



Biblically, sin seems easier to describe than to define.

*Biblically, sin seems easier
to describe than to define.*

∞ 1 John 3:4 ∞

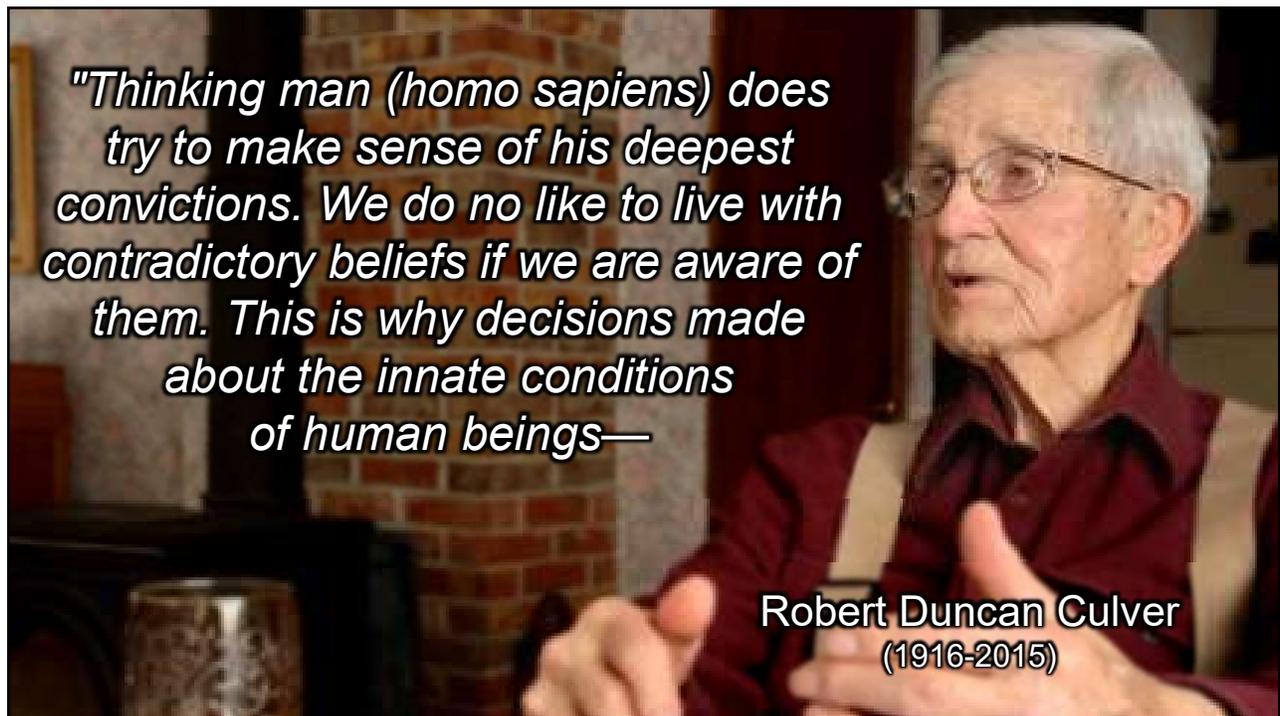
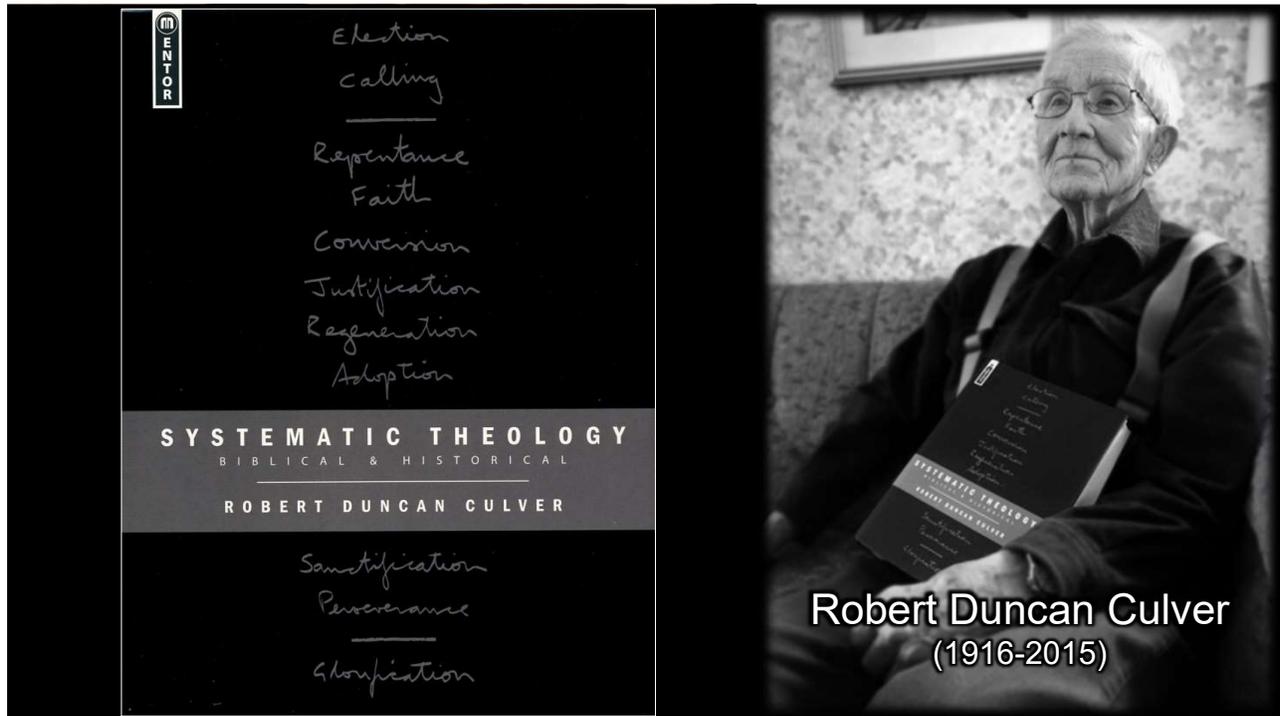
*"Whoever commits sin also
commits lawlessness, and sin is
lawlessness."*

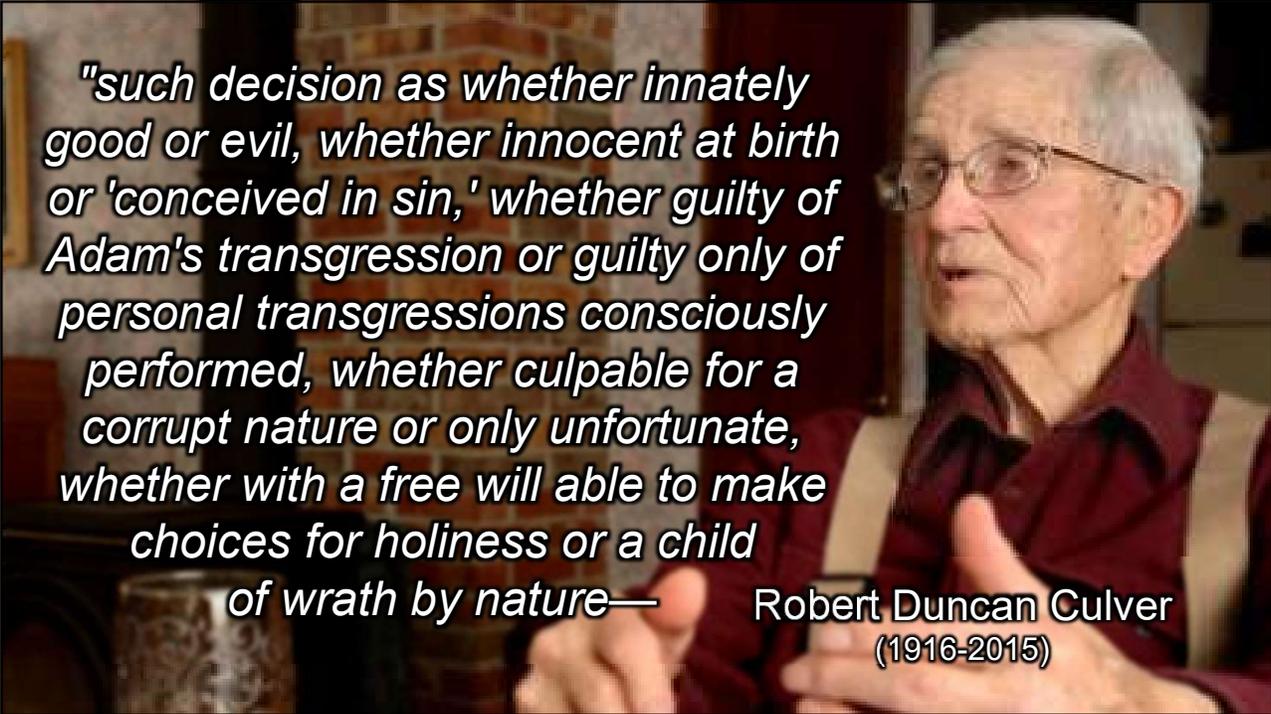
✧ James 4:17 ✧

"Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin."

✧ Romans 14:23b ✧

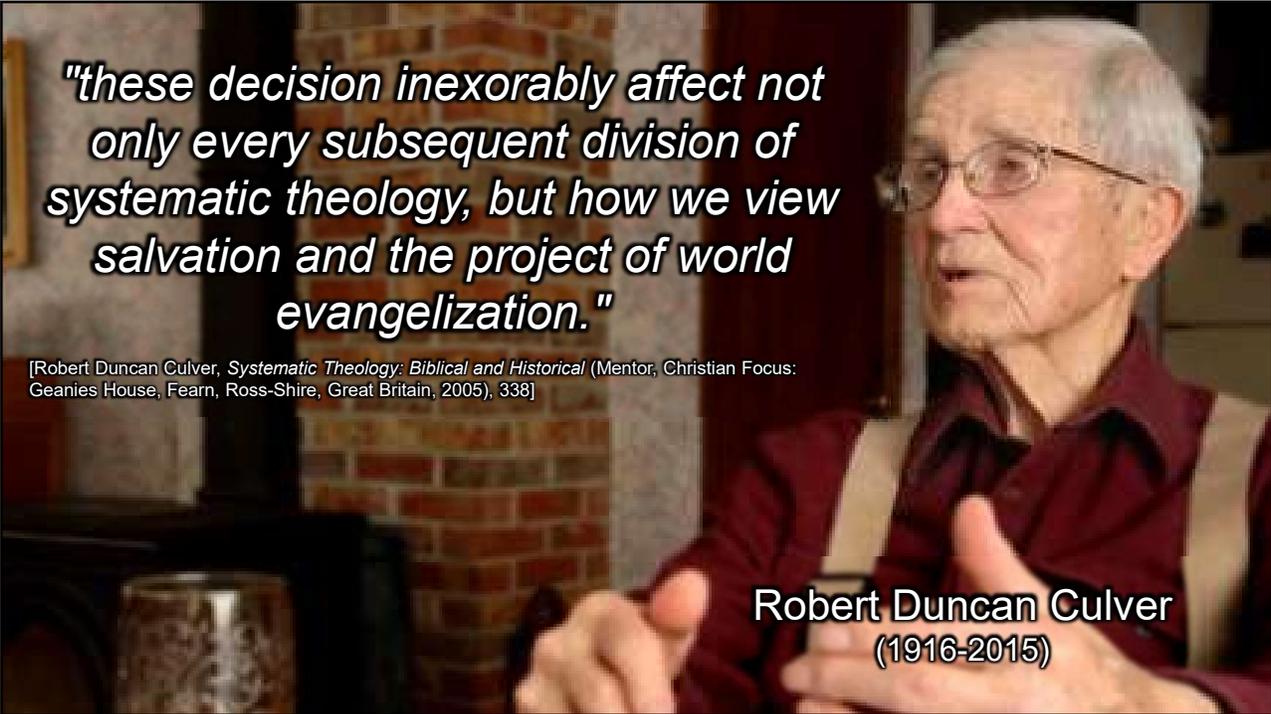
But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin."



