

"What We Believe"

Session 14

Angels And Demons-- God Uses

I) INTRODUCTION

- A) Today, as we cover the topic of Angels and Demons, it's important we understand there is a *ditch* on both sides of the road concerning this subject.
- B) The first ditch is to over-exaggerate angels and demons and the second ditch is to be negligent of angels and demons. Our goal in this session, and in Christian life, is that we stand in the middle of the road, proclaiming both their reality and their rightful place in the Kingdom of God.
- C) Personally I have encountered the power of God several times in a very profound way though I have yet to see an angel (but I do pray for it often and long for it to take place). I have also encountered demons, demonically possessed people; and in dreams I have wrestled demons, seen demons and fought demonic activity, using the name of Jesus.
- D) My power encounters with Christ have caused me to love Jesus more, and my encounters with demons and the demonic have awakened in me the reality of sin and my need to become free.
- E) Both angels and demons are real and they are connected to our life in Christ.
- F) As we discuss angels and demons, it's important that our doctrine of them isn't built mainly on our experience with them, but rather what the Bible has to say about them.

II) What Is The Doctrine Of Angels?

- A) In the earth there are two kingdoms and two groups of angels. There is the Kingdom of God (light) and the kingdom of the devil (darkness). There are good angels and bad angels. Good angels are out to help humanity love God, while bad angels are out for humanity's destruction.
- B) When looking at angels we can see their nature, their classification, their character and their work.
- C) **Their Nature**
 - 1) Angels are creatures
 - (i) They are created beings, meaning they were created out of nothing but have been around before humanity. We don't know exactly when, but when humans arrived there were good and bad angels.
 - 2) Angels are spirits
 - (i) Unlike men, angels are not limited by physical and natural conditions. They appear and disappear at will and travel quickly. Though they are spirits, they can assume human form (**Genesis 19:1-3**).

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- 3) Angels are immortal
 - (i) They are not subject to death. Jesus tells us that we will become like the angels, meaning we, too, will never die in the age to come (**Luke 20:34-35**).
- 4) Angels are numerous
 - (i) The Bible mentions several places that angels are often without number (**Daniel 7:10; Matthew 26:53; Hebrews 12:22**).
- D) **Their Classification.** Because order is a law in heaven, the angels are also broken into rank.
 - 1) The angel of the Lord
 - (i) When the Bible speaks of the Angel of the Lord, it is referring to Christ prior to His resurrection (**Exodus 32:34; Isaiah 63:9; Genesis 32:30, 48:16**).
 - 2) The archangel
 - (i) Michael is mentioned as being the Chief angel (**Jude 9, Revelation 12:7; 1st Thessalonians 4:16**). Gabriel is also mentioned as being an angel of the highest order (**Luke 1:19; Daniel 8:16**).
 - 3) The elect angels
 - (i) This might be the angels that stood true during the rebellion (**1st Timothy 5:21**).
 - 4) The angels of nations
 - (i) **Daniel 10:13, 20** seems to teach that every nation and geographic location has its own angel.
 - 5) The cherubim
 - (i) These angels are of high rank and seem to have something to do with God's redemptive work among humans. They are like a lion (strength), like an ox (service), like the face of a man (intelligence) and like an eagle (great speed) (**Revelation 4:6-7**).
 - 6) The seraphim
 - (i) Seraphim literally means "burning ones." They have six wings. Two covering their feet (representing holy service) two covering their face (representing awe and reverence) and two to fly with (representing their obedience to God's will).
- E) **Their Character**
 - 1) Angels are obedient (**Matthew 6:10**), reverent (**Nehemiah 9:6**), wise (**1st Peter 1:12**), meek (**2nd Peter 2:11**), mighty (**Psalms 103:20**) and holy (**Revelation 14:10**).
- F) **Their Work**
 - 1) Angels are God's agents
 - (i) They are those who bring about the judgments of God (**Matthew 13:39, Acts 12:23**).

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- 2) Angels are God’s messengers
 - (i) The word *angel* literally means “messenger.” Through angels God sends warning, instruction, encouragement and revelation (**Matthew 2:13, Matthew 28:2-6, Acts 27:23, Acts 7:53**).
- G) Though angels help humans, the Bible doesn’t give us enough evidence that we each have a guardian angel. There are two passages that speak about angels in relationship to individual humans, but there isn’t enough evidence to say for certain.
- H) **Revelation 22:8-9** *Now I John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. Then he said to me, see that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.*
- I) It is clear through this passage that angels themselves are never to be worshipped. Old Testament saints saw angels, Christ saw angels, New Testament saints saw angels, and both the early Church and Church history have experienced angels. But just as the angel John saw in Revelation 22, told him to worship God, so also should our encounters with angels lead us closer to Christ.

