

Angels, Satan & Demons

What are angels? Why did God create them?

Objectives:

Angels:

1. What are angels?
2. When were angels created?
3. God's purpose for angels?
4. Our relationship to angels?

Satan & Demons:

1. The Origin of demons?
2. Satan as the head of the demons?
3. The activity of Satan & demons?
4. Our relationship to demons?

Definition: Angels are created, spiritual beings with moral judgment and high intelligence, but without physical bodies.

What are Angels?

- Created Spiritual Beings (Neh 9:6, Col 1:16)
 - Exercise Moral Judgment (2Pet 2:4)
 - High Intelligence (Matt 28:5, Rev 4:11)
 - Spirits without physical bodies (Heb 1:14, Luke 24:39)
 - They do not have physical bodies; therefore, we cannot see them unless God gives us the ability (Num 22:31, 2Kings 6:17, Luke 2:13).
 - Sometimes they temporarily take on bodily form (Heb 13:2)
- Other Names for Angels
 - Sons of God (Job 1:6)
 - Holy Ones (Ps 89:5,7)
 - Spirits (Heb 1:14)
 - Watchers (Dan 4:13,17, 23)
 - Thrones, dominions, principalities, authorities & powers (Col 1:16, Eph 1:21)

- Other kinds of heavenly beings in Scripture
 - ***Cherubim***: given the task of guarding the entrance of the Garden of Eden, to be God's chariot & to sit over the Ark of the Covenant. (Gen 3:24, Psa 18:10, Exo 25:22)
 - ***Seraphim***: continually worship the Lord & call to one another "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory." (Isa 6:2-7)
 - ***Living creatures***: around God's throne with appearances like a lion, ox, man and eagle who worship God continually day and night. (Eze 1:5-14, Rev 4:6-8)
- Names of Holy Angels, Rank & Order: Only 2 mentioned:
 - Michael (Jude 1:9, Rev 12:7-8) is called the "archangel" indicating his rule or authority over other angels (1 Thess 4:16) He is also called "one of the chief princes" (Dan 10:13).
 - Gabriel (Dan 8:16, Lk 1:18-19, 26-27) is God's messenger to Zechariah & Mary.
- Only one place at a time (Luke 1:26, Dan 10:12-14)
- How many angels are there?
 - Ten thousands of holy ones. (Deut 33:2)
 - Tens of thousands and thousands of thousands. (Ps 68:17)
 - Innumerable angels. (Heb 12:22)
 - Myriads of myriads & thousands of thousands. (Rev 5:11)
- Do people have individual guardian angels? (Ps 91:11-12) God sends angels for our general protection, but there seems to be no convincing support for the idea of individual guardian angels. Acts 12:15 may seem to imply that Peter has an
- Angels do not marry (Matt 22:30, Luke 20:34-36)
- Power of angels: They have very great power. They are called "mighty ones who do his word" (Ps 103:20), and "powers" (Eph. 1:21). They are "greater in might & power" than humans (2 Pet 2:11) who are "lower than the angels" (Heb 2:7). Christians will one day be raised to a position higher than angels (1 Cor 6:3)
- Who is the Angel of the Lord?
 - Sometimes - "***the*** angel of the Lord" is God Himself taking on a human form to appear to various people (Gen 16:13, 22:12, 31:11, 13, Ex 3:2, 6). These are clear instances when the angel of God may be God himself or even more specifically as God the Son taking on human body for a short time to appear.

- Sometimes - “an angel of the Lord” is an angel actually sent by God (2Sam 24:16, Ps 34:7, Luke 1:11)

When Were Angels Created?

- Before the seventh day of Creation (Gen 2:1, Ex 20:11)
- First day? (Gen 1:1-2, Job 38:6-7)

Job 38:6-7 - “On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?” If the angels were shouting for joy when God was making the earth inhabitable, this could imply that God created the angelic beings early on the first day.

- God has not given much information
- A number of unholy angels rebelled before the fall (2Pet 2:4, Jude 1:6, Gen 1:31), while the “elect” angels (1 Tim 5:21) were preserved according to God’s sovereign will.

