

## The study of Angels

### Demons

#### **I. The Reality of Demons**

- As stated before when studying Satan, if Satan is real, then so must demons. However, let us not forget that we have a God that is over all and has given us the victory. (Romans 8:37-39)

##### **A. The testimony of Scripture**

- 1) The words and actions of Christ (Matt. 12:22-29; Mark 5:1-16)
- Many times Christ cast out demons and also gave his disciples the ability to do so as well.

- 2) The other parts of the New Testament (1 Cor. 10:20-21; James 2:19)

- Every writer of the N. T. (Except Hebrews) mentions demons (or daimonion)

- 3) The Old Testament

- Although not as prominent, the O.T. does refer to demons

- a) The “shedhim” of Deuteronomy 32:17; Psalm 106:37

- The Hebrews regarded as visible symbols of demons

- b) The “seirim” of Lev. 17:7; 2 Chron. 11:15; Isa. 13:21; 34:14

- Also, demonic conceptions

#### **II. What are demons like?**

##### **A. Personal nature**

- 1) They are genuine persons – They have will, intelligence and emotion

- 2) They are spirit beings – They are normally spoken of as unseen, but usually their presence is apparent through other means. (Acts 19:15; Rev. 9:1-12; 16:13)

##### **B. Their powers**

- 1) Their strength

- They demonstrate great strength when working through humans (Mark 5:3; Acts 19:16)

- 2) Their intelligence

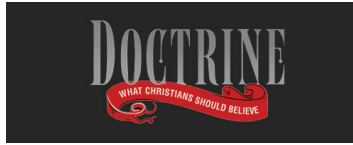
- They (like Satan) have limited intelligence but still are superior in their knowledge because they are beings that have existed since before the world began.

- Can a demon predict the future according to Acts 16:16?

- This is more like a “false” prophet predicting the future or pretending to foretell. Using their knowledge of human behavior since creation.

- 3) Their presence

- Not everywhere at once, although they seem to gather a large number at one time to give that impression. (Luke 8:30 – “a legion of demons”)



### **III. What do demons do?**

#### **A. Relation to Satan**

- 1) Satan's ambassador's doing his work and desires
- 2) This gives the impression that Satan is doing it all, but he is not. (Eph. 6:11-12)

#### **B. Relation to God**

- 1) They oppose the plan of God – Rev. 16:13-16
- 2) Apparently used by God to carry out his purpose: (As God uses unbelievers or heathen nations)
  - Saul – 1 Sam. 16:14
  - The prophets of Ahab – 1 Kings 22:22
  - Paul – 2 Cor. 12:7
- Because they are creatures, therefore, accountable to God, and so he can use them if he pleases too.

#### **C. Relation to religion**

- 1) They promote idolatry – this is true in Old and New Testament times (Lev. 17:7; Duet. 32:17; 1 Cor. 10:20; Rev. 9:20)
- 2) They promote false religion – This is when a belief looks the part on the surface but is Christ-less at its core.

#### **D. Relation to people**

- 1) Affliction – demons can inflict physical, emotional and spiritual harm to people. This is true of Job as well as Paul for examples. (Paul's thorn in the flesh was given by or was a messenger of Satan)
- 2) Perversion – they are called “unclean” spirits
  - Everything they do perverts what is clean and right
- 3) Possession –
  - A definition would be – direct control by demon(s) of an individual by residing in him.
  - Possession and exorcism only appear in the Gospels and after the day of Pentecost, only in the book of Acts.
  - I do believe people can be “possessed” today, I do not believe a believer can be possessed (using the definition above) but I do believe a follower of Christ can be afflicted by a demon (as in the case of the Apostle Paul.) The key is to continually walk in the light of Christ, to be guarded against the “wiles” of the devil (and his demons).