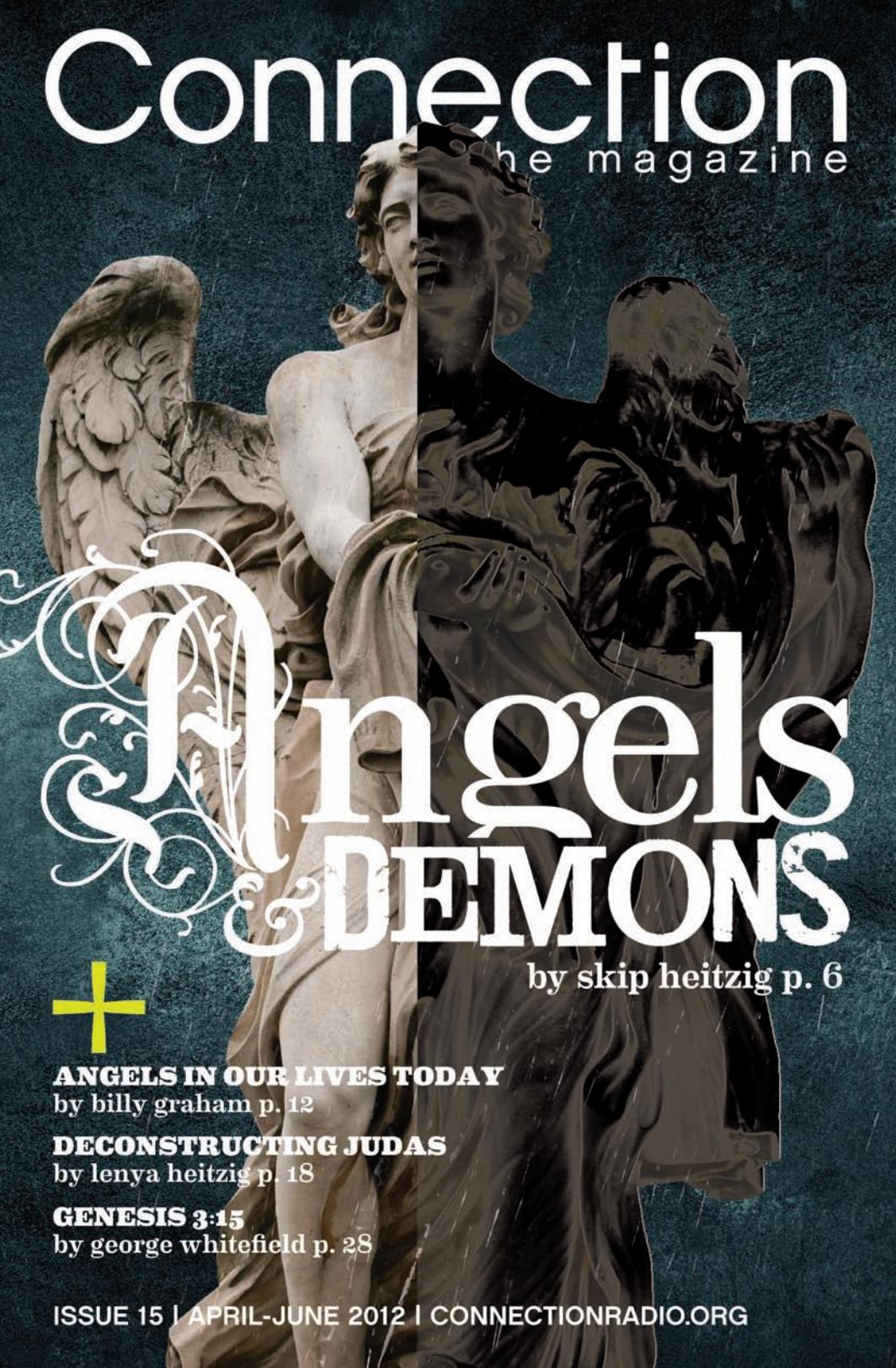


Connection

the magazine



Angels & DEMONS

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Welcome to this edition of *Connection—the magazine!* 2012 is already an exciting year, with elections and Olympics coming up on the horizon. And I hope you consider this publication as an important “event”!

In this issue, we’re going to examine the supernatural realm by taking a close biblical look at both angels and demons. We’ve also added three new sections: Reflection, which is a devotional, Apologia, which focuses on Christian apologetics, and Keys to the Kingdom, which will provide you with some solid biblical definitions. I think you’re going to enjoy them.

