

WHAT WE TEACH – ANGELS – Part 3

Assorted Scriptures

INTRODUCTION

We are in the midst of spiritual warfare. It is real and the battlefield is doctrine.

Where did the idea of a red-suited, pitchfork-bearing Devil come from? The roots of this caricature of Satan are found in the Middle Ages. It was popular in medieval days to mock the Devil by describing him in ludicrous terms. The medieval church believed in the reality of Satan. Pride was Satan's supreme weakness. To resist Satan required fierce combat. The combat focused on Satan's most vulnerable point, his pride. The theory was: attack Satan at his point of weakness and he will flee.

What better way to attack Satan's pride than to depict him as a cloven-hoofed court jester in a red suit? These silly images of Satan were intentional caricatures. Sadly, the image has stuck.

Before engaging in any battle it is wise to know who your enemy is and what he is capable of. If you do not know, then you can't know best how to begin to fight the enemy.

Recall: 3-Part Outline from *STBC's What We Teach* Document: In the past two weeks we have looked at what God tells us in His Word about **Holy Angels**. Today, we will look at what God tells us about **Fallen Angels**.

(All references to the STBC "What We Teach" Document in these notes will be italicized)

Proposition : Three Dimensions to Fallen Angels

- A. The **Deceiver**
- B. The **Demons**
- C. Their **Destruction**

Keep your friends close. Keep your enemies even closer.

So that: We don't want to keep Satan close. But we do want to understand him and his schemes.

2 Cor 2:11 – “in order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes.”

A. The Deceiver

Point – we will spend the majority of our time here. When we understand Satan and his schemes, we understand demons and their schemes.

We teach that Satan is a created angel and responsible for the entrance of sin into God's creation. He incurred the judgment of God by rebelling against his Creator, by taking numerous

angels with him in his fall, and by introducing sin into the human race by his temptation of Eve.

Proof - God created spirit beings, the angels ...

→ 3 Named: **Michael, Gabriel, Lucifer.**

Michael is called “an archangel (Jude 9 – possibly Gabriel and Lucifer as well)

Isa 14 - God is speaking to the King of Babylon in vv. 4-11

- look at vv. 12-14 - God is speaking to Satan who is ultimately behind this human king
- God created all the spiritual beings and one among them fell
 - the reason behind it was pride (v. 13) - note all of the "I will" statements
 - the name "Lucifer" is latin for "morning star"; God is describing him as the "shining one" - beautiful in appearance

Ezek 28 - God speaking to the Leader of Tyre (v. 2)

- then in v. 12 - 17, we see again God speaks beyond the leader to the King of Tyre (two different original Hebrew words to describe leader and king in NASB) - to Lucifer
- description of all the jewels and precious stones - we realize what a magnificent, beautiful being he was
- v. 13 - "**settings and sockets**" - literally means tambourines and flutes in original language
- it is very possible that Lucifer was the musical worship leader in heaven prior to his fall

→ three angels named in the Bible: **Michael** – the Warrior, **Gabriel** – the Messenger;
Lucifer – Worshiper

Names → different names that God gives to describe Lucifer, this morning star

- we know that in the Bible, names describe character and tactics (spiritual warfare)
- as diligent students of the Word, we want to have some understanding of the meaning of the names (**2 Corinthians 2:11**)

Sun Tzu – “If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles.” - from The Art of War

4 names in **Rev 12:9** – “**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.**”

1. Satan

He is called Satan 52 times in the Bible.

We teach that Satan is the open and declared enemy of God and man.

The word comes from a Hebrew word which means adversary or one who opposes.

- He is the **Enemy** – He is God’s enemy.

- He is the enemy of God's holy angels → **Rev 12:7** – “**Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back,**”
- He is the Enemy of God's people.

Satan is an Adversary, the Enemy.
This is his name that defines his character.

2. The Devil

He is not only called Satan in the Bible but he is called the Devil – *diabolos*.
This name is used 35 times. It means "one who slanders".

