

## Devil - cont.

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### Satan “Moves” People

But, some Bible students want to know about David and Judas. Did not Satan cause them to sin? Did Satan make David number the people (1 Chron. 21:1)? No, David acted on his own after being influenced (“moved”) by Satan, his adversary. We are not told how Satan “moved” David exactly, but later David took responsibility for his own sin (1 Chronicles 21:8; 2 Samuel 24:10).

What about Judas, did Satan make him betray the Lord (John 13:2,18, [Psalm 42:9], 26-27; Luke 22:3)? No, Judas allowed himself to be influenced by Satan (John 6:64,70-71; 12:4-7; Acts 1:17,25) and he later took responsibility for his actions (Matthew 27:4).

### What Are We to Do?

So, how can one keep from sinning today? Here are some biblical helps. Don't bare the marks of the Devil in your life (John 8:44; 1 John 3:8-10). Take the way of escape from God (1 Corinthians 10:13). Give no place to the devil (Ephesians 4:27). Control your desires (James 1:14-15). And resist the devil (James 4:7; Ephesians 6:11; 1 Peter 5:9). - *Chris Reeves*

## - Scripture of the Week -

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*“Jehovah bless thee, and keep thee: Jehovah make his face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: Jehovah lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.”*

- Numbers 6:24-26 -

The Lord wants to bless you, keep you, shine upon you, grace you, look upon you, and give you peace. Why not obey today?

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# THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.  
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

# The Devil Made Me Do It?

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It seems like a lot of people do not believe in the Devil or other Bible matters, until it comes time to justify their sin. When they sin, all of a sudden they say something like, “The Devil made me do it.” They do not want to take responsibility for their sinful actions.

## Playing the “Blame Game”

Many seek to shift the blame or responsibility for their actions to someone or something else. We live in a culture that is conditioning people to excuse their behavior. People say, “He was born that way ... his environment made him do it ... his friends made him do it ... he just needed a better education ... he was living in poverty at the time ... he has fallen on hard times ... he just lost his job ... he just couldn’t help himself”, etc.

What many people don’t realize is that God does not play the “blame game” like many people do. When Adam and Eve blamed others for their sin, God did not accept their excuses. Listen to Genesis 3:9-13:

<sup>9</sup> And Jehovah God called unto the man, and said unto him, Where art thou? <sup>10</sup> And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked;

and I hid myself. <sup>11</sup> And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? <sup>12</sup> And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. <sup>13</sup> And Jehovah God said unto the woman, What is this thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

In Genesis 3:14-19, God punished Satan, Eve, and Adam for what they had done wrong. The “take away” from this is that we are not forced to sin and we are responsible for our own actions, good or bad. This is what the prophet Ezekiel spoke to Israel of his day and this principle is still true today. Listen to Ezekiel 18:1-4:

*The word of Jehovah came unto me again, saying, <sup>2</sup> What mean ye, that ye use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying, The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge? <sup>3</sup> As I live, saith the Lord Jehovah, ye shall not have occasion any more to use this proverb in Israel. <sup>4</sup> Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.*

## Examples of Those Whom Satan Could Not Make Sin

People today need to be very careful

not to use the old, worn out excuse, “the Devil made me do it.” For one reason, there were people in the Bible whom the Devil was not able to get to sin even though he tried.

Job, for example, was not made to sin by the Devil when all that was close to him was taken away. Job did not sin and he appealed to his integrity (Job 1-2). Joseph is another example of someone who did not sin even though he was tempted to do so. He appealed to his conscience and God’s knowledge (Genesis 39). Lastly, Jesus is an example of someone whom the Devil could not get to sin even though he tempted Jesus three times. Jesus did not sin and he appealed to scripture (Matthew 4).

## What About Demon Possession Today?

It is true that in Bible times, demons made people do bad things (Mark 5:1-13; 9:17ff). There are a number of examples of this. However, God in time, removed the ability of demons to possess someone when he removed the miraculous power to cast them out (Zech. 13:2). There is no demon possession today.

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