

## ***Abide Deeper – The Doctrine of Angels and Demons***

### **Introduction**

The thinking of many people today regards angels and demons as pure superstition. Many modern people don't give the smallest thought to the existence of such beings.

The philosopher and theologian Rudolf Bultmann described what he called *demythologization*: "It is impossible to use electric lights and the wireless [radio] and to avail ourselves of modern medical and surgical discoveries, and at the same time to believe in the New Testament world of spirits and miracles."

Other people seem obsessed with either angels, demons, or both. These people have a strange, inaccurate, and unhealthy interest in these spirit beings.

Yet the Bible tells us that angels and demons are real, and they impact our world. *Jesus believed in angels and demons*. We should work for a Biblical understanding of these beings.

There is a class of being we can call *angelic beings*. They are not divine beings, they are not human beings, they are not animal beings – but are *angelic* in their nature. The category of the *angelic* includes the faithful and fallen. We often call faithful angelic beings "angels" and we often call fallen angelic beings "demons." These angels and demons are the same in their essential being, but the faithful angelic beings have not sinned and remain faithful to God's purpose, and the fallen angelic beings have sinned and they attempt to work against God's purpose.

### **Titles and Descriptions of Angelic Beings**

The Bible often uses the Hebrew word *malak* and the Greek word *angelos* in reference to angels. These words have the idea of *messenger* and are sometimes used for human messengers, but usually refer to heavenly messengers.

- 1 Kings 19:2 – A human *malak* (messenger) is sent to Elijah
- Luke 7:24 – Human *angelon* (messengers) are sent to Jesus

The Old Testament calls angelic beings *sons of God* (Job 1:6, 2:1 and 38:7; Genesis 6:2). Some claim that these "sons of God" are a different category of being altogether, something like "lesser gods" or a "divine counsel." This isn't the best understanding; given all the Scriptures present, it's best to see the *sons of God* as angelic beings.

- Job 1:6 and 2:1 – Angelic beings, the "sons of God," come before the Lord
- Job 2:1 – Angelic beings, the "sons of God," come before the Lord.
- Job 38:7 – Angelic beings, the "sons of God," rejoiced at creation
- Genesis 6:2 – Angelic beings had relations with humans in the days of Noah

Angelic beings are called *cherubim*.

Genesis 3:24 – Cherubim guard the way to the tree of life after Adam’s sin  
**So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.**

- Exodus 25:18-20 – The ark of the covenant made with the designs of cherubim
- 1 Samuel 4:4 – God is enthroned in the midst of cherubim
- Ezekiel 10:1-2 – Ezekiel saw cherubim in his vision of the throne of God

Angelic beings are called *seraphim* (“burning ones,” Isaiah 6:1-7).

Isaiah 6:1-2 – Angelic beings called seraphim surround God’s throne  
**In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.**

Some deny that *cherubim* and **seraphim** refer to the same beings. But the name **seraphim** means “burning ones.” Ezekiel 1:13 describes cherubim (see also Ezekiel 10:15) this way: *their appearance was like burning coals of fire, like the appearance of torches going back and forth among the living creatures. The fire was bright, and out of the fire went lightning.* That certainly seems to describe *burning ones*.

Angelic beings are called *living creatures*.

- Revelation 4:6-8 – “Living creatures” surround the throne of God

There is a category of angelic beings known as *archangel*. This is a high-ranking angel; the angel who is “first in line.”

- 1 Thessalonians 4:16 – An archangel will announce the catching away of the church for their resurrection
- Jude 1:9 – Michael is described as “the archangel”

The Bible speaks of angelic beings in categories such as *thrones, dominions, principalities, powers, authorities*.

- Romans 8:38 – “Principalities” and “powers” describe spiritual beings
- Ephesians 3:10 – “Principalities” and “powers” describe spiritual beings
- Ephesians 6:12 – “Principalities” and “powers” describe spiritual beings hostile to disciples of Jesus Christ

Colossians 1:16 – “Principalities” and “powers” describe spiritual beings  
**For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.**

- Colossians 2:15 – “Principalities” and “powers” describe spiritual beings defeated and disarmed by the work of Jesus at the cross
- 1 Peter 3:22 – “Authorities” and “powers” describe spiritual beings

The Bible uses the phrases “unclean spirit” (Luke 4:33, Mark 1:23, Matthew 12:43, Mark 7:25) and “evil spirit” (Acts 19:13-16) to refer to fallen angelic beings.

