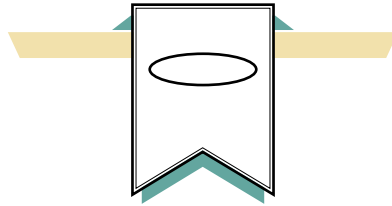


SESSION 9

ANGELOLOGY

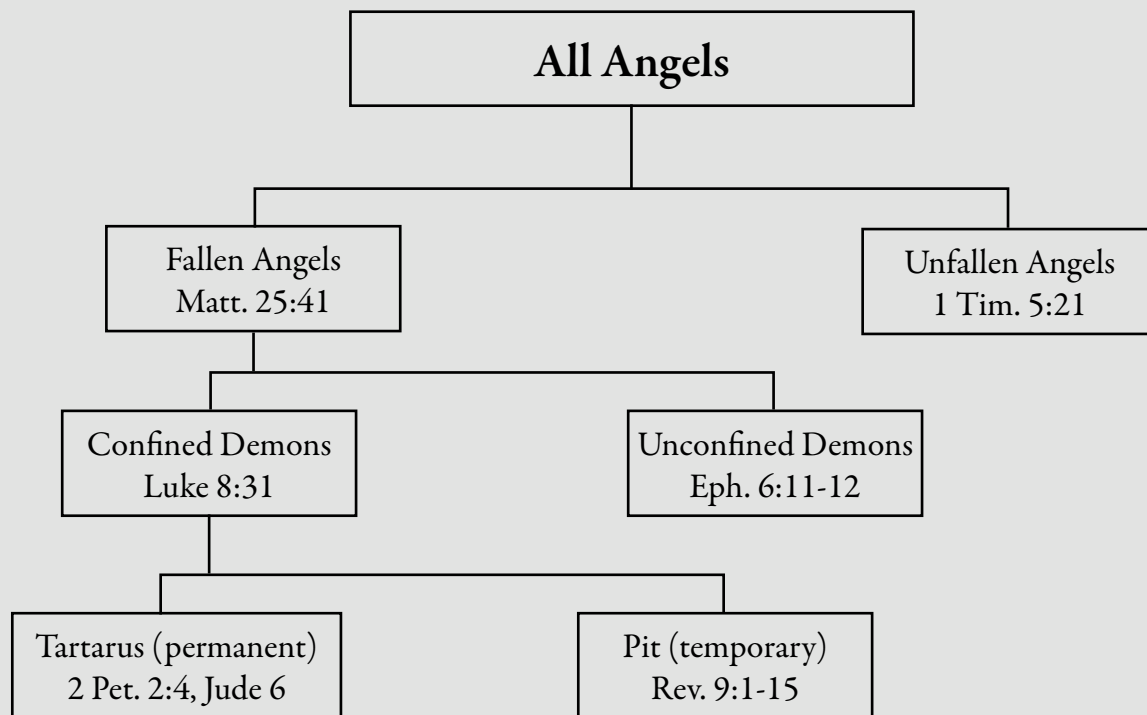
{ > DOCTRINE OF ANGELS < }



Clarification of Terms

- A. Angelology : The study and doctrine of angels
- B. Demonology : The study and doctrine of demons (fallen angels)
- C. Satanology : The study and doctrine of Satan

Classification of Angels



IX. ANGELOLOGY : ANGELS, SATAN, DEMONS

SECTION ONE : ANGELS

A. Origin of Angels

1. The fact of their creation

Psalm 148:1-2

"Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the heights above. ² Praise Him, all his angels, praise Him, all His heavenly hosts."

Colossians 1:16

"For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him."

2. The agent of their creation

John 1:1-3

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning.
³ Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made."*

3. The time of their creation

a. Before Genesis 3:1 (serpent present at temptation)

b. At least by Genesis 1:31-2:1

Genesis 1:31-2:1

*"God saw all that He had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning —the sixth day."
"Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array."*

Job 38:7

*"while the morning stars sang together
and all the angels shouted for joy?"*

c. Possibly at Genesis 1 (cf. Jn. 1:3; Col. 1:16)

Genesis 1:1

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

A Comparison of Angels, Humans, and Animals

CATEGORY	ANGELS	HUMANS	ANIMALS
IMAGE OF GOD	No	Yes	No
NATURE/EXISTENCE Body	Immaterial/spirit No marriage or propagation	Immaterial/Physical	Material/Physical No marriage, but propagation
Personality	Full personality Emphasis on will/obedience	Full personality Emphasis on will/obedience	Partial personality Emphasis on subordination
Sin	Prideful rebellion: desire to be "like God"	Prideful rebellion: desire to be "like God"	Nonmoral, derived from man or Satan (Genesis 3)
RELATION TO GOD	Direct Heavenly/earthly	Direct Earthly/heavenly	Indirect Earthly under man
FUNCTION/PURPOSE	Influence on earth under God	Dominion on earth under God	Service on earth under man

(Charts, 75)

4. The state of their creation

Question : Were angels created good and holy in their original state?
Answer : Yes

Genesis 1:31

"God saw all that He had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning —the sixth day."

Job 38:7

*"while the morning stars sang together
and all the angels shouted for joy?"*

B. Nature of Angels

1. Angels are created beings (Gen. 2:1; Jn. 1:3; Col. 1:16)

- They are not eternal spirits (as God, who is the uncreated, eternal Spirit)

2. Angels are incorporeal/spiritual

- They do not consist of matter, having a material body or substance; they are spirits.

a. Hebrews 1:14

"Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?"

b. Ephesians 6:12 (NLT)

"For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places."

