

# **Session 4:**

# **Supernatural Beings**

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# **Supernatural Beings**

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# Angels

In our culture today angels are very popular. They are depicted in everything from books to paintings to television shows. However, even though they're popular, much of our culture's knowledge about angels is wrong. In this lesson I'd like to take a look at what the Bible has to say about angels and correct a number of common misunderstandings.

## People Do Not Become Angels When They Die

There are many people who believe that when they die they become an angel. This belief is incorrect. The Bible tells us that angels are a separate race of beings – a *superior* race, as it turns out:

**Psalm 8:4:** “What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.”

As you can see, mankind and angels are *two separate classes of beings*. Men do not become angels, and angels do not become men. Men are physical creatures who were created from the dust. Angels, however, are spirits:

**Hebrews 1:7:** “And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.

14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?”

Throughout the Bible angels sometimes appear in human form, but they are *not* human and they are *not* physical beings. They are **spirits**. However, angels are *not* divine and they are not to be worshiped. There was once a time when the apostle John tried to worship an angel, and the angel immediately stopped him:

**Revelation 19:10:** “And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

As you can see, we are to worship God and God alone. Angels are our fellow servants; they are not gods.

Angels are also not eternal; they had a beginning. That brings us to our next point:

## Angels Are Created Beings

Angels have *not* existed for all of eternity. The only being who has always existed is God Himself. God has no beginning and He has no end. Angels, however, were created by God, just like everything else:

**Colossians 1:16:** “For by him were all things



created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:"

When this verse speaks of "principalities, or powers" it is actually referring to angels. (This is not the only time when the Bible speaks of them in those terms.) An even clearer reference to their creation can be found here:

**Psalm 148:1:** "Praise ye the Lord. Praise ye the Lord from the heavens: praise him in the heights.

2 Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts. . .

5 Let them praise the name of the Lord: for he commanded, and they were created."

As you can see, the angels have not existed for all of eternity; they were created by Jesus Christ. The Bible does not tell us how many angels there are, but it does say that the number of angels is enormous:

**Hebrews 12:22:** "But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,"

The number of angels is fixed; it is not growing. This is because angels do not reproduce or get married:

**Mark 12:25:** "For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven."

They also cannot die:

**Luke 20:36:** “Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.”

All of the angels mentioned in the Bible are male. There is no evidence that there are any female angels.

So when were the angels created? First of all, we know that they were created on a specific day. This is what the Bible says about Satan (who is a fallen angel):

**Ezekiel 28:13:** “Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.”

As you can see, Satan is also a created being. However, notice that the verse mentions the *day* that he was created. Unfortunately, that passage doesn't tell us *which* day. To find that out we are going to have to dig a little deeper.

Genesis 1:1-5 recounts the creation of light and darkness. God created day and night on the very first day:

**Genesis 1:5:** “And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.”

It is important to realize that *there were no days before this day*. This was the *very first day*. God is eternal; unlike us, He does not need time and space. On the very first day in all of eternity God created day and night. Since the angels were also created on a specific day, that means they had to be formed either on that first day or after it. They could not have been made before it because *there were no days before it*.

So which day was it? Well, in the book of Job we are told this:

**Job 38:4:** “Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.

5 Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?

6 Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof;

7 When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?”

The “sons of God” mentioned in verse 7 are angels. (They are obviously not men because mankind did not exist when God laid the foundations of the Earth!) The reason they are referred to as “sons of God” is because each angel was created directly by God Himself.

As you can see, the angels existed when God laid the foundations of the Earth. Since God laid the foundations of the Earth on the very first day, that means that God created the angels earlier that day. The angels may have been one of the very first things that God created.

So, then, angels are created beings, made by Jesus Christ,

and were probably formed on the first day of the Creation Week.

## There Is Only One Archangel

There are various cults out there that claim that there are multiple archangels. However, the Bible teaches otherwise. There is only one archangel, and his name is Michael:

**Jude 1:9:** "Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee."

As you can see, Michael is said to be *the* archangel. No other archangels are mentioned in the Bible.

Michael has several roles. The book of Jude tells us that he once contended with the devil about the body of Moses. Jude doesn't explain why the devil was interested in Moses' body, but apparently he was, and Michael resisted him and rebuked him. Michael is the only angel that we ever see directly fighting the devil himself.

It's worth noting that when Satan is finally cast out of Heaven, Michael is the one who will lead the charge against him:

**Revelation 12:7:** "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, 8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven."

This verse is more evidence that Michael is the only archangel. After all, the other angels in Heaven are said to be *his*

angels. There are two factions: Michael and his angels, and Satan and his demons.

Michael does have another role, however. The Bible refers to him as the great prince who watches over the children of Israel:

**Daniel 10:21:** “But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince.”

**Daniel 12:1:** “And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.”

Throughout history the devil has tried very hard to wipe out the children of Israel, but Michael has stood by them and protected them. He is the one who stands for the Israelites.

Finally, it should be noted that some cults claim that Michael is actually Jesus Christ. That is *not* the case! Michael is an angel. He is a very important and mighty angel, but he is just an angel. He is not God.

## Classifications of Angels

The Bible mentions two different classifications of angels – the **cherubim** and the **seraphim**. The cherubim appear to function as guards. After Adam and Eve sinned, God placed two of them to keep men away from the Tree of Life:

**Genesis 3:24:** “So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.”

The cherubims also carry the throne of God:

**Psalm 18:9:** “He bowed the heavens also, and came down: and darkness was under his feet.  
10 And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: yea, he did fly upon the wings of the wind.”

**Psalm 80:1:** “Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that ledest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwestest between the cherubims, shine forth.”

**Psalm 99:1:** “The Lord reigneth; let the people tremble: he sitteth between the cherubims; let the earth be moved.”

So what do cherubims look like? The book of Ezekiel has a lot to say about this. Their appearance is very unusual:

**Ezekiel 1:3:** “The word of the Lord came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of the Lord was there upon him.

4 And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire.

5 Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance; they had the likeness of a man.

6 And every one had four faces, and every one had four wings.

7 And their feet were straight feet; and the sole of their feet was like the sole of a calf's foot: and they sparkled like the colour of burnished brass.

8 And they had the hands of a man under their wings on their four sides; and they four had their faces and their wings.

9 Their wings were joined one to another; they turned not when they went; they went every one straight forward.

10 As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle.

11 Thus were their faces: and their wings were stretched upward; two wings of every one were joined one to another, and two covered their bodies.

12 And they went every one straight forward: whither the spirit was to go, they went; and they turned not when they went.

13 As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, and like the appearance of lamps: it went up and down among the living creatures; and the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning.

14 And the living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning."

How do we know that these were cherubim? Because Ezekiel identifies them a few chapters later:

**Ezekiel 10:14:** "And every one had four faces:

the first face was the face of a cherub, and the second face was the face of a man, and the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle.

15 And the cherubims were lifted up. This is the living creature that I saw by the river of Chebar.”

As you can see, the cherubim have a very striking appearance – they have four faces, four wings, and “their appearance was like burning coals of fire”. In the book of Ezekiel these creatures carried the throne of God – and they did it with great speed. These angels are *completely* different from the pictures of angels that you see in bookstores or on television.

So what about the seraphim? The Bible only mentions these angels one time. The word “seraphim” comes from a word that means “fiery ones”. They are only mentioned in the book of Isaiah:

**Isaiah 6:1:** “In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

2 Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.

3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

4 And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

5 Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.

6 Then flew one of the seraphims unto me,



having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar:

7 And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.”

The seraphim have a very different appearance from the cherubim. These angels have six wings and one face (as opposed to the cherubim, who have four wings and four faces). The seraphim do not carry the throne of God; instead they appear to be His servants. They stand around the throne and say “holy, holy, holy”, and are ready to do God's bidding at a moment's notice.

But what about the angels Gabriel and Michael? They don't appear to be cherubim or seraphim. The angels that God has sent to interact with mankind are very different. It seems that they are some sort of third classification of angels, but the Bible doesn't give their classification a name. It's also possible that the cherubim and seraphim are not angels at all, but are an altogether different kind of creature – but remember that Satan is actually a cherubim (as we saw earlier, the Bible says that he was once the “covering cherub”).

What we can see, though, is that there are different types of angels, and these types have different appearances, different roles, and different positions. All angels are not the same.

## The Power of Angels

God has given angels a great deal of power. Their wisdom is greater than man's wisdom:

**2 Samuel 14:20:** “To fetch about this form of speech hath thy servant Joab done this thing: and my lord is wise, according to the wisdom of

an angel of God, to know all things that are in the earth."

However, there are some things that angels do not know. Specifically, angels do not know when the Lord will return:

**Matthew 24:36:** "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."

Angels have great strength and the power to do miraculous things:

**Matthew 28:2:** "And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it."

**Acts 5:19:** "But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said,

20 Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life."

**2 Peter 2:11:** "Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord."

God once used an angel to destroy the Assyrian army:

**2 Chronicles 32:21:** "And the Lord sent an angel, which cut off all the mighty men of valour, and the leaders and captains in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned with shame of face to his own land. And when he was come into the house of his god, they that came forth of

his own bowels slew him there with the sword.

22 Thus the Lord saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib the king of Assyria, and from the hand of all other, and guided them on every side.”

However, angels do not have infinite power. Their power is limited:

**Daniel 10:12:** “Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words.

13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.”

This angel was unable to complete his task until the archangel Michael came to help him. Angels have great power, but sometimes even they need help. What we can see is that angels have a great deal more power than we do, which is why God uses them to protect His people – and that leads us to our next point.

## Guardian Angels

The Bible never says that each person has their own guardian angel. However, it does teach that angels watch over those who trust in God:

**Psalm 91:9:** “Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;

10 There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.”

**Psalm 34:7:** “The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.”

We can see an example of this in the story of Lot. God sent two angels to rescue him from the destruction of Sodom:

**Genesis 19:15:** “And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.”

This is actually part of the purpose of angels. The New Testament tells us that God uses the angels to minister to mankind:

**Hebrews 1:14:** “Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?”

This verse tells us that the angels (who are referred to as “ministering spirits”) are actually sent by God to minister to us, the heirs of salvation. That is a comforting and encouraging thought!

# The Message of Angels

Angels do more than battle demonic forces and protect believers. God also uses them to proclaim His messages. For example, they announced the birth of John the Baptist:

**Luke 1:11:** “And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

12 And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

13 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.”