A photograph of an elderly man with white hair and glasses, wearing a maroon shirt and suspenders. He is speaking and gesturing with his hands. The background is a brick wall.

"such decision as whether innately good or evil, whether innocent at birth or 'conceived in sin,' whether guilty of Adam's transgression or guilty only of personal transgressions consciously performed, whether culpable for a corrupt nature or only unfortunate, whether with a free will able to make choices for holiness or a child of wrath by nature—

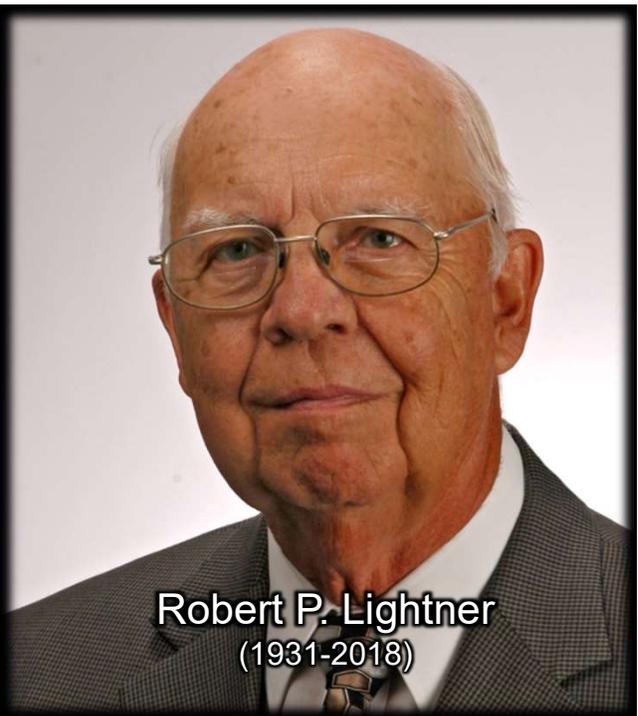
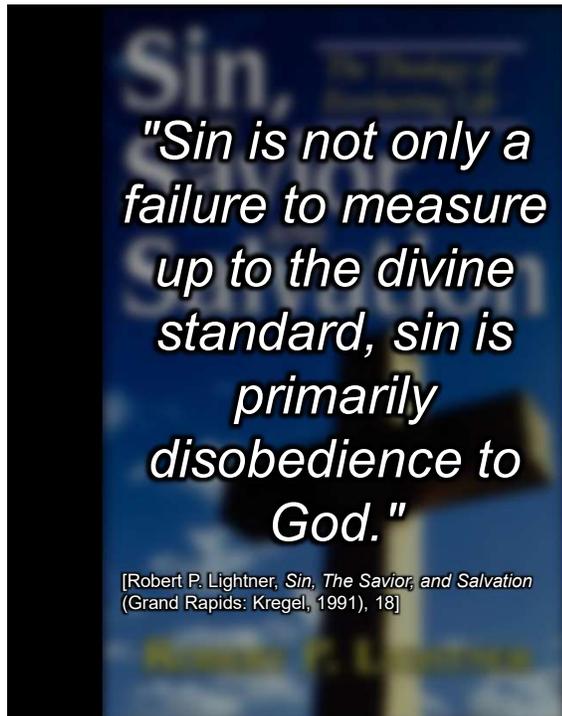
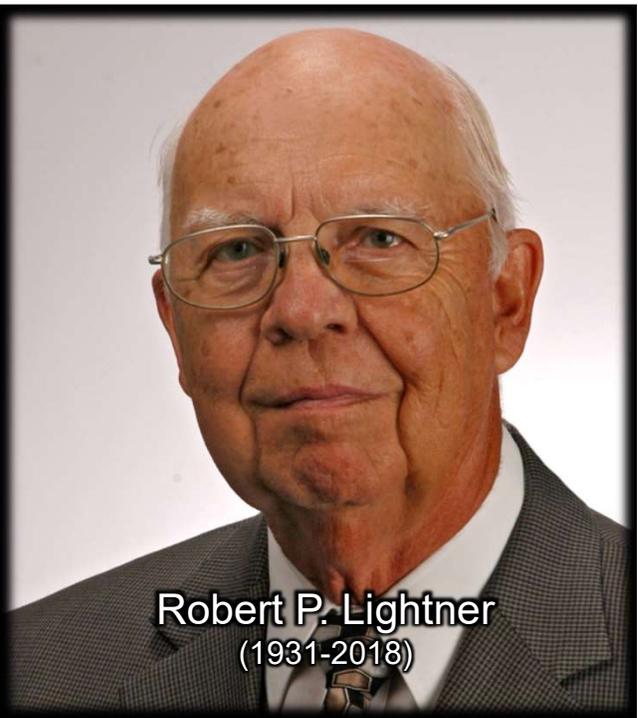
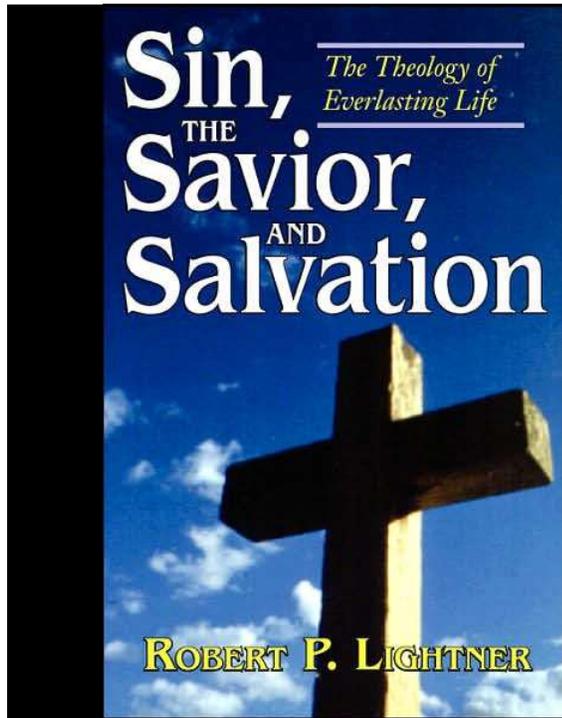
Robert Duncan Culver
(1916-2015)

A photograph of the same elderly man, Robert Duncan Culver, speaking and gesturing with his hands. The background is a brick wall.

"these decision inexorably affect not only every subsequent division of systematic theology, but how we view salvation and the project of world evangelization."

[Robert Duncan Culver, *Systematic Theology: Biblical and Historical* (Mentor, Christian Focus: Geanies House, Fearn, Ross-Shire, Great Britain, 2005), 338]

Robert Duncan Culver
(1916-2015)





Q. 24. What is sin?

A. Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, any law of God, given as a rule to the reasonable creature.

∞ *Matthew 5:48* ∞

"Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."

🌀 Leviticus 11:44 🌀

"... and you shall be holy; for I am holy. ..."

🌀 Leviticus 20:7 🌀

"... and be holy, for I am the LORD your God."

🌀 Leviticus 11:45 🌀

"... You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy."

🌀 Leviticus 20:26 🌀

"And you shall be holy to Me, for I the LORD am holy ..."

🌀 Leviticus 19:2 🌀

"... You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy."

🌀 Leviticus 21:8 🌀

"... He shall be holy to you, for I the LORD, who sanctify you, am holy."

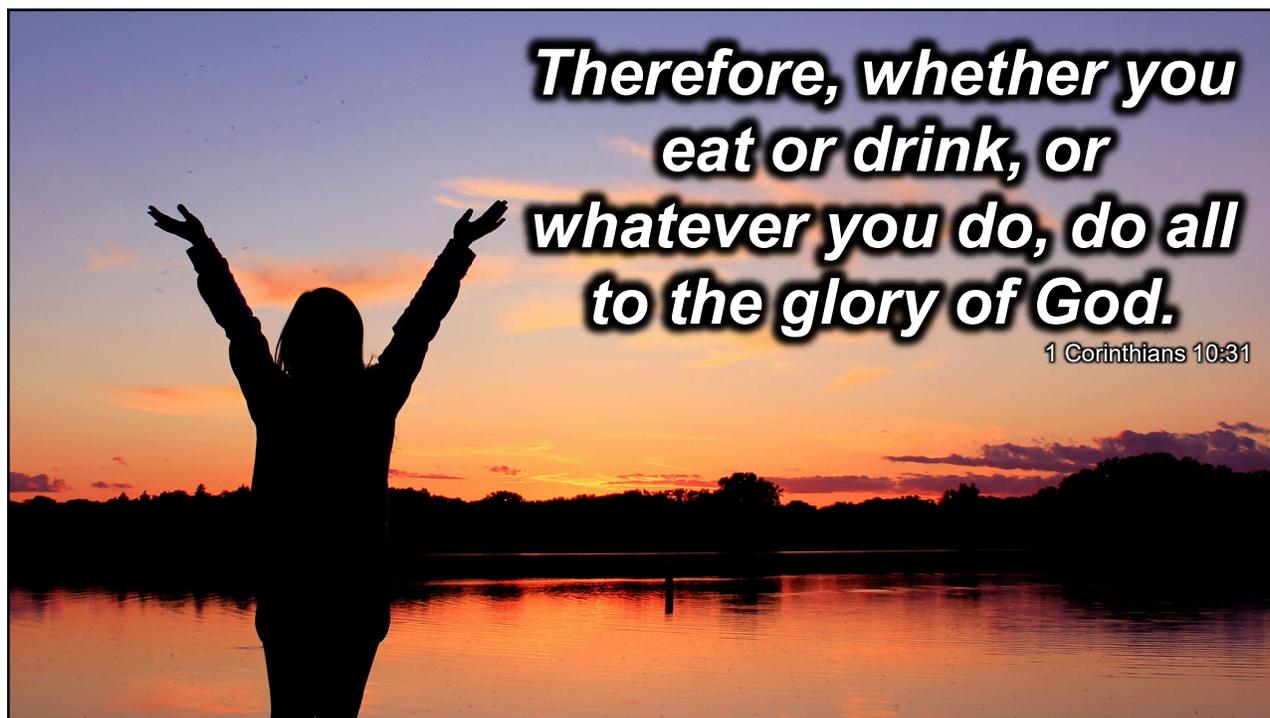
***The heavens declare
the glory of God; and
the firmament shows
His handiwork.***

Psalm 19:1



For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 3:23



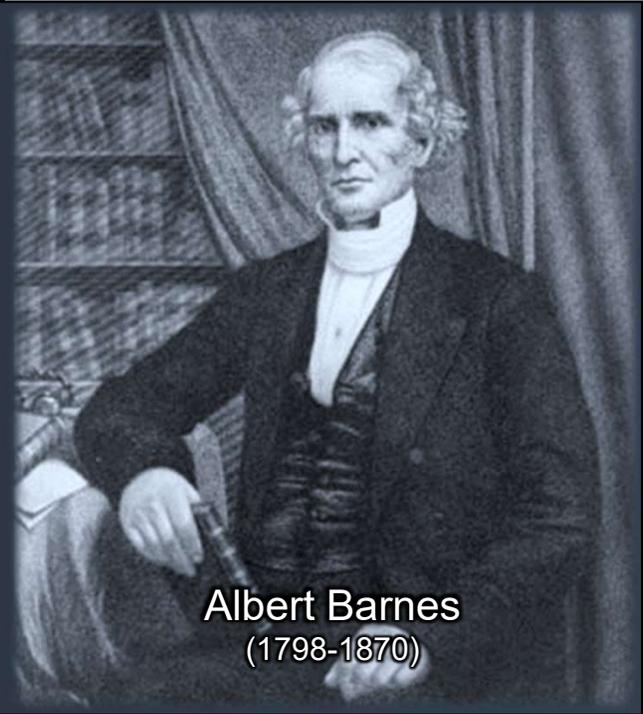
Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31

What Does it Mean to Glorify God?

