

Angels and Demons

Lesson One: What Are Angels and Demons?

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Introductions: Angels and Demons are real According to the Scriptures and Therefore Demand Our Study and Consideration.

- A. There is a real spiritual battle taking place between God and Satan, between the forces of good and evil. A real war taking place today! (**Eph. 6:12**).
- B. Rather than ignore that this battle exists or neglect our study of this biblical topic, we need to regard this matter with the utmost importance!
- C. Knowing the truth about angels and demons, versus what the world says about them, is essential to our walk of faith and to our spiritual victories each day!

I. What is an “Angel”?

- A. Defining the term “angel.”
 - 1. In the Hebrew, angel comes from the word MALAK meaning “messenger”, occurring 213 times in the Old Testament.
 - 2. In the Greek, angels comes from the word ANGELOS also meaning messenger, occurring 186 times in the New Testament.
 - 3. There are *human* messengers (e.g., **2 Sam. 2:5; Luke 7:24**).
 - a. Sometimes God’s prophets were referred to as messengers (ANGELOS) (e.g., **Hag. 1:13; Mat. 11:10**).
 - 4. There are *divine* messengers - celestial or spiritual beings from Heaven (**Gen. 32:1-2; Luke 2:13**).
- B. The focus of our study will be on angels who are divine, heavenly, spiritual beings created for the purpose of serving God and His people.

“Angel: The word angel is applied in Scripture to an order of supernatural or heavenly beings whose business it is to act as God’s messengers to men, and as agents who carry out His will.” - International Standard Bible Encyclopedia

II. The Nature of Angels.

- A. Spiritual beings
 - 1. Like God, angels are spirits who do not have physical bodies (**Heb. 1:14; cf. John 4:24; Luke 24:39**).
 - 2. Occasionally, like God (**1 Tim. 3:16**), angels appeared in bodily form (**Ezek 9:2-3**) or put on physical flesh (**Gen 18:2; Lk 24:4, 23; Jn 20:12**).
 - a. Jesus demonstrated after His resurrection that He was not merely a spirit, but also a human being by eating some fish (**Lk 24:41-43**).
 - b. The angels who appeared as men and stayed at Abraham’s house ate bread cakes he served them (**Gen. 18:2, 8, 19:1; cf. Heb. 13:2**).
- B. Holy beings
 - 1. Like God “*whose name is Holy*” (**Isa. 57:15**), angels are “*holy angels*” (**Mat. 25:31; Mark 8:38; Lk. 9:26**); i.e. *pure, blameless, upright, sinless*.
 - 2. Titles are given to angels to denote their holy character: saints (**Deut. 33:2**), sons of God (**Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7**), and holy ones (**Dan. 4:13, 23**).
 - 3. Their holiness, however, does not match the great holiness of God (**Exod. 15:11**) who is perfectly holy (**Isa. 6:3**).
 - 4. Unlike God (**James 1:13**), angels can be tempted to sin (**2 Pet. 2:4**).

III. Characteristics of Angels.

A. Male

1. The word angel in Scripture always is in the masculine form and in every example provided angels are presented as males or “men.”
2. Artwork, stories, TV shows, and movies portraying angels as women have no Scriptural basis or authority to support it.

B. Immortal

1. Angels cannot die (**Luke 20:36**); they are ageless or immortal.
2. Angels are heavenly beings and therefore are not corruptible or subject to decay (Compare to **1 Cor. 15:42-53**).

C. Innumerable

1. The Scriptures emphasize a great number of angels in existence.
 - a. Ten thousand angels or “saints” were at Mt. Sinai (**Deut. 33:2**).
 - b. Jesus said He could have called on the Father to send twelve legions of angels (legion - 6,000 x 12 = 72,000 angels) (**Mt 26:53**).
 - c. Daniel and John witnessed “ten thousand times ten thousand” (myriads) or 100 million angels! (**Dan. 7:10; Rev. 5:11**).
2. In Heaven, there is “*an innumerable company of angels*” (**Heb. 12:22**), an unlimited or countless number of angels.
3. Since God created a myriad or numberless host of angels, all which are immortal, there is no need for procreation: There are no baby angels!
 - a. Being heavenly or celestial beings, there is no need or purpose for marriage, God being their sole devotion in Heaven (**Mt. 22:30**).
 - b. Furthermore, all angels are males and therefore cannot marry!
4. God’s heavenly host is a powerful force to be reckoned with! (**Ps 68:17**)

D. Powerful

1. Angels are “*greater in might and power*” than men (**2 Pet. 2:11**), “*mighty in strength, who perform His word*” (**Ps. 103:20**).

