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Angelology, Satanology, and Demonology

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Ministry of Angels for God

- To God: defending and proclaiming holiness
- To Christ:
 - Predicted His birth (Luke 1:26-38)
 - Protected Him in infancy (Matt 2:13; 20)
 - Ministered to Him after 40-day temptation (Mt 4:11)
 - Strengthened Him in Gethsemane (Lk 22:43)
- To believers—“ministering spirits” (Heb 1:14)
 - Physical protection (Ps 34:7)
 - Physical provision (as to Elijah in 1 Ki 19:5-7)
 - Encouragement (as to Paul in a storm (Acts 27:23-25)
 - Direction (as to Philip to witness to Ethiopian (Acts 8:26)
 - Assist in answers to prayer (Peter’s release from prison (Ac 12)
 - Carries believer’s home (Lazarus carried to paradise Lk 16:22)
- To unbelievers
 - Giving judgment on unbelievers (Sodom, Gen 19)
 - Tribulation agents (Rev 4-19)

Angelmania, Dr. Kenneth Gangle

In his 1990 book *Angels: An Endangered Species*, Malcolm Godwin estimates that over the last 30 years one in every ten pop songs mentions an angel. But that was just romantic fun.

Now our culture takes angels seriously, if not accurately. In the last two years *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Ladies' Home Journal*, *Redbook*, and a host of other popular magazines have carried articles about angels. In mid-1994, ABC aired a two-hour, prime time special titled "Angels: the Mysterious Messengers." In *Newsweek's* November 28, 1994 issue an article titled "In Search of the Sacred" observed that "20% of Americans have had a revelation from God in the last year, and 13% have seen or sensed the presence of an angel" (p. 54).

Newsweek is right; modern society, so seemingly secular and hopelessly materialistic, desperately searches for some spiritual and supernatural meaning. If angels can provide it, then angels it will be. Certainly they are more cheerful and brighter than our long-standing infatuation with movies about demons and evil spirits, along with endless Dracula revivals

Summary of angelic service

1. The worship of God (Isa. 6:3; Rev. 4:8),
2. As messengers of God (Dan. 9:22; Luke 1:11, 26; 2:9; Rev. 1:1),
3. As soldiers in spiritual combat (Dan. 10:13f; Rev. 12:7),
4. As ministers to God's people (Heb. 1:14)

If we are not to worship or pray to “ministering spirits” what is their value to us and how can we solicit their help?

Watchfulness of angels

- Fact of their watchfulness—spectators of God’s redemptive work (Job 38:7; Luke 15:10; 1 Cor. 4:9; 11:10; Eph. 3:10; Tim. 3:16; 1 Pet. 1:12)
- Objects of their watchfulness
 - Observed God’s creation and rejoiced (Ps. 38:7)
 - Observe God’s joy when a sinner repents (Luke 15:10)
 - Observe God’s manifold wisdom in the unfolding of His redemptive plan (1 Pet. 1:12; Eph. 3:10). verb, *proskuneo*, “to bend over,” conveys the idea of bending over to see something more clearly or to look intently (see also Jam. 1:24)

Reasons for watchfulness

- The Two Kingdoms and the Angelic Conflict
 - As holy creatures, they are concerned for the worship and glory of God that is His due
 - Revelation concerns the two kingdoms: the kingdom of the world (Satan's kingdom) and the kingdom of God.
 - The words “king, kings, kingdom,” etc., occur thirty times in twenty-five verses in this book
 - Paul's statement in I Corinthians 11:10 that a woman is to have a symbol of authority on her head because of the angels.
- The root of the angels' keen interest in what God is doing today is the rebellion and fall of Satan.
 - Observed when he sought to usurp God's sovereign rule (see Isa. 14:12-15)
 - Appears that one-third of the angelic hosts chose to follow Satan Revelation 12:3-4

Existence of Satan

- Seven Old Testament books and every New Testament writer refer to Satan
- The term, *devil*, as Satan, means, “slanderer, defamer, one who accuses falsely.”
- Genesis 3 refers to the serpent, as Satan and that the judgment pronounced (Gen. 3:15) is a reference to him.
- Satan is specifically mentioned in Job 2:1 as he came to accuse Job before God.
- In 1 Chronicles 21:2 Satan led David to take a census of the Israelites and David suffered the consequences
- In Zechariah 3:1–2 Satan accuses the nation before God.
- Although Satan is not so-named in Isaiah 14:12–17 and Ezekiel 28:11–19, these passages are understood to refer to his original state and subsequent fall.
- Christ makes reference to Satan twenty-five times.