An angel told Mary that she would give birth to Jesus:

**Luke 1:26:** “And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

29 And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus.”

Angels also announced the birth of Christ:

**Luke 2:9:** “And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

As you can see, God uses angels to do His will and to proclaim His messages. This is not the last time that God will send an angel to give a message to mankind. The Bible tells us that during the Tribulation, God will send an angel all over the world to preach the gospel:

**Revelation 14:6:** “And I saw another **angel fly** in the midst of heaven, having **the everlasting gospel to preach** unto them that dwell on the earth, and **to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,**

7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.”

For now, in this age, it is the responsibility of the Church to spread the gospel to all people. However, in the Tribulation the Church will be in Heaven, so it will not be possible for them to preach the gospel any longer. When that happens God will raise up others to do this task – and that includes the use of an angel.

We see that angels protect God's people, carry out God's judgment, and proclaim God's messages. That is not all that they do, though. There are also times when they give God suggestions – and that brings us to our next point.

## The Council of Heaven

In the book of I Kings we find one of the strangest passages in the entire Bible. The prophet Micaiah tells us that there is a Council of Heaven that gives God suggestions on how to accomplish God's will on Earth:

**I Kings 22:19:** “And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the Lord: I saw **the Lord sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him** on his right hand and on his left.

20 And the Lord said, **Who shall persuade Ahab**, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner.

21 And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the Lord, and said, I will persuade him.

22 And the Lord said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, **I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.** And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: **go forth, and do so.”**

To say that this is unexpected is an understatement. This is one of the most unusual truths in the Bible – so let's take a little bit of time to delve into the matter.

First of all, we need to understand that this is not a myth or a bizarre fantasy. Micaiah makes it clear in verse 19 that what he is saying is the “word of the Lord”. This scene *actually happened*. God really did ask “Who will trick Ahab into going out and dying in battle?” and then took suggestions. The Lord then picked the suggestion that would work and commanded the spirit (and remember that angels are spirits!) to go do the job. It is entirely possible that this is something that God does on a regular basis.

Before anyone jumps to the wrong conclusion, I want to point out that God knows all things and has all power. God did *not* ask this question because He was genuinely at a loss and didn't know what to do, and He did *not* ask it because He was weak and needed help. He knew exactly how He would handle this situation before He even created the world, and He was fully capable of handling it without assistance from anyone.

What we are seeing here is something a bit different. We all know that God works through people to accomplish His will. This passage tells us that God does something similar in Heaven with the angels. I don't know how often this happens, but God apparently brings situations before His angels, asks for their input, and then dispatches them to do His work.

This passage gives us a little glimpse at the way things are done in Heaven. It's certainly not what we would expect – which is what makes it so fascinating. Angels are actively involved in planning ways to carry out God's will. In fact, they do more than that: there are times when they even take the initiative, and that brings us to our next point.



# The Watchers

In Daniel 4 we learn that Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, had a dream that troubled him. During his dream a “watcher” appeared:

**Daniel 4:13:** “I saw in the visions of my head upon my bed, and, behold, **a watcher and an holy one came down from heaven;**”

This watcher says a number of things and then concludes with this:

**Daniel 4:17:** “This matter is by **the decree of the watchers**, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that **the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men**, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.”

First of all, just who are the watchers? Verse 17 tells us that Nebuchadnezzar’s insanity was being imposed by the decree *of the watchers*. The watchers decreed it so that people might know that God is the one who appoints kings and deposes them. In other words, the king’s insanity was done for the glory of God *by the watchers*. Given that these watchers can enact binding decrees on the most powerful rulers on Earth *and then carry them out*, it would seem that these mysterious watchers have a great deal of power.

As far as I can tell, this is the only chapter in the Bible that mentions the watchers. In Revelation, however, we find this unusual creature:

**Revelation 4:8:** “And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and **they were full**

**of eyes** within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.”

The four beasts were said to be “full of eyes”. Could they be the watchers? It’s impossible to say, but it’s interesting to think about. It may be that the watchers are a fourth classification of angels – separate from the cherubim (who have four wings and four faces), the seraphim (who have six wings and once face), and the angels that God sends to Earth.

What the book of Daniel tells us is that there is a council of “holy ones” that has great power and that does things on behalf of God's glory. If the watchers really are angels then this expands the scope of angelic activity. Not only do angels watch over God’s people and battle the forces of darkness, but they also issue binding decrees.

We are used to the idea of *people* taking the initiative to do something for the glory of God, but it’s a bit jarring to think that *angels* might do the same thing. We tend to think of angels as a race of robots that only acts when God gives them an order. It is true that angels act when God commands them – but is it possible that in some cases they might take the initiative? Might there be more to them than we think?

## Angelic Oddities

As we mentioned at the beginning of this lesson, a lot of the popular common knowledge about angels is actually wrong. For example, all of the angels in the Bible are men (there is no mention of any female angels), and no angels sang at Christ's birth. I realize that everyone “knows” that angels sang when Christ was born, but the Bible is clear that they actually didn't. Take a look for yourself:

**Luke 2:10:** “And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host **praising God, and saying,**

14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

The angels *said* “Glory to God in the highest”. They did *not* sing it. “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” is a great song, but it's not Biblically accurate.

The Bible also tells us that **angels have a sense of curiosity**:

**1 Peter 1:12:** “Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; **which things the angels desire to look into.**”

The angels are quite interested in our salvation! That subject grabs their attention. This makes sense if you think about it, because salvation was only given to mankind. When the devil fell and brought down many angels with him, God did *not* launch a plan of salvation for angels. It is impossible for fallen angels to be saved because Christ became a man died for the sins of *men*. He did not become an angel and die for the sins of angels. Since

the angels do not have a redeemer, all of the angels who have sinned are lost forever with no hope of salvation. (I am not saying that demons *want* to be saved; what I am saying is that salvation is impossible for them.)

This means that salvation is an experience that no angel will ever have. The gospel is only for mankind, and the angels are curious about it.

The angels are also **interested in the apostles**:

**1 Corinthians 4:9**: “For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, **and to angels**, and to men.”

Paul points out that the apostles are a spectacle to the world, to men, *and to angels*. Since the angels are interested in the gospel, it only makes sense that they are interested in the ministers that God appointed to preach the gospel. Even though God used the apostles in mighty ways, the apostles were despised, persecuted, abused, and (in many cases) executed. These church leaders (who, incidentally, were appointed by Jesus Christ Himself) were set forth as being the least, appointed unto death.

Before Jesus was crucified He warned His disciples about this. He told them that “he that is greatest among you shall be your servant” (Matthew 23:11), and He warned them that the highest positions of authority in the kingdom were purchased through immense pain and suffering (Matthew 20:22). Serving God in an ungodly world was not going to be easy. The apostles were made a spectacle to everyone – including angels.

The Bible also tells us that one day **we will judge angels**:

**1 Corinthians 6:3**: “Know ye not that **we shall judge angels**? how much more things that pertain to this life?”

Some people have tried to argue that this verse is talking

about human messengers, not angelic beings. However, the whole point Paul is making is that since we will one day judge *angels* then surely we can judge matters between fellow Christians!

I believe Paul is saying that one day we will be given authority over the angels. Christ said in Revelation 3:21 that “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne”. Christ certainly has authority over the angels; if He is going to share that authority with us then that would confirm the idea that one day we will rule over them.

Another odd fact is that apparently there is **angelic food**. When the psalmist talked about Israel’s journey from Egypt to Canaan he said this:

**Psalm 78:24:** “And had rained down manna upon them to eat, and had given them of the corn of heaven.

**25 Man did eat angels’ food:** he sent them meat to the full.”

Do the angels really eat food, or is the psalmist just being poetic? It’s hard to say based on just that one passage, but there is also the curious experience of Elijah:

**I Kings 19:5:** “And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then **an angel touched him**, and said unto him, **Arise and eat**.

**6** And he looked, and, behold, **there was a cake baken on the coals**, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again.

**7** And the angel of the Lord came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee.

**8** And he arose, and did eat and drink, and **went in the strength of that meat forty days** and

forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God.”

While Elijah was sleeping, an angel cooked him a meal that was so potent that it not only revived him, but it gave him enough energy to travel for 40 days and nights! That angelic food was incredibly powerful. (I realize that “the angel of the Lord” may be a preincarnate appearance of Jesus Christ, but the point is still the same.)

We’re not done yet though. The apostle Paul tells us that the Mosaic Law was **ordained by angels**:

**Galatians 3:19:** “Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and **it was ordained by angels** in the hand of a mediator.”

This seems rather astonishing, but it’s not the only place we find this idea in the Bible. Paul is echoing what Stephen told the Pharisees right before he was killed:

**Acts 7:52:** “Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:

53 **Who have received the law by the disposition of angels**, and have not kept it.”

In other words, the angels were actually involved in giving the Law to mankind! They played a role that is rarely talked about.

There is one more point that I'd like to bring up, and I have saved the strangest one for last. Paul says that **women should keep their heads covered in church** because of the angels:

**1 Corinthians 11:10:** “For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head **because of the angels.**”

I don't think that Paul is talking about messengers between churches or anything like that; I think he really does mean angels. There is more going on here than it seems.

As I have discussed elsewhere, in the days before the Flood there was a time when some angels became enraptured with the beauty of human women and had children with them (Genesis 6:1-2). This, however, was an awful sin, and God imprisoned the angels who did this (Jude 1:6; II Peter 2:4). Angels are not permitted to marry women – but as odd as it may seem, some angels actually find women tempting. I think that Paul is saying that when women wear hats (or some other symbol of authority) they remind the angels that they are under authority and are not available.

I know this seems strange, but we often forget that angels can be tempted by sin. The fact that one third of all angels chose to join Satan's rebellion (Rev. 12:4) is a sober reminder that even angels can fall into sin – and once they fall there is no going back. We can obtain forgiveness through Christ, but angels cannot.





# Demons

In our last lesson we talked extensively about angels. This week we are going to take a close look at the subject of demons. This actually overlaps our previous discussion because demons are actually fallen angels, and Satan was originally the highest created angel – and that is where we will begin our study.

