WHO MADE THE DEVIL? WHY DIDN'T GOD DESTROY HIM?
Christ never made a bad devil! People want to live as they please in sinful pleasure. Doing everything they __ big enough to do. And as long as they prosper, they never need God. But as soon as misfortune overtake them, the first say is, “why did God let that happen?”

whenever anything nice happens to them, they call that “good luck!” If they can go to the market to buy anything to eat, they say we have wonderful farmers in the United States. If they get sick and get well, they say, “man, I've got a good doctor.”

if they can go and buy all kinds of electrical equipment. They give honor to the mechanical and technical geniuses of America. They praise men for everything; praise God for nothing! And as soon as problems come – that's God!

As a matter of fact, do you know if you take out insurance on your house, the insurance companies use a common clause which they call the “act of God.” Now if your house burns down they'll pay you, but if a tornado comes through, that's an “act of God.” It is not!!

Ephesians 2:2 says the Devil is prince of the power of the air. It is the Devil that sends tornadoes and hurricanes and tempests. God gets blamed for more of the Devil's work than the Devil himself. The Bible says every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father above (James 1:17).

So when you're blessed and when your health is good, praise God for that. When things go wrong, put the blame where it belongs! On the Devil himself!

Let us now look at the origin of sin, for the Bible calls it, the mystery of iniquity. Way back in the past, there was in the courts of glory, close to the throne of God, a created being, absolutely perfect, his name was Lucifer. Everybody say that name.

The name means “light-bearer.” He was to be close to God; and He was to be one of God's agents to carry the light of God's goodness and grace throughout God's universe! Lucifer was a perfect angel of God.

Now let's turn to Ezekiel 28:12-17. The Bible says:

> 12. Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the King of Tyrus (Tyrus is a symbol for Lucifer or the Devil), and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.
> 13. 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 carbuncle, and the gold: the workmanship of thy tablets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

Here is a description of this angel, And God says some wonderful things about him. Lucifer was the very zenith of wisdom and beauty and light. One scholar said about Lucifer, “that it is believed that Lucifer, as an angel choir leader, had pipes in his throat, so that he could sing four-part harmony at one time. He could sing soprano, alto, tenor and bass.”

> Verse 14. Thou art an anointed cherub (a cherub is an angel) that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou has walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

> 15. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

God said, “angel, you were perfect in beauty, perfect in light, perfect in wisdom, until iniquity was found in thee.” What was Lucifer's problem?

> Verse 16. 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.
> 17. 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.

Here is God's comment on Lucifer. Now Lucifer was created. God made him, but God did not make a Devil. God created him perfect. And God said he remained that way until iniquity was found in him. It was not created in him, it was found in him! Where did it come from? The Bible says His jeart got lifted up because of his brightness and his beauty.

In Proverbs 6:17, the Bible tells us that God hates a “proud look.” In 1 Peter 5:5 the Bible says “ God resisteth the proud.” Some people think in order to go to hell, they've got to do some great, big terrible thing! Let me tell you sin got started with a little thing called pride! And we are all afflicted with that same disease today!

And what amazes me is, people don't even have to be good looking to be proud. People get in front of a mirror and primp and swagger, and turn around and look at themselves from behind as well as from the front. There was a time when you thought ladies were only doing that. But today, men are doing it more than ladies! And they are proud! Homely, but proud! Now a little bit of pride is necessary. Without a little a man won't even wash his face. But when we go to the extreme, and begin to think that we are important, and turn our noses up, we are coming in trouble with God, because the Bible says, He hates a proud look!

The Devil's problem began with pride! He had absolute freedom. He had every reason to be happy. He was living in heaven, where there is never a cloudy day. He was living in glory where there is never sickness or crying. He had everything he could possibly want.

But just as God made man free moral agents, so he made angels free moral agents. God does not want a church full of puppets who jumps every time He pulls the string! God has given us all the power of choice. If you wanna serve Him, that's your choice. God wants people to serve Him because they love Him, and not because they have to.

Lucifer had an intelligent mind! He was a free moral agent. He could choose to serve God or he could turn into a Devil – that's what he did! He coveted the rights and priviledges of God; he coveted the position of Jesus.

And he finally decided from his lofty position that he had to go higher! But instead of going higfher, he has fallen! And he's known in scriptures as a serpent, a dragon. That old devil which is Satan.

Pride, jealousy, covetousness were the reason for his fall. These things became idolatry in his heart. He turned his back on God. And began to sow discord, where there had been harmony. He began to tell

lies. He was no longer content with his position. He wanted to be like God Himself.

Now let's turn to Isaiah 14:12-14

> 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!
> 13 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:
> 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High.

One word stands out in all these verses, and that word is “I.” Whenever people get to the place where all they can think about is “I” they're in trouble! Whenever “I” gets so important that folks are too smart to take God at His word, they're in trouble!

The Devil decided he was gonna be God! We can't have more that one true God! But somebody's gotta be God. I'm glad that God is God, aren't you! You all better be glad I'm not God. People raisen the devil and carrying on. You don't always feel sympathetic. Aren't you glad I'm not God – I'd fix some of you.

Now I wanna tell you something, “I'm glad you're not God too!” I'm glad that the God who watches us is merciful! The Bible says He's longsuffering! He's abundant in mercy!

Now somebody's gotta be God in your life. And if you don't let the true God to be your God, then you're gonna be your own God! Or your wife gonna be your God! Or your friends are gonna be your God! Somebody has got to be God!