- He slanders God.
- He slanders Christ.
- He slanders the Holy Spirit.
- He slanders the church.
- He slanders the Bible.
- He slanders the character of Christians.
- He slanders continually.

He defames everything that even relates itself to God. This is his character.

3. The Dragon

Rev 12:3-9 – This shows his power and destructiveness. He is a terrifying creature who is out to destroy. He is the General of the hosts of hell. He is marshaling the army of demons in **Rev 12**.

1 Pet 5:8 – “**Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.**”

The lion is the king of the beasts.

Lions roar to communicate with each other and they roar to proclaim where their territory is. Roaring is also one of their strategies for catching prey – they stalk their prey and when they are close enough, they roar to terrify and confuse their prey.

The prey can't think or react correctly out of fear and is caught and eaten by the lion. He roars before he devours. By the time you hear him roaring, folks, you're in deep.

Satan's desire is to capture men and engulf them in his sin...swallow them up in his evil.

4. The Evil One

John 17:15 – “**I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one**”

- He is evil personified.
- He is evil at its deepest possible point.

5. The **Tempter**

Matt 4:3 – “when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.”

- also in **1 Thess 3:5** - Paul's concern for this church was that they not fall to the wiles of the tempter

6. The **Accuser**

Rev 12:10 – “I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.”

- how often does Satan accuse? → all of the time

Job 1:6 – Job was first book of the Bible chronologically written – written a couple of hundred years after the Flood - and right at the beginning of the first book of the Bible written, we encounter Satan in v. 6

- described as the accuser - Satan is accusing Job
- the book of Job demonstrates that not even Satan in his accusations can destroy a saving faith

Other names for Satan:

John 12:31 – “the ruler of this world”

Eph 2:2 – “the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.”

2 Cor 4:4 – “the god of this world”

7. The **Serpent**

2 Cor 11:3 – “I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.”

- the characteristic connected to the serpent idea is craftiness, subtlety, sneaky, wily, deceitful, deceiving

This is the character of Satan. Satan is a crafty subtle **Deceiver**.

Satan does not appear as a fool.

- He is a beguiling counterfeit.
- He speaks with eloquence.
- His appearance is stunning.
- The prince of darkness wears a cloak of light NOT a red suit with horns and a pitchfork

Gen 3:1 – “the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field”

Gen 3:1-5 – Word of God, the truthfulness of God, is challenged 3 times

“you will be like God” → original sin → **Isa 14**

2 Cor 11:14 – “Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.”

- maybe not visually but the doctrine of demons
- the closer error is to the truth, the more ear tickling and tantalizing it is and that is the spiritual warfare
- beautiful shining one covered in jewels with the musical sounds accompanying

8. The **Father of Lies**

John 8:44 – “You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies.”

- Recall his lies at the temptation of Christ:
 - sensational - turn stones to bread
 - presumptuous - cast yourself down
 - materialistic - worship me and I will give you

Two Errors:

- 1) On the one hand, he will seek to have us underestimate his power.
- 2) On the other hand there are times that he seeks to have us overestimate his power.
In either event, he deceives us and can trip us up.

Application - Satan is stronger than us but no match for God. His knowledge exceeds ours, but he is not omniscient. His strength is greater than ours, but he is not omnipotent. He has a wider sphere of influence than we have, but he is not omnipresent.

Satan is a space-time creature who is limited, as are all angels Holy or Fallen, by space and time. In your whole lifetime, you will very likely never experience a direct, immediate encounter with Satan. He is likely to spend his time and space in bigger targets than you or me. → Even in his concentrated attack on Jesus, Satan departed from him “for a season” (**Luke 4:13**).

Application – A Christian should never address Satan in a prayer. There is absolutely no biblical precept or example. None. It is borderline blasphemous because it ascribes to Satan the attributes of God.

Transition – **Matt 12:24** – “Beelzebul the ruler of the demons.”

B. His Demons

Point – by taking numerous angels with him in his fall

Demons are mentioned in 19 out of the 27 New Testament books

Proof – **Matt 25:41** – “He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels.’”