## Only One-Third Of Angels Fell

The Bible tells us that demons are *not* a separate class of creatures. Demons are actually fallen angels – angels that rebelled against God. We find the account of this in the book of Revelation:

**Revelation 12:3:** “And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.”

There is a great deal going on in this passage, and what makes things even more challenging is its heavy use of symbolic language. Thankfully, the Bible explains the terms that it uses. Later on in the chapter we are told that the dragon is actually Satan:

**Revelation 12:9:** “And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”

Notice that the verse mentions “his angels”. This makes it clear that the beings we refer to as demons are actually fallen angels. They are angels who have gone bad and allied with Satan. They are now the devil's angels, not God's angels.

Verse 4 tells us that when Satan rebelled he took one third of all angels with him. The phrase “stars of heaven” symbolizes angels. We saw this same usage earlier in Job 38:7. When the Bible speaks of stars in a symbolic way, it is referring to angels (either good ones or evil ones). Since one-third of the angels rebelled with Satan, that means that God has twice as many angels as Satan does (two-thirds vs one-third).

Angels have what theologians refer to as a “fixed will”. The fallen angels (also known as demons) are evil and will always be evil. The holy angels are good and will always be good. When Satan launched his rebellion against God, each angel chose to either side with God or side with the devil. That choice, once made, was permanent.

It should be noted that fallen angels *cannot* be saved. Salvation only applies to mankind. The reason for this is because in order for salvation to be possible, an innocent party has to suffer on behalf of the guilty party. Mankind can be saved because Jesus Christ became *a man* and died in our place, suffering for our sins. Since He did not become an angel and die *in their* place, forgiveness is not possible for angels. Jesus died for mankind, not for the angels. We can be saved, but they cannot.

# Satan Was Once The Highest Angel

The reason that demons exist is because of Satan's rebellion against God. The Bible tells us that Satan was once the highest classification of angel:

**Ezekiel 28:12:** “Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.

13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.”

Even though this passage seems to be talking about the King of Tyrus, it is actually referring to Satan, not to a human king. No human king in Ezekiel's day had ever set foot in Eden! This passage is talking about what Satan was like *before* he fell and became the devil. As you can see, God created him as a perfect being. He was full of wisdom and perfect in beauty, and he was arrayed in precious stones.

Verse 14 tells us that he was “the anointed cherub that covereth”. As we mentioned in our last lesson, cherubs are one of the types of angels. All of the cherubs were stationed below the throne of God, except for the covering cherub. That angel was stationed *above* God's throne and acted as a covering. This means

that the covering cherub was the highest rank of cherub – which means that Satan was created to be the highest ranking angel.

At first Satan was perfect, but then he became proud and that led to his downfall:

**Ezekiel 28:15:** “Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

16 By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.”

His beauty led to pride, and he decided to exalt himself still further:

**Isaiah 14:12:** “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.”

The devil (who was originally called Lucifer, which according to Strong's Concordance means “light-bearer”) decided

that he wanted to be God. The gifts, beauty, position, and wisdom that God had given him were not enough; he demanded more. His pride led to his rebellion, and one third of the angels joined him.

No one knows when this happened, but it was apparently pretty soon after the angels were created. There doesn't seem to be much time between the creation of man on day six and Satan's temptation of Eve in the Garden of Eden. By the time that happened Satan had already fallen and become the deceiver.

## Satan's Doom Is Assured

We have discussed that Satan rebelled against God and created an army of demons, so now let's take a look at how God is going to punish the devil. God did not stand idly by while Satan worked his work; the book of Isaiah tells us what God is planning on doing to him:

**Isaiah 14:15:** “Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.”

The devil tried to exalt himself above God, but he will be brought down to Hell. This will happen after the Millennial Kingdom is over. When the thousand-year reign of Christ has ended, God will release Satan from his prison. The devil will then launch one final war against God, but he will be defeated and cast into the Lake of Fire:

**Revelation 20:7:** “And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,  
8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the

number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."

That is the ultimate fate of the devil – he will be cast into the Lake of Fire, where he will be tormented day and night, forever and ever. He will no longer be able to spread evil, or deceive the nations, or accuse believers. His reign of terror will be over forever.

This brings up an important point. Many people have this idea that Satan is the CEO of Hell and spends his time managing Hell and tormenting the people who are there. However, the Bible tells us that that is *not* the case. Satan actually spends his time roaming around the Earth:

**Job 1:7:** "And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it."

Notice that Satan did *not* say "Oh, I've been in Hell tormenting all the new arrivals." You see, Hell is not a fun playground for demons. The truth is actually the opposite: Hell was instead created *to torment them*:

**Matthew 25:41:** "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:"

Hell was created as a place to torment the devil and his angels. The demons are very aware of their fate and they are terrified of it. When Jesus walked the Earth the demons had a question to ask him:

**Matthew 8:28:** “And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way.

29 And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?”

The demons are *not* going to spend eternity tormenting all of the lost souls that they have managed to deceive. No, their future is quite different: they are going to spend eternity *being tormented* in the place of eternal fire that God has prepared for them. They are not going to be Hell's management, but Hell's *occupants*. They will be tormented along with everyone else.

One day Satan's power will be utterly broken. The book of Isaiah speaks of this time:

**Isaiah 14:9:** “Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations.

10 All they shall speak and say unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? art thou become like unto us?

11 Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, and the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee. . .

16 They that see thee shall narrowly look upon

thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;

17 That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?

18 All the kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house.

19 But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcase trodden under feet.”

Notice what happens when Satan finally is cast down to Hell! He is not greeted as some sort of dignitary. Instead people look at him in amazement that his power is finally broken and he has become as weak as the rest of the tormented dead. He is not reigning over Hell; instead he is described as a carcass trodden under foot that is covered by worms. He is not reigning; he is suffering along with everyone else. The one who made the world tremble and who destroyed cities will one day become nothing more than another tormented soul in Hell.

## **The War In Heaven Has Not Happened Yet**

The book of Revelation speaks of a time when there will be a great war in Heaven, and the devil and his angels will be cast out:

**Revelation 12:7:** “And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the



dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,  
8 And prevailed not; neither was their place  
found any more in heaven.  
9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old  
serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which  
deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into  
the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.  
10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven,  
Now is come salvation, and strength, and the  
kingdom of our God, and the power of his  
Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast  
down, which accused them before our God day  
and night.  
11 And they overcame him by the blood of the  
Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and  
they loved not their lives unto the death.”

Here we see that Michael and his angels fought against Satan and his angels. When Satan lost, he and his angels were cast out of Heaven forever. Now, when people read this they commonly assume that this event happened long before mankind was created, but that is *not* the case. This is a *future* event, not a past one. It has not yet taken place.

There are several reasons for this. First of all, this passage tells us that when this war happened the “accuser of our brethren is cast down”. Satan had been accusing Christians to God day and night, but when he is evicted from Heaven he loses the power to do that. However, if Satan was thrown out of Heaven before mankind was created then it would have been impossible for him to accuse anyone *because no one existed for him to accuse!* If you read the book of Job you will see that Satan actually *does* still have access to Heaven, and he uses that access to accuse the brethren – just like Revelation 12:10 says:

**Job 1:6:** “Now there was a day when the sons of  
God came to present themselves before the

Lord, and Satan came also among them.

7 And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

8 And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

9 Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?

10 Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

11 But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.”

Here you can see Satan going before God Himself and accusing Job. The devil accused believers back in Job's day, and he is still doing it today – but one day there will be a war in Heaven and his access will be revoked. He will be cast down to the Earth.

If you study the book of Revelation (which is well outside the scope of this lesson) you will see that this event happens near the middle of the Tribulation. As I have discussed elsewhere, before the Tribulation begins the Lord will come to Earth, Rapture the Church, and take them with Him to Heaven. We will be with the Lord in Heaven for the entire duration of the Tribulation. This means that when the war in Heaven happens and Satan is cast out, *we will actually be in Heaven*. We will not participate in the battle (as verse 7 explains, it is a war among angels), but we will be there.

# The Devil Is Our Adversary

There are many people today who do not believe in the devil. They think of him as some sort of ridiculous cartoon character. However, the Bible paints a very different picture. It teaches us that the devil is very real – and very dangerous. We are told in no uncertain terms that the devil is our adversary, and he will try to destroy us if he can:

**I Peter 5:8:** “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:  
9 Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”

The devil is not imaginary. He exists, he is real, he opposes us, and he searches the world for people that he can destroy. Peter urges us to be sober and to watch vigilantly, and to resist him by remaining steadfast in the faith. We really *do* have an enemy, and we should take him seriously. We are told to *resist* him, not ignore him. If we resist the devil he will flee from us:

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

We must fight him, because he is exceedingly dangerous. Jesus told us that when the gospel is preached, Satan and his minions are standing by so that they can snatch the word out of people's hearts:

**Mark 4:4:** “And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up. . .  
15 And these are they by the way side, where

the word is sown; but when they have heard,  
Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the  
word that was sown in their hearts."

The devil actively opposes the spread of the gospel. He wanted to destroy Peter:

**Luke 22:31:** "And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:"

He persuaded Ananias to lie:

**Acts 5:3:** "But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?"

He is actively seeking to gain an advantage over us:

**2 Corinthians 2:11:** "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."

He actively seeks to hinder us:

**1 Thessalonians 2:18:** "Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us."

He provokes us to do evil:

**1 Chronicles 21:1:** "And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel."

There are even some illnesses that are his handiwork:

**Luke 13:11:** “And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself.

12 And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity.

13 And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

14 And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the sabbath day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day.

15 The Lord then answered him, and said, Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering?

16 And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?”

There are also trials and tribulations in our life that are a result of his work:

**2 Corinthians 12:7:** “And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.”

In fact, there are times when Satan not only strikes people with disease, but even kills them outright:

**Job 1:12:** “And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord.

13 And there was a day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house:

14 And there came a messenger unto Job, and said, The oxen were plowing, and the asses feeding beside them:

15 And the Sabeans fell upon them, and took them away; yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

16 While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

17 While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The Chaldeans made out three bands, and fell upon the camels, and have carried them away, yea, and slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

18 While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, Thy sons and thy daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house:

19 And, behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.”

As we know, Satan later struck Job with a terrible disease:

**Job 2:6:** “And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life.

7 So went Satan forth from the presence of the Lord, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.”

Not only does Satan tempt people to do evil, but he also has the power to strike people with diseases – and *he can even kill people*. The case of Job makes this very clear.

