

# ANGELS & DEMONS

## Angels and Demons: Syllabus

Notes —

### CLASS #1:

- I. Course Introduction.
- II. Angels:
  - A. Scripture Verses Related to Angels.
  - B. The Nature of Angels.

### CLASS #2:

- II. Angels: (cont.)
  - C. The Number (quantity) and Variety of Angels.
  - D. Activities of Angels.

### CLASS #3:

- II. Angels: (cont.)
  - E. Can the Presence and Work of Angels be Experienced Today?
- III. Demons:
  - A. Introduction to the Demonic Realm.

### CLASS #4:

- III. Demons: (cont.)
  - B. Satan.

### CLASS #5:

- III. Demons: (cont.)
  - C. Demonic Spirits.
- Exam.

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## Angels and Demons: Exam

### Possible 20 Point Questions

- 1) Describe three aspects of the nature of angels (pp. 275, 276).
- 2) Describe three activities of angels (pp. 278, 279).
- 3) Describe a correct Christian perspective regarding Satan and his demons (pp. 283).

### Possible 10 Point Questions

- 1) Who is the angel of the Lord? Use one Scripture reference (p. 277).
- 2) What do the cherubim do (p. 278)?
- 3) Refer to one Scripture that would indicate that the appearance of angels can be experienced today (p. 279).
- 4) List four points that describe the character of Satan (no references necessary; pp. 284).
- 5) List four main goals of Satan (no references necessary; p. 286).
- 6) Do demons have their own doctrines? Support your answer with a Scripture reference (p. 289).

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## I. Course Introduction.

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### A. The Spirit World is Real.

1. John G. Paton, a missionary to the New Hebrides Islands told a story about the reality of angels:

#### **Author's Illustration:**

His house was in the jungle. One night a tribe of natives came to attack them. He and his wife prayed all night. Suddenly the natives left.

One year later, the chief of that same tribe accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior. Mr. Paton asked the chief: "Why did your men all of the sudden leave my house the night that you came to attack one year ago?" The chief was very surprised by the question. He said, "We left when we saw all those huge men with guns all around your house."

Only in that moment did the missionary realize that angels had been sent to protect him that night.

#### **Insert Your Illustration:**

2. The spirit world does exist. Unfortunately, its members include fallen angels (demons) as well as God's angels.

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## **B. The Contents of This Course.**

1. This course presents the doctrine of angels and demons. It is a foundational course that can be used to lead into the more practical course called “Spiritual Warfare.”
2. The course is divided into two major sections:
  - a. Angels. Portions adapted from the teachings of Dr. J.R. Williams, professor at Regent University<sup>1</sup>. Used by permission.
  - b. Demons.
3. The course is designed as a Bible study. Through the study of many Scriptures, we will build the doctrine of angels and demons. Take time to look up each reference and discuss the implications when appropriate.

## **II. Angels.**

### **A. Scripture Verses Related to Angels.**

1. Old Testament.
  - a. Gen 3:24; 16:7-11.
  - b. Ps 34:7; 78:49; 80:1; 91:11; 103:20; 148:2-5.
  - c. Is 6:2, 6.
2. New Testament.
  - a. Mt 1:20-25; 4:11; 18:10; 26:53; 28:1-5.
  - b. Mk 1:13; 8:38; 12:25.
  - c. Lk 1:26-37; 2:9-15; 15:10; 20:34-36.
  - d. Acts 1:10, 11; 5:19; 8:26; 10:3; 12:7, 23; 27:23, 24.
  - e. 1 Cor 6:3.

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- f. Col 1:16; 2:18.
- g. Heb 1:7,14; 2:7.
- h. 1 Pt 3:22.
- i. 2 Pt 2:4.
- j. Jude 6, 9.
- k. Rev 1:1; 5:11; 12:7; 19:10.

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## Discussion Point

After reviewing the above verses, discuss whether you believe angels are real or mythical. Briefly share testimonies of possible angelic encounters.

### B. The Nature of Angels.

1. They possess morality.
  - a. There are holy angels that are good.
  - b. There are fallen angels that are evil (see Mt 25:41; 2 Pt 2:4; Jude 6; Rev 12:7-9).

Note: We will consider these fallen angels in the second part of the course when we study the doctrine of demons.

- c. Angels are moral beings in the sense that they have made a decision. Each angel decided to either rebel from God or remain faithful to Him.

