

Discipleship:
An
Introduction to
Systematic Theology and
Apologetics

The Doctrines of Creation:

The Heights Church May 29, 2016

Satan and Demons

Sometime between Genesis 1:31 and Genesis 3:1 there must have been a rebellion in the angelic world with many angels turning against God and becoming evil.

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; (2 Peter 2:4)

And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day— (Jude 1:6)

Satan and Demons

Isaiah 14:12-15 may also reference the fall of Satan.

“How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’ But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit.

Satan and Demons

Satan is the personal name of the head of the demons. Satan comes from the Hebrew word for adversary.

Satan is mentioned 18 times in the OT (1 Chronicles 21:1; 14 times in Job (chapters 1 and 2); and 3 times in Zechariah 3.)

In the OT Satan is also called the serpent twice.

In the NT Satan is mentioned 36 times but he is also called the “devil” (5 times); the “serpent” (3 times); “Beelzebul” (4 times); “the ruler of this world” (3 times); “the prince of the power of the air once; and “the evil one” (3 times)

Nowhere in Scripture is there any indication that Satan is omnipotent, omniscient or omnipresent.

Satan and Demons

Satan was the originator of sin.

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (John 8:44)

Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. (1 John 3:8)

Note: beginning means since Satan fell.

Satan and Demons

Demons oppose and try to destroy every work of God.

- **Satan tempted Eve (Genesis 3:1-6)**
- **Satan tempted Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11)**
- **Satan and demons try to accomplish their goals by:**
 - **Lying (John 8:44);**
 - **Deception (Revelation 12:9);**
 - **Murder (John 8:44);**
 - **Blinding people to the gospel (2 Corinthians 4:4)**
 - **Keeping them in bondage to things that hinder them coming to faith (Galatians 4:8)**

Satan and Demons

Demons are limited by God's control and have limited power.

- **Satan could only do what God gave him permission to do.**

And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD. (Job 1:12)

- **At least some demons are kept in eternal chains.**

And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day— (Jude 1:6)

- **Christians can successfully resist demons.**

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)

Satan and Demons

Demons are limited by God's control and have limited power.

- **Demons probably have less power than angels since sin weakens.**
- **God knows the future but demons do not.**

for I am God, and there **is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, (Isaiah 46:9-10)**

- **God and Jesus know people's thoughts but there is no indication in the Bible that demons or Satan know people's thoughts. However, demons can observe us and hence seem to have supernatural powers.**

Satan and Demons

Demons are limited by God's control and have limited power.

- **The term **demon possession** is not found in the Greek text. The NT speaks of people who have a demon (Mathew 11:18; Luke 7:33; John 10:20 and other texts).**
- **A Christian can be attacked by a demon but not to the extent that their will is completely dominated by the demon such that the person has no ability to choose what is right and obey God.**

For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. (Romans 6:14)

Satan and Demons

In the OT demons are rarely mentioned but worship of false gods, idols and child sacrifices are really indications of worshiping Satan and/or demons.

They stirred him to jealousy with strange gods; with abominations they provoked him to anger. They sacrificed to demons that were no gods, to gods they had never known, to new gods that had come recently, whom your fathers had never dreaded Deuteronomy 32:16-17

but they mixed with the nations and learned to do as they did. They served their idols, which became a snare to them. They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons; they poured out innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan, and the land was polluted with blood. Psalm 106 35-38

Satan and Demons

In the OT there is no clear example of casting out a demon.

Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the LORD tormented him. 1 Samuel 16:14 And whenever the harmful spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand. So Saul was refreshed and was well, and the harmful spirit departed from him. 1 Samuel 16:23

It is no wonder that people were so amazed at Jesus.

And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” Mark 1:27

But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house. Matthew 12:28-29

Satan and Demons

Jesus probably bound the strong man (Satan) when he triumphed over Satan in the temptation in the wilderness.

Jesus plundered the strong man's house (the world of unbelievers) by bringing them to faith through the power of the Holy Spirit.

During the New Covenant Age Jesus was not the only one to have authority over Satan and demons.

These **twelve** Jesus sent out, instructing them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, **cast out demons**. You received without paying; give without pay. (Matthew 10:5-8)

Satan and Demons

The Return of the **Seventy-Two** The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even **the demons are subject to us in your name!**” And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. (Luke 10:17-18)

Later the authority over unclean spirits (demons) extended to others.

And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. (Acts 8:6-7)

And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour. (Acts 16:18)

Satan and Demons

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. (1 Peter 5:8-9)

Satan and Demons

During the Millennium Satan and demons will be further restricted.

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while. (Revelation 20:1-3)

At the end of the Millennium: and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (Revelation 20:10)