

Angels and Demons

Jim Rooney

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James P. Rooney

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All Bible verses are in the New King James Version (NKJV) unless otherwise indicated.

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³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 8:37-39)

Introduction

Any discussion about angels and demons (devils) is a fascinating topic whether or not one is a believer in God. This has been the subject of many books and movies. We see in the Bible that angels and demons are very real. Many biblical passages refer to these beings and their power. Some people deny the existence of angels and demons. They believe these beings are fairy-tale figures made up by authors writing fiction. Some who believe in the biblical accounts of these beings do not believe they are active in our present day.

As we think about angels and demons we need to understand at the beginning that we are not talking about two separate classes of beings. Demons are angels too. Perhaps a better way of defining them is to call them either angels who did not fall and those who did fall, referred to as fallen angels or demons. How did these angels fall?

I wanted to write a book on this subject to address some of these issues and to share what knowledge we have from the Bible regarding angels and demons. My hope is that the skeptic will see that these beings are real and that angels have a present day purpose and ministry for our good. Demons, on the other hand, seek their own selfish ends and try to do great evil to mankind. It is important that we recognize their existence to help us be on guard against them.

Chapter 1

The Creation of Angels

In the Beginning....

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Gen. 1:1)

It is not in the scope of this book to get into a discussion of creation versus evolution. I do discuss that in a limited way in my e-book [Key Social Issues Facing Christians](#) also on free-ebooks.net.

In the biblical account we see that it was God who created the heavens and the earth. We know from the Bible that God created man on day six.

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." ... Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day. (Gen. 1:26-28, 31)

When Were the Angels Created?

We do not have a definitive answer to that question. God created heaven on the second day.

And God called the firmament heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day. (Gen. 1:8)

Sea creatures and birds were created on day five. (Gen. 1:21-23) Land animals and man were created on day six. The angelic hosts are not specifically mentioned. Many have speculated that the angels were created on one of the days 2 through 6. God decided not to mention when He created angels. Since He didn't mention it we can safely assume this information was not important for us to know. God reveals to us in His Word the things we need to know about Him. He chooses what to reveal and gives us only the information we need for our betterment. Our finite minds cannot understand the infinite God and His actions.

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! (Rom. 11:33)

What Are Angels?

Angels are ministering spirits.

Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation? (Heb. 1:14)

We see in this verse that one of the main purposes of angels is to minister to God's people who will inherit salvation. As Christians, this should be a comfort to us knowing that angels protect us. How many times have we narrowly

escaped an accident that could have been serious or fatal? Think about all the close calls we have had driving a car. Perhaps you escaped many accidents because an angel intervened on your behalf.

After Jesus was tempted by Satan and had endured 40 days and nights of fasting, God sent angels to minister to Him.

¹¹ Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him. (Matt. 4:11)

When Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane right before His arrest and crucifixion, God sent an angel to help Him in His agony.

⁴¹ And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, ⁴² saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." ⁴³ Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. (Luke 22:43)

Do Angels Procreate?

Angels are not made of flesh and blood. Angels are eternal spiritual beings. They do not marry, have sexual relations, or procreate. They are without gender.

Jesus answered and said to them, "The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage. ³⁵ But those who are counted worthy to attain that age, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; ³⁶ nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. (Luke 20:34-36)

Angels were created as finished beings. They were not babies who grew up to be adults as do humans. They never age or die. This is because they are spirits without bodies like we have.

Were Angels the Sons of God in Gen. 6:1-4?

Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, ² that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.

³ And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." ⁴ There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.

It is my opinion that angels are not being referred to here. We know from Luke 20:34-36 that angels don't marry and these women are referred to as wives. Angels are also spirits, not flesh and blood, so they could not have had sexual relations with these women. Some think that angels possessed these men and had sexual relations with the women which produced an evil race of beings who were the giants. I would disagree with that explanation. The holy angels in heaven do not possess people, only demons do so. While the holy angels and believers in Christ are referred to as the sons of God, I don't think that demons would ever be referred to as the sons of God. The following verse in Job does not include Satan as one of the sons of God who came before the Lord that day to discuss Job. It just says he also came there.

⁶Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. (Job 1:6)

Perhaps the sons of God refer to those men that came through the line of Seth rather than the evil line of Cain. Over time these godly men became indiscriminate in their choice of women to marry. Instead of marrying believers or godly women, they took as wives any among the daughters of men thus producing an evil line that eventually led to the flood, a punishment from God.

How Many Angels Are There?

We can conclude then that God created all the angels at one moment in time. There are a finite number of angels which are neither increased nor decreased. How many angels are there? They are innumerable.

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels,... (Heb. 12:22)

"I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; ¹⁰A fiery stream issued And came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened. (Dan. 7:9-10)

In this vision, Daniel saw one hundred million angels before the throne of God. This probably did not include all the angelic beings as there are no demons here.

When Peter cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest when Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, the Lord spoke the following words to him:

"Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. ⁵³ Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?" (Matt. 26:52-53)

In Jesus' day, a Roman legion could consist of 3,000 to 6,000 soldiers. Therefore, twelve legions of angels could have been anywhere from 36,000 to 72,000 angels. That would have been much more than enough to handle the small force of Roman soldiers and Jewish leaders who arrested Jesus that night, especially when you consider one mighty angel could have protected Jesus from them all.

