

Difficult Texts Examined

"Angels, Demons, & Satan"

- Introduction:
1. Angels have become very popular in recent years.
 - a. "AngelWatch" bi-monthly newsletter.
 - b. "Angels: God's Secret Agents" by Billy Graham.
 - c. "It's A Wonderful Life," "Angels In The Outfield," "Highway To Heaven..."
 2. Unfortunately, much of the information people have today about angels is based more on fiction than fact.
 3. Why should we study angels?
 - a. It is a biblical topic (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
 - b. They are interested in us (Luke 15:7,10; 1 Peter 1:10-12).
 - c. We will someday be like them (Matthew 22:29-30).
 4. Let us examine some of the facts that the Bible reveals to us about angels, demons, and Satan.

I. The Origin And Nature Of Angels

- A. The Origin.
 1. They were created (Psalm 148:1-5; Nehemiah 9:6).
 2. They were created before the earth was created (Job 38:4-7).
 3. They are a part of God's family in heaven (Ephesians 3:15).
- B. The Nature.
 1. They are a higher order than man, but lower than God (Psalm 8:5; Heb. 2:7).
 2. They have super-human knowledge, but are not omniscient (Mark 13:32; 1 Peter 1:10-12; Matthew 24:36).
 3. They have super-human strength, but are not omnipotent (Ps. 103:20; 2 Samuel 24:15-17).
 4. They have super-human speed, but are not omnipresent (Daniel 9:20-23).
 5. They are innumerable (Hebrews 12:22; Revelation 5:11).
 6. They are without marriage (Matthew 22:30).
 7. They have a special interest in our salvation (Luke 2:13-14; 15:10; 1 Pet. 1:10-12).
 8. The form of angels vary, taking whatever form God desires for them (Exodus 3:2; Hebrews 1:7; Genesis 18:1-2; 2 Kings 6:15-17).
 9. There is rank among angels (arch-angel, cherubim, seraphim).

II. The Activity Of Angels

- A. Their Present Activity.
 1. They worship God (Revelation 5:11-14).
 2. They are ministers of God's providence (Ps. 34:4-7; Hebrews 1:14).
 3. They are possessed by children (Matthew 18:10).
 4. They rejoice at a sinner's repentance (Luke 15:10).
 5. They carry the spirits of the deceased into Hades (Luke 16:22).
- B. Their Future Activity.
 1. They will accompany Christ at His return (Matthew 16:27).

2. They will announce His coming (1 Thess. 4:16).
3. They will separate the wicked from the righteous (Matthew 13:41-42).
4. They will execute judgment (2 Thessalonians 1:7-8).

III. The Nature Of Demons

- A. The subject of demons has gained popularity since William Blatty's novel, "The Exorcist."
 1. Since that time there have been many similar movies – "Rosemary's Baby," "The Omen," "Amnityville Horror.."
- B. There are five major views concerning the nature of demons.
 1. They were a Pre-Adamic race.
 - a. Purely speculation, no scriptural evidence (Genesis 1:1-2).
 2. They were the offspring of Angels and women.
 - a. (Genesis 6:1-4).
 - b. Jesus said Angels are not given in marriage (Mark 12:25).
 - c. The "sons of God" in this context refer to godly men, not angels.
 3. Mental Illness.
 - a. This view denies the spirit world.
 - b. Demonic possession is contrasted with diseases (Mt. 4:24; Luke 4:40-41).
 4. They are departed spirits of wicked men.
 - a. Luke 16 teaches that the spirit of deceased people cannot return (Luke 16:24-31).
 5. They are fallen angels.
 - a. (Jude 6; 2 Peter 2:4).
- C. The fact of the matter is simply this: God does not specifically tell us what demons were, other than the fact they were "unclean spirits."

IV. Truths That Demons Demonstrate

- A. They demonstrate that there is a spirit world.
- B. Demons demonstrated the superiority of Jesus over the Devil and his works.
- C. The power to cast out demons was given to the apostles of Jesus (Mark 16:17-20).
- D. Jesus came to conquer Satan, and He did so (1 John 3:8).

V. Our Adversary — Satan

- A. Satan is not eternal else he would be "God" too.
- B. I believe the Bible teaches that Satan was a fallen angel (Jude 6; 2 Peter 2:4).
- C. His fall is described in Ezekiel 28:11-19.
- D. The reason for his fall was pride (1 Timothy 3:6; Ezekiel 28:2).
- E. Since his fall, he continues to fight against God's children (Revelation 12).
- F. Regardless of the questions concerning Satan's origin, we certainly know his destiny (Matthew 25:41).

- Conclusion:
1. There are so many questions to which we simply do not have answers at this time, thus we need to avoid speculative thinking the genders strife (1 Corinthians 4:6).
 2. Just as the angels chose to obey or disobey God, we humans have the same choice, and will share in the same destiny, whether Heaven or Hell.