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2. They are spirits (see Heb 1:14).
  - a. They do not have bodies (see Lk 24:39).
  - b. They can appear in human form (see Gen 18:2; 19:1, 10; Josh 5:13, 14; Mk 16:5; Lk 24:4; Acts 1:10; and Heb 13:2).
  - c. They move without limits with respect to space and time (see Heb 1:7; Gen 28:12).
3. They are finite.
  - a. They were created (Ps 148).
    - 1) They are a creation of God (Col 1:16). They were created before man (see Job 38:4,7 and Gen 1-3).
  - b. They are not omnipresent (all present, can be everywhere at any-time) like God.
  - c. They are not omniscient (have complete knowledge) like God (Mt 24:36).
  - d. They are not omnipotent (all powerful) like God.
  - e. They are not divine (see Rev 22:8, 9).
4. They are personal beings.
  - a. They have names (Lk 1:26; Jude 9).
  - b. They have intelligence and wisdom.
    - 1) They hold conversations (see Gen 18: 1, 9, 22 and 19: 1, 2).
    - 2) They think (see 1 Pt 1:12).
    - 3) They understand (Eph 3:9, 10).
  - c. They have joy (see Job 38:7; Lk 15:10; Rev 19:6, 7).

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5. They are genderless.
  - a. They are not male and female (see Mk 12:25).
  - b. They do not marry (they do not need to reproduce themselves).
6. They are powerful (see Ps 103:20; 2 Thes 1:7).
  - a. Their actions often include a great display of power (see 1 Chron 21:14, 15; Acts 12:23; Rev 14:18).
  - b. Their power is often used to minister to God's people (see Dan 10:18; Lk 22:43).
7. They are immortal. They do not die (Lk 20:36).

## Discussion Point

How does the Biblical description of the nature of angels contradict some of the popular and sensational descriptions of angelic behavior?

### C. The Number (quantity) And The Variety of Angels.

1. The number or quantity of angels (see Deut 33:2; Dan 7:9, 10; Heb 12:22 and Rev 5:11, 12). There are very, very, very, many!
2. The variety of angels.
  - a. The “angel of the Lord.” He seems to be the Lord Himself (see Gen 16:7, 10, 13; Ex 3:2, 6; Judg 6:11, 14).

## Discussion Point

We might conclude that the “angel of the Lord” is God Himself appearing in the form of an angel. What do you think?

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- b. The archangel: Head angel (see 1 Thes 4:16 and Jude 9).

## Discussion Point

What do previous Scriptures suggest regarding the nature and person of the “archangel?”

- c. The “cherubim”.
  - 1) They guard the holiness of God (see Gen 3:24; Ex 25:18-22; 26:31).
  - 2) They carry the throne of God (see 1 Sam 4:4; Ps 18:10; Ezek 1).
- d. The “seraphim” (see Is 6:2). They declare the holiness of God and worship Him.
- e. There seems to be some type of order, organization, and classification of the angels (see Col 1:16; Mt 26:53; Josh 5:14; Ps 89:6, 7; Ps 82:1; 2 Chron 18:18).

## Discussion Point

What are your conclusions regarding a possible order of the various types of angels?

### D. Activities of Angels.

- 1. Praise and worship of God (see Rev 5:11, 12 and 7:11). This seems to be the primary activity of angels.
- 2. Communication.
  - a. Proclaiming the truth of God (see Acts 7:53; Gal 3:19; Heb 2:2).
  - b. Interpretation (see Dan 8:19; 9:23; Zech 1-6; Rev 1:1).



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- c. Announcements (see Gen 22:12; Judg 13:3; Mt 1:20; Lk 1:13; 1:28; Mt 28:6; Acts 1:11).
- d. Direction (see 2 Kings 1:3; Mt 2:13; Acts 5:20; 8:26; 10:4, 5; 27:24).
- 3. Ministry (consider Heb 1:14).
  - a. Consoling and assuring (see Gen 16:9-11; 21:17; 1 Kings 19:5; Mt 4:11; Lk 22:42, 43).
  - b. Protection and deliverance (see Ex 23:20; Dan 6:22; Acts 5:19; 12:7-11).
    - 1) Protection (Ps 91:11,12).
    - 2) Deliverance (Ps 34:7).
  - c. Watching over, guarding men, “guardian” angels (see Mt 18:10; Ps 34; and 91).
- 4. The execution of divine judgment.
  - a. Consider how the angels were used to execute judgment in the events of 1 Chron 21:15; 2 Kings 19:35; and Acts 12:23.
  - b. This activity of angels will especially be seen in the end times (see Mt 13:41; 2 Thes 1:7, 8; Rev 9:15).
- 5. Angels do the will of God (see Ps 103:20 and Mt 6:10).

