

Demons

Satan cannot be everywhere nor is he all powerful. He is aided in his rebellion against God's created order by the angels who fell with him. They share in his pride of self. Like their leader, these demons are limited in time and space as well. In this lesson we will focus on the activities of demons and how to defend ourselves.

We believe demons are some of the angels which followed Satan in rebellion against God.

Does the Scriptures teach the idea that demons are fallen angels (Revelation 12:7, 9; see also v. 4 and Matthew 25:41)?

Revelation 12:7 (NLT)

⁷Then there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels.

Revelation 12:9 (NLT)

⁹This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels.

Revelation 12:4 (NLT)

⁴His tail swept away one-third of the stars in the sky, and he threw them to the earth. He stood in front of the woman as she was about to give birth, ready to devour her baby as soon as it was born.

Matthew 25:41 (NLT)

⁴¹“Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, ‘Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons.’

Where are these fallen angels now?

- 2 Peter 2:4

2 Peter 2:4 (NLT)

⁴For God did not spare even the angels who sinned. He threw them into hell, in gloomy pits of darkness, where they are being held until the day of judgment.

- Jude 6

Jude 6 (NLT)

⁶ And I remind you of the angels who did not stay within the limits of authority God gave them but left the place where they belonged. God has kept them securely chained in prisons of darkness, waiting for the great day of judgment.

- Luke 8:31; Revelation 9:2

Luke 8:31 (NLT)

³¹ The demons kept begging Jesus not to send them into the bottomless pit.

Revelation 9:2 (NLT)

² When he opened it, smoke poured out as though from a huge furnace, and the sunlight and air turned dark from the smoke.

- Ephesians 6:12

Ephesians 6:12 (NLT)

¹² For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

As you can see from your study, some of these fallen angels are confined until the day of their judgment and others only until the time for them to complete the task God has assigned for them. But many of these are active in our world today as demons.

What is it that these “demons” do?

- Luke 13:11, 16

Luke 13:11 (NLT)

¹¹ he saw a woman who had been crippled by an evil spirit. She had been bent double for eighteen years and was unable to stand up straight.

Luke 13:16 (NLT)

¹⁶ This dear woman, a daughter of Abraham, has been held in bondage by Satan for eighteen years. Isn't it right that she be released, even on the Sabbath?"

- **2 Corinthians 4:4**

2 Corinthians 4:4 (NLT)

⁴Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.

- **2 Corinthians 11:3**

2 Corinthians 11:3 (NLT)

³But I fear that somehow your pure and undivided devotion to Christ will be corrupted, just as Eve was deceived by the cunning ways of the serpent.

- **James 3:15**

James 3:15 (NLT)

¹⁵For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic.

- **1 Thessalonians 3:5**

1 Thessalonians 3:5 (NLT)

⁵That is why, when I could bear it no longer, I sent Timothy to find out whether your faith was still strong. I was afraid that the tempter had gotten the best of you and that our work had been useless.

- **Revelation 16:14**

Revelation 16:14 (NLT)

¹⁴They are demonic spirits who work miracles and go out to all the rulers of the world to gather them for battle against the Lord on that great judgment day of God the Almighty.

- **Deuteronomy 32:17**

Deuteronomy 32:17 (NLT)

¹⁷They offered sacrifices to demons, which are not God,
to gods they had not known before,
to new gods only recently arrived,
to gods their ancestors had never feared.

- 2 Corinthians 12:7

2 Corinthians 12:7 (NLT)

⁷ even though I have received such wonderful revelations from God. So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud.

- Colossians 2:18

Colossians 2:18 (NLT)

¹⁸ Don't let anyone condemn you by insisting on pious self-denial or the worship of angels, saying they have had visions about these things. Their sinful minds have made them proud,

- 1 Corinthians 10:19-22

1 Corinthians 10:19–22 (NLT)

¹⁹ What am I trying to say? Am I saying that food offered to idols has some significance, or that idols are real gods? ²⁰ No, not at all. I am saying that these sacrifices are offered to demons, not to God. And I don't want you to participate with demons. ²¹ You cannot drink from the cup of the Lord and from the cup of demons, too. You cannot eat at the Lord's Table and at the table of demons, too. ²² What? Do we dare to rouse the Lord's jealousy? Do you think we are stronger than he is?