Luke 4:33 – An adversarial spiritual being is called “an unclean demon”  
**Now in the synagogue there was a man who had a spirit of an unclean demon.**

Mark 7:25 – An adversarial spiritual being is called “an unclean spirit” (the parallel account Matthew 15:21-22 has “severely demon-possessed”)  
**For a woman whose young daughter had an unclean spirit heard about Him, and she came and fell at His feet.**

- Mark 1:23 – An adversarial spiritual being is called “an unclean spirit”
- Matthew 12:43 – An adversarial spiritual being is called “an unclean spirit”
- Acts 19:16 – An adversarial spiritual being is called an “evil spirit”

## The Nature of Angelic Beings

1. The Bible tells us angelic beings are spirit beings.

Psalm 104:4 – Angelic beings are created as spirits  
**Who makes His angels spirits,  
His ministers a flame of fire.**

Hebrews 1:14 – Angelic beings are “ministering spirits”  
**Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?**

2. The Bible tells us that angels are created beings, specifically created by Jesus Christ.

- Colossians 1:16 – All varieties of spiritual beings were created by Jesus

3. The Bible tells us that angels were created sometime before the creation of the world, because they witnessed the creation of our universe.

Job 38:4-7 – Angelic beings rejoiced at God’s creation of the universe  
**“Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?”**

**Tell Me, if you have understanding.  
Who determined its measurements?  
Surely you know!  
Or who stretched the line upon it?  
To what were its foundations fastened?  
Or who laid its cornerstone,  
When the morning stars sang together,  
And all the sons of God shouted for joy?**

4. There are many angels, but we don't know how many. The terms *the host of heaven* (1 Kings 22:19) and *a thousand thousands* (Daniel 7:10) describe large, uncountable numbers.

- 1 Kings 22:19 – The group of angelic beings in heaven is called a “host”
- Daniel 7:10 – Angelic beings in heaven are beyond the ability to number

5. The Bible tells us that angels do not seem to reproduce themselves, so we can infer that there is and has been a settled number of angelic beings.

Matthew 22:30 – Angels do not marry or reproduce (referring to faithful angels)  
**For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven.**

6. The Bible tells that normally, angels are invisible, and can only be seen by special revelation.

- Numbers 22:31 – Balaam could not see the Angel of LORD until his eyes were supernaturally opened

2 Kings 6:17 – The servant of Elisha could not see the surrounding angels until his eyes were supernaturally opened

**And Elisha prayed, and said, “LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.” Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.**

7. The Bible tells us that angels can take on human appearance and form.

Hebrews 13:2 – Angels can assume an entirely human appearance, so much so that someone might not know that they are dealing with an angel

**Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.**

8. The Bible tells us that some angels fly.

- Daniel 9:21 – An angel flew swiftly to bring a message to Daniel

- Revelation 14:6 – An angel flies through the sky presenting the everlasting gospel

9. The Bible tells us that angels have (or had) a will and a moral character; some are described as *holy*; certain fallen angels are described as lying and sinning.

Matthew 25:31 – Some angels are “holy angels” (also Mark 8:38)

**When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.**

- John 8:44 – Satan sins by lying
- 1 John 3:8 – The devil has sinned from the beginning

### **What Faithful Angelic Beings Do**

1. Angels continually praise and glorify God; they do this mainly in heaven, but also occasionally on earth.

- Revelation 5:11-12 – Angels are among those around the throne praising God
- Revelation 7:11-12 – Angels are among those around the throne praising God
- Luke 2:13-14 – Angels praised God when Jesus Christ was born

2. Angels are agents of God’s revelation (Hebrews 2:2; Revelation 14:6).

- Hebrews 2:2 – God used angels to bring the covenant at Mount Sinai
- Revelation 14:6 – God will use an angel to present and preach the everlasting gospel

3. Angels are agents of God’s judgment (2 Samuel 24:16; 2 Kings 19:35).

- 2 Samuel 24:16 – An angel brought judgment against Jerusalem
- 2 Kings 19:35 – An angel destroyed the army of the Assyrians surround Jerusalem

3. Angels are special servants of God and they serve God’s people.

Matthew 4:11 – Angels ministered to Jesus after He endured testing in the wilderness

**Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.**

Luke 22:43 – An angel strengthened Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane

**Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him.**

Hebrews 1:14 – Angels minister (serve) those who will inherit salvation

**Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?**

- 1 Kings 19:5-7 – An angel served and helped Elijah
- Psalm 34:7 – Angels are present with believers and help them (“delivers them”)

#### 4. Angels observe the conduct of the church.

1 Corinthians 4:9 – Believers (specifically here the apostles) are on display to angelic beings

**For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.**

1 Corinthians 11:10 – Angels are present among believers in their gatherings, and for that reason God’s order in the church should be observed

**For this reason the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.**

1 Peter 1:12 – Angelic beings are interested in God’s plan for humanity

**To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into.**

#### **Satan: One Angel Who is God’s Unique Enemy**

*Satan* (the Hebrew name means “adversary”), along with the other angels, was created by God before the creation of the world (Colossians 1:16); he was one of the cherubim surrounding God’s throne (Ezekiel 28:14) and either led or participated in the worship surrounding God’s throne (Ezekiel 28:13).

