

Week Twelve

Angels

Satan and Demons

Outline

- **Chapter 19 – Angels**
- **Chapter 20 – Satan and Demons**

- **Chapter 17 - Miracles**
- **Chapter 18 - Prayer**

What Are Angels? (1)

- Created, spiritual beings with moral judgment and high intelligence, but without physical bodies
 - Created as part of creation
 - “You are the Lord, You alone; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, *with all their host*...and the host of heaven worships You” (Neh 9:6)
 - Characteristics
 - Exercise moral judgment, high intelligence, sing praise to God, they are spirits, normally are not seen, but can take on bodily form
 - They guard, protect, join us in worship

What Are Angels? (2)

- Names of angels
 - Sons of God, holy ones, spirits, watchers, thrones
 - Dominions, principalities, and authorities
- Three types
 - Cherubim
 - Occupations
 - Guard (Gen 3:24)
 - Travel with God (Ps 18:10, Ezek 10:1-22)
 - Dwell with God (Ex 25:22)
 - Were also on the top of the Ark of the Covenant
 - Seraphim
 - Only mentioned in Isaiah 6:2-7
 - They continually worship God
 - Living Creatures
 - Discussed in both Daniel and Revelation
 - Have attributes similar to many earthly creatures, including lions, oxen, eagles, man

What Are Angels? (3)

- There is rank and order within the angelic realm
 - Michael is an (the?) archangel
 - “one of the chief princes” (Dan 10:13)
 - Leader of the angelic army (Rev 12:7-8)
 - The Lord will return from heaven “with the archangel’s call” (1 Thes 4:16)
- Names of angels
 - Only two non-fallen angels have names
 - Michael (Jude 9, Rev 12:7-8, Daniel 10:13,21)
 - Gabriel (Daniel 8:16, 9:21; Luke 1:19, 26-27)

What Are Angels? (4)

- Angels are only in one place at a time
 - Gabriel “was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth” (Luke 1:26)
 - “The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, so I left him there with the prince of the kingdom of Persia and came to make you understand what is to befall your people in the latter days” (Dan 10:12-14)
- How many angels are there?
 - “ten thousands of holy ones” (Deut 33:2)
 - “myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands” (Rev 5:11)

What Are Angels? (5)

- Do people have an individual guardian angel?
 - They are here for protection (Ps 91:11-12)
 - “in heaven *their angels* always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven” (Matt 18:10)
 - Are angels playing zone defense or man-to-man?
 - There is no conclusive evidence to support this line of thought
- Angels do not marry
 - Jesus taught that resurrection people “neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven” (Matt 22:30)
- The power of angels
 - They apparently have great power
 - “you might ones who do His word” (Ps 103:20)
 - “great in might and power” (2 Peter 2:11)
 - We as humans are temporarily “below” them, but that will change with the resurrection (Heb 2:7, 1 Cor 6:3)

Who is the Angel of the Lord?

- Most times, it is God Himself
 - Remember theophany?
 - An appearance of God
 - Gen 16:10-13, Gen 22:12, Gen 31:11, Ex 3:2,6
- There are times that this is just an angel
 - Usually it is translated “*an* angel of the Lord”
 - Examples – 2 Sam 24:16, Ps 34:7, Zech 1:11-13, Luke 1:11

When Were Angels Created?

- When were angels created?
 - It must be between after day 1 (the beginning) and before day 7 (Gen 2:1)
 - Genesis 1:1 & 1:2 lead some to think it was during day one
 - Created the heavens and earth
 - But only the earth was without form and void
 - Job 38:6-7 tells us that the angels shouted for joy when God was making the earth inhabitable
 - We cannot be sure – not enough information is given in scripture

Angels Show the Greatness of God's Love and Plan for Us

- We are like God more than angels are
 - Scripture does not say that they were made in God's like likeness – just humans
 - One day we are to judge angels (1 Cor 6:3)
 - Angels cannot bear children (Matt 22:30; Luke 20:34-36)
- Some angels sinned, yet none will be redeemed
 - “God did not spare the angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of nether gloom to be kept until the judgment” (2 Pet 2:4)
 - “For surely it is not with angels that he is concerned but with the descendants of Abraham” (Heb 2:16)

Place of Angels in God's Purpose

- Angels remind us that the unseen world is real
- Angels are examples for us
 - Obedience
 - Worship
- Angels carry out some of God's plans
 - Bring messages
 - Carry out judgments
 - Fight in battles
- Angels directly glorify God
 - The seraphim (Is 6:2-3) and four living creatures (Rev 4:8) are continuously praising God for his holiness
 - Angels praise God as they see the plan of salvation unfold (Luke 15:10)

Our Relationship to Angels

- We should be aware of angels in our daily lives
 - They worship with us
 - They watch our obedience & disobedience
 - They can take human form (secret shoppers?)
- Beware of receiving false doctrine from angels
 - Demons can take the same form and are sneaky
 - This refers to teaching that is contradictory to scripture
- Do not worship angels, pray to them, or seek them
 - “Worship of angels” was a false doctrine being taught in Colossae (Col 2:18)
 - Our role is to talk to the Lord, who is Himself the commander of all angelic forces (pg 407)

Do Angels Appear Today?

