

# Angelology & Demonology

Skipping extensive efforts to prove angels and demons exist.  
The Bible says they exist. The old testament speaks of angels just over 100 times.  
New testament mentions angels about 165 times.

## I. Who Are the Angels and Demons?

### **A. Angels & Demons Are Created Beings:**

- **Colossians 1:16** *“For by Him all things were created, both in the Heavens and on the earth, visible and invisible,.....”*
- **John 1:1-3** *“All things came into being through Jesus.....”*
- **Psalm 148:1-5** *“.....He commanded and they were created.”*
- **Matthew 22:30** Angels cannot procreate so they have NOT self-preserved.

### **All Angels Were Originally Created Good**

- **I Tim. 5:21** Paul refers to God’s *“chosen angels”* in contrast to fallen angels
- **Mat. 25:41** Jesus reveals that Satan & his angels will be cast in to eternal fire.

**Saint Augustine** - *That the contrary propensities in good and bad angels have arisen, not from a difference in their nature and origin, since God, the good Author and Creator of all essences, created them both, but from a difference in their wills and desires, it is impossible to doubt. While some steadfastly continued in that which was the common good of all, namely, in God Himself, and in His eternity, truth, and love; others, being enamored rather of their own power, as if they could be their own good, lapsed to this private good of their own, from that higher and beatific good which was common to all, and, bartering the lofty dignity of eternity for the inflation of pride, the most assured verity for the slyness of vanity, uniting love for factious partisanship, they became proud, deceived, envious. The cause, therefore, of the blessedness of the good is adherence to God. And so the cause of the others' misery will be found in the contrary, that is, in their not adhering to God. Wherefore, if when the question is asked, why are the former blessed, it is rightly answered, because they adhere to God; and when it is asked, why are the latter miserable, it is rightly answered, because they do not adhere to God — then there is no other good for the rational or intellectual creature save God only.*

### **B. Angels & Demons Are Persons, They Have Personalities:**

- **Angels & demons have personalities, intelligence, emotions and will.**
  - **Mat. 8:28-32** *“.....have you come here to torment us?”*
    - They knew their fate. They knew who Jesus was. They have feelings.
  - **Mat. 18:10** *“they see the face of the Father .....”*
    - Angels are watching, they have eyes to see, see us and see the Father.
  - **II Cor. 11:3** *“just as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning.....”*
  - **I Pet. 1:12** *“the Holy Spirit has revealed things to us which angels long to look”*
    - Angels rejoice when people are saved.
  - **Jam. 2:19** *“even the demons believe and shudder”*
  - **Rev. 12:17** *“So the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring”*
  - **II Tim. 2:26** *“....believers may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil after being captured by him to do his will.”*

## C. Angels & Demons Have Limitations:

### They Are NOT Omniscient, Omnipresent, or Omnipotent

- **Mat 24:36** They do not know when Jesus will return
- **Heb. 2:16** God has not made salvation available for Angels or Demons
- They are NOT made in the image of God, & are not called sons & daughters.

### They Are Subject to the Will of God As We Are

- **Heb. 1:14** *“are they not all ministering spirits sent to render services for those who will inherit salvation?”*
- **Job 2:1-6** Satan- as powerful as he is is still subservient to God
- **Luke 8:28-31** Demons must still obey Jesus as he is God.

### They Were Created With Some Autonomy - Could Sin

- **Isaiah 14:12-14** *“I will ascend to Heaven, I will raise my throne above God”*
- **Jude 6** *“Angels abandoned their positions of authority.....”*
- **II Pet. 2:4** *“God did not spare angels when they sinned, He cast them into hell..”*
- **Heb. 2:5-8** Angels have been made higher than mankind for now, but there will come a time when God’s elect will judge angels.
- **I Cor. 6:2-3** *“we govern & rule in the new heavens and earth....”*