- Colossians 1:16 – Jesus created all angelic beings

Ezekiel 28:14 – Satan was a high ranking angel (an “anointed cherub”) with privileged access to God’s presence

**You were the anointed cherub who covers;  
I established you;  
You were on the holy mountain of God;  
You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.**

Ezekiel 28:13 – Satan had access to the garden of Eden, was covered with radiant glory, and in some sense had musical instruments prepared for him

**You were in Eden, the garden of God;  
Every precious stone was your covering:  
The sardius, topaz, and diamond,  
Beryl, onyx, and jasper,**

**Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold.  
The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes  
Was prepared for you on the day you were created.**

It is essential to remember that Satan is a created being, and not God's equal. The opposite of God is *not* Satan; Satan's "opposite" is more likely a high-ranking angel such as Michael (Jude 9).

In his state previous to his fall, Satan was an exalted and privileged being (Ezekiel 28:14-15; 17), known as *Lucifer* (Isaiah 14:12). Some debate if Lucifer is a *name* or a *title*; the word means *morning star* or *day star*, referring to a brightly shining object in the heavens. Before his fall, Satan was a glorious, radiant being.

- Ezekiel 28:14-15; 17 – Before his fall, Satan had high status, privileged access to God's presence, a status of beauty, was wise, and had splendor

Isaiah 14:12 – Satan fell from his status as "son of the morning"

**How you are fallen from heaven,  
O Lucifer, son of the morning!  
How you are cut down to the ground,  
You who weakened the nations!**

Satan is called by many other titles or names in the Bible.

- Matthew 13:39 – *Devil* ("adversary" or "accuser") and *enemy*
- Matthew 4:3 – *Tempter*
- Matthew 13:19, 38 – *Wicked one*
- Revelation 12:9 – *Deceiver*
- John 8:44 – *Father of lies and Murderer*
- Ephesians 2:2 – *The Prince of the Power of the Air*
- 2 Corinthians 4:4 – *The God of this Age*
- 1 Peter 5:8 – *The Adversary*
- Revelation 9:11 – *Abaddon* ("the Destroying One")
- Mark 3:22 – *Beelzebub* ("Lord of the Flies")
- 2 Corinthians 6:15 – *Belial* ("worthless" or "wicked")
- Revelation 12:3 – *The Great Dragon*

In some sense, Satan has fallen from heaven (Isaiah 14:12), though he apparently has access to God (Job 1:6-7) where he accuses believers before God (Revelation 12:10). At the same time, Satan has access to earth, where he "walks about" (1 Peter 5:8).

- Isaiah 14:12 – Satan fell from his status as "son of the morning"
- Job 1:6-7 – Satan has access to the presence of God (and also access to earth)
- Revelation 12:10 – One day Satan will be completely removed from his access to heaven

1 Peter 5:8 – Satan “walks about” among believers in the world  
**Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.**

The condemnation of the devil came from his pride (1 Timothy 3:6). The five “I will” statements of Satan recorded in Isaiah 14:13-14 clearly show his pride.

- 1 Timothy 3:6 – Pride led to the condemnation of the devil

Isaiah 14:13-14 – Satan expressed his pride and rejection of God in five dramatic “I will” statements

**For you have said in your heart:  
I will ascend into heaven,  
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;  
I will also sit on the mount of the congregation  
On the farthest sides of the north;  
I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,  
I will be like the Most High.’**

We are not told the specific reason or occasion behind Satan’s sin of pride, and we can only speculate without certainty. Jewish traditions suggest it was because he learned of God’s plan to create a new kind of being. This new kind of being would be made in God’s image (Genesis 1:27), yet be lower than angelic creatures (Psalm 8:5). This being is one that angelic creatures would serve (Hebrews 1:14), and some of these beings would one day be elevated above angelic creatures (1 Corinthians 6:3).

- Genesis 1:27 – Humanity is created in the image of God

Psalm 8:5 – Humanity is lower than the angels

**For You have made him a little lower than the angels,  
And You have crowned him with glory and honor.**

Hebrews 1:14 – Angelic beings are commanded to serve humanity

**Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?**

1 Corinthians 6:3 – Human beings will be elevated above angelic beings

**Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?**

*From Ginzberg’s *The Legends of the Jews: The extraordinary qualities with which Adam was blessed, physical and spiritual as well, aroused the envy of the angels. ... In particular, Satan was jealous of the first man, and his evil thoughts finally led to his fall. After Adam had been endowed with a soul, God invited all the angels to come and pay him reverence and homage. Satan, the greatest of the angels in heaven...refused to pay heed to the behest of God, saying “Thou**



*didst create us angels from the splendor of the Shekinah, and now Thou dost command us to cast ourselves down before the creature which Thou didst fashion out of the dust of the ground!"... [Satan] broke out in wild outcries that reached the heavens, and he refused to do homage unto Adam as he had been bidden. The host of angels led by him did likewise, in spite of the urgent representations of Michael.... Satan replied: "If He breaks out in wrath against me, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God, I will be like the Most High!" (Ginzberg, *The Legends of the Jews*, volume 1, pages 62-24)*

If this is true, this explains much of Satan's present strategy.

