

Question Six: What Are Angels, Satan, and Demons?*

I. Angels

- A. Angels are created spiritual beings that possess intelligence and make moral decisions, yet do not possess physical bodies.
1. They have not always existed, but rather they were created, like everything else, at the time of creation. (Neh. 9:6 – “host”)
 2. They are often referred to as the “host of heaven,” a military term that seems to indicate that they are in some way God’s army.
 3. They cannot be normally seen by people (Luke 24:39), but they are seen when the Lord allows people to see them (Num 22:31) or when they take on bodily form (Matt. 28:5).
- B. Angels do have certain duties and responsibilities.
1. At times, they serve as God’s messengers (Dan. 10:12-14; Matt. 1:20) and do whatever he commands (Ps. 103:20).
 2. They guard humans in all their ways (Ps. 91:11)
 3. They worship and glorify God (Isa. 6:2-3; Rev. 4:11).
 4. Presently, they may even be involved in human endeavors as we are warned to be hospitable because we may entertain angels unawares (Heb. 13:2).
- C. Angels were given a choice to sin or not and have been held responsible for their actions.
1. They demonstrated that they can make moral choices when they sinned and were cast from heaven (2 Peter 2:4).
 2. This choice of whether to sin or not seemed to “lock” their moral character into place. They did not receive the mercy and grace of God like humanity has after Adam and Eve’s sin.

II. Demons

- A. Demons are evil angels who sinned against God and are presently working evil in this world (2 Peter 2:4).
1. They did not start out as evil for every part of God’s creation was “very good” (Gen. 1:31).

* The material in this handout is a summary of chapter six, “What are Angels, Satan, and Demons?” in Wayne Grudem, *Christian Beliefs: Twenty Basics Every Christian Should Know*, ed. by Elliot Grudem (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005), 53-57.

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2. At some point after creation and before the fall humanity, demons made their evil moral choice and fell (Jude 6).
- B. The head of the demons is Satan (1 Chron. 21:1; Matt. 4:10).
1. Scripture gives him a number of names: “the devil” (Matt. 4:1); “the serpent” (Gen. 3:1); “Beelzebul” (Matt. 10:25); “the ruler of this world” (John 12:31); “the prince of the power of the air” (Eph. 2:2); “the evil one” (Matt. 13:19).
 2. Satan is the originator of sin since he deceived Eve (2 Cor. 11:3). He has been a “murder from the beginning,” and is “the father of lies” (John 8:44).
- C. Satan and his demons seek to blind people from the truth of the Gospel and to destroy the lives of believers.
1. They use any and every tactic possible to keep people from turning to Christ (2 Cor. 4:4).
 2. They use the same tactics to destroy the testimony of believers (1 Pet. 5:8).
- D. Satan and his demonic forces are not all powerful but can be defeated.
1. They are under God’s control for this world, and they only possess their authority and power because He has allowed it.
 2. By standing firm on our faith in Christ and staying near to God, we can resist the devil (1 Pet. 5:9; James 4:7).
 3. Christ has ultimately conquered Satan and his forces through the cross (Heb. 2:14; Col 2:15).
 - a) *We should not live in fear of demonic forces (1 John 4:4); rather, we should alert and ready for his temptations (1 Pet. 5:8).*
 - b) *Through our obedience and the spread of the Gospel, God will soon crush Satan under our feet (Rom. 16:20).*
 - c) *Ultimately, Christ will come and completely remove Satan and his demons from this world (Rev. 20:1-3; 7-10).*

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