

## **Lesson 3: God created the Spirit Beings; Lucifer Rebelled**

### **A. Introduction. Have you ever wondered:**

- Where did angels come from?
- What about Satan?
- What about demons?

Most people have an interest in angels. When we are young, we're told that we have guardian angels watching over us. And many of you watching this can probably point to one or more instances when you knew that a car was coming right at you, but that somehow, your car swerved and avoided a head-on collision. We all have stories of times when we were aware that there was someone watching over us and even diverting some calamity from taking place.

But along with the belief in angels, we live in a day when many people are drawn to the dark side, the that which has satanic overtones, even to satanic practices like voodoo.

Many places in the world believe that people can be possessed by demons. Sadly, here in the U.S., we have psychologists, psychiatrists, and lots of drugs which we use to "fix" people who might be demon-possessed. And yet, even with our modern medicine, we have not really figured out how to "fix" or help people who are psychotic and schizophrenic. The best we can do is drug them up so that they behave like "zombies" or lock them up on a mental ward of a hospital or in our misguided compassion, we tell them they have rights, and we feel so virtuous because we let them live on the streets as homeless people.

More often than not, we pay a high price for not believing in demon-possession and taking it seriously. We are in shock and horror when a young man kills his mother and then goes to the Sandy Hook Elementary School and shoots and kills 20 children and six adult staff members. The first thing the media and some in the public call for is "gun control" as though a gun caused this young man to become a mass murderer. The Bible says that Satan comes to kill, steal and destroy. Is it possible that 20 yr old Adam Lanza was possessed by demons. Is it possible that he was under the control of demonic forces that had taken over his body? And if so, where do these demons come from.

In today's lesson, we'll look at the origin of demons and all of the spirit beings.

To gain an understanding of the spirit beings requires knowledge of many Scriptures throughout the Bible. We won't be going through a lot of Scripture references because to do so would require considerable study and background understanding on each text.

I suspect that many questions will come to your mind as we go thru this study, and this lesson may not answer all your questions, but future lessons may help to clear up some issues.

Let's start with this—God's Word, the Bible, tells us what we need to know about the spirit beings. In this lesson, we'll look at some basic truths about God's angels as well as the origin of Satan. But first, let's do a quick review of some of the important points from Lesson 2.

## **Review:**

### **God alone had no beginning; God will have no end; God is ETERNAL.**

- God is supreme and sovereign.
- God needs nothing
- God is a Trinity: 3 persons in One.
- God is Spirit—He's not a force. He's the Creator. He's not in everything. He exists apart from his creation.
- God does not have a material body or material needs.
- God is everywhere all the time.
- God has no beginning and no ending. He is the God of all eternity.

### **B. The Spirits were created perfect by God.**

God created all the spirits perfect; not one of them was evil or unkind. God cannot create anything evil because God is holy. Everything He thinks, says and does is perfect.

### **C. God created all the spirits.**

I've got a timeline showing God's creation of angels, Satan, and demons which are fallen angels, and I've placed a red arrow pointing their place on the timeline. It was before the creation of the world and Adam & Eve.

In the beginning, God created all of the spirit beings. They have many different names:

- Spirits
- Angels
- Cherubim, Seraphim
- The host of Heaven
- Powers, principalities
- Rulers in high places
- Stars or morning stars.

All of the spirits were created at this time. Before the beginning, none of them were alive, because it is God who gave them life.

#### **John 1:3-4 (GW)**

<sup>3</sup> Everything came into existence through him. Not one thing that exists was made without him.

<sup>4</sup> He was the source of life, and that life was the light for humanity.

#### **Nehemiah 9:6 (NLT)**

<sup>6</sup> “You alone are the LORD. You made the skies and the heavens and all the stars. You made the earth and the seas and everything in them. You preserve them all, and the angels of heaven worship you.

God is greater than the spirits. He lived before them eternally. He is the one who made them. God did not give the spirits material bodies when He created them.

#### **D. The spirits were created to serve God.**

In the beginning, all of the spirits were God's angels. They were created to do whatever God wanted them to do.