Who Are the Elect Angels?

I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality. (1 Tim. 5:21)

Before God created angels, He had already chosen those angels who would never rebel against Him. These are called the elect angels. Those angels whom God did not choose before their creation are not elect of God. They became the fallen angels or demons (devils). The purpose of election, concerning angels or mankind, is to show God's sovereignty, rule, and power over His creatures. God is in charge of everything which includes the destiny of angels and men. Can the elect angels ever fall or rebel against God? The answer is no. They would never have been elected by God if they would fall later. For a more in depth

treatment of election, read my book Free Grace or Free Will – God’s Free Salvation Plan also on www.free-ebooks.net.

These elect angels are called holy.

For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father’s, and of the holy angels. (Luke 9:26)

Chapter 2

Messengers of God

God created angels to serve and worship Him. The word angel means messenger. God sometimes sends messages to mankind by angels. Angels normally appear as men when giving their messages to people. The following are some of the more notable messages God sent to people through angels.

God's Message to Mary about Jesus

Perhaps the most important message God sent to mankind was by His angel named Gabriel who informed Mary, a virgin, that God had chosen her to be the mother of the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"

²⁹ But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. ³⁰ Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

³⁵ And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. ³⁷ For with God nothing will be impossible."

³⁸ Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. (Luke 1:26-38)

What an amazing message from God to a lowly young Jewish girl. Mary must have been stunned after this angelic visit. Chosen to be the mother of the Son of God, the Jewish Messiah, was the greatest honor any Jewish girl could have dreamed for. It must have taken some time for her to work through her emotions after this visit from the angel Gabriel.

Message to the Shepherds of the Birth of Christ

If you were God, how would you share the message of the birth of your Son? You probably would send it to a king, ruler, or someone of royalty. God's ways are so different than man's ways.

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. ¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe

wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!” (Luke 2:8-14)

It is very interesting that this announcement by the angel about the birth of the Christ was made to lowly shepherds instead of to royalty. This shows the humility of our Savior. It also shows how His coming was not just for the privileged but also for the common people. Christ’s first coming was in poverty and with little fanfare. His second coming will be in power, glory, and majesty for all people to see and be amazed.

¹⁶ For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: (1 Thess. 4:16)

³⁰ Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. (Matt. 24:30)

Message Concerning John the Baptist

God sent a message to the father of John the Baptist by the angel Gabriel telling him he would have a son in his old age who would prepare the people for the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense.¹² And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.¹³ But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.¹⁴ And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.¹⁵ For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb.¹⁶ And he will

turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

¹⁸ And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years." ¹⁹ And the angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings. ²⁰ But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time." (Luke 1:11-20)

Since Zacharias, who was a Levite and had temple duties in service to God, did not have faith in the words of the angel Gabriel, God gave him a sign. He was struck with muteness until the child was born.

The Resurrection of Christ

After Jesus died by crucifixion, He was laid in a nearby tomb. On the third day he arose from the grave in a bodily resurrection. Two angels were at the tomb after Jesus arose and gave the message that He had arisen from the dead.

Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. ² But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. ³ Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. ⁵ Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, ⁷ saying, 'The Son of

Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.” (Luke 24:1-7)

But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. ¹² And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. ¹³ Then they said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.” (John 20:11-13)

Mary would then turn around, see, and speak to the risen Lord!

The Ascension of Christ

Right after Jesus’ final message to His disciples, He ascended into heaven before their very eyes.

Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, ¹¹ who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:9-11)

Two angels appearing as men who were standing by gave the Lord’s disciples the message that Jesus was coming back one day in the clouds just as He left them going into the clouds to heaven.

Chapter 3

The Angel of the Lord

The term “the angel of the Lord” used in the Old Testament often refers to a pre-incarnate appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ. This term is to be distinguished from “an angel of the Lord.” Angels, as mentioned, often appear in the form of men. Examples of the Angel of the Lord are in the following passages.

The Angel of the Lord in the Burning Bush

Moses stumbled upon an amazing sight when he was attending to a flock of animals on Mt. Horeb. He saw a bush on fire but not being consumed. He saw the Angel of the Lord in the fire and spoke to Him. It was God calling to Moses from the burning bush.

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, “I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.”

⁴ So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!”

And he said, “Here I am.”

⁵ Then He said, “Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.”
(Ex.3:1-5)

Here the "Angel of the Lord" in verse 2 is both Lord and God in verse 4. He refers to Himself as "I am" in verse 4.

¹⁴ And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" (Ex. 3:14)

⁵⁸ Jesus said to the Jews, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." (John 8:58)

Jesus is the great "I AM" of the Bible.

Three Men Visit Abraham

It appears from this passage that the three men who stood before Abraham may consist of two angels with one of the men being a pre-incarnate appearance of The Lord Jesus Christ.

Then the LORD appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre,¹ as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day. ² So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground, ³ and said, "My Lord, if I have now found favor in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant. (Gen. 18:1-3)

²² Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. (Gen. 18:22)

Some have felt these three men represent God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Commander of the Lord's Army

Who is the Commander of the army of the Lord?

13 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?"

14 So He said, "No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come."

And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, "What does my Lord say to His servant?"

