

DEMONOLOGY
Message 2

INTRO: Well, we have begun to look at the subject of demons or evil spirits, or unclean spirits. It is a large subject. It deals with God's chief adversary and the battle taking place between God and Satan. We looked at the fact that man was created a highly complex being. He is made up of body, the material part; and soul and spirit, the non-material parts. We saw some of the vastness of the space involved in this battle and then at the minute particles in man that make up the body.

We looked briefly at man's non-material parts, the soul and the spirit. I recommended that the mind is situated in the soul and it uses the brain in the body to function. As I viewed it, this huge battle that is taking place between God and Satan is being fought out in the mind of man. As I portrayed it to you, the self, that is the real you, makes all the decisions as to what you will listen to, watch, smell, hear or touch; and the self will decide what to do with incoming messages from the spirit part of man as well. You and I are bombarded day by day with all kinds of material, and the self will be influenced to decide one way or another; for God or against; for the devil or against.

Man can write books on how to handle the material body, but man cannot write a book on how to handle the spiritual parts. The New Age book, "A Course In Miracles" tries to do that, but I can assure you it will be out of date in time. On the other hand, I can assure you that the Bible God gave to man will never go out of date, and it has been and will continue to be man's manual for the spiritual life.

Our first point is this: The existence of demons. And this morning we want to consider this question: What are demons? We will consider that question from the point of view of those who believe in the Bible. We will not consider what other religions believe that demons are. There are basically three views. I will give you the two views I think are not correct first and then the view I believe is correct. And you might ask, "Why do you give us the false views?" It is because if you do any amount of reading on this subject you will come across them. In this way the subject has already been broached for you.

I originally planned to begin with a point called, "Do demons exist?" But we are going to begin with the view that demons do in fact exist. In North America, there is widespread doubt or even denial of the existence of demons. I understand that thinking may be quite prevalent in our own community as well. Some theologians say that when Jesus spoke of demons He was simply accommodating Himself to the way the culture thought at that time. He did not actually cast out demons. However, in my estimation, if one can read through the Gospels and Acts and say there is no such a thing as demons, that is nothing but straight, plain unbelief. The evidence could not be stronger. And my wife points out that those very people who deny demons believe there is such a thing as angels. Interesting point. Furthermore, the fact of the presence of demons is demonstrated everywhere as we will see later. So we take for granted the existence of demons and begin with this question: What are demons?

I. THE EXISTENCE OF DEMONS

A. What Are Demons?

1. View # 1

There are basically three views among Christians. Let me give you first the view that says the earth was originally created beautiful and mankind populated the earth. That is what we have in Genesis 1:1. This is all to have happened before Adam and Eve were created. This first earth and it was under the dominion of Lucifer, a high ranking angel, who ruled over man. Then man, along with Lucifer rebelled and the earth became without form and void. We have that in Genesis 1:2. Mankind was then disembodied and demons are the spirits of this fallen race. God then recreated everything and brought Adam into existence and from there we have mankind as we now know it. So demons are disembodied spirits of people who lived and fell with Lucifer before Adam and Eve were created. As I see it, this view needs no serious consideration as it is totally unscriptural (See Unger 42).

2. View # 2

Another view that seeks to answer what demons are is found in Genesis 6 (read 1-2). This second view says that the sons of God of Genesis 6 are spirits or fallen angels who cohabited with human women and from this union demons were produced. I must add though that not all who believe that the phrase 'sons of God' refers to angels here believe that this union produced demons. However, in my estimation, the view that the sons of God here refers to angels can simply be rejected on the basis that the Lord Himself said that angels do not marry nor are given in marriage. But it is important to know that Christian scholars are greatly divided, with many holding to the view just mentioned.

3. View # 3

And so, as we begin to look at the third view, let me ask this question: "If demons are not spirits of a race that fell before Adam and Eve, and they are not the offspring of a union of women with angels, then what are demons?" To understand this question I would like to approach it by giving us a basic understanding of the doctrine of angels, because the third view, the view that I hold, says that demons are fallen angels. If one holds to this view, what we will now cover will also give us the earliest history of demons, history that was made before the creation of the universe. So, to understand this view, we must take a crash course on angels.

So, let us turn to Psalm 148 to learn a few things about angels (read 1-6). Verse 2 says, "Praise Him all His angels." The word for angel is the Hebrew *malak*. The basic meaning of this word is *messenger*. Notice as well in verse 5 that God created them. So, angels are created beings. Now go to Hebrews 1 (read 6-7). The NT word for angels is 'angelos'. You can see that our word 'angel' comes from this word. And as in the OT, it means, 'messenger.' Well, the Scriptures mention angels over and over and so we do not doubt their existence. And angels are created beings. So, according to the Bible angels do exist and they were created.