The place of Angels in God’s Purpose

- To show us the greatness of God’s love and plan.
 - We are more like God than angels because no angel is said to be “made in the image of God.” (Gen 1:26-27, 9:6)
 - One day we will have authority over angels (1Cor 6:3), while now for just a little while we are “lower than the angels.” (Heb 2:7)
 - Angels are “all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation.” (Heb 1:14)
 - Angels cannot bear children (Matt 22:30)
 - Though many angels sinned, none of them were saved but were cast into hell. But out of sinful man God has chosen to redeem a great multitude “from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.” (2Pet 2:4, Heb 2:16, Rev 5:9, Lk 15:10)
- To remind us that the unseen world is real. (Acts 23:8, 2Kings 6:17, Heb 12:22)
- To be examples for us in perfect obedience & worship. Angels find their greatest delight in being faithful servants & continual worshippers of God. (Matt 6:10, Rev 5:11-12)

- They carry out some of God's plans:
 - 1) They carry God's messages. (Lk 1:11-19, Acts 8:26, 10:3-8, 22, 27:23-24)
 - 2) They carry out some of God's judgment. (2Chron 32:21, Matt 16:27)
 - 3) They patrol the earth as God's representatives. (Zech 1:10-11)
 - 4) They war against demonic forces. (Dan 10:13)
 - 5) They proclaim Christ's coming. (1 Thess 4:16, Rev 18:1-2)
- They directly minister directly to God by glorifying Him. (Rev 4:8, Ps 103:20, Isa 6:2-3, Luke 15:10, 1Pet 1:12)

Our Relationship to Angels

- We should be aware of angels in daily lives.
 - When we come before God in worship we are joining the host of angels (Heb 12:22-23) and our worship should be enriched with a sense of reverence.
 - We should remember that the angels are watching our obedience or disobedience to God throughout the day.
 - Because angels can sometimes take on human form to make "inspection visits," we should be careful not to neglect showing hospitality to people we do not know. (Heb 13:2, Gen 18:2-5)
 - When we are suddenly delivered from danger or distress we should be thankful that God sometimes sends His angels to help us. (Dan 6:22, Acts 12:7-11, Ps 91:11-12)
- Cautions regarding our relationship to angels
 - Beware of receiving false doctrine. (Gal 1:8, 2Cor 11:14, 1Kings 13:18-19)
These warnings should keep any Christians from being fooled by the claims of Mormons who claim that the angel *Moroni* spoke to Joseph Smith and revealed to him the basis of the Mormon religion when the revelation is clearly contrary to the teaching of Scripture. (note: Angels often revealed God's truth)
 - Do not worship, pray to, or seek angels. On the contrary we worship, pray to and seek God alone. (Col 2:18, Rev 19:10, 1Tim 2:5)
 - Do angels appear to people today? (Acts 8:26, Acts 10:3-6, Heb 13:2, 2Cor 11:14) Take extreme caution! Demons can appear as angels of light. Scripture alone should be our guide.

Satan and Demons:

How should Christians think of Satan and demons today?

Definition: Demons are evil angels who sinned against God and who now continually work evil in the world.

The Origin of Satan & Demons

- Between the events of Gen 1:31 and 3:1, a rebellion in the angelic world must have taken place. (Gen. 1:31, 2Pet. 2:4, Jude 1:6)
- It is **possible** that Ezekiel 28:11-19 speaks of Satan before he sinned in all his beauty & Isaiah 14:12-15 speak of Satan's fall in all his pride and rebellion against God.
 - Ezekiel speaks of Satan's beauty: seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty, in Eden the garden of God, blameless, the anointed cherub, the covering cherub, created perfect and blameless. Ezekiel also speaks his being cast down because "unrighteousness" was found in him.
 - Isaiah speaks of Satan's pride: 5 "I wills." This morning star said:
 - "I will ascend to heaven"
 - "I will raise my throne above the stars of God"
 - "I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north."
 - "I will ascend above the heights of the clouds."
 - "I will make myself like the Most High."
- Some believe that the "Sons of God" mentioned in Genesis 6:1, are actually angels who "left their domain" and took for themselves human wives (See Excursus - "The Sons of God in Genesis 6" by Dr. Robert Lightner). Grudem believes that these "Sons of God" are actually people belonging to God and, like God, walking in righteousness, since Jesus said that angels being nonmaterial beings are unable to marry (Gen 6:2, Matt 22:30, Deut 14:1, Gen 4:26, Cf. Gen 5).

