

"Angels and Demons ... Where Did They Come From?"

Series: "Angels and Demons"

Pastor Wade Estes

7/4-5/09

6 p.m.; 9 & 10:45 a.m.

OPEN to Ezekiel 28:11 (**PAGE** 1330)

INTRODUCTION

Luke 10:17 "The seventy-two returned with joy and said, 'Lord, even the demons submit to us in Your name.'"

To this statement by His disciples, Jesus replied,

Luke 10:20 " ... do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in Heaven."

Jesus wants to make sure that the disciples don't become demon-focused, but rather, Heaven-focused.

The purpose of this series is not to become demon-focused or angel experts. The purpose is to help each of us to see the devil and his strategies for what they are; and to see God and His resources (including angels) for what they are.

Do angels and demons really exist?

I. Angels and Demons Are Real, Not Imaginary

C. S. Lewis, in *The Screwtape Letters* said, "There are two equal and opposite errors into which (we) 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.

(Demons) are equally pleased by both errors ... "

According to a Barna Group survey released in April 2009, about 55% of adults who clearly identify themselves "born again" believe strongly that Satan is a real, living being. That means 45% aren't sure or don't believe in a personal devil.

"According to a *Time Magazine* survey released last September, 69% of Americans said they believe in angels. However, their beliefs are very diverse: some believe them to be figments of the imagination, others believe them to be spirits of people who have died and still others believe they are merely symbolic."

The Bible teaches that both angels and demons are real.

Jesus taught the existence, reality and activity of angelic beings:

Matthew 25:41 **"Then He will say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"**

Mark 8:38 **"If anyone is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His Father's glory with the holy angels."**

Jesus Himself was strengthened by angels after 40 days and nights of fasting and fighting the devil's temptations and on the night of His greatest suffering (Luke 22:43).

With a word, Jesus broke the power of demons that had taken control of people. This happens repeatedly in the Gospels.

So we see that Jesus teaches the existence, reality and activity of angels and demons and so we have the guaranty of Christ's word for their existence. (ISBE, "Angels")

Does it matter? Does it matter that we believe in that which is real? Does it matter that we don't believe in what is real?

Example: Termites. Let's say you don't believe in termites. One day you see very small piles of sawdust on a bedroom floor. As you look for the source, you notice very, very tiny holes in your wall. Since you don't believe in termites, you start searching for other reasons for the tiny holes and small piles of sawdust ... and someone suggests you might have *Sawdust Fairies!*

So, you go on the internet and find out how to deal with *Sawdust Fairies*. It recommends leaving a plate of cookies with milk poured on top. So, you do that, but it doesn't help. So, you change brands of cookies and try low-fat milk. That doesn't help. So you try pudding ... then different flavors of pudding. This goes on for a long time.

Eventually someone brings up termites. You say you don't believe in termites. Only those crazy pesticide companies believe in termites and they're just after your money.

So, you finally give up dealing with it. You just close the door to the room and try to ignore the problem.

That's what some people do with demons ... spiritual warfare.

Is it important to believe in what exists? Yes it is!

Where did angels come from?

II. Angels Were Created By God

Colossians 1:16 "**For by Him all things were created: things in Heaven and on Earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him.**"

Psalms 148:1-2,5 "**Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD from the heavens, praise Him in the heights above.**
2 **Praise Him, all His angels, praise Him, all His heavenly hosts**

...

5 **Let them praise the name of the LORD, for He commanded and they were created.**"

Angels were created before our physical world because "they were present at the creation of the world: God says in Job 38:

"... **when I laid the Earth's foundation ... all the angels shouted for joy ...**" (4b, 7c)

God created various kinds or ranks of angels:

Angels: The word "angel" means "messenger." Angels are messengers from God to people, and that is mostly how we see them functioning in the Bible. At times they appear in human form. (Genesis 18:2,16)

Archangels: Members of the higher ranks in the heavenly host (1 Thessalonians 4:16, Jude 1:9)

There are only two verses in the Bible that use the word "archangel" and only one of the archangels is named.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 "**For the Lord Himself will come down from Heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel ...**"

Jude 1:9 "**But even the archangel Michael ...** "

But, we find out more about archangels and their special role when we look up Michael the Archangel.

Michael is the "great prince who protects" the people of Israel (Daniel 12:1)

Michael leads God's angels in victory over Satan and his demons (Revelation 12:7-8)

Seraphim: Appear to be the ones nearest God's throne, who continually praise God's holiness. (Isaiah 6)

There is only one passage in the Bible that specifically mentions *seraphs*, or *seraphim*, Isaiah 6.