As if all of that were not enough, the devil and his minions can even perform miracles:

**2 Thessalonians 2:9:** “Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,”

**Revelation 16:14:** “For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.”

Paul explains that our chief problem in life is not other people or wicked men, but the evil spirits of darkness. He warns us that we are not wrestling against flesh and blood (that is, against human enemies) but instead we are fighting demonic powers and darkness:

**Ephesians 6:11:** “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world,

against spiritual wickedness in high places.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

Now we will take a look at how to fight the devil.

## Fighting The Devil

The book of James tells us that if we resist the devil, he will flee from us:

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

How do we resist the devil? By doing the other activity the verse talks about – we need to submit ourselves to God. When we submit ourselves to God and choose to do His will, we are taking a stand for what is right and against what is wrong. We are choosing to side with God and against the forces of darkness. Submitting ourselves to God is an active measure – it attacks that which is evil.

The book of Ephesians has a lot more to say about this. Paul tells us to take on the whole armor of God so that we can resist the devil and fend off his attacks (because he is going to attack us). This is a long passage, so I'm going to take a look at each piece.

First, we are told to put on the armor of God:

**Ephesians 6:11:** “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”



As we saw earlier, we *do* have an adversary. The devil is going to attack us, and when he attacks we will need to put up a fight. Putting in the armor of God will help us stand against him. Paul goes on to explain that the real problem in our life is our struggle against the forces of darkness:

**Ephesians 6:12:** “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

When the Bible says “spiritual wickedness in high places”, it actually means spiritual wickedness in *heavenly* places. Think back to the book of Job. Do you remember how Satan went before God Himself and accused Job? That is the sort of “spiritual wickedness” that the verse is talking about. Our real enemy is the devil and his minions. Our real problem are his attacks against us. We are not wrestling against flesh and blood, but against the rules of the darkness of this world. Our true enemy – whether we realize it or not – is demonic.

In order to fight them we must take the whole armor of God, so that we may stand against them:

**Ephesians 6:13:** “Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

It *is* possible to stand against them. It is possible to overcome their attacks and find victory. In order to get that victory, the first thing we need is the truth:

**Ephesians 6:14:** “Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

The truth is a critical defense against evil. The Bible tells us that the devil is the father of lies (John 8:44). Satan often uses lies in his attacks – for example, look at the lies he told to Eve in order to tempt her to eat the forbidden fruit. When he tempted Jesus in the wilderness he used half-truths and deception. We need to possess the truth and understand it, so that we can spot his lies and reveal them for what they truly are. Knowing the truth is a solid defense against evil.

However, just knowing the truth is not enough. It is possible to know the truth and still do evil. That is why we also need the second thing the verse talks about – righteousness. We must not simply know the truth; we also have to live in the truth. It is not enough to just understand the truth; we must walk in it. If we seek righteousness, do what is right, and submit ourselves to God, then that is a very powerful defense against evil. That is how Jesus Himself defeated Satan – He revealed Satan's lies for what they were, and He refused to fall into temptation but instead chose the path of righteousness. Walking in righteousness – and seeking righteousness – is a powerful defense against evil.

But that is not all that we need. There is still more:

**Ephesians 6:15:** “And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;”

It may seem strange that the gospel is part of the equipment that we need, but remember that we are called to do more than simply withstand attacks – we must be on the offensive! We are not called to simply stand still and let evil attack us; we need to be on the move, preaching the gospel and spreading the message of Jesus Christ far and wide. The gospel should be literally moving us to action – in fact, it should be *the very reason why we are moving*. If we have left it behind then we have lost something critical. Jesus has called us to spread the gospel to every person, and that is exactly what we should be doing.

Another critical part of our armor is faith:

**Ephesians 6:16:** “Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.”

When evil attacks it tries very hard to spread fear and doubt. Fear is one of the greatest tools of demons – they try very hard to terrify people and make them so full of fear that they are unable to do anything productive. Fear, however, does not come from God. God has not given us a spirit of fear! When we are afraid and are in doubt, we should take up the shield of faith in use it. Faith is the antidote to fear. When we are in fear we *must* choose to trust the promises of God. When things look dire we *must* take God at His Word and believe. Fear can be conquered by faith. Doubt can be destroyed by faith. It is our shield, and it is well able to quench the devil's fiery darts. We will not get very far without faith.

There are a few other things that we need:

**Ephesians 6:17:** “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:”

Salvation is *vital* when fighting the devil. If you are not saved then you have already lost. No one can successfully fight the devil without the Holy Spirit. If you have rejected God and are out on your own then you are guaranteed to lose. Your only hope is to become a Christian. All Christians in this age are sealed with the Holy Spirit – and it is impossible to be possessed by the Holy Spirit and by an unholy spirit at the same time. Not only are Christians immune to demon possession, but since they have the Spirit of God in them they have the power they need to resist the devil and actually defeat him. Salvation is *essential*! It is the only way to achieve victory.

We also need the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of

God. Note that while shields are defensive, swords are offensive weapons. The Bible tells us that this sword is a very powerful and potent weapon:

**Hebrews 4:12:** “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

When the Bible is preached – when we tell others what it has to say – it has an enormously powerful impact. It changes hearts and minds. It turns sinners into saints. It convicts and chastises. It is *powerful*, and it should not be abandoned. We should stand by the Bible and use it at every opportunity. There is a great power in the Word – a power that is often neglected in our time. The devil very much wants to move us away from it, and there is great pressure on the Church to neglect the Bible and talk about something else. This is a tremendous mistake. The devil is not threatened by other things; he is threatened by God's words. It is the Bible that is a threat to him, and it is the Bible that we should be using.

Finally, we must also remember to pray – not just for ourselves, but for all the saints:

**Hebrews 4:18:** “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”

There is great power in prayer. We should cast all our cares upon God, for He cares for us. We should ask, so that we might receive. We should pray for one another so that we might be healed. Prayer is not futile; it is vital. When a Christian prays he is making a request to an all-powerful God – a God who not

only loves him, but who sent His Son to die on his behalf. The book of James tells us that the prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Armed with the armor of God, we will have what it takes to stand in the evil day and to resist the wiles of the devil. He will attack us, but God has given us what we need to withstand him. We have the ability to overcome him – but the lost do not. They are utterly helpless, and that is what we will look at next.

## Demon Possession

As was said earlier, it is impossible for any Christian to be possessed by a demon. This is because, in this age, all believers are sealed with the Holy Spirit:

**Ephesians 1:13:** “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”

**Ephesians 4:30:** “And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”

This is so important that Paul said that if you do not have the Holy Spirit then you are not a Christian at all:

**Romans 8:9:** “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in

you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."

Having the Holy Spirit within us does *not* make us immune to the devil's attacks, but it *does* make us immune to demon possession. Satan may still attack us, tempt us, and perhaps even make us sick (as he did to the apostle Paul) and kill us (as he did to Job's children), but he *cannot* possess us. It is utterly impossible for the devil to force us to do his bidding. He can tempt us to sin, but he cannot *force* us to sin. That is a very big deal. Thanks to the Holy Spirit, we *can* resist the devil and we can overcome him. We do not have to give in to temptation and we do not have to do evil. We have the power to win.

The lost, however, are in a very different situation. Since they are not filled with the Holy Spirit, there is nothing in their lives that is keeping demonic influences out. They actually *can* be possessed by demons, and that is a very serious matter.

Demon possession is a rare thing, especially in this country. Possession is not the same thing as being tempted to do something that is wrong. In cases of possession, demons (which, remember, are actually spirits, so they are not physical beings) take up residence inside a person and force them to do their bidding. They act like parasites – powerful, evil parasites. The effects of this are catastrophic.

We can find a number of cases of this in the New Testament. For example:

**Mark 5:2:** "And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,  
3 Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains:  
4 Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him.

5 And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones."

This passage gives quite a ghastly description of demon possession. First, we see that this man had incredible, supernatural strength. People had tried to bind him with chains, and the man utterly tore them apart. There was simply no way to bind or imprison this person. Supernatural strength is not unusual in cases of demon possession; we see it in other cases as well. For example:

**Acts 19:14:** "And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so.

15 And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?

16 And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded."

This demon-possessed man was able to overcome *seven other people* and abuse them to such an extent that they fled from him naked and wounded. Seven people should have been able to restrain one man, but not this time. Likewise, in the case that Mark related, chains should have been able to imprison him, but they were useless because he had supernatural, demonic strength.

This man was also wild and out-of-control. He dwelt among the tombs and spent night and day howling. He was out of his mind and utterly out of control. He could not dwell among civilized people; he was wilder than any animal and was extremely dangerous. Not only was he dangerous to others, but he was also dangerous to himself – the Bible says that he cut himself with stones. He was possessed with an evil spirit of destruction.

Also notice that in these cases, when the person spoke the

people were actually talking with the demon. In Acts 19:15 we see that it was the *evil spirit* who answered him.

Now, in some cases demon possession results in a *loss* of senses:

**Matthew 9:32:** “As they went out, behold, they brought to him a dumb man possessed with a devil.

33 And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake; and the multitudes marvelled, saying, It was never so seen in Israel.”

Since the man was possessed he could not talk. That does not always happen, but it did happen in this case.

Adults are not the only people who can be possessed. Children can be possessed as well:

**Mark 9:17:** “And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit;

18 And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not.

19 He answereth him, and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me.

20 And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming.

21 And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child.”

Here we find out that this particular person had been



possessed *since he was a child*. Children are *not* immune to this. You can see that this child exhibited many of the same symptoms of the case we looked at earlier – the same violent, out-of-control, self-destructive behavior.

It turns out that even animals can become possessed:

**Matthew 8:31:** “So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine.

32 And he said unto them, Go. And when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine: and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters.”

Demons prefer to possess people, but when that is not an option they are willing to possess animals as well.

To the best of my knowledge, there are no cases of demon possession mentioned in the Old Testament. All of the cases that we read about are in the New Testament. This may seem strange, but it makes sense if you think about it. Demonic activity was at its height when Jesus walked the Earth. During that time Satan concentrated all of his efforts on the places where Jesus was located. The reason why he would do this is obvious – he wanted to hinder Jesus from carrying out His ministry. It's really not at all surprising that Jesus would constantly be coming across people who were possessed.

