

"OF ANGELS & DEVILS"

TEXT: Col.1:16-17 *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*

INTRO.: A. God alone is uncreated. He has always existed. Before planet earth or any other planet, star or the universe itself...God was. He is the great "I AM." He transcends time, space & matter. He predates everything & every being.

B. God is the God of order, not chaos. Satan is a god of disorder & chaos. God has created everything & every being in the universe & each has a specific plan function & purpose and an order in the creation. Only when Satan enters the picture is that order, plan & purpose disturbed. God (Christ) has created every being to serve Him in a designated order.

I. THE ANGELS:

A. Cherubim: Ezekiel 10

1. Cherubim first show up around the throne of God in heaven, Lucifer among them. Ez.28:14-16
2. They next show up in Eden guarding the Tree of Life.
3. God commands that their likeness be reproduced on the veil of the Tabernacle & Temple & also over the Ark of the Covenant.

B. Seraphim: Is.6:1-3

1. These beings are distinct from the Cherubim in their description, name & function.
2. They are associated w/the holiness of God.

C. Archangels:

1. While angels are innumerable, and there are at least 5 Cherubim & God only knows how many Seraphim, there are only 2 Archangels mentioned in Script.
2. They are Michael & Gabriel.

C. Holy Angels:

1. We have been studying the nature & purpose & ministry of the holy angels.
2. They not only serve God, but they also serve the saints.

D. Fallen Angels:

1. When Satan fell he apparently led 1/3 of the holy angels in rebellion against God (misery loves company!).

Rev.12:3-4 *And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. 4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.*

2. Not only are the holy angels organized into ranks & orders, but it appears that the fallen angels who are not chained in the pit, are likewise organized.

Eph.6:11 *Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

3. God was not caught "off guard" by their rebellion & fall & made arrangements for their judgment & punishment.

1 Cor.6:3 *now ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?*

Mt.25:41 *Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:*

ILLUS.: We know that the angels were present at the creation of the universe & that they were created as holy beings. They were not robots however, & had a will & rebelled against their Creator. Many were **"cast down to hell, and delivered...into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment."** 1 Pet.2:4

Jude also states that **"the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day (GWT?)."** v.6 And in nv.7 we learn that these angels will suffer **"the vengeance of eternal fire."**

It may be that not all the fallen angels are bound. Some believe that scores of unholy or fallen angels are loose doing Satan's bidding now & will assist him in the Tribulation Period. Some believe that fallen angels & demons (or **"devils"**) are one & the same. (Stay tuned)

II. THE DEVIL:

A. Lucifer, the Anointed Cherub:

Ezek.28:14 *Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. 15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. 16 By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. 17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.*

ILLUS.: Lucifer means "shining one" but the new Bibles call him "the morning star." That is a title for our Savior!

Is.14:12 *How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! (KJB)*

Is.14:12 *How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! (NIV)*

B. Satan, The Arch Devil:

1. We are not to be "ignorant of his devices." 2 Cor.2:11
2. We are not to be ignorant of his "wiles." Eph.6:11
 - a. His "devices" & "wiles" include...lukewarmness,
 - b. Unholy passions,
 - c. Deception about sin.
 - d. Deception about serving God.
 - e. Deception about wealth.
 - f. Suicide.
 - g. Compromise in church leadership., etc., etc.
3. We are also to put on the whole armor of God, give him no place, resist him, be sober & vigilant, overcome him by the Word & by the blood by our testimony.

III. THE DEVILS (DEMONS): (The word "demon" is never used in the King James Bible)

A. Who Are They?

1. Some believe they are simply "fallen angels" - but if so, why the change in terminology?
2. The KJB uses **"devils"** instead of "demons" underscoring their close association w/the Devil, Satan.
3. They are also called **"unclean spirits," "deceiving spirits," "wicked spirits," & "spirit of divination."**
4. If they are fallen angels, how could a **"legion"** (3000 to 6000!) inhabit one persons body?! Mark 5:9

ILLUS.: Demons seem to be very small, locust-like creatures which can infest human beings and animals. Angels are man-like beings which often can even go unnoticed among humans. (Satan is called Beelzebub, "the lord of the flies").

Angels seemingly have the ability to cohabit w/humans, whereas demons must inhabit their bodies. Cf. Gen.6

B. When Were They Created?

1. They were obviously created in the distant past, probably before the universe was created.

2. Surely they were created sinless or "innocent" until they at some point decided to rebel against God.

QUOTE: Dake: "Many kinds of demons spirits, fallen angels, and other spirit beings are mentioned in Scripture. They were originally created sinless & became fallen & unclean....God could not & did not create anything sinful. Everything in the spirit & human realms that is wicked & rebellious has become this way because of sin & free choice. Fallen angels & demons are all rebels in connection w/the planet earth."

CONCL.: There is the invisible world of microbes, bacteria, electrons, neutrons & protons, but no one questions their reality. There is also another invisible, but very real world of spirit beings, including "**ANGELS & DEVILS!**" We have in these weeks only skimmed the surface of the revelation God has given about this mysterious, interesting world. But this is a world we will all become acquainted with very personally in the future!!!!!!