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## **E. Can the Presence and Work of Angels Be Experienced Today?**

- 1. The Scriptures certainly indicate that the presence and work of angels is experienced by human beings and that it can be experienced today.
  - a. Consider the implications of Psalm 34 and 91 (specifically 34:7 and 91:11,12).
  - b. Review Heb 12:22; Heb 13:2; Mt 18:10; and Heb 1:14.

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2. Because the presence and work of angels can be experienced, it is necessary to give certain warnings.
  - a. Fallen angels can appear as “angels of light” (see 2 Cor 11:14).
  - b. Fallen angels will try to deceive people. They may even come and try to offer “another gospel” (see Gal 1:8).
    - 1) This is how Mormonism began. Joseph Smith, the founder of the Mormon religion, was given “new revelation” by an angel called Moroni. This was the beginning of the false sect known as Mormonism.
    - 2) This is how Islam began. Mohammed, the founder of the Islamic religion, was given “new revelation” and direction from an angel. This was the beginning of the false religion known as Islam.

### Discussion Point

What are the implications of Gal 1:8 regarding how we view angels?

Is it possible that we may have a visitation of “an angel of light,” who is actually a fallen angel?

How can we discern the truth in these situations?

Study and discuss the implications of 1 Tim 4:1 and 1 Jn 4:1.

(Note: this passage refers to false teachers primarily, but the tests are applicable to spirit beings and their messages as well).

How can the Church protect itself from “false spirits?”

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## Testing the spirits:

The presence and work of angels can be experienced today. Because this is true we must be careful of the counterfeits. The following tests can be applied when evaluating an angelic visitation:

1. Did the angel give direction or information that goes beyond or is not consistent with the Bible?

[Remember: there is no “new revelation” (additional, different). The Bible is complete (consider such Scriptures as Jude 3 and Rev 22:18).]

2. Do the angels focus on themselves or on people instead of Jesus?
3. Does the description of themselves and their appearance go beyond the Biblical descriptions of angels?
4. Does their activity go beyond the Biblical record concerning the activities of angels?

3. Although we know that the presence and work of angels can be experienced today, we also know that the appearance of an “angel” must be tested (see above).
  - a. We do not want to fall into either of the two extreme beliefs regarding the doctrine of angels:
    - 1) One extreme belief says that there are no angels and that their presence cannot be experienced by humans. This is the error of the Sadducees (Acts 23:8).
    - 2) The other extreme teaching causes a “worship of the angels” (see Col 2:18). This extreme teaching puts too much emphasis on angels and their visitations.

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- b. Thus, we confirm that angels exist and their presence and power **can** be experienced by man. We also submit that angelic visitations are not common and should be tested. Discernment is essential.

## Discussion Point

Briefly discuss any further questions or comments regarding angels.

### III. Demons.

#### A. Introduction to the Demonic Realm.

1. Some people do not believe that Satan and his demons exist.

#### Author's Illustration:

The lack of belief in the existence of demons results in holidays like we have in the United States called "Halloween." On this day adults and children mock the spirit world. Children dress as witches and little devils and walk the streets at night. People have parties where everyone dresses like demons and they laugh about spiritual things.

Why do people think that this is fun? The only answer? Ignorance. They do not understand the grave reality with which they are playing with.

This lack of belief in the existence of demons also results in a lack of interest in the study of demons and how to oppose them.

#### Insert Your Illustration:

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2. Other people believe in Satan and his demons, but have too much interest in them and their activities. They constantly study and talk about the activity of demons and are eager to experience their manifestation.
  - a. These type of people are very vulnerable to the devil and his deceptions.
  - b. They can easily be caught in demonic activity because their interest is too extreme.
3. Satan does not care which of these extreme beliefs shape your opinion of him. Both are errors, and Satan knows that he can successfully affect the lives of both groups of people.
4. Christians need to have a correct perspective regarding Satan and his demons.
  - a. They exist. They are our enemies. It is important to study about them in the same sense that it is important to know about your enemy in a war.
  - b. Nevertheless, our **focus** cannot be on solely our enemy. Our **focus** must be on our Commander in Chief, Jesus Christ.
    - 1) We should not acquire too much interest in the study of demons. We should not make it a focus of our study, but we should seek to be well informed.
    - 2) We should not allow ourselves to develop an interest in seeing demons manifested. We should not seek after demons or desire to experience their activity.
  - c. We must be balanced. We need to understand demons, but we do not need to be “interested” in them.
    - 1) We continue in this course to develop a doctrine of angels and demons.
    - 2) We want to understand Satan and his demons so that we can be prepared to fight them. We do not want to be interested in them.