Jesus explained this when He said that He was binding the strong man so that He could loot his house:

**Matthew 12:29:** “Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.”

Jesus went through the countryside, casting out demons

and driving the darkness away – and then He sent out His disciples, who preached the gospel. Since Jesus had first bound the strong man, His followers were able to spoil the devil's house. Since Satan had already been pushed back, the disciples were able to be much more effective and met with much less resistance. Yes, they were still persecuted, and yes, they still had problems, but things were not as bad as they could have been.

However, demon possession has not gone away. It still exists. The difference is that it is rare – just like it was in the Old Testament. Satan is no longer concentrating all of his efforts on one tiny piece of real-estate, the way he did back in the time of Christ; now he has an entire world to trouble.

Demon possession is much more common in countries that either have a heavy occult presence or that worship demons. They are very rare in Christian nations or in areas with a strong Christian presence. Think of it this way: Christians are the light of the world, and demons cannot stand the light – they vastly prefer the darkness. In places that are saturated with the light, there is very little room for darkness to exert its influence and power. However, places that are filled in utter darkness are very inviting. Those are the sort of places where you would expect to find possession – and that is why possession is rare in all but the very darkest of places.

Now, it is possible to *invite* demons into your life. There are real Satanists who actually do delve into the occult, and who worship demons and invite them into their lives. These people actually *try* to become possessed. I am not going to go into the details of this because there are some things that should not be discussed. You are *much* better off not knowing how to worship or summon demons. The Bible says that we should be wise concerning righteousness and ignorant concerning the deep things of evil. It is a very bad idea to know the deep things of Satan.

So, unless you spend a great deal of time in parts of the world that are filled with devil-worship, you will probably not come across anyone who is actually possessed. Remember, mental illness and demon possession are two very different

things. It is possible to be mentally ill without being possessed. When it comes to possession, it is really best to let a seasoned professional study the case and make a determination. How that determination is made is a question that is well outside the scope of this paper.

## Exorcism

Let me say right up front that it is probably a bad idea for you to try to perform an exorcism. If this is the first time you have ever studied this subject then I can say with confidence that you have no idea what you are doing. The reason I bring this subject up is *not* so that you can go out there and start trying it on your own; it is so that you will have an understanding of the Biblical principles that are involved. I want you to know enough about this subject so that the next time you see an exorcism performed on television, you will be able to point at it and laugh at how ridiculous it is. I want you to understand the truth.

However, exorcisms are a serious business. It takes a professional to diagnose true possession (and tell it apart from mental illness), and actually casting the demon out is not something to be taken lightly. All demons are not the same, and all cases of possession are not the same either. Some demons can be cast out immediately while others require fasting and prayer. If you are not experienced in this sort of thing and if you do not have a really good grasp of the finer details then you should avoid this as much as you possibly can. Do not perform exorcisms yourself; instead have someone do it who is trained and who knows what they are doing.

Exorcisms are not a joke. In true cases of possession you are dealing with a person who has supernatural strength, demonic fury, and who is absolutely out-of-control. When the seven sons of Sceva attempted an exorcism in Acts 19:14 they were very

nearly beaten to death by a single possessed man. Trying and failing this can injure or even kill you. It can be done – and Christians have the power to do it – but it is *not* a game and it should *not* be treated lightly.

To understand how exorcisms work, let's take a look at how Jesus cast out demons. During His ministry Christ actually used a couple different methods. The common method in His day for casting out demons was to ask the demon its name and then use that name to cast it out. For example:

**Mark 5:6:** “But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him,  
7 And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not.  
8 For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit.  
9 And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many.”

The reason Jesus asked its name was so He could use its name to cast it out by saying something along the lines of “Legion, come out of the man”. In order to do that, though, you had to find out the demon's name. That meant it was impossible for anyone to cast a demon out of a man who couldn't talk – and that was why people were shocked when Jesus did exactly that:

**Matthew 9:32:** “As they went out, behold, they brought to him a dumb man possessed with a devil.  
33 And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake: and the multitudes marvelled, saying, It was never so seen in Israel.”

When Jesus cast a demon out of a man who could not talk, He amazed Israel. What He had just done was impossible without the power of God; Jesus had just done something that had never been done before. According to their traditions, the only person who had that kind of power was the Messiah. By doing this Jesus was demonstrating that He really was the Messiah, the Son of God. This miracle was every bit as astonishing to ancient Israel as raising Lazarus from the dead. It was proof that Jesus was exactly who He said He was.

As you can see, the way Jesus cast out demons was simply by ordering them out. Jesus would say “Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit”, and the demon would come out. It was not any more complicated than that. Unlike what you see on television, there was no fancy ritual that had to be performed. You did not need a crucifix or holy water or a special incantation. Jesus simply told them to come out, and they came out. There was no special magic words involved. What made it possible was the power that Jesus had. Since *He* told them to come out, the demons had to obey. They had no choice.

Jesus gave His followers the power to cast out demons:

**Matthew 10:7:** “And as ye go, preach, saying,  
The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the  
dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received,  
freely give.”

The disciples cast out demons the same way that Jesus did  
– they just commanded the demon to come out, and it did:

**Acts 16:16:** “And it came to pass, as we went to  
prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit  
of divination met us, which brought her masters  
much gain by soothsaying:

17 The same followed Paul and us, and cried,  
saying, These men are the servants of the most

high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.

18 And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.”

The reason that Paul was able to cast our demons was because he did it in the name of Jesus Christ. Now, let me be clear about something. The reason it worked was *not* because he uttered the words “Jesus Christ” in his exorcism. As we saw earlier with the seven sons of Sceva, the phrase “Jesus Christ” is not a magical incantation. The reason it worked was because Paul did it as a Christian, *on behalf* of Jesus Christ. It is like when the American ambassador to France does something in the name of (or on behalf of) the United States. Since he is the American ambassador, he has the power to do things in the name of our country. Since we are Christians, we have the power to do things in the name of (or on behalf of) Jesus Christ. *That* is what “in the name of Jesus” means. It means we are taking that action on Christ's behalf. It is as if Christ was there doing it Himself – and since demons cannot resist Christ, they could not resist Paul either.

The reason the seven sons of Sceva failed is because they were not Christians. Since they were not Christians, they could not do things on behalf of Christ. They just invoked the name of Jesus like some magical good-luck charm – and that mistake very nearly killed them.

Does that mean that all we have to do is walk up to someone who is possessed and order the demon to depart? Sometimes that works, but sometimes it is more complicated than that. Jesus told us that there are certain demons that can only be removed by fasting and prayer:

**Mark 9:28:** “And when he was come into the

house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out?

29 And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.”

There are times when it is possible to battle a demonic presence by casting it out in the name of Christ, and that alone is enough to defeat it. There are other times when it cannot be done without fasting and prayer. It simply depends on the type of possession. Of course, before any of this will work at all you must make sure that you really *are* dealing with demons, and not with something else entirely. You will never be able to cast a demon out of a man who is just confused or mentally ill, and that is where wisdom comes into play.

One critical thing to remember when dealing with this is that casting a demon out of someone can have very serious consequences if the person does not become a Christian afterward. In fact, it can actually make their lives much worse. Jesus explained why:

**Matthew 12:43:** “When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none.

44 Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished.

45 Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.”

As you can see, demons are different, and some demons are more wicked than others. All of them are bad, but some are much *more* wicked than others. When a demon is cast out, the person's body is emptied of the evil spirit that used to be in it. If

that person becomes a Christian then the house (or “body”) becomes filled with the Holy Spirit, and that defends the house against invaders. However, if the person does *not* become a Christian then the house stays empty – and an empty house is defenseless against evil spirits. In that case, the spirit that was cast out goes and finds other spirits that are even more evil than itself, and they *all* take up residence inside the person. In the final end, the person becomes much worse off than they were originally. The problem is not that the exorcism failed; it is that the person did not take advantage of the cure to fill himself with the Spirit. If you have the Holy Spirit then you can defeat the devil, but if you lack the Holy Spirit then you are defenseless against him.



# Aliens and UFOs

Over the past few weeks we have discussed angels and demons. Both of those subjects are highly relevant to our lives today, and both of them are mentioned in the Bible numerous times. It makes a great deal of sense to spend some time discussing those two different supernatural forces.

Now, though, we're going to shift gears and talk about aliens. I realize that this seems like a huge change from what we have been talking about, but in reality it isn't. In fact, as we will see in a few minutes, the subject of aliens and UFOs ties right in to what we have been talking about. It may seem like we have changed the subject, but we really haven't.

A lot of people think that the subject of aliens is “goofy” and don't really give it very much thought. It is seen as a weird fringe belief – just like belief in Bigfoot or the Abominable Snowman. It's one of those things that gets laughed at and ignored by most people.

What people *don't* realize is that belief in UFOs differs from belief in Bigfoot in a very important way: the supposed aliens in the UFOs are peddling a *belief system*. Regardless of whether these aliens actually exist, there are millions of people who believe in them and who are accepting the religious system that they are teaching. If belief in aliens was classified as a cult, it would be one of the largest in the country. To put it into perspective: the number of people in this country who claim to have met aliens is about the same as the number of Mormons. That is how big this thing really is.

And it is not harmless. You can believe in Bigfoot all you want without doing any real harm. People may look at you a bit strangely, but that's about it. Belief in aliens, though, is different. If you read the messages that were supposedly left by the aliens and listen to what people who have supposedly met aliens have to

say, you will discover that the aliens are peddling a religion – a religion that has drastically altered many lives and turned people away from God. That is *not* harmless, and that is a serious matter.

It really doesn't matter if *you* believe in aliens or not. You may happen to think that the whole subject is a lot of nonsense. The point is that there are millions of people who *do* believe, and they are paying a lot of attention to the New Age beliefs that the aliens are peddling. What we are actually dealing with is a very subtle kind of cult – one that has largely gone unchallenged by the Church.

So how many people are we talking about? Well, for starters, it's pretty obvious that our culture in general is very interested in aliens. According to a 2008 Scripps UFO poll, 56% of Americans believe that life probably exists on other planets, and 8% of Americans believe that they have seen an actual UFO. On top of that, according to a 2002 poll commissioned by the SciFi channel, 2% claim to have had an encounter with alien life. That 2% number has been fairly consistent over the past few decades; it keeps coming up in poll after poll. If there are 300 million Americans then that means that *six million people* claim to have encountered alien life – or, to put it more bluntly, have been abducted.

