

Home Bible Study Series

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**ANGELS**

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## Lesson One

**"The Origin and Nature of Angels"**

Man is generally a curious being. When something is new or mysterious to him, he begins asking questions. When it comes to Angels, man has a lot of questions—not only because of the mysteriousness of them, but there are not a lot of questions answered to satisfy the curiosity of man. For example:

*"Can angels be at two places at the same time?"*

*"How great was the interval between the creation of angels and their fall?"*

*"Did the sin of the first angel help to cause the sin of the rest of fallen angels?"*

*"Were there more angels that fell than those that remained with God?"*

*"Is our atmosphere the place of punishment for fallen angels?"*

*etc.....*

We have no desire to go into a lot of speculation about angels and will try to confine ourselves to the basic information that we can glean from Scripture.

**TERMS OR NAMES FOR ANGELS**

The Hebrew word "Malak" and the Greek word "Aggelos" are both basically translated "messenger." Our translators of the Greek New Testament have not translated this term, but transliterated it, when they believe that it refers to "celestial beings." They have evidently used the English word "Angels" for "Malak" in the Old Testament when such refers to "celestial beings." Both words are used with reference to humans who serve as "messengers" (Haggai 1:13; Malachi 3:1; Luke 7:24; James 2:25), but most of the references are to "celestial beings" that we refer to as "angels."

Other terms are used to identify these beings, such as: (1) **"sons of God"** (Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7); (2) **"stars of God" or "stars of heaven"** (Job 38:7; Isaiah 14:13; Revelation 12:4, 7); (3) **"thrones, dominions, principalities, powers"** (Colossians 1:16; Romans 8:38; Ephesians 1:21; 1 Peter 3:22; Colossians 2:15; Ephesians 6:12)(Possible reference to both good or bad angels); (4) **"dignities"** (2 Peter 2:10; Jude 8-9); (5) **"hosts of angels"** (Hebrews 12:22; Matthew 26:53; Luke 2:13; 1 Kings 22:19); (6) God is the **"Lord of hosts"** (1 Samuel 1:3); and possibly (7) **"Seraphim"** (burning ones—Isaiah 6:1-7) and **"Cherubim"** (Genesis 3:22-24; Exodus 26:31; 25:17-20). Three angels have names that have been revealed to us: **"Michael"** (Daniel 12:1; 10:13; Jude 9; Revelation 12:7), **"Gabriel"** (Luke 1:19, 26; Daniel 8:16; 9:21), and **"Satan"** (Revelation 12:9).

## ORIGIN OF ANGELS

Since all things have been created by God (John 1:1-4), it would be logical to conclude that Angels are the creation of God (Psalm 148:1-6; Nehemiah 9:6; Colossians 1:15-17). He alone is the uncreated one (1 Timothy 6:16). The indication in Job 38:4-7 is that they were in existence before God laid the *“foundation of the earth.”* So, they would have been created before man was created. We do not know how long they have existed before man was created since there was no “time” before man was created??? We are not told how many have been created, but several expressions are used to indicate that there are a lot of them: “Legion” (Matthew 24:53), “Multitude” (Luke 2:13), and “Innumerable (Myriads)” (Hebrews 12:22).

## THE NATURE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF ANGELS

It is **not** said of Angels that they were created in the image of God as it was said of man (Genesis 1:26-27). They seem to be superior to man in various ways, but obviously not on a par with God (Psalm 8:4; Hebrews 2:7). As there are many forms of life below man that are visible and invisible to the naked eye, there also seems to be a possibility of the same above man that are invisible, but under God. There seems to be an ascending scale of created beings that serve the purposes of God and are helpful to man. In general, these beings possess:

- 1) Greater intelligence than man in our present state, but are not all-knowing like God (Daniel 8:13; 1 Peter 1:12; Matthew 24:36).
- 2) They have greater ability in mobility than man, but are not everywhere present like God (Daniel 9:21-23). They can move in space from God to the earth.
- 3) They are powerful beings—more so than man, but are evidently limited in their use of that power (2 Peter 2:11).
- 4) Good angels are holy (sinless) beings (Mark 8:38). They need to be to be in the presence of God.
- 5) They have an overwhelming glory about them (Daniel 10:5-9; Matthew 28:1-4).
- 6) They are spirit beings, not physical (flesh and bones like man) (Job 4:18-19; Hebrews 1:14). They are not male nor female—neither do they marry (Matthew 22:30). They know nothing of growth, age, or death. (Luke 20:36)
- 7) Good Angels have a humility of spirit—they would not usurp the worship that belongs only to God (Revelation 19:10; 22:8-9). Such worship is forbidden by God that men worship Angels (Colossians 2:19; Exodus 20:1-3).
- 8) Like man, they seem to have the power of choice as to whether they will choose to obey God or not. Fallen angels would seem to indicate

- such. There is a stress on the concept of Angels being obedient or disobedient (Psalm 103:20; Jude 6; 2 Peter 2:4; Revelation 12:7).
- 9) They can manifest their presence to humans in various ways, often appearing as another human (Genesis 18:2; 19:3, 10-12; Judges 6, 13; Hebrews 13:2; Luke 1:26-35; 7:4).
  - 10) There are indications of order as well as seniority among Angels. Michael, who stands for the people of God (Daniel 12:1), is called the chief prince (Daniel 10:13) and an Archangel (Jude 9). It is possible that Seraphim and Cherubim may be different order of Angels. If the terms “principalities and powers” (Colossians 1:16) has reference to angels, it is possible that these terms would indicate different orders of Angelic beings.