15 Then the Commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so. (Joshua 5:13-15)

We know that the Commander in this passage is the Lord Himself, the Angel of the Lord, because an angel would never have permitted Joshua to worship him. The Lord told Joshua to remove his sandals because where he was standing was holy ground. The ground was holy because of the presence of the Lord. This was the same situation when Moses was told to remove his sandals on ground made holy because of the presence of the Lord.

Gideon / Samson

Two other notable appearances of the Angel of the Lord were before Gideon (Judges 6:11-24) and to the parents of Samson. (Judges 13:3-23)

Chapter 4

The Seraphim and Cherubim

We don't have much information in the Bible about other heavenly beings that God created. Two creatures are mentioned that also worship, serve, and praise God. It is possible that the seraphim (seraphs) and cherubim (cherubs) are a class of angels.

Seraphim

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. ² Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one cried to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!" ⁴ And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.

⁵ So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts." ⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. ⁷ And he touched my mouth with it, and said:

"Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged." (Isa. 6:1-7)

There are very few passages in the Bible that mention the seraphim. We see here that they are positioned over the throne of God. They had six wings. With two wings they covered their eyes, two wings covered their feet, and two were used to fly.

Why did they cover their eyes? Perhaps it was because of the glorious bright light shining forth from the Lord. That blinding light once came from Jesus on earth when He was transfigured on the mount (Matt. 17:1,2) and also when Jesus blinded Saul on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:3). Others think it showed a blind obedience to the will and commands of God. Did they cover their eyes because they did not want to look upon the prophet Isaiah because of his sin? We don't know the answer. We also don't know why they covered their feet. When Moses stood on holy ground when speaking to God, he had to remove his shoes out of respect and reverence to the Lord. Perhaps this was why the seraphim covered their feet. It was an act of humility and reverence to their Creator.

Notice they cried out three times that the Lord was holy. This may have reference to the Trinity consisting of the Holy Father, the Holy Son, and the Holy Spirit. In the Bible, the number three denotes divine completeness and perfection. Saying something more than once denotes the importance of the message. The Lord Jesus Christ is truly holy, holy, holy!

It appears that the four living creatures that the Apostle John saw in his vision in Revelation were the seraphim.

And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. ⁷ The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. ⁸ The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying:

"Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!" (Rev. 4:6-8)

What an awesome thought to realize that these beings speak continuously day and night praising the Lord for His wonderful holiness!

Cherubim

When Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden of Eden for their disobedience to God, He placed cherubim at the east of the garden to keep anyone from entering and eating of the tree of life. God did not want mankind to have to live in his sin for all eternity.

²² Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"—²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life. (Gen. 3:22-24)

God gave Moses specific instructions on how to build the Ark of the Covenant. The ark was somewhat like a box and inside the ark were the Ten Commandments on two tables of stone, Aaron's budded rod, and a pot of manna from heaven. The ark had a lid called the mercy seat and cherubs, one at each end, faced each other with their wings stretched out. It was here, between the two cherubs that the divine presence of God abode with His chosen people Israel and communicated with them. The ark would normally reside in the holy of holies in the tabernacle or the temple.

¹⁷ "You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold; two and a half cubits shall be its length and a cubit and a half its width. ¹⁸ And

you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work you shall make them at the two ends of the mercy seat. ¹⁹ Make one cherub at one end, and the other cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim at the two ends of it of one piece with the mercy seat. ²⁰ And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat. ²¹ You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you. ²² And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel. (Ex. 25:17-22)

We don't know what the cherubim looked like other than the fact that they apparently had wings. Perhaps the wings of the seraphim and cherubim have given rise to the thought that angels have wings.

Chapter 5

The Angelic Rebellion Against God

The Free Will of Angels

When God created the angels, He created them with the ability of free will. They could freely make decisions for good or evil. Angels do not have a propensity to sin like humans do. They could see the grandeur, splendor, and glory of God and His Son Jesus in heaven. They knew their proper place in subjection to God. They knew they were created to worship and serve Him. They were without excuse should they sin against God. There would be no forgiveness of sin for them as they stood in the very presence of the Lord and were witnesses of His glory and power. They did not have to rely on faith for the truth and knowledge of the Almighty as people do.

Satan

Satan, the leader of the demons, also called Lucifer, "the Devil", a dragon, and a serpent was created as a high ranking angel. He is also referred to in the Bible as Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons; Apollyon or Abaddon, the king of demons; and the angel of the bottomless pit. He certainly is a very intelligent being and a persuasive leader. However, it was not enough for him to be a powerful angel who served God, He wanted to be God, to exalt himself over God.

¹² "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! ¹³ For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of

God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ ¹⁵ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit.” (Isa. 14:12-15)

The War in Heaven

⁷ And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸ but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. ⁹ So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. (Rev. 12:7-9)

Satan was cast out of heaven because of his sin of pride and disobedience. He was the author of sin. Jesus referred to Satan being cast out of heaven when he said the following:

¹⁸ And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. (Luke 10:18)

Not only was Satan cast out of heaven for his sin, but it appears as many as a third of the angels were cast out as well with him. Satan, the great deceiver, persuaded these angels to follow him against God. They were also expelled for their rebellion. These are the demons we read about in the New Testament.

³ And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. ⁴ His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. (Rev. 12:3-4)

In this war in heaven, we see that the angel Michael led the angels of God in battle against Satan and his angels. Michael is the highest ranking angel and is the only one called the archangel. This means chief angel.

Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" (Jude 1:9)

The angels fighting for God were victorious, and Satan and his angels were cast out of heaven. Their eternal destiny is everlasting punishment in the lake of fire.

¹⁰ *The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (Rev. 20:10)*

⁶ *And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; ⁷as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. (Jude 6,7)*

The Accuser

Satan likes to accuse us of our sins before God. He attacked the goodness of Job before the Almighty. However, his days are short and his damnation is sure. He intends to cause havoc and mayhem on earth until he is cast into the lake of fire to receive everlasting torment.

¹⁰ *Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His*

Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. ¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. ¹² Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.” (Rev. 12:10-12)

Praise God that we have an advocate in heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ, who intercedes on our behalf when Satan accuses us of wrongdoing before God.

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. (1 John 2:1)

Let us all do our best to live a righteous life because we know that Satan will certainly accuse us before God for our transgressions.

Chapter 6

The Power of Angels and Demons

Angels

Angels are powerful beings. They are much stronger and more powerful than humans are.

Bless the LORD, you His angels, who excel in strength, who do His word, heeding the voice of His word. (Psalm 103:20)

⁹ then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, ¹⁰ and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries, ¹¹ whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord. (2 Pet. 2:9-11)

One angel was able to roll away the stone covering the entrance to the tomb where Jesus was laid after His crucifixion. It appears his coming caused a great earthquake.

² And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. (Matt. 28:2)

An angel of the Lord freed Peter and the Apostles when they were in prison. He told them to continue to preach the word of life.

¹⁷ Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, ¹⁸ and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. ¹⁹ But at night an angel of the Lord opened

the prison doors and brought them out, and said, ²⁰ "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life." (Acts 5:17-20)

In the following instance, God sent just one angel to destroy the city of Jerusalem:

¹⁴ So the LORD sent a plague upon Israel, and seventy thousand men of Israel fell. ¹⁵ And God sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it. As he was destroying, the LORD looked and relented of the disaster, and said to the angel who was destroying, "It is enough; now restrain your hand." (1 Chron. 21:14-15)

God sent two angels to warn Lot and his family to leave Sodom because the angels were going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah due to the sexual perversion and immorality of their people. These cities were destroyed by fire and brimstone coming down from the heavens.

Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground. ² And he said, "Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant's house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way." (Gen. 19:1, 2)

¹² Then the men said to Lot, "Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city—take them out of this place! ¹³ For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it." (Gen. 19:12, 13)

²⁴ Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens. ²⁵ So He overthrew

those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. (Gen. 19:24, 25)

When Israel was held by Egypt in bondage and slavery, God sent a destroyer or death angel to kill the first born of every house that did not have the blood of the lamb on its door posts. For houses that did, the death angel passed over and the inhabitants were safe. This was a picture of the shedding of blood in the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God and how His blood protects Christians from spiritual death in the lake of fire. In a sense, the death angel passes over us because we have the blood of Christ applied spiritually to the door posts of our hearts.

²¹ Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Pick out and take lambs for yourselves according to your families, and kill the Passover lamb. ²² And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning. ²³ For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you. (Ex. 12:21-23)

Angels, as messengers of God, can move from heaven to earth immediately, in less than a split second. They are not limited by the dimensions of time and space as we are. Their speed in flight (as we think of it) often gives rise to the thought they have wings. There are many verses in the book of Revelation that give testimony to the great power of angels.

Demons

Devils or demons have great power to do signs and miracles to deceive and to commit evil against mankind.

⁹ So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. (Rev. 12:9)

The beast and the false prophet, who are agents of Satan (the dragon), are given great power to deceive many.

¹² Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. ¹³ And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. ¹⁴ For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. (Rev. 16:12-14)

¹⁹ And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. ²⁰ Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. (Rev. 19:19-20)

The following verses show how powerful and evil Satan is. He is the prince of the power of the air who deceives mankind to sin against God, themselves, and others.

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now

works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. (Eph. 2:1-3)

Our battle is not just within ourselves because of our sin nature, but it consists even more against Satan and the demons who rule the airways who are invisible to us. If our eyes were open to be able to see the demonic world around us, we would be shocked and terrified. We are in a war against demonic oppression. We must take on the whole armor of God to defeat the enemy. We must recognize that demons exist so that we can be serious about fighting them.

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. (Eph. 6:10-13)

Chapter 7

Satanic Temptation

Temptation of Mankind

Satan and demons have the power to tempt us to sin against God. We see Satan's temptation in the first sin committed by mankind in the Garden of Eden.

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'you shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³ but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

⁴ Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. (Gen. 3:1-8)

Notice how Satan, who is often referred to as a serpent, effectively tempted and deceived Eve. First, he put doubt in the

mind of Eve by saying that God had been lying to her and her husband Adam. He then questioned God's integrity and made Him out to be selfish. Finally, he persuaded Eve to eat of the fruit so that she would become like God. She was no match for his cunning and deception. She ate of the fruit in disobedience to God and then took it to her husband, telling him what happened, and then he disobeyed God and ate of the fruit.

Satan and demons have the power to tempt us in ways that can entice us to sin. They know where we are weakest and will tempt us to do evil in those areas. We must be continually alert and on guard to not let demons persuade us to disobey God. We need to pray for strength to defeat the wiles of the devil.

⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. (1 Pet 5:8)

The Temptation of Christ

The first Adam fell after being tempted by Satan. The second Adam, Christ, overcame the deceptions of the evil one. Satan attempted to make Jesus Christ, the Son of God, sin. He wanted to get vindication for being cast out of heaven. He sought to be worshiped as God, and he had his best opportunity to attack Jesus who was in a weakened state after fasting for 40 days and nights.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. ³ Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."⁴ But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" (Matt. 4:1-4)

Satan's first temptation of Christ was to try to make Him prove He was the Son of God. He used Jesus' great hunger as a pivotal way to get Christ to do his bidding, to submit to his command. Satan was saying, "Jesus, you say you are the Son of God. Well, if that is really true, you can perform a miracle and make these stones become bread, satisfy your hunger, and in so doing prove that you really are the Son of God. If you don't change these stones into bread you really are not the Son of God." If Jesus had submitted to the command of Satan, He would have been subordinating Himself to the devil.

Jesus told Satan that man does not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. Obeying God's Word is more important than taking care of our physical needs. Jesus would not let his hunger cause Him to succumb to the wishes of the evil one. Jesus placed the emphasis on following the Word of God. Notice that Jesus uses the Word of God to defeat the cunning of the devil.

⁵ Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" ⁷ Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'" (Matt. 4:5-7)

Satan then decides to tempt Christ by using the Word of God himself. He takes Jesus up on the highest point of the temple in Jerusalem and challenges Him to again prove He is really the Son of God by jumping off the temple. Satan told Jesus that if He is the Son of God, God would send angels to catch Him. Satan quotes from the following passage for his proof text:

For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. ¹² In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone. (Psalm 91:11-12)

Jesus again is not fooled by the deception of the great deceiver. He again quotes from Scripture to defeat the devil by saying no one should tempt the Lord God. Jesus is telling Satan that he is not to put God to the test. He is also making application to Himself since He is God. How foolish of Satan to think he could use the Scriptures to defeat Jesus Christ who is the very Word of God.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1, 2, 14)

The important lesson for us in this second temptation of Christ is to realize that Satan is an expert in knowing what is contained in the Bible. He will even try to use the Word of God against us to cause us to sin. We need to be on guard at all times against this evil being and his demonic followers and never underestimate their power of deception.

⁸*Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."*

¹⁰*Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"*

¹¹*Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him. (Matt. 4:8-11)*

In this last temptation, we see that Satan took Jesus up on a high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in their glory and splendor. He offered all these to Jesus if He would only fall down and worship him. It was a way for Jesus to become a King without suffering the pain and agony of the cross. To many, this temptation would be terribly appealing but not to Jesus. He

commanded Satan to go away and told him the Scriptures make it clear we can only worship and serve God. The Father has given Jesus rule over heaven and earth.

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. (Matt. 28:18)

In each case, Jesus used the Word of God to defeat Satan. Jesus was not interested in any shortcuts to His kingship. He was already King and was willing to wait to be officially installed as King after He had accomplished the will of His Father.

³⁷ Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." (John 18:37)

One day when Jesus returns He will be declared King of kings and Lord of lords.

I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, ¹⁴ that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, ¹⁵ which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen. (1 Tim. 6:13-16)

Why Did Jesus Call Peter Satan?

Jesus came to this world to fulfill the will of His Father. He came to save all those whom the Father had given Him. That plan involved dying for the sins of His people. Anyone who would try to circumvent that plan was a tool of Satan.

²¹ From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

²² Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!"

²³ But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men." (Matt. 16:21-23)

Although Peter meant well and didn't want the Lord to die, he was unwittingly being used as a tool by Satan. The purpose of Satan is to do whatever he can to thwart the will of God. He used Peter to try to tempt Jesus not to go to the cross. Jesus rebuked Satan to get behind Him. No matter how he tries, Satan is no match for God. The Lord always has him in a constant state of check-mate.

When we are tempted to sin, we need to seek immediate help through the Word of God and prayer. If we do that, we can overcome the cunning of the devil.

⁷ Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)

Chapter 8

Demonic Influence and Possession

Old Testament

We see in the Old Testament that demons enticed Israel to worship idols. This is one of their main goals. Worshiping idols is the same thing as demon worship. Demons want to be worshiped. We saw this in Satan's rebellion against God to be worshiped as God and also in Satan's temptation of Christ to try to get our Lord to worship him. Since demons rejected God's authority and have been cast out of heaven forever, they want as many people as possible to reject God and worship idols. Demons know their ultimate end is eternal punishment and suffering in the lake of fire. If they have to endure that pain and agony, they want to take as many people there as possible for them to also have to endure that same end. Anything they can do to get people not to worship the God of heaven they will do. God warned His people Israel not to worship idols. Worshiping idols is an abomination to God.

⁷ They shall no more offer their sacrifices to demons, after whom they have played the harlot. This shall be a statute forever for them throughout their generations." (Lev. 17:7)

¹⁶ They provoked Him to jealousy with foreign gods; with abominations they provoked Him to anger. ¹⁷ They sacrificed to demons, not to God, to gods they did not know, to new gods, new rivals that your fathers did not fear. ¹⁸ Of the Rock who begot you, you are unmindful, and have forgotten the God who fathered you. (Deut. 32:16-18)

¹⁵ Then he (Jeroboam) appointed for himself priests for the high places, for the demons, and the calf idols which he had made. (2 Chron. 11:15)

They served their idols, which became a snare to them. ³⁷ They even sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons, (Psalm 106:36-37)

One thing these people did was truly an abomination to the Lord. They would sacrifice their own children to idols or demons. How terrible!