## II. The Ministry of Angels & The Activities of Demons

### A. The Ministry of Angels In Relation to God

- **Angels are servants dispatched by God.**
  - **Heb. 1:10-2:5** They are not equal w/ God and DO NOT sit at His right hand
  - They are “ministering spirits” sent to serve those who will inherit salvation
  - Their messages are reliable because they come from God.
  - Ryrie says they serve as “Priestly Messengers in the temple-universe of God”
- **Angels Praise and Worship God**
  - **Psalm 148:1** *“Praise the all His angels, praise Him all His hosts”*
  - **Isa. 6:3** *“Holy Holy Holy is the Lord God almighty, the whole earth is filled with His glory.”*
  - **Heb. 1:6** *“Let all God’s Angels worship Him.”*
  - **Rev. 5:8-13**
  - *“I can safely say, on the authority of all that is revealed in the Word of God, that any man or woman on this earth who is bored and turned off by worship is not ready for heaven.” — A.W. Tozer*
- **Angels Serve God and are Instruments of His Judgment**
  - **Ps. 103:20-21** *“Bless the Lord, O you angels, you mighty ones who do His word, obeying the voice of his word. Bless the Lord, all His hosts, His ministers who do His will.”*
  - **Rev. 22:9** • **Rev. 7:1-3, 8:1-2**

## B. The Activity of Demons In Relation to God

- Demons Operate as Satan's go-fors. Satan is a created being. He has limitations. He is not omniscient or omnipresent. He only appears more powerful because he has a whole army available to operate where he physically cannot be. Satan and by default his servants seek to oppose God in every way. Whatever is NOT good is not of God.

### • Demons Oppose God's Plans & Truths

- **Rev. 16:13-16** Demons assembled kings around the world to battle against God
- **Lev. 17:7, Deut. 32:17, I Cor. 10:20** Demons promote the worship of false gods
- **I John 4:1-4** Demons attack the legitimacy of Jesus as Savior
- **I Tim. 4:1-4** Demons promote strange teachings and strange doctrines.
- **Rev. 2:20-24** Demons manipulate right & wrong and blur truth.

### • Demons Are Sometimes Used By God

- **I Sam. 16:14** God used an evil spirit to punish King Saul. God's ultimate plan was for David to be king.
- **I Kings 22:22** God allowed an evil spirit to control the prophets speaking to King Ahab and give him the wrong advice. He died in battle.
- **2 Cor. 12:7** Paul refers to "thorn in the flesh" as "*a messenger of Satan*" that God used to keep Paul from becoming too proud and arrogant.

## C. The Ministry of Angels In Relation to People

### • Angels Bring National Influence

- **Dan. 12:1** "*At that time Michael, the great prince who watches over your people will arise.*" He appears to specifically guard the Nation of Israel.
- **Dan. 4:17** Angels influence nations and leaders in ways that will reveal God's power sovereignty and preeminence.
- **Psalms 2** "*Why do the nations conspire against Me. Why do they rise up against Me and do the vain thing says the Lord?*"
- Angels can influence and council leaders to make decisions that glorify God

### • Angels Bring News & Announcements

- **Gen. 18** 3 Angels visited Abraham & Sarah to promise Isaac.
- **Gal. 3:19** Paul implies that Angels assisted Moses with the Law.
- Angel Gabriel met Zechariah in temple & promised John the Baptist
- Angels spoke to Mary, Joseph, & Shepherds announcing Jesus' birth
- **Acts 8:26** Phillip was sent to the Ethiopian to share the Gospel

### • Angels Bring Rescue and Defense

- **Gen. 19** 2 Angels rescued Lot from the destruction of Sodom
- **Dan. 6:22** "*My God set His angel and closed the lions' mouths.....*"
- **Dan. 3:20-28** Nebuchadnezzar saw an angel in the furnace
- **Psa. 91:11** "*The Lord order His angels to protect in all you do.*"
- Jesus (Could) have called on 12 legions of angels at His arrest.
- **Acts 5:19** An angel opened the prison doors to release Peter & John to preach
- **Acts 12:5-16** An angel rescued Peter. Answer to prayers.

