

## Why did God create the Devil?

The Bible does not describe the origins of the Devil with definitive detail. So the question is a hard one. That makes it a very intriguing issue. Thanks for asking.

But, since we believe God created everything, the question arises about creation of the Devil. The Bible makes clear that God's creation was "VERY GOOD." So the devil must have originated like Adam from a creature who also was good. God did not make humanity flawed by sin. Adam sinned and, therefore, he bears that responsibility, not God.

From what the Bible does tell us, my speculation is that a similar origin of the devil may be inferred—going back in the mists of imagination before the creation of earth.

There are a few passages of Scripture which may give us a peak behind the curtain of history for the origin of the Devil. The Bible seems identify the "serpent" with the devil who is also known as Satan Lucifer, Apollyon etc. and many other names.

The Commentary on *Genesis 1-11* by Dr. James Montgomery Boice has a good chapter on the origin of Satan. I do not have space to copy that here. Three passages in Scripture give us some indications. Revelation 12, Ezekiel 28. 12-15, and Isaiah 14.

In Ezekiel 28.12-15 Ezekiel prophesies against "the King of Tyre" who in this passage cannot be the literal monarch of the city Tyre. So the image is used to describe Satan:

You were in Eden, *[clearly the King of Tyre could NOT literally have been in Eden]*  
the garden of God;  
every precious stone adorned you:  
carnelian, chrysolite and emerald,  
topaz, onyx and jasper,  
lapis lazuli, turquoise and beryl.<sup>[b]</sup>  
Your settings and mountings<sup>[c]</sup> were made of gold;  
on the day you were created they were prepared.  
<sup>14</sup> You were anointed as a guardian cherub,  
for so I ordained you.  
You were on the holy mount of God;  
you walked among the fiery stones.  
<sup>15</sup> You were blameless in your ways  
from the day you were created  
till wickedness was found in you.

So the personification of Satan here gives us some indications, though they are not perfectly clear. The same can be said of the Isaiah passage 14. 12-15. And Revelation 12: 3-9. War in heaven and then on earth against the son of the Woman. Sounds like echoes of Genesis 3.15:

And I will put enmity  
between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and hers;  
he will crush your head,  
and you will strike his heel."

It appears that the devil started as an angel, and fell, like Adam did, out of rebellion against God. John Milton wrote a long epic poem describing "*Paradise Lost*" in which he portrays Satan as saying, "Better to rule in Hell than to serve in Heaven."

How did he get to the Garden of Eden? Apparently God did not keep him out. I say apparently because he got in, and we have no other information. Maybe it was part of the goodness of Eden that it was open and not behind walls of protection against "the serpent"? In any case God did not prevent temptation. And he did not control the human response. Apparently he did not coercively control the angels either?

And again apparently, the serpent was the enemy of God and trying to extend his "influence" to destroy the work of the Creator in his good creation. But he had to have the help of those who had the power to resist temptation but succumbed anyway. And as they say, the rest is history.

But there is judgment to come. God is forbearing, but not forever. Revelation 20. 10 describes the just end of Satan in the lake of fire and brimstone.