Special Abilities Of Angels

(Geisler, Systematic Theology, 2:484-85)

1. Angels Can Transverse Great Distance in a Short Time
(Dan. 10:2, 12)
2. Angels Can Perform Miracles
(Gen. 19:1; cp. Rev. 16:14)
3. Angels Can Materialize (Assume Bodily Form)
(Gen. 19:3; cp. 18:2, 8)
4. Angels Can Communicate
(Job 1:6; 2:1; cf. Rev. 7:1-3)
5. Angels Can Occupy No Space
(note implications of Lk. 8: 27-34; remember angels are spirit beings)

Angels Are Beautiful

(Geisler, ST, 1:479)

As reflections of God's nature and glory, angels are lovely beings; Isaiah's vision of them in the temple is certainly one of ineffable beauty. He said, "In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above Him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying" (Isa. 6:1-2). Likewise, Ezekiel's vision of the "living beings" was one of incredible beauty. He said, "As I looked at the living creatures, I saw a wheel on the ground beside each creature with its four faces. This was the appearance and structure of the wheels: They sparkled like chrysolite, and all four looked alike" (Ezek. 1:15-16; cf. 22, 28).

3. Angels are personal

- They have intelligence, emotions, will
(basic components of personality)

a. Intelligence (Mind)

(1) Matthew 24:36

"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."

(2) 1 Peter 1:10-12

"Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, ¹¹ trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things."

b. Emotions

(1) Luke 15:10

"In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

(2) Other (Job 38:7; Isa. 6:1-4; Rev. 5:11-14)

c. Will (volition)

(1) Hebrews 1:6

"And again, when God brings His firstborn into the world, He says, 'Let all God's angels worship Him.'"

(2) 1 Timothy 4:1

"The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons."

(3) Other (Isa. 14:12-14; Jude 6; 2 Pet. 2:4)

Key Passages Related To Angels

- Daniel 9: 20-27

"While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the Lord my God for his holy hill — ²¹ while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice. ²² He instructed me and said to me, 'Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding. ²³ As soon as you began to pray, a word went out, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed. Therefore, consider the word and understand the vision: ²⁴ 'Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place. ²⁵ Know and understand this: From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. ²⁶ After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be put to death and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. ²⁷ He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.'"

(Continued on page 232)

4. Angels are powerful
 - a. Genesis 19 (destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah)
 - b. Psalm 103:20
*"Praise the Lord, you His angels,
you mighty ones who do His bidding,
who obey His word."*
5. Angels are immortal
 - a. Luke 20:34-36 (esp. 36)
*"Jesus replied, 'The people of this age marry and are given in marriage.
³⁵ But those who are considered worthy of taking part in that age
and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be
given in marriage, ³⁶ and they can no longer die; for they are like
the angels. They are God's children, since they are children of
the resurrection.'"*
 - b. Matthew 25:41
*"Then He will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who
are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"*
6. Angels are specially enabled
 - a. They travel at incredible speed
(Dan. 9:20-27; 10:10-17)
 - b. They materialize in human form
(Gen. 18-19; Mk. 16:5; Lk. 24:4)
 - c. They communicate :
 - (1) With God (Job 1:6; 2:1)
 - (2) With man (Gen. 18:1)
 - (3) With each other (Rev. 7:1-3)
 - d. They perform miracles (God's will)
(Gen. 19:10, 16; Acts 12:7-11; Dan. 3:28)

Key Passages Related To Angels

(Continued)

- Daniel 10:10-17

"A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. ¹¹ He said, 'Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been sent to you.' And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling. ¹² Then he continued, 'Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. ¹³ But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia. ¹⁴ Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come.' ¹⁵ While he was saying this to me, I bowed with my face toward the ground and was speechless. ¹⁶ Then one who looked like a man touched my lips, and I opened my mouth and began to speak. I said to the one standing before me, 'I am overcome with anguish because of the vision, my lord, and I feel very weak. ¹⁷ How can I, your servant, talk with you, my lord? My strength is gone and I can hardly breathe.'"

- Mark 16:5

"As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed."

- Luke 24:4

"While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them."

(Continued on page 234)

C. Organization of Angels

1. "Archangel"

- a. Description : a title or rank; apparently a position over other angels; Scripture only speaks of one (Michael; though some have seen Gabriel as well - e.g. Milton, Paradise Lost)

- b. Discussed :

- (1) 1 Thessalonians 4:16

- "For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first."*

- (2) Jude 9

- "But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, 'The Lord rebuke you!'"*

2. "Chief princes"

- a. Description : Prince can be a designation for an angel; chief prince, a title given to Michael (equivalent to archangel?)

- b. Daniel 10:13 (NASB)

- "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia."*

Key Passages Related To Angels (Continued)

- Genesis 18:1 (context: 18-19)

"The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day."

- Genesis 19:10,16

"But the men inside reached out and pulled Lot back into the house and shut the door."

... "When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the Lord was merciful to them."

- Acts 12:7-11

"Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. 'Quick, get up!' he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists. ⁸ Then the angel said to him, 'Put on your clothes and sandals.' And Peter did so. 'Wrap your cloak around you and follow me,' the angel told him. ⁹ Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰ They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him. ¹¹ Then Peter came to himself and said, 'Now I know without a doubt that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's clutches and from everything the Jewish people were hoping would happen.'"

- Daniel 3:28

"Then Nebuchadnezzar said, 'Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.'"