- Judges 9:23-24

Judges 9:23–24 (NLT)

²³ God sent a spirit that stirred up trouble between Abimelech and the leading citizens of Shechem, and they revolted. ²⁴ God was punishing Abimelech for murdering Gideon's seventy sons, and the citizens of Shechem for supporting him in this treachery of murdering his brothers.

- Job 1:6-8; 2:1

Job 1:6–8 (NLT)

Job's First Test

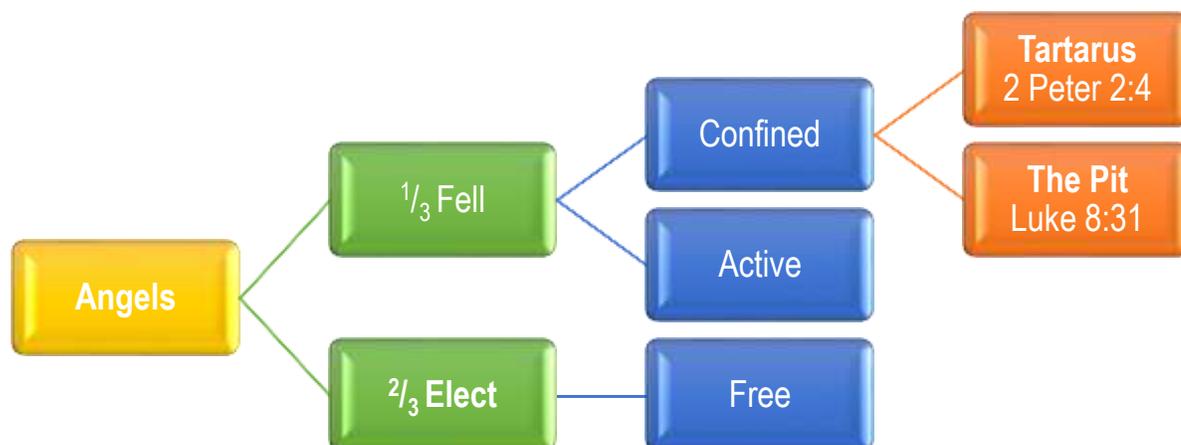
⁶ One day the members of the heavenly court came to present themselves before the LORD, and the Accuser, Satan, came with them. ⁷ "Where have you come from?" the LORD asked Satan. Satan answered the LORD, "I have been patrolling the earth, watching everything that's going on."

⁸ Then the LORD asked Satan, "Have you noticed my servant Job? He is the finest man in all the earth. He is blameless—a man of complete integrity. He fears God and stays away from evil."

Job 2:1 (NLT)

One day the members of the heavenly court came again to present themselves before the LORD, and the Accuser, Satan, came with them.

Earlier we spoke of the fall of $\frac{1}{3}$ of the angels and their subsequent state. The chart below illustrates these truths for us.



Although Satan is more powerful than anyone of us and his demons have the power of any angel, they are no match for God. If the body of Christ stands together, we are well able to overcome the opposition of the enemy.

What can believers do against the power of Satan and his demons?

- 1 Thessalonians 1:9

1 Thessalonians 1:9 (NLT)

⁹ for they keep talking about the wonderful welcome you gave us and how you turned away from idols to serve the living and true God.

- Leviticus 19:31

Leviticus 19:31 (NLT)

³¹ “Do not defile yourselves by turning to mediums or to those who consult the spirits of the dead. I am the LORD your God.

- Acts 19:19

Acts 19:19 (NLT)

¹⁹ A number of them who had been practicing sorcery brought their incantation books and burned them at a public bonfire. The value of the books was several million dollars.

- **2 Corinthians 10:5**

2 Corinthians 10:5 (NLT)

⁵We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.

- **Philippians 4:6-8**

Philippians 4:6–8 (NLT)

⁶Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. ⁷Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

⁸And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

- **Ephesians 6:12-13**

Ephesians 6:12–13 (NLT)

¹²For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

¹³Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.

- **1 Timothy 4:1-5**

1 Timothy 4:1–5 (NLT)

Warnings against False Teachers

Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons. ²These people are hypocrites and liars, and their consciences are dead.

³They will say it is wrong to be married and wrong to eat certain foods. But God created those foods to be eaten with thanks by faithful people who know the truth. ⁴Since everything God created is good, we should not reject any of it but receive it with thanks. ⁵For we know it is made acceptable by the word of God and prayer.

- **James 4:7**

James 4:7 (NLT)

⁷So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.