#### **E. The Spirits were created with great wisdom and strength**

(Read Psalm 103:20)

##### **Psalm 103:20 (GW)**

<sup>20</sup> Praise the LORD, all his angels, you mighty beings who carry out his orders and are ready to obey his spoken orders.

Angels are very intelligent, but they are not all-knowing like God is.

Angels are stronger than we are, and the Bible records that God has given them the ability to do amazing things, but they are NOT all-powerful like God.

##### **God is wiser and stronger than all of the spirits.**

- This is an important truth for us to remember.
- No matter what you may have heard or seen presented in movies like the Exorcist or books or anywhere else, the Bible tells us that God is greater than all.

#### **F. The spirits are innumerable.**

**Theme: God is all-powerful.**

God created so many spirit beings that it is impossible for us to count them.

Revelation 5:11 says, "...the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands...."

How could God create so many good, strong, wise spirits?

- He is almighty.
- He can do anything and everything He wants to do.

#### **G. The spirits lived in Heaven.**

All of the spirits lived in Heaven with God in the beginning.

Now, this probably raises the question: Where is Heaven?

And, the answer is, we don't know where it is—but it certainly isn't here on earth. However, Heaven could exist here in another dimension. But regardless of whether heaven is here in another dimension or up there, it's a real place, mentioned many times in the Bible.

Heaven is God's dwelling place, and even though He is everywhere, all the time, Heaven is His home. <sup>3</sup>

Psalm 11:4 says that "the LORD'S throne is in heaven."

The Bible tells us that Heaven is a wonderful place, far better than any place we have ever known or could ever imagine.

#### **H. Lucifer's original position before God in Heaven**

God didn't create all of the angels exactly the same; some were more beautiful, intelligent, and wise than others, and the greatest angel was called Lucifer. The name Lucifer means "morning

star." God gave Lucifer a very important position in Heaven. He was kind of like the "rock star" in heaven.

- He was given a place of great authority and power over the other angels.

- Ezekiel 28:14 calls him "*the anointed cherub*."

He, like all of God's creation, was created perfect.

- Ezekiel 28:15 says, **Ezekiel 28:15 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you.

## I. Lucifer's rebellion

Because Lucifer was created by God and given the highest position over all of the other angels, he should have loved, obeyed and served God.

But after a time, Lucifer became very proud of his beauty, intelligence and position. Have you ever met anyone like that. They think the whole world is centered around them. Their continual focus is on themselves. We call that type of person a "narcissist" --**Narcissism** is the pursuit of gratification from vanity or egotistic admiration of one's own attributes. The term originated from the Greek mythology, where the young Narcissus fell in love with his own image reflected in a pool of water.

### Ezekiel 28:17 (GW)

<sup>17</sup> You became too proud because of your beauty. You wasted your wisdom because of your greatness. So I threw you to the ground and left you in front of the kings so that they could see you.

- Another passage of Scripture gives us insight into Lucifer's attitude.
- **Read Isaiah 14:13-14.**
- <sup>13</sup> 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;
- <sup>14</sup> I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'

**Lucifer wanted to be like "*the most High*."**

- He decided that he wanted to take over God's position as the ruler of all things.
- Lucifer was the first one to do evil which we will define as anything that is different from what God wants or agrees with.

**Now, you may be wondering: "If Lucifer was created perfect, how could he rebel?"**

- The Bible does not give a clear answer for this, but it does show many examples of the fact that God allows choices to be made regarding obedience and disobedience.
- **Look at the passage Isaiah 14:13-14.**
- Note, Lucifer said, "*I will ascend*," "*I will exalt*," "*I will sit*," "*I will ascend*," "*I will be like the most High*."
- Lucifer's rebellion was an act of the will, a conscious choice.
- Lucifer wanted to be like "*the most High*."
- He decided that he wanted to take over God's position as the ruler of all things.