3. "Cherubim" (Hb. plural of Cherub)

- a. Description : seem to be proclaimers and protectors of God's holiness (some see Lucifer/Satan a cherub before his fall - cf. Isa. 14:12-14; Ezek. 28:12-19)
- b. Genesis 3:22-24
"And the Lord God said, 'The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.'²³ So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.²⁴ After He drove the man out, He placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life."
 - Other (Ex. 25:17-22; Ezek. 1:4-14; 10:15,20; Heb. 9:5)

4. "Seraphim" (Hb. plural of Seraph)

- a. Description : Seraph means "burning one," perhaps a description of devotion (worship).
- b. Description :

Isaiah 6:2-3

"Above Him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying.³ And they were calling to one another: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of His glory.'"

5. "Rulers and authorities in heavenly places"

- a. Description : may be indication of rank among angels (good or evil angels)
- b. Described :

Ephesians 3:10 (NASB)

"that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places."

D. Number of Angels

How Many Angels Are There?

Though Scripture does not give us a figure for the number of angels God created, it is apparently a very great number. We read that God on Mount Sinai "came from the *ten thousands of holy ones*, with flaming fire at His right hand" (Deut. 33:2). We also learn that, "the chariots of God are tens of thousands and thousands of thousands" (Ps. 68:17 NIV). When we come to worship we come into the presence of "*innumerable angels*" (Heb. 12:22). Their number is even more strikingly emphasized in Revelation 5:11, where John says, "I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering *myriads of myriads* and thousands of thousands." This expression indicates an amazingly large number (from a human standpoint)-an innumerable assembly of angelic beings praising God. (Grudem, ST, 399)

Can Angels Be Saved (Redeemed)?

Stated :

One-third of the angels sinned and became demons. When Adam sinned, he and his followers were offered salvation (Gen. 3:15). What about angels—can they be saved?

Response :

The biblical answer as to the redeemability of angels seem to be a clear negative for the following reasons.

First, once again, the Scriptures say emphatically, "Surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants" (Heb. 2:16). That is to say, Christ assumed human nature (v. 14), not an angelic nature, to redeem human beings, not angels.

Second, the Cross of Christ, which is declared to be the source of human salvation, is proclaimed by contrast to be the source of the demons' condemnation. Paul wrote, "Having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; He took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross" (Col. 2:14-15).

Third, the lost state of demons is always portrayed in the Bible as final and eternal. Peter wrote, "God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment" (2 Peter 2:4; cf. Jude 6). Even the demons appear to recognize their eternal doom, for as one said in the Gospels to Jesus, "Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?" (Matt. 8:29). Satan too, in Revelation, is said to know "that his time is short" (Rev. 12:12).

Fourth, and finally, Aquinas argued that since angels are unchangeable in their natural knowledge and in their nature, there is no way for them to be redeemed (as redemption involves a change of mind).

(Geisler, ST, 2:497)

1. The number is fixed.
 - a. Genesis 2:1-2 (NLT) (cf. Col 1:16)
"So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. ² On the seventh day God had finished His work of creation, so He rested from all His work."
 - b. Matthew 22:30
"At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven."
2. The number is vast.
 - a. Deuteronomy 33:2 (at least 10,000)
*"He said: 'The Lord came from Sinai
and dawned over them from Seir;
he shone forth from Mount Paran.
He came with myriads of holy ones
from the south, from his mountain slopes.'"*
 - b. Psalm 68:17 (thousands upon thousands)
 - c. Daniel 7:10 ("myriads"...probably 10,000)
*"A river of fire was flowing,
coming out from before Him.
Thousands upon thousands attended Him;
ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him.
The court was seated,
and the books were opened."*

E. Names of Angels

Names of Angels

1. "Spirit" ...referring to their nature

- Hebrews 1:14

"Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?"

2. "Angel" (messenger) ...referring to function

- Luke 1:11-13

"Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense.

¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³ But the angel said to him: 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John.'"

3. "Ministers" ...referring to function

- Psalm 104:4

"He makes winds his messengers, flames of fire his servants."

4. "Host" ...referring to the Lord's army

"Holy ones"

"Sons of the mighty"

- Psalm 89:5-8

"The heavens praise your wonders, O Lord, your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones. ⁶ For who in the skies above can compare with the Lord? Who is like the Lord among the heavenly beings?

⁷ In the council of the holy ones God is greatly feared; he is more awesome than all who surround him.

⁸ O Lord God Almighty, who is like you? You are mighty, O Lord, and your faithfulness surrounds you."

5. "Watchers" ...referring to function

- Daniel 4:13, 17

"In the visions I saw while lying in my bed, I looked, and there before me was a messenger, a holy one, coming down from heaven... ¹⁷ The decision is announced by messengers, the holy ones declare the verdict, so that the living may know that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of men."

- Refer to preceding page 238.

F. Purpose of Angels

1. To praise God

a. Psalm 148:2

"Praise Him, all his angels, praise Him, all His heavenly hosts."

b. Isaiah 6:1-3

"In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple.

² Above Him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. ³ And they were calling to one another: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of His glory.'"

2. To serve God

a. Colossians 1:16

"For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him."
 ("all things... for him)

b. Job 1:6; 2:1

"One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them."

"On another day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them to present himself before Him."

("present themselves"... Why? for service or assignment)

3. To observe (learn) God's wisdom and grace

Do People Have Guardian Angels?

Scripture clearly tells us that God sends angels for our protection: "He will give his angels charge of you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone" (Ps. 91:11-12). But some people have gone beyond this idea of general protection and wondered if God gives a specific "guardian angel" for each individual in the world, or at least for each Christian. Support for this idea has been found in Jesus' words about little children, "in heaven their angels always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 18:10). However, our Lord may simply be saying that angels who are assigned the task of protecting little children have ready access to God's presence. (To use an athletic analogy, the angels may be playing "zone" rather than "man-on-man" defense.) When the disciples in Acts 12:15 say that Peter's "angel" must be knocking at the door, this does not necessarily imply belief in an individual guardian angel. It could be that an angel was guarding or caring for Peter just at that time. There seems to be, therefore, no convincing support for the idea of individual "guardian angels" in the text of Scripture.