- God says, "Humanity is made in My image." Satan responds, "Through encouraging sin and rebellion, I want to deface the image of God in humanity."
- God says, "Angelic beings are to serve humanity." Satan responds, "I will entice humanity into serving me."
- God says, "Human beings will be glorified and elevated above angelic beings." Satan responds, "I want to prevent as many human beings from this glorification and elevation as possible."
- God says, "Humans will be transformed into the image of My Son." Satan responds, "I want human beings to become more like me."

### **What Satan Does**

- Luke 4:1-2 – Satan tempts, entices people to evil and disobedience
- 2 Corinthians 11:14 – Satan deceives with a harmless, glorious appearance
- Revelation 12:9 – Satan deceives the whole world
- 2 Corinthians 4:4 – Satan blinds the minds of those who do not believe

1 Thessalonians 2:18 – Paul's work was in some way hindered by Satan  
**Therefore we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us.**

The work of Satan is limited by the power and permission of God.

- Job 1:10 – God had a protective "hedge" around Job that Satan could not penetrate
- Job 1:12 – Satan could not attack Job beyond that "hedge" without the specific allowance of God
- Job 2:6 – Even then, Satan's work against Job was strictly limited
- Luke 22:31-32 – Satan could not attack Peter without permission, and Jesus strengthened Peter in the midst of the attack through prayer

### **Demonic Spirits: Enemy Angels**

1. The word *demon* has the Greek concept of an “inferior deity,” and is always used for an *evil* spirit in the New Testament; the ancient word probably came from the idea of “A Knowing One.”

Properly, there is *one* Devil and *many* demons.

Demons are “knowing ones” but they are not omniscient (having all knowledge). Also, demons can’t read our minds, except in the sense that anyone who really knows us can “read” our minds – that is, anticipate our thinking.

2. Demons are called the “angels” of Satan (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 12:9).

Matthew 25:41 – Demons are called the devil’s “angels”

**“Then He will also say to those on the left hand, Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:**

Revelation 12:9 – In some sense, the demons “belong” to Satan

**So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.**

3. Many suppose that the *third of the stars of heaven* of Revelation 12:4 describe one-third of angelic creatures who rebelled with Satan; these fallen angelic beings are what we consider “demons.”

- Revelation 12:4 – In his fall, Satan draws one-third of the “stars of heaven”
- 2 Peter 2:4 – There are angels who sinned and who are imprisoned
- Jude 6 – There are angels who sinned and who are imprisoned

4. The demonic spirits that “belong” to Satan are organized into ranks, implying that they have intelligence, organization, and a hierarchy.

Ephesians 6:12 – Demonic spirits are organized into ranks and hierarchies

**For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.**

5. Demonic spirits have strategies that should be understood and resisted (2 Corinthians 2:11).

2 Corinthians 2:11 – Satan has “devices” or strategies against us, meant to take advantage of us, that we should not be ignorant of

**lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.**

## What Demons Can Do

1. Some demons are imprisoned and await judgment.

- 2 Peter 2:4 – Certain disobedient angels are imprisoned and waiting for judgment
- Jude 1:6 – Certain angels who did not keep their proper place are chained and waiting for judgment

However, they may not be so much waiting for their *own* judgment as they are waiting to be unleashed on the world in judgment of a Christ-rejecting humanity. Revelation 9:1-11 describes fearsome creatures that come from imprisonment in the bottomless pit, that are led by Satan. They are released to inflict torture and judgment on the people of the earth.

2. The Bible shows that demons can cause physical injury or affliction. Of course, this does not mean that all injury or affliction has a demonic cause; it simply means that it is possible for an injury or affliction to have a demonic cause.

- Matthew 9:32-33 – Demons can be the cause of muteness
- Matthew 12:22 – Demons can be the cause of blindness and muteness
- Luke 8:29 – Demons can be the cause of unnatural strength
- Luke 13:11, 16 – Demons can be the cause of bodily afflictions

3. Demons are aware of the authority and deity of Jesus (Matthew 8:29) and they know the servants of God (Acts 19:15).

- Matthew 8:29 – Demons knew who Jesus, that He was the Son of God, and that they were appointed to a time of future judgment
- Acts 19:15 – Demons knew the authority of Jesus and the authority of Paul; they also knew when someone did not have this true spiritual authority

4. Demons seem to have a desire to inhabit bodies, usually human (Matthew 12:43-45) but on one brief occasion, animal bodies were said to be possessed (Mark 5:12).

- Matthew 12:43-45 – Demons desire to inhabit persons, and to inhabit them as much as they can or are allowed to
- Mark 5:12 – Demons want to inhabit any kind of body, even an animal body

Demonic possession is when a demonic spirit *resides* in a human body, and at times will exhibit its own personality through the personality of the host body.

