

**CBC Sunday School**  
**Angels and Demons: Demon Basics**  
**March 26, 2023**

“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them.” C. S. Lewis, The Screwtape Letters

## **I. Discussion**

1 Corinthians 6:3 says that we are to judge angels. What is Paul talking about?

## **II. Where Did Satan and Demons Come From?**

### **A. Satan and Demons Created Good**

1. Genesis 1:31 – God saw that all of creation was good.
2. James 1:17 – God creates all that is good – it is inconceivable He would make evil.

### **B. The Possibility of the Corruption of Goodness**

1. Created Goodness Is Corruptible
  - a. God is infinite in His goodness. His goodness cannot change or be corrupted.
  - b. However, created goodness is finite. It can change, and be corrupted. Created goodness has the potential for corruption into evil.
2. Evil Is the Misuse of Good
  - a. God is fully good, and has existed eternally. So, goodness has existed eternally. Evil, however, has not existed eternally. It had an origin. It is finite.
  - b. Thus, evil and sin have a derivative existence. They are derivations of (and deviations from) the good that has already existed. They have no existence in and of themselves.
  - c. Evil is not a positive thing or quality in itself. Rather, it is the absence, misuse, or corruption of goodness.
  - d. Satan and his demons are limited beings who have sought or taken what is good and misused it through inappropriate desire and action (similar to humanity's desire and taking of what was not for them).

### **C. The Initial Fall of Satan and Demons**

1. Timing
  - a. Genesis 1:1 – God created “the heavens and the earth,” which is a way of saying that God created everything. All angelic beings must have been made sometime following Genesis 1:1.
  - b. Genesis 1:2 – The earth was without form and void. Some have proposed a “gap” between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2, wherein a proto-earth was created and destroyed over millions of years, and then recreated in the creation week of

Genesis 1. Some supposed that during this time, Satan and demons fell. This theory, however, lacks biblical support.

- c. Genesis 1:31 – On the sixth day, God saw all He had made, and it was good.
- d. Genesis 2:1 – Before seventh day, heavens and earth were completed, and all their “hosts” (may be a reference to heavenly beings).
- e. Genesis 3:1 – Introduction of the serpent. So, it seems somewhere between the close of the creation week, and the temptation of Adam and Eve, Satan and his demons fell into corruption.

## 2. Biblical Descriptions?

- a. Isaiah 14:12-23 (King of Babylon)
  - i. “Shining one” who wants to be like the Most High.
- b. Ezekiel 28:12-19 (King of Tyre)
  - i. One who has a “seal of perfection” and is “full of wisdom and beauty” and “dwells on the mountain of God.”
- c. Descriptions of Satan and his fall?
  - i. These seem to be descriptions of someone beyond a mere human.
  - ii. It might make sense to see these as describing Satan before his fall.
- d. Arguments against this reading:
  - i. The context of both passages clearly indicates these are human kings. See Isaiah 14:4; 31:1, 19 and Ezekiel 28:1, 12.
  - ii. See also Ezekiel 27, which is about the judgement of the city. It would make sense that Ezekiel 28 is about the human king of that city.
  - iii. The judgment in both passages comes in the form of death (Isaiah 14:18-20; Ezekiel 28:18), and Satan did not die in his judgment, in his “fall.”
  - iv. It was common in these times and contexts to speak of kings in a deified manner, as possessing the image of the gods. God is using this language, even mockingly, to describe these kings with exalted images, and how they will be taken low in judgment.

## D. Why Has God Allowed the Existence of Satan and Demons?

### III. Characteristics of Satan and Demons

#### A. Personal Beings

- 1. Intelligence
  - a. Mark 1:14, 34 – Demons knew Jesus was the Holy One.
  - b. Matthew 8:28-29 – They know of their future torment.
- 2. Emotion
  - a. Matthew 8:28-29 – They fear the torment Jesus might bring upon them.
  - b. James 2:19 – Demons’ belief in God makes them tremble.
- 3. Will
  - a. 2 Peter 2:4 – Angels sinned and were judged, implying volition and will.
  - b. Mark 8:31 – Demons wished to be sent into the heard of swine.

#### B. Spiritual Beings

1. Matthew 25:41 – Hell is prepared for the devil and his angels.
2. Mark 1:23 – They are unclean spirits.
3. Revelation 12:9 – The dragon is thrown down to earth with his angels.
4. Ephesians 6:12 – Our battle is against spiritual forces of wickedness.

#### C. Evil

##### 1. Wicked and Unclean

- a. Matthew 10:1; Mark 1:23; Luke 7:21 – They are “unclean” and “evil” spirits.
- b. Ephesians 6:12 – They spiritual forces of wickedness.

