



GULF SHORES

CHURCH OF CHRIST

A STUDY OF SATAN, WICKED ANGELS, & DEMONIC ACTIVITY *(Bible class material prepared by Ray Reynolds)*

Introduction: Recently we have been considering the work and miracles of Jesus. This has caused us to consider the subject of casting out demons. The subject of angels and demons intrigues many people. What do we know about Satan? What does the Bible say about wicked angels? How did they get here? What are they doing? I want to encourage you to open up your Bible and study some Bible facts on this great subject. Let's study together...

Discussion:

The Wicked Angels in the Bible

1. Satan goes by many different names and titles:
 - The serpent (**Genesis 3:4, II Corinthians 11:3, Revelation 12:9, 12:14-15, 20:2**)
 - The adversary (**Numbers 22:22, Job 1:6-9, 2:1-7, I Peter 5:8**)
 - Lucifer/the Morning Star (**Isaiah 14:12, Ezekiel 28:11-19**)
 - The devil (**Matthew 4:1-11, 13:39, 25:41, Luke 4:1-13, Luke 8:12, John 8:44, John 13:2, Acts 10:38, 13:10, Ephesians 4:27, 6:11, II Thessalonians 2:9, I Timothy 3:6-7, II Timothy 2:26, Hebrews 2:14, James 4:7, I Peter 5:5-10, I John 3:8, 3:10, Jude 9, Revelation 2:10, 12:9, 12:12, 20:2, 20:10**)
 - The evil/wicked one (**Matthew 5:37, 6:13, 13:9, 13:38, Luke 11:4, John 17:15, Ephesians 6:16, II Thessalonians 3:3, I John 2:13, 3:12, 5:18-19**)
 - Beelzebub (**Matthew 12:22-27, Mark 3:20-30, Luke 11:14-26**)
 - The father of lies (**John 8:44**)
 - The prince/ruler of this world (**John 12:31, Ephesians 6:12**)
 - The perverter (**II Corinthians 2:11, Luke 8:12**)
 - The god of this world (**II Corinthians 4:4**)
 - Belial (**II Corinthians 6:15**)
 - An angel of light (**II Corinthians 11:14**)
 - The dragon (**Revelation 12:3-4, 12:9, 20:2**)
2. Abaddon (Apollyon - **Revelation 9:11**) - "*the angel of the bottomless pit*" (abyss, NASB, NIV; bottomless pit, NRSV)
3. Legion - many demons joined together to possess a man (**Mark 5:9**)
4. The Army of Wicked Angels
 - The Bible tells us that there are multitudes of them (**Matthew 24:53, Luke 2:13, Hebrews 12:22**).
 - We know that whatever number was created by God 1/3 of them are now considered to be wicked (**I Peter 3:19-20, II Peter 2:4, Jude 6, Revelation 12**).



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The Origin of Satan & The Demons (Wicked Angels)

1. God created the angels (**Nehemiah 9:6, Psalms 148:2-5**).
2. They were created before the foundation of the world and are seen in early human history (**Genesis 3:4,14, Job 38:4-7**).
3. The wicked ones fell to earth after the creation of the world and now seek to persecute the human race (**Genesis 3, Mathew 25:41, Revelation 12:9**).
4. They sinned and were forced to leave their habitation (**Isaiah 14:1-23, Ezekiel 28:11-19, Luke 10:18, II Peter 2:4, Jude 6**).
5. They were created unable to procreate (**Matthew 22:29-30, Mark 12:24-25, Luke 20:34-36**) but were NOT made in the image of God (**Genesis 1:26-27**).
6. They have a spirit similar to that of humans (**Psalm 148:1-5**).
7. They have free will to be wicked or good (**II Peter 2:4, Jude 6, Revelation 12:7**).
8. They were cast down, meaning that they no longer hold an exalted position (**Isaiah 14:12, Luke 10:18, II Peter 2:4, Revelation 12:10**).
9. They were defeated by the blood of the Lamb (**Revelation 12:11, Genesis 3:15**).
10. They are bound in power and limited (**Revelation 20:1-8, I Corinthians 10:13**) and God's word is the only chain that can bind him (**Job 1-2**).
11. They know that their time is short (**Revelation 12:12, Matthew 8:29**).
12. The wicked angels are reserved for judgment (**II Peter 2:4, I Corinthians 6:3**).
13. Hell which was prepared for them (**Matthew 25:41, Revelation 20:10**).