Isaiah 6:2-3, 6-7: "**Above Him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3 And they were calling to one another: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole Earth is full of His glory.'**
6 Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar.
7 With it he touched my mouth and said, 'See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.'"

Seraphs are described as having "faces, feet, hands and wings. The six wings, in three pairs, covered their faces and feet in humility and reverence, and were used for sustaining them in their positions about the throne of Yahweh."

They surround the throne of God, declaring His holiness and glory night and day.

It may also be seraphim who are in Revelation chapters 4 and 5. They are called "living creatures" there, but they also declare the holiness of God day and night. (ISBE, seraphim)

Cherubim: Guardians

In Genesis 3:24 God assigns cherubim **"to guard the way to the tree of life"** in the Garden of Eden.

In various places in the OT, we read that carved representations of cherubim were in the OT tabernacle and temple: Two of them were over the top of the Arc of the Covenant.

It appears they are guardians of the means of salvation: the Tree of Life, sacrifices in the Temple and God Himself.

And, it is very interesting to know that the one we know as Satan was created by God as **"a guardian cherub."** (Ezekiel 28:14)

Angels, archangels, seraphim, cherubim; all created by God.

Angels were created by God. So what?

One thing this means is that angels are not loved ones who have passed away. People who believe this can also be deceived in to believing that they are communicating to them, appearing to them, guiding them. If that's happening to you, it's not your loved one; it's not an angel. It's a demon.

Where did Satan and demons come from?

III. Satan and Demons Were Angels Who Rebelled Against God

(Ezekiel 28:11-19)

Ezekiel 28:11-19 **"The word of the LORD came to me:**

12 **'Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: 'You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.**

13 **You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared.**

14 **You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones.**

15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you.

16 Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones.

17 Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings.

18 By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching.

19 All the nations who knew you are appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more.'""'

The best explanation is that Ezekiel is describing Satan who was the true 'king' of Tyre, the one motivating the human 'ruler' of Tyre.

v. 13: Satan was in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:1-7),

v. 14a: He was appointed by God as a "**guardian cherub.**" The cherubim were the "inner circle" of angels who guarded God's holiness. (cf. 10:1-14)

v. 14b: He also had access to God's presence (cf. Job 1:6-12).

v. 17: his chief sin was pride (cf. 1 Tim. 3:6).

v. 18: "**sins and dishonest trade,**" possibly refers to his recruiting other angels to his sinful cause.

God did not create Satan as an evil angel. Satan was a perfectly created being, blameless, – one of the crowning achievements in God's angelic realm. But, he had a free will, he became duped by his own pride, and lead a rebellion against God.

Satan spoiled his **wisdom by** becoming enamored with his **splendor** (v. 17). Satan's pride led to his fall and judgment.

At this first point of rebellion, God removed him from the position of anointed cherub before His throne. God then expelled him **from the mount of God** (Heaven, v. 16), but he still had access to God (cf. Job 1:6-12; Zech. 3:1-2).

In the Tribulation Satan will be cast from Heaven and restricted to the Earth (Rev. 12:7-13)

In the Millennium he will be in the bottomless pit (Rev. 20:1-3); and finally,

At the end of the Millennium (Rev. 20:7-9) he will be cast into the lake of fire forever (Rev. 20:10). (BKC)

IV. Satan and Demons Were Angels Who Rebelled Against God

One of the important applications that that emerges from this truth is that pride was where their rebellion began, and it is where ours can begin as well.

1 Peter 5:5: "**God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.**"

And it's interesting that another warning is aimed directly at pastors. When God talks about selecting pastors, He says,

1 Timothy 3:6: "**He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited** (*pride*) **and fall under the same judgment as the devil.**" (removed from his position)

The point? None of us is above the insidious, subtle, dangerous, sinister, sneaky work of **pride** ... the self-exalting, self-promoting, self-centered destruction that comes upon those who do not daily humble themselves before God.

CONCLUSION

Will you surrender your mind and your emotions and your will to the true God, as revealed in the Bible?

"Father God, forgive me! I have not believed Your Word. Please strengthen me! I need to walk in Your ways, not my own! And, please humble me! I need to be protected from myself! In Jesus' Name, Amen."

Next week: "**Angels and Demons ... What Can They Really Do?**"

Angels and demons are neither all-knowing nor all-powerful. But, they do have certain abilities and limitations.