

Angels - 2 — Evil Angels and Demons

We begin with the question — is there a difference between evil angels and demons?

They oppose God's purposes. They promote idolatry. They execute Satan's purposes. They afflict God's people. They promote false religions. They hinder God's saints and servants. They seek to deceive God's elect. They blind the minds of men. They teach a works salvation. They accuse believers. They teach people that wrong is right.¹

Jude 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.**

2 Peter 2:4 — **For 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.**

Demons are an order of spirit beings that are distinct and separate from other angels, and which, from the intimations of certain passages of Scripture, seem to be in a disembodied state, having existed in some previous period and place in bodily form.

Who then are the angels that Peter and Jude referred to: They are not Satan's angels, for his angels are free and, like him, roam about, but these angels are 'in prison,' 'in darkness,' and 'reserved in chains' for judgment. The place of their confinement is not hell, but Tartarus.²

The term Tartarus is frequently found in Jewish apocalyptic literature, where it refers to a place even lower than hell where the wicked are punished. The Greeks believed it was a place lower than the earth—lower than Hades.³

What was the sin of these? It was fornication, the unlawful cohabitation of angelic beings with 'strange flesh,' that is with beings of a different nature. When was this sin committed? The text says in the 'days of Noah,' and this was the final cause of the flood.

Most believe this is a reference to Genesis 6 where the "sons of God" had sexual relations with the "daughters of men" and their union produced a race of giants known as Nephilim.

Their sin was angelic cohabitation with human beings.⁴

Genesis 6:1-4 — **Then the people began to multiply on the earth, and daughters were born to them. The sons of God saw the beautiful women and took any they wanted as their wives. Then the Lord said, "My Spirit will not put up with humans for such a long time, for they are only mortal flesh. In the future, their normal lifespan will be no more than 120 years." In those days, and for some time after, giant Nephilites lived on the earth, for whenever the sons of God had intercourse with women, they gave birth to children who became the heroes and famous warriors of ancient times.**

A 'son of God' denotes a being brought into existence by a creative act of God. Such were the angels, and such was Adam. Adam was created in the likeness of God, but his descendants were born "in his likeness."⁴

The common notion is that Satan and his angels are imprisoned in hell. That is not true. The angels described in 2 Peter 2:4 and in Jude 6 as having left their “first estate” and being “reserved in everlasting chains under darkness” are not Satan’s angels. They are probably a special class of angels whose sin caused the Flood.^{5&2}

Demons knew Christ and recognized his supreme authority. They also seem to have knowledge of their future doom. When permitted, they are capable of exercising influence over individuals and also of entering into physical bodies and bringing them under their evil control. They can cause dumbness, blindness, insanity, suicidal mania, personal injuries, physical defects and deformities. Once they have control over a human body, they can come and go at will.⁶

In regard to Satan himself — Satan belongs to the order of angels called cherubim and apparently he was the highest created angel. Evidently this was the reason Michael, the archangel, did not dispute with Satan about the body of Moses. He retains a great deal of power— under the permission of God. He is called the god of this world and the prince of the power of the air.⁴

Lucifer first of all wanted God’s place. Second, Lucifer wanted God’s position and authority. Third, Lucifer was determined to take God’s likeness. How could Satan’s story have happened? How could such a plunge into ruin come about for someone who was the ‘model of perfection? We know the answer is pride.⁷

In every way Satan was the epitome of God’s creation. He awoke in the first moment of his existence in the full-orbed beauty and power of his exalted position; surrounded by all the magnificence which God gave him. He saw himself as above all the hosts in power, wisdom and beauty. Only at the throne of God itself did he see more than he himself possessed, and it is possible that even that was in some sense not fully visible to the eyes of the creature. Before his fall he may be said to have occupied the role of prime minister for God, ruling over the universe — certainly over this world.⁸

Isaiah 14:12-14 — **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! 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: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.**

Note: The five “I will” statements. He was using his position for personal gain — the beginning of “self-promotion.”

Ezek 28:12-19 — **You had everything going for you. You were in Eden, God’s garden. You were dressed in splendor, your robe studded with jewels in settings of engraved gold. A robe was prepared for you the same day you were created. You were the anointed cherub. I placed you on the mountain of God. You strolled in magnificence among the stones of fire. From the day of your creation you were sheer perfection . . . and then imperfection—evil! was detected in you. In much buying and selling you turned violent, you sinned! I threw you, disgraced, off the mountain of God. I threw you out—you, the anointed angel-cherub. No more strolling among the gems of fire for**

you! Your beauty went to your head. You corrupted wisdom by using it to get worldly fame. I threw you to the ground, sent you sprawling before an audience of kings and let them gloat over your demise. By sin after sin after sin, by your corrupt ways of doing business, you defiled your holy places of worship. So I set a fire around and within you. It burned you up. I reduced you to ashes. All anyone sees now when they look for you is ashes, a pitiful mound of ashes. All who once knew you now throw up their hands: ‘This can’t have happened. This has happened!’

The Bible doesn’t tell us when the revolt took place. Most likely it was at the end of the creation week since God pronounced his creation to be “good.” Yet, Satan continues to create havoc — especially in the church.

1 Timothy 3:6 — **A church leader must not be a new believer, because he might become proud, and the devil would cause him to fall.**

And Satan continues to have access to God — Job 1:6-7 — **One day the members of the heavenly court came to present themselves before the Lord, and the Accuser, Satan, came with them. “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.”**

The Good Angels — Providing protection. Each one of us has angels assigned to us.

Matt 18:10 — **Beware that you don’t look down on any of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels are always in the presence of my heavenly Father.**

Note personal pronoun “their” — indicating they must be able to observe life on this planet.

Psalms 91:11-12 — **For he will order his angels to protect you wherever you go. They will hold you up with their hands so you won’t even hurt your foot on a stone.**

A pastor tells the story of a friend’s daughter who was away at college — She was studying late one night at the library, and finished, returned to her dorm by a shortcut through a small wooded area. She asked the Lord to protect her. On the way she suddenly saw a vicious looking man standing against a tree. She quickened her pace, didn’t look at him, and passed him in a few minutes reaching her dorm. The next morning a dorm meeting was called — a girl had been raped last night. She told her story.... and was asked to come to the PD to identify a man. She did and it was him. She asked if she could talk to him which was uncommon, but the cops said it would be okay. She said to the man, “help me understand, why didn’t you attack me? Why did you let me go by?” The man cynically responded — “Attack? ...with that big dude by your side?”⁹

Isaiah 54:17 — **No weapon that is formed against you will prosper.**

“If you’ve never taken that verse to heart, then take it to heart today. No weapon formed against you will prosper when you are in the Father’s grip. God has angel armies ready to protect you, and they live eager to do his will.”¹⁰

1 Emery Bancroft & Charles Ryrie
2 Clarence Larkin
3 John Walvoord
4 Charles Ryrie
5 Emery Bancroft

6 Various sources
7 David Jeremiah
8 Donald Barnhouse
9 John Bisagno
10 Jack Graham