In the next lesson, we will continue this study of Angels in regards to their work and activity in relationship to God and man.

**REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- 1. What is the meaning of the words “Malak” and “Aggelos?”**
- 2. What are some terms that are used to refer to Angels?**
- 3. What three Angels do we know that have been named in Scripture?**
- 4. How do we know that God created Angels?**
- 5. Are Angels created in the image of God?**
- 6. What is unique about Angels traveling?**
- 7. What is unique about the power of Angels?**
- 8. Are Angels superior to man?**
- 9. What is an Archangel?**
- 10. Can Angels manifest themselves as human beings and be seen by man?**
- 11. What is significant about Angels being only spirit beings and not physical like man?**
- 12. Do Angels have the power of choice?**

## Lesson Two

**“The Work and Ministry of Angels”**

A following quote is one man’s effort at a definition of an Angel: “*Angels are supernatural, celestial beings, of pure spirit, superior to humans and who have power, goodness, beauty, intelligence, and abilities, who serve God in many capacities, as messengers, or attendant spirits for a human or humans.*” While they are obviously not flesh and blood like humans, they have the ability to appear as such when the occasion calls for it. They could eat, be touched, be solid like us, and possibly do all the activities that men can do—but they are not humans!

Why did God create Angels? Why did God allow there to be good angels and bad? Does Satan have more angels than God has that are faithful to him? Does each individual on earth have an Angel assigned to him? Can Angels be hurt? Do Angels always win in their battles? On and on the questions could go.....and we are at a lost for an answer to most of them. In this lesson, we can look at the information that God has given us of the purpose and work of Angels. One of the obvious times of the appearances of Angels (in God’s recorded history in the Bible) seems to be at important, crucial times and events in human history which needed God’s special efforts.

**THE WORK OF ANGELS IN SERVING GOD’S PURPOSES**

Angels are pictured as being in the presence of God and have special tasks that are directed toward God or with God.

- 1) **They worship God.** (Psalm 29:1-2; 89:7; Matthew 18:10; Revelation 5:11).
- 2) **They rejoice with God in His God works.** (Job 38:1-7; Luke 15:10)

Angels execute God’s will by working in nature. (Psalm 103:20-22) They are able to take on various forms to accomplish their task:

- 1) **They take on human form.** (Genesis 18:2; Zechariah 5:9)
- 2) **They become or make use of wind, fire, chariots and horses, earthquakes, diseases, etc.** (Exodus 3:2; Psalm 104:4; 2 Kings 6:14-17; Matthew 28:2; Luke 13:11).

Angels serve God in various ways:

- 1) **They seem to have been involved in the affairs of nations in the past, at least.** (Daniel 10:12, 13, 21; 11:1; 12:1)
- 2) **They seem to have been involved in the early churches.** (Revelation 1:20).
- 3) **God has used them in the past to assist or protect individual believers.** (1 Kings 19:5; Psalm 91:11; Daniel 6:22; Matthew 4:11; Luke 16:22; Hebrews 1:14; Acts 12:15, etc.).

- 4) **They have been used to carry messages to various peoples.** (Genesis 16:7, 9-11; 22:15-19; Matthew 2:13, etc.).
- 5) **They have been used to punish sinful people.** (2 Kings 19:35; Acts 12:15, etc.)
- 6) **They transmitted the Law to Moses on Sinai.** (Galatians 3:19; Acts 7:53).
- 7) **They carried out deliverances and judgments that God commands.** (Genesis 19:15-22; 2 Samuel 24:15-16; Isaiah 37:36; Acts 12:20-25; Revelation 7:2, etc.)
- 8) **They fight against wicked angels.** (Revelation 12:7-9; 20:1-2, etc.).
- 9) **They will be with Jesus when He comes to judge the world.** (Matthew 25:31).

Angels served Christ in connection with His incarnation:

- 1) **Announcement of His birth and of His forerunner.** (Luke 1:8-20, 26-38).
- 2) **Told Joseph to take Mary to be his wife.** (Matthew 1:20-24).
- 3) **Announcement to the shepherds of Jesus' birth.** (Luke 2:9-15).
- 4) **Warned Joseph to take Jesus into Egypt.** (Matthew 2:13, 19-20).
- 5) **They ministered to Jesus after the 40 days temptation.** (Matthew 4:11).
- 6) **An Angel ministered to Him during His agony in Gethsemane.** (Luke 22:43).
- 7) **An Angel came and rolled away the stone from His tomb.** (Matthew 28:2).
- 8) **They announced His resurrection to the women.** (Luke 24:4-8).
- 9) **As Jesus ascended, they announced His return someday.** (Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8; Matthew 25:31; Revelation 14:10).