- Angels appeared all throughout the New Testament period
 - An angel told Phillip to travel south on a road that goes from Jerusalem to Gaza (Acts 8:26)
 - An angel promise Paul that no one on his ship would be lost and that he himself would stand before Caesar (Acts 27:23-24)
 - Etc.
- There is no compelling reason to rule out the possibility of angelic appearances today
- We should exercise extreme caution, though
 - Demons are able to appear as angels of light
 - Scripture is our guide

Satan and Demons

- Demons are evil angels who sinned against God and who now continually work evil in the world
- Origin
 - Sometime between Genesis 1:31 (and it was very good) and 3:1 (serpent tempting Eve), a rebellion in the angelic world occurred with many angels turning against God and becoming evil
 - “God did not spare the angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of nether gloom to be kept until the judgment” (2 Pet 2:4)
 - “the angels that did not keep their own position but left their proper dwelling have been kept by Him in eternal chains in the nether gloom until the judgment of the great day” (Jude 6)
 - Eternal chains → restricted activity

Fall of Satan & Nephilim

- There is a possible description of Satan's fall in Isaiah 14:12-15 (pg 413)
 - The king of Babylon could refer to Satan
 - It was not uncommon for writers to do this (see Ps 45 which moves from a description of an earthly king to a description of a divine Messiah)
 - If so, then Satan's first sin was pride – to be like the Most High
- Genesis 6:2-4 most likely has nothing to do with demons or Satan
 - “the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were fair; and they took to wife such of them as they chose...The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came into the daughters of men, and they bore children to them”
 - Issues
 - Angels do not marry
 - Context indicates that it is better translated:
 - “sons of God” – people belonging to God (walking in righteousness)
 - “daughters of men” – ungodly wives

Satan as Head of the Demons

- Satan means “adversary”
- Named in Job 1:6, where “the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them”
- “Satan stood up against Israel, and incited David to number Israel” (1 Chr 21:1)
- Zechariah saw a vision of “Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him” (Zech 3:1)
- He has other names
 - The devil, the serpent, Beelzebul, the ruler of this world, the prince of the power of the air, and the evil one

The Activity of Satan and Demons

- Satan was the originator of sin
 - He tempted Eve in the form of a serpent (Gen 3:1-6)
 - He was a “murder from the beginning” and is “a liar and the father of lies” (John 8:44)
 - “the devil has sinned from the beginning” (1 John 3:8)
 - The beginning → of the world
- Demons oppose and try to destroy every work of God
 - They use a variety of tactics including
 - Lies, deception, and murder
 - Temptation, doubt, guilt, fear, confusion, sickness, envy, pride, slander or other means
 - They also try to blind people from the gospel and keep them in bondage to things that hinder them from coming to God

Demons are Limited by God's Control and Have Limited Power

- The power of demons, though significant, is less than the power of angels
 - In Job, Satan could only do what God gave him permission to do (Job 1:12, 2:6)
 - Demons are in eternal chains (Jude 6)
- We should not think that demons can know the future or that they can read our minds or know our thoughts
 - God alone knows the future (Is 46:9-10)
 - Angels do not know when Jesus will return (Mark 13:32)
 - Demons were unable to know King Nebuchadnezzar's dream (Dan 2:27-28)
 - Witch doctors, fortune tellers, and others cannot read people's minds
 - They observe and draw conclusions

There Have Been Differing Stages of Demonic Activity in the History of Redemption (1)

- Old Testament

- Demon is not often used, but the term “false gods” is
 - “They stirred Him [God] to jealousy with strange gods; with abominable practices they provoked Him to anger. They sacrificed to demons which were no gods, to gods they had never known.” (Deut 32:16-17)
 - “They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons” (Ps 106:37)
 - “What pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God” (1 Cor 10:20)
- There are no clear instances of casting out demons
- Consistent with the purpose of Satan to destroy all the good works of God, pagan worship contained many destructive practices
 - Child sacrifice
 - Inflicting bodily harm
 - Cult prostitution