Today many people worship idols without bowing down to a statue. There are idols of money, fame, gambling, pride, sex, etc., that are just as much an idol as a statue. Anything that a person desires more than God is an idol and part of demon worship. Christians must put the Lord Jesus Christ in first place in their lives. If they do, then these other things will not be used by demons to destroy our testimony for the Lord.

New Testament

We see in the New Testament that much of the activity of demons mentioned has to do with demon possession of individuals. One or more demons could possess a person. They possessed great strength.

²⁶ Then they sailed to the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷ And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!" ²⁹ For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the

man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness.

³⁰ *Jesus asked him, saying, "What is your name?"*

And he said, "Legion," because many demons had entered him.

³¹ *And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss. (Luke 8:26-31)*

We see from this passage how demons gave the one possessed great strength to break his chains and shackles. Notice that there were many demons that had entered this man. The demons trembled in fear when they came near Jesus, begging Him not to cast them into hell. They know that suffering in the lake of fire is their eternal destiny. They also know that Jesus is all-powerful and is the Judge who will one day cast them into everlasting fire.

Can a Demon Possess a Person By Its Own Authority?

This is an interesting question. We see many cases where demons possessed another person. Did these demons enter these persons by their own will or authority? The answer is no. Demons must get permission by God to enter one of His created beings. God is the Sovereign Ruler of the universe and is in charge and control of all things. Here are some examples showing that demons have to have God's permission to inhabit or cause harm to another created being.

Job

⁸ *Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?"*

⁹ So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? ¹⁰ Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ¹¹ But now, stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"

¹² And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person." (Job 1:8-12)

In this encounter between God and Satan, God commends the faithfulness of His servant Job. Satan challenges God by saying the only reason Job had been so faithful to Him was because God gave him so much. Satan told God that if He would take away everything that Job had, Job would certainly curse God to His face. God accepts the challenge and gives Satan permission to take everything away from Job. Satan took away all his possessions, his children were killed, and later Job was inflicted with boils over his entire body. Yet God permitted Satan to go only so far. He could not take Job's life. Everything Satan did against Job had to be approved by God before Satan could do anything against Job. In a very real sense, it was God who did this to Job. God had planned these events before the foundation of the world. Satan was proven wrong as Job never cursed God for what happened to him. What a man of great faith. This is a good lesson for Christians never to charge God with wrongdoing when bad things happen to them. God has a predetermined plan for us and will use the bad things that He brings our way for our eventual good.

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. (Rom. 8:28)

Peter

³¹ And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. ³² But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

³³ But he said to Him, "Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death."

³⁴ Then He said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me." (Luke 22:31-34)

It is clear from this passage that Satan went to God to get permission to "sift" Peter to influence him to deny Christ. The Lord did give that permission to Satan to do it. However, Jesus warned Peter in advance what would happen. He also promised to pray for Peter so that Peter's faith would not fail because of his denial of Christ.

Judas

When Jesus was eating His last supper with His disciples, He mentioned that one of them would betray Him. They asked Him who it was that would do this.

²⁶ Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it." And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. ²⁷ Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly." (John 13:26-27)

From what we have already seen, Satan could not enter Judas without the Lord's direct permission. Jesus had the power to

prevent Satan from entering Judas but instead He permitted it. Jesus also then commanded Judas to do quickly the betrayal that Judas had arranged with the Jewish religious leaders. This shows that it was God's will for this betrayal to happen as it was a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy.

¹² Then I said to them, "If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain." So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver.

¹³ And the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter"—that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD for the potter. (Zech. 11:12, 13)

We know that Judas agreed to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver but then after his betrayal he became despondent over what he had done and he threw the money back to the religious leaders and they bought the potter's field to be used as a burial ground. Judas then hanged himself.

³ Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, ⁴ saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood."

And they said, "What is that to us? You see to it!"

⁵ Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.

⁶ But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood." ⁷ And they consulted together and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. ⁸ Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day.

⁹ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced, ¹⁰ and gave them for the potter's field, as the LORD directed me." (Matt. 27:3-10)

Animal Possession

We have been discussing the demon possession of men. Demons can also possess animals as we see in this account when a demon possessed man came to Jesus.

⁸ For He said to him, "Come out of the man, unclean spirit!"
⁹ Then He asked him, "What is your name?"

And he answered, saying, "My name is Legion; for we are many."
¹⁰ Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country.

¹¹ Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains. ¹² So all the demons begged Him, saying, "Send us to the swine, that we may enter them." ¹³ And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea. (Mark 5:8-13)

Notice that the demons could not enter the swine by their own authority. They needed to get permission from Jesus to go into the swine. Jesus gave them permission.

Another example of a demon entering an animal was when Satan entered the serpent to cause the fall of Adam and Eve as we saw at the beginning of chapter 6.

Who Has The Authority To Cast Out Demons?