#### THE WORK OF ANGELS IN SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE

1. **They serve God's people.** (Hebrews 1:14; Psalm 91:11)
2. **They have helped to provide physical needs of believers.** (Genesis 21:15-19; 1 Kings 19:5-7).
3. **They helped Lot and his family to avoid destruction.** (Genesis 19:15-16).
4. **An Angel delivered Peter from prison.** (Acts 12:7-10).
5. **An Angel directed Philip to go speak to the Ethiopian.** (Acts 8:26).
6. **An Angel encouraged Paul in his shipwreck.** (Acts 27:23-24).
7. **An Angel took the soul of Lazarus into Abraham's bosom.** (Luke 16:22).



### CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

While Angels are mentioned a great deal in both Old and New Testaments, we need to be very careful of the application that we make from these references. As far as the account in the Scriptures are concerned, their intervention in the affairs of men occur only occasionally and possibly as exceptions to the rule. They only carried out what God permitted or commanded. Angels do not come between us and God as mediators—they are not to be worshipped! Deity is not to be ascribed to them—they cannot do what God does, even though they do seem to have powers above that of man because of their work. Since they are purely spirit-beings, there is no way that we can fully understand them, but we have been given some insights to their work that God has given to them.

It is encouraging to know that God has created an order of beings that are especially designed, not only to carry out his plans and purposes, but that their work is primarily for the good of mankind in general and in particular God's redeemed people. It should be a means to understanding the dignity of our being as well as the boundless possibilities of our future existence with God.

**REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- 1. Is it possible to entertain Angels and not know it? (Hebrews 13:2)**
  
- 2. Can we know for sure that each of us has a guardian Angel? (Matthew 18:10; Acts 12:15; Psalm 91:11; Hebrews 1:14; Acts 27:23)**
  
- 3. Have Angels always delivered God's people from harm or difficult situations? If not, then how can we be sure they are still doing so now? (Daniel 3:28; 6:22; Acts 5:17-20; 12:6-17; Psalm 34:7).**
  
  
- 4. Is it Angels that work things out for our good? (Romans 8:28; 2 Peter 2:9; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Revelation 3:10)**
  
  
- 5. Do Angels appeared today in the form of a humans and let us know they are Angels? (2 Kings 6:8-23; Daniel 6:1-23)**
  
  
- 6. Do Angels suggest thoughts to our minds?**
  
  
- 7. Do Angels minister to only those who will be saved or to all men? (Hebrews 1:14)**
  
  
- 8. Can an Angel help us in the selection of a wife like one did for Isaac? (Genesis 24:7, 40)**
  
  
- 9. How positive are we, from Scripture, that Angels are working in behalf of God's redeemed people today?**
  
  
- 10. Do Angels aid in the conversions of people today as they did in the beginning of the church? (Acts 8:26; Acts 10:1-8; Luke 15:10)**

*Lesson Three****"The Fall of Angels"***

The study of Angels, even though very limited, can be a source of strengthening our faith in God and His efforts to redeem us. Angels actually seem to make up the greater number of beings in the heavenly realm and are a very definite part of heaven's concern and care about God's efforts to bring about the redemption of fallen man. Since we believe that Angels fell into sin before man did, it is reasonable to look at their fall first. Our study to this point has only looked at the "holy" Angels who have kept their first estate. All Angels were created "holy"—without sin! God is not the author or creator of evil—Satan is! But not all Angels remained in submission to the will of their Creator—thus, there are two groups of Angels (the obedient and the disobedient).

**THE FALL OF ANGELS**

We do not have an account of their fall like we do of man's fall (Genesis 3). But the existence of Satan in the Garden of Eden would indicate that he and possibly the Angels that rebelled with him against God had already fallen (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6). We do not know how many that rebelled, but the symbolism in Revelation 12:4 could be an indicator that a third of the Angels went with Satan.

Peter said the Angels sinned (2 Peter 2:4)! That infers they were moral beings that had the power of choice and were responsible before God for that choice. They chose to disobey God (they sinned)—they made the wrong choice. They listened to the lies of Satan rather than the truth from God (John 8:44). The possible indication in 1 Timothy 3:6 is that Satan fell because of his pride (see also Isaiah 14:12-14). The Angels that followed Satan may have fallen for the same reason that man fell—lies and pride! (Genesis 3). Each Angel was responsible and each received a just judgment upon themselves.