### • Angels Bring Comfort

- Angel comforted Mary at the news of her pregnancy.
  - Mary's Magnificat reveals amazing confidence in the Lord
- Angel comforted Joseph when he wanted to divorce Mary
- Angels ministered to Jesus after Satan left him in the wilderness.
- **Acts 1:10-11** Two Angels spoke to the Disciples as they watched Jesus ascend
- **Acts 27:23-24** Paul was visited by an Angel on the ship who promised Rome

- **Acts 10:1-4, 30** Cornelius visited by Angel, his prayers had been heard.

## D. The Activity of Demons in Relation to People

### • Demons Can Afflict People

- Bible says that the devil seeks to kill steal and destroy. So do his minions.
- **Mat. 9:33, 12:22, 17:15-18** Demons cause muteness, blindness & seizures.
  - On numerous occasions the afflicted were brought to Jesus for healing.
- **Rev. 9:14-19 READ** Demons can even bring about death.

### **Affliction DOES NOT automatically mean demonic activity.**

Pharisees challenged Jesus about the man who was lame from birth- Who's sin was this?

There are times when sickness or paralysis may affect us and it is not demonic.

It is not the result of a specific sin by us, but rather living in a fallen world.

**Illustration:** Nathan Shaw quote. *"Whenever we take our eyes off Jesus we are in trouble."*

### • Demons Can Possess People

- **Mark. 5:1-13** Story of the demon possessed man and the herd of pigs.
- Term "demon possessed", or "demonized" occurs 13 times in N.T. (Gospels)
  - Only occurs 4 times after the resurrection and all in Acts
  - Demon possession is the direct involuntary control over an individual.
  - This is different than simply being influenced & affected by demons.
  - Every one of us is impacted by, influenced by, and affected by demons.
  - This is a reality of humanity.

Humanity lives in a space where there is a spiritual war taking place. We all are affected, but not all are possessed. To be influenced is NOT the same as being possessed.

**Ephesians 6:12** *"For our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens."*

*CEV "We are not fighting against humans. We are fighting against forces and authorities and against rulers of darkness and powers in the spiritual world."*

## **Naturally We Ask - Can I Be Demon Possessed?**

- This might be the 4th most debated topic among Christians after:
- Tongues, Age of the Earth, & the Rapture

Ryrie presents a couple of great points to consider when we ask this question.

1. We should divorce ourselves from the terms “*demon possession*” and “*demon dwelling*”. These imply the same dynamics as the Holy Spirit’s permanent indwelling of us and the reality is that neither Satan nor Demons can permanently indwell and have victory as God can. Even if they can have influence for a time, it is not with the same effect as God’s indwelling.
2. The N.T. doesn’t speak definitively about demons operating in Christians, and there is a lack of commanding of exorcisms after Pentecost. We see that Peter, John, Paul did cast them out, but we don’t know if those were believers or not. There aren’t definitive commands by Peter, Paul, John, James to specifically exorcise.
3. Are we asking the wrong question? Maybe we should ask whether Satan can work just as well from outside a believer as he could from within a believer to affect chaos.

Rather than focussing on the what-ifs

We should focus on the empowerment God has given to us.

**I John** “*Greater is He who lives in us than he who is in the world.*”

**Ephesians** “*Put on the full armor of God.*”

**Romans 8:38** “*For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*”

Angels and Fallen Angels are created beings. They have been made a little higher in God’s creative order than we have been made. They are exclusively spiritual beings and therefore come and go and operate in ways that we cannot. However, Fallen Angels chose their own pride over the goodness of God. They were not created in the image of God like we have been created. They are not God’s sons and daughters and God does not redeem those Fallen Angels. Their eternity has been sealed without any chance or opportunity for redemption. But our story is different. God so loved us that He gave his one and only Son. God bought us back, and uses His holy servants to minister and guard us. He uses Fallen Angels to buffet us when we need correction.

How wonderful it is that we have been chosen and called His own. For now we have been made a little lower than the angels, but there will come a time when we inherit the Kingdom and we will govern the holy angels and witness the eternal judgment of the fallen angels.