##### 2. Doctrinally Corrupt and Deceitful

- a. 1 Timothy 4:1-3 – They are called “deceitful spirits,” and those who pay attention to them pay attention to false doctrines.
- b. James 3:15-16 – Demonic wisdom is wisdom leading to jealousy and arrogance.
- c. James 2:19; Mark 1:24; Luke 8:28 – They rightly understand there is one God and that Jesus is the Christ, yet they lead people into false truth.

#### D. Powerful and Hurtful to Humans

1. Matthew 12:22 – Demon-possessed man was blind and dumb.
2. Matthew 17:14-18 – Demon-possessed boy was crazed, falling into the fire.
3. Mark 5:1-5 – Demoniak tore apart shackles meant to restrain him, and cried out among the tombs and gashed himself with stones.
4. Acts 19:14-16 – Evil spirit lead upon seven men and subdued all of them and overpowered them, causing them to flee naked and wounded.

### IV. Activities of Satan and Demons

#### A. Demons Serve Satan and Advance His Purposes

1. Matthew 12:24 – Satan (or Beelzebul) is the ruler of the demons.
2. Matthew 25:41; Revelation 12:7-9 – Demons are Satan’s “angels.”
3. Ephesians 6:11-12 – Spiritual forces of wickedness carry out schemes of the devil.
4. Revelation 16:13-14 – Demons proceed from the dragon, going to war with God.

#### B. Promote Idolatry and Worship of Demons

1. Leviticus 17:7; Deuteronomy 32:17 – Some make sacrifices to demons.
2. Psalm 106:34-39 – Some sacrifice sons and daughters to demons.
3. 1 Corinthians 10:20 – Gentiles sacrifice to demons.
4. Revelation 9:20 – Some worship demons and idols.

#### C. Promote Falsehood and Deception

##### 1. Teaching

- a. 1 Timothy 4:1-3 – Some follow false teaching of demons: deceiving spirits.
- b. 1 John 4:1-4 – We are to test the spirits, as not all are from God.

## 2. Signs and Wonders

- a. Revelation 13:12-15; 16:12-14 – Beast(s) and demonic spirits perform signs.
- b. Matthew 24:24 – False prophets perform signs and wonders so as to deceive.
- c. 2 Thessalonians 2:8-10 – Lawless one will display signs and wonders, that serve the lie.

## D. Possess and/or Control Individuals

### 1. Mental and Physical Control and Affliction

- a. Mark 5:1-4 – Gashing self with stones.
- b. Matthew 9:32 – Dumbness.
- c. Matthew 12:22 – Blindness.
- d. Matthew 17:15 – Lunacy.
- e. Luke 13:11 – Deformity.
- f. Matthew 17:14-18 – Throwing self into fire and water.

### 2. Demon Possession and Believers

- a. We are temples of the Holy Spirit and citizens of the kingdom of God.
  - i. Romans 8:14-17
  - ii. Galatians 4:4-6
  - iii. Colossians 1:13
  - iv. 1 John 3:7-9
- b. Possession involves the control of a person's mind, will, and behavior.
  - i. Thus, it seems impossible a demon could completely control a believer, who is inhabited by the Holy Spirit.
- c. Believers may be oppressed by Satan or a demon.
  - i. 2 Corinthians 12:7 – Paul's thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan.
  - ii. This seems to fall short of the possessions Jesus encountered.
  - iii. It is worth noting that for Paul, the chief enemy is our own "flesh," which receives far more consideration in the epistles.
- d. We will talk more about this in the next lesson.

## V. The Fate of Satan and Demons

### A. Defeat

#### 1. Already Secured by Christ

- a. John 12:31 – The ruler of this world has been judged.
- b. Colossians 2:15 – By the cross, Christ disarmed the rulers and authorities.
- c. Hebrews 2:14 – Through death, Christ rendered powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.
- d. 1 John 3:8 – The Son of God appeared to destroy the work of the devil.

#### 2. Awaiting Fulfillment

- a. Romans 16:20 – The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.
- b. Revelation 12:7-17 – The dragon will be (has been?) cast down to earth.
- c. Revelation 20:7-10 – At the end of the millennium, Satan will be judged and cast into the lake of fire.

## B. Judgment and Condemnation

### 1. Salvation Unavailable

- a. Hebrews 2:16 – He does not give help to angels, but he gives help to the descendants of Abraham.

### 2. Bound until Judgment

- a. 2 Peter 2:4 – God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell... to be kept until the judgment.
- b. Jude 6 – And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority... he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day.
- c. Revelation 20:1-3 – Satan is bound and thrown into the abyss during the millennium (presumably with demons as well).
- d. Luke 8:31 – Demons request that Jesus not cast them into the abyss, presumably because they know that this is their fate.

### 3. Judged by Christians

- a. 1 Corinthians 6:3 – Do you not know that we shall judge angels?

### 4. Final Condemnation

- a. Matthew 25:41 – Eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.
- b. Revelation 20:10 – The devil was thrown into lake of fire and brimstone, where they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.