Satan as Head of the Demons

- "Satan" means 'adversary.' As God's enemy, He is the head of the demons. (Job 1:6, 12, 1Chron 21:1, Zech 3:1, Luke 10:18)
 - Other names for Satan:
 - "The devil" - "to throw" (NT only) (Matt 4:1, 13:39, 25:41, 1 Pet 5:8,

- Rev 12:9, 20:2)
- “The serpent” - describes his subtlety & beguiling nature. (Gen 3:1-6, 2Cor 11:3, Rev 12:9, Rev 20:2)
 - “Beelzebul” - ‘Lord of filth’ whereas Beel-Zebub means ‘Lord of the flies’ (Matt 10:25, Matt 12:24, Luke 11:15)
 - “The ruler of this world” (John 12:31, John 14:30, John 16:11)
 - “The god of this world” (2 Cor 4:4)
 - “The prince of the power of the air” (Eph 2:2);
 - “The evil one” (Matt 13:19, 1John 2:13, 5:18-19)
 - The “tempter” (Matt 4:1-3, 1 Thes 3:5)
 - The dragon. (Rev 12:3-17, 16:13, 20:2)

The activity of Satan and demons

- Satan was the originator of Sin. He was a “murderer from the beginning” and is “a liar and the father of lies” and “has sinned from the beginning.” (Gen 3:1-6, 2Cor 11:3, John 8:44, 1 John 3:8)
- Demons oppose and try to destroy every work of God. The tactics of Satan and his demons are to use lies, deception, murder and every other kind of destructive activity to attempt to cause people to turn away from God and destroy themselves. They will attempt to use temptation, doubt, guilt, fear, confusion, sickness, envy, pride, slander or any other means possible to hinder a Christian’s witness a& usefulness. (Gen 3:1-6, Matt 4:1-11, Rev 12:9, Ps 106:37, John 8:44, 2Corin 4:4, Gal 4:8)
- Yet demons are limited by God’s control and have limited power. Satan can only do what God gives him permission to do and nothing more. (Job 1:12, 2:6; Jude 1:6; James 4:7).

Note: We should not think that demons can know the future/read our minds. God alone can know the future. (Isa 46:9-10, Mark 13:32; Matt 9:4, 12:25; Gen 6:5; Psa 139:2, 4, 23; Dan 2:27-28)

Note: Demons can *observe* what goes on in the world/probably draw conclusions from observations.

- There have been differing stages of demonic activity in the history of redemption.
 - In the Old Testament (Deut 32:16-17, Psa 106:35-37, 1Corin 10:20, 1John 5:19)
 - No clear instance of casting out demons in Old Testament (1Sam 16:23)
 - Worship of demons will regularly lead to immoral and self-destructive practices. (Psa 106:35-37, 1Kings 18:28, Deut 23:17)

- Ministry of Jesus: Jesus' power over demons a distinguishing mark on his ministry to inaugurate the reign of the kingdom of God in new and powerful way. (Matt 12:28-29, Mark 1:27)
- New Covenant Age: Authority over demonic powers given to the Twelve and then the seventy disciples and others. (Matt 10:8, Luke 10:17-18, Acts 8:7, 1Pet 5:8-9, 1John 3:8)
- During the Millennium: Activity of Satan/demons further restricted. (Rev 20:1-3, Rev 20:7-9)
- At the Final Judgment: Satan will be decisively defeated and "thrown into the lake of fire and sulphur" and "tormented day and night for ever and ever." (Rev 20:10)

