

* The Heights Baptist Church * Sermon Series: Doctrine *

* Topic: Angels and Demons * Various Verses * 8/23/26 *

MAIN POINT

There is a spiritual realm which is independent of the physical realm we are currently experiencing on this earth. And this spiritual realm is inhabited by spiritual beings, including angels and demons. Angels are God's agents, carrying out His bidding, while demons are Satan's agents, carrying out his bidding.

INTRODUCTION

If you had to guess, about what percentage of Americans do you think would say they believe in angels?

How are angels depicted in pop culture? What about these depictions is accurate? What is inaccurate?

A 2023 Associated Press poll found that about 7 in 10 U.S. adults say they believe in angels (reported by NPR). But misconceptions about angels abound. Many people think of them merely as protectors, others see them as spirit guides, and some even see them as cute cherubs that try to get us to do the right thing. In today's lesson, we will be looking at what the Bible has to say about Angels, Demons, and Satan.

UNDERSTANDING

ANGELS

ASK VOLUNTEERS TO READ THE FOLLOWING VERSES

What truths about angels are mentioned in these verses?

- **Col. 1:16, Heb. 1:4, and 1 Peter 3:21-22:** Angels are created beings.
- **Heb. 12:22 and Rev. 5:11:** There are a large number of angels.
- **Luke 2:9-11, Heb. 2:6-7, and Rev. 22:8-9:** Angels are powerful and glorious.
- **Matt. 1:20-21 and Luke 1:26-33:** Angels are messengers from God.
- **Matt. 24:31 and Acts 12:11:** Angels carry out tasks from God.
- **Matt. 18:10 and Heb. 1:14:** Angels minister to believers.
- **Heb. 13:2:** Angels can take human form.

Based on these verses, how would you summarize the roles of angels?

Note to study leader: Make a list on the white board with the "ANGELS" acrostic.

In her Bible Study guide on "Angels" (Available on Lifeway), Melissa Spoelstra made a descriptive acrostic out of the word "angel" to summarize their roles.

- **A** = Adore God
- **N** = Notify God's servants
- **G** = Guard God's boundaries
- **E** = Enact God's judgements
- **L** = Lead God's people
- **S** = Serve as God's agents

DEMONS

Note to study leader: The doctrine of Satan was covered in this sermon series back in May. Understanding who Satan is in an important part of understanding who demons are. Here is a summary of who Satan is from that lesson that covered who he is. Satan is a powerful spiritual creature who is opposed to God and who is filled with hate. He is out to thwart God's plans and destroy people. On our own, we would be no match for Satan. But God is stronger than Satan and God protects Christians from Satan if they are choosing to submit to God and resist the devil.

Note to study leader: Make a list on the white board as people come up with attributes of demons.

ASK VOLUNTEERS TO READ THE FOLLOWING VERSES

What truths about demons are mentioned in these verses?

- **Revelation 12:4, 9:** When Satan fell, a large number of angels chose to follow him instead of God. These are the beings we call demons.
- **Deut. 32:6-7, 1 Tim. 4:1, and 1 Cor. 7:7:** Demons attempt to lead people astray. This includes areas like idolatry, false doctrine, and temptation.
- **Mark 9:21-23 and Luke 11:24-26:** Demons possess people and try to harm them.

Based on these verses, how would you summarize the attributes of demons?

Demons are Satan's minions, doing his bidding in attempt to lead people astray.

HOW WE AS CHRISTIANS ARE TO RELATE TO SPIRITUAL BEINGS

ANGELS

ASK VOLUNTEERS TO READ THE FOLLOWING VERSES

What do these verses tell us about how we are to relate to angels?

- **Rev. 19:10 and Rev. 22:8-9:** Don't idolize or worship angels.
- **Hebrews 1:14:** Realize angels are just fellow servants of Christ, who serve those who will inherit salvation.
- **Matthew 6:9 and 1 Timothy 2:5-6:** There are no verses in the Bible that tell us to try to contact angels or pray to them. We have direct access to God through our one mediator, Jesus Christ. Remember, Satan can appear as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14).

How would you summarize how we as Christians should relate to angels?

Realize they are fellow servants of Christ, ministering to us who will inherit salvation. We are not to be worshiping them, praying to them, or trying to contact them.

DEMONS

ASK VOLUNTEERS TO READ THE FOLLOWING VERSES

What do these verses tell us about how we as Christians are to relate to demons?

- **James 4:7-8:** Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
- **Acts 19:13-16 and Jude 1:9-10:** Don't try to fight them in my own strength.
- **Matthew 4:4, 7, 10-11:** Respond to attacks with scripture.

How would you summarize how we should relate to Satan and demons as Christians?

Resist them through Christ's strength, focusing on my walk with Christ, not on Satan or demons.

"There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them."

C. S. Lewis (The Screwtape Letters)

APPLICATION

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ 2 CORINTHIANS 10:4-5

How do these verses describe our relationship with the spiritual realm?

We are in a spiritual battle. And we need to approach this battle differently than we would a physical battle.

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ EPESIANS 8:10-18

We are not in a battle against flesh and blood. We are in spiritual warfare. The weapons we fight with are not the same as we would use in physical battle. How would you summarize these weapons?

- The belt of truth
- The breastplate of righteousness
- Sandals ready to spread the gospel
- The shield of faith
- The helmet of salvation
- The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God

Which of these weapons do I need to more effectively put on this week?

Note to study leader: The following discussion incorporates the "LIFE" acronym (from our "Starting Point" classes) into the lesson. A summary of this acronym is included below and probably on a poster in your classroom. Include a brief description of "LIFE" as part of this application

The LIFE Acronym

Loving our neighbor: I am motivated to show God's love and compassion to others where I live, work, and play.

Intentional friend: I am purposefully cultivating relationships within my church family.

Faithful follower: I am sensitive to the moving of the Holy Spirit in regular times of prayer, worship, and Bible study.

Engaged disciple-maker: I am regularly looking to invest in others to help them take their next step in following Jesus.

As a disciple who is engaged in spiritual warfare, how can I include these LIFE qualities in my life?

PRAYER

We praise You God for sending your angels to help us. And we thank you for protecting us from the Devil and his demons. Help us do our part in submitting to God, resisting the devil, and putting on the full armor of God, so that we can take our stand against the devil's schemes.

Note to study leader: Since this lesson is comprised of many individual passages from scripture rather than one larger chunk of scripture, the usual Commentary section is not included in this lesson.