Jesus Christ has been given all authority in heaven and earth.
(Matt. 28:18)

He cast out many demons in people during His earthly ministry. They knew who He was, were terrified of Him, and always obeyed His command to come out of people.

³² At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. ³³ And the whole city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴ Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him. (Mark 1:32-34)

Jesus conferred the ability to cast out demons to His disciples.

¹⁴ Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, ¹⁵ and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons: (Mark 3:14-15)

There was one occasion when the disciples were not able to cast out a demon.

¹⁴ And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, ¹⁵ "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. ¹⁶ So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him."

¹⁷ Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me." ¹⁸ And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.

19 Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?"

20 So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. ²¹ However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting." (Matt. 17:14-21)

Performing some miracles, such as casting out this demon, takes an extra measure of faith. Prayer and fasting are evidences of this greater faith.

Who Else Can Cast Out Demons?

Other people can cast out demons if they have sufficient faith and cast the demons out in the name of Jesus.

38 Now John answered Him, saying, "Teacher, we saw someone who does not follow us casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow us."

39 But Jesus said, "Do not forbid him, for no one who works a miracle in My name can soon afterward speak evil of Me. ⁴⁰ For he who is not against us is on our side. (Mark 9:38-40)

What are Some of the Signs of Demon Possession?

People who are demon possessed often foam at the mouth, throw themselves down, gnash their teeth, cut themselves, become rigid, act very offensively (e.g. running around naked), act and speak irrationally, and can be physically threatening. Epilepsy and being blind, deaf, or mute could be the result of demon possession.

¹⁷ Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. ¹⁸ And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. (Mark 9:17-18)

¹⁴ And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, ¹⁵ "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water..... And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. (Matt. 17:15,18)

Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes. ² And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, ³ who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, ⁴ because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him. ⁵ And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones. (Mark 5:1-5)

Warning to Those Who Might Try to Cast Out a Demon

Be careful if you try to do an exorcism which is casting out a demon. Someone tried this in Paul's day and suffered the consequences.

¹³ Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches." ¹⁴ Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so.

¹⁵ And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?"¹⁶ Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. (Acts 19:13-16)

Can a Christian Become Demon Possessed?

No. The reason is that all the saved have the Holy Spirit residing in them. Satan or a demon cannot reside inside the temple of God. The Lord would never allow that to happen.

¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. (1 Cor. 6:19, 20)

I heard a preacher say that a Christian cannot become demon possessed but he can become demon oppressed. Be assured that if you are a Christian the demonic league will certainly try to get you to sin. Thank God that we have His Spirit in us to help us fight these demons.

Why Would God Permit Demons to Possess Someone in the First Place?

The Bible does not give us the answer to this question. There are some things that God has decided not to address in the Bible for our good. God has a plan, His plan is always good, and all things that happen to us as Christians will be worked out by God for our good. (Rom. 8:28)

This matter is one of the secret things of God that we are not allowed to know. God reveals to us in Scripture only those things

that are important for us to be able to live our lives properly. We who trust in Jesus Christ can have the confidence to know that God has a detailed and specific plan and purpose for everything that happens. Whatever He permits is all according to His divine plan and we should praise His glory in it all even though our finite minds are not able to understand His actions.

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! ³⁴ "For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?" ³⁵ "Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him?" ³⁶ For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen. (Rom. 11:33-36)

Chapter 9

The Judgment of Demons

Demons will be judged one day for their rebellion against God and the evil they have committed against mankind. The Bible says that Christians will judge demons on that day.

³ *Do you not know that we shall judge angels?* (1 Cor. 6:3)

⁶ *And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;* (Jude 1:6)

Some demons are in chains in hell at this very moment. Some, like Satan, have been allowed to roam the earth and possess people as previously mentioned.

What a great honor it will be for Christians to judge these terrible creatures who sought to overthrow God and inflict much harm on mankind.

The Eternal Destiny of Demons

Demons know what their final end will be.

²⁸ *When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way.* ²⁹ *And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?"* (Matt. 8:28-29)

After their judgment, these demons, as already noted, will be cast into the lake of fire which was prepared by God for them to

receive eternal torment. Although they are spirits, their substance is such that they can feel great pain and torment.

⁴¹ "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: (Matt. 25:41)

¹⁰ The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (Rev. 20:10)

The lake of fire will not only be where demons will endure eternal torment and suffering, it will also be where every person who did not believe in Jesus Christ will suffer this torment too. Only the saved, Christians, believers in Jesus Christ, those who are found in the Book of Life will escape the wrath of God.

¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. (Rev. 20:14-15)

³⁶ He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." (John 3:36)

Chapter 10

The Church of Satan

The founder of the Church of Satan, established on April 30 – May 1st, 1966, was Anton LaVey (1930-1997).

History

“Anton knew the date upon which the first Church of Satan must be established. It would have to be during the traditional night of the most important demonic celebration of the year, when witches and devils roam the earth, orgiastically glorifying the fruition of the Spring equinox: Walpurgisnacht, the night of April 30th—May 1st.