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## Discussion Point

Which of the two extremes is most common in your culture and background? As a mature Christian, how have you been forced to change your behavior and beliefs regarding the demonic spiritual world?

### B. Satan.

1. Origin of Satan.
  - a. He was created by God (see Job 38:4-7 and Col 1:15-18).
  - b. He was perfect until he sinned (see Ezek 28:11-19).
  - c. He fell from heaven after he manifested his pride (see Is 14:12-20).
  - d. He was the greatest of the fallen angels (see Rev 12:7-9).
2. Character of Satan.
  - a. He is the father of lies (see Jn 8:44).
  - b. He is very astute and cunning (see Gen 3:1 and 2 Cor 11:3).
  - c. He is a slanderer (see Job 1:9).
  - d. He is ferocious (see Lk 8:29).
  - e. He is deceptive (see 2 Cor 11:14 and Rev 12:9).
  - f. He is powerful (see Eph 2:2).
  - g. He is prideful (see 1 Tim 3:6).
  - h. He is a coward (see Jms 4:7).
  - i. He is evil (see 1 Jn 2:13).
3. Existence or reality of Satan.

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- a. The Bible claims that he exists. In the following passages consider how the Bible clearly claims that there is a devil: 1 Chron 21:1; Ps 109:6 and 1 Pt 5:8, 9).
- b. Jesus considered him to be real (see Mt 4:1-11; Lk 10:18; 13:16).
- c. The apostles considered the devil to be a real, personal being (see Eph 4:27; 6:10-18; 1 Thes 2:18; Jms 4:7).
- 4. Work and activities of Satan.
  - a. One of his main activities is to lie (see 1 Jn 3:8).
  - b. He reigns over the kingdoms of this world (see Eph 2:2; 2 Cor 4:4; Jn 12:31).
  - c. He reigns over an organized and structured hierarchy of powers.
    - 1) Consider how there seems to be a structure in Eph 6:10-12.
    - 2) Consider how Dan 10:12-11:1 seems to indicate a hierarchy/structure.
    - 3) Consider the implications of Mt 12:24-30. How does this passage point to the organization of the kingdoms of this world?
  - d. He controls the fallen angels and easily influences fallen man.
    - 1) Fallen angels. In the following passages, consider the implications of Satan's control over the fallen angels (demons): Mt 25:41; and Rev 12:7-12.
    - 2) In regard to fallen man, consider the implications of the words "your father the devil" in Jn 8:44.
  - e. He acts in religious activities that are not true worship of God (see 2 Cor 11:14; Rev 2:9; 3:9).
  - f. He is the enemy of the true Church (see 1 Pt 5:8 and Rev 12:4).

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- g. He is the author of persecution, tribulation, and sickness (see Lk 13:16; Acts 10:38; 1 Cor 5:5).
- h. He attacks in deceptive ways and provokes people to sin.

### Discussion Point

Consider the following Scriptures and discuss the ways in which Satan functions to deceive people and cause them to fall into sin: Jn 13:2; Acts 5:3; 1 Cor 7:5; 2 Cor 2:11; 11:14; Eph 4:27; 1 Tim 3:7.

#### 5. Goals of Satan.

- a. To undo the work of God (see Mk 4:15).
- b. To turn men away from God (see Job 2:4, 5).
- c. To cause evil (see Jn 13:2, 27).
- d. To receive worship from men (see Lk 4:6-8; 2 Thes 2:3, 4).

#### 6. Methods of Satan.

- a. He disguises himself (see 2 Cor 11:14).
- b. He uses doubt (see Gen 3:1).
- c. He abuses the Scriptures (see Mt 4:6).
- d. He uses devices and schemes (see 2 Cor 2:11).
- e. He tries to keep people bound (see Lk 13:16).



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## 7. Power of Satan.

### a. His power over those who are evil.

- 1) They are his “sons” (see Acts 13:10 and 1 Jn 3:10).
- 2) They do his will (see Jn 8:44).
- 3) He can possess them (see Lk 22:3).
- 4) He can blind them (see 2 Cor 4:4).
- 5) He deceives them (see Rev 20:7, 8).
- 6) He “catches” them (see 1 Tim 3:7).
- 7) He terrorizes them (see 1 Sam 16:14).

### b. His power over believers.

- 1) He can tempt them (see 1 Chron 21:1).
- 2) He can afflict them (see Job 2:7).
- 3) He accuses them (see Zech 3:1).
- 4) He deceives them (see 2 Cor 11:3).