Now we ask, when were they created? There is some indication that angels were created before man. So turn to Job 38 (read 1-7). The reference to the morning stars singing together and the sons of God shouting for joy, is viewed as speaking of angels. That it cannot refer to the literal stars is evident because the stars were not created until day four. The angels as viewed as stars and sons of God is evidenced in other Scriptures. So the indication is that angels existed before the laying of the foundation of the earth.

So, our next question is this: Just what are angels made up of? It is clearly evident that man is at least in part made up of material. However, we saw in our last message that man has two non-material aspects to him. These are the soul and the spirit. They are immaterial, but real nevertheless. But we go back to Hebrews 1 which tells us what angels are made up of (read 7). Angels are spirit beings. God is a spirit being (John 4:24). That means He has no physical attributes. I might just briefly mention that the Lord and sometimes angels can appear in physical form, but that is not their nature.

Let me insert one word of caution here. We had some folk from outside the community in one of the local churches done some teaching on the nature of man and they said man is a spirit being. And the speaker said, "Say it with me: I am a spirit." But man is not a spirit. God is a Spirit. Angels are spirits, but man is a material being, though he does have a spirit part to him.

So, angels are created beings that were created before the creation of the universe and they are non-material beings. They can be right here present, and I am sure many are, but we cannot see them. They, like God are invisible, unless they manifest themselves in some form.

Let me just insert another note of interest here. Angels cannot comprehend the salvation of sinners. 1 Peter 1:12 says, "To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they

were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into." It appears angels desire to look into this salvation, but they are not able to.

Now, back to our subject, we ask, "How many angels did God create?" When God created angels, He created a vast number of them. Listen to these verses, Hebrews 12:22, "But you (speaking of Christians) have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels..." God created a vast sum of angels. Then, Revelation 5:11-12, "And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing."

So, go back with me now to before the universe existed, and before angels were created. What existed? Only God. And then God created angels. And now God and a very large number of angels exist. God and angels are both spiritual beings and do not have a body. There was no need for an earth or a universe. There was no need for anything made of material. So, as far as we know, when angels were created nothing made of material existed as yet.

Now turn to Luke 1, to learn a few more things about angels. This is the account of Zechariah and Elizebeth, and how Zechariah drew lot to minister in the temple and while he was about that ministry, an angel appeared to him (read 8-20). Now notice that the angel had a name, Gabriel. It is also interesting that angels are always addressed in the masculine gender. We note further that this angel spoke. If we took time to study this we would find that they have a mind and will and emotions. You might say, "Wow! They sound like they are persons!" Well, in actual

fact they are. God is a Person, though He is immaterial and angels are persons as well. They are not human, but they are personal beings (see personal pronouns in Mark 5:9-10). And as personal beings, they were created to glorify God (Col. 1:16), and only personal beings can do that.

Now let me just give you a few more things and I won't read all the references. We learn from (Dan. 9:21-22; 10:14) that angels are also intelligent beings. They excel in strength (Psalm 103:20), are called 'mighty angels' (2 Thess. 1:7), and are great in power and might (2 Pet. 2:11). But let me just add here that we need to understand that angels are not all powerful, or all knowing, nor can they be in more than one place at one time. They are very much inferior to God. Let me note here as well that Satan himself is not omnipresent either. He can only be in one place at one time.

So, by now we have learned a lot about angels. They do exist and they are created beings. They were created before the universe and God created a vast number of them. They are immaterial and invisible beings and have mind, will and emotions; and in fact they are personal beings. Furthermore, they are intelligent and excel in strength.

And so, for some time before the universe was created, we do not know how long, angels and God dwelt together in unity. No doubt the angels had a very fulfilling and wonderful time with God and all was well. And then something happened. From the clues we get from Scripture, something happened between God and one of His top angels. We do not know how long before the creation of the universe that took place, but it does appear it was before. Scholars find two passages that give us some insight into what happened in the realm of angels.

Now, the Scriptures do not specifically tell us what happened to the angels. But there are two passages of Scripture that indicate that demons

are fallen angels. These are Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28. Both passages are addressed to leaders of men, but it appears that more than human earthly leaders are indicated in these passages.