(Grudem, ST, 399-400)

- a. Ephesians 3:8-10 (esp. 10)
"Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,⁹ and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.¹⁰ His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms..."
- b. 1 Peter 1:10-12 (esp. 12)
"Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care,¹¹ trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.¹² It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things."

4. To minister for God

- a. Hebrews 1:14
"Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?"
- b. Psalm 103:20
"Praise the Lord, you His angels, you mighty ones who do His bidding, who obey His word."

(additional scriptures, page 243)

- c. Daniel 10:12-13 (cf. Eph. 1:11)
"Then he continued, 'Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day

Insights on Angels

(as developed by N. Geisler, ST, 486-88)

1. Angels Are Above Humans

Hebrews 2:9

"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because He suffered death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone."

2. Angels Are Pure Spirits

Luke 24:37-39

"They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, 'Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.'"

Hebrews 1:14

"Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?"

3. Angels Are Aeviternal

That is, angels are not eternal (like God—but they can relate to Him); angels are not temporal (that is, by nature in time, but they can relate to it). They are in this sense what man will be in his resurrected body prepared for eternity.

4. Angels Are Immortal

That is, they cannot die, yet they are created.

Colossians 1:16-17

"For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together."

Luke 20:36

"and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are God's children, since they are children of the resurrection."

5. Angels Do Not Change in Nature

"That is, they are apparently the same in nature from the day of their creation. Therefore, they do not grow up or grow old. They do not change, therefore if an angel sins, it is fixed forever" (2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6).

that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. ¹³ But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia."

Daniel 12:1 (cf. Eph. 1:11)

"At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered."

5. To minister to believers
 - a. By revealing God's will
(Acts 7:53-53; cf. Gal. 3:19)
 - b. By delivering from harm
(Dan. 3, 6; Acts 12)
 - c. By serving

Hebrews 1: 14

"Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?"

- d. By answering prayer (sent by God)
(Dan. 10; Acts 12)
 - e. By encouraging

Acts 5:19-20

"But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. ²⁰ 'Go, stand in the temple courts,' he said, 'and tell the people the full message of this new life.'"

Question : Do individual believers have "guardian angels"? (See comments, page 240).

SECTION TWO : SATAN

The Identity of the Serpent in Genesis 3

Genesis 3:1-6 (NASB)

*"Now the **serpent** was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, 'Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?'² The woman said to the **serpent**, 'From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat;³ but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'⁴ The **serpent** said to the woman, 'You surely will not die!' ⁵For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'⁶ When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate."*

Revelation 12:9 (NASB)

*"And the great dragon was thrown down, the **serpent** of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him."*

Revelation 20:2

*"And he laid hold of the dragon, the **serpent** of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;"*

A. The Reality of Satan

1. Based upon the Authority of Scriptures

a. Old Testament

(1) Genesis 3:1 "serpent" (cf. Rev. 12:9; 20:2)

(2) 1 Chronicles 21:1

"Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel."

(3) Job 1:6

"One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them."

(4) Zechariah 3:1

"Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him."

b. New Testament

(1) Taught by every NT writer

(though not every book; 19 of 27 NT books refer to Satan)

(2) Acts 5:3

"Then Peter said, 'Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?'"

(3) 1 Corinthians 7:5

"Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control."

(4) Jude 9

"But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, 'The Lord rebuke you!'"

(5) Others (2 Cor. 11:2-3; Eph. 6:10-18; 1 Thess. 2:18; so forth)

2. Based upon the Testimony of Christ

The Temptation of Christ

A Theological Issue :

Was it possible for Christ to have sinned?

Hebrews 2:17-18 (NASB)

"For this reason He had to be made like is brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.

¹⁸ Because He Himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted."

A Theological Response :

(Geisler and Howe, When Critics Ask, 512)

PROBLEM: The writer of Hebrews says that Christ "had to be made like His brethren in all things For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted" (2:17-18, NASB). Does this mean that Christ could have sinned?

SOLUTION: Some argue that Christ could not have sinned. They believe that our Lord was tempted like we are and that He can sympathize with our weaknesses, but that He was incapable of sinning. In support of this view they argue, first, that since Christ was God, and since God cannot sin (Heb. 6:17; James 1:13), it follows that Christ could not sin either. Second, since Christ had no fallen human nature, as we do, He had no propensity to sin. Finally, they observe that His temptation was only from without, not from within. Hence, He could be tempted without having the real possibility of sinning. Other orthodox scholars believe that Christ had the ability to sin (since He had the power of free choice), but did not sin. In short, sin was possible, but not actual in Jesus' life. To deny this possibility, they believe, would deny His full humanity, His ability to "sympathize with our weaknesses" (Heb. 4:15), and would make His temptation into a charade. They note that while Jesus could not sin as God, nonetheless, He could have sinned (but didn't) as man. Since Jesus had two natures, one divine and one human, a distinction must be made in what He could do in each nature. For example, He could not get tired, hungry, or sleepy as God. But He did all of these as man. His divine nature could not die. Yet He died as man. Likewise, they argue, Christ could not have sinned as God but could have sinned as man.

a. There are 25 references in all where Christ speaks of the existence of Satan.

b. Matthew 13:19

"When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path."

c. Luke 11:18

"If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand? I say this because you claim that I drive out demons by Beelzebub."
(also cf. Lk. 10:18)

d. Person-to-person encounter of Jesus with Satan
(the temptation of Christ); see previous page.