There Have Been Differing Stages of Demonic Activity in the History of Redemption (2)

- During the ministry of Jesus
 - “And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying ‘What is this? A new teaching! With authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him’” (Mark 1:27)
 - Such power had never before been demonstrated
 - “But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. Or how can one enter a strong mans’ house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house” (Matt 12:28-29)
 - Jesus probably bound Satan at the time of His triumph over him in the temptation in the wilderness (Matt 4:1-11)

There Have Been Differing Stages of Demonic Activity in the History of Redemption (3)

- During the New Covenant Age
 - Jesus gave His authority to others
 - The Twelve (Matt 10:8, Mark 3:15)
 - Seventy disciples (Luke 10:1-20)
 - Those in the early church (Acts 8:7, 16:18; James 4:7, 1 Peter 5:8-9)
 - Ministry in Jesus' name in the new covenant age is characterized by triumph over the powers of the devil (1 John 3:8)
- During the Millennium
 - The activity of Satan and demons will be further restricted, but not eliminated
 - See Rev 20:1-3 (pg 419)
- At the Final Judgment
 - Satan will be “thrown into the lake of fire and sulphur” and “tormented day and night for ever and ever” (Rev 20:10)
 - Judgment will be complete

Our Relationship to Demons (1)

- Demons are active in the world today
- Not all evil and sin is from Satan and demons, but some is
 - There are many cases where sin is NOT attributed to Satan and demons
 - Dissension (1 Cor 1:10)
 - Incest (1 Cor 5:1-5)
 - Litigation / strife (1 Cor 6:1-8)
 - The pattern for preaching the gospel is to preach the gospel
 - They deal with demons if they become apparent
 - There is nothing along the lines of “strategic level spiritual warfare”
 - Summoning a “territorial spirit” upon entering an area to preach
 - Demanding information from demons about local demonic hierarchy
 - Believing or teaching information derived from demons
 - Teaching that “demonic strongholds” over a city or location must be broken

Our Relationship to Demons (2)

- Not all evil and sin is from Satan and demons, but some is (cont)
 - The pattern for preaching the gospel is to preach the gospel
 - The focus should be on personal choices, beliefs, and actions
 - John does attribute all sin as having demonic influence
 - “We know that we are of god, and the whole world is in the power of the evil one” (1 John 5:19)
 - A summary is that Satan is thought of as the originator of lies, murder, deception, false teaching and sin generally
 - Hence, there is some degree of demonic influence in nearly all wrongdoing and sin
 - Where there is a pattern of persistent sin in the life of a Christian, the primary responsibility for that sin rests with the individual Christian
 - There is a possibility of some demonic influence contributing to and intensifying that sinful tendency

Can Christians be Demon Possessed?

- “Possession” needs a definition
 - If it means a person’s will is completely dominated by a demon and that they have no power left to choose, then NO
 - Sin can have no dominion over us since we have been raised with Christ (Rom 6:14)
 - If it means a demon can exert some influence over that person, then YES
- Grudem recommends trying to differentiate using “possess” vs. “obsessed” or “repressed”
 - These terms are not in the bible
 - The bible simply describes different levels of influence

How Can Demonic Influences be Recognized?

- Severe cases are often accompanied by bizarre and violent actions – especially in opposition to the preaching of the gospel
 - “immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out ‘What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God’” (Mark 1:23-24)
 - The demon in the boy with the dumb spirit “has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him” (Mark 9:22)
 - Blatant false doctrines are also an indicator (1 Cor 12:3, 1 John 4:2-3)
- The same effect may have different causes
 - Epilepsy
 - Jesus cast out a demon causing it in one boy (Matt 17:14-18)
 - Epilepsy was also just a disease, separate from those who were demon possessed (Matt 4:24)
 - Depression
 - Could be demonic
 - Could also be chemical

Jesus Gives All Believers Authority to Rebuke Demons

- Jesus gave us authority over all demons (as discussed previously)
- Some point to Jude 9
 - “But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, disputed about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a reviling judgment upon him, but said, ‘The Lord rebuke you’”
 - This does not apply to us because this is an angel dealing with a demon
 - What we are to learn is to not go beyond the authority that God has given us
- The work of Christ on the cross is the ultimate basis for our authority over demons
- Our membership as children in God’s family is the firm spiritual position from which we engage in spiritual warfare
- We should look first in our own personal lives