Examples: Angels destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (**Gen. 19:13**); The angel of the Lord killed 185,000 Assyrians (**2 Kings 19:35**); An angel delivered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from the fiery furnace (**Dan. 3:24-28**); An angel shut the mouths of lions (**Dan. 6:22**); An angel of the Lord freed the apostle Peter from prison (**Acts 12:7-11; cf. Acts 16:25-26**).

2. Angels may act through mighty operations of nature (**Ps 104:4/Heb 1:7**)
3. On Judgment Day, Jesus will come with His “*mighty angels in flaming fire*” to punish all people who did not obey the gospel (**2 Thes. 1:6-9**).
4. Angels have great power only because the Lord gave it to them (**1 Chron. 29:11-12**). Only God is “Almighty” or *all-powerful* (**Rev. 21:22**).

E. “Supersonic” (very fast!)

1. The appearance and disappearance of angels before men was sudden and unexpected (e.g. **Gen. 18:2; Jud. 6:11-21; 13:3-9; Luke 2:13**).
2. The angel Gabriel was caused to “fly swiftly” to deliver a message (**Dan 9:21; cf. Rev. 14:6**), yet there is no evidence that angels have wings, save the Cherubim and Sepharim (**Ezek. 1 & 10; Isa. 6:2; Rev. 4:8**).
3. Angels are not, however, omnipresent (present everywhere) like God (**Ps. 139:7; Jer. 23:24**); their abilities are limited (e.g. **Dan. 10:13**).

F. Intelligent with a free will

1. Like mankind (**Gen. 1:26-27**), angels are set apart from the rest of God's creation, having great intelligence and a free will.
2. Though created for the purpose of serving God and His people, angels can choose to sin or go against God's will (**2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6**).
3. The majority of angels choose to obey the voice of the Lord (**Ps 103:20**)

IV. What is a "Demon"?

A. Defining the term "demon."

1. In the Hebrew (O.T.), there are three distinct words referring to demons: SHEDIM - "*They sacrificed to demons who were not God*" (**Deut 32:17**) SAYIR – "Hairy goat demons" (**Lev. 17:7; 2 Chron. 11:15; Isa. 34:14**). LILITH – Night monster: "Name of a female goddess known as a night demon who haunts the desolate places of Edom" (BDB) (**Isa. 34:14**).
2. In the Greek (N.T.), there are three words that refer to demonic spirits: DAIMON (occurs 5x) / DAIMONION (occurs 60x): "Supernatural spirit of a bad nature" (Strong Greek Lexicon) (e.g., **Mat. 8:31 / Mat. 9:33**). PONEROS: "Evil, wicked, bad" which characterizes demons (Thayer's Greek Lexicon) (e.g., **Luke 7:21; 8:2; Acts 19:12-16**) (occurs 77x). AKATHARTOS: "Unclean or impure" (Vine) (e.g. **Mat. 10:1; 12:43; Mark 1:23; Luke 4:33; Acts 5:16; Rev. 16:13**) (occurs 31x).

Note: KJV translates DAIMONION as "devil" instead of demon. While the devil (Satan) is technically a demon, there is only one devil who is Satan (from DIABOLOS) (**Rev. 20:2**).

B. So then, what is a demon?

1. **Not** disembodied spirits of dead people (e.g. spirits of the wicked, those who died untimely deaths or committed suicide): *No Scriptural proof*.
2. **Not** disembodied spirits of a pre-Adamic race corrupted by Satan: The *theory*, not biblical truth, of a former creation before our earth (based on "Gap Theory" of another creation occurring between **Gen. 1:1 & 1:2**).
3. **Not** from the offspring of angels and earthly women! The *theory* is the "sons of God" (angels) (**Gen. 6; cf. Job 1:6; 38:7**) who married earthly women and bore "giants" died in the flood whose *wicked spirits live on*.
4. The best *Scriptural* explanation: **Demons are "fallen angels"** (**2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6**) – angels (including Satan) who fell away from God.