Personality of Satan

1. Satan reflects intellect in that he schemes and is crafty in his work (Eph. 6:11).
 - His work of deception indicates his ability to think and plan a course of action that will be successful in deceiving people (Rev. 12:9).
2. His knowledge and facility with Scripture (in deception) further illustrates his intellect (Matt. 4:5–6).
3. Satan's emotion is seen in his desire to exalt himself above the rule of God (Isa. 14:12–17)
 - Satan desires to trap new converts through their conceit (1 Tim. 3:6).
 - Recognizing he has only a short time on earth, Satan vents great wrath (Gk. *thumon*), “burning anger” (Rev. 12:12).
4. Satan demonstrated his will in attempting to entice Christ to sin (Matt. 4:3). Satan's will is most clearly reflected in his wish to be like God (Isa. 14:13–14).

Satan's names

- Satan, the Devil (slanderer)
- Lucifer (son of the morning)
- Beelzebub (Lord of the flies – Matt.12:24)
- Belial (lawless – 2 Cor.6:15)
- Evil one (1 John 5:19)
- Tempter (1 Thess.3:5)
- Prince of this world (John 12:31)
- The god of this age (2 Cor.4:4)
- Prince of the power of the air (Eph.2:2)
- the accuser of the brethren (Rev.12:10)
- Angel of light (false light – 2 Cor.11:14)
- Serpent (Rev.12:9)
- Dragon (Rev.12:3)

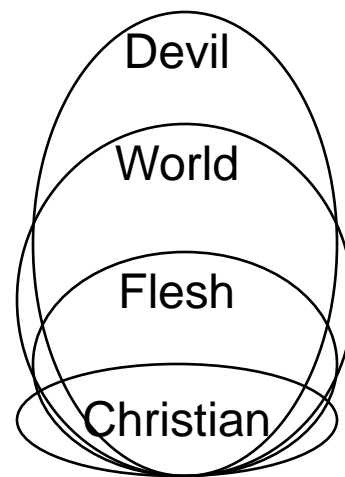
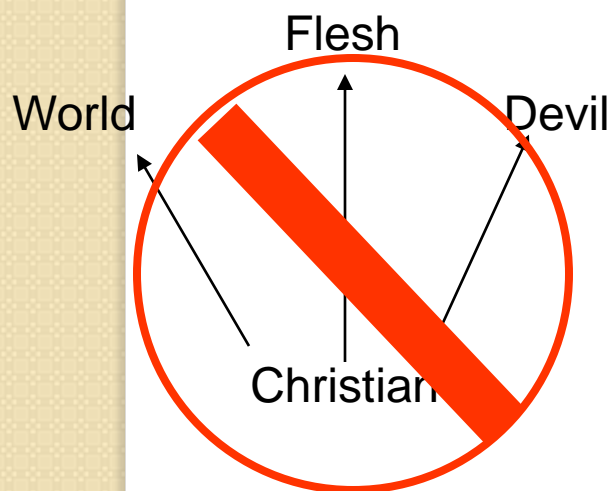
Origin and Nature of Satan

- ***Satan's original state.*** Ezekiel 28:12–15 describes Satan prior to his fall
 - filled with wisdom and beauty, and he was blameless (Ezek. 28:12, 15)
 - Called the “anointed ... covering cherub” who enjoyed the position of highest honor before God (28:14, 16)
- ***Satan's fall.*** Satan's fall is described in both Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14
 - Became God's chief adversary (Heb. *Satan*) he is never again called by any of these honorable titles.
 - Cast from the presence of God (Ezek. 28:16)
 - Five “I will's” emphasize his sin (Isa 14:13–14).
- ***Satan's moral responsibility.*** Satan is accountable to God (Job 1:7)
 - does not have freedom in an unrestricted sense (Job 1:7)

Indirect Activity of Satan

Satan is seeking to oppose God's plan by promoting evil in every way possible.

- He works indirectly through the world and flesh
 - World (in which he has great freedom and power – John 12:31; 1 John 5:19) to make sin available, if not inevitable, and fully justified
 - Flesh (Gal.5:19-21) to make sin attractive, desirable



Direct Activity

He works directly by deception, temptation, attack and possession

1. In Christ's ministry

- a. He tempted Christ (Matt.4:1-11).
- b. He attempted to thwart Christ's work (John 8:44; Matt.16:23).
- c. He possessed Judas to accomplish the betrayal (John 13:27).