Appropriate Use of a Christian's Spiritual Authority Over Demons

- Don't frighten people
 - Ask permission
 - Don't make a show of it
- If appropriate, speak (aloud) a brief command to leave
 - "Spirit of fear, in Jesus' name, I command you go away from here and don't return!"
 - Remember that the authority comes from the Holy Spirit – not you!
- If the demon does not leave immediately, it may be best to wait for another time
 - More spiritual preparation by the person doing the ministering
 - More spiritual preparation by the person being ministered to
- Do not be over-curious into this subject – we are all "babes in evil" (1 Cor 14:20)

Final Notes

- Make sure that if a demon is cast out of an unbeliever, they understand the danger of not filling the void with God (see Matt 23:43-45 on page 432)
- An immediate triumph seems appropriate when the gospel is proclaimed to unbelievers or to people who were previously unaware of this dimension
- “There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race 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. They themselves [devils] are equally pleased by both errors, and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight.” – C.S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters*

Reading For Next Week

- Chapter 21
 - The Creation of Man
 - Homework – questions 1-6 (all)
- Chapter 22
 - Man as Male and Female
 - Homework – questions 1-6 (all)

Miracles

- Definition: *A miracle is a less common kind of God's activity in which he arouses people's awe and wonder and bears witness to himself*
 - A direct intervention of God in the world (assumes Deistic view) (Mat 5:45; Heb 1:3)
 - God working without means to bring about the results he wishes. It is hard to think of a miracle that came about with no means at all (Mat 14:15-18)
 - An exception to natural law or God acting contrary to the laws of nature. This assumes that God must intervene or “break” these laws for a miracle to occur
 - An event impossible to explain by natural causes
 - Therefore, a definition where a miracle is simply a *less common* way of God's working in the world seems to be preferable and more consistent with God's providence
 - We should not ignore it or devise possible “natural causes” to explain them away

Miracles

- Miracles as Characteristic of the New Covenant Age (358)
 - Jesus' miraculous signs attested that he had come from God (John 3:2; John 2:11; Act 2:22)
 - The apostles and others who preached the Gospel performed miracles that amazed people and gave confirmation of the Gospel that was being preached (Act 2:43; Gal 3:5; 1Co 12:28; 1Co 12:10)
 - It seems to be characteristic of the NT church that miracles occur (Luke 10:1, 9)
 - Miracles were not confined to the seventy disciples, but were characteristic of the churches of Galatia and the New Testament churches generally (Gal 3:5; 1Co 12:28; 1Co 12:10)
 - This may be seen as an indication of the powerful new work of the Holy Spirit that began with Pentecost and may be expected to continue through the church age

Miracles

- The Purposes of Miracles (359)
 - To authenticate the message of the gospel (Joh 3:2; Heb 2:4)
 - To give evidence that God is truly at work and so serve to advance the gospel (Jo.4:29; Act 8:6-8, 9:35)
 - To bear witness to the fact that the kingdom of God has come (Mat 12:28; Luk 4:18)
 - To help those who are in need (Mat 20:30; Mat 20:34; Mat 14:14)
 - To remove hindrances to people's ministries (Mat 8:15; Phi 2:27; Act 9:40-41; Act 9:36 1Co 12:7)
 - To bring glory to God (Mat 9:8; Joh 9:3)

Miracles

- Were Miracles Restricted to the Apostles?
 - An unusual concentration of miracles in the Apostles' ministry (Act 5:12-16; Act 19:11-12)
 - What are the “signs of an apostle” in 2 Corinthians 12:12? (361)
 - Conclusion: Were miracles restricted to the Apostles? (368)
 - The apostles were the leaders in a new covenant church whose life and message were characterized by the power of the Holy Spirit at work in miraculous ways
 - Furthermore, they set a pattern that the church throughout its history may well seek to imitate, insofar as God the Holy Spirit is pleased to work miracles for the edification of the church

Miracles

- False Miracles (368) (Exo 7:11; Act 8:9-11; 2Th 2:9-10; Rev 13:11-13)
 - The power of God is greater than the power of Satan (Exo 8:19; Act 8:13, 16:18; 2Th 2:10; 1Jo 4:4)
 - The identity of those workers of false miracles is always known through their denial of the gospel
 - There is no indication anywhere in Scripture that genuine Christians with the Holy Spirit in them will work false miracles (1Co 12:3)
- Should Christians seek miracles today? (369)
 - It is wrong to seek miracles for personal gain (Act 8:21-22)
 - It is wrong to seek miracles to be entertained (Luk 23:8)
 - It is wrong for skeptical unbelievers to seek miracles simply to find ground to criticize those who preach the gospel (Mt 16:1-4)
 - Signs and wisdom do not save people, but the gospel saves people. (1Co 1:22-24)
 - There is nothing inappropriate in seeking miracles for proper purposes (see above)
 - After Pentecost, the church prayed for boldness to preach the Gospel *and* for God to grant miracles to accompany its preaching (Act 4:29-30, 9:38; Jam 5:14)