(1) Mark 1:12-13

"At once the Spirit sent Him out into the desert,¹³ and He was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended Him."

(2) Also, note Matthew 4:1-11 and Luke 4:1-13 for parallel accounts of the Temptation of Christ.

3. Based upon the History of Israel

a. Genesis 3:14-15

"So the Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.'"

(the outworking of this curse directly affects the fortunes and misfortunes of the nation yet to come, namely, Israel)

b. Also, note 1 Chronicles 21:1; Zechariah 3:1 ff

B. The Personality of Satan

Names of Satan

TITLE	EMPHASIS	CITATION
Satan	Adversary	Matthew 4:10
Devil	Slanderer	Matthew 4:1
Evil One	Intrinsically evil	John 17:15
Great Red Dragon	Destructive Creature	Revelation 12:3, 7, 9
Serpent of Old	Deceiver in Eden	Revelation 12:9
Abbadon	Destruction	Revelation 9:11
Apollyon	Destroyer	Revelation 9:11
Adversary	Opponent	1 Peter 5:8
Beelzebub	Lord of the fly (Baalzebub)	Matthew 12:24
Belial	Worthless (Beliar)	2 Corinthians 6:15
God of this World	Controls philosophy of this world	2 Corinthians 4:4
Ruler of this World	Rules in world system	John 12:31
Prince of the Power of the Air	Control of believers	Ephesians 2:2
Enemy	Opponent	Matthew 13:28; 1 Peter 5:8
Tempter	Solicits people to sin	Matthew 4:3
Murderer	Leads people to eternal death	John 8:44
Liar	Perverts the truth	John 8:44
Accuser	Opposes believers before God	Revelation 12:10

Adapted from Paul Enns, *The Moody Handbook of Theology* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1989), p. 293. Used by permission, in *Charts*, 80.

1. He possesses intellect.
(Gen. 3:1 ff; Lk. 4:1-12; 1 Cor. 11:3)
2. He possesses emotions.
 - a. 1 Timothy 3:6
"He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil."
(i.e. pride; cf. Isa. 14:12-14 and the five "I wills")
 - b. Job 1:8-9
"Then the Lord said to Satan, 'Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.' 'Does Job fear God for nothing?' Satan replied."
(i.e. jealousy; cf. again Isa. 14:12-14)
 - c. 1 Peter 5:8
"Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."
(i.e. hate)
 - d. Revelation 12:12
"Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short."
(i.e. anger or wrath)
3. He possesses will (or volition).
 - a. Luke 4:3
"The devil said to Him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.'"
(i.e. commands)
 - b. Revelation 20: 7-8^a
"When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸ and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth – Gog and Magog – to gather them for battle..."
(i.e. deceives and rebels)

C. The Identity of Satan

"Satan and Ezekiel 28"

Premise: Ezekiel 28 is an example of double fulfillment (near-far). The passage speaks beyond the historical king of Tyre; it speaks of Satan and his fall.

1. Chapters 25:1-28:10 contain lamentations voiced by God through the prophet over various nations. Beginning in 28:11 there is quite an abrupt change. God is still lamenting something terrible, seemingly related to Tyre, but the things which are mentioned go beyond human quality.
2. The description of the King of Tyre does not fit that of any merely human leader, but rather goes beyond what would normally be expected.
3. Other Old Testament passages apparently look beyond the external doings of evil men and view the very core of wickedness (for example, Isa. 14:12; Dan. 10:20-21). E.J. Young, speaking of this application of anthropomorphic traits to a demonic agent says, "Israel has an angelic 'Prince,' Michael: hence it is to be expected that the prince of Persia should also be an angel." (The Prophecy of Daniel, pp. 226-7).
4. The unusually large volume of space devoted to the city and leadership of Tyre argues that a special significance be attached to the material involved.
5. The fact that the Old Testament Scriptures present so many prophecies which are apparently in reference to a local personage, but are actually fulfilled in the coming Messiah, suggests the probability that the contemporary King of Tyre prefigures the very real Satan.
6. Outstanding church fathers such as Augustine and Tertullian held this interpretation of the passage.
7. A change in titles in referring to the Tyrian ruler, as seen in verses 2 and 12, suggests a change in thought of the writer although it is the same personage in view.

(Continued on page 252)

1. He is a created spirit.
(Jn. 1:3; Col. 1:15-16; cf. also Ezek. 28:15)
2. He is an angel.

Matthew 25:41

"Then He will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"
(cf. also Rev. 12:7)

3. He is a cherub.

Ezekiel 28:14

*"You were anointed as a guardian cherub,
for so I ordained you.
You were on the holy mount of God;
you walked among the fiery stones."*

(see following page for argument that Ezek. 28 refers to more than the king of Tyre, but ultimately of Satan and his fall)

4. He is a high rank of angel.

Jude 8-9

*"In the very same way, these dreamers pollute their own bodies,
reject authority and slander celestial beings. ⁹ But even the
archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the
body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him,
but said, 'The Lord rebuke you!'"*
(cf. Ezek. 28:12-15)

D. The Names of Satan

- See "Names of Satan", page 248.

E. The Nature of Satan

"Satan and Ezekiel 28" (Continued)

8. The symbolic nature of the passage reveals what is generally true of the whole book: Ezekiel penetrates to the very heart of things.
9. In other parts of the Scriptures, Satan seems to be portrayed under other suggestive titles. For example, Keil and Delitzsch say, "The serpent was merely the tool of that evil spirit, who is met with the further course of the world's history under the name of Satan" (Pentateuch, p. 92).
10. Apart from Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14, there is no clear revelation of the beginning of sin.
11. The description here accords with the portrait of Satan in other parts of Scripture, John 8:44; 1 John 3:8.
12. A satisfying interpretation of the passage requires a recognition of forces beyond humankind. The individual in view is probably the King of Tyre indwelt by Satan.
13. It should not seem anomalous for the Holy Spirit to take the believer behind the human activity to view the source of a wickedness which penetrates the heart of worldly government in every age.