Our Relationship to Demons

- Are demons active in the world today? If Scripture gives us a true account of the world as it really is, we must take seriously its portrayal of intense demonic involvement in human society.
- Not all evil and sin is from Satan/demons, but some is. The Apostle Paul does not equate certain sins with demonic activity (dissension, adultery, fornication) but rather simply urges them the saints to live in a righteous manner. (1Cor 1:10, 1Cor 5:1-5, 1Cor 11:33, 1Cor 11:28)
 - Occasionally Jesus or Paul would cast out a demonic spirit that was causing significant hindrance to proclaiming the gospel, but that is not the usual pattern of ministry presented. Unlike today, there was no confrontation of some 'territorial spirit' or prayer over some "demonic stronghold." The emphasis was simply on preaching the gospel. (Mark 5:7-8, Mark 16:16-18, Matt 9:35, Rom 1:18-19)
 - God himself may reveal the nature of certain demonic opposition, for which Christians would then pray and battle against. (1Cor 12:10, 2Cor 10:3-6, Eph 6:12)
 - Though NT clearly recognizes the influence of demonic activity in the world, its primary focus regarding evangelism and Christian growth is on choices and actions taken by people (Gal 5:16-26). The primary focus of our efforts today is to strive to grow in holiness & faith and to overcome sinful desires, temptations & actions.
 - NT authors were definitely aware of the presence of demonic influence in

the world and in the lives of Christians (1Cor 10:20, John 8:44). They saw some false doctrine as being demonic in origin (1 Tim 4:1, 2Tim 2:24-26). The Apostle John specifically characterizes all those who are not born of God as “children of the devil” and subject to his influence and desires. (1 John 3:8-12, 5:19)

- The emphasis of the NT is not on the influence of demons but on the sin that remains in the believer’s life. Yet, sinning (even by Christians) does give a foothold for some kind of demonic influence in our lives. (Eph 4:26, Eph 6:11-12, 1John 5:18)
- As these passages suggest, where there is a pattern of persistent sin in the life of a Christian, the primary responsibility for that sin rests with the individual Christian. (Rom 6:12-16)
- Nevertheless, there could possibly be some demonic influence contributing to and intensifying that sinful tendency (ex. Anger, lack of self-control, laziness, bitterness, envy)
- Can Christians be demon possessed? (MacArthur, gty.org/resources/questions/QA191)
 - There is no clear example in the Bible where a demon ever inhabited or invaded a true believer. Never in the New Testament epistles are believers warned about the possibility of being inhabited by demons. Neither do we see anyone rebuking, binding, or casting demons out of a true believer. The epistles never instruct believers to cast out demons, whether from a believer or unbeliever. Christ and the apostles were the only ones who cast out demons, and in every instance the demon-possessed people were unbelievers.
 - The collective teaching of Scripture is that demons can never spatially indwell a true believer. A clear implication of 2 Cor 6:15-16, for example, is that the indwelling Holy Spirit could never cohabit with demons:

“What harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, “I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people” (vv. 15-16).
- Other relevant passages: Col 1:13, Rom 8:37, 1 Cor 15:57, 2 Cor 2:14, 1 John 2:13, 4:4, 5:18). How could anyone affirm those glorious truths, yet believe demons can indwell genuine believers?
- What might be the cause of demon possession? (*Angels, Satan & Demons*, Lightner)

