Angels and demons part 1

**Understanding angels and demons**

**Monday**

Read Hebrews 9:27, Ecclesiastes 12:7; John 11:25, John 5:24-30

Death should prove to us that God and satan exist. **Meditate** on these scriptures related to the afterlife.

**Tuesday**

Read 2 Kings 19

How powerful would you guess angels are? **Read** this scripture to find out.

**Wednesday**

Read Psalms 34:7, Matthew 18:10, Daniel 9:21-22, Luke 2:9-11, Matthew 2:13, 1Kings 19:5-7

Did you know that angels protect, instruct, declare, warn and minister to your needs. **Study** these scriptures.

**Thursday**

Read 1 Peter 5:8, Ephesians 2:2, 2 Corinthians 4:4, John 8:44

Instead of fearing satan, hate him. **Pray** to God with these scriptures in mind.

**Friday**

Read Ezekiel 28:12-19, Isaiah 14:12-15

What is the origin of Satan? **Read** these scriptures to find out.

Angels and demons

A UTEP student contacted the church wanting to interview me and ask me questions about angels and demons.

Before you talk about angels and demons, you have to talk about life and death, and God and Satan.

When you are staring at a loved one who has passed away, it is inconceivable for you to believe they no longer exist. So this brings up the reality of afterlife.

When you consider the aspect of afterlife which transcends the limitations of physics, science and everything we are acquainted with, then you start to consider the spiritual.

When you start thinking about a spiritual dimension then you have to ask yourself is there a God.

And if you get to the place where you are considering the existence of God then you ask what His nature is: does He care, does He love, can I know Him, can He hear me, is He good, can I trust Him?

This spiritual curiosity then begins to open a door of enlightenment so you begin to live for the afterlife instead of just for the present, physical life we live in now.

But it doesn’t stop here. There is absolutely no doubt there is good and evil in our world. Where does evil come from?

If you are an observant person, it is undeniable that there is good and evil in our world; you see it every day. When you stop to consider the outcome of evil, you see that it is bent on

destroying life, taking way human freedom, eliminating happiness, separating relationships, negating hope and getting rid of anything that is good.

The Bible gives a logical explanation for all of this, backing it all up with experiential evident, and power and authority.

**Are works like the** Book of Enoch, **the** Gospel of Thomas, **and the** Book of Jubilees **considered “folklore,” aka a myth or tale? Are they “inspired by God” or are they blasphemous? Are they useful or are they nonsense?”**

Why this question was asked: some of these books, the Book of Enoch in particular is used by Christians to better understand angels and demons. This is a foolish mistake, and here’s why.

There was about 400 years between the time the last book of the Old Testament (Malachi) was written and when Jesus was born.

There were many Jewish writing during this time, mostly written between 200 BC and 100 AD. Many of these writings are referred to as the Apocrypha. After the fall of Jerusalem, fell into disfavor with Jewish culture so much so that they were largely ignored.

One of the determined factors for what the early christian church ultimately decided to include in the Old Testament cannon (list of books) was what the Hebrew (Jewish) Bible included and omitted. All apocryphal books are excluded from the Jewish scripture (which represents the Old Testament to Christians).

Old Testament apocrypha - can give some historic and religious insights. For example, these writings show us what people (in particular Jewish religious leaders) were thinking during that time.

However, there are numerous contradictions with the Bible sprinkled throughout these “books.”

[blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org) has a great article arguing against apocryphal books.

None of the New Testament sites or references these writings.

During the reformation in the 1500’s, there were 7 “Old Testament” apocryphal books that were strongly questioned and at that point, the protestant bible and the Roman Catholic Church bibles began to diverge…the Roman Catholic Bible including them, and the Protestant bible excluding them.

New Testament apocrypha - Gnostic writers - useless and false - not a well-defined unit of documents and were never included by any early church leaders in the New Testament. It is in these books where you’ll find some teaching about angels and demons that we shouldn’t even waste our time reading.