- Lucifer was the first one to do evil. (Evil is anything that is different from what God wants or agrees with.)
- Recently, I heard about our president who gave a speech at the Democrat National Convention and referred to himself 126 times in the speech. That's classic narcissism. For the narcissist, it's all about me. The narcissist has to insert himself into every conversation, everything. It's all about him
- The nominee for the Republican party ticket is also a narcissist. It's all about him as well. How refreshing would it be to have a presidential candidate or leader who is self-effacing and not always making everything about themselves, but truly demonstrating a servant's heart.
- Jesus said for us to deny ourselves, pick up the cross and follow Him. We're not denying ourselves if it's all about us.

#### **J. Other angels followed Lucifer in his rebellion.**

Many of God's angels followed Lucifer, their leader.

They, too, rebelled against God.

#### **Revelation 12:7-9 (GW)**

<sup>7</sup> Then a war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels had to fight a war with the serpent. The serpent and its angels fought.

<sup>8</sup> But it was not strong enough, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.

<sup>9</sup> The huge serpent was thrown down. That ancient snake, named Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world, was thrown down to earth. Its angels were thrown down with it.

#### **K. God knew what Lucifer and the other spirits were thinking and planning.**

**Theme: God is everywhere all the time; He knows everything.**

#### **Isaiah 14:12-14 (NLT)**

<sup>12</sup> "How you are fallen from heaven, O shining star, son of the morning! You have been thrown down to the earth, you who destroyed the nations of the world.

<sup>13</sup> For you said to yourself, 'I will ascend to heaven and set my throne above God's stars. I will preside on the mountain of the gods far away in the north.'

<sup>14</sup> I will climb to the highest heavens and be like the Most High.'

God created all of the spirits, and He knew what they were thinking and planning.

- He knew that Lucifer had become proud and wanted to take the place of his Maker.
- You see, God knew Lucifer's thoughts and the thoughts of each of the rebellious spirits.

**Nothing can be kept secret from God.**

- Nothing can surprise God.
- He knows everything before it ever happens.
- He knows what we are going to think before the thought even comes into our minds.
- He is everywhere.
- He sees everything.
- He knows everything.

#### **Hebrews 4:13 (NLT)**

<sup>13</sup> Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.

## **L. God removed Lucifer and his followers from their position as God's servants.**

**Theme: God is holy and righteous. He demands death as the payment for sin.**

- Consider:

Do you think God would let Lucifer take His position?

What do you think God's reaction was to Lucifer's selfish ambition?

If someone suddenly tried to take over our government, strong defense measures would be taken immediately. Our government would send out the national guard and all of our military. Martial law would be enacted. Our government is important and powerful and wants to be in control of our daily lives in so many ways, but think how supremely important and powerful God is, and He is good, loving and caring and doesn't want to control us like robots or force us to do His will.

Who is wiser than God? Who is stronger than God? He has always lived. He lives by His own power. He doesn't need anything to live. He lived before the beginning. He gave life to all of the spirits.

God would not allow Lucifer to take His position.

- No one can take God's place, because He is the only true God.

God, in great anger, removed Lucifer from his important position of leadership over the angels.

God also removed the other angels who followed Lucifer from their place of service in Heaven.

God is perfect and right in everything He thinks and does.

- Anyone who doesn't think and act like God is totally unacceptable to Him and cannot be His friend. Therefore, God would not allow Lucifer and his spirit followers to continue in their former positions in Heaven.

As we mentioned in the beginning of this lesson, some of these details must be understood in the light of many passages of Scripture which we aren't going to take the time to study in these lessons.

But in numerous instances, the Bible records the activity of Satan and his demons here on earth. They are no longer recorded as God's servants; they are always in opposition to Him.

**Job 1:6-7 (GW)** tells us that Satan is wandering the earth, and yet, he can still visit heaven as we will see here in this verse. Job 1:6-7 says:

<sup>6</sup> One day when the angels came to stand in front of the LORD, Satan the Accuser came along with them.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD asked Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From wandering all over the earth."

## **M. God prepared the Lake of Fire for Lucifer and his spirit followers**

**Theme: God is holy and righteous. He demands death as the payment for sin.**

God prepared a terrible place of everlasting punishment called the Lake of Fire.<sup>8</sup>

He is going to send Lucifer, and the other spirits which followed him, to the Lake of Fire to be punished forever.

