

Systematic Theology

Week 14 – Angels and Demons

2 Tim 2:15 - “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

Angelology:

1. God’s Holy Angels
2. Satan
3. Demons
4. The Angel of the Lord

1) God’s Holy Angels:

- Angel - *mal’akh* (Hebrew) – used 213 in OT
- It literally means “messenger,” “envoy,” or “ambassador”
- It could be human or non-human
- Context is the key!

- Angel – *angelos* (Greek) – used 176 in the NT
- Also, literally means “messenger,” “envoy,” or “ambassador”
- It could be human or non-human
- Again, context is the key!

Their Appearances:

- Gen. 3 – The cherubim in the Garden of Eden
- Gen. 6 – The sons of God (quite possibly demons – see 2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6)
- Gen. 16 - The Angel of the Lord visited Hagar
- Gen. 19 – Two angels visited Lot in Sodom
- Mentioned from Gen. 3 – Rev. 22
 - Angels visit people more than a couple dozen people in the OT and at least 16 times in the NT!

Their Characteristics:

1. Angels are very intelligent beings:
 - 2 Sam 14:20 – “But my lord is wise, **like the wisdom of the angel of God**, to know all that is in the earth.”
2. Angels can communicate with humans:
 - Luke 2:14 – “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.”
3. Angels can display emotions:
 - Luke 15:10 – “In the same way, I tell you, there is **joy** in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”
 - c.f. Heb. 1:6; Rev. 12:7

4. Angels have the ability to choose:
 - Rev. 12:4 – “And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth.”
5. Angels are finite creatures, bound by space and time:
 - They are not omniscient like God (Isa. 46:10)
 - They are not omnipresent like God (Ps. 139:7-10)
6. Angels cannot reproduce after their own kind:
 - Matt. 22:30 – “For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, **but are like angels in heaven.**”
7. Angels were created at the very beginning of creation:
 - Job 38:6-7 – “On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone, 7 When **the morning stars** sang together and all **the sons of God** shouted for joy?”

Names for Angels in the Bible:

Specific Names:

Michael:

- Jude 9 – the archangel
- Dan. 10:13 – one of the chief princes

Gabriel: “mighty one of God”

- Dan. 8:16; 9:21; Lk 1:19, 26
- His Purpose: reveal God’s ultimate plan of judgement and redemption to Daniel and Mary

Specific types:

- Cherubim – protectors, guardians (Satan is a fallen cherub! – Ezek. 28:14, 16; Gen. 3:24)
- Seraphim – “burning ones” - Isa. 6:3
- Living Creatures – display characteristics of both Cherubim and Seraphim – Ezek. 1:5-14; Rev. 4:8-9; 19:4)
- Hosts – ready soldiers – Matt. 26:53; Heb. 12:22; Rev. 5:11

The Purpose of Angels: **To worship and glorify the Lord!**

- By proclaiming God’s holiness (Isa. 6:3)
- By delivering God’s messages (Dan. 8:16; Lk 1:19)
- By administering judgment to wicked people (Gen. 19; Matt. 13:27-30)
- By administering judgment to fallen angels (Rev. 12:7-8; 20:1-2)
- By protecting believers (Heb. 1:14)
- By protecting the church (1 Tim. 5:21)
- By ministering to Christ (Matt. 4:11)

2) Satan:

His names:

- Abaddon (Job 26:6)
- The accuser (Zech. 3:1)

- The adversary (1 Pet. 5:8)
- The angel of the bottomless pit (Rev. 9:11)
- Apollyon (Rev. 9;11)
- Beelzebub (Matt. 12:24)
- Belial (2 Cor. 6:15)
- The devil (Matt. 4:1)
- Satan – his names:
- The dragon (Isa. 27:1; Rev. 12:3)
- The enemy (Matt. 13:25)
- The evil one (Matt. 5:37)
- The father of lies (John 8:44)
- The god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4)
- Leviathan (Isa. 27:1)
- Lucifer (Isa. 14:12)
- The murderer (1 Ki. 22:22-23)
- Satan – His Names:
- The prince of demons (Matt. 9:34)
- The prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2)
- The ruler of this world (John 12:31);
- Satan (Matt. 4:10)
- The serpent (Gen. 3:1)
- The strong man (Matt. 12:29)
- The tempter (1 Thess. 3:5)

His appearances:

- OT – 11 times
- NT – 14 times

His agenda: to thwart the plans of God by trying to deceive people. **(The Christian’s best defense is to put on the full armor of God! Eph. 6:10-20).**

His strategy: disguising himself as an angel of light

- 2 Cor. 11:14-15 – “No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.”

His abilities: his power is unmatched among all created beings

- Isa. 14:12 - “the star of the morning,” – lit. “the shining one;” “the son of the dawn!”
- Ezek. 28:12 - “had the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty, the anointed cherub who guards.”
- 2 Cor. 4:4 – “the god of this world [who] has blinded the minds of the unbelieving...”
- John 14:30 – “the ruler of the world”

His abilities: do NOT even compare with God's own abilities

- He is strong, but he is not omnipotent!
- He is fast, but he is not omnipresent!
- He is smart, but he is not omniscient!
- Job 1:6-8 – “Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. 7 **The Lord said to Satan**, “From where do you come?” Then Satan answered the Lord and said, “From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it. 8 **The Lord said to Satan**, “**Have you considered My servant Job?** For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil.”
 - Who is initiating the conversation???