The desire of Satan (and his Angels) is to receive the worship that belongs only to God. Even idol gods are spoken of as "demon worship" (1 Corinthians 10:19-21). Satan tempted Christ with all the kingdoms of the world if He would bow down and worship him (Satan) (Matthew 4:8-10). Evidently, Angel worship was being advocated, even among Christians in the city of Colossae (Colossians 2:18). If Isaiah 14:12-14 is a description of the king of Babylon, it could also be a description of Satan himself—for he has the same ambitions. The description of the man of sin in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 depicts this same concept! Someone has drawn up a contrast between the Spirit of God and the spirit of evil (Satan):

- a) Dove versus a serpent.
- b) Father of lies versus Spirit of truth.
- c) Murderer from the beginning versus a life-giving spirit.
- d) The adversary versus the Helper.

- e) The slanderer versus the Advocate.
- f) Satan's sifting versus the Master's winnowing.
- g) A strong man fully armed versus a stronger than he.
- h) An evil one who works only evil versus a holy One who is the author of holiness and righteousness.

#### ACTIVITIES OF FALLEN ANGELS

1. **They have a leader.** (Ephesians 2:2; 6:12) There is only one devil. The King James Version that put "devils" should have translated the word "demons." (James 2:19). He is the prince of the power of the air, of this world, the ruler of darkness (Ephesians 6:11-12). Satan is directly identified with "his" Angels (Matthew 25:41; Revelations 12:7; Revelations 20:10).
2. **Satan and his Angels are in direct opposition to God's efforts to redeem mankind.** (Matthew 13:38-42). The very terms used of Satan (adversary, slanderer) shows this clearly. The indication, however, is that their power is limited towards man (Job 2:4-7). Neither Satan nor his Angels are omnipotent, omniscient, nor omnipresent. Men can "resist" their efforts through their faith in God (believing what God says, rather than what Satan says) (1 Peter 5:8-9). Satan and his Angels' efforts are manifold:
  - a) They falsely accuse (Zechariah 3:1).
  - b) They try to get man to exalt himself above God (Daniel 11:36; 2 Thessalonians 2:4).
  - c) They use lies and craftiness to mislead mankind (Genesis 3:1, 4).
  - d) They make every effort to deceive man into believing them, not God (Revelation 12:9).
  - e) They will use persecution of all kinds to cause people to lose heart and give up (Revelation 12:13).

Mankind is warned to be watchful and vigilant and to be aware of Satan's tactics and resist him steadfastly (1 Peter 5:8-9).

#### THE ABODE OF SATAN AND FALLEN ANGELS

It is important to realize that time or place is a limitation for man, not necessarily for Satan or fallen Angels. God uses both terms in connection with them, but this may be more accommodative than reality. Two sets of Scriptures need to be harmonized in connection with the location of fallen Angels. Peter's account indicates that fallen Angels have been "**cast down to Tartarus (hell—should be in hadean realm) in chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment.**" (2 Peter 2:4) Jude's account indicates the punishment concept. However, Job's account of Satan's location was: "**roaming about on the earth and walking around on it.**" (Job 1:7). Also, the symbolic concept in Revelation 12:1-9 seems to indicate that

Satan (and probably his Angels) are diligently working against the people of God on earth. The question could be asked: *“If these Angels were cast down into Tartarus to await final judgment, then how could they be loosed on earth to do their evil work among men?”* Tartarus, in the Greek usage, is identified with the place where evil men go upon death which is one of the location in Hades—the place of departed spirits. This poses a problem for me at this point in my study and I do not have any Scriptures that might help in this matter.

One other point to look at briefly is the reference in Genesis 6:1-4. Some would suggest that his may have been another example of the rebellion of Angels who took on human form and had children by women on earth. This is probably more “far-fetched” than possible reality! The term “sons of God” do have reference to Angelic beings where used elsewhere (Job 1:6-7). But Jesus’ expression about Angels in Matthew 22:30; Luke 20:35-36 states that they do not marry nor are they given in marriage. All indications in Scripture are that God has limited not only Satan, but Angels in general in what they can and cannot do. The probable understanding of this passage is that the “sons of God” were the devout descendents of Seth. When they began to marry the “daughters of men” (Cain’s descendents), the whole race of mankind degenerated to the point of needing to be destroyed from the earth.

#### CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

We do not know a lot about the Angels that fell, but we have been given quite a bit of information about their leader! And, we presume, that what the leader does—so does his followers! But the real issue that faces both men and Angels is—do we believe God or not. What we say we believe is either confirmed by our actions or is a hypocritical statement. Fallen Angels did not believe and disobeyed God. And, it is also true of Fallen man—Adam and Eve did not believe God and disobeyed Him. The end of disobedience is eternal separation from God (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10).

REVIEW QUESTIONS

True or False

- \_\_\_ 1. The account of the fall of Angels is given in the book of Genesis.
- \_\_\_ 2. Fallen Angels married women and had children by them.
- \_\_\_ 3. God has banished fallen Angels into a place called "Tartarus."
- \_\_\_ 4. Satan and his Angels are omnipotent like God.
- \_\_\_ 5. Worship of Angels is dealt with in the Colossian letter.
- \_\_\_ 6. We know that 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the Angels rebelled with Satan.
- \_\_\_ 7. Satan fell because of his pride.
- \_\_\_ 8. Satan and the fallen Angels were a creation of God.
- \_\_\_ 9. Angels fell before man fell into sin.
- \_\_\_ 10. Fallen Angels have already been judged.

