

THE ADVERSARY (SATAN - THE DEVIL)

Excerpts from the Bible

Mark 7

15 There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man.

16 If any man have ears to hear, let him hear.

Matthew 9

4 And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?

Mark 7

18 And he saith unto them, Are ye so without understanding also? Do ye not perceive, that whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, [it] cannot defile him;

20 And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man.

21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,

22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:

23 All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

Matthew 15

19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

Mathew 12

35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

Jas 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth [it] not, to him it is sin.

NO OTHER GOD BESIDES GOD

Before Me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after Me.

Isa 43.10

I am the first, and I am the last; and beside Me there is no God.

Isa 44.6 Is there a God beside Me? yea, there is no God; I

know not any.

Isa 44.8

Look unto Me, and be ye saved...for I am God, and there is none else.

Isa 45.22

And in the New Testament.

Mark 12

32 And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he:

Ephesians 4

6 One God and Father of all, who [is] above all, and through all, and in you all.

Isa 45:7 I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these [things].

WHO IS AGAINST US?

Whoever is not against us is for us. I assure you that anyone who gives you a drink of water because you belong to Me will certainly receive his reward.

Mk 9.40

THE TRUE SPIRIT AND THE FALSE

My dear friends do not believe all who claim to have the spirit, but test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God...This is how you will be able to know whether it is God's Spirit; anyone who acknowledges that Jesus Christ came as a human being has the spirit who comes from God. But anyone who denies this about Jesus does not have the Spirit from God...This then is how we can tell the difference between the spirit of truth and the

spirit of error.

Jn 4.1-6

FALSE PROPHETS

Beware of false prophets, who come to you dressed up as sheep while underneath they are savage wolves. You will recognise them by their fruit...A good tree always yields sound fruit and a poor tree bad fruit...That is why I say you will recognise them by their fruit.

Matt 7.15

On each side of the river was the Tree of Life which bears fruit twelve times a year.

Rev 22.2

To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the Tree of Life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Rev 2.7

Baha'u'llah suffered forty years of imprisonment to establish the following fruits of His revelation. The Baha'is are actively engaged in promoting these principles throughout the world. Judge for yourself their worth.

1. The unity and oneness of humanity. "The earth is but one country and mankind its citizens"
2. The essential unity of the world's major religions. All are inspired of God and concerned with peace and unity.
3. The absolute unity of God. There is no other God but God!
4. The independent investigation of truth.
5. The essential harmony of science and religion.
6. The equality of men and women.
7. Elimination of prejudice of all kind.
8. Education available for all of humanity.
9. A universal auxiliary language

10. A spiritual solution to the economic problem.

11. An end to war and the establishment of a universal peace upheld by a world government inspired by God.

WRITINGS

All the sorrow and the grief that exist come from the world of matter - the spiritual world bestows only the joy!

Abdul Baha

The Reality of Man 20

As to the question, "That `Abdu'l-Baha hath said to some of the believers that evil never exists, nay rather, it is a non-existent thing": This is but truth, inasmuch as the greatest evil is (man's) going astray and being veiled from Truth. Error is lack of guidance; darkness is lack of light; ignorance is lack of knowledge; falsehood is lack of truthfulness; blindness is lack of sight; and deafness is lack of hearing. Therefore, error, blindness, deafness, and ignorance are non-existent things. If we say that according to the text of the Bible, "God hardened Pharoeh's heart that he might not believe in Moses", this signifies that, verily, He did not soften his heart. And when we wish to say that God hath not guided a certain one of His servants, that this would be interpreted (by people) that God led him astray. The darkness spoken of in the Bible as being created by God signifieth that, verily, God hath not caused light to shine; inasmuch as there is no light, there will be darkness; where there is no sight, there will be blindness; where there is no life, there will be death; where there is no riches, there will be poverty; and where there is no knowledge, there will be ignorance.