C. Demons = Satan's angels

1. The devil (Satan) departed from the truth (**John 8:44**) and other angels, evidently following his lead, sinned also (**Rev. 12:7-9; cf. 2 Pet. 2:4**).
2. The devil is portrayed as being the evil one in command of these fallen angels, for they are called "*his angels*" (**Mat. 25:41; Rev. 12:7, 9**).
3. He is "*the prince of demons*" (**Mt 12:24-26/ Lk 11:15-18; cf. Eph 2:2**)
4. Demons and the angels of Satan are *one in the same* for these reasons:
 - a. Both are under Satan's rule and follow his orders.
 - b. Both angels and demons are spirits (**Heb. 1:14 / Luke 4:33**).
 - c. Both are dedicated to practicing evil (**Rev. 12:7, 9 / Luke 7:21**).
 - d. *There is no other plausible explanation found in the Scriptures!*

V. The Nature of Demons.

A. Spiritual beings

1. Demons being fallen angels are therefore spirits (**Heb. 1:14**).
2. Frequently, demons are referred to as evil or unclean spirits (**Mat. 10:1; 12:43; Mark 1:23-27; 3:11, 30; 5:2, 8, 13; 6:7; 7:25; 9:25; Luke 4:33, 36; 6:18; 8:29; 9:42; 11:24; Acts 5:16; 8:7; Rev. 16:13; 18:2**).
3. “Evil spirits” and “demons” are used interchangeably (**Mark 5:12-13**).
4. A spirit does not have flesh and bones (**Lk 24:39**), despite pagan beliefs of “Lilith” (female demon) or Hollywood films (e.g. “Rosemary’s Baby”).
5. Unlike God’s angels who sometimes put on physical flesh (**See Section II. A.**), demons actually possessed humans to inhabit them (**Lk 11:24-26**).

B. Unholy beings

1. In contrast to God’s “holy angels” (**Mat. 25:31; Mark 8:38; Lk. 9:26**), demons could rightly be called “unholy angels.”
2. Demons are evil or *unclean* spirits, meaning “*in a moral sense, unclean in thought and life*” (Thayer’s Greek Lexicon; e.g., **Mat. 10:1**).
3. Being called *demons* declares that they are sinister in nature, responsible for the evils of sorcery, idolatry, and the spiritual destruction of mankind.

VI. The Characteristics of Demons.

A. Understanding that demons are fallen angels, demons therefore share many of the characteristics of God’s angels (male, immortal, powerful, fast, intelligent).

1. Demons, however, are not innumerable as God’s angels are.
2. In general, it is correct to say that most of God’s angels remain loyal and devoted to the Lord (**Ps. 103:20**).
3. It is possible that *only a third* of the angelic host fell away from God to follow Satan (**Rev. 12:1-4**).
4. Though Satan’s demons are powerful, they are no match for the Lord and His angels (**Rev. 12:7-9; e.g., Acts 10:38; Mat. 8:29; Luke 9:1**).

B. Demons have the strong desire to harm and destroy mankind.

1. In the days of Christ especially, demons demonstrated an insatiable desire to inhabit the bodies of people, afflict them, and destroy them (e.g., **Mat. 12:43-45; 17:14-18; Mark 1:23; 5:1-5; 9:17-27; Luke 13:11**).
2. Demons possession leads people to commit sin, in particular acts of violence (e.g., **Mat. 8:28; Acts 19:16**).
3. “Demonic influence” is especially great through false doctrines and religions that deceive most of the world (**1 Tim. 4:1; 1 Cor. 10:20**).
4. Satan and his angels (demons) seek to lead us all into sin and destroy our faith in God causing us to be lost (**1 Pet. 5:8; Eph. 6:11-12**).

Conclusion: Let us always keep a *Biblical* Perspective of the Spiritual Reality of Angels and Demons. As a Result, We will be Better Equipped for the Spiritual Battle that Continues today since the Beginning of Time.