## Lesson Four

***“The Non-Redemption of Fallen Angels”***

Sin originated with the Fallen Angels! Indications would lead us to say that they sinned first before man. We do have a statement saying that Angels were witnesses to the creation of our Universe (Job 38:4-7). They are pure spiritual beings—not flesh and blood like man. Their falling into sin before God would possibly be different from the sin of man. For some reason God gives us no indication of the salvation or redemption of fallen Angels. In fact, there is a possible indication given in Hebrews 2:14-16 that a deliberate decision was made to redeem fallen man, but not fallen angels. We will look more at this later. However, the very silence of Scripture on the subject of Angel’s redemption does not automatically guarantee there is no plan of God to redeem them (or at least some of them). It could be possible that some were forgiven upon repentance, while others persisted in their rebelliousness.

**NON-REDEMPTION OF FALLEN ANGELS INFERRED?**

Even though there is no statement, that I am aware of, that God has or has **not** provided redemption for fallen Angels like He has for man, it is suggested that such is inferred from several statements of Scripture. The main one is found in Hebrews 2:14-16, where the writer points out that Jesus became a man (flesh and blood), so that He might be able through His death as a “perfect” man to destroy the Devil and his control over man. The Old KJV says that He ***“verily took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.”*** He took on the form of man to save man, but He did not take on the form of Angels to save them seems to be an inference from the statement. Later versions express it this way: ***“For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendant of Abraham.”***(NASV).

2 Peter 2:4 would seem to infer that there is no redemption offered to Angels. ***“For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell (Tartarus) and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment...”*** The very straight-forward punishment with no hope offered to them leaves a strong impression that no mercy will be offered them. Jude 6 would seem to indicate the same thing: ***“And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day...”***

From Jesus’ own statement, Hell (Gehenna) has been prepared for the Devil and his Angels (Matthew 25:41). Rebellious and unrepentant man will go there also. But there is no indication from Scripture that fallen Angels will escape this punishment, or be given an opportunity to repent.

Jesus identifies the Devil (fallen Angel?) not only as the Father of lies, but seems to indicate that there is no change in his actions (John 8:44). If there is no change, then Satan is set in his rebellion against God, possibly from the very beginning of his sinfulness. It is therefore possible that there is no avenue by which Angels can be redeemed.

#### REASONS OFFERED FOR NON-REDEMPTION OF FALLEN ANGELS

The Bible is concerned for and tells us about God's redemption of fallen man, but no where speaks of the redemption of fallen Angels. Suppositions have been offered as to the why this was not done. For what they are worth, the following can give you a few of these suppositions.

1. **Their guilt was greater!** Man's sin came because of being tempted and being deceived. Fallen Angels chose Satan as their leader (god) rather than the God of Heaven. They made their choice and suffered the consequences. That was it!
2. **Angels do not have a fleshly body like man.** The fleshly body offers more means of temptation that has to be dealt with.
3. **Angels are higher in intelligence and power and have a greater responsibility.** Their sin effected the world of humanity more so than man's sin did.
4. **If Angels are redeemed, it would have to be different from man's redemption.** Jesus was able to identify with man, take on flesh and blood as a man to be able to redeem man, but this could not be done with Angels.

The above must be understood to be mere suppositions. Even the inferences must be taken with reservation. If the question is asked, "*Can Satan be redeemed?*"—how would you answer such a question? The very thought of redeeming Satan would seem to be out of the question since he had been in the very presence of God, Himself, as one of His chief Angels. It is obvious that Satan stopped walking in truth when he rebelled against God and hasn't walk in truth ever since (John 8:44).

#### CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Man can experience a joy that Angels cannot—the joy of redemption! What a great privilege God has given to mankind. And those who reject this redemption will be held accountable in the Day of Judgment. *"For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him...."*(Hebrews 2:2-3).



God's punishment of fallen Angels illustrates the terrible nature of sin and the depth of the ruin that it can bring upon both men and Angels. Such should cause a natural hatred of sin that has brought so much sickness, shame, sorrow, and destruction to our universe.

**REVIEW QUESTIONS**

**True or False**

- 1. There is no doubt that fallen Angels have not been offered redemption.**
- 2. The penalty for Angels sinning was immediate punishment.**
- 3. Satan is said to be the father of lies.**
- 4. Those who lie follow in the footsteps of the Devil.**
- 5. The differences between men and Angels is probably the reason for the lack of redemption of fallen Angels.**
- 6. Hebrews 2:16 definitely indicates that there is no redemption for Angels who sin.**
- 7. There is a wide difference between the sin of Angels and the sin of man.**
- 8. Fallen Angels committed what could be called a "sin unto death!"**
- 9. Silence in Scripture among redemption of Angels does not guarantee that there is no redemption for them.**
- 10. It is possible that some Angels were forgiven on repentance, while others persisted in their rebellion.**

**For taking Notes**

*Lesson Five*

***"The Origin and Nature of Satan"***

The misrepresentations and theories about Satan are many! Most of these come out of centuries of perversion of Scripture and man's unwillingness to let God's Word be the final answer to all questions. We believe that two lessons are needed in this series to help correct some of the misrepresentations and to give a true Biblical account of man's greatest enemy. We need to know how to deal with him and to have a full assurance of our victory over him.