(Taken from W. Robert Cook, Systematic Theology in Outline Form)

1. Original state (Isa. 14:12-17; Ezek. 28:11-19)

2. Fall (again, Isa. 14:12-17; Ezek. 28:11-19)

Refer to "Satan and Ezekiel 28", page 250, 252.

3. Morally accountable to God (Job 1:7)

F. The Activity of Satan

1. He opposes God.

a. Through his rebellious sin
(Isa. 14:12-14; Ezek. 28:11-19)

b. Through his slander/accusations
(Job 1:6-11; 2:4-5)

Revelation 12:10

"Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:

*'Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our
God, and the authority of his Christ.*

*For the accuser of our brothers,
who accuses them before our God day and night,
has been hurled down.'"*

2. He opposes man.

a. Through false religion and false philosophy
(1 Cor. 10:19-20; Gal. 1:6-9; also Col. 2:8)

b. Through false doctrine and false teachers
(1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Pet. 2:1)

(Continued, page 255)

c. Through false ministers

"Five Ways God Uses the Enemy's Activities For Godly Purposes"

(M. Unger, Demons in the World Today, 27-28)

1. To Correct Disobedience
 - a. 1 Timothy 1:19-20
"holding on to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck with regard to the faith. ²⁰ Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme."
 - b. 1 Corinthians 5:5
"hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord."
2. To Humble the Exalted
 - 2 Corinthians 12:7
"To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me."
3. To Judge the Ungodly
 - Psalm 78:49
"He unleashed against them His hot anger, His wrath, indignation and hostility—a band of destroying angels."
4. To Advance His Purposes in History
 - Revelation 9:14-15
"It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, 'Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.' ¹⁵ And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind."
5. To Display his Justice
 - Matthew 25:41
"Then He will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"

2 Corinthians 11:14-15

"And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.

¹⁵ It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve."

- d. Through false Christs (anti-Christes)
(1 Jn. 2:18; 4:3)

3. He opposes God's people.

1 Peter 5:8-9 (NLT)

"Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are."

G. Defense Against Satan

- 1. Don't underestimate the Enemy.

1 Peter 5:8

"Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."

- 2. Don't forget your spiritual position and power.

Ephesians 1:3; 2:6

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ... And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus."

1 John 4:4

"You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."

- 3. Don't give the Enemy an opportunity.

"Resisting Demonic Influence : Key Scriptures"

Ephesians 6:10-12 (NASB)

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places."

Ephesians 5:18

"Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit."

Ephesians 6:18 (NASB)

"With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,"

1 Peter 5:8

"Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."

2 Corinthians 2:10-11 (NLT)

"When you forgive this man, I forgive him, too. And when I forgive whatever needs to be forgiven, I do so with Christ's authority for your benefit, ¹¹ so that Satan will not outsmart us. For we are familiar with his evil schemes."

Ephesians 4:26-27

"In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold."

James 4:6-7

"But He gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.' ⁷ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

1 Peter 5:7-8 (NLT)

"Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about you. ⁸ Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour."

Ephesians 4:27

"and do not give the devil a foothold."

4. Do put on the armor of God.
(cf. Eph. 6:10 ff; see Vertical Chart, page 258).

2 Corinthians 10:3-4

"For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. ⁴ The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds."

5. Do resist the Devil.

James 4:7

"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

6. Do be aware/resistant to the Enemy's schemes.

2 Corinthians 2:11

"in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes."

H. Destiny of Satan

1. He was cast out of heaven.
(Ezek. 28:15-16; Isa. 14:12; cf. also Job 1-2)
2. He was judged at the cross.
(Gen. 3:15; Jn. 12:31; 16:11; Heb. 2:14-15; cf. also Col. 2:13-15)
3. He will be judged at the Tribulation.
 - a. At the middle : loses access to heaven (Rev. 12:7-12)
 - b. At the end : confined to the Abyss (Rev. 20:1-3)
4. He will be judged for all eternity.
 - a. Revelation 20:10
"And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever."
 - b. Matthew 25:41
"Then He will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"

SECTION THREE : DEMONS

"Ephesians"

(Vertical chart: Armor of God)

Ephesians 6:10-20 (NASB)		
Creative Title "The Armor of God"		
10	"Finally..." 1. "be strong" (10)...how? ("in Lord...strength") HIS PART 2. "put on" (11)...what? ("full armor")...OUR PART 12 3. "struggle against" (12)...whom? ("schemes of the devil")	Our Warfare
13	"Therefore..." **"take up the full armor of God" (so that you will be able to...what?) 1. <u>Stand against</u> ("resist") (13) 2. <u>"Stand Firm"</u> (13) (1) "Stand Firm" (impv.) (14) • having... what?...TRUTH (14) • having... what?...RIGHTEOUSNESS (14) • having... what?...PEACE (15) • taking up... what?...FAITH (16) (2) "take" (impv.) (17) 2 things: (a) "helmet of salvation" (17) 17 (b) "sword of the Spirit" (17)	Armor Pieces: • Belt • Breastplate • Boots • Shield • Helmet • Sword Our Weapons
18	"pray at all times" (18)... "for all the saints" "pray on my behalf" (19)... what? ("boldness... speak boldly") 20	Our Warrior Prayer

A. Reality of Demons

1. Evidence from the Scriptures

a. Old Testament

(Deut. 32:17; Ps. 106:36-37; 1 Kgs. 22:21-22; 2 Chron. 11:15)

b. New Testament

(1 Cor. 10:20; Matt. 10:1; 25:41)

2. Evidence from Christ

(Mk. 5:8-9; Matt. 12:22, 24)

3. Evidence from Experience

1 Corinthians 10:19-20 (NASB)

"What do I mean then? That a thing sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? ²⁰No, but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God; and I do not want you to become sharers in demons."