Consequently, it is proven by indisputable argument and clear explanation that, verily, evils are non-existent, but people have not understood the meaning of the verses of the Bible

`Abdu'l-Baha TAB 609-10

Know verily that knowledge is of two kinds: Divine and Satanic. The one welleteth out from the fountain of divine inspiration; the other is but a reflection of vain and obscure thoughts. The source of the former is God...the latter the whisperings of selfish desire.
KI 69

Every good thing is of God, and every evil thing is from yourselves.
Gleanings LXXVII

Watch over yourselves, for the Evil One is lying in wait, ready to entrap you...The Evil

One is he that hindereth the rise and obstructeth the spiritual progress of the children of men.

Gleanings 94

The greatest of degradation is to leave the Shadow of God and enter under the shadow of Satan.

Baha'i World Faith 434

The evil spirit, Satan or whatever is interpreted as evil, refers to the lower nature in man. This baser nature is symbolised in various ways...God has never created an evil spirit; all such ideas and nomenclature are symbols expressing the mere human or earthly nature of man.

Abdul Baha Addresses and Tablets

SYMBOLIC TERMS and ALLUSIONS

Know verily that the purpose underlying all these symbolic terms and abstruse allusions, which emanate from the Revealers of God's Holy Cause, hath been to test and prove the peoples of the world; that thereby the earth of the pure and illumined hearts may be known from the barren and perishable soil. From time immemorial such hath been the way of God amidst His creatures and to this testify the records of the sacred Books.

KI 49

Wert thou to cleanse the mirror of thy heart from the dust of malice, thou wouldst apprehend the meaning of the symbolic terms revealed by the all-embracing Word of God made manifest in every dispensation and would discover the mysteries of divine knowledge.

KI 68 The purpose of God in creating man hath been, and will ever be, to enable him to know his Creator and attain His presence...Whoso hath failed to recognise Him will have condemned himself to the misery of remoteness which is naught but utter nothingness...His purpose, however, is to enable the pure in spirit and the detached in heart to ascend, by virtue of their own innate powers, unto the shores of the Most Great Ocean, that thereby they who seek the Beauty of the All-Glorious may be distinguished and separated from the wayward and perverse.

Gleanings 71

We know absence of light is darkness, but no-one would assert darkness does was not a fact. It exists even though it is only the absence of something else. So evil exists too, and we cannot close our eyes to it, even though it is a negative existence. We must seek to supplant it by good, and if we see an evil person is not influenced by us, then we should shun his company for it is unhealthy.

As to the question of evil spirits, demons and monsters, any references made to them in the Holy Books have symbolic meaning. What is currently known among the public is but sheer superstition.

A tablet of 'Abdu'l-Baha. "Spiritualism and Psychic Phenomena"

[Source of evil thoughts] They come from other minds: they are reflected. One should not become a mirror for them - to reflect them, neither should one try to control them for this is impossible: it only aggravates the difficulty, causing more to appear.

One should constantly turn the mirror of his heart squarely toward God so that the light of the Sun of Truth may be reflected there. This is the only cure for attacks of evil thoughts. The Face of the mirror should be turned toward God and the back of the mirror toward the evil thoughts.

'Abdu'l-Baha Daily lessons Recieved at Akka 35

You have asked regarding the influence of evil spirits. Evil spirits are deprived of eternal life. How can they excercise any influence? But as eternal life is ordained for holy spirits, therefore their influence exists in all the Divine Worlds.

'Abdu'l-Baha Daily lessons Recieved at Akka 78

THE FALL FROM GRACE

Isa 14:12 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!

Re 2:28 And I will give him the morning star. Re 22:16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, [and] the bright and morning star.

Mt 24:29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

Mr 13:25 And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.

Lu 10:18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

Re 9:1 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.

Re 17:10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, [and] the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.

Re 18:2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

Re 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

O YE THAT ARE FOOLISH, YET HAVE A NAME TO BE WISE!

Wherefore do ye wear the guise of shepherds, when inwardly ye have become wolves, intent upon My flock? Ye are even as the star, which riseth ere the dawn, and which, though it seem radiant and luminous, leadeth the wayfarers of My city astray into paths of perdition.

HW P24

[SEE Kitab-i-Iqan p36 and Baha'i Referencec to Judaism Christianity and Islam p219]