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Prayer

- Definition: *Prayer is personal communication with God.*
 - Why Does God Want Us to Pray? (376)
 - Prayer expresses our trust in God (Mat 6:8)
 - Prayer expresses our acknowledgment of dependence upon God as a loving and wise Father (Mat 6:9; Luk 11:9-13; Mat 21:22)
 - Prayer brings us into deeper fellowship w/ God
 - Prayer allows us to be involved in activities that are eternally important

Prayer

- The Effectiveness of Prayer (377)
 - Prayer changes the way God acts (Exo 32:9-14; Luk 11:9-10; 2Ch 7:14; 1Jo 1:9; Jas. 4:2)
 - Effective prayer is made possible by our mediator, Jesus Christ (1 Tim. 2:5; Hebrews 10:19)

Prayer

- What is praying "in Jesus' name"? (John 14:13-14)
 - It does not simply mean adding the phrase “in Jesus’ name” after every prayer (no prayer in Scripture has this phrase at the end) (Mat 6:9-13)
 - Praying in Jesus’ name is prayer made on his authorization (Act 3:6, Act 4:7)
 - It is also praying in a way that is consistent with his character and reflects his manner of life and his own holy will
 - It is not wrong to add “in Jesus’ name” to the end of our prayers, as long as we understand what is meant by it and that it is not necessary to do so
 - To avoid misunderstanding, it would probably be wise to frequently express the same thought in other words: “Father, we do not come on our own merits but on the merits of Jesus Christ, who has invited us to come before you...”

Prayer

- Should we pray to Jesus and to the Holy Spirit? (Acts 7:59; Acts 1:24; 1Co 16:22; Rev 22:20; 2Co 12:8; Joh 14:26; Joh 14:17)
- The role of the Holy Spirit in our praying (Joh 14:20; Rom 8:26-27; Luk 10:40; Eph 6:18; Jud 1:20)

Prayer

- Some Important Considerations in Effective Prayer (382)
 - Praying according to God's will (382) (1Jn 5:14; Mat 6:10; Mat 26:39; Joh 15:7; Act 4:25; Jam 1:5-8; 2Co 12:9-10)
 - Praying with faith (384) (Mat 21:22; Heb 11:1; Jas 1:6; Mark 11:24: Compare: Joshua 8:1)
 - Obedience (385) (Psalm 66:18; Prov 15:8; 1 Pe 3:12; 1Jo 3:21; Eph 2:13)
 - Confession of sins (385) (Mat 6:12; 1Jo 1:9; Psa 19:12; Jas 5:16)
 - Forgiving others (385) (Mat 6:12; Mat 6:14-15; Isa 59:1-2)
 - Humility (386) (Jas 4:6; 1Pe 5:5; Mat 6:5; Luk 20:46-47)
 - Continuing in prayer over time (387) (Luke 6:12; Luke 5:16; Mark 14:39; 2Co 12:8; Mar 14:36; Mar 14:39; Mat 6:7; 1Th 5:17; Col 4:2; Act 6:4)
 - Praying earnestly (387) (Heb 5:7; Dan 9:19)
 - Waiting on the Lord (388) (Psa 27:14; Psa 38:15; Psa 130:5-6)
 - Praying in private (Dan 6:10; Luke 5:16; Mat 6:6; Act 12:5; Act 12:11-12)

Prayer

- Praying with others (389) (Mat 18:19-20; Acts 4:24; Mat 6:11-13)
- Fasting (390) (Neh 1:4; Joel 2:12; Act 13:2-3; Acts 14:23)
 - Benefits from Fasting (Mat. 6:16; Mat. 9:15)
 - Increases our sense of dependence on the Lord
 - Allows us to give more attention to prayer
 - Reminds us of our need to continually sacrifice all of ourselves to him
 - It is a good exercise in self-discipline
 - Expresses earnestness and urgency in our prayers

Prayer

- What about unanswered prayer? (391)
 - God keeps hidden his own wise plans for the future
 - We do not always know how to pray as we ought (Rom 8:26)
 - We do not pray according to God's will (Jas 4:3)
 - We do not always ask in faith (Jas 1:6-8)
 - We think that one solution is best, but God has a better plan (Gen 37:23-36; Gen 50:20)
 - We must continue to pray (Rom 8:28; 1Pe 5:7; Heb 13:5; 1Sa 1:19; 2Cor. 12:8)