Demonic possession is a reality today, though we must guard against either *ignoring* demonic activity or *over-emphasizing* supposed demonic activity.

We are not told specifically how a person become demon possessed, other than the inference that it must be by some sort of invitation, whether offered knowingly or not.

Superstition, fortunetelling, so-called harmless occult games and practices, spiritism, New Age deception, magic, drug abuse, and other things open doors of deception to the believer, and real demonic danger to the unbeliever.

People often get involved in the occult or demonic things because there is something there that seems to work; unfortunately, it is not a *something*, but a *someone*.

Jesus constantly cast demons out when He encountered them (Mark 1:25-26, 9:25) and gave His disciples the authority to cast out demons (Matthew 10:1).

- Mark 1:25-26 – Jesus silenced and defeated a demonic spirit with merely a word.

Mark 9:25 – Jesus, with a word, defeated a particularly difficult demon  
**When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!”**

- Matthew 10:1 – Jesus gave His disciples power to deal with demons

Faith is necessary for the casting out of demons (Matthew 17:19-21). Sometimes this faith must be expressed through prayer and fasting (Mark 9:29).

- Matthew 17:19-21 – The disciples lacked the power to deal with demons because of their unbelief, a lack of faith connected to a lack of fasting
- Mark 9:29 – Prayer and fasting are effective tools against the demonic

In regard to Christians, demonic spirits were “disarmed” by Jesus’ work on the cross (Colossians 2:15), though they can both deceive and intimidate Christians, binding them with fear and unbelief.

Colossians 2:15 – At the cross, Jesus disarmed demonic spirits in reference to His people  
**Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.**

In using deception, the demons follow the example of their leader, who is the father of lies (John 8:44), therefore they are called *deceiving spirits* (1 Timothy 4:1), and promote the *spirit* of error over the spirit of truth (1 John 4:6)

- John 8:44 – Satan is a liar through and through, and his followers often lie
- 1 Timothy 4:1 – Demons are so given to deception that they can be called “deceiving spirit” and that they have their own “doctrines”
- 1 John 4:6 – There is a spiritual dynamic to error, a “spirit of error.”

“Disarmed” demonic spirits can be still very effective in deception, because you don’t need power to deceive - only a voice

Because Christians are *one spirit with the Lord* (1 Corinthians 6:17) and their bodies are *the temple of the Holy Spirit* (1 Corinthians 6:19), our body and our spirit belong to God – something accomplished in the *past tense* (1 Corinthians 6:20) – because of who we are in Jesus, Christians cannot be demon possessed.

1 Corinthians 6:17 – Believers are connected to Jesus, and “one spirit” with Him  
**But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.**

1 Corinthians 6:19 – God actually inhabits the body of the believer  
**Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?**

1 Corinthians 6:20 – The believer is God’s purchased possession, including the body of the believer  
**For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.**

Although demonic *attack* or *oppression* – all varieties of external attack are to be expected by the Christian, demons cannot inhabit the Christian’s body and exert control over the host’s body or will

Then what about all the Christians who report that demons have been spectacularly cast out of people whom they have known to be Christians? Such cases are either matters where the person was not genuinely demon possessed, or not genuinely born again, or are simply mysteries of experience – but experience is not allowed to overrule the clear testimony of Scripture.

The message of the Bible is clear to believers: *Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.* (James 4:7) A believer cannot be harassed by a demonic spirit to the place where he must call in an outside deliverer to deliver them; all they must do is submit to God and resist the devil and he will flee.

James 4:7 – Keys to success against demonic spirits are submission to God and resistance to the devil and his schemes.  
**Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.**

The idea that Christians may be demon possessed distracts us from what is often the more common problem – the need for the believer to put off deeds of the flesh

(Ephesians 4:22; Colossians 3:8-9), crucifying the flesh with its passions and desires. Notably, *never* in the Bible is a Christian “delivered” from a spirit of lust, anger, greed, laziness, or such.

Ephesians 4:22 – Christian obedience is dealt with by putting off our former conduct

**that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,**

Colossians 3:8-9 – Christian obedience is dealt with by putting off our former conduct

**But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,**

### How We Protect Ourselves Against Demonic Attack and Deception

1. By bringing God’s truth to bear upon the full range of Satanic deception, such as the application of Revelation 12:9-11

Revelation 12:9-11 – How believers overcome Satan and his strategies

**So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.**

**Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.**

a. The **blood of the Lamb** overcomes Satan’s accusations: my debt has been settled at the cross, once for all.

b. The **word of their testimony** (emphasizing both the word of God and their experience of it) overcomes Satan’s deceptions.

c. Loving not **their lives** overcomes Satan’s *violence*: what can he do against those who have the attitude *to live is Christ, to die is gain*?

