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### Biblical references in Lord of the Flies (William Golding)

In Lord of the Flies (William Golding), a band of boys on an island try their best to cooperate and survive. On this island, the author sets forth a scenario in which the best and worst, the good and the evil, is revealed within the boys. The evil that the boys conjured up manifested into "the beast" and later the pig head. On the other hand, the only trace of moral purity and principles led to Simon and the conch. These representations of purity and corruption exist not just in Lord of the Flies (William Golding) but also in history, more specifically the Bible. The Bible is the history of God guiding his children (humans) away from sin. Even in the Bible, archetypes of wrong and right seem to be the central theme, like the devil and Jesus. In the Bible, the devil tempts and deceives those weaker than him into some disillusion or fallacy.

Lord of the Flies (William Golding) has taken much of what I have previously said about the Bible and put it into a fictional book, but instead of demons and angels, he chose innocent boys to represent good and evil. The most obvious of these evils, the beast, can not force the boys to act malevolently or heartless in any way, yet the boys fear it so much they kill Simon. Their fear of something that can inflict only as much damage as they allow it to ends up killing all that is good on their island. The devil acts in a very similar way, he tempts and shows humans riches and promise of a better life,

but ultimately leads them to despair and madness. While beasts and inner demons seem to make the most impact on the island, acts of kindness and benevolence still exist. Simon, one of the few characters to show consistent kindness and openness towards all of the boys on the island is also one of the only ones to die on the island. Very much like Jesus, speaking out against normalities was met with a harsh ending. In both Simon and Jesus's case, they spoke out for the better of everyone, and both of them tried guiding misled people back to the truth.

One of the most feared and hated archetypes is the beast, as previously stated the beast could not harm the boys in any way yet still caused destruction and chaos using the boys fear. The beast and the devil have very similar archetypes, they both act as the tempter. The beast itself lives in almost all of the boys, it represents their greed, lack of empathy, and barbaric actions. The beast continues to grow until it becomes the pig head. The pig head plays the role as the true tempter in *Lord of the Flies* (William Golding). The pig head symbolizes the boy's obsession over hunting and the darkness of the island. The effect the beast has on the boys is very similar to how the devil tempts mankind. In the Bible, Jesus encounters the devil who tries to tempt him with riches and power "The devil said to him, 'I shall give to you all this power and their glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I may give it to whomever I wish. All this will be yours, if you worship me.'" (Luke 4:6). In the same way, the devil tempts Jesus, the beast tempts Simon, except this time the beast tries to convince Simon to stop denying and fighting the beast "Well then,' said the Lord of the Flies (William Golding), 'you'd better run off and play with the others. They think you're batty. You don't want Ralph to think you're

batty, do you? You like Ralph a lot, don't you? And Piggy, and Jack?" (pg.143).

Archetypes will always stay the same, in both the Bible and Lord of the Flies (William Golding) there was a tempter whose only goal was to corrupt and destroy civilization.

While there was a tempter in the Bible and Lord of the Flies (William Golding) there was also a Christ-like figure who in many cases combated the tempter and spread purity.

You can feel a general connection between Simon and Jesus, but Lord of the Flies (William Golding) has plenty of specific references and symbolism from the Bible. Simon talking to the pig head contains some of the most powerful symbolism in the book because of its representation of malevolence versus benevolence, but it is also very similar to when Jesus fasted in the desert for 40 days. During the temptations of Jesus, Jesus replies to the devil with "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" (Luke 4:8). Even in Simon's temptations, Simon was able to stand up against the pig head "What are you doing out here all alone? Aren't you afraid of me?' Simon shook." (pg.143). In each of these instances, both Simon and Jesus refused the temptations set before them. Simon truly is an image of Christ while he may not be perfect he still rose above the evils of hunting and was not bothered by the beast.

Finally, the reason behind William Golding's Symbolic literature choices, specifically his choice to use references from the bible instead of just using any other symbolism. For many people, the Bible is a source of wisdom and moral foundation. The Bible also depicts good and evil in their most basic form. William Golding was able to accomplish that classic good versus evil theme within Lord of the Flies (William

Golding) by modeling his book after the bible. William Golding took from the Bible, the godly heaven against hell and transformed it into something much more secular. William Golding used the biblical references to accentuate and add meaning to the purely earthly actions of the boys. Instead of the devil, the boys have imagined the beast, and instead of God, you have the conch and fire. By adding a more spiritual aspect to the story the material objects like the pig head now have a much greater meaning to them. The reason William Golding chose to add this biblical side to the story was so that he could craft a story that seemed believable and understandable, but also have thousands of pages worth of hidden meaning. William Golding added meaning to a fire, power to a conch, and corruption to a pig.