

Angels and Demons

- So how did we get from just good angels to angels and demons?
- We really don't know what the "original sin" of the angels was. The majority assume that pride was Satan's original sin.
- We see that in Scripture in a few places: 1Ti 3:6 **He (a pastor) must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with *conceit* and fall into the condemnation of the devil.**

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- Also in the OT many have thought that two passages refer to Satan's fall.
- **Isa 14:12 "How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star (Lucifer in Latin), son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'**

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- **Eze 28:12-17 "Son of man, raise a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared. You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you. In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you, O guardian cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Your heart was proud because of your beauty...**

Satan

- He holds a position of power and dignity in the Spiritual World and is numbered among “the sons of God”
- Job 1:6-7 (NET)
6 Now the day came when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord – and Satan also arrived among them. 7 The Lord said to Satan, “Where have you come from?” And Satan answered the Lord, “From roving about on the earth, and from walking back and forth across it.”

Satan

- Michael the archangel found him a formidable foe.
- Jude 9 - But even when Michael the archangel was arguing with the devil and debating with him concerning Moses' body, he did not dare to bring a slanderous judgment, but said, "May the Lord rebuke you!"
- But he appears to have lost his position see Rev. 12:7-12.

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- The activities of the evil angels are purely evil all of the time, Scripture describes them for our information and warning.
- All endeavors of the wicked angels are aimed at harming man in his body (Luke 13:11, 16: the woman bound by Satan eighteen years), in his possessions (Job 1:12 ff.; Matt. 8:31–32: the herd of swine), and particularly in his soul (1Pe 5:8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour).

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- In the movie *The Exorcist* the girl, Regan, exhibits unusual behavior, such as superhuman strength, different personalities, and blasphemous language.
- The mother of the young girl takes her to a series of doctors. But, after being examined by a host of doctors and psychologists, no natural explanation is found for Regan's condition. The doctors then suggest that the mother contact a witch doctor or someone with expertise in delivering spirits.
- Eventually, the mother contacts Father Karras, a Jesuit priest who does not believe in the possibility of possession.

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- William Peter Blatty's novel is loosely based on a true story. Blatty based his story on the 1949 case of a twelve-year old boy from Maryland. The boy was brought to St. Louis, MO, after the spontaneous etching of "Louis" appeared on his abdominal region.
- Since his parents were Lutherans, they sought help from a Lutheran seminary. When the Lutheran ministers failed to help the boy, the parents took him to some local Jesuits, who performed an exorcism.

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- Many people today dismiss the existence of the devil and demons. They believe that since demons are not physical beings, no one can prove their existence. Therefore they must not exist.
- People often think that demonic intervention was an idea left back in the 1500s or earlier, that people of old who believed in demonic intervention, were superstitious and lacked the tools of science or psychology to understand mental illness.
- What benefit is it to Satan if people don't think he exists?

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- In his book, *The House Swept Clean*, Darrell McCulley suggests different ways in which demonic intervention can occur. He argues that demonic intervention does not necessarily mean full bodily possession, as in the 1949 exorcism case.
- There are other ways in which demons manifest themselves. Demonic activity is also found in the following: (1) miraculous healing, (2) “parlor tricks,” and (3) direct communication.

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- Why would a demon heal someone?
- McCulley argues that demons can do such things to create credibility in a medium.
- If a medium heals someone of a disease, people may put their trust in the medium rather than in Christ. In this way, people are directed away from Christ, which was the ultimate goal of the demon working through the medium.

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- **2Th 2:9-12 The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.**
- What things will Satan use in an attempt to deceive us?

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- “Parlor tricks” refers to levitating objects, mysterious noises, apparitions, or objects moving without any apparent physical cause.
- People generally believe that such things happen because of a disembodied spirit (ghost).
- But Job and Hebrews tell us that the dead do not come back: Job 7:9-10 **As the cloud fades and vanishes, so he who goes down to Sheol does not come up; he returns no more to his house, nor does his place know him anymore.**
- Heb 9:27 **And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment.**
- What is the source of the common hauntings and ghost stories people tell?

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- Finally, demons also intervene through direct communication to mediums. Unlike “parlor tricks,” this method goes beyond bodily manifestations to the point of relaying information. As mentioned above, the dead simply do not come back. But, demons may relay false information to psychics and mediums as a way of undercutting something directly asserted in God’s Word.
- Think about the impact such misleading information could have. If a demon relays information to a medium who thinks they have actually contacted a dead spirit, they could convince the medium and others that not only are the dead able to communicate from “beyond” but also that eternal bliss with Christ is unnecessary.

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- Scripture does not explicitly tell us how demons possess an individual. However, God's Law clearly commands us to turn away from any form of divination
- **Deu 18:10-12 There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer or a charmer or a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD.**

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- Despite this clear warning from God's Word, popular culture encourages people to dabble in the spirit world. For example, ouija boards are another form of divination.
- It is amazing how ouija boards, things that appear so harmless that they are sold in toy stores, are actually spiritually destructive. It should be noted that the boy possessed in the true-life exorcism story used forms of divination, including a ouija board.

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- **Act 19:13-16** Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims." Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?" And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.
- Idolatry is another avenue for demons. Demons can intervene in this world through just about anything one sets up as an idol.

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- Faith grafts you into Christ. You are under His Lordship. You are sons/daughters of God through faith and Holy Baptism (Gal 3:26-27 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.).
- Our catechism states, Baptism “works forgiveness of sins, [and] rescues [us] from death and the devil.”
- Likewise, the Holy Spirit is given as a deposit to you, the believer. Both your body and spirit belong to God through Christ’s blood. Since you belong to Christ by faith, you are also a bearer of His name.

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- The name of Christ has tremendous power! It is the very name at which every knee should bow when He returns in glory (Philippians 2:10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth).
- As bearers of Christ's name, we have His authority, and this includes authority over the evil one.
- **1Jn 4:4 Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.**
- The evidence of Scripture about Christ's and the Christians' authority over the devil and demons, is that they cannot threaten Christ's people.