2. Applying the example of Ephesians 6:10-18 - the whole armor of God.

## ***Abide Deeper – Survey of the Minor Prophets***

### **How the Minor Prophets Fit into Israel's History**

The 9 Pre-Exilic Minor Prophets all fit into the period of the divided monarchy, basically 2 Kings 11 to 25 and 2 Chronicles 26 through 36

- **Early, before 830 BC:** Obadiah and Joel (Kings Jehoram and Joash of Judah; Joram and Jehu of Israel) 2 Kings 11 through 15
- **Mid, 782 to 690 BC:** Jonah, Hosea, Amos, Micah (Kings Uzziah and Hezekiah of Judah; Jeroboam II and Hoshea of Israel) 2 Kings 14 through 20; 2 Chronicles 27 through 32
- **Late, 650 to 609 BC:** Nahum, Zephaniah, Habakkuk: (Kings Manasseh, Josiah, Jehoiakim of Judah) 2 Kings 22 through 25; 2 Chronicles 34 through 36

The 3 Post Exilic Minor Prophets all fit into the period described in Ezra and Nehemiah

- **After the Exile, 520 to 430 BC:** Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi (Governors Zerubbabel and Nehemiah) Ezra 5 and 6; Nehemiah 13

### **The Minor Prophets and Geography**

- Mainly speaking about Jerusalem/Judah: Micah, Joel, Zephaniah, Habakkuk
- Mainly speaking about Israel: Amos and Hosea
- Speaking about or to Nineveh of the Assyrians: Jonah and Nahum
- Speaking about the Edomites: Obadiah
- Speaking to Exiles Returned to Jerusalem: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

### ***Hosea – The Prophet and the Prostitute***

#### **Author and Time of Writing:**

Written about 720 BC by Hosea, the son of Beeri

#### **Original Recipients:**

Written to Israel, the kingdom of the ten northern tribes

#### **Occasion of the Writing:**

A powerful picture of God's love for His unfaithful people

#### **Historical Setting:**

2 Kings 14:23 to 18:37

**Major Themes:**

God's faithfulness to His wayward people, God's promises of restoration.

**Key Verse:**

Hosea 11:7-9

**My people are bent on backsliding from Me.**

**Though they call to the Most High,**

**None at all exalt Him.**

**“How can I give you up, Ephraim?**

**How can I hand you over, Israel?**

**How can I make you like Admah?**

**How can I set you like Zeboiim?**

**My heart churns within Me;**

**My sympathy is stirred.**

**I will not execute the fierceness of My anger;**

**I will not again destroy Ephraim.**

**For I am God, and not man,**

**The Holy One in your midst;**

**And I will not come with terror.**

**One Sentence Summary:**

The record of Hosea's prophecies to the people of Israel, using the prophet's unfaithful wife as an illustration of Israel's unfaithfulness to God, and God's continued love to Israel with promises of restoration.

**Concise Chapter Outline:**

1 through 3: The adulterous wife and the faithful husband

4 through 14: Adulterous Israel and their faithful God

***Joel – Promises of Judgment and Restoration*****Author and Time of Writing:**

Written about 830 BC by Joel, the son of Pethuel

**Original Recipients:**

Written to Judah, the kingdom of the two southern tribes, and to Jerusalem

**Occasion of the Writing:**

Warning of God's impending judgment.

**Historical Setting:**

2 Kings 11:1 to 15:7

**Major Themes:**

The day of the Lord, a warning to repent, an explanation of God's previous judgments



**Key Verse:**

Joel 2:11

**The LORD gives voice before His army,  
For His camp is very great;  
For strong is the One who executes His word.  
For the day of the LORD is great and very terrible;  
Who can endure it?**

**One Sentence Summary:**

The record of Joel's prophecies which explain Judah's past catastrophes and warn future judgment, with promises of restoration to a repentant people of God.

**Concise Chapter Outline:**

1: Looking back to the day of the Lord  
2 and 3: Looking forward to the day of the Lord

***Amos – Promises to Judge Injustice, and to Eventually Restore*****Author and Time of Writing:**

Written around 755 BC by Amos from Tekoa

**Original Recipients:**

Written to Israel, the kingdom of the ten northern tribes

**Occasion of the Writing:**

To call the materialistic and prosperous kingdom of Israel to repentance

**Historical Setting:**

2 Kings 14:23; 15:7

**Major Themes:**

Judgment on Israel and Gentile nations, sin, injustice, restoration

**Key Verse:**

Amos 3:1-2

**Hear this word that the LORD has spoken against you, O children of Israel,  
against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying:  
“You only have I known of all the families of the earth;  
Therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.”**

**One Sentence Summary:**

The record of the prophecies of Amos, warning of God's coming judgment against Israel and explaining the reasons for that judgment, along with promises of restoration.