2. In unbelievers

- a. He blinds their minds to not understand of the gospel (2 Cor.4:4).
- b. When the gospel is heard or understood, he tries to hinder its effect (Luke 8:12).
- c. He uses persecution (Rev.2:10) and false religions (Rev.2:13) to hinder the effect of the gospel.

3. In believers

- a. He tempts believers (to **pride** – 1 Chron.21:1-8; to **materialism** – John 2:15; James 5:1-7; to **immorality** – 1 Cor.7:5; to **lie** – Acts 5:3; to **discouragement** – 1 Pet.5:6-10; to **be unforgiving** – 2 Cor.2:10,11).
- b. He **hinders the ministries** of believers (1 Thess.2:18; Rev.2:10).
- c. He **promotes false teaching** among believers (1 John 4:1-4).
- d. He promotes **anger, bitterness and division** (Eph4:26,27; 2 Cor2:5-11).

Judgment of Satan

- ***Satan fell from his original exalted position.***
 - Lucifer led a host of angels, possibly one-third of all the angels, from heaven in his fall (Ezek. 28:16–17; Rev. 12:4).
- ***Satan's ultimate defeat was pronounced in Eden.***
 - Given a minor victory (“you shall bruise him on the heel”), but Christ would have a major victory through the cross (“He shall bruise you on the head” Gen. 3:15).
- ***Satan was rendered powerless through the cross.***
 - Christ's substitutionary death defeated Satan, rendering him impotent
 - Satan had the power of death over people but that power was broken through Christ (Heb. 2:14).
- ***Satan will be cast out of heaven during the Tribulation.***
 - The casting out of heaven (Rev. 12:13) is an act of judgment and probably refers to the stellar heavens, also known as the second heaven (not the presence of God).
- ***Satan will be bound in the pit for 1,000 years.***
 - At the triumphant return of Christ, Satan is bound for 1,000 years and shut up in the abyss, no longer able to deceive anyone on earth for the duration of the Millennium (Rev. 20:2–3).
- ***Satan will finally be cast into the lake of fire.***
 - At the end of the Millennium Satan is released whereupon he deceives many people, leads a rebellion against God, is defeated and finally cast into the lake of fire for eternity (Rev. 20:7–10)..

Origin of Demons

- **Spirits of deceased evil people.** View of Philo, Josephus, some early Christian writers, and ancient Greeks. Proved false by Scripture because evil people are in Hades after death (Luke 16:23, Heb 9:27).
- **Spirits of a pre-Adamic race.** Based on the “gap theory” between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2. Genesis 1:3 describes the recreation. The original creation of humanity that fell is now the spirits of demons.
 - The problem with this view is that it depends on a creation of humanity prior to Genesis 1 and 2, and there is no biblical warrant for such a view.
 - Romans 5:12 makes it clear that it was through Adam, not some pre-Adamic creature, that the conditions of sin and death began

More on Origin of Demons

- **Offspring of angels and women.** Based on the “sons of God” in Genesis 6:2 were angels who had intercourse with the “daughters of men,” and produced a resultant offspring, the *Nephilim* (Gen. 6:4), who were demons.
 1. This was not an unnatural sexual union for the phrase “took wives for themselves” refers to a marriage relationship, never to an act of illicit sexual relationship.
 2. There is no indication that Nephilim were demons; rather, they were probably “heroes” or “fierce warriors.”
- **Fallen but unconfined angels.** This view is best:
 - When Lucifer rebelled against God he fell from his place of prominence and led with him a host of lower-ranking angels.
 - Lucifer, now called Satan, is the “ruler of demons” (Matt. 12:24). Matthew 25:41 also refers to “the devil and **his angels**,” which would refer to demons; similarly, Revelation 12:7 mentions “the dragon and **his angels**.”

Classification of Demons

- **Two groups of fallen angels.**
 - Demons who are free and active in the world.
 - Other fallen angels are bound in confinement.
 - Some are confined to tartarus, (translated “hell” in 2 Pet. 2:4);
 - Confined because of some enormous sin (some relate this to Genesis 6 in suggesting the “sons of God” were angels).
 - Jude 6 may refer to the same confinement.
 - Other fallen angels are kept confined in the pit (Luke 8:31; Rev. 9:2). They were “apparently too depraved and harmful to be allowed to roam upon the earth.”
- Revelation 9 indicates this latter group of demons will be released from confinement during the Tribulation to afflict people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads (Rev. 9:3–11).