One thing you may not realize is that UFO sightings have been increasing over the past few decades. In July 1992 there were 32 reported UFO sightings. In July 2002 there were 430 reported sightings. In July 2012 the number of sightings increased to 867. The reported sightings has jumped sharply in the past twenty years. You may not hear about them on the news, but the number of sightings is going up, not down. The UFO phenomenon is *not* going away.

Another fact you may not realize is that UFO sightings are not a recent occurrence. There are reports of UFOs in documents from ancient Egypt, Rome, and during the Middle Ages. A UFO was seen in Boston in 1639 – and there are many other cases as well. What *has* changed in the last century is the frequency of the

sightings. In the past they were rare; now they are quite common. People have always been seeing strange things in the sky, but it is now more common than it has ever been before.

If the UFO phenomenon was limited to people seeing odd things in the sky then it would probably be safe to ignore it. We could step back and let the scientists and researchers decide if there was anything to it or not. The problem is that it is *not* limited to strange lights. As I said earlier, there is a spiritual component to this.

If you ever sit down and read a book about people who claim to have been abducted by aliens, you will discover some rather odd trends. (Once again, it really doesn't matter if *you* believe in aliens or not. What does matter is that there are many people who *do* believe and who are being changed by this whole phenomenon.) First of all, the message that the aliens are bringing tends to be very religious. They don't want to talk about science, or their home planet, or what their lives are like, or anything like that. Instead they want to talk about religion. The aliens spend a great deal of time trying to convince people that Christianity is a hoax. Of all the religions in the world, Christianity is the one that is singled out and attacked. For some reason the aliens hate Christianity with a passion. They don't attack any other religions; they just focus on Christianity.

The aliens make many claims that contradict the Bible. For instance, aliens claim that we had past lives:

“Then [the alien] said that it was my choice, that I agreed to all this a long time ago. I said I didn't remember the agreement ... and he answered, 'Before you were born, and we've had this conversation before.” [Taken, p147]

They claim that they are here to help us, and that if we join them we can become one with the Creator (which is a pagan belief known as “pantheism”):

“People on Earth, open your doors to our help, for you need it desperately ... Join our Confederation and be one with the Creator.”

The aliens claim that they (not God) created mankind:

“Did you create humans, too?” [the abducted woman] asked, and he confirmed this.” [*Taken*, p157]

“Aliens genetically changed the DNA of a distant cousin to the ape on this planet ... the aliens took the natural evolution and sped it up.” [*Alien Contact*, p178-9]

They claim that the Bible is not accurate:

“Not all stories in your Bible are accurate because your Bible is not 100% correct...” [*Alien Contact*, p177-8]

They claim that Jesus was an alien:

“The messages include ... exhortations to put the world in order by returning to the 'Cosmic Laws' as taught by great Masters such as Jesus, Buddha, and Krishna – all of whom are said to have come from other planets” [*Aetherius Society*, p12-3]

“The millions that come from other worlds, from far-off galaxies to assist in bringing peace upon Earth, have my staunch support... I am Sandanda, known to you as Jesus the Christ... I am Sandanda, and this is my message to the world.” [*Project World Evacuation*, p8-9]

“The most controversial thing is the ascension and resurrection of Christ. You see, he went up to a UFO in a beam...” [Alien Contact, p177-8]

“the creators therefore arranged for a child to be born of a woman of the Earth and one of their own people (aliens). The child in question (Jesus Christ) would thereby inherit certain telepathic faculties which humans lack... Mary was the woman chosen...” [The True Face Of God, p60]

There is a great deal more, but I think you get the point. I realize that all of this may seem utterly ridiculous to you, but *thousands of people believe it*. They are listening to the message from the “aliens” and their lives – and beliefs – are being radically changed. These aliens are spending a great deal of time trying to convince people that Christianity is false, and they are being very effective. Aliens claim that Jesus didn't actually die; instead He was just beamed up to a UFO and scientifically revived. They claim that Mary was an alien. They claim that Jesus was not sent here to save us from our sins but to help us advance scientifically – and on and on it goes.

The point is that these supposed aliens spend a great deal of time attacking the Bible, Jesus Christ, and the Gospel. Their message is primarily a religious, New Age message that is a *direct attack on Christianity*. In other words, the aliens are spending their time spreading a false gospel and promoting a false religion.

This message, incidentally, is having a *tremendous* impact. People are believing what the aliens are telling them. One person put it this way:

“My belief system went right out the window”  
(1 in 40, p322-3).

After encountering aliens, people are not only drawn away from Christianity, but they are plunged into the occult. Alien encounters have the effect of changing the person's worldview – and this is happening to a great many people! Regardless of what you may think of alien abductions, these people believe that it was real, and their experiences are causing them to reject the gospel. In many cases alien abductions turn into *conversion experiences*, as people are shocked by what happened and accept a false gospel. Regardless of whether they were actually abducted or not, their embrace of paganism after the encounter is *very* real.

This should be a cause of great concern, because the aliens' message is spreading. Each year people are becoming *more* interested in what the aliens have to say. The message that they bring is both clear and disturbing: the Bible is false, Jesus cannot save you from your sins, the Earth is on the verge of a terrible crisis, and the only way to save mankind is to reject Christianity and put our faith in the aliens. What we are dealing with here is nothing less than a false religion – a dangerous cult that has led countless lives astray, and that has gone almost completely unchallenged by the Church.

All of this brings up a question: does it seem likely to you that genuine extraterrestrial beings would travel thousands of light-years across space just to come to Earth and tell people that the Bible is wrong? Does it seem likely that an advanced race of beings, with superior intelligence and amazing powers, would spend their time torturing people, sexually molesting them, performing horrifying medical experiments on live subjects, and preaching a false gospel to them?

Dr. Jacques Vallee put it this way:

“The 'medical examination' to which abductees are said to be subjected, often accompanied by sadistic sexual manipulation, is reminiscent of the medieval tales of encounters with demons. *It makes no sense in a sophisticated or technical*

framework: any intelligent being equipped with the scientific marvels that UFOs possess would be in a position to achieve any of these alleged scientific objectives in a shorter period of time with fewer risks." [*Confrontations*, p13]

John Keel was more blunt:

"The UFO manifestations seem to be, by and large, merely minor variations of the age-old demonological phenomenon..." [*Operation Trojan Horse*, p299]

What do we know about these supposed aliens? Well, based on abduction reports, the aliens are sadistic, cruel, and heartless. They torture people and molest them. They have tremendous powers. Most of all, though, they attack Jesus Christ, the Bible, and the gospel. Given that profile, isn't it possible that, instead of extraterrestrials, what we are actually dealing with are *demons*? What if these beings aren't aliens at all but are actually evil spirits *posing* as aliens in order to peddle a false gospel and inflict horror? This does fit the profile of what we know about them, and demons are known as deceiving spirits.

There is another reason to suspect that these alien encounters are actually demonic in nature: born-again, Bible-believing Christians *have never been abducted*. Unbelievers are abducted all the time, and people who are involved in the occult are especially likely to have an encounter. According to researchers, virtually *all* abductees had some sort of prior involvement with the occult before they were abducted. They are usually people who are involved in mysticism or New Age cults, and who have rejected Christianity.

However, Christians are *not* abducted. In the tens of thousands of abduction cases that have been studied, *not one* has ever been reported by a Christian.

On top of that, it turns out that there is only one way to

stop an alien abduction. In nearly all cases, people who were abducted had no power over what happened. The aliens simply took them and there was nothing they could do about it. In a few cases, though, people were able to stop the abduction. How did they do it? In every case it was the same: they *called on the name of Jesus*. Even though the abducted people were not Christians, when they called on Jesus the aliens became terrified. They simply could not stand that Name. The name of Jesus made them flee.

Is there a group of powerful, superhuman beings who is terrified of the name of Jesus? Yes there is. Demons are terrified of the Lord, as the New Testament demonstrates time and time again:

**Matthew 8:28:** “And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way.

29 And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?”

So, does this mean that demons are off somewhere building spaceships and flying them to Earth? No, it doesn't. Researchers believe that the UFOs that people are seeing are not material objects. In other words, *they are a deception*. Without going into too much detail, even *secular* researchers are beginning to speculate that UFOs are a psychic phenomenon. In other words, what the person is seeing isn't actually real and doesn't actually exist; it's just a deception that is planted into their mind. As one person said:

“I have even come to suspect that, in some instances, what we have been terming



“spaceships” may actually be a form of higher intelligence rather than vehicles transporting occupants ... I feel, too, that these intelligences have the ability to influence the human mind telepathically in order to project what appear to be three dimensional images to the witnesses of UFO activity.” (UFO: End-Time Delusion, p124)

Another person put it this way:

“John Keel, one of the most respected researchers in this field, noted that “over and over again, witnesses have told me in hushed tones, 'you know, I don't think that thing I saw was mechanical at all. I got the distinct impression it was alive.'” (UFO: End-Times Delusion, p130)

Now, in some rare UFO sightings, there is some physical evidence left behind, in the form of odors, baked earth, charred plants, electrical interference, and even sunburn. However, all of those phenomenon could be explained by manipulating energy fields. This is how one expert put it:

“Drawing from what we know can happen in seances and poltergeist activity, it seems that these supernatural forces can manipulate matter and energy, extracting energy from the atmosphere, for example (which manifests as a local temperature change) ... and I guess my feeling is that on a larger scale this is what a UFO could be. It seems to me likely that UFOs are large-scale violations of the second law in which energy is arranged to take on enough of a force field appearance so that it appears to look like matter, yet it's really just energy

concentration..." (UFO: End-Times Delusion, p130)

The evidence points to the conclusion that UFO sightings are being faked by very advanced beings who have the ability to work with energy fields and mess with people's minds. However, the UFOs themselves *aren't actually real*; they're just a very sophisticated deception. In fact, this is what one professor said:

"Many UFO reports, he said, seem to pertain more to accounts of "poltergeists" (cases where objects fly around the room and strange sounds are heard) and other types of "psychic" manifestations than to "actual solid items of nuts and bolts hardware." "This is one of the reasons," added Dr. Hynek, "why I cannot accept the obvious explanation of UFOs as visitors from outer space."

In other words, even UFO researchers are suggesting that UFOs have more in common with *ghosts* than actual aliens. The two phenomena are very similar (which is something we will look at next week when we actually study ghosts); the only real difference is the window dressing.