"The phrase 'the glory of God,' is equivalent to the honor of God; and the direction is:

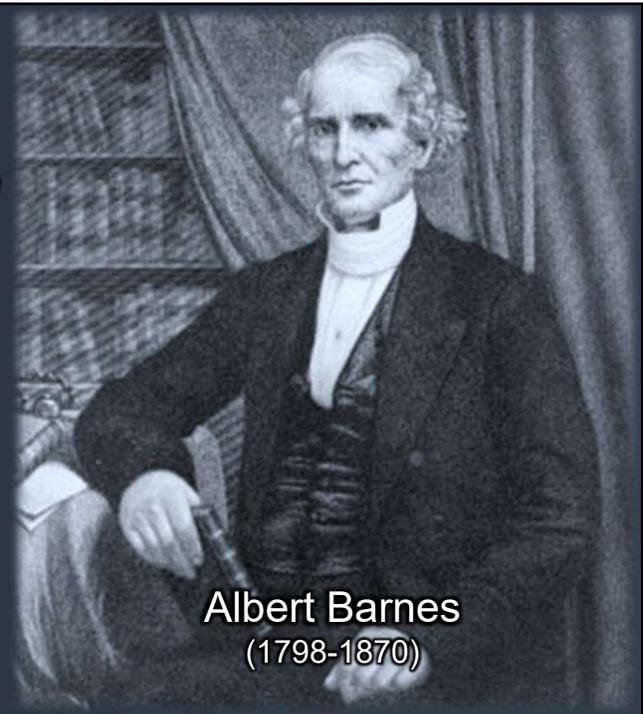
- ❖ *that we should so act in all things as to honor Him as our Lawgiver, our Creator, our Redeemer*
- ❖ *to lead others by our example to praise him and to embrace his gospel.*



Albert Barnes
(1798-1870)

"A child acts so as to honor a father when:

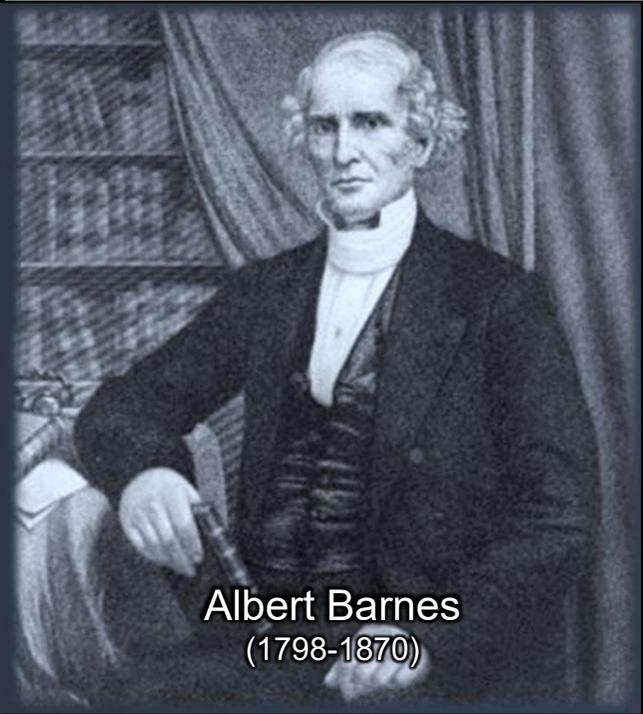
- ❖ *he always cherishes reverential and proper thoughts of him;*
 - ❖ *he is thankful for his favors;*
 - ❖ *he keeps his laws;*
- ❖ *he endeavors to advance his plans and his interests; and*
- ❖ *he so acts as to lead all around him to cherish elevated opinions of the character of a father.*



Albert Barnes
(1798-1870)

"He dishonors him when:

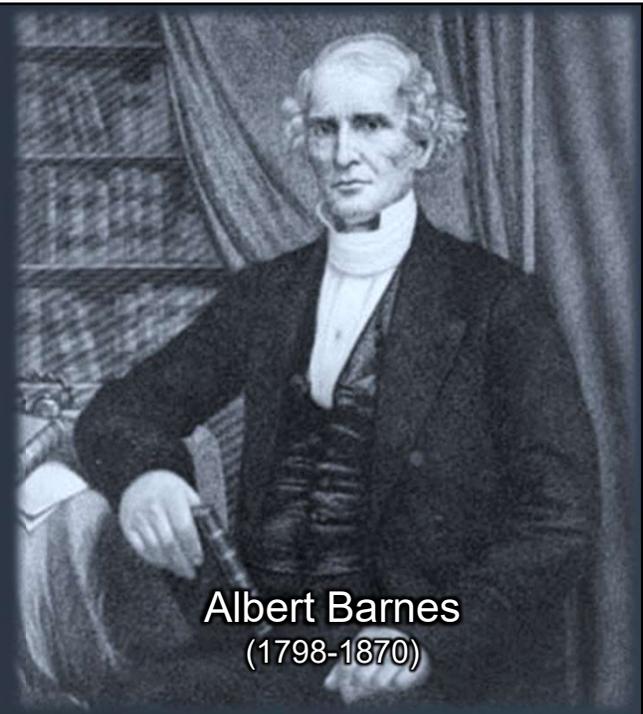
- ❖ *he has no respect to his authority;*
 - ❖ *he breaks his laws;*
- ❖ *he leads others to treat him with disrespect.*



Albert Barnes
(1798-1870)

**"In like manner, we live to the
glory of God when:**

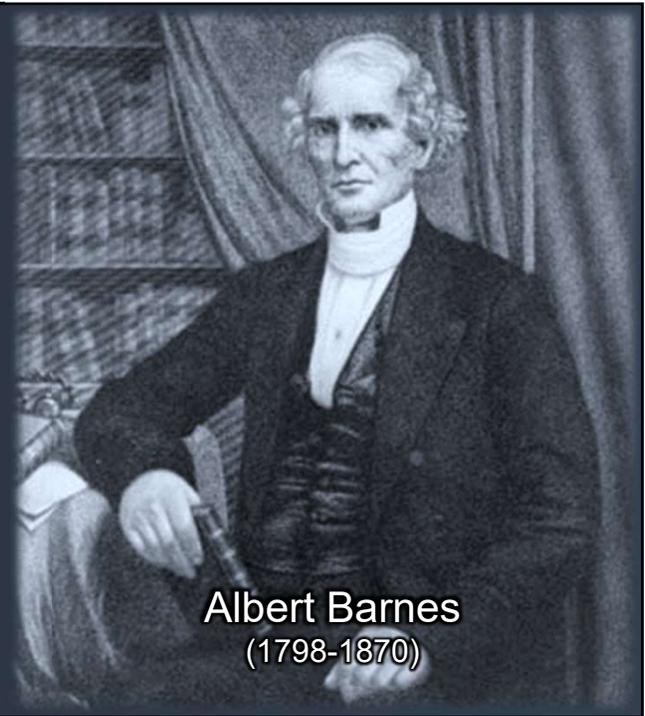
- ❖ *we honor him in all the relations which he sustains to us;*
 - ❖ *we keep his laws;*
- ❖ *we partake of his favors with thankfulness, and with a deep sense of our dependence;*
 - ❖ *we pray unto him; and*
- ❖ *we so live as to lead those around us to cherish elevated conceptions of his goodness, and mercy, and holiness.*



Albert Barnes
(1798-1870)

"Whatever plan or purpose will tend to advance his kingdom, and to make him better known and loved, will be to his glory."

[Albert Barnes, *Barnes' Notes on the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1962), 752]



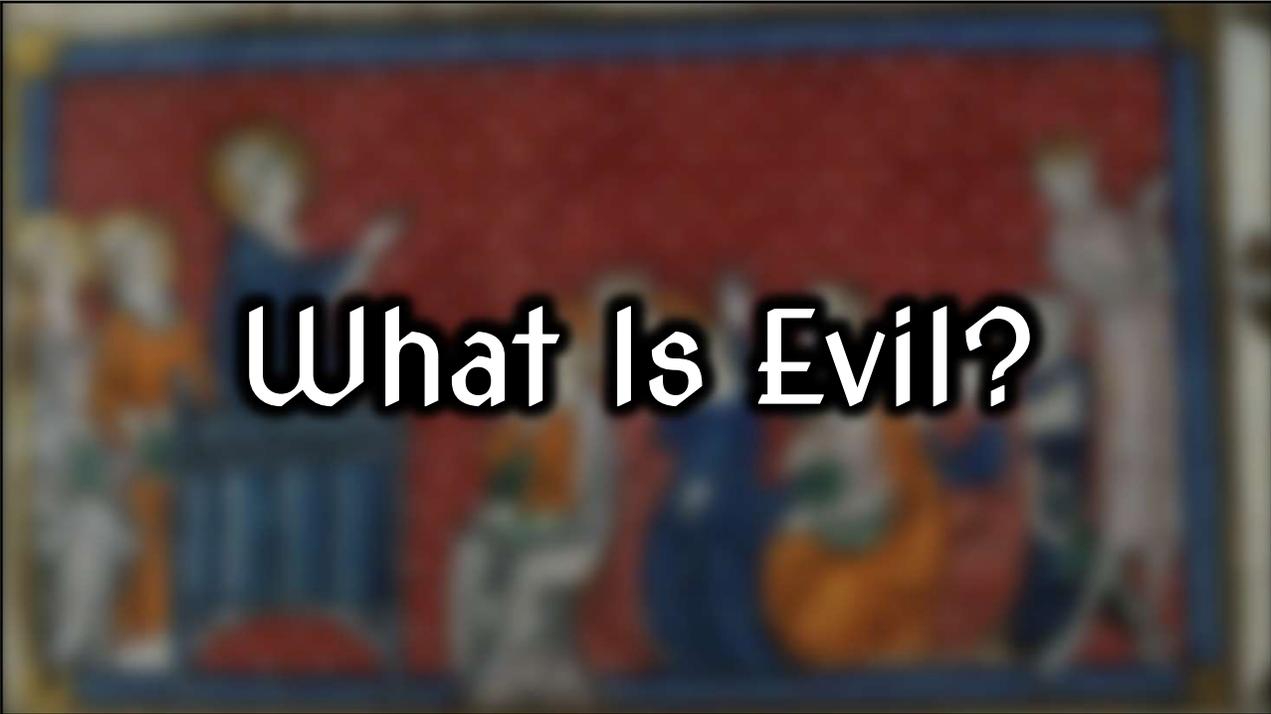
Albert Barnes
(1798-1870)