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8. The believer's response to Satan.
  - a. We should be watching for him (see 1 Pt 5:8).
  - b. We must fight him (see Eph 6:11-16).
  - c. We must resist him (see Jms 4:7; 1 Pt 5:9).
  - d. We should not give him any opportunity (see Eph 4:27).
  - e. We should not be ignorant of his methods (see 2 Cor 2:11).
  - f. We should overcome him by:
    - 1) The Word of God (Mt 4:1-11; 1 Jn 2:14).
    - 2) The name of Jesus (Eph 1:19-22; 2:6).
    - 3) Regeneration and faith (1 Jn 2:29; 3:9; 5:1-4, 18).
    - 4) The Holy Spirit (Rom 8:1-13; Gal 5:15-26).
    - 5) The blood of Christ and our testimony (Rev 12:11).
9. The victory of Christ over Satan.
  - a. It was predicted in the beginning (see Gen 3:15).
  - b. It is realized during the life and ministry of Jesus (see Mt 4:1-11; Lk 10:18; Mk 3:27, 28).
  - c. It is completed when Jesus judges Satan (see Mk 3:27; Jn 12:31; 16:11; Rom 16:20; and Mt 25:41).

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## C. Demonic Spirits.

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### 1. Nature of Demons.

- a. They are wicked (see Lk 10:17, 18).
- b. They are powerful (see Lk 8:29; Mk 5:1-18).
- c. They are numerous (see Mk 5:8, 9).
- d. They are unclean (See Mt 10:1).
- e. They are under Satan's command (see Mt 12:24-30).
- f. They are intelligent. They have knowledge (see Acts 16:16; Mt 8:29; Lk 4:41).
- g. They have a form of faith (see Jms 2:19).
- h. They have feelings (see Mt 8:29; Mk 5:7).
- i. They have a will, emotions, and desires (see Mt 8:28-31; 12:43-45; Acts 8:7).
- j. They have their own doctrines (see 1 Tim 4:1).

### 2. Activities and abilities of Demons.

- a. They can cause sickness, both physical and emotional (see Mt 4:23,24; 9:32, 33; 17:14-21; Mk 5:1-8; and 9:25).
- b. They are a source of lust (see Jn 8:44; 1 Jn 2:15-17).
- c. They can manifest supernatural strength (see Mk 5:1-8).
- d. They are the source of witchcraft and false teaching and false prophecy (see 1 Tim 4:1, 2; 1 Jn 4:1-6; 1 Kings 22:21-24; 2 Chron 33:6; 1 Sam 18:8-10).
- e. They can possess humans (see Mt 8:29).
- f. They can imitate dead people (see 1Sam 28:9-15; 1Chron 10:13).

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3. The power of the believer over demons.
  - a. We have victory through Christ (see Mt 8:16, 17; 12:28; Mk 16:17; Lk 10:17; 1 Jn 4:1-6; 2 Tim 2:1; and 1 Jn 5:4&5).
  - b. The believer does not have to fear the devil and his demons. Through Christ we are able to be successful in spiritual warfare. We can be victorious.
  - c. The companion MOTMOT course, entitled Spiritual Warfare provides more information on how the believer can be victorious over demons.

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## Class Activity:

We will end the course with open discussions of the distinction that seems to be made between demons who are free to work and those who are bound. Discuss each topic.

### Topic #1

Study Jude 6 and 2 Pt 2:4.

The Bible implies the existence of fallen angels who are still free to work (for example, Ps 96:5 and 1 Cor 10:20), and some who are bound and inoperative (Jude 6).

### Topic #2

Read Gen 6:1-4.

Some theologians believe that the fallen angels of Jude 6 are referred to in Gen 6:2. They connect the harsher punishment of these angels with their act of intercourse with women (which was to not keep their own domain).

### Topic #3

Read 1 Pt 3:19, 20.

Some theologians connect the preaching of Jesus to the spirits in prison to the fallen angels who are bound. They believe that Jesus went to the place where they were held to proclaim the victory of God.

There does seem to be a connection between 2 Pt 2:4, 5 and 1 Pt 3:19, 20 (note the repeated ideas of “spirits in prison” and Noah as one of the eight persons who was saved from the flood).

What do you think?

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## Angels and Demons: Endnotes

<sup>1</sup>J. Rodman Williams, Basic Christian Theology: Part One - class notes from Regent University course (Virginia Beach, VA: CBN University Media Center, 1986). The flow of the major points of the outline concerning “angels” are adapted directly from the teachings of Dr. Williams. Used by permission.