

Can Satan be destroyed - will God destroy him ?

The following article was based upon a bible study conducted by a member of the North West Church of God.

Can Satan be destroyed, will God destroy him ? Or keep him hanging around in hell as an eternally tormented soul, in continuous agony, forever crying out for mercy and receiving none, while, being watched by the Lord Jesus and His holy angels, as it appears to suggest in Revelation 14:9-11 “And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive *his* mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.”

Who do you suppose is the most worthy of candidates to suffer the terrible and final fiery indignation of the most High, living God ? Would it be King Herod ? Pharaoh ? How about Judas Iscariot for a likely candidate – let’s see what Jesus Himself had to say about him ? Mark 14:21 “The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had never been born.”

Now if we turn to John 13:27 “And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly.” We can see here who prompted Judas to act in the way that he did !

As worthy of the lake of fire these fleshly candidates appear to be, whom can we suppose to have been present in each case ? –Job 1:7 “And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.” Let’s read a bit further in Job 2:6-7 “And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he *is* in thine hand; but save his life. So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.”

It would seem that Satan does more than just walk around, 1 Peter 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.” We can be certain that Satan is not spending his time idly and harmlessly.

There are many more examples in your bible of how Satan is tirelessly practicing evil. Our Lord Jesus Christ, in John 8:44 clearly states that which Satan is guilty of being. “Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”

Even so, for all his evil, Satan, to us humans, can, and oftentimes does appear to be the most attractive and alluring being in creation 2 Corinthians 11:14 “And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light” Therefore he is dangerous and always will be as long as he exists.

Having established through the word of our Lord God that Satan is a liar and a murderer, indeed the very instigator of the lie, let’s find out what is going to happen to all liars and murderers - lets turn to Revelation 21:8 “ But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

What do you think ? Does Satan qualify ? He certainly does !

Satan has been convicted and is worthy of death, but how is this to be carried out ?

Question: can spirit, as in spirit beings, be destroyed ? Well the obvious answer would appear to be, no, but we do know that these spirit beings can be confined, restricted in their movements, even to the point of being bound by a chain, and Satan is not exempt from such restriction. Lets read about just such an event, in Revelation 20:1-3 “And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.”

So, what else can happen to a spirit being ?

Question: Was Jesus Christ a spirit being before being made flesh ? Of course He was, Jesus is THE WORD, the very God of both Old and New Testaments ! Read it for yourself in John 1:1-4 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men.” Yes, Jesus was the very God in the flesh, so, having established this, if God wanted to utterly destroy Satan, He could first make him flesh !

Turn to Isaiah 14:9-17 “Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet *thee* at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, *even* all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations. All they shall speak and say unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? art thou become like unto us? Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, *and* the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee. How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, *and* consider thee, *saying*, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; *That* made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; *that* opened not the house of his prisoners?”

Well that seems pretty clear but lets search for another clue, turn to Ezekiel 28:1-9 “The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying, Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thine heart *is* lifted up, and thou hast said, *I am* a God, I sit *in* the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou *art* a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God: Behold, thou *art* wiser than Daniel; there is no secret that they can hide from thee: With thy wisdom and with thine understanding thou hast gotten thee riches, and hast gotten gold and silver into thy treasures: By thy great wisdom *and* by thy traffick hast thou increased thy riches, and thine heart is lifted up because of thy riches: Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou hast set thine heart as the heart of God; Behold, therefore I will bring strangers upon thee, the terrible of the nations: and they shall draw their swords against the beauty of thy wisdom, and they shall defile thy brightness. They shall bring thee down to the pit, and thou shalt die the deaths of *them that are* slain in the midst of the seas. Wilt thou yet say before him that slayeth thee, *I am* God? **but thou shalt be a man, and no God**, in the hand of him that slayeth thee.”

Then verses 12-17 “Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone *was* thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou *art* the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee *so*: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou *wast* perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the

mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.”

If we turn to Matthew 10:28, “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” We here find a mention of that which many assume to be the immortal part of a man, his soul. It does survive death, but as this verse in Matthew shows, it is not immutably everlasting, God, can destroy it! Now please turn to Mark 1:24 –

“ Saying, Let *us* alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.” Here we find the demons that Jesus has cast out of the man asking whether He has come to destroy them before their time. Note that the word ‘destroy’ is the same as in Matthew 10:28; it has the same Strong’s number (622). Interestingly the demons seem to know that they can and indeed will be destroyed ! 2 Peter 2:4 “For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast *them* down to hell, and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.” Why, do you suppose, if chains of darkness and hell is to be the demon’s final lot, why ‘the Judgment’ ?

If we return to John 8:44 “Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.” We can couple this statement with that which is to happen to all murderers and liars in Revelation 21:8 “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

A sticking point for some, is to be found in Revelation 20:10 “And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.” The words ‘forever and ever’ mentioned therein, seem to imply eternal torture with no destruction at all - doesn’t this contradict all that we have already read ? Consider Revelation 14:9-11 “And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive *his* mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.” Do we really believe that our Lord Jesus is going to spend all eternity in hell watching Satan and his demons being tormented ? Of course not ! There may well be torment, pain and terror, but the end will be death. If we check the words ‘forever and ever’ in Strong’s concordance (no. 165) we find that they do not necessarily mean eternity.

Now lets look at Revelation 20:14 “And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.” If we now turn to Hebrews 2:14-“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.” once more we encounter the word ‘destroy’ (Strong’s no. 2673). At this point I would like to quote from an article written by evangelist Ron Dart, “ The word destruction is meaningless if there is not a point where the destruction is complete. In other words, you can’t keep on destroying something for all eternity. It’s a contradiction in terms.” We should now ask ourselves who has the power of death? Will death be destroyed ? Yes it will, the bible tells us that, as we have just read.

Revelation 21:4 says “ And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.” We are told that there shall be no more death. Doesn’t it follow then that while Satan is still in existence then so shall death be in existence ? Satan knows this, he knows that he is going to be destroyed forever ! To do Satan’s will is to sin; sin leads to death; Satan is become death to US, (and the angels who have followed him). He took it upon himself to be so, and as such he shall be no more, forever. Just as Almighty God is life, and alive forever, so Satan is death, and shall be dead, forever.

Ezekiel 28:18 “Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.”

One final scripture sums up the impossibility of Satan being allowed to co-exist alongside a loving God, 2 Corinthians 6:14 “ Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?” Lets look at the Strong’s definition of the word ‘communion’ mentioned here. (Strong’s no. 2842) “communion – the fellowship, the close association between persons, emphasizing what is common between them – therefore by extension, participation, sharing, contribution, gift, the outcome of such relationships.”

Satan has not, and can not have, any part in such communion. His fate is sealed, and what is more, he knows it, he has nothing to lose by the way he conducts himself, and is hell-bent on taking with him as many souls as he possibly can, to total destruction. This is very evident by the way that he has acted in the past, the way that he is acting now, and the way that he is prophesied to act in the very near future.