

A Study of Angels and Demons
Lesson 1 – The need and scope of our study
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Introduction: God's word is a revelation of things God wants men to know.

- A. We often overlook things that are commonly spoken of in the Bible. Consider the wicked beings inhabiting the spiritual realm. **(Eph 6:11-13)**
 - 1. What does God want us to know about the “spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places?”
 - 2. We must identify and reject “doctrines of demons.” What can we know about this process? **(1 Tim 4:1-2)**
- B. What should we know about angels?
 - 1. The delivery of the Old Testament involved angels. God wants us to know this! **(Heb 2:2-3)**
 - 2. The knowledge of the existence and active work of angels is to provide great comfort to a Christian living in a hostile, uncertain world. **(Mt 18:10)**
 - 3. Christians are motivated to hospitality because of the possible meeting with angels. **(Heb 13:2)**

I. Where did Satan, demons and angels come from?

- A. The origin of Satan.
 - 1. **Satan** - Σατανᾶς, ᾰ, ὁ - literally *Adversary*, the constant enemy of God and man, a supernatural evil being (MT 16.23; 1TH 2.18).
 - 2. **The Devil** - διάβολος, ον slanderous (2T 3.3); substantivally ὁ δ. *the slanderer*; predominately, as a specific name for Satan as the accuser *the devil* (MT 4.1)
 - 1. The Bible is very clear that all things in heaven and earth were created except God. **(Col 1:15-17)**
 - 2. Jesus is not a created being, but the creator!
 - 3. All things in the spiritual realm, both angels and demons were created.
 - 4. Did God create evil beings as evil? No. **(James 1:13, 17)**
- B. We must conclude then that Satan and the demons are fallen beings!
 - 1. **Demon** - δαιμόνιον, ου, τό (1) *heathen god, minor divinity* (AC 17.18); (2) predominately *demon, evil spirit*, regarded as a supernatural and independent being neither human nor divine (MT 7.22)
 - 2. We know that angels can sin but unlike man they have no provision for forgiveness! **(Jude 6)**
 - 3. There are verses that hint of this fall. **(Lk 10:17-18)**
 - 4. Some misapply an Old Testament passage of a king named Lucifer to the fall of Satan. **(Isa 14:12)**
- C. The origin of Angels.
 - 1. **Angel** - ἄγγελος, ου, ὁ as one sent to tell or bring a message *messenger*; (1) of persons *messenger, envoy, one sent* (MK 1.2); (2) of divine messengers and agents of God *angel* (LU 1.26); (3) of demonic powers as Satan's messengers (*evil*) *angel* (MT 25.41);

2. Context must determine if a man or a spiritual being is being described.
3. Angels were also created by God.

II. What are the roles of angels and demons?

A. God has given us a limited insight into the function of spiritual beings.

1. We are limited to what God reveals about the unseen realm.
(Jn 3:30-33; Lk 10:17-18; Jn 14:30)
2. There are many unanswered questions because God wants us to know only what we need to know! This is also true of the life of Christ and many other things!
(Jn 21:25; Deut 29:29)
3. What God want us to know is the futility of fighting Satan and his forces without the absolute dependence upon God and His power and resources provided to the Christian. **(1 Pt 5:8)**

B. Satan's role and character is both shown and described by God.

1. Satan is credited with the introduction of sin into the world.
(Gen 3:1-6; 2 Cor 11:3; Rev 12:9)
2. He is not omniscient but he is very powerful and very "wise." **(Job 1:7)**
3. He is limited by God **(Job 1:12; 2:6)**
4. He works through agents and not directly **(2 Cor 11:13-15)**
5. Being evil Satan follows no rules! He majors in lies by pretending to "help you" while in truth wanting to destroy you! **(Jn 8:43-44)**
6. A religious body, church, synagogue can be a church of Satan! **(Rev 2:9)**
7. Demons simply function under the direction of Satan.

C. Angels function as ministering beings directed by God.

1. They have a beginning but they will not die. **(Lk 20:36)**
2. Angels have a greater power and place than man. **(Heb 2:6-7)**
3. We have a great advantage over angels in that we have God's help. **(Heb 2:16)**
4. Angels have great strength and wisdom and play a role in our salvation.
(Isa 37:36; 1 Cor 13:1; Heb 1:14)
5. Angels have a given place. **(Jude 6; 1 Cor 11:10)**
6. Angels are not to be worshiped. **(Col 2:18; Rev 22:8-9)**

Questions

1. Why does God want us to be aware of the existence of angels and demons?
2. Where did Satan come from and why is he evil? Where did demons come from?
3. How are we limited in our knowledge of angels and demons? Why is speculating beyond what is written very dangerous?
4. Describe the powers of Satan and why men should fear facing him without God.
5. What is the major characteristic of Satan? What does he want to accomplish in our lives?
6. What is the role of angels? What do they want to accomplish in our lives?
7. How does God limit angels work with men?