

STATEMENT OF BELIEF – ADDENDUM C

Addendum C - satan, devils and demons:

Many modern traditions and Christianity places it's belief on the good vs. evil so-called battle of God (YHWH) with one of His Created beings called the devil, satan, a demon. This is rubbish but makes a good story and keeps people scared to death, but it also prevents them from searching out for truth. Many people live in constant fear of the devil of satan or of demons. They consider them to be invisible, wicked "spirit" (non-physical) beings. They are held to be responsible for doing untold harm to people and nations. Wars, civil unrest and the progress of evil political ideologies are all considered to be the result of demon or devil activity. They are held to be capable of entering the body or mind of a person, where they can destroy faith, induce bodily sickness or make the person mad. Some believe that demons attach themselves to objects such as books, furniture or jewelry, or live in houses and when misfortune strikes they will dispose hastily of the object suspected of harboring them.

A deliberate and analytical study of the Bible's teaching about demons (or devils) will show that there are no such true entities as demons or devils, or a persona called or named satan. These terms and figurative beings have been developed mostly from the New Testament (NT) Greek Bible writings through man-made "traditions" and the residue of primitive pagan cultures that we should not be involved with such beliefs or to fear them, since they do not exist as any entity.

Some Basic simple definitions:

Satan, from Hebrew, into Aramaic, into English means: an adversary or an opponent, the word can refer to angels (messengers) human or celestial, to men in powerful positions, or to YHWH (the Creator being). The word satan is not a personal name of someone, but a function one takes on.

Demons, Demonic, from the Greek "Diamon" the word means "to demonstrate" in English (to know or to distribute knowledge). Notice the close spelling of the word to English. In the Greek NT writings the word is used mostly for "a bad" spirit or for those distributing "bad" or erroneous knowledge or influence (but not the super natural non-body entity type beings) but factions that come from the mouths (breath, spirit) of ordinary men having mental problems....!

Devil, devilish, from the Greek word "diabolos" it literally comes from two Greek words, *dia* "through" + *bolos* "to throw." This is where we get our English words "dia-meter" and the word "ball" from. In English "diabolos" would mean a "through-thrower." A "through-thrower" is like a slander, an accuser, or an individual with the intent to malign someone else. Many times in the NT, the words devil and demon are used indiscriminately by translators, but a "diamon" is not a "diabolos." They are mostly references to physical attributes of "bad" or maligned behavior by individuals, some that have physical or mental problems.

Devils are the objects of pagan worship – they are Idols!

In the Old Testament, devils are only mentioned on a few occasions. In every reference there is a connection with a false belief. For example, concerning the unfaithful nation of Israel we read: "*They sacrificed to devils not to Mighty One (Aloah), to gods (mighty ones) whom they knew not.*" (Deut. 32:17). Of Israel it was commanded: "*They shall no more offer their sacrifices unto devils*" (Lev. 17:7). Speaking of the unfaithfulness of one of Israel's kings we read: "*He ordained him priests for*

the high places, and for the devils, and for the calves which he had made" (2 Chron. 11:15).

In the New Testament Devils/demons are also pagan Idols

According to the Bible, pagan gods have no real existence. So the Mighty One of the Bible, YHWH -- "the only true Mighty One" – declares*"There is no Mighty One (Aloah) else beside Me; a just Power and a Savior; there is none beside Me. Look unto Me and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am the Mighty One and there is none else" (Isa. 45:21, 22).*

Since evils/demons are pagan gods, and have no real existence bond the craft's man, it follows that they have no existence beyond a physical carved or formed object!

But does not the Bible speak of people being possessed by demons?—Yes, but only in a very restricted way:

- Demon possession is not mentioned in the whole of the Old Testament.
- Demon possession is not mentioned in most of the New Testament.
- Demon possession occurs only in the Gospels and occasionally in the book of Acts.

A careful examination shows that demon possession in the Gospels and Acts, was a way of speaking about certain types of illnesses—particularly epilepsy (e.g. Matt. 17:15) and for a psychiatric illness (e.g. Mark 5:1–15) note especially the words *"in his right mind"* in verse 15. The fact that Yahshua cured people with so called 'demon possession' does not mean that he believed that demons had a real existence. Today, we do not believe that people are really affected by the moon when we refer to them (perhaps unkindly), as LUNAtics, neither do we commit ourselves to believing in demons when we refer to a state of confusion as panDEMONium.

There was a reason why demon possession, as an explanation of certain diseases, was so popular in the time of Yahshua. There was a very good reason why Yahshua went along with the idea of demon possession. For those who will take the trouble to find out the facts, there are interesting and exciting discoveries to be made—discoveries which may affect your salvation!

What about Job?

The adversary "satan" described in the Hebrew story called Job was a celestial messenger, a created being (one of many) who only works for YHWH but never against Him. Chronicles, Job, Psalms, and Zechariah are the only places where an adversary is mentioned. In each instance, the job description of the adversary is to act like a Prosecutor, or like a District Attorney to accuse in the attempt to show evidence against the defendant. The celestial messenger that has been given the task of being an adversary (a satan) must always obtain permission from YHWH his Sovereign, the Judge, the Almighty Supreme Power of Creation, in order for him to begin any action or sting operation.

The story of Job is a prose narrative of the ancient wisdom movement in the History of ancient Scriptural Israel. In other words, Job is an ancient Hebrew **novel**, a story, but with a point. The story has a message, the message is: "steadfastness will lead to overcome, and overcoming will in the end bring boundless rewards and blessings even after the face of adversity." Not everyone however may agree with the message of Job in our present age and culture, but in the ancient culture of Israel the

point was well made to be steadfast before YHWH when being confronted with adversity.....!

In the following quotation from the Book of Job please take note of who is doing the talking, as the adversary "satan" asks his Sovereign for permission to conduct a sting operation against Job:

"And YHWH said unto the adversary (satan), hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth his Sovereign, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst Me against him, to destroy him without cause. And the adversary answered YHWH, and said, skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life. But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face. And YHWH said unto the adversary, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life. (Job 2:3)."

In the above story, the adversary must first get permission from his Sovereign to perform a "sting operation" on Job. The adversary has no power or authority of his own, like a District Attorney who must obtain permission from the Judge for anything he does. Furthermore, the Scriptural text paints this same picture of the adversary, when it uses the character of the adversary in what appears to be the end of a court scene. In the following two quotations, the adversary is standing near the accused like the D.A. stands at the end of a court drama on television. *"And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the messenger (angel) of YHWH, and the adversary standing at his right hand to accuse him. And YHWH (the messenger of YHWH) said unto the adversary, "YHWH rebuke thee, O adversary; even YHWH that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?" (Zechariah 3:1-2).*

"Set thou a wicked man over him, and let the adversary stand at his right hand. When he shall be judged, let him be condemned, and let his prayer become sin." (Psalm 109:6-7).

In the Scriptures there are also verses that prove that it is YHWH, the Almighty Sovereign Creator Power and Ruler of the whole universe, who is responsible for both the good and the bad, and not a devil or some almighty created spirit god of the underworld:

"I am YHWH, and there is none else, there is no Power beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am YHWH, and there is none else. I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create destruction: I YHWH do all these things." (Isaiah 45:5-7).

To believe in a created entity that competes with his own Almighty Sovereign Creator Power, and one that can challenge his own Creator, and even develop a power and authority of his own in opposition to his own Creator, is to violate the basic Yahwistic belief, and of everything taught in the Hebrew Bible (Tan'akh). There is only one true Almighty Sovereign Creator Power in the entire created Universe, who was, is, and will always be, and that Power is YHWH.

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