Evil and Sin



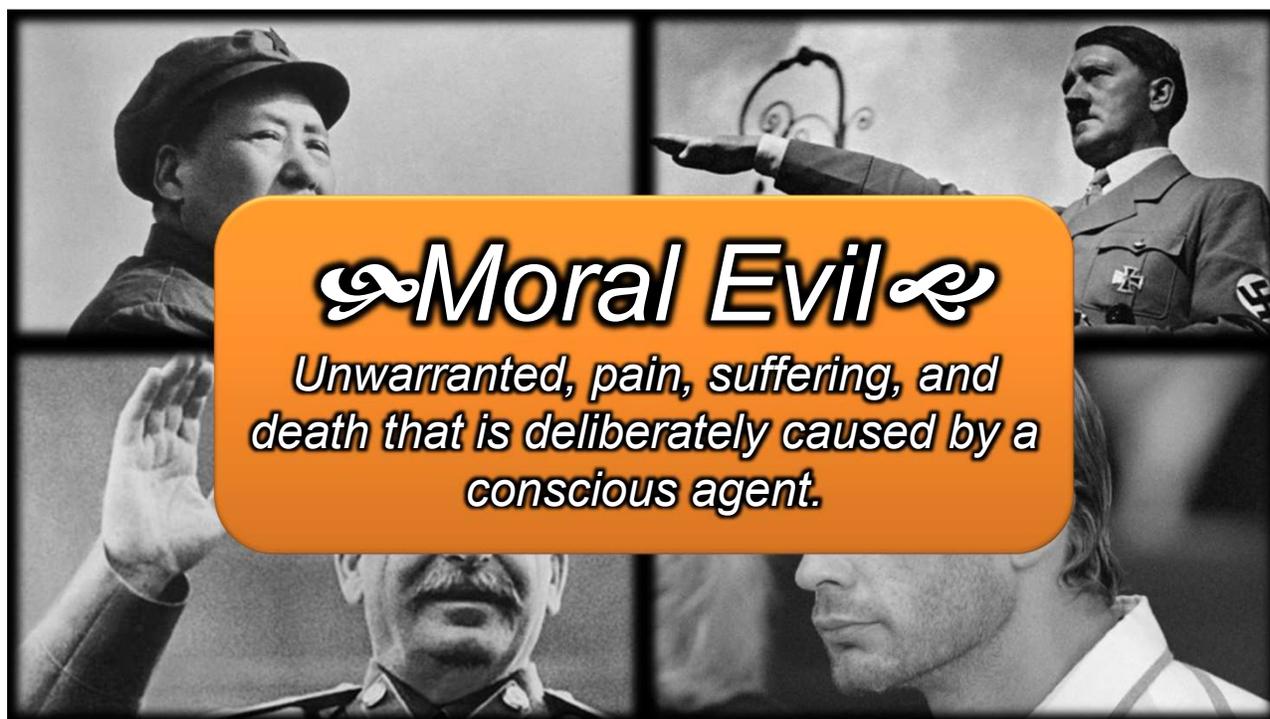
What Is Evil?



Regarding evil, one of the most common distinctions in contemporary apologetics and philosophy is between *natural evil* and *moral evil*.







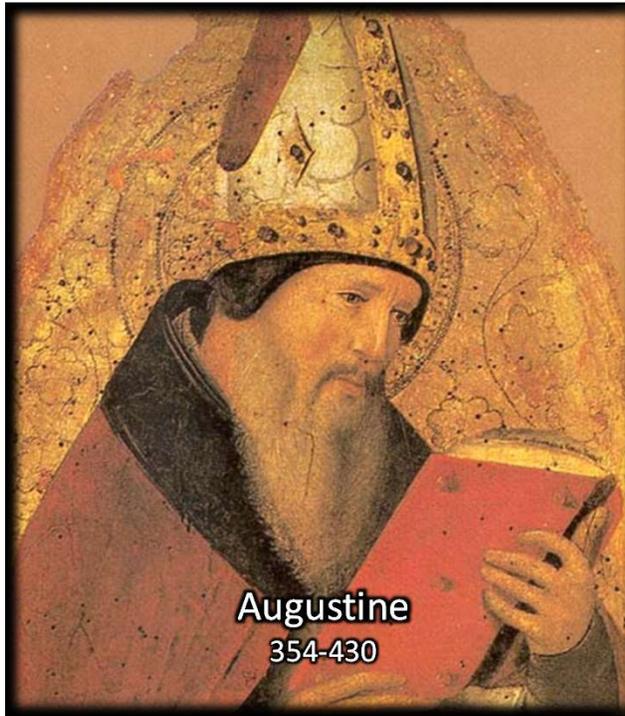
Moral Evil

Unwarranted, pain, suffering, and death that is deliberately caused by a conscious agent.

This distinction in contemporary philosophy differs from the understanding of evil in the Classical / Medieval / Scholastic / Thomistic tradition.

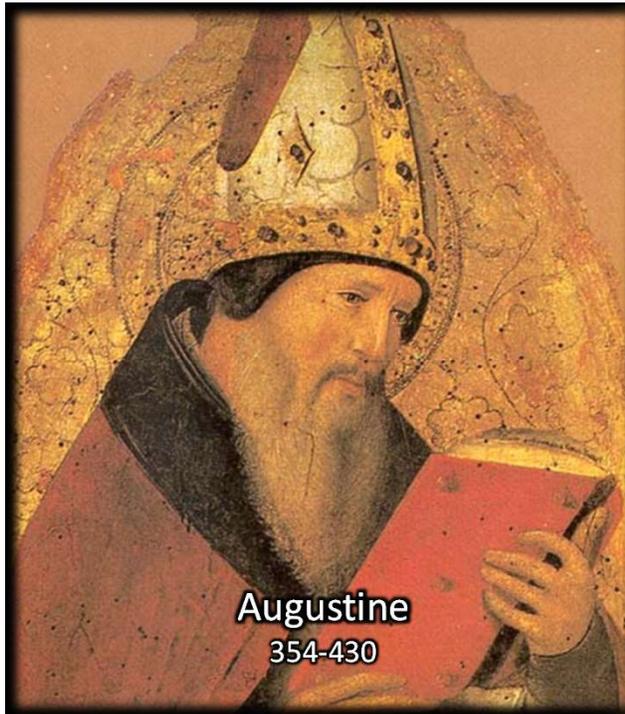
***If God created everything
except Himself, and, if evil
is something, then it
would seem that God
created evil.***

***If God did not create evil,
then it would seem either:
evil is **unreal**
or
evil is **not a thing**.***



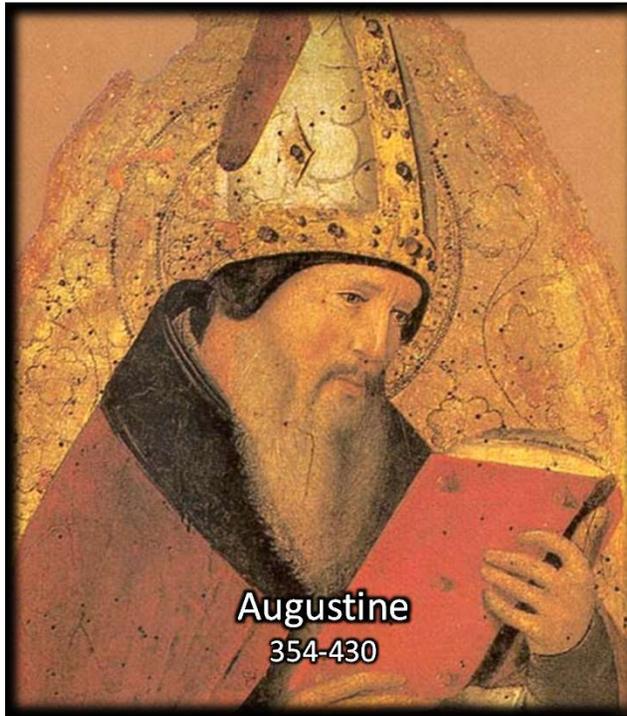
Augustine
354-430

Augustine on Evil as Privation



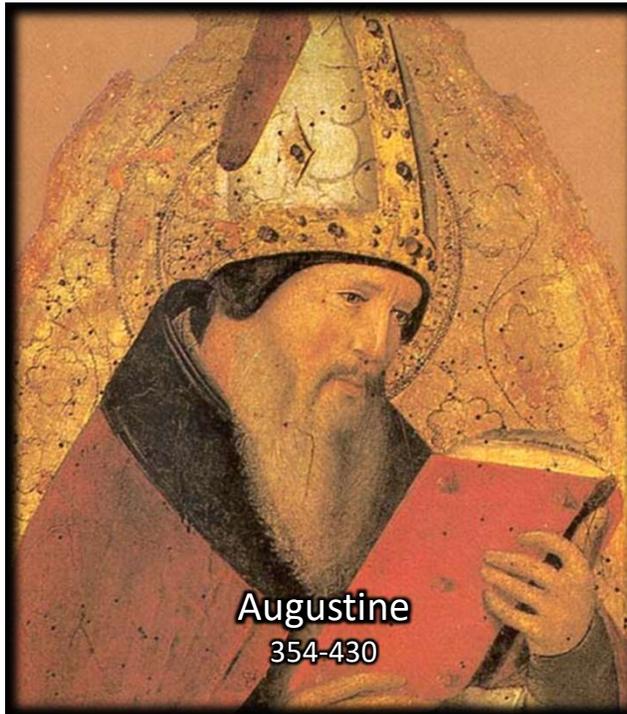
Augustine
354-430

There is a
difference
between:
being nothing
(unreal)
and
not being a thing.

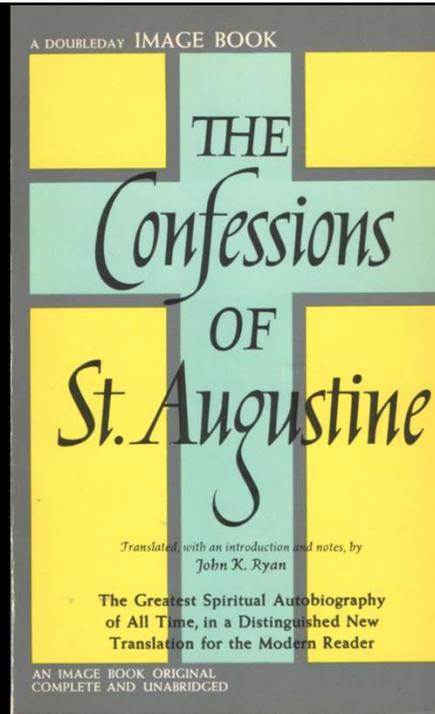


Augustine
354-430

Augustine argued that evil is real but is not a thing. Rather, it is a **privation** or a **lack** in things.



