

Satan in Christianity

Pastor Mark and the Wisdom of Wikipedia

- Satan is known as the Devil, Lucifer, Beelzebub

The New Testament

- Temptation of Christ - [Mark 1:12-13](#), [Matthew 4:1-11](#) and [Luke 4:1-13](#)
- Parables of Jesus:
 - Parable of the Sower - [Mark 4:14-15](#)
 - Parable of the Strong Man – [Matthew 12:29](#)
- Satan and his Demons are the causes of illness
 - Fever - [Luke 4:39](#)
 - Leprosy - [Luke 5:13](#)
 - Arthritis - [Luke 13:11-16](#)
- [John 13:2](#) describes The Devil as inspiring Judas.
- [Jude 9](#) features a dispute between Michael the Archangel and the Devil over the body of Moses.
- Book of [Revelation](#) represents Satan as the supernatural ruler of the Roman Empire.

*It seems that Satan is associated with anything negative?
How do you view illness?*

The Patristic Era (100-800)

- Jerome and Origen, early church fathers, see Satan as a fallen angel.
- The Ransom theory of Atonement - Christ's death was ransom to Satan in exchange for humanity's liberation.
- Most early Christians believed that Satan and his demons had the power to possess humans. (Anxiety, religious fears, evil thoughts)

How much of this do you think is a way to explain mental health?

What do you think of the statement, "The Devil Made Do It."

Middle Ages (500-1500)

- Lots of stories about Satan as being duped by the Saints kind of *humorous*.
- Condemned belief in witchcraft. Belief that they fly through the air on broomsticks and consulted with Satan.

Early Modern Period (1500-1800)

- Increasing belief that Satan was powerful.
- Luther - rather than argue with Satan, hang out with pleasant company.
- All sorcery was the work of Satan.
- Puritans of New England believed that Satan visibly reigned in the New World.
- That Native Americans were worshippers of Satan.
- Satan was an opponent of the evangelical movement.
- Demons had the power to possess people.
- Enlightenment thinkers such as David Hume and Voltaire attached the notion of Satan's existence altogether.
- By the end of this period trials for witchcraft had pretty much ceased.

We got a

Modern Era

- Belief in Satan and demonic possession remains strong in US and Latin America; 57% believe in a literal Devil.
- Liberal Christianity believes that Satan is a mythological attempt to express the reality of evil in the universe.
- Belief that Satan will become incarnate in the Antichrist.