**SATAN IS REAL!**

Does the Bible really picture the Devil as a real being or is he just evil personified? Is the concept of the Devil man's way of identifying the evil in his life? Has such a concept evolved to try to relieve man of his responsibility for his actions?

The reality of Satan is clearly stated in Scripture! He is mentioned more than all other Angels put together. The Scripture picture him as having personality:

- a) He can speak (Matthew 4:5-6).
- b) He can sin...showing the power of choice (1 John 3:8).
- c) He has the ability to tempt (both Jesus and mankind) (Matthew 4:3).
- d) He acts to snatch the word from man's heart (Matthew 13:19).
- e) He can oppress people and possess them in a sense (Acts 10:38).
- f) He can be resisted (James 4:7)

Jesus certainly took him for real in His temptation period (Matthew 4). Jesus made it clear that the Devil and his Angels will be punished (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10). To deny the Devil's reality would of necessity require the denial of the reality of Angels as well.

**SATAN'S ORIGIN**

If Christ created all things, visible and invisible, then He created Satan! He did not create Satan, as Satan! God does not create evil, but does allow it. Rather, he created spirit beings that were holy with the power of choice (Psalm 148:2-5). If they chose to do evil, then sin would enter into the universe. The same would be true with man. He was created perfect, sinless, holy, but with the power of choice. He chose to do evil and caused sin to enter into man's world. God created the man, but not the evil! Some Angels chose to rebel against God and were cast out from God's presence (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6). The Devil is identified with these fallen Angels (Matthew 25:41). He is identified as being a sinner from before the beginning of man's world. What other conclusion could be drawn than that Satan is a fallen Angel, but evidently their leader.

The Devil cannot be eternal, co-existent with God. There would then no longer be “one” God, but two distinct Gods! That would make both good and evil eternal. Then, who would determine which is the “good guy” and the “bad guy?” The One True God of Heaven is pictured to us as “The Eternal One”—the only One! He is the One who determines who is good and bad.

#### SATAN’S FALL DESCRIBED

The inspired Prophets of the Old Testament could foretell coming events in history. As one reads some of these prophecies, we are made to wonder if there might be a dual purpose for them. There are two passages in the Old Testament that tell of the judgment of God against two different kings; but when you try to understand what is said, there seems to be more involved than the judgment of the kings. Many commentators leave towards the idea of what is being said of these kings could also be said of Satan and his fall. The idea being that the kings were so evil that they reminded God of Satan and thus the comparison was made. Be your own judge as you read and evaluate the two passages below.

**EZEKIEL 28:11-19.** Look at the descriptions given:

- a) A being that was perfect (who had the seal of perfection on him).
- b) He was full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.
- c) He was in Eden, the Garden of God.
- d) He was the anointed guardian Cherub placed in the Garden by God.
- e) He walked on the holy mountain of God (a term often used by Jehovah when speaking of heaven).
- f) He was blameless in his ways from the day God created him until unrighteousness was found in him.
- g) He was cast from the mountain of God, because he was found to be profane, sinful.
- h) His heart was lifted up because of his beauty, and he corrupted his wisdom because of his splendor/brightness.

“Lucifer” in Isaiah 14:12-14 means “shining one” or “day star.” If both of these passages are describing Satan’s fall (as well as these two kings’ fall), then Satan’s fall (and the evil Angels along with him) could have occurred in the Garden of Eden. It is possible that Satan was the Guardian Cherub that God placed in the Garden to protect Adam and Eve. Because of his jealousy of God, he betrayed the trust he was given and used the opportunity to tempt Adam and Eve to bring about the fall of mankind. (An interesting conclusion—theory?).

**ISAIAH 14:12-21.** Look at the descriptions given:

- a) He was described as the star of the morning or the son of the dawn.
- b) He said in his heart, I will ascend to heaven, I will raise my throne above the stars of God.

- c) He also said that he would sit on the mount of assembly.
- d) He desired to ascend above the heights of the clouds and make himself like the Most High.

Is this also a description of Satan's sin against God—to become his own god like the True God of Heaven. 1 Timothy 3:6 would seem to indicate that he fell because of pride. He wanted, not to be like God in the good sense, but to replace God and become god, himself. Satan is obviously identified with the rulers of this world. The fall of these rulers could easily be a re-enactment of Satan's own fall.