Augustine
354-430



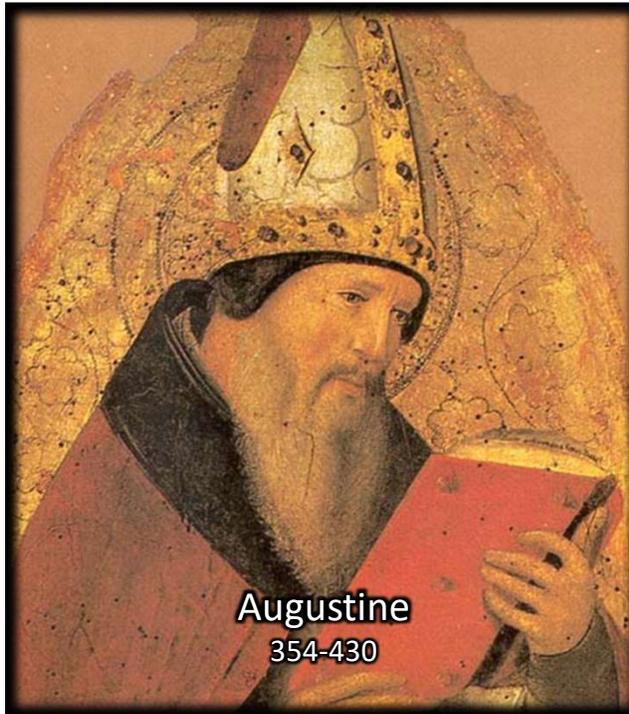
A DOUBLEDAY IMAGE BOOK

THE
Confessions
OF
St. Augustine

*Translated, with an introduction and notes, by
John K. Ryan*

The Greatest Spiritual Autobiography
of All Time, in a Distinguished New
Translation for the Modern Reader

AN IMAGE BOOK ORIGINAL
COMPLETE AND UNABRIDGED



Augustine
354-430

***“Evil is
only the
privation
of a good.”***

[*Confessions*, III, 7, §12]

***“Now evil is in a
substance because
something which it
was originally to have,
and which it ought to
have, is lacking in it.”***

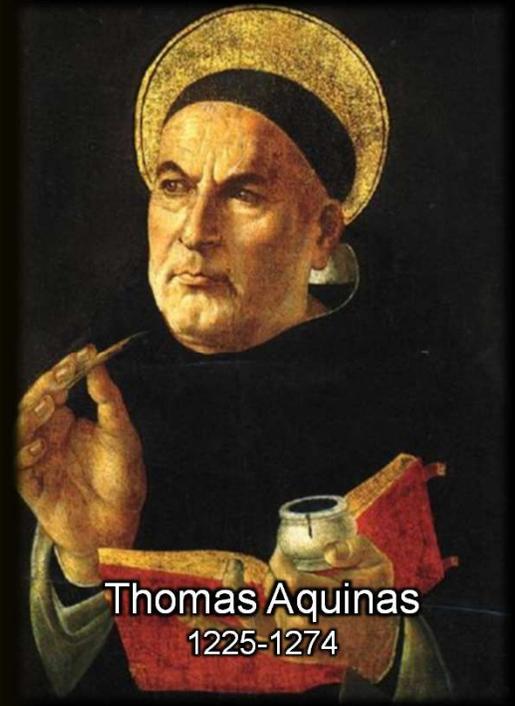
[*Summa Contra Gentiles*, III, 6, §1]



Thomas Aquinas
1225-1274

“Evil is simply a privation of something which a subject is entitled by its origin to possess and which it ought to have.”

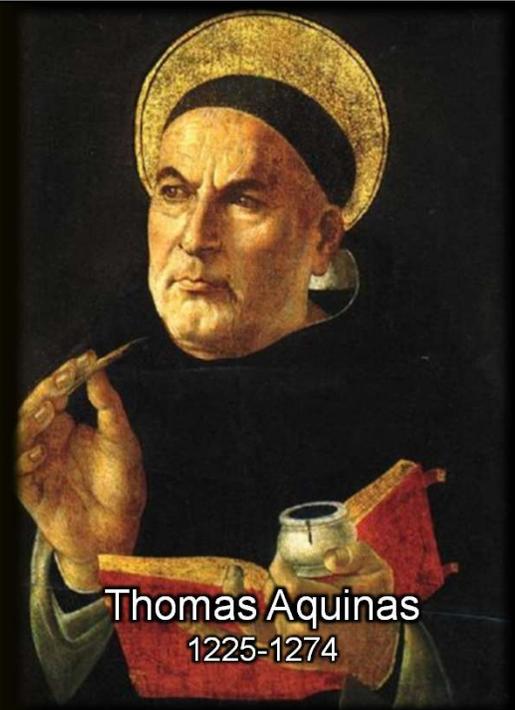
[*Summa Contra Gentiles*, III, 7, §2]



Thomas Aquinas
1225-1274

“Evil cannot exist by itself, since it has no essence... Therefore, evil must be in a subject.”

[*Summa Contra Gentiles*, III, 11, §2]



Thomas Aquinas
1225-1274

Note that there is a difference between a *privation* and a *negation*.

A *negation* is the mere absence or removal of something.

A *privation* is the absence or removal of something that “ought” to be there.



privation

A rock cannot see, but it is not blind because it "ought" not be able to see.

**Blindness is the privation of sight.
But blindness is not a thing in itself.**



negation



privation

A rock cannot see, but it is not blind because it "ought" not be able to see.

**Blindness is the displacement of sight.
But blindness is not a thing in itself.**



negation



'Good' and
'Moral Good'



Sin in the
Angelic Realm:
Satan and Fallen Angels

Why study anything about Satan?

1. *To be wary of his devices. (2 Corinthians 2:11)*

❧ 2 Corinthians 2:11 ❧

"... lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices."



Why study anything about Satan?

- 1. To be wary of his devices (2 Corinthians 2:11)*
- 2. To expose his ways (Ephesians 5:11)*

☞ Ephesians 5:11 ☞

"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them."



Why study anything about Satan?

- 1. To be wary of his devices (2 Corinthians 2:11)*
- 2. To expose his ways (Ephesians 5:11)*
- 3. To rescue his victims (Acts 26:18)*

Acts 26:18

"... to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me."



Why study anything about Satan?

- 1. To be wary of his devices (2 Corinthians 2:11)*
- 2. To expose his ways (Ephesians 5:11)*
- 3. To rescue his victims (Acts 26:18)*
- 4. To refute his ministers (1 Peter 3:15)*

∞ 1 Peter 3:15 ∞

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;"



Why study anything about Satan?

- 1. To be wary of his devices (2 Corinthians 2:11)*
- 2. To expose his ways (Ephesians 5:11)*
- 3. To rescue his victims (Acts 26:18)*
- 4. To refute his ministers (1 Peter 3:15)*
- 5. The world is under his sway. (1 John 5:19)*

∞ 1 John 5:19 ∞

*"We know that we are of God, and
the whole world lies under the
sway of the wicked one."*

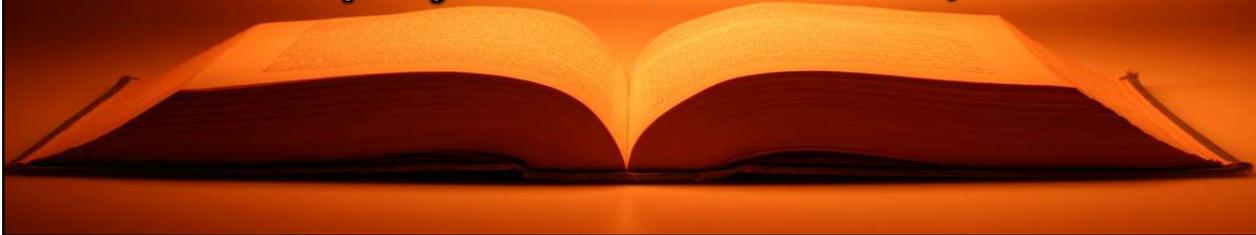


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- 5. The world is under his sway. (1 John 5:19)*
- 6. Spiritual warfare is a battle for truth (2 Cor. 10:3-5)*

✧ 2 Corinthians. 10:3-5 ✧

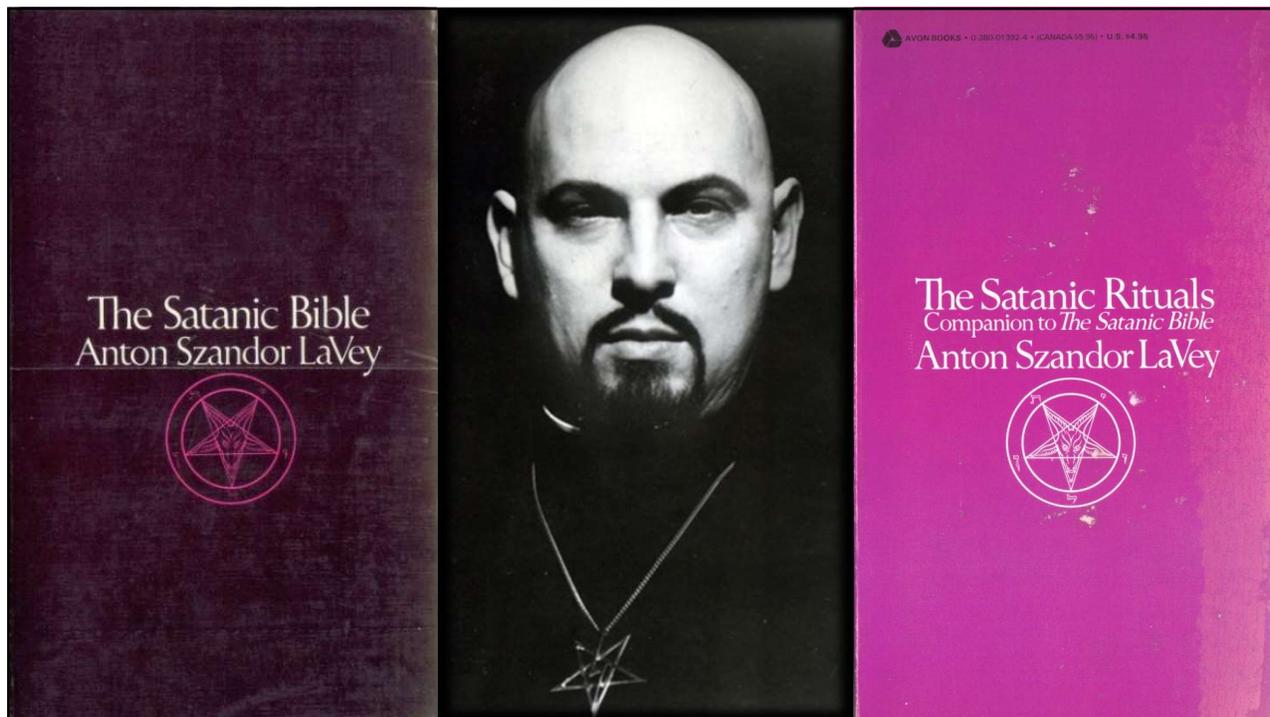
"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,"



Why study anything about Satan?

1. *To be wary of his devices (2 Corinthians 2:11)*
2. *To expose his ways (Ephesians 5:11)*
3. *To rescue his victims (Acts 26:18)*
4. *To refute his ministers (1 Peter 3:15)*
 - a. *The Church of Satan (Anton LaVey)*
 - b. *The Temple of Set (Michael Aquino)*
 - c. *All who deny Christ (1 John 5:19; Matthew 12:30)*

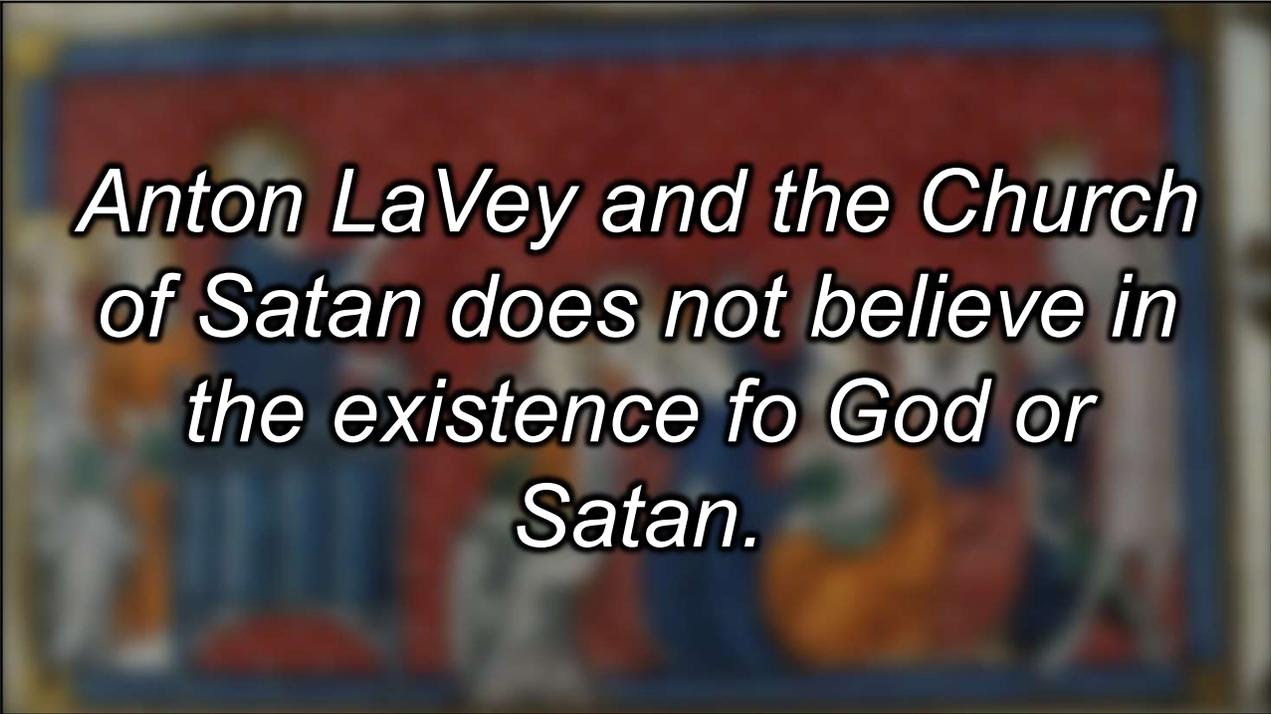
The biblical doctrine of Satan needs to be distinguished from the understanding of Satan in contemporary Satanism.