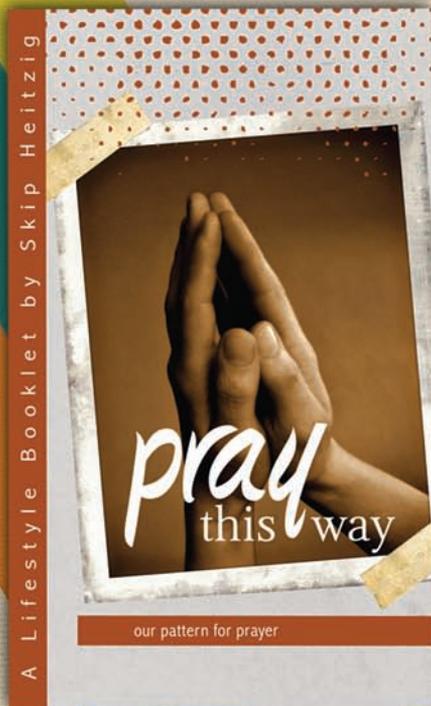
Our guest article this issue is written by Billy Graham, who takes a close look at the role of angels in our lives here on earth. Lenya contributes an insightful glance at Satan’s role in the life of Judas Iscariot. My article focuses on the origin of Satan and a look at his appearance throughout the book of Revelation.

I know you’ll find all the material in this issue enlightening and valuable, as you continue in your walk with Jesus Christ!

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—SKIP HEITZIG

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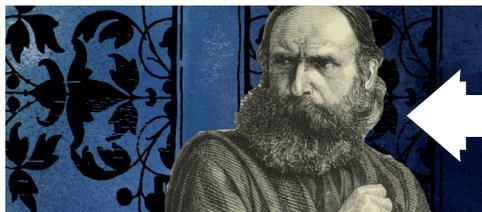
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CONNECT



Angels & DEMONS

by skip heitzig



In World War II, General George Patton was engaged in the great battle against German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel in the desert of North Africa. It is said that during the battle, as their tanks drew within earshot, General Patton stood up and shouted, "I read your book, Rommel. I read your book." And he had. General Rommel had written a book entitled *Infantry Attacks*. In it, he outlined his entire wartime strategy. Patton, a voracious reader, wanted to find out what the enemy was up to. So he read his book. Knowing what was in the book helped him defeat his enemy.

The devil hasn't written a book—but God has. In the Bible, He has detailed who our enemy is, what he is like, and what his strategies are. If you read the book, you'll understand how to defend yourself.

Satan, the archenemy of God, caused mutiny in heaven with a third of the angels, turning them into demons. He tried to overthrow the paradise of God in heaven. He failed. He tried to overthrow the paradise on earth in the garden of Eden and was cursed for it. From that time, he has worked to ruin everything else, including trying to stop the eternal kingdom from coming.

Since Satan's fall from heaven, he has wreaked havoc on the earth. His long war against God involves the battleground of the earth. As a believer, you know exactly what I'm talking about. You believe in the devil and his lieutenants because you see their work all around you in this world. ▶▶→



**IT'S A TRICK—
AN
ENTRAPMENT.
AND SATAN
IS JUST LIKE
THAT. HE IS
THE GREAT
RED DRAGON
WANTING TO
DESTROY**



THE RED DRAGON

In Revelation 12:3-4, we read John's vision describing how Satan and his minions came upon the scene: "Another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth."

This dragon which came upon the scene is the devil. We don't have to guess about this. Revelation 12:9 makes it clear: "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" (emphasis added). The devil is portrayed as a sign. He's not a literal dragon, but this describes his personality. I believe the red speaks of bloodshed. Think about Revelation 6, when the second horseman will come forth on a red horse. It is predicted that he will "take peace from the earth" (Revelation 6:4). Jesus said, "He [Satan] was a murderer from the beginning" (John 8:44).

THE DEMON'S DIADEMS

The seven heads and ten horns speak of his authority. Seven is the number of completeness or totality. It probably speaks of his comprehensive intelligence. He's no idiot. I think he has an IQ that runs off the chart. He's been studying humanity for centuries. The Bible says even the archangel Michael "dared not bring a railing accusation against him, but said, 'The Lord rebuke you!'" (Jude 1:9). He has seven heads. Peter presents him as "a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8). He has ten horns. This represents strength. Satan is no weakling.

The seven crowns or diadems represent kingdoms. Clearly this intelligent, strong dragon has a kingdom. Scripture reveals that the kingdom is this earth. He's called the "ruler of this world" (John 16:11) and "the prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2). I would say the devil is getting more mainstream these days. There are registered churches of Satan. *The New York Times* tells us there are over 8 million witches registered in the world today.



HE'S BEEN STUDYING HUMANITY FOR CENTURIES

THE DEVIL'S DISGUISE

I think Satan is more dangerous in disguise. He's clever in his disguises. He doesn't come on like a dragon. Nor does he appear like the caricature dressed in red with horns carrying a pitchfork. Paul says, "Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light" (2 Corinthians 11:14). This makes him extremely dangerous. He holds out a temptation and deceives us into thinking that it's okay—when it will really harm us.

He is like the polar bear that lures its prey, the seal, when it wants to eat. The polar bear knows that on the frozen lakes in the tundra the seals gouge out breathing holes called aglus. The polar bear will take a deep breath, go underneath the ice, and scratch with his paw around that hole to mimic the sound of fish. The seal thinks, *Great, there's lunch.* When the seal goes to his breathing hole, he discovers that he's the main course for the polar bear. It's a trick—an entrapment. And Satan is just like that. He is the great red dragon wanting to destroy.

