

THE PROOF & PROMISE OF HEALING PRAYER

An excerpt from Power Healing by John Wimber, pages 103-106

WHAT ARE DEMONS?

Scripture and church tradition offer insights into the nature and origin of Satan and demons. But first a comment is in order about who and what Satan is *not*. Satan is not an uncreated, eternal being like God, only opposite in nature. As C. S. Lewis points out, "Satan, the leader or dictator of devils, is the opposite, not of God, but of Michael." We flatter Satan and misunderstand God's eternal goodness when we raise Satan to the level of being a god. No, Satan is no god, and we need not fear him as being one.

In the beginning God created Lucifer ("Lightbearer") to serve and love him, but he rebelled and became Satan ("Adversary"). Some believe Isaiah 14:12-15, which refers directly to the king of Babylon, is also a description of the fall of Satan. In this passage one called the "morning star" in the New International Version (which is translated "Lucifer" in the Latin Vulgate) is cast down to earth after attempting to overthrow God. He wanted the supreme authority of God. In the Isaiah 14 passage, he says, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." He rebelled in pride and, eventually, came to covet what did not belong to him. He is called the "ruler of the air" (Eph. 2:2), indicating the earth is his abode for now. The time will come when he will be cast permanently into hell (Rom. 20: 10).

In the third century Origen (ca. 185-254), a theologian from Alexandria, wrote:

In regard to the devil and his angels and opposing powers, the ecclesiastical teaching maintains that these beings do indeed exist; but what they are or how they exist is not explained with sufficient clarity. This opinion, however, is held by most: that the devil was an angel; and having apostasized, he persuaded as many angels as possible to fall away with himself; and these, even to the present time, are called his angels.

The few glimpses we receive from Scripture confirm Origen's opinion. As is usually true for all sin today, Satan's rebellion affected others - in this instance other angels. The New Testament indicates demons are angels who sinned and were cast into hell or down to earth. "They do not differ in nature from good angels," C. S. Lewis writes, "but their nature is depraved."

Three passages in the New Testament describe demons' origin and current condition:

- *God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment. (2 Pet. 2:4)*

- *And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home-these he has kept in darkness; bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day. (Jude 6)*
- *And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down-that ancient serpent called the devil or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night has been hurled down. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short." (Rev. 12:7-12)*

We learn from these passages that there are two groups of demons. The first group is those who have been confined to "gloomy dungeons" and "bound in everlasting chains" (see also Col. 2:15; 1 Pet. 3:18-22). I suspect that these are too harmful to be allowed to move about freely on earth. The second group is those who are free to roam about the earth and in some way serve under Satan (see also Matt. 12:24-26; Rev. 9:1-11; 20:1). They are numerous and well organized, another indication that Satan can be quite effective in warring on humanity (Eph.6:11-12).

Other passages in the New Testament reveal the following characteristics about demons:

- They have intelligence (Acts 16:16-18; 19:15-16);
- They are spirits (Matt. 8:16; 12:43-45; Luke 10:17-20; 24:39; Rev.16:14);
- They manifest themselves in different forms (2 Kings 6:17; Rev.9:1-12; 16:13-14);
- They are malevolent (Matt. 12:43-45; Mark 1:27; 3:11; Luke 4:36; Acts 8:7; Rev. 6:13);
- They know their own end (Matt. 8:29; 25:41; James 2:19);
- They have supernatural strength (Matt. 12:29; Mark 5:4; Luke 8:29; Acts 19:13-16);
- They must bow to Jesus' name (Matt. 8:28-34; Mark 5:7; Luke 8:26-33).



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WHAT DOES JESUS HEAL?

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- *The Healing of Past Hurts*
- *The Healing of the Demonized*
- *The Healing of the Body*





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