Satan's Judgments:

1. His original judgment took place before the fall even began in the garden of Eden
 - Isa. 14:15 – “Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit.” (c.f. Ezek. 28:16)
 - As he fell, he took 1/3 of the angels with him
 - Rev. 12:4 – “And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth.”
2. The Garden of Eden (Gen 3)
 - Gen. 3:15 – “And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her **seed**; **He** shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.”
3. Satan's Calvary Judgment
 - Biblical Doctrine: “The centerpiece of Satan's sentence will forever be the cross. While Satan would continue on earth long after calvary, his attempts to spiritually murder the whole human race had been thwarted by the Savior, and a redemptive remedy in Christ had been provided.”
4. Satan's Tribulation Judgment (Rev. 12:7-13)
 - Satan and his fallen angels will be banished from the presence of God in heaven
 - This will occur at the midpoint of the tribulation (Rev. 12:14)
5. Satan's Millennial Judgment (Rev. 20:1-3):
 - Satan will be bound for 1,000 years in the bottomless pit
 - He will no longer be “the ruler of this world”
6. Satan's Eternal Judgment
 - Rev. 20:10 – “And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”

3) Demons:

- Mentioned 16 times in the OT
 - They are described as: demons, spirits, or unclean spirits
- Mentioned over 100 times in the NT
 - They are described at length from the gospels until the book of Revelation
- Like Satan, they are finite creatures who have limitations of power, space, and knowledge

- Like angels, they seem to have a hierarchy of structure when it comes to roles.
 - For details, see Rom. 8:38, 1 Cor. 15:24; Eph. 2:2, 6:12; Col. 2:15, etc.

Demons' Power:

1. Indwell Humans and animals (Mark 5:1-16)
2. Physically afflict people (Mark 9:17, 22)
3. Terrorize humans (1 Sam. 16:14-15; 18:10; 19:9; Acts 19:13-16; 2 Cor 12:7)
4. Initiate false worship (1 Cor. 10:20-21)
5. Promote false doctrines (1 Tim. 4:1)
6. Perform false signs and wonders (2 Thess. 2:9; Rev. 16:13-14)
7. Deceive prophets (1 Ki. 22:19-23)
8. Encourage idolatry (Deut. 32:17; Ps. 106:37)
9. Engineer death (Judg. 9:23-24; 56-57)

Demons' Vulnerabilities:

1. They unwittingly serve God's purposes (Judg. 9:23)
2. They were terrified of Christ and the gospel (Mt. 8:29; Mk. 1:24; Jam. 2:19)
3. They obeyed Christ (Mt. 8:32)
4. They obeyed the 12 (Mt. 10:1-8) and the 72 (Lk. 10:17-20)
5. They cannot separate believers in Christ from the love of God (Rom. 8:38)
6. They can be restrained by the Holy Spirit (2 Thess. 2:6; 1 John 4:4)
7. They have been judged already by God (Rev. 20:10)

Demon Possession:

Can a believer be possessed by a demon? The answer to this is "NO" for the following reasons:

1. Salvation speaks of a true and genuine "rescue" from the bondages of Satan and his kingdom (Col. 1:13).
2. Salvation means that "you have overcome the evil one" (1 John 2:13, 14)
3. Salvation means that you are no longer "bound together" with forces of darkness (2 Cor. 6:14-18)
4. The seal of the Holy Spirit protects Christians from demonic invasion (2 Cor. 21-22; Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30).
5. 1 John 5:18 – "We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him, **and the evil one does not touch him.**"

Therefore, we can know that demons can **externally** torment, oppress, and harass the believer (see Paul – 2 Cor. 12:7), but a true believer **can never** be indwelt or possessed by a demon.

Demon's Judgements:

- Their end fate will be the same as that of their leader's fate, Satan

4) The Angel of the Lord:

Who is the Angel of the Lord? Possible suggestions:

1. He is a special, high-ranking angel from heaven, like Michael the archangel.
2. He is Melchizedek, the king of Salem and mysterious high priest in Gen. 14:18.
3. He is YHWH Himself, a theophany, or self-manifestation of the Lord.
4. He is the Preincarnate Christ, or Jesus before He takes on flesh in the NT.

The answer: He is Jesus Christ before He ultimately appears in the flesh in the New Testament to come and die for our sins!

The Angel of the Lord is Jesus preincarnate because:

1. Scripture equates the Angel of the Lord with the Lord Himself
 - Gen. 16:10 – “I will greatly multiply your descendants so that they will be too many to count.”
 - Gen. 22:12 – “Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from **Me**.”
 - Gen. 32:24-30; 48:15-16; Exo. 32:34; Num. 22:35; Judg. 6:11-16; 13:21-23; Hos. 12:4, etc.
2. He exhibits qualities, or characteristics, that can only be associated with God
 - Gen. 48:16 - redeems people from evil
 - Exo. 23:21 – can pardon people’s sins
 - Josh. 5:15 – gladly receives worship and exalts His own holiness
3. The Angel of the Lord and the Lord Himself are seen as 2 distinct Persons
 - Exo. 23:20-23 – YHWH sends the Angel to protect Israel
 - Zech. 1:12-13 – the Angel of the Lord and YHWH have a conversation
4. The Angel of the Lord NEVER appears in the NT!
 - That’s because he “became flesh” as John says in John 1:14

Conclusion:

What is God’s purpose for creating angels, including Satan and his demons?

- He created them for His glory!! (Job 38:7; Ps. 19:1)
- He created them to reveal His perfect plan!

Rev. 5:11-14 - “Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.” 13 And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, “To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.” 14 And the four living creatures kept saying, “Amen.” And the elders fell down and worshiped.”

The question is: Will you be there, too?