsible for all of the evil and suffering in the world. The world is like a battlefield between the forces of good and evil. The final victory can only come at the end.

This view was held by the Zoroastrians of ancient Persia. They believed that the Lord of light was locked in constant battle with the Lord of darkness. Much of the imagery found in the Bible may have come from here.

In the Old Testament the force of evil is first found as the serpent who tempted Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. It was the serpent who introduced sin into the world.

Later in the Old Testament Satan is referred to as an Angel of God who fell from God's favour after becoming too self-obsessed.

The original idea of Satan seems to be of a testing angel. In the book of Job Satan tests Job to determine whether his faith is strong.

Jesus is tempted by Satan after being in the wilderness for forty days and nights. In each case he resists temptation.

In the last book of the Bible, Revelation, an account of the rise of the kingdom of heaven is told. This includes the fall of Satan who is described as an evil force, the great deceiver. Satan is eventually destroyed by being thrown into the lake of fire (Hell)

Christians don't all agree about what Satan is they think he could be one of the following...

- ◆ A symbolic figure who does not exist but who represents all of the evil in the world.
- ◆ A fallen Angel who has angelic followers called Demons. They fight against God and try to destroy humankind.

Questions.

1. What did the Zoroastrians believe about good and evil?
2. How was the Devil first described in the Old Testament?
3. Why did Satan fall from God's favour?
4. What happened when Jesus encountered Satan?
5. How does the bible say that Satan will be destroyed?
6. Copy out the two views that Christians may have about the Devil.
7. Why might some people argue that even if there is a Devil it does not mean that God is not responsible for evil in the world?
8. On a blank A4 sheet design a poster showing all the aspects of the devil