Lucifer could no longer respect the true God and he decided to be God. And he began a rebellion that began in his heart first. The Bible says out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. You can't sin without thinking it first.

Sin started in Lucifer's heart, and after a while it started running out of his mouth. And he began to criticize the government of heaven. He began to say, “God is all powerful, He sits up there by Himself telling us what to do.” He began to call God a dictator and a tyrant!

Lucifer was powerful angel and a great leader, and the first thing you know, millions upon millions of angels sided with him. And the Bible says a third of all angels were cast out of heaven with the Devil.

Luke 10:18, the Bible says, “I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.”
Revelation 12:7,8, the Bible says “… Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not”

The devil declared war in heaven, and the dragon fought against Jesus. But the Bible says he didn't win. And throughout history, everytime the devil has met Jesus, he has lost the battle! That means if Christ is on my side, I'm on a winning team, and I cannot fail!

Now why didn't God kill him? There're many reasons:
Number one: Some of you have had lots of children. And some of them went to school were good in school. But somewhere in your family was one child who was like a black sheep.
If you've ever watched a mother of a child like that, you will notice that that mother seems tp love that sorry child more than anyone else in the family. So the first reason God didn't destroy him was because God loved him!

Now the second reason God didn't do it, was because the devil had spread the word that the angels were puppets, and they had to do what God said, and God didn't really love them but he was just trying to get everything he could out of them. And if God had killed him these angels who were wonderoing would have shaped up alright, but from then on, they would have worshiped God in fear! And everytime God spoke they would have been scared.

God had to prove, that He was a God of love! And in order to prove it, He had to bear with the Devil. He had to let sin run its course. He had to let those angels see what sin could do. He let'em watch it dehumanize a planet! He let'em watch it take His only begotten Son, nail Him to a cross!! Wouldn't even give Him a drink of water! When He cried for something to drink, they gave Him vinegar!

And when the angels of glory, looked down and saw that sight, they dropped their harps and vailed their faces, and refused to look on the scene.

The devil said that God didn't love. But this proved that God was love. Because God died, rather than destroy sinners.
The Devil said that God was not just, that He had a tough law. God proved that He respected His law, He let His Son die, rather than change the law.
The Devil said that God didn't have mercy, but God proved through Jesus that He was a merciful God! For while we were yet sinners, Christ died for our sins!
God won't force anybody to serve Him! God doesn't want you joining the church because you're scared. There're people who do that. They join the church because they're scared to go to hell! And they're going to hell anyway!
You've gotta be converted to become a child of God! And then you serve Him, because you love Him, and not because you're scared of Him!
In the garden of Eden, the devil came and took on the form of a serpent. He deceived Adam and Eve. He got them to sin. And since Adam and Eve, every human born on this earth, has been born in sin. God sent His Son to die that we might be newborn again.
Jesus came and died, that our past might be taken care of. And He rose up from the dead, that He might intercede for us, and answer prayer for us. And save us, if we're willing to trust in Him.
Now ladies and gentlemen, the devil is a strange being. Now if I was in Atlanta, Georgia, and told anyone of you to send me a picture, you know what to do, because of your vanity. You would look at your pictures and pick out the best one, the youngest one.
That's not the way the Devil does. The Devil is a beautiful creature. But he wants you to think he's got horns, goats feet, an arrowhead tail, and blood-red with a pitchfork in his hands.
Now he wants you to think this so when he comes knocking at your door to take your daughters out, you won't recognize him! So that when he meets you on your way home to your wife, and he is so pretty in that form, and so flattering with her eyes, that you will think it's an angel! It is an angel! A fallen angel.

> In 1 Peter 5:8 the Bible says, “ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:”

What's God gonna do with him? Matthew 24:41, the Bible says hell is prepared for the devil and his angels.
Ladies and gentlemen, 2 Peter 3:10, 13 says, “the heavens shall pass away.” That means the heavens where the birds fly and the astronauts fly, not the heaven where God lives. “… the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are in there shall be burned up.”
13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for a new heaven and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.”

John the Revelator said he saw something better for the saints. “And I John saw the holy city. I saw it!! said John. The he began to describe it. He talked about the gates and the walls and the streets!
When God gets ready to destroy the devil, He will have given His people a better land. The saints are gonna march in one of these days. I wanna be in that army! That shall be saved! What about you! Through Jesus Christ, we can be saved! Through the blood of Christ, we can be cleansed. Through the grace of Christ, we can make it in. Through the strength of Christ, we can overcome! There's a land that is fairer than day and by faith we can see it afar. God's gonna come! And never again will there be another devil!
I wanna go, don't you! If you really do, stand up tonight in God's presence right now. And by standing say to the Lord, “give me grace and strength, so that when Jesus comes, and the devil is destroyed, I might be delivered forever!”

There is hope for you, as you flee the devil's power.
There is hope for you, God is a sheltering tower.
There is hope for you, He'll keep you every hour. There is hope in Christ for you.
There is hope for you, beneath God's mighty arm! There is hope for you secure from all alarm.
There is hope for you, the devil can't do you any harm.
There is hope in Christ for you.

A Prayer (Devil)
Our Father, thank you for the comfort that comes, even when we talk about the Devil. Because we're talkin' about victory through Christ. Oh Lord, with all our hearts we're grateful. We don't know how to serve Thee, so come into our hearts Lord Jesus. And when you come in, make us what you ought to be. Take out of us, everything that's unlike Thee. Help us to be children, sons and daughters of God. We ask in the name of Jesus.