III) What Is The Doctrine Of The Devil and Demons?

- A) As I have mentioned, there are two kingdoms in the earth, the Kingdom of God (light) and the kingdom of satan (darkness).
- B)

Satan’s Kingdom	God’s Kingdom
1) A kingdom of darkness	A kingdom of light
2) A kingdom of sin and evil	A kingdom of holiness and righteousness
3) A kingdom of sickness and disease	A kingdom of health
4) A kingdom of deception	A kingdom of truth
5) A kingdom of sorrow and death	A Kingdom of joy and life
- C) Just as the Kingdom of Light is real, so also is the kingdom of darkness. The devil in his rebellion has stolen what belonged to God and uses deception to move people from Christ to himself.
- D) The devil’s great counterfeit kingdom;

1) Satan has a throne	Revelation 2:13
2) Satan has great depths of doctrine	Revelation 2:24; 1st Tim. 4:1
3) Satan has a synagogue	Revelation 2:9, 3:9
4) Satan has a communion table	1st Cor. 10:21
5) Satan has people sacrifice at his altar	Deut. 32:17; 1st Cor. 2:10
6) Satan gives doctrines to men to teach	1st Tim. 4:1
7) Satan himself is an angel of light	2nd Cor. 11:14
8) Satan has a kingdom	Matthew 12:26
9) Satan has false prophets, teachers, etc...	2nd Cor. 11:13-14; 2nd Pet. 2:1
10) Satan has a city, Mystery Babylon	Revelation 17:5
11) Satan has a harlot church, a fake to the bride	Revelation 17:5

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- 12) Satan has a false Christ to rival God's Christ **1st John 2:18-22**
- 13) Satan wants to live in human bodies **John 13:27**
- 14) Satan seals his with a seal on the forehead **Revelation 13:16**

E) Tough men have rejected the presence of evil in the world and they make a mockery of the devil, it is clear through the Bible that there is evil at work in the earth and it's overseen by satan.

F) **The Doctrine Of The Devil**

G) **His Origin**

- 1) In **Isaiah 14:12-15** and **Ezekiel 28:19** we see the origin of satan. The Bible says he was originally named "Lucifer" which literally means "light bearer" and he was the most glorious of all angels. He was alive before humanity, because He was present in the garden before Adam and Eve got there. He was a worship leader of sorts in heaven prior to his fall.
- 2) Satan isn't a force, an influence or a power, but a real person. He is created and therefore dependent upon God for his very existence. The devil sinned when he desired to be worshipped like God and it was for that reason he was cast out of God's presence in heaven. But a time is coming on the earth, when the devil will be incarnated in a man called the Antichrist and he will have short stint, where he will receive worship from humans as God.

H) **His Character**

- 1) Satan is best understood by his many names. Satan literally means "adversary." He is also known by devil (slanderer), destroyer (his passion for the destruction of humans and God), serpent (his deceptive nature), tempter (this is the counterfeit testing of humans to cause them to fall, as opposed to God who tests to make stronger), prince of this world (this is the devil's influence over the societies of the earth, Belial (worthless, perverse or lawless), wicked one, Antichrist (one like Christ in a negative way), murderer (killer), roaring lion, wolf, and the Fowler (one who entraps or ensnares).

I) **His Activities**

- 1) Satan opposes God's work, hinders the gospel, possesses and deceives.
- 2) Satan not only lives in the low places of the earth, but also in the high places.
- 3) Satan hates God and he hates humans, because they are made in the image of God.
- 4) Though Satan is strong, he is limited in what he can and can't do. All his power comes from God and he can't do anything that God doesn't allow him to do.

J) **The Doctrine Of Evil Spirits**

- 1) Evil spirits are broken into two groups: fallen angels and demons.
- 2) **Fallen Angels**
 - (i) The word for fallen angels is the same word as God's angels "messenger." It's just a messenger of a different kingdom.

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- (ii) Though all angels were created perfect, they were given the power of choice like humans. Under the leadership of satan many chose to follow him during his rebellion against God and were cast out of heaven (**John 8:44, 2nd Peter 2:4, Jude 6**).
 - (iii) Just like the devil, fallen angels will never be redeemed, but hell has been prepared for them in everlasting punishment (**Matthew 25:41**).
- 3) **Demons**
- (i) The Bible isn't clear about the beginning of demons, which is more of a question of the origin of evil itself. But the Bible speaks about their activity and reality in the earth (**Matthew 12:26-27**).
 - (ii) The difference between fallen angels and demons is that fallen angels aren't looking to embody humans, but demons are. Demons desire to steal kill and destroy.
- K) **Conclusion?**
- 1) **Colossians 2:15** *“Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it”.*