

HM

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Hell is Empty and Jack is Here

As the book *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding progresses Jack's identity begins to merge with the Lord of The Flies. "Hell is empty and all the devils are here." This quote by William Shakespeare represents Jack, as we learned from Simon's conversation with the Beast, the Lord of The Flies was not on the island but within the boys. Evidence from the text is on page 143; " 'Fancy thinking the Beast was something you could hunt and kill!' said the head. For a moment or two the forest and all the other dimly appreciated places echoed with the parody of laughter. 'You knew, didn't you? I'm part of you? Close, close, close! I'm the reason why it's no go? Why things are what they are?' ". The Beast is part of the all boys' identities, Jack, on the other hand, seems to allow his inner beast more control over his actions, choices and overall demeanor.

The choices William Golding makes throughout the novel connects Jack's identity to that of a tempter. To be a tempter you must have the following attributes; manipulative, powerful. What a coincidence that one of Satan's many names is 'The Tempter'. Jack gets all of his tribe to do his bidding and makes them follow strict rules or they are punished. They also bring him offerings. Jack forces his tribe to do many strange things, most of them have a tribal aspect involved. Jack expects everyone to listen to him and obey him. His rules are the

only rules. What he says goes. There are no compromises and certainly no negotiations. Jack, being hot headed, gets fired up when people go against him or simply disagree with his opinion. This causes him to lash out and be in a constant state of anger. Jack throughout the book progressively becomes a ruthless savage, it started with hunting pigs then led to hunting people. Jack practically becomes the opposite of a role-model, he leads people down the path of evil. Drawing from that, Jack is very power hungry, manipulative, and sadistic, especially towards the end of the book. He controls them through fear, they know that if they disobey they would be beaten and punished.

Similarly, Satan constantly tries to lure people into doing evil or doing the devil's work. 1 Peter 5: 8-9: “**8** Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. **9** Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.” Satan uses people to get what he wants. He allures, entices and influences you. He manipulates you when it comes to your conscience, thoughts, choices and actions. Satan constantly tries to steer you away from all things virtuous and teach you more malevolent things.

In addition, he tries to lead you towards evil. Arrogant, no kindness or decency, a destroyer and an imposter. The listed attributes are also similar to Jack's traits. In Revelation 14:9-10: “**9** Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, ‘If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, **10** he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the

cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.’ ” The beast symbolizes Satan, the great deceiver. It shows that Satan would disguise himself as God, like how Jack disguises himself with war paint, elaborated on page 88; " ‘For hunting. Like in the war. You know—dazzle paint. Like things trying to look like something else—’ ”.

Overall, the similarities between Jack and Satan are undeniable. They share some of the same traits attitudes and motives. Within human nature there has always been evil, and the book proves that it constantly manifests. We wouldn’t be human if we didn’t sin. Our world is infested with people like Jack. Just like in Lord of The Flies, we are single handedly destroying everything God created, including each other.