The Work of Satan

1. Satan is the most powerful force outside of God (**I John 4:4**).
2. Satan is called the prince of this world (**John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11**).
3. Satan is the prince of power of the air (**John 5:11, Ephesians 2:2**).
4. Satan is a prince over other wicked angels (**Revelation 12:7**).
5. Satan was able to walk with the sons of God in heaven (**Job 1:9**).
6. Satan has power over the kingdoms of the world (**Matthew 4:8-9**).
7. Satan has the power to appear as an angel of light (**II Corinthians 11:14**).
8. Satan accuses the people of God (**Job 1:9, 2:4, Revelation 12:10**).
9. Satan resists the work of good angels (**Zechariah 3:1, Ezra 1:1, Daniel 10:13, Jude 9**).
10. Satan seeks to oppress humanity (**Acts 10:38, Ephesians 6:10-20**).
11. Satan has his own army of angels (**Isaiah 14:12-15, Matthew 25:41, Revelation 12:7**).
12. Satan, along with the wicked angels, believe in God and tremble (**James 2:19**) but are condemned for their sin (**Matthew 25:41, I Timothy 3:6**).
13. Satan, and the wicked angels, took the opportunity to possess many people in the days of Christ (including Judas – **John 6:70, 13:2** and Peter – **Luke 22:31**).



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The Issue of Demon Possession (Possessed by Evil/Wicked Spirits)

1. Demon possession and evil activity is described in the Old Testament: Exodus 22:18, Leviticus 19:28, Deuteronomy 18:14, I Samuel 15:23, I Samuel 16:14, II Kings 9:22, 21:6, II Chronicles 33:6, Psalms 91:1-16, Proverbs 19:23, Isaiah 8:19-20, Jeremiah 23:29-32, Daniel 1:20, 10:12-13, Micah 5:12
2. Demon possession and evil activity is described in the New Testament: Matthew 8:28-32, 9:32-33, 12:22, 15:28, 17:15, Mark 1:21-28, 5:2-13, 9:25, 16:9, Luke 4:35, 7:21, 8:2, 8:33, 9:42, 11:13-14, 13:10-13, 22:3, John 6:70, 13:27, Acts 19:12-16, 23:9, I Timothy 4:1-2, Revelation 16:13
3. How should we respond? Consider: Luke 10:17-19, John 10:10, Romans 12:21, I Corinthians 6:19 -20, II Corinthians 11:14, Galatians 5:16-26, Ephesians 6:10-12, I John 3:8, 4:1-3, Jude 6, Revelation 12:9

Conclusion: The frequency with which angels participate in human affairs has diminished (in my opinion) since Pentecost, probably because of two reasons: (1) The Holy Scriptures are given to us by God and (2) There is a larger role played by the Holy Spirit in the lives of Christians. The wicked angels, on the other hand, are probably more active today in order to compete with the work of the church and the power of the Holy Spirit.

We can take comfort knowing that Satan has used the same tactics for over 6,000 years (Genesis 3:6, Luke 4:1-13, I John 2:16). We know that God is on our side (Matthew 28:20, Romans 8:31, Philippians 4:13, Revelation 2:10). While Jesus spoke frequently of angels, both good and bad (Matthew 13:41, 26:53, Mark 8:38, Luke 12:8-9) and their activity in this world, we know that God will ALWAYS accomplish His will and keep His promises.

Angels are quite real, and they have played and will always play a vital part in God's plan for the world. Demons also have a place, unfortunately, and exercise a role in temptation. Above all, we must know God is greater than Satan. Mankind is blessed above all the angels, especially the fallen angels, because we have a plan of salvation (John 3:16, 14:1-3, II Peter 3:2). We should be thankful for the invitation from Jesus to come unto Him (Matthew 11:28, Revelation 22:17)! Keep studying this interesting topic and trust in God for deliverance!

More Bible study notes can be found at:

<http://www.gulfshoreschurchofchrist.org/dnn/PreachersPage/RaysBibleClasses.aspx>