"Spells, incantations, magical texts, exorcisms, and various forms of demonological phenomena abound in archeological discoveries from Sumeria and Babylon. Egyptian, Assyrian, Chaldean, Greek, and Roman antiquity are rich in demonic phenomena. The deities worshiped were invisible demons represented by material idols and images."

(M. Unger, Demons in the World Today, p. 10)

B. Origin of Demons

The Supposed Origin of Demons

***What follows are major viewpoints used to explain the origin of demons.*

- View #1:** Demons are non-existent; belief in demons/demonic possession is simply superstition and/or accommodation to explain disease, disorders or other related yet unexplainable phenomena.
- View #2:** Demons are departed spirits; possibly these spirits were men or some type of spiritual being or lesser deity.
- View #3:** Demons are bodiless spirits (seventh day host) or Tower of Babel rebels; Rabbinic speculation.
- View #4:** Demons are spirits of pre-Adamic man; due to rebellion, these men and Lucifer, their ruler, were judged by God.
- View #5:** Demons are the terrible offspring of angelic cohabitation with women; this view sees Genesis 6 as describing the unnatural union of angels with man to produce the "nephilim".
- View #6:** Demons are fallen angels; due to Lucifer's rebellion, many others (possibly one-third) were influenced to rebel against God; these fallen angels became demons.

1. On the basis of speculation
 - See preceding page, "The Supposed Origin of Demons"
2. On the basis of Scripture
 - a. God's creation : quantitatively
 - (1) John 1:3
"Through him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made."
 - (2) Colossians 1:16
"For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him."
 - b. God's creation : qualitatively
 - (1) Genesis 1:31
"God saw all that He had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day."
 - (2) Jude 6
"And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home—these He has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day."
 - c. God's creation : volitionally responsible
 - (1) Note again : Ezek. 28:11-19; Isa. 14:12-14
 - (2) Revelation 12:3-4
"Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads.⁴ His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born."

"Demons Are Sensual"

(M. Unger, Demons in the World Today, 27-28)

Although demons reveal various degrees of wickedness (Matthew 12:45), they all are depraved. This aspect of their character appears in the terrible things they do to their victims. The Bible often refers to them as spiritually and morally "unclean" (Matthew 10:1; Mark 1:27; 3:11; Luke 4:36; Acts 8:7; Revelation 16:13).

People who deal in the occult are often found to be immoral. Men and women who abandon themselves to immorality reach a point when God gives them up, in the sense of restraining Satan and demonic power from them, so that they abandon to the degrading depths of immorality and are shamelessly reduced to actions that even animals avoid (Romans 1: 26-32; cf. Revelation 9:20, 21).

In such moral decay, the "unclean spirit" takes possession of the sinner to gratify his senses through every type of unclean pleasure. This is apparently why a demoniac often desires to live in a state of nudity and harbors licentious thoughts (Luke 8:27). When men disobey the moral laws of God, especially the law of loving and honoring their Creator, they choose the depraved way of Satan and demons.

C. Personalities of Demons

1. Speech (Lk. 4:33)
2. Intelligence (Mk. 1:23)
3. Emotions (Lk. 8:28)
4. Volition or Will (Lk. 8:32; Mk. 1:27)

D. Properties of Demons

1. They are Spirit-Beings
 - a. Matthew 8:16
"When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to Him, and He drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick."
 - b. Other (Lk. 10:17, 20; Mk. 9:25 "unclean spirit"; Eph. 6:12)
2. They are Immortal
 - a. Ultimately due to God's creative decision
 - b. Luke 20:36
"and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are God's children, since they are children of the resurrection."
(also, cf. Matt. 25:41)
3. They are Perverted
 - See page 266, "The Perverted Nature of Demons"
4. They are Wicked ("unclean")
 - See "Demons Are Sensual", page 262.

"What Demons Can Do To Men"

(M.F. Unger, Demons in the World Today, 28-34)

1. Demons use men to oppose God.
2. Demons can oppress the mind.
3. Demons can oppress the body.
4. Demons can alienate men from God.
5. Demons can hinder man's general well-being.

YET... God is Sovereign.

1 John 4:1-3

"Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world. ² This is how we know if they have the Spirit of God: If a person claiming to be a prophet acknowledges that Jesus Christ came in a real body, that person has the Spirit of God. ³ But if someone claims to be a prophet and does not acknowledge the truth about Jesus, that person is not from God. Such a person has the spirit of the Antichrist, which you heard is coming into the world and indeed is already here."

E. The Power of Demons

1. They have Supernatural Power
 - a. Good angels (Gen. 18-19; Ps. 103:20 "mighty in strength;" 2 Pet. 2:11 "might and power")
 - b. Evil angels
(Rev. 9:7; 16:13; cf. Matt. 12:28-29)
2. They have Miraculous Powers
 - a. 2 Thessalonians 2:9
"The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders,"
 - b. Revelation 13:13
"And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men."
3. They have Supernatural Speed and Dread
 - a. Citations below refer to good angels; the implication is that all (good and evil) share the same abilities.
 - b. Note Daniel 9:21, 23 and 10:10, 13
4. They have Deceptive Powers
 - a. 2 Corinthians 4:4
"The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."
 - b. Ephesians 2:2
"in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient."