**Concise Chapter Outline:**

- 1 and 2: Pronouncements of judgment against Israel
- 3 through 6: The reasons for judgment against Israel
- 7 and 8: Pictures of God's coming judgment
- 9: The promised restoration of Israel

***Obadiah – A One-Chapter Judgment on the Edomites*****Author and Time of Writing:**

Time of writing is uncertain; the best estimate is 840 to 830 BC, by Obadiah

**Original Recipients:**

Written to Judah, the kingdom of the two southern tribes

**Occasion of the Writing:**

Written to comfort Judah with the knowledge that God would judge the Edomites, who had been their enemy

**Historical Setting:**

2 Kings 25; 2 Chronicles 36:11-21

**Major Themes:**

Judgment, restoration

**Key Verse:**

Obadiah 1:10

**For violence against your brother Jacob,  
Shame shall cover you,  
And you shall be cut off forever.**

**One Sentence Summary:**

The record of Obadiah's prophecy against Edom for their participation in and celebration of Israel's downfall, with promises of restoration.

**Concise Chapter Outline:**

- 1: The judgment of Edom and the restoration of Israel

***Jonah – The Disobedient and Grumpy Prophet*****Author and Time of Writing:**

Written around 780 to 760 BC by Jonah, the son of Amittai

**Original Recipients:**

Written to Israel, the kingdom of the ten northern tribes

**Occasion of the Writing:**

A powerful rebuke to the hatred Israel had towards the threatening Assyrians, and towards the Gentiles in general

**Historical Setting:**

2 Kings 14:23-29

**Major Themes:**

Repentance, forgiveness, the mercy of God, God's love for fallen humanity

**Key Verse:**

Jonah 4:2

**So he prayed to the LORD, and said, "Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm."**

**One Sentence Summary:**

The story of Jonah the prophet in his effort to escape God's call and command, his work as a prophet, and God's teaching Jonah of His great love for all, including Gentile enemies.

**Concise Chapter Outline:**

- 1: Jonah's disobedience and judgment
- 2: Jonah's prayer and deliverance
- 3: Jonah's preaching in Nineveh and its effect
- 4: The prayer of Jonah and God's rebuke of Jonah

***Micah – Speaking Against Empty Religion*****Author and Time of Writing:**

Written between 735 and 700 BC by Micah the Morasthite

**Original Recipients:**

Written to both the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah, with an emphasis on Judah

**Occasion of the Writing:**

To warn God's people of their empty ceremonialism, and to give good news of God's offer of forgiveness and restoration

**Historical Setting:**

2 Kings 15:32 to 20:21; 2 Chronicles 27:1 to 32:33; Isaiah 7:1 to 8:22; Jeremiah 26:17-19

**Major Themes:**

Judgment, restoration, call to repentance

**Key Verse:**

Micah 7:18

**Who is a God like You,**

**Pardoning iniquity**

**And passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage?**

**He does not retain His anger forever,**

**Because He delights in mercy.**

**One Sentence Summary:**

The record of Micah's prophecies to Judah and Israel, warning of God's coming judgment, giving promises of restoration, and a plea for God's people to repent.

**Concise Chapter Outline:**

1 through 3: Judgment upon the people and the leadership

4 and 5: Promises of restoration

6 and 7: A call to repentance and a promise of pardon

***Nahum – The Doom to Come Upon Nineveh and the Assyrians*****Author and Time of Writing:**

Written between 650 and 620 BC, by Nahum from Elkosh/Elkesi

**Original Recipients:**

Written to Judah, the kingdom of the two southern tribes

**Occasion of the Writing:**

To comfort and encourage Judah with the knowledge that God would justly judge the city of Nineveh and the Assyrians.

**Historical Setting:**

2 Kings 22:1 to 23:30; 2 Chronicles 34:1 to 36:1; Zephaniah 2:13-15

**Major Themes:**

Judgment, God's justice,

**Key Verse:**

Nahum 3:5-7

**“Behold, I am against you,” says the LORD of hosts;**

**“I will lift your skirts over your face,**

**I will show the nations your nakedness,**

**And the kingdoms your shame.**

**I will cast abominable filth upon you,**

**Make you vile,**

**And make you a spectacle.  
It shall come to pass that all who look upon you  
Will flee from you, and say,  
Nineveh is laid waste!  
Who will bemoan her?  
Where shall I seek comforters for you?"**

**One Sentence Summary:**

The record of Nahum's prophecy against Nineveh, the capital of Assyria, for their crimes against God and His people.

**Concise Chapter Outline:**

- 1: God's verdict against Nineveh
- 2: The sentence upon Nineveh
- 3: The reasons for God's judgment on Nineveh

***Habakkuk – The Prophet Who Asked Questions***

**Author and Time of Writing:**

Written between 620 and 605 BC by Habakkuk, from Judah with priestly heritage

**Original Recipients:**

Written to Judah, the kingdom of the two southern tribes

**Occasion of the Writing:**

To comfort and encourage Judah with the knowledge that God would justly judge the Babylonians.