Characteristics of Demons

- ***Demons are spirit beings.*** Called spirits, that is, ones without fleshly bodies (Matt. 8:16; Luke 10:17, 20).
- ***Demons are localized, but not omnipresent.*** Can be in only one place at one time. The demons indwelt the two men of the Gadarenes, and when they were expelled they indwelt the swine. In each case they were localized (Matt. 8:28–34; cf. Acts 16:16).
- ***Demons are intelligent but not omniscient.*** Demons were aware of the identity of Jesus (Mark 1:24); they were also aware of their ultimate destiny (Matt. 8:29), but don't believe it! Paul refers to “doctrines of demons” (1 Tim. 4:1), indicating that they propagate their false teaching through their emissaries. They are not, however, omniscient or they would be like God; only God is omniscient.

Characteristics of Demons

- ***Demons are powerful but not omnipotent.*** Because of the indwelling demons the man of the Gerasenes could break shackles and chains because of his unusual strength (Mark 5:3–4). The demon in the boy sought to have the boy commit suicide by throwing him into fire and water (Mark 9:22). Demon possession impaired a man's speech (Matt. 9:32) and kept a girl in cruel slavery (Matt. 15:22), yet demons are limited in their power; they cannot do the work of God (John 10:21).

Activities of Demons

- ***Demons inflict disease.***

- Luke 13:11 testifies a woman had a crippling sickness “caused by a spirit” ; Luke 13:16 further declares that “Satan has bound for eighteen long years” this woman in her suffering.
- Is not always possible to identify the distinction. Can only come as God permits (Job 1:12; 2:6; cf. 2 Cor. 12:7–10).

- ***Demons influence the mind.***

- Satan initially deceived Eve into sinning by perverting the truth and changing Eve’s thinking about God (Gen. 3:1–5).
- Satan and his demons influence the thinking of people through blinding their minds (2 Cor. 4:4). This passage indicates Satan inhibits the ability to think or reason.
- Satan can also influence the thinking of believers (2 Cor. 11:3); he can lead believers away from “the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.” Satan can thus lead the believer away from a single-minded devotion to Christ.
- James 3:15 indicates earthly wisdom is demonic and leads to jealousy and strife.
- The solution to demonic influence of the mind is to bring the thought process into subjection to Christ (2 Cor. 10:5).
- A similar exhortation is given in Philippians 4:6–8.

More activities of Demons

1. ***Demons deceive people.*** Paul was fearful of the fledgling Thessalonian church, that Satan may have enticed them to sin amid their suffering and persecution (1 Thess. 3:5).
 - Although the Thessalonians had received the gospel with joy, their hope could be sidetracked through the onslaught of Satan.
 - Through those susceptible, Satan also works in unbelievers; Paul refers to the prince of the power of the air “working in the sons of disobedience” (Eph. 2:2). The context indicates Satan deceives the *unbelievers* into living according to the lusts of the flesh and desires of the flesh and mind.
 - Matthew 13:19 indicates Satan’s deception in snatching the Word away when unbelievers hear it, voiding their understanding.
2. ***Demons deceive nations.*** Demons will eventually gather the nations of the world together in rebellion against Christ. Demons deceive the nations through performing signs in order to incite them in warfare against the returning Messiah (Rev. 16:14).

Demon Possession

- **Definition.** Charles Ryrie defines demon possession as
 - *A demon residing in a person, exerting direct control and influence over that person, with certain derangement of mind and/or body. Demon possession is to be distinguished from demon influence or demon activity in relation to a person. The work of the demon in the latter is from the outside; in demon possession it is from within. By this definition a Christian cannot be possessed by a demon since he is indwelt by the Holy Spirit. However, a believer can be the target of demonic activity to such an extent that he may give the appearance of demon possession.*
- **Fact of demon possession.** A great outbreak of demon activity and demon possession occurred during Christ's sojourn on earth, no doubt in opposition to His Messiahship. (Matt. 4:24; 8:16; Mark 1:32; 5:15, 16, 18; Luke 8:36; John 10:21).
 - Leaders in the early church such as Justin Martyr and Tertullian make reference to demon possession as does the *Shepherd of Hermas*.