So we begin with Ezekiel 28 first. This passage is directed to the king of Tyre. Let us read verses 11-15 (read). Now notice in verse 13 that it says, "You were in Eden, the garden of God." We have a strong indication that more than the king of Tyre is in view here. Certainly he was not in Eden, the Garden of God. Then look at verse 14a (read). So we ask, just what is a Cherub? From Scripture it seems that cherubs, or cherubim are a class of angelic beings. So go with me to Genesis three, to where we meet Cherubs for the first time in Scripture (read 22-24).

So, certainly the king of Tyre was not in Eden the Garden of God, nor was he an angelic being. Now notice the description of this cherub in Ezekiel 28:12b-15 (read). That is an incredible description! So if this indeed speaks of an angelic being, and I think it does, we note that there were different ranks of angels and some of them were endowed with incredible abilities.

But look now at verses 16-19 (read). We believe that through this high ranking angelic cherub, sin began its existence. Now look at what was the cause of sin in verse 17a (read). Pride had found its way into one of God's created beings. And if our reasoning is correct, then this is Beelzebub, the prince of demons.

Go now to Isaiah 14. This passage is again directed to a leader of men, this time the king of Babylon. The verses we are interested in are verses 12-15 (read). Now this passage seems to speak of the fall of this anointed cherub we saw in Ezekiel. Verse 12 says that he fell from heaven. This again seems to indicate more than a human king. And it names this being as Lucifer, son of the morning. The name, Lucifer, has the

idea of light or shining one. There is maybe the idea of being a 'light bearer'.

Now notice in verses 13-14, what he desired (read). He wanted to be like the Most High. He wanted to be like the Most High, or the Highest High One. He wanted to be like God Almighty. That is what pride does. Larry Mitchel, missionary with Friends of Israel said that he used to think that people who thought you could become a god were on the lunatic fringe of mankind. Then he discovered that it was those who do not think you can become a god are viewed as on the lunatic fringe of mankind. But he discovered that the majority of mankind believes this. He showed where the Catholic Catechism teaches that man can become god. This view is now growing exponentially all across North America through the New Age Movement. Very few among mankind now believe we cannot become a god. Lucifer has deceived the vast majority of mankind with this. And in this light, look at Genesis 3 (read 1-5). He brought to birth in Eve the desire to be like God.

Well, those two passages seem to indicate what happened in the angelic realm and show how sin entered the angelic realm, and thus how sin entered mankind according to Genesis 3. But I want to take you to one more passage that seems to indicate the number of angels that fell with Lucifer. We go to Revelation 12 (read 1-4).

Now the language is highly symbolic here and I won't take time for all of it. But in verse 3 we have a second sign, that of a great fiery red dragon. However, we are not left in the dark as to the meaning of this being. So let us read verses 7-9 (read). Here we find out clearly whom this fiery red dragon represents. It is none other than Satan. So, with that information, look now at verse 4a (read). Now we know those stars are not intended to be taken literally. A third of the stars would demolish the earth. We understand from this that when Lucifer fell, he took 1/3 of the angelic realm with him. And I believe, along with many others, that it is those

angels he took with him that became what we know as demons. This is what demons are.

So, what have we learned about angels thus far? They do exist and they are created beings. They were created before the universe and God created a vast number of them. They are immaterial and invisible beings and have mind, will and emotions; and in fact they are personal beings. Furthermore, they are intelligent and excel in strength. And then, sometime after their creation, Lucifer, an anointed Cherub became proud and sin was born. And he drew one third of the angels with him in rebellion against God. And Satan, and these fallen angels are demons. So, demons are simply fallen angels.

Now a few common questions people ask is, "Why did God create the devil and why didn't God destroy him when sinned?" Well, we know that God did not create the devil. He created a high ranking and highly privileged Cherub called Lucifer. As to why God did not yet destroy him, Scripture does not say. I have speculated on that in a past message. If you are interested in that, you can go to sermonaudio.com/lhec and search for the series, "Answers To Life's Most Basic Questions" and go to message two. There I give my view on that question.

CONCL: And so, in conclusion, we have sought to answer the question as to what demons are and have concluded that they are fallen angels. So, we undertook to do a crash course in angelology, the doctrine of angels. So, what have we learned about angels thus far? They do exist and they are created beings. They were created before the universe and God created a vast number of them. Angels, like man, were created to glorify God. They are immaterial and invisible beings and have mind, will and emotions; and in fact they are personal beings. Furthermore, they are intelligent and excel in strength.

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