#### NAMES GIVEN TO SATAN

Someone has counted at least some 40 different terms that are used to identify Satan. Some of these terms seem to be used as names, while some are used as descriptions of Satan as a personal being. Some terms also describe his work. The following is a brief list of the better known ones:

**Satan.** Abaddon in Hebrew; Apollyon in Greek. It means "Destroyer." Used 35 times.

**Devil.** Diabolos. It means "Accuser, Slanderer, Deceiver, Defamer."

**Beelzebub.** It means "Prince of Demons."

**Dragon.** The devourer.

**Serpent.** This comes from Satan's use of the serpent in the Garden of Eden.

**The evil one.** This is used as the opposite of the Holy One. It indicates one that is fully given to evil.

**Belial.** It means "Worthless, Wicked." It is the opposite of God who is good and righteous.

**Prince of this World.** One who rules over and has followers.

**Liar, father of lies.** As opposed to truth. He is the beginning of all lies.

**Murderer.** He was this from the beginning...illustrated in Cain's killing of Abel. He has ever been such.....especially in the line of the Messiah.

#### CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

The terms that identify Satan vividly reveal him as being an enemy of both God and man. We must realize that evil and wickedness is here because both Angels and men chose such, not God. Satan is pictured as the leader of this rebellion against God. Therefore, all who rebel against God are under his leadership. While our curiosity may not be satisfied about some questions about Satan, God has given us ample information about our arch-enemy and the danger of his efforts to turn us from God that we should be able, with God's help, to deal successfully with him and his wiles. Jesus said we cannot serve two masters—we need to make the choice to be on one side or the other. Which side are you on?

REVIEW QUESTIONS

True or False

- \_\_\_ 1. We need not be concerned about our disobedience to God.
- \_\_\_ 2. Hell was created for Satan and his rebellious Angels.
- \_\_\_ 3. Spirit beings can exist without a physical body.
- \_\_\_ 4. Satan is the personification of evil.
- \_\_\_ 5. The actions attributed to Satan proves that he is a real being.
- \_\_\_ 6. Satan, as Satan, is a created being.
- \_\_\_ 7. Satan is a being that will never cease to be.
- \_\_\_ 8. Satan is much like God in power, presence, and knowledge.
- \_\_\_ 9. Satan can be at all places at once like God.
- \_\_\_ 10. Lucifer or Day Star may be an original name for Satan.
- \_\_\_ 11. There are possibly 40 or more terms that are used to identify Satan and his efforts.
- \_\_\_ 12. Satan is called the “Prince of Demons” because he is the leader of the Demons.
- \_\_\_ 13. All who rebel against God are under Satan’s leadership.
- \_\_\_ 14. Satan’s fall is described in Ezekiel 28:11-19 and Isaiah 14:12-21.

*Lesson Six*

***"The Work of Satan"***

*"The Devil made me do it!"* Yes or No? It is very vital how you answer this question. Much is in the balances over this issue. Why would someone say "YES" to this question?

- 1) Would it be based on the "Demon Possession" during the time of Christ on earth? Demons were allowed to forced their will upon some people. The people were not responsible for the wicked actions that they committed because they were possessed. This is indicated by the story of the man who had the Demons cast out and afterwards the ***"man was dressed, and in his right mind."*** (Luke 8:35). It is important to realize that these events seem to have been exceptions to the rule, not the rule.
- 2) Or, would it be influenced by the desire not to be responsible for one's actions? This has been the common fault of mankind—wanting the privilege of choice, but not wanting to be responsible for shouldering the outcome of those choices. If we are honest with ourselves, we know that we are responsible.

We believe that the answer to the question must be a strong "NO!" While there might have been a few exceptional cases in Jesus' day, we do not believe that such things exist today. The Devil does not and cannot work this way today.

**CAN SATAN FORCE HIS WILL ON MANKIND TODAY?**

If Satan can force his will on men today, then so can God! If the Devil can make me do something, then I am no longer responsible. I become a tool of Satan against my will. I have no control. But the same thing could be said of God. I become His tool against my will. I have no control. I am therefore no longer responsible. But there are multitudes of Scriptures that point out that man is a responsible being. Judgment Day says it loud and clear (2 Corinthians 5:10). The concept of reward and punishment make it very clear that man is responsible. Satan is not allowed to force me to do what I do not want to do.

We need to see that Satan has tried to be identified like God and His works, but they are in reality counterfeit by comparison. The following might serve to illustrate:

- 1) God has a throne....so does Satan.
- 2) God has Angels.....so does Satan.
- 3) God desires men to love and serve Him.....so does Satan.
- 4) God reigns.....so does Satan.

It seems that what God does, Satan wants to do. If God works direct, so does Satan. If God works indirectly, so does Satan. But Satan is obviously limited in

what he can do (Job 1:1-7), because he is not God! We again say, that “Demon Possession” was not only not the rule, but exceptions to the rule, but that God does not allow Satan to work that way since the first century. We would conclude then that neither God, nor the Devil, work direct on mankind today, but indirectly to influence and effect men’s lives.

1) God’s indirect approach to man:

- a) By the use of His written Word to influence & affect us.
- b) By the writings of men correctly based on the Word of God to influence us.
- c) By the lives and activities of righteous people.
- d) By the use of good events.
- e) etc.