**Historical Setting:**

2 Kings 23:31 to 24:7

**Major Themes:**

The ways and wisdom of God's judgments, doubts and troubled faith, assurance and praise

**Key Verse:**

Habakkuk 2:4

**Behold the proud,  
His soul is not upright in him;  
But the just shall live by his faith.**

**One Sentence Summary:**

The record of Habakkuk the prophet's questions to God and God's reply, regarding the judgment of God upon Judah, concluding with praise to God in triumphant faith.

**Concise Chapter Outline:**

1 and 2: Habakkuk's troubled faith  
3: Habakkuk's triumphant faith

***Zephaniah – Strong Judgment, Stronger Salvation*****Author and Time of Writing:**

Written between 630 and 621 BC by Zephaniah, the son of Cushi

**Original Recipients:**

Written to Judah, the kingdom of the two southern tribes

**Occasion of the Writing:**

To warn Judah of impending judgment and to call them to repentance

**Historical Setting:**

2 Kings 22:1 to 23:34; 2 Chronicles 34:1 to 36:4

**Major Themes:**

Judgment, the wrath of God, day of the Lord, God's salvation and restoration

**Key Verse:**

Zephaniah 2:3

**Seek the LORD, all you meek of the earth,  
Who have upheld His justice.  
Seek righteousness, seek humility.  
It may be that you will be hidden  
In the day of the LORD's anger.**

**One Sentence Summary:**

The record of Zephaniah's prophecies regarding the coming judgment and wrath of God upon Judah, Jerusalem, and the whole earth; promises of God's restoration following judgment.

**Concise Chapter Outline:**

1 and 2: The day of judgment and wrath  
3: The day of joy and restoration

***Haggai – Resetting Priorities*****Author and Time of Writing:**

Written in 520 BC by Haggai

**Original Recipients:**

Written to the Jewish remnant that returned to Jerusalem and Judah from the Babylonian exile

**Occasion of the Writing:**

To exhort the returning exiles to rebuild the temple and set proper priorities

**Historical Setting:**

Ezra 5:1 to 6:22

**Major Themes:**

Priorities among the people of God, God's restoration, promised blessings

**Key Verse:**

Haggai 2:7-9

**“And I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,” says the LORD of hosts. “The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,” says the LORD of hosts. “The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former,” says the LORD of hosts. “And in this place I will give peace,” says the LORD of hosts.**

**One Sentence Summary:**

The record of Haggai's prophecies encouraging the people of God to prioritize the rebuilding of the temple following the Babylonian exile, with promises of God's future blessing and glory.

**Concise Chapter Outline:**

- 1: The completion of the temple
- 2: The glory of the temple and God's future blessings

***Zechariah – Visions of Judgment and of the Messiah*****Author and Time of Writing:**

Written between 518 BC (chapters 1-8) and 480 BC (chapters 9-14) by Zechariah, the son of Berechiah

**Original Recipients:**

Written to the Jewish remnant that returned to Jerusalem and Judah from the Babylonian exile

**Occasion of the Writing:**

To encourage the returning exile that God was at work in history and among the nations, culminating in the arrival and reign of the Messiah

**Historical Setting:**

Ezra 5:1 to 6:22

**Major Themes:**

Repentance, restoration, integrity, the rejection and reign of the Messiah

**Key Verse:**

Zechariah 8:3

**Thus says the LORD:**

**“I will return to Zion,  
And dwell in the midst of Jerusalem.  
Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth,  
The Mountain of the LORD of hosts,  
The Holy Mountain.”**

**One Sentence Summary:**

The record of Zechariah’s prophecies, with visions, messages, and burdens regarding the present state and future glory of God’s people, with attention given to the future work of the Messiah.

**Concise Chapter Outline:**

1 through 6: Visions relating to the present state of God’s people  
7 and 8: Confronting the fasts of Israel  
9 through 14: Burdens connected to the Messiah

***Malachi – Confronting the Compromising People of God*****Author and Time of Writing:**

Written between 430 and 420 BC by Malachi

**Original Recipients:**

Written to the Jewish remnant that returned to Jerusalem and Judah from the Babylonian exile, a few generations after the initial return

**Occasion of the Writing:**

To rebuke the disobedient, backslidden people of Judah and Jerusalem

**Historical Setting:**

Nehemiah 13

**Major Themes:**

The privilege of God’s people, the pollution of God’s people, and the promises to God’s people.

**Key Verse:**

Malachi 2:17:

**You have wearied the LORD with your words;  
Yet you say,  
“In what way have we wearied Him?”  
In that you say,  
“Everyone who does evil**



**Is good in the sight of the LORD,  
And He delights in them,”  
Or, “Where is the God of justice?”**

**One Sentence Summary:**

Malachi tells us of the care of God, the complaint of God, and the coming of God.

**Concise Chapter Outline:**

- 1: God's love for Israel
- 2: The sin of God's priests and people
- 3 and 4: Promises to the people of God