Demon Possession

- ***Nature of demon possession.***
 - A change in moral character and spiritual disposition.
 - Frequently a different voice,
 - a different educational level, or even
 - a foreign language will reflect a difference in the affected person's personality.
 - Demons speaking through the man immediately recognized who Christ was (Mark 1:23–24), which meant he had supernatural knowledge and intellectual power.
 - Supernatural physical strength and ability to break shackles and chains of the man in the country of the Gerasenes with his (Mark 5:3–4)

Judgment of Demons

- ***Through the cross the power of demons has been conquered.*** Christ conquered Satan and his demons at the cross and made a public display of them—as a victor displaying the spoils of war (Col. 2:15).
- ***At the return of Christ the demons will be cast into the lake of fire.*** Demons are associated with judgment against Satan (Matt. 25:41; Rev. 12:9), and therefore will be cast into the lake of fire with Satan (Rev. 19:19–21).

Negative Lessons from Angels

- In grace God made Lucifer the best --Forgot he was a creature and wanted to be like God, thus pride was born.
- Warned against selecting a new convert to a position of authority, “lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. And he must have a good reputation with those outside *the church*, so that he may not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil” (1 Tim. 3:6-7).
- Warn us about the seriousness of disobedience (vs. 22), which is defined as rebellion (vs. 23), compared to divination and idolatry *Divination* (Hebrew, *qesem*, a term for various occult practices or spiritism. DDeuteronomy 18:10-11.). Divination like idolatry is demonic (see 1 Cor. 10:19-22)

Negative Lessons from Angels

- Satan is a rebel, a liar, a murderer, a deceiver, a slanderer, a tempter, a distorter, and one who opposes all that is good
- Does not abdicate man from his responsibility to choose what is good nor can we blame Satan for our own sin, though he is always on the prowl to promote sin and to deceive and tempt us. Our temptation to sin comes from our own lusts that wage war in our souls (Jam. 1:14; 1 Pet. 2:11; Eph. 2:3).

Positive Lessons from Angels

1. Constantly seen in the activities of worshipful adoration of God and
 2. Humbly serving, totally submissive to the will of God.
- It was after Isaiah saw the holy seraphim in worship and humility (suggested by the covering of their feet) exalting the Lord, that he then saw and confessed his own sinfulness and became a willing servant. It was then, in answer to the Lord's question, "Whom shall I send?" that the prophet said, "Here am I, send me" (see Isa. 6:1-8).

The Provision of Victory

The Method

- (1) Faith** (1 John 5:5; 2 Cor. 5:7; Gal. 2:20; 5:5; Eph. 3:17). 1 John 5:5. “And this is the victory that overcomes the world—our faith.” Since victory was accomplished by Christ and not by what we have done, victory always comes by faith in the work of God through Christ. Our victory is not a victory to be won, by one to be claimed by faith.
- (2) The Filling of the Spirit: Appropriating the Manifold Ministries of the Spirit** (John 14:16f; 1 John 4:2-4; Eph. 3:16; 1 Cor. 12:12-13; Rom. 8:1f; Gal. 5:16f). Though saved and identified with Christ in His life and death, all believers would be helpless to overcome because of the presence of the flesh without the Holy Spirit who is God’s provision for strength and victory.
- (3) Biblical Insight Through the Knowledge of the Word** (Ps. 119:9, 11, 45; John 8:32; 17:17; Rom. 10:17; Eph. 6:17; 1 John 2:13-14; Heb. 4:12; Col. 1:9-12). Obviously, if I am going to believe God’s message of grace, trust God with my life, and deal with my inner man in the face of the many deceptive temptations, I must know the Word. Faith and the ministries of the Spirit do not exist independently of God’s Word. They are directly tied to knowing the Word. The Word builds my faith, directs it, and the Spirit speaks to us through the Word.

The Provision of Victory

The Method

(4) Diligence, Discipline (Rom. 13:14 [*put on*]; 1 Tim. 4:7 [*discipline yourself*]; 2 Pet. 1:3-10 [*applying all diligence*]; Gal. 5:16 [*walk*]; Eph. 5:18 [*be filled*]). Balance is the key: Salvation and victory are completely of the Lord.

- We are to put no confidence in the flesh (Phil. 3:3).
- We do not overcome by our works, by the energy of the flesh, or by our sincerity, or by our effort, or by our will power because we are powerless.
- Victory requires our **cooperation** with God's **operation**.
 - It means discipline, diligence, and a commitment to draw near to God and to act on His promises and provision by faith. Note also 1 Corinthians 15:10; Philippians 2:12-13.

James 4:7-8. Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, so respected his power, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you" (Jude 9).

But thankfully, the power of God through His blessed Son is far greater. Satan is a defeated foe.

1 John 4:4 ... greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.