Gnosticism started in the 1st century and was a twisted Christian/Jewish belief that salvation represented knowledge of mystical or secret insight. It degenerated into allowing followers to do whatever they wanted to physically since their spirit was saved through their enlightened knowledge. In several books in the New Testament, the Apostle Paul confronts these false teachings head on.

Here is what the apostle Paul thought of those writings:

1 Timothy 4:7 New International Version (NIV)

7 Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives’ tales; rather, train yourself to be godly.

Titus 1:14 New International Version (NIV)

14 ...pay no attention to Jewish myths ....

Conclusion: If apocryphal writings are not inspired by God, why would we read them to build our understanding about angels and demons?

**What angels actually exist? Are there others that the church labels as mythological, that come to mind? We don't expect you to cover all angels**

Angel comes from greek word meaning “messenger.”

Hebrews 1:14 New International Version (NIV)

14 Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

As a Christian, you have angels from who serve and protect you!

They are spirits - they can pass between the physical and spiritual realm

Michael - referred to as an Archangel in Jude and one of the chief princes in Daniel and in Revelations described as the commander of angelic forces

Gabriel - chief messenger angel to foretelling the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus and interpreted Daniel’s dream in the Old Testament

Angels:

Fight

2 Kings 19:35 New International Version (NIV)

**35**That night the angel of the Lord went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning—there were all the dead bodies!

Matthew 26:53 New International Version (NIV)

**53**Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?

1 legion was 6000, multiplied by 12 is 72000!

Protect - Guardian angels

Psalm 34:7 New International Version (NIV)

**7**The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him,

    and he delivers them.

Matthew 18:10 New International Version (NIV)

**10**“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.

Instruct

Daniel 9:21-22 New International Version (NIV)

**21**while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice. **22**He instructed me and said to me, “Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding.

Declare

Luke 2:9-11 New International Version (NIV)

**9**An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10**But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. **11**Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

Warn

Matthew 2:13 New International Version (NIV)

**13**When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

Minister in need

1 Kings 19:5-7 New International Version (NIV)

**5**Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep.

All at once an angel touched him and said, “Get up and eat.” **6**He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.

**7**The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, “Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you.”

**What is the origin of Satan? (Fallen Angel/Created by God?)**

1 Peter 5:8 New International Version (NIV)

**8**Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Means adversary, to oppose

Ephesians 2:2 New International Version (NIV)

**2**in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

2 Corinthians 4:4 New International Version (NIV)

**4**The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

John 8:44 New International Version (NIV)

**44**You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Ezekiel 28:12-19 New International Version (NIV)

12 “Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says:

“‘You were the seal of perfection,

full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

13 You were in Eden,

the garden of God;

every precious stone adorned you:

carnelian, chrysolite and emerald,

topaz, onyx and jasper,

lapis lazuli, turquoise and beryl.

Your settings and mountings were made of gold;

on the day you were created they were prepared.

14 You were anointed as a guardian cherub, (an angel)

for so I ordained you.

You were on the holy mount of God;

you walked among the fiery stones.

15 You were blameless in your ways

from the day you were created (created, in no way equal)

till wickedness was found in you.

16 Through your widespread trade (forward looking)

you were filled with violence,

and you sinned.

So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God,

and I expelled you, guardian cherub,

from among the fiery stones.

17 Your heart became proud

on account of your beauty,

and you corrupted your wisdom

because of your splendor.

So I threw you to the earth;

I made a spectacle of you before kings.

18 By your many sins and dishonest trade

you have desecrated your sanctuaries.

So I made a fire come out from you,

and it consumed you,

and I reduced you to ashes on the ground

in the sight of all who were watching.

19 All the nations who knew you

are appalled at you;

you have come to a horrible end

and will be no more.’”

Isaiah 14:12-15 New International Version (NIV)

12 How you have fallen from heaven,

morning star, son of the dawn (Lucifer)!

You have been cast down to the earth,

you who once laid low the nations!

13 You said in your heart,

“I will ascend to the heavens;

I will raise my throne

above the stars of God;

I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly,

on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon.

14 I will ascend above the tops of the clouds;

I will make myself like the Most High.”

15 But you are brought down to the realm of the dead,

to the depths of the pit.