I say all of that to say this. The modern Church has this idea that demonic occurrences are something that happened a long time ago, back when Jesus walked the Earth. In those days there were lots of demon-possessed people, and Jesus fought the demons and cast them out. Today, though, times are different. Demons may tempt people to sin, but that's about it. They don't go around tormenting or possessing people anymore. That only happened back then, in Bible times. Things are different now – or so the Church thinks.

But what if demons have *not* stopped seeking whom they may devour? What if they're still active and the Church simply hasn't noticed because the demons picked a particularly good

disguise? After all, posing as aliens would be a *terrific* way to deceive countless people, since there are many who would believe anything an “alien” told them. What makes it even better is that most people think UFOs are “goofy” and just ignore them – which would give demons free reign to do just about anything they wanted. If the demons are behind the UFO phenomenon, I have to say that they are winning because the Church isn't even fighting the battle. We're ignoring it entirely.

Regardless of whether aliens are demons or not, *someone* is out there destroying the faith of millions of people and bringing countless souls into spiritual darkness. Is this really something that should go unchallenged?

But there is another facet to this that should not be ignored. The “aliens” are doing more than just peddling a false gospel. They are also telling the world that it is in great danger, and that the aliens are going to save us all by giving great power to the man of their choosing:

“Their message is crystal clear: In the midst of our despair they will save us. They will raise a human leader and endow him with supernatural powers that will enable him to put together a New World order, and from this the beneficence of world peace will proceed.” (UFO: End-Times Delusion, p104)

And that's not all. The aliens are telling people that humanity is being held back by all these Bible-believing Christians. One day soon, though, all of these Christians will be removed from the planet and ascend to a different plane. After that has happened, the aliens can then come and bring world peace. They just have to wait until all those Bible-believers are gone, and then they can come in force and lead mankind into a new era.

That puts a rather different light on things, doesn't it? The

aliens are teaching UFO believers to be *expecting* the Rapture. They are saying that it's just a necessary part of human evolution. Suppose that after the Rapture, with all of the Christians gone and safely out of the way, demons pose as aliens and claim to be here to rescue mankind. If that were to happen, it's quite likely that *many* people would be fooled. (After all, there won't be any Christians around to warn them!) Demons have great power and supernatural abilities. It would not be hard for them to pose as aliens, and our culture is very receptive to the idea that aliens exist. If the world was in chaos, millions of people had just vanished, and “aliens” arrived to set things right, isn't it quite likely that the world would listen to them? If the “aliens” brought forth a man and said that he would lead the world into a new era of peace, isn't there a good chance – in a world utterly devoid of anyone who believes in God – that he would be accepted?

Many people have wondered how demons would “explain away” the Rapture, but as you can see they are already teaching people to expect it! They have a game plan in place that could be extremely effective. After all, who would have the spiritual discernment to see through the deception? God did promise to send a strong delusion:

**2 Thessalonians 2:8:** “And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

12 That they all might be damned who believed

not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

I don't know how things will play out, and the truth is that the demons don't know either. They know that the Rapture is coming, but they have no idea when it will occur or what the circumstances around it will be. They can plan all they want, but in the end God's will is going to be done. What we do know is that God is going to send them a strong delusion, and this would be a very effective delusion indeed.

In conclusion, I think that our culture's belief in aliens is actually very dangerous, and has led many people away from God and into a false, New Age belief system. I do not think that UFOs are harmless; based on the available evidence, it seems almost certain that demons are behind them and are using the disguise of aliens to hide who they really are. I also think that when the Rapture happens, the demons may try to pose as aliens to lie to the world and take advantage of the chaos in order to pave the way for the antichrist. Whether they will succeed or not I do not know; demons don't have any special knowledge about the timing or events surrounding the Rapture, and are as ignorant about it as we are. However, I do think that they are going to try.

It is high time that the Church, as a whole, stopped treating belief in aliens as something goofy and started treating it as the dangerous, New Age cult that it really is. The Church possesses the truth; we need to be proclaiming it far and wide.



# **Ghosts**

Over the past few weeks we have discussed angels, demons, and aliens. It is now time to take a look at the last topic that we are going to cover in this series, and that is the topic of ghosts. I realize that this subject sounds a bit silly, but after watching a number of TV shows about ghosts I think there is a genuine need for a serious look at what the Bible has to say about them. This is yet another subject that the popular culture loves to discuss, but gets very wrong.

Ghosts are a popular topic in today's world – not quite as popular as aliens, perhaps, but still popular enough to drive multiple television shows. The subject peaks around Halloween each year, when the media starts bringing out ghost stories and people begin thinking about haunted houses and dead people coming out of their graves. Unfortunately, the Biblical view is rarely heard. Everything that I've seen on television about this topic has been completely wrong. If you want to learn the truth about ghosts and hauntings, you must go to the Bible.

The first point we need to address is something that I have taught before:

## **When People Die, They Go To Heaven Or Hell**

After you die your soul immediately goes to either Heaven or Hell. Those are the only two options. You do not have the option of lingering around on Earth as some sort of disembodied spirit.

Since I have already discussed this extensively elsewhere I

will not repeat it all here. One passage in the Bible that clearly teaches this is the story Jesus told of the rich man and the beggar:

**Luke 16:22:** "And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom."

As you can see, as soon as the beggar died he was immediately carried away into a place of comfort and peace, and as soon as the rich man died he found himself in Hell. The rich man asked Abraham to send the beggar to go warn his family about the reality of Hell, but his request was denied:

**Luke 16:27:** "Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:

28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead."

As you can see, the rich man very much wanted to leave Hell, but he could not. He also wanted to warn his family about Hell, but he could not do that either. There was simply no way for anyone to leave Heaven *or* Hell and go warn people about the dangers of not being saved.



Think of it this way. If a dead person has the option of either going to Hell and being tormented, or else staying on Earth as a ghost, which do you think people would choose? Do you think *anyone* would want to go to Hell and be tormented in the flame, as the rich man was? Of course not! If people had that kind of choice then Hell would be empty – but as Jesus told us, they don't have that choice. When the lost die they lift up their eyes in Hell. They cannot linger on Earth.

We can find more evidence of this in the statement that Jesus made to the dying thief on the cross. The Lord made it clear that those who died knowing Him would be with Him that very day in paradise:

**Luke 23:42:** “And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.”

The apostle Paul told us the very same thing:

**2 Corinthians 5:6:** “Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:

7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.”

When Christians die, they go to Heaven; they may be absent from their bodies but they are present with the Lord. They do *not* have the option of lingering around on Earth as some kind of disembodied spirit. Paul is quite clear about this: if you are absent from your body (in other words, if you have died) then you are present with the Lord.

That brings us to the next point:

# Your Guardian Angels Are Angels, Not Dead People

People like to think that their departed loved ones are in Heaven watching over them, but that is not a Biblical sentiment. Nowhere in the Bible will you find any indication that your dead relatives are in Heaven watching over you. Nowhere does it say that you should pray to them or ask them to do favors on your behalf. It simply doesn't.

What it *does* say is quite different. As we discussed in a previous lesson, the Bible tells us that *angels* are watching over us:

**Psalm 34:7:** “The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.”

Since we already discussed this verse in our lesson on angels I'm not going to expand upon it here. The point is that *angels* are watching over us, not the dead spirits of our friends and relatives.

As far as prayer goes, the Bible tells us to pray to *God*, not to angels or to the dead:

**Philippians 4:6:** “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”

If you are in trouble, cry out *to God* and He will help you. If you are in danger, ask God to save you. Do *not* pray to angels, or to your relatives, or to the dead. Pray to God and God alone.

One thing that people tend to overlook is that when people die and go to Heaven, they *rest*:

**Hebrews 4:9:** "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.

11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief."

As you can see, when the people of God die they enter into God's rest, and when they enter into that rest they cease from their own works. In other words, when they die they *rest*. The righteous dead really are "resting in peace". They have stopped working and are off the clock. Their work is done and they are home. I repeat: they are *not* watching over you or intervening in your life to save you. They don't do that because *their work is done*.

This is not a bad thing. Who could possibly care more about us than God? Who could love us more than the One Who died for us? Who could be more aware of what is going on in our lives than the omniscience, omnipresent God? Why would we want anyone else to watch over us? Why would we ever pray to anyone else? If you are going to ask someone for something, who better to ask than the all-knowing, all-powerful God? How could your dead friends or relatives possibly compare to Him?

Speaking of praying to the dead:

## A Séance Is A Frightful Sin

There are many mediums who claim to have the ability to

talk to the dead. They say that if you go to them and give them money, they will get you in touch with your dead friends and relatives.

Now, I realize that in this country mediums are something of a joke. People laugh at the idea that you can talk to the dead. In other countries that aren't as materialistic as ours, these mediums are taken more seriously. Either way, there really are people who believe that you can go to a medium and talk to your dead relatives. People may think that this is a joke, but the reality is that it is a fearful sin.

Most people dismiss mediums as hoaxes, and that is because most mediums really *are* hoaxes. However, not all mediums are frauds. In the Bible we can find the account of a medium that actually was able to bring up a spirit from the dead.

Before we get into that, we need a little background. There was a time near the end of King Saul's life when the king wanted guidance from God, but God refused to speak with him. Saul tried all of the methods that God had approved to use but God did not respond to any of them:

**I Samuel 28:5:** "And when Saul saw the host of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart greatly trembled.

6 And when Saul enquired of the Lord, the Lord answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets."

In the days of the Old Testament the Lord spoke to people through dreams, through the Urim and Thummim, and through prophets. Saul tried to hear from God through all of these methods but God refused to answer. The king therefore decided to use a method that God had strictly prohibited on pain of death:

**I Samuel 28:7:** "Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and enquire of her.

And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor.

8 And Saul disguised himself, and put on other raiment, and he went, and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night: and he said, I pray thee, divine unto me by the familiar spirit, and bring me him up, whom I shall name unto thee.

9 And the woman said unto him, Behold, thou knowest what Saul hath done, how he hath cut off those that have familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land: wherefore then layest thou a snare for my life, to cause me to die?

10 And Saul sware to her by the Lord, saying, As the Lord liveth, there shall no punishment happen to thee for this thing.