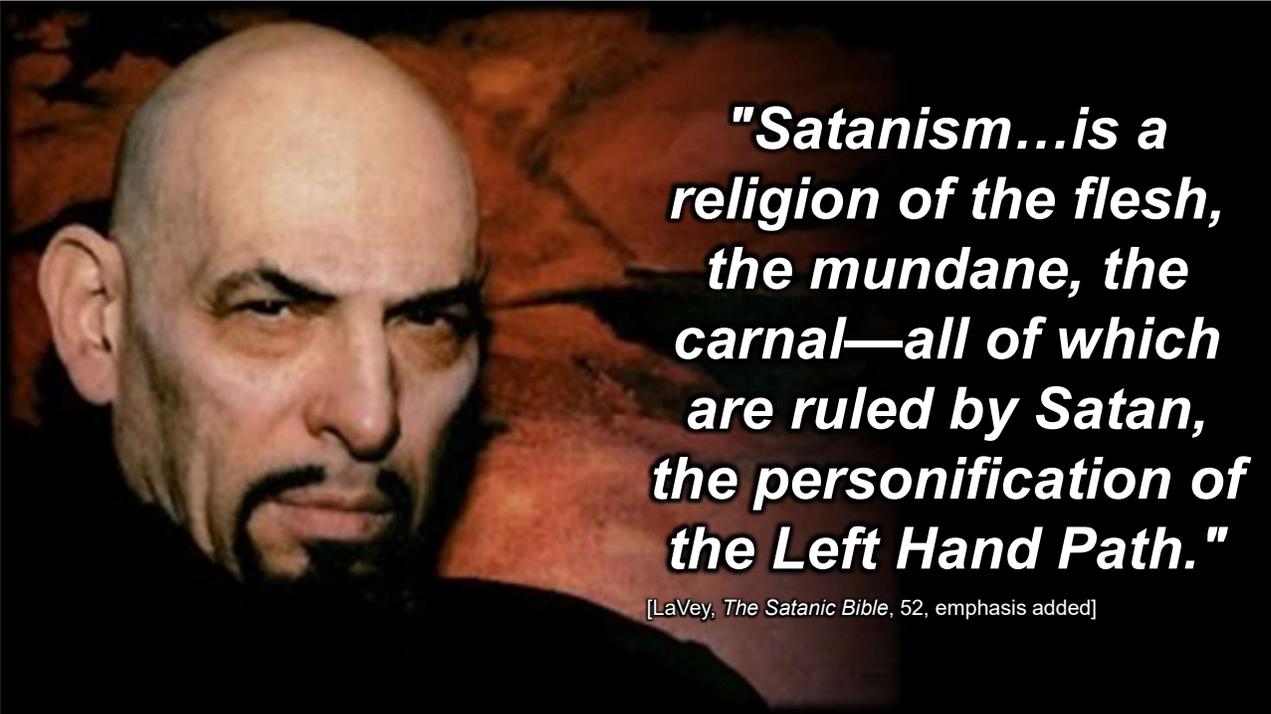
The screenshot shows the official website of the Church of Satan. At the top, there is a logo consisting of a pentagram with a goat's head inside, and the text "CHURCH OF SATAN" in a stylized font. Below the logo is a navigation menu with the following items: Home, News, History, Affiliation, Theory/Practice, Sources, F.A.Q., and Contact. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column features a large black and white portrait of Anton Szandor LaVey. Below the portrait is a small caption: "Photo Credit: Church of Satan Archives". The right column features a "Latest News" section with a small image of a t-shirt and the text: "Speak of the Devil presents A Legacy of Heresy - Paracelsus T-Shirt". Below this is a section titled "We Are Legion" with a small pentagram icon. At the bottom right, there is a video player with the title "A Moment With ...".

Welcome to the official website of the Church of Satan.

Founded on April 30, 1966 c.e. by Anton Szandor LaVey, we are the first above-ground organization in history openly dedicated to the acceptance of Man's true nature—that of a carnal beast, living in a cosmos that is indifferent to our existence. To us, Satan is the

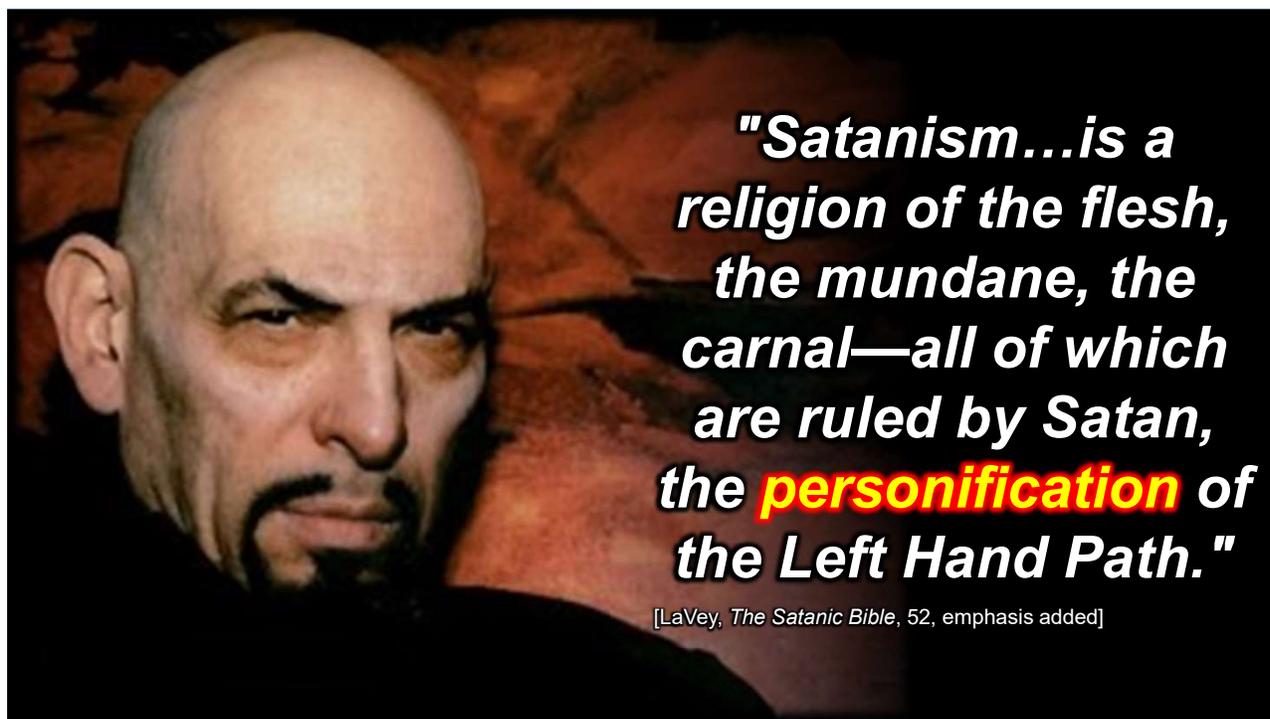


Anton LaVey and the Church of Satan does not believe in the existence fo God or Satan.



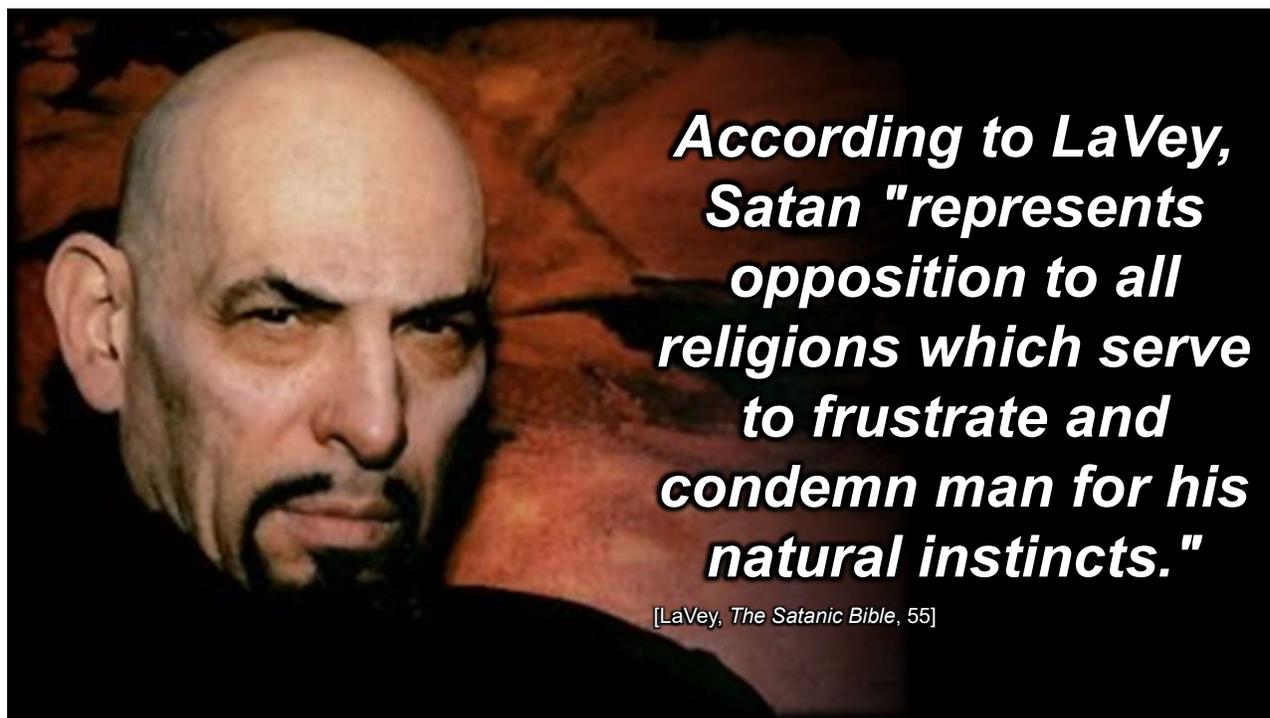
"Satanism...is a religion of the flesh, the mundane, the carnal—all of which are ruled by Satan, the personification of the Left Hand Path."