2) The Devil’s indirect approach to man:

- a) He uses the things written down also:
  - The works of Atheists, Infidels, False Teachers, Lies, Fables, etc.
  - The accumulation of such works through the centuries.
  - False religious books, etc.
- b) He uses TV, Pornography, Lewdness, etc.
- c) He uses the lives and activities of unrighteous people to influence us.
  - He even uses parents & friends who do not know the truth.
  - Job’s wife....”*Curse God and die.*”
  - Eve gave to her husband and he ate of it knowingly.
- d) He uses bad events to hinder us.
  - God allowed bad events to happen in Job’s life.
  - But Satan was not allowed to coerce or force invasion into Job’s mind.

**SOME “WILES” OF THE DEVIL**

Satan has his wiles or cunning devices to attempt to turn men away from serving God and come into his service. Following are three basic means that he is able to use.

1. **Deception.** He is the great deceiver of mankind (Revelation 12:9; 2 Corinthians 4:4). In the first place, man can deceive himself (James 1:22). His own prejudices can lead him to believe something not to be true that is true or something false to be true (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12). This deception can also be by others who are already dupes of the Devil. They are already in his service doing his bidding. He uses them to accomplish his ends of deceiving us by wrong teaching or by reading their lies and accepting them. This deception can also be by the lives and influences of unrighteous people—peer pressure to conform



(1 Corinthians 15:33). The prosperity of the wicked causes many to doubt God. This deception can be by lies. The Devil is the father of lies (John 8:44). God has the truth—one doctrine! Satan has many lies—many different doctrines and can use anyone that suits him. He is subtle in his use of these things and beguiling mankind by his trickery (2 Corinthians 11:3, 13-15). This deception can be by perversion also (Galatians 1:6-9). He can use the Word of God, but does it deceitfully (1 Thessalonians 2:3). He pretends to be a defender of God's Word, but in reality he perverts it (Mark 7:8-9). He causes people to think they do God service when they kill the true believer (John 16:2-3). But...Satan does not force his way into our minds, we must voluntarily let him in.

2. **Accusation.** Satan is the accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10). He brings those accusation before God as he points out that all men have sinned and violated God's law. The law demands punishment for such. So, if you are God and tell the truth, then carry out your threat! Satan can no longer bring such accusations before God, because of what Christ has done. God's plan to redeem man was just and upheld His Law. Christ paid the price for man so that man could be set free. But Satan does not want to hear such. God's forgiveness of man has been justly provided (Romans 3:23-26). But Satan would still like to get us to doubt this—to question and doubt my salvation, even though I have done God's will. He wants me to see my guiltiness and give up. He even wants to use others to point out my sinfulness to cause me to quit, but he is not allowed to force his way into my mind.
3. **Temptation.** Satan uses temptation to lure us away from serving God (1 Thessalonians 3:5). The Devil tempted Jesus face to face, but he is not allowed to do this with us, nor in our minds directly. Satan uses every other means at his disposal to tempt us—and he has plenty of them today. His temptations have validity because of what is within us (James 1:13-14; 1 John 2:15-17; 1 Corinthians 10:13). In Acts 5:3, how did Satan fill his heart to lie to the Holy Spirit? If he did it directly, then was Ananias responsible? How did Satan do it? He was drawn away of his own lust and enticed and was punished justly. In John 13:2, did Satan invade Judas' heart without his consent? No, the problem was Judas' own heart (John 12:6). Does 1 Peter 5:8 indicate that Satan can literally devour us against our will? How does Satan cast some into prison (Revelation 2:10)? Does he do it directly or is it done to the Christians through his dupes?

#### CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Many do not realize that we are in a battle to the death! To teach that God's people cannot fall from grace is blinded ignorance of Scripture and common sense. Satan knows better and is diligently after the followers of Christ. If God's

people could not fall, then he would just be beating the air vainly. God has given us the means with which to fight this great battle successfully (Ephesians 6:10-18). We need very much to know about and make use of this armor that God has provided. Our greatest assurance is in our faith (1 Peter 1:3-5)! We are fully assured of God's love for us (Romans 8:38-39), and we also know that we can resist Satan and he will flee from us (James 4:7).

**REVIEW QUESTIONS**

**True or False**

- 1. Man cannot be a responsible being if Satan can force his will on us.**
- 2. We are either a tool of Satan willingly or unwillingly.**
- 3. God and Satan use very similar means to try to influence men.**
- 4. Judgment Day is assured to man through the resurrection of Jesus that makes us accountable.**
- 5. Satan is limited in power, presence, and knowledge.**
- 6. God has One Doctrine, Satan has many different Doctrines he can use.**
- 7. Satan can transform himself into an angel of light.**
- 8. Satan cannot accuse God of anything.**
- 9. God does not uphold his Law when he forgives the sins of mankind.**
- 10. Satan directly entered into the mind of Ananias and made him lie to the Holy Spirit.**