THE DEVIL'S DOMINIONS

Let's gaze into eternity past and see how Satan fell from heaven and brought a third of the angelic beings with him to the earth: "His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth" (Revelation 12:4). Many people ask, "Why did God make such a wicked being?" Answer: God didn't make such a wicked being. God created a beautiful being with free will, who chose to rebel against God. And he conned a third of the angels to go with him. He probably promised them power and authority if they would follow him. A third of them believed the lie. So they fell from heaven and came to earth where they joined the spiritual battle.

A passage of Scripture gives us insight into the spiritual warfare that followed. In Daniel chapter 10, Daniel prayed for three weeks without receiving an answer. Finally an angel was dispatched to answer his prayer: "For twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia" (Daniel 10:13 NLT). This prince of Persia, was not a man, but some demon dispatched by Satan to rule over the affairs of Persia, coming against the people of God and the nation of Israel. It must have been a tough fight if it lasted 21 days! As I read this, I realize that the prince of Persia was powerful. I wonder what the prince of San Francisco or Amsterdam or other great cities around the world might be like?

Yes, a third of the angels fell. That's a lot of demonic opposition! But don't forget, two-thirds of the angels didn't fall—Satan is outnumbered two to one. And ultimately, you've got God on your side. You can trust that "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

STRATEGY FOR SUCCESS

You and I are clearly involved in a battle. Paul wrote, "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" (Ephesians 6:12). It's good to read the end of the Bible and remember that Satan is a defeated foe! Let me give you some biblical strategies for success: ➡➡➡

KNOW YOUR ENEMY:

Learn Satan's strategies by reading the Bible over and over again.

DISCOVER HIS DISGUISES:

Look for the dragon behind the angel of light.

PRAY: Let prayer be your defensive and offensive weapon.

When Jesus came to Peter and said, "Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat" (Luke 22:31), I can imagine Peter thinking, *What, me? Satan is asking for me by name?* Then Jesus said, "But I have prayed for you" (v. 32). There, my friend, is where your defense lies against any attack. You don't need to ask "how," but "who" will defend you. The answer is simple: Jesus Christ.

After being hassled by the devil, Martin Luther wrote his powerful hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God":

And tho this world, with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph thru us.
The prince of darkness grim—
We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure,
For lo! his doom is sure—
One little word shall fell him.

When you know your enemy, discover his disguises, and pray for one another in the name of Jesus, you will stand strong on the field of battle. 

 **SKIP HEITZIG** is the author of the book *You Can Understand the Book of Revelation* and is the senior pastor at Calvary of Albuquerque. You can follow him on Twitter @skipheitzig



**IT'S GOOD TO
READ THE END
OF THE BIBLE
AND REMEMBER
THAT SATAN IS A
DEFEATED FOE!**



Angel

A “messenger” sent, whether by God or by man or by Satan; also used of a guardian or representative, but most frequently of an order of created beings, superior to man, belonging to heaven, and to God, and engaged in His service. Angels are spirits; they have not material bodies as men have; they are either human in form, or can assume the human form when necessary. They are called “holy” and “elect,” in contrast with some of their original number, who “sinned” and “left their proper habitation.” Angels are always spoken of in the masculine gender, the feminine form of the word does not occur.

Demon

Demons are spiritual agents acting in all idolatry. The idol itself is nothing, but every idol has a demon associated with it that induces idolatry, with its worship and sacrifices. They disseminate errors among men, and seek to seduce believers. As seducing spirits they deceive men into the supposition that through mediums (those who have “familiar spirits”), they can converse with deceased human beings. Hence the destructive description of Spiritism, forbidden in Scripture. Demons tremble before God; they recognized Christ as Lord and as their future Judge. Christ cast them out of human beings by His own power. His disciples did so in His name, and by exercising faith. Acting under Satan, demons are permitted to afflict with bodily disease. Being unclean they tempt human beings with unclean thoughts. They differ in degrees of wickedness. They will instigate the rulers of the nations at the end of this age to make war against God and His Christ.

Adapted from W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, William White, Jr., *Vine's Composite Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1996).





GUEST SPOT

The background features a classical marble statue of an angel with large, feathered wings, holding a long staff or scepter. The statue is set against a celestial scene with a large, glowing planet or moon in shades of purple and blue, and a bright, glowing orb on the right side. The overall background is a dark, starry space.

ANGELS

----- IN OUR LIVES -----

TODAY

by billy graham



In the early days of World War II, Britain's air force saved it from invasion and defeat. In her book, *Tell No Man*, Adela Rogers St. John describes a strange aspect of that weeks-long air war. Her information comes from a celebration held some months after the war, honoring Air Chief Marshal Lord Hugh Dowding. The king, the prime minister, and scores of dignitaries were there. In his remarks, the air chief marshal recounted the story of his legendary conflict where his pitifully small complement of men rarely slept, and their planes never stopped flying. He told about airmen on a mission who, having been hit, were either incapacitated or dead. Yet their planes kept flying and fighting; in fact, on occasion pilots in other planes would see a figure