



# Systematic Theology

A study of the major doctrines of Scripture

TOPIC 3 – THE DOCTRINE OF ANGELS

LESSON 71 – FALLEN ANGELS

BIBLICAL DOCTRINE – JOHN MACARTHUR, PGS. 665-737

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY – WAYNE GRUDEM, PGS. 397-438

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# Demons are Real

- ▶ Demons are real. They are created spiritual beings, originally part of the holy angels.
- ▶ The Bible mentions demons over 100 times, mentioned as demons, or as spirits (unclean, evil, deceiving).
- ▶ Demons display the three most basic characteristics of personhood – intellect, emotion, and will.
- ▶ Intellect is seen in their interactions with Christ, knowing the truth about who He is and their ability to speak false doctrine (Luke 8:26-39; 1 Tim. 4:1).
- ▶ Emotion is seen in their fear of God (James 2:19) and their fear about what Christ might do to them (Matt. 8:29; Mark 1:24; 5:7).
- ▶ Will is demonstrated in their attempt to have Christ cast them into a herd of pigs instead of banishing them to the pit of hell (Matt. 8:31).

# Demons are Real

- ▶ Demons are also characterized by being mobile – as Satan roams the earth so do they (1 Peter 5:8). They can possess human beings, be cast out, and also return to re-possess (Matt. 12:43-45). Demons are also seen visiting heaven from which they are later in Scripture banished (Rev. 12:4, 9).
- ▶ Demons will be held responsible for their evil deeds, some having already been judged and others awaiting the final judgment (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6; Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10).
- ▶ Demons are 1/3 of the total body of angels, and were cast out of heaven with Satan at his fall.



# Demonic Characteristics

- ▶ Demons compared with the Holy Spirit:
- ▶ 1. Unclean – Holy
- ▶ 2. Evil – Righteous
- ▶ 3. Deceiving – Truthful
- ▶ 4. Strong – Strongest
- ▶ 5. Temporal – Eternal
- ▶ 6. Created – Creator
- ▶ 7. Counterfeit – Authentic
- ▶ 8. Oppressive – Brings Relief
- ▶ 9. Enslaves – Liberates
- ▶ 10. Destructive – Creative
- ▶ 11. Enemies – Friend/Comforter
- ▶ 12. False – True
- ▶ 13. Devious – Spirit of Truth

# Demonic Characteristics

- ▶ Old Testament:
- ▶ Demons – depicted as spiritually immoral they are most often tied in the OT to idolatrous worship. Jer. 3:8-10; Ezek. 16:23-43; 23:22-30
- ▶ Evil Spirits – harmful, sinister. Judges 9:23; 1 Sam. 16:14-16, 23; 18:10; 19:9
- ▶ Lying Spirit – giving false messages to false prophets. 1 Kings 22:22-23
- ▶ Prince of Greece, Persia – noted as demonic rulers over these territories, fought with Michael and Gabriel. Daniel 10:13, 20-21; 11:2; Jude 9; Rev. 12:7
- ▶ Spirit of Uncleanness – defines the power behind false prophets and idolaters. Zech. 13:2; Rev. 16:13-14
- ▶ Destroying Angel – Psa. 78:49 – may be destructive activity of angels

# Demonic Characteristics

- ▶ New Testament:
- ▶ Demons – Matt. 7:22; Rev. 18:2 – the most common designation for fallen angels (63 times) referring to them as evil spiritual beings.
- ▶ Angel – Matt. 25:41; 2 Cor. 12:7 – in all 6 instances of this usage they are identified as messengers and associated with Satan and evil.
- ▶ Deceitful spirits – 1 Tim. 4:1 – spreading false teaching (the doctrine of demons).
- ▶ Evil spirits – Matt. 12:45; Luke 7:21 – harmful spiritual beings.
- ▶ Frogs – Rev. 16:13 – demons appear as frogs spreading within the kingdom of the antichrist.
- ▶ Host of heaven – Isa. 24:21; 34:4 – this term refers to the physical bodies in the universe, holy angels, and evil angels.

# Demonic Characteristics

- ▶ Locust – Rev. 9:3; 12:4 – released during the Tribulation after having been held in the Abyss since their fall.
- ▶ Mute and Deaf spirits – Mark 9:25 – unclean spirits who manifest themselves in physical maladies.
- ▶ Spirit – Matt. 8:16; 12:45 – all angels are spirit beings, holy and fallen.
- ▶ Spirit of divination – Acts 16:16 – a demon-possessed fortune teller in freed by Paul.
- ▶ Star – Rev. 12:4 – a generic term for angels, here a reference to the fall of 1/3 of the angels with Satan.
- ▶ Unclean spirit – Matt. 10:1; Rev. 18:2 – demons are described as morally impure 23 times in the NT, opposite of the holy angels.

# Demonic Powers

- ▶ The demons do possess the same power as angels, greater than humans, but certainly not more powerful than God.
- ▶ 1. Indwell humans and animals – Mark 5:1-16
- ▶ 2. Afflict people – Mark 9:17, 22
- ▶ 3. Terrorize people – 1 Sam. 16:14-15; Acts 19:13-16
- ▶ 4. Promote false worship – 1 Cor. 10:20-21
- ▶ 5. Promote false doctrine – 1 Tim. 4:1
- ▶ 6. Perform false miracles – 2 Thess. 2:9; Rev. 16:13-14
- ▶ 7. Deceive prophets – 1 Kings 22:19-23
- ▶ 8. Encourage idolatry – Deut. 32:17; Psa. 106:37
- ▶ 9. Cause death – Judges 9:23, 56-67



# Demonic Powers

- ▶ Demons may be strong but they are subject to God's sovereignty.
- ▶ 1. They unwittingly serve God's purposes – Judges 9:23
- ▶ 2. They are terrified of Christ and the gospel – Matt. 8:29; Mark 1:24; James 2:19
- ▶ 3. They obey Christ – Matt. 8:32
- ▶ 4. They obeyed the Apostles – Matt. 10:1-8
- ▶ 5. They cannot separate believers from Christ or God's love – Rom. 8:38
- ▶ 6. They can be restrained by the Holy Spirit – 2 Thess. 2:6; 1 John 4:4
- ▶ 7. They have been and will be judged by God – 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6; Rev. 20:10

# Demons Judged

- ▶ Demons were judged as they were cast out with Satan in the fall.
  - ▶ Some demons were judged by being immediately thrown into the Abyss (2 Peter 2:4).
  - ▶ Demons will be judged with Satan at the final judgment and cast into the Lake of Fire, “prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matt. 25:41).
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- ▶ Next week: Lesson 72 – The Angel of the Lord.