"The Perverted Nature of Demons"

1. Wicked

Ephesians 6:12 *"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."*

2. Unclean

Matthew 10:1 (NASB) *"Jesus summoned His twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness."*

3. Evil

Luke 7:21 *"At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind."*

4. Deceptive

2 Corinthians 11:14-15 *"And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. ¹⁵ It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve."*

5. Destructive

Matthew 12:43-45 *"When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. ⁴⁴ Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. ⁴⁵ Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation."*

6. Liars

1 Timothy 4:1 *"The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons."*

7. Sensual

2 Peter 2:10 *"This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature and despise authority. Bold and arrogant, these men are not afraid to slander celestial beings;"*

5. They have Supernatural Insight

a. Luke 8:28-29 (demons recognize Jesus)

b. Acts 16:16

"Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling."

F. Activities of Demons

1. To Promote Satan's Program

a. Over the world system
(Eph. 6:12; Jn. 12:31 "ruler of this world")

b. Over world governments
(Dan. 10:13; Rev. 16:14)

c. Over individuals
(Demon possession; demon oppression)

2. To Oppose God's Program
(To do so, the following activities are instigated)

a. By wars
(Rev. 16:14)

b. By idolatry
(Lk. 17:17)

c. By slander
(Job 1:9; Rev. 12:10)

Issue : Are the "Sons of God" (Genesis 6) Fallen Angels?

Position	Angelic Creatures	Apostate Sethites	Ambitious Despots
Persons	Fallen angels cohabit with beautiful women	Ungodly Sethites marry depraved Cainites	Despotic chieftains marry plurality of wives
Perversion	Perversion of human race by intrusion of angels	Pollution of godly line by mixed marriage	Polygamy of Cainite princes to expand dominion
Progeny	Monstrous giants	Wicked tyrants	Dynastic rulers
Proofs	The reference to angels as "sons of God"	The emphasis on men in the context	The antiquity of this interpretation
	The New Testament references to the angelic sin of Genesis 6 in 2 Peter 2:4:5 and Jude 6-7	The basis for human sin as the reason for the Flood	The biblical usage of "god" for rulers and judges
	The antiquity of the view	The thematic development of Genesis 4 and 5	The reference in the context to the development of wicked dynasties
	The satisfactory explanation that some angels are bound and others are not	The aversion in Genesis and elsewhere to intermarriage between the godly and ungodly	The Near Eastern practice of calling kings "sons of God"
			The reference in ancient accounts to the origin of kingship just prior to the Flood

(Continued on page 270)

d. By cults

(1) 1 John 4:1

"Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

(2) 1 Timothy 4:1

"The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons."

e. By injury and death
(Job 1:12; Rev. 9:15)

f. By immorality
(Eph. 2:2)

g. By sickness
(Matt. 8:32 - muteness; Matt. 12:22 - blindness;
Lk. 13:11 - deformity; Matt. 17:15 - seizures)

h. By temptations
(1 Chron. 21:1)

i. By ensnaring
(2 Tim. 2:26)

j. By spiritual blindness
(2 Cor. 4:4 "...god of this world has blinded the minds...")

k. By jealousies and selfish ambitions
(Jas. 3:14-15)

3. To Accomplish God's Purposes

a. Not only is demonic activity directed towards its own evil purposes, but God can use it to further His righteous purposes.

b. See "Five Ways God Uses the Enemy's Activities for Godly Purposes", page 254.

Issue : Are the "Sons of God" (Genesis 6) Fallen Angels? (Continued)

Position	Angelic Creatures	Apostate Sethites	Ambitious Despots
Problems	The psychological and physiological impossibilities of angelic marriage	The textual difficulty in making "Men" of Genesis 6:1 different from "men" in verse 2	The lack of evidence that such a system was established in the line of Cain
	The likelihood that "sons of God" refers to men, since it is used elsewhere of men	The absence of exact terms "sons of God" for believers in the Old Testament	The lack of evidence that "sons of God" was borrowed from contemporary literature
		Failure to explain the origin of the giants and mighty men through simply religiously mixed marriages	The fact that no writer of Scripture ever considered kings to be deities
Proponents	Albright, Gaebelin, Kelly, Unger, Waltke, Delitzsch, Bullinger, Larkin, Pember, Wuest, Gray, Torrey, Meyer, Mayor, Plummer, Alford, Ryrie, Smith	Hengstenberg, Keil, Lange, Jamieson, Fausset, Brown, Henry, Scofield, Lincoln, Murray, Baxter, Scroggie, Leupold	Kaiser, Birnet, Kline, Cornfield, Kober

(Charts, 76)

G. Defense Against Demons

1. Remember :

- a. Demonic power is fixed.
- b. Demonic defeat is sure.
 - 1 John 4:4^b
"...greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world."

An Issue of Fallen Angels' Activity :

Question : Are the "Sons of God" of Genesis 6 "Fallen Angels"?
(see Chart, pages 268, 270)

2. Resist :

- a. By bearing spiritual armor
(Eph. 6:10-12 ff)
- b. By being filled with the Spirit
(Eph. 5:18)
- c. By being in a continual attitude of prayer
(Eph. 6:18; 1 Thess. 5:17)
- d. By being spiritually alert
(1 Pet. 5:18)
- e. By bearing spiritual attitudes :
 - (1) Of forgiveness
(2 Cor. 2:10-11)
 - (2) Of controlling anger
(Eph. 4:26-27)
 - (3) Of being humble
(Jas. 4:6-7)