- Some have claimed that demon possession is caused by persistence in certain sins; a continued carnal state; using non-prescribed drugs or alcohol, horoscopes, or Ouija boards; playing the 'Dungeons & Dragons' game; listening to hard rock music, sexual sins; new age channeling; involvement in eastern religions; or ancestral influence.
- Idolatry may lead to demon possession. Pagan worship often involved idols & sacrifice. Both the Old Testament and the New Testament give evidence that this worship & sacrifice was to demons. (Deut 32:17, Ps 106:36-37, 1 Cor 10:20-21) Furthermore, most of the demon possessions were in areas that were highly influenced by paganism. Around Jerusalem (except Acts 5:16) there were no recorded instances of demon possession during Jesus' ministry.
- The Occult seems to be linked with demon possession. In Acts 16, a girl had a "spirit of divination" or literally "a spirit, a Python," which is a name from the occultic oracle at Delphi or Pytho, the name of the town beneath Mount Parnassus in Greece. She was a soothsayer involved with magic and sorcery being able to tell the future. (Acts 16:16, 19:8-20).
- What is the nature of demon possession?
 - Remember that demons are called "unclean spirits" (Matt 10:1, Lk 11:24) which means that they are morally and spiritually unclean. They are also called "spiritual forces of wickedness" (Eph 6:12). These general descriptions help us understand the nature of their possession of individuals.
 - Several physical & emotional problems stemmed from demon possession: physical & mental illnesses are the most common traits including being 'exceedingly violent', being mute, blindness & dumbness, incredible suffering, screaming, seizures, stiffness, self mutilation, trouble. (Matt 8:28, 12:22, 15:22, Mark 1:23, 26, 5:5, 9:17-20, Luke 6:18, 8:27, Acts 5:16)
 - Demonic influence will lead to blatantly false doctrinal statements, such as "Jesus be cursed" or a refusal to confess that "Jesus Christ has come in the flesh" (1 Cor 12:3, 1 Jn 4:2-3, 2 Cor 11:13-15)
- What is Exorcism & should we be involved in it today?
 - Exorcism is the process of casting out demons (Acts 19:13, Mt 12:27, Mk 9:38, Luk 9:49-50).
 - There were clearly four exorcisms by Jesus recorded in the New Testament (Mark 1:23-28, Luke 4:33-37; Matt 8:28-34, Mark 5:1-20, Luke 8:26-39; Matt 15:21-28, Mark 7:24-30; Matt 17:14-21, Mark 9:14-29, Luke 9:37-43).
 - The Apostles were given the ability to cast out demons as a sign of their

apostleship (Acts 5:12-16). They performed these exorcisms along with the healing of all kinds of sicknesses & diseases by the miracle working power of God (Matt 10:1, 8, Mark 6:13, Luke 9:1). When they did it, there was no recorded instance of delay but immediate & definite deliverance (one exception - Mk 9:14-29, Lk 9:40).

- The “seventy others” were also given the same miracle working power as that of the twelve apostles (Luke 10:9, 17). There were also others (Acts 19:13, Mark 9:38-40, Matt 6:21-23).
- What about exorcisms today? Casting out demons in the New Testament was closely related to “gifts of healing” (Lit., “gifts of healings,” 1 Cor 12:9). The Greek verb “to heal” is used in the Gospels and Acts in association with casting out demons (Matt 15:28, Luk 9:42, Acts 10:38). It therefore seems only logical and consistent with the New Testament pattern to maintain that healing and casting out demons go hand in hand the same gift.
- It seems very clear that the “gift” of healing has passed away with the Apostles. The gift of exorcism was a gift given to the Apostles. Therefore, Christians today should not pursue the activity of exorcism. It is far better for us to beseech God rather than addressing demons directly (Jude 9). We should rather follow the advice of James, “Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” (Jam 4:7) The best way to perform an exorcism is simply to preach “Jesus” and do the work of an evangelist. We do not have to “bind Satan” in order for people to be delivered. We simply must preach the Gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation. God does not need our help to deal with demons. When Jesus takes over someone, the demons will flee!
- What about Spiritual Warfare? How then shall we live?
 - We must resist the devil & he will flee, learning to flee youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love & peace. (Jam 4:7, 2 Tim 2:22)
 - We must battle sin and temptation with the armor of God. (Eph 6)
 - We must learn the Word of God so that it will guide us and shape us. (Ps 119:11)
 - We must “abide in Christ” and “put on Christ.” (Jn 15:4, Rom 13:14)
 - We must rejoice that Satan has been already been defeated. (Jn 12:31, 16:11)
 - We must walk by faith in the Spirit of God. (Gal 5:16, Rom 1:17, Gal 3:11)