God will not tolerate disobedience to Him and God always punishes those who fight against Him.

**Matthew 25:41 (GW) refers to the eventual punishment of “the devil and his angels”----<sup>41</sup>**

“Then the king will say to those on his left, ‘Get away from me! God has cursed you! Go into everlasting fire that was prepared for the devil and his angels!’

- **Revelation 20:10** tells us that at the end of the world, the Devil will be “...cast into the lake of fire...and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”

## N. Lucifer and his angels hate God

**Theme: Satan fights against God and His will. Satan is a liar and a deceiver. He hates man.**

Lucifer and his followers hate God and every good thing that God loves. Satan and his demons hate Christians and God’s chosen people, the Jews.

Right from the time when God banished Satan from serving him in heaven until today, Lucifer and these other spirits have been fighting against God and everything He does. Lucifer is now called Satan, which means **“enemy, adversary, opponent, or accuser.”**

As I said earlier, Satan’s spirit-followers are called **demons**. Satan is God’s great enemy. I’ve encountered people who are demon-possessed. Once I saw two young college wrestlers from the Univ. of Vermont use every ounce of strength to get a demon-possessed girl out of their car into a home where she could receive help and deliverance. Individuals who are demon-possessed possess unusual strength. They also can tell if you are walking in the light or walking in darkness. They also lie and deceive, and often times the demons will speak through the person in an eery deep voice that is does not belong to the person. The demons truly have taken over the individual and have him under their control.

- Satan fights against God day and night to try to stop the things God does.
- Satan’s demons help Satan in opposing God.

## O. Satan and his spirit servants no longer live in Heaven.

Satan and his demons are now active all over the earth.

Job 1-2:10 records conversations between God and Satan in which Satan says he has been *“going to and fro in the earth, and...walking up and down in it.”*

And, as also mentioned before, many passages in the Bible record demon activity on the earth and we’ll talk about them in coming lessons, as well as citing some examples of demonic activity in our world today.

## P. Conclusion

**Theme: God is supreme and sovereign.**

**Theme: God is holy and righteous. He demands death as the payment for sin.**

- God is the supreme God and the Creator of everything, seen and unseen.
- God is greater than all.
- Everything He does is perfect and holy.

**He is greater than all created beings:**

- God is greater than the angels.
  - God is greater than Satan and the demons.
  - How important that is for us to know and remember!
- God alone can tell us what happened in the beginning.

In our next lesson 4, we will examine what the Bible says about the beginnings of the physical world:

- The heavens
- The earth.

It's extremely important for us to consider what He says about creation.

### **Review Questions:**

1. Who is the only one who lived before the beginning? **God.**
2. Where did all the spirits come from? **They were all created by God.**
3. Did God create the spirits with bodies of flesh and bones? **No.**
4. Did God create all of the spirits good, or did He create some good and some bad? **God created them all good.**
5. Why did God create the spirits? **To be His servants.**
6. How many spirits are there? **More than can be numbered.**
7. Where did they all live in the beginning when God first created them? **With God in Heaven.**
8. Who was the most intelligent and beautiful angel created by God? **Lucifer.**
9. What position did God give Lucifer? **Leadership over all of the other angels.**
10. What did Lucifer do? **He planned to be like God and to take God's position.**
11. Who else followed Lucifer in His rebellion against God? **Many of God's angels.**
12. Did God know what Lucifer and his followers were planning? **Yes.**
13. What did God do? **He removed Lucifer and the angels who joined him in rebellion from their position as God's servants.**
14. Is there anything that God doesn't see, hear, and know? **No! God sees, hears, and knows everything.**
15. What place did God prepare as a punishment for Lucifer and his angels? **The Lake of Fire.**
16. What is Lucifer's name now and what does it mean? **Satan, which means "enemy, adversary, opponent, or accuser."**
17. Whom is Satan against? **He is against God.**

**Next Lesson 4: God created the Heavens & the Earth**