[LaVey, *The Satanic Bible*, 52, emphasis added]



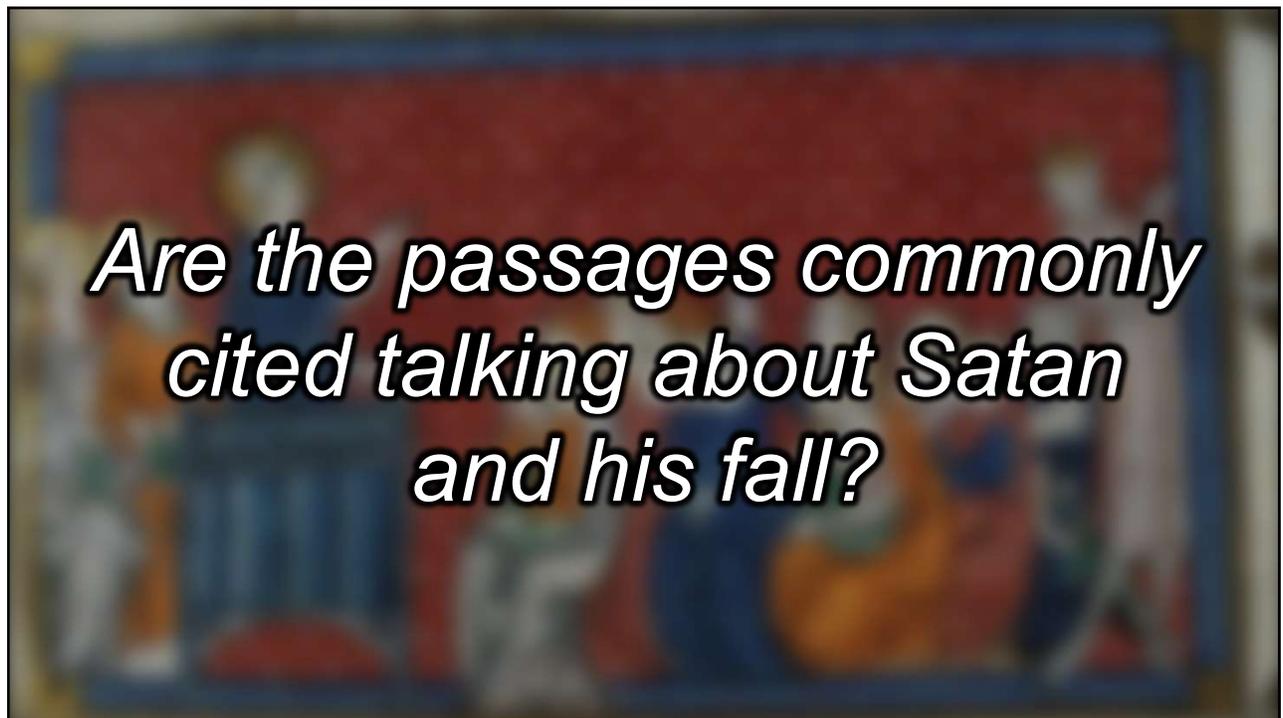
"Satanism...is a religion of the flesh, the mundane, the carnal—all of which are ruled by Satan, the **personification of the Left Hand Path."**

[LaVey, *The Satanic Bible*, 52, emphasis added]



According to LaVey, Satan "represents opposition to all religions which serve to frustrate and condemn man for his natural instincts."

[LaVey, *The Satanic Bible*, 55]



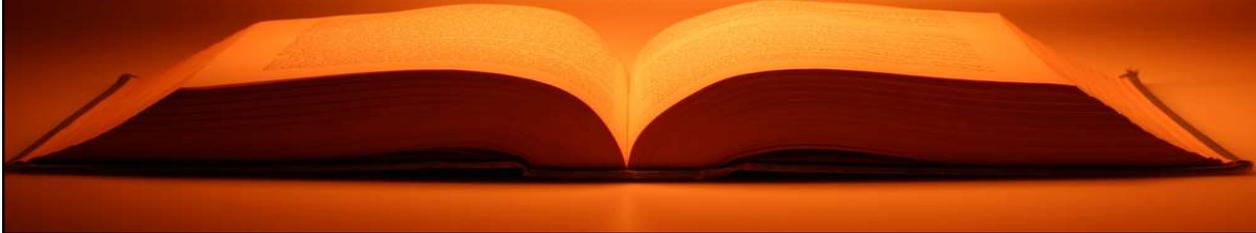
Isaiah 12-15

"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit."



Ezekiel 28:13-17

"You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you. By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones. Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you."



Aside from certain interpretations of Isa. 14 and Ezek. 28, the Bible seems largely silent on the specifics regarding the origin of Satan's sin and the fall of certain angels.

Who Are the Sons of God in Gen. 6?

<http://richardghowe.com/papers.htm>

The Character of Satan

Satan's names reveals his character.

- 1. Devil - accuser, slanderer (Greek in origin)*
- 2. Satan - resister, adversary (Hebrew in origin)*
- 3. Dragon - implies power Revelation 12:9*

☞ Revelation 19:12 ☞

"So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."



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- 4. Evil one - Matthew 6:13*

✧ Matthew 6:13 ✧

"And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."



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- 5. Prince of the power of the air - Ephesians 2:2*

☞ Ephesians 2:2 ☞

"in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,"

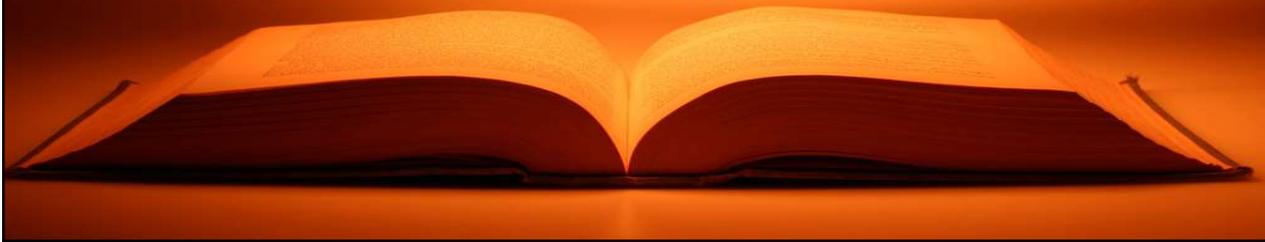


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- 5. Prince of the power of the air - Ephesians 2:2*
- 6. god of this world - 2 Corinthians 4:4*

☞ 2 Corinthians 4:4 ☞

"whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them."

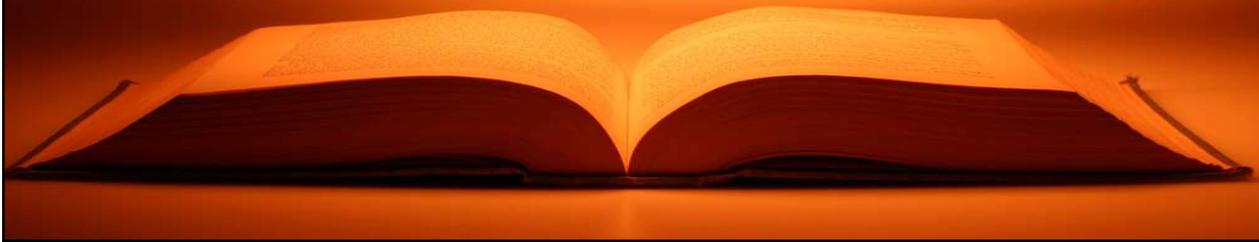


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6. *god of this world - 2 Corinthians 4:4*
7. *Serpent - implies wile Genesis 3*

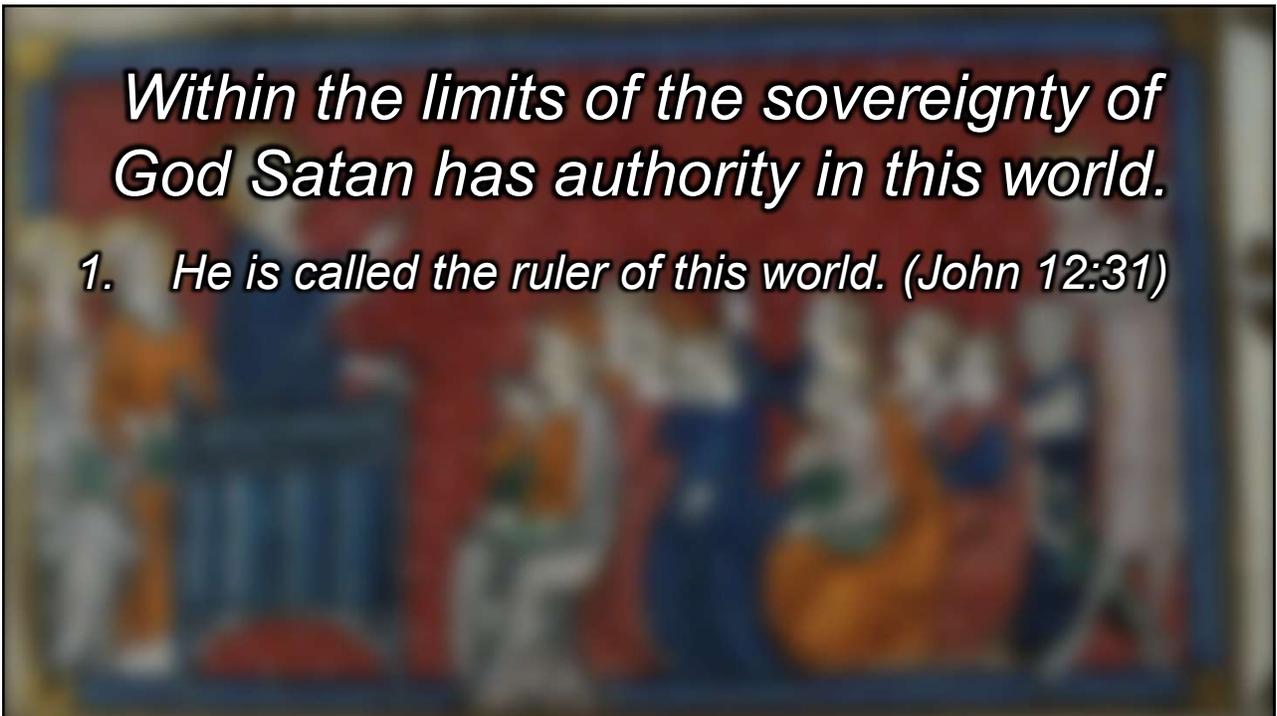
☞ Genesis 3:1 ☞

"Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"



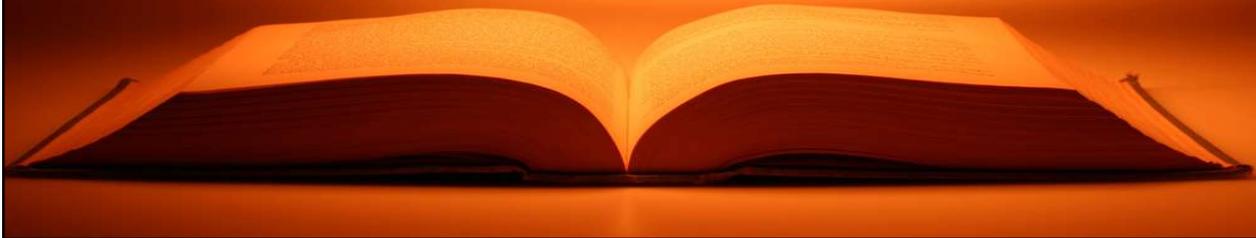
Within the limits of the sovereignty of God Satan has authority in this world.

- 1. He is called the ruler of this world. (John 12:31)*



☞ John 12:31 ☞

"Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out."



Within the limits of the sovereignty of God Satan has authority in this world.

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- 2. The book of Job demonstrates that his authority is limited by the sovereignty of God.*

Within the limits of the sovereignty of God Satan has authority in this world.

