

October 26th, 2025
Pastor Josh McPherson
"The Unseen Realm"



"Understanding Our Unseen Enemies"

Why A Sermon On Satan & Demons?

"Another reason I wrote you was to see if you would stand the test and be obedient in everything...in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes." –Paul, 2 Corinthians 2:9,11

How Should We Think About Satan & 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 in them and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors, and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight." – CS Lewis, The Screwtape Letters

5 True Things About Satan & Demons:

1. Not eternal...immortal (only God is eternal)

"In the beginning, God created the Heavens and the earth." Gen. 1:1

2. Not all-knowing (only God is omniscient)

"Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. One day the evil spirit answered them, 'Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?'" Acts 19:14-15

3. Not all-present (only God is omnipresent)

"Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding. 31 The demons begged Jesus, 'If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs.' 32 He said to them, 'Go!' So they came out and went into the pigs, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and died in the water." Matthew 8:30-32

4. Not all-powerful (only God is omnipotent)

"Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, 24 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!' 25 'Be quiet!' said Jesus sternly. 'Come out of him!' 26 The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek." 7 "The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, 'What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him.' 28 News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee." Mark 1:23-28

5. Not in control (only God is sovereign)

"None of the rulers of this age understood God's wisdom (plan), for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory." 1 Cor. 2:8



6 Questions About Satan & Demons:

1. What Are Demons?

- Demons are intelligent, moral, created spirit beings who joined Satan's rebellion & now oppose God's purposes & people.
- Satan & Demons = God & Angels.
- Satan & Demons are fallen angels who act and pose as false-gods while under the decaying & weakening effects of the curse for their disobedience

2. When Did Demons Rebel?

- Demons probably rebelled between the 6th day and the temptation of Eve
- "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day." Genesis 1:31
- "Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" Genesis 3:1

3. Are There Other Names For Demons Used In The Bible?

- Yes
- Demons Principalities Authorities Powers Thrones Counterfeit Angels
Rulers Hosts Elemental Spirits

4. Are Demons Different Than Satan Himself?

- Yes. Satan was an arch-angel who led a rebellion against God, was cast to earth, and now is considered the leader of demons.
- Strong Man, Prince of demons, Satan, Lucifer, Devil, Evil one, Prince of the power of the air, Belial, The enemy, The adversary, The serpent, The dragon, The tempter

5. How Are Demons Related To Jesus And His Ministry?

- The primary mark of Jesus' ministry was healing the sick and kicking demon's butts
- "That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. 17 This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took our illnesses and bore our diseases." Matthew 8:16-17

6. Will Demons Be Redeemed?

- No.
- "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'" Matthew 25:41
- "For...God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment..." 2 Peter 2:4
- "Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, 8 but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him." Revelation 12:7-9



7 Big Ideas:

1. Demons Are Real.

- The OT > 8 times Satan & Demons = God & Angels.
- The NT > 80 times.
- "You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder." James 2:19

2. Demons Are Active.

- HARASSING: "Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me." 2 Corinthians 12:8
- LYING AND DECEIVING: "The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons." 1 Timothy 4:1
- Accusing, attacking, oppressing, tempting, afflicting, possessing, destroying, killing

3. Demons Are Dangerous.

- Christians live between D-Day and V-Day
- "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." Ephesians 6:12

4. Demons Are Defeated.

- "He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Christ." Colossians 2:15
- "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." 1 John 4:4
- "Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you." Luke 10:19
- "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil." 1 John 3:8

5. Demons Are Defeatable.

- 7 "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded...Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you." James 4:1-10

6. Demons Don't Define You.

- "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are **more than conquerors** through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels **nor demons**, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:31-38

7. Demons Are A Thing. Salvation Is The Bigger Deal.

- "The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." 18 He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. 20 However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." Luke 10:17-20



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Discussion Questions:

Getting to Know Me

1. What is one thing you're looking forward to about the colder weather?
2. What is one thing God is currently working on changing your mind about?

Into the Bible/Sermon

1. Read 2 Corinthians 2:9-11. Why is "demonology" worth studying?
2. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 gives an account of Paul's interaction with a demon. What does this story tell us about the nature and power of demons?
3. Read James 4:1-10 together. What are some key ideas to fighting our battles with demons presented here.
4. What is the "Big Idea" revealed in Luke 10:19-20?

Application

1. What was the most surprising thing you learned from this sermon?
2. C.S. Lewis mentions two errors when it comes to demons: disbelief or belief with an unhealthy interest. Which do you have more of a tendency to fall into?
3. What has encouraged you most from this sermon when it comes to dealing with the demonic?
4. Are you rejoicing in the power that God has given us over the demonic, or do you rejoice that your name is written in heaven? How are these two ideas at conflict?
5. What is one prayer you need to pray, or one step you need to take, as a result of listening to this sermon?