LaVey shaved his head as part of a formalized founding ritual, in the tradition of medieval executioners, carnival strongmen, and black magicians before him, to gain personal power and enhance the forces surrounding his newly-established Satanic order. It was the enactment of an allusion at the end of Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s *Kubla Khan*: an incantation rejecting the Holy Trinity and the spiritual life in favor of one devoted to Hell and material pursuits.” (From churchofsatan.com – 8/5/2015)

Doctrine

“As Anton LaVey explained in his classic work, *The Satanic Bible*, Man—using his brain—invented all the Gods, doing so because many of our species cannot accept or control their personal egos, feeling compelled to conjure up one or a multiplicity of characters who can act without hindrance or guilt upon whims and desires. All Gods are thus externalized forms, magnified projections of the

true nature of their creators, personifying aspects of the universe or personal temperaments which many of their followers find to be troubling. Worshipping any God is thus worshipping by proxy those who invented that God. Since the Satanist understands that all Gods are fiction, instead of bending a knee in worship to—or seeking friendship or unity with—such mythical entities, he places himself at the center of his own subjective universe as his own highest value.

We Satanists are thus our own “Gods,” and as beneficent “deities” we can offer love to those who deserve it and deliver our wrath (within reasonable limits) upon those who seek to cause us—or that which we cherish—harm.” (From churchofsatan.com – 8/5/2015)

An Abomination to God

The Church of Satan glorifies hell, blasphemes and denies the God of heaven, and is devoted to material pursuits and self-pleasures. They are their own gods. They have no respect for the true God or His Holy Word.

God warned Israel about demon associations in the following passage:

“When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. ¹⁰ There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, ¹¹ or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. ¹² For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you. ¹³ You shall be blameless before the LORD your God. ¹⁴ For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers

and diviners; but as for you, the LORD your God has not appointed such for you. (Deut. 18:9-14)

It is an abomination to God for us to have any association, contact, or involvement with demons, witchcraft, sorcery, spiritists, palm readers, horoscopes, soothsayers, casting spells, one who interprets dreams or omens, Ouija boards, and those who try to make contact with the dead. As Christians, we need to stay away from all such activities. We need to stay away from books, television, movies, the internet, entertainment, and other means of communication that has anything to do with these demonic pursuits. God hates these things.

Everlasting Torment

The Bible clearly tells us that hell and the lake of fire are places of eternal punishment and torment for those who reject Jesus Christ, the Son of God. They receive the wrath of God. (John 3:36) It is certainly not a place to glorify or ever want to be.

There are some who believe in the false doctrine of annihilation. This is the belief that after the demon or unbeliever is cast in the lake of fire he is immediately burned up and dies or is annihilated and therefore has no more torment. The following verses, among others, make it clear that the being who is cast into the lake of fire remains alive and will receive eternal torment which never is quenched or stops.

⁴³ If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched— ⁴⁴ where 'Their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.' (Mark 9:43, 44)

¹⁰ The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (Rev. 20:10)

¹³ *The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.] ¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.* (Rev. 20:13-15)

Seek the Kingdom of God

We should not be worrying after material gain and satisfying our fleshly desires. We should seek instead to build up treasures in heaven that never fade away.

²⁹ *And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. ³⁰ For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. ³¹ But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you.*

³² *Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.* (Luke 12:29-34)

¹⁵ *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.* (1 John 2:15-17)

Satan is the great deceiver. He deceived Eve, he tried and failed to deceive Jesus, and works overtime to deceive both unbelievers and Christians. Why would anyone hold allegiance to such an evil being as Satan? The followers of Satan don't have to be members

of the Church of Satan. Everyone who rejects Jesus Christ is already a child of the devil. Jesus, speaking to the unbelieving Jews, said the following:

⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. (John 8:44)

Don't let Satan, demons, or his followers deceive you about Jesus Christ and everlasting life in heaven!

Epilogue

We have seen how angels are messengers of God and seek the well-being of God's people. They rejoice in heaven when one comes to salvation in Christ.

¹⁰ Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (Luke 15:10)

We need to be careful how we treat people we don't know. It may be that God has sent an angel in the appearance of a man to minister to us.

² Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels. (Heb. 13:2)

At death, Christians will be carried to paradise by angels to be with Jesus. What a comforting thought as we leave this world.

²² So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. (Luke 16:22)

⁸ We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. (2 Cor. 5:8)

On the last day, when Jesus returns in power and glory He will send His angels to gather His elect in the resurrection.

³¹ And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. (Matt. 24:31)

As this book closes, it is clear that God created the angels; they are real beings. They minister to God's people and protect them. The demons or fallen angels who rebelled against God try to

harm us. This is a real spiritual battle that we will face our entire lives. God will protect us by sending His angels to intervene on our behalf.

The demons have no hope of salvation. They will never have forgiveness of their sins. They will be judged for their rebellion and sin against God and be cast into the lake of fire to receive everlasting torment. However, mankind does have forgiveness of sins through the person and work of Jesus Christ. Although Jesus did not die for any angels, He did die to save His people from their sins.

And she (Mary) will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” (Matt. 1:21)

Jesus paid our sin debt on the cross of Calvary. Instead of receiving everlasting torment for our sins, we will receive everlasting life and joy in heaven because of our faith in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

There is only one way to God. There are no other ways.

⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (John 14:6)

The Bible says that today is the day of salvation. If you have never come to faith in Jesus Christ, don't put it off any longer!

² For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. (2 Cor. 6:2)

Remember, once you come to faith in Jesus Christ there is no power in heaven or earth that can ever separate you from the love of God!

³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 8:37-39)

May God richly bless you!