- 1. He is called the ruler of this world. (John 12:31)*
- 2. The book of Job demonstrates that his authority is limited by the sovereignty of God.*
- 3. He is undoubtedly a powerful angelic being. (Jude 9)*

∞ Jude 9 ∞

"Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"



Within the limits of the sovereignty of God Satan has authority in this world.

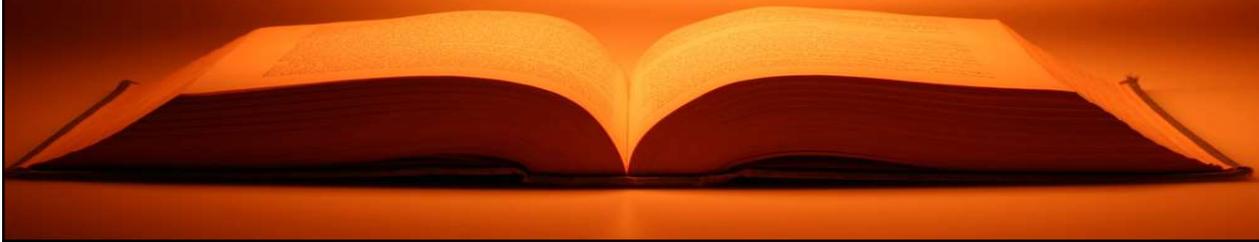
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- 2. The book of Job demonstrates that his authority is limited by the sovereignty of God.*
- 3. He is undoubtedly a powerful angelic being. (Jude 9)*
- 4. He is allowed to perform false-miracles.*

✧ Exodus 7:8-13 ✧

"Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, When Pharaoh speaks to you, saying, 'Show a miracle for yourselves,' then you shall say to Aaron, 'Take your rod and cast it before Pharaoh, and let it become a serpent.' So Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh, and they did so, just as the LORD commanded. And Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh and before his servants, and it became a serpent. But Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers; so the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. For every man threw down his rod, and they became serpents. But Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods. And Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, as the LORD had said."

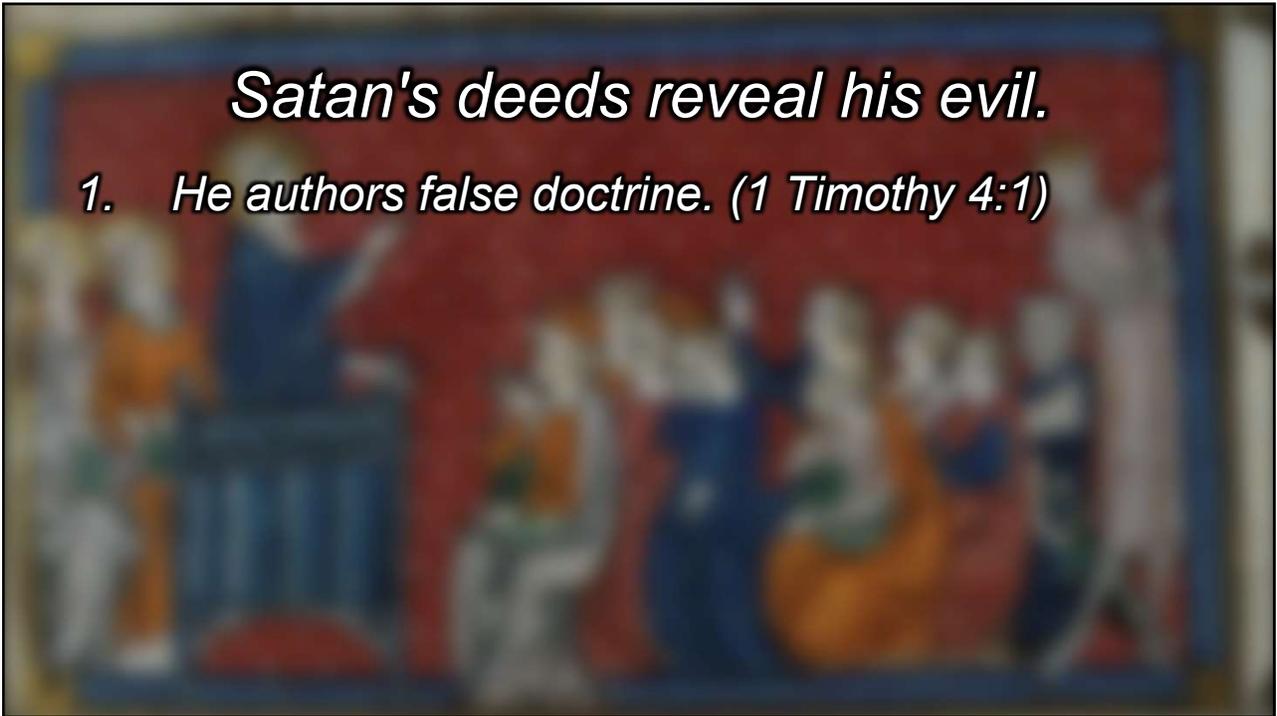
☞ 2 Thessalonians 2:9 ☞

"The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,"



Satan's deeds reveal his evil.

1. *He authors false doctrine. (1 Timothy 4:1)*



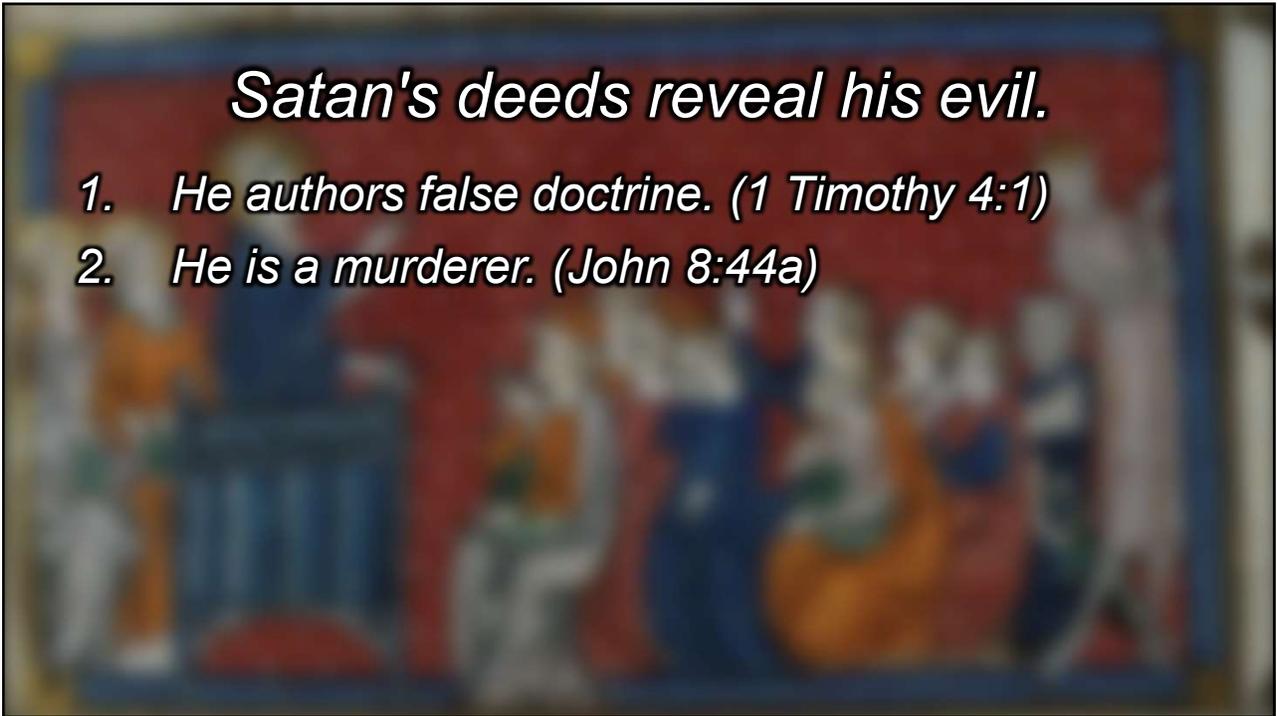
∞ 1 Timothy 4:1 ∞

"Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,"



Satan's deeds reveal his evil.

- 1. He authors false doctrine. (1 Timothy 4:1)*
- 2. He is a murderer. (John 8:44a)*



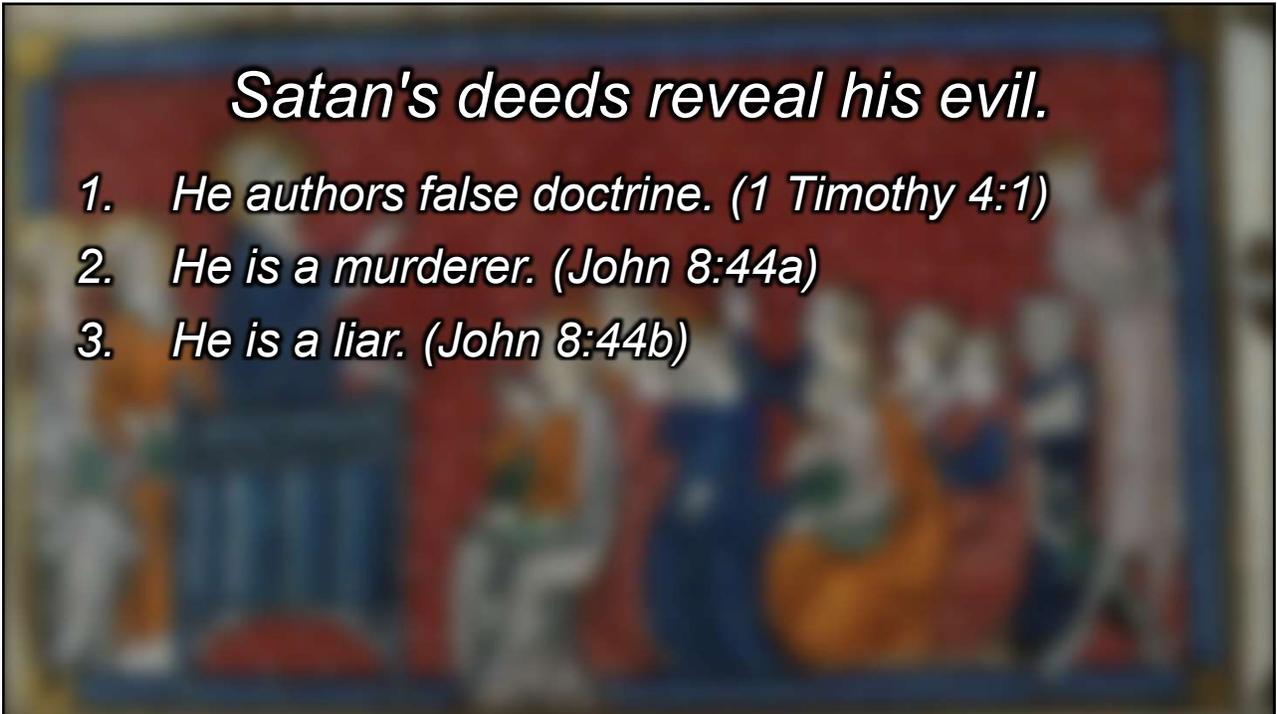
☞ John 8:44a ☞

"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, ..."



Satan's deeds reveal his evil.

- 1. He authors false doctrine. (1 Timothy 4:1)*
- 2. He is a murderer. (John 8:44a)*
- 3. He is a liar. (John 8:44b)*



☞ John 8:44b ☞

"... and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it."



Satan's deeds reveal his evil.

- 1. He authors false doctrine. (1 Timothy 4:1)*
- 2. He is a murderer. (John 8:44a)*
- 3. He is a liar. (John 8:44b)*
- 4. He is a deceiver. Revelation 12:9*

Revelation 12:9

"So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."