11 Then said the woman, Whom shall I bring up unto thee? And he said, Bring me up Samuel.”

As you can see, everyone who was involved in this activity knew that what they were doing was wrong. The reason King Saul had supposedly removed all witches and wizards from the land was because the Mosaic Law required him to do so. God was very clear that people who dealt in familiar spirits should be put to death:

**Exodus 22:18:** “Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.”

**Leviticus 20:27:** “A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones: their blood shall be upon them.”

Witches and wizards were people who had a relationship with a “familiar spirit” and who used that relationship in order to

perform supernatural feats. As we discussed in a previous lesson, “familiar spirits” are actually demons. God was very clear that people should *not* have relationships with demons. This was a very great and terrible sin, and all those who entered into a relationship with a demon in order to harness their supernatural power were to be put to death.

The reason people would commit such a great sin was because it actually worked. King Saul asked the woman to bring up Samuel, and that is exactly what she did:

**I Samuel 28:12:** “And when the woman saw Samuel, she cried with a loud voice: and the woman spake to Saul, saying, Why hast thou deceived me? for thou art Saul.

13 And the king said unto her, Be not afraid: for what sawest thou? And the woman said unto Saul, I saw gods ascending out of the earth.

14 And he said unto her, What form is he of? And she said, An old man cometh up; and he is covered with a mantle. And Saul perceived that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground, and bowed himself.”

Now, every single commentary I have ever read on this passage says that the woman was intending to deceive Saul, and then freaked out when Samuel actually appeared. I understand where the commentators are coming from, but I think that they are wrong. What greatly upset the witch was not the appearance of Samuel, but the appearance of Saul. The very first thing the witch did after Samuel appeared was *criticize Saul for deceiving her*. She didn't say “Oh my goodness – it's Samuel!” Instead she said “Oh my goodness – you're King Saul!” *Saul* was what bothered her.

Another thing to think about is this: if you are going to deceive someone and lie, *you don't need to have a familiar spirit to do that*. The only reason you would need a familiar spirit is if

you were going to use their services in some way.

It's also worth noting that Samuel was not happy about being there and had no idea what was going on:

**I Samuel 28:15:** “And Samuel said to Saul, Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up? And Saul answered, I am sore distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God is departed from me, and answereth me no more, neither by prophets, nor by dreams: therefore I have called thee, that thou mayest make known unto me what I shall do.”

Notice that Samuel blames *Saul* for bringing him up. Samuel doesn't say “God sent me to tell you something.” This is important because all throughout the Bible, whenever prophets spoke they always began by saying “Thus saith the Lord”. Prophets never, *ever* started by saying “What am I doing here, why are you bothering me, and what is going on?”

Think about it: Saul had tried to talk to God through all the means God had approved of, and God refused to talk to him. Are we really supposed to believe that God would refuse to talk to Saul through a prophet and would instead talk to him *through a witch*, when God had commanded that all witches be put to death? On top of that, are we supposed to believe that God sent Samuel to talk to Saul without bothering to explain the situation or give him something to say? Does that really make any sense?

It is far more likely that the witch did exactly what King Saul asked her to do: she brought up the spirit of Samuel so that the king could talk to him. Now, that doesn't mean that what Saul did was a good idea. Samuel's message was not encouraging:

**I Samuel 28:19:** “Moreover the Lord will also deliver Israel with thee into the hand of the Philistines: and to morrow shalt thou and thy sons be with me: the Lord also shall deliver the

host of Israel into the hand of the Philistines.”

Samuel told the king that the following day he would lose the battle, and he and his sons would be killed. Saul's grand attempt to find comfort and help by talking to the dead did not work out as he had hoped. Instead of finding encouragement he was met with despair and fear:

**I Samuel 28:20:** “Then Saul fell straightway all along on the earth, and was sore afraid, because of the words of Samuel: and there was no strength in him; for he had eaten no bread all the day, nor all the night.”

As we can see, in this case the medium actually *was* able to bring up the spirit of Samuel so that Saul could talk to him. She had a “familiar spirit” and they got the job done. However, *this was a terrible sin*, and it ended very badly for King Saul. He did not get what he wanted; instead he found death.

Now, does that mean that when people go to mediums and talk to their Uncle Bob, that the mediums really are bringing up Uncle Bob? Absolutely not. First of all, most mediums are hoaxes. There are very few around who actually have familiar spirits. Second, according to researchers who have spent time with real mediums that really *do* have familiar spirits, the spirits spend their time lying. They have gone around to different mediums and cross-checked the claims of these spirits, and it turns out the spirits lie and contradict each other. You see, it is much easier for the spirits to lie than it is for them to actually *do* something – and we know that demons are liars because their ruler is the father of lies. The Bible calls them *deceitful* spirits for a reason.

In the case of King Saul we know that Samuel really was brought up because the Bible tells us he was. There is no question about what happened. In modern times, though, it is a very different situation. The medium may well be lying to you – and if



the medium isn't, then the demon may be lying to you. Demons love to manipulate and destroy people, and this is a very effective way of doing exactly that. Why would you trust an evil spirit to be honest with you and tell you the truth?

The bottom line is this: there are mediums who are *not* frauds and who really do have a relationship with a demon that they use to perform supernatural feats. However, *this is a great sin*, and it is extremely dangerous. Christians should never, ever go down that road. God has commanded us to have no relationship with darkness:

**2 Corinthians 6:14:** “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?”

The Bible commands us to not be yoked together with unbelievers. Given that, do you really think that it is a good idea to be yoked together with *demons*? Do you really think that is something God would approve of?

## Ghosts Are Deceitful Spirits

As we discussed earlier, when the lost die they go to Hell and cannot escape. They do not have the option of roaming around the Earth; if they did then Hell would be empty. Likewise, when the righteous die they go to Heaven. Like the lost, they do not have the option of roaming around the Earth. When Samuel was brought up from his place of rest he was quite unhappy about it. He had no intention of roaming around as a ghost, and he was upset with Saul for bothering him.

What we can learn from all of this is that ghosts are *not* the departed spirits of the dead. They are also not angels, because

angels don't parade around as ghosts. Since ghosts have supernatural power, since they are not angels, and since they are not the departed dead, that means that they must be demons. That is the only option that is left.

Now, just as most mediums are phony, most tales of hauntings and ghost stories are also phony. However, there are real ghost stories. Most of these stories are pretty harmless – people feel a presence that they can't see, or lights go on and off, or they hear noises that they can't explain, or something rearranges objects around the house, or they might briefly see a ghostly figure of some kind. There are other times when the ghost is actually helpful and gives a warning that ends up saving a life or stopping a disaster.

Now, I realize it seems rather bizarre to accuse demons of switching lights on and off. After all, why would they bother? What's in it for them? It becomes even more puzzling when the ghost does something that is actually *helpful*. Why would they ever do such a thing?

The reason is simple: it is because it *profoundly shakes up a person's views on religion and the afterlife*. People who have these kind of low-key, “harmless” experiences start wondering if what the Bible says about death is really true. They start to wonder if maybe their church doesn't have all the answers. Maybe there's more to life-after-death than it seems. After all, their experience was real and tangible. When many people encounter this type of experience they will trust *what they saw* over *what the Bible says*. They will ignore the clear teaching of the word of God and instead believe what they think just happened.

Demons are deceitful spirits. The Bible tells us that they come to destroy us, not to help us:

**John 10:10:** “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

There are many people who never even thought about the supernatural until they encountered a ghost, but then that one encounter led them straight into mysticism and the occult. There are others who started questioning their faith after encountering this sort of thing. These events have a profound effect that lead people *away* from God and *away* from the truth of the Bible. *They are not harmless.*

If you think about it, it makes sense that a lot of ghostly behavior would fall into that category. After all, if ghosts exhibited violent and dangerous behavior then people would run to their nearest pastor. They would be terrified. It wouldn't interest them in the occult; it would frighten them out of their wits. At that point it would be obvious that something dangerous and demonic was going on.

That being said, there are a number of ghost stories that are *not* harmless. I have known people who were haunted by ghosts which were actually dangerous, and who were physically attacked by invisible spirits. Of course, when that started happening then the deception was gone and the truth was obvious. In those cases it was very clear that they were being plagued by demonic activity. That brings us to the second point:

## Places Can Be Haunted

As shocking as it may seem, the Bible actually tells us that it is possible for places to be haunted. Take a look and see for yourself:

**Revelation 18:2:** "And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird."

This verse is talking about the future destruction of Babylon. When that city is destroyed, it will remain ruined forever and will never be rebuilt. Its ruins will be inhabited by devils and evil spirits. In other words, the ruins of Babylon will be haunted.

When we took a look at demons we discussed the fact that demons can possess both people and animals. One thing we did not mention is that demons can also possess *places*. Revelation gives us an example of this: one day in the future demons will possess the ruins of Babylon. What this means is that it really *is* possible for a place to be haunted. However, haunted houses (or haunted cities, in this case) are not haunted by the spirits of the dead; instead they are haunted by unclean spirits.

Now, there are a lot of places in this world that are supposedly haunted that aren't really haunted at all. Just because something odd happens or people see something that they can't explain, does *not* mean that the building is haunted. However, just as demons are real and just as demon possession is real, so hauntings can be real as well. There really are demons who pose as ghosts, and there are also demons who can haunt buildings.

We have already discussed ghosts and ghostly activity, and since this falls into the same category there is no need to repeat everything that was just said. What I can say is that I have encountered two buildings that were genuinely haunted by evil, malevolent spirits who physically attacked people. Both of them were nasty situations. People may think that haunted houses are fun and exciting, but I assure you that they are dangerous and terrifying. If you ever found a house that was genuinely haunted you would *not* think that it was fun. I strongly urge you to avoid such places. Do not seek them out, do not visit them, and do not get involved with them. If the place is truly haunted then what you are really doing is getting involved with demons, and that is a *very bad thing to do*. Do not spend time in places where demons take up their residence. The only exception to this is if you are an exorcist who is attempting to fight them, but the odds are very

good that you do not fall into that category.

In conclusion, I urge you to be very careful when dealing with the supernatural – with ghosts, mediums, seances, and so forth. Demons are very real and they will try very hard to deceive you – and there are a lot of supernatural tricks that they can use to make you doubt the teachings of the Bible. I urge you to stay well grounded in the Word of God. When dealing with the supernatural, don't believe your eyes; instead believe the Scriptures. You can be deceived, but the Bible cannot be broken. God's Word offers solid ground that can be trusted through all the storms of life.