Rev 12:3-4 – “behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems. 4And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven, and threw them to the earth.”

Eph 6:12 – “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”

The Bible gives twelve titles to fallen angels or demons.
These hint at some kind of ranking structure.

2 Pet 2:4-5 - some are free right now but there are another group of them that are bound

- a group of demons who sinned at some time, and God cast them into pits of darkness - Greek word "tartarus"

Jude 6-7 → a group of fallen angels who are suffering in this pit of darkness “tartarus”

Gen 6:1-4 → Nephilim

“sons of God” → who are they? This Hebrew phrase – *bene haelohim* – “sons of God” appears only in **Gen 6** and **Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7**. The Job scriptures refer to angels. So also in Gen 6.

- there were some demons that God allowed to have some sort of physical manifestation and they were coming together with human women in a sinful, grotesque fashion and they were having some sort of offspring called Nephilim
- take the Hebrew phrase at face value in **Genesis** and **Job** and couple that with **2 Peter** and **Jude**, the “sons of God” refers to fallen angels

Illustration – The Red Baron and Temptation

Manfred, Freiherr von Richthofen was a famous German First World War fighter pilot. He was better known as the Red Baron because he flew a distinctive a red Fokker aircraft. He shot down more combat planes than any one else on either side in the first World war. His known kill tally was 80.

On 21st April 1918, he began chasing a Canadian plane - that was trying to escape the battle over the Mor-lan-court Ridge. As the Red Baron pursued his prey, he strayed behind Allied lines. He dived too low into the enemy lines. And he also missed a Canadian pilot (Arthur) “Roy” Brown coming up on his tail to help his comrade.

We will never know whether it was a shot from the ground - or a shot from Brown that killed Richthofen. But what we do know is that the “Red Baron” came to his end because he made the mistake of pursuing that Allied ‘plane “too long, too far, and too low into enemy territory”

In the same way, with any topic, what we want to do as diligent students of the Word of God, is be open to let God speak to us with what He reveals to us in His word and stop there; to not go farther, to not get caught in wild speculation.

Application – Within Christian circles there are “deliverance ministries” with a bizarre and radically unbiblical view of demon possession and deliverance.

2 Peter 2:9-12 - if we get too caught up into trying to seek out demons, we are like unreasoning animals. See also **Jude 8-9**

Satan can oppress us, assault us, tempt us, slander us, and accuse us.
But a Christian is indwelt by the Holy Spirit and cannot be possessed by a demon.

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty → **Heb 2:14-15**

1 John 4:4 – “You are from God, little children ... greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.”

James 4:7 – “Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

Application – How to deal with demons?

What do you do if you ever possibly encounter a demon-possessed person? Very simple. Just preach the gospel. There are no formulas, no rites, not ceremonies, no hocus pocus. Just preach the gospel.

C. Their Destruction

Point – God has a purpose for all of His creation and Satan and the other demons will answer to God in His good time.

Angels are immortal. The holy angels, like Christians, will spend eternity praising God and enjoying His presence. Demons will spend eternity in conscious torment in hell. In the end, Satan and the rest of the demons will be defeated and cast into the lake of fire.

From the STBC "What We Teach" document:

the prince of this world, who has been defeated through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ; and that he will be eternally punished in the lake of fire.

Proof – **Rom 16:20** – “the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.”

Isa 14:15-17 – “Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit. Those who see you will gaze at you, They will ponder over you, saying, ‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms, Who made the world like a wilderness And overthrew its cities, Who did not allow his prisoners to go home?’”

Rev 20:1-3, 7-10 - tells us exactly and precisely what the end of the Deceiver and the demons will be in their destruction.

CONCLUSION

The Bible tells us of holy angels and how they relate to God and to man. The Word of God also tells us of fallen angels. God will judge the fallen angels, the demons.

1 Cor 6:3 - believers will judge the holy angels. So we will have some rule in eternity over angels → if you are a Christian, you will serve in eternity in this capacity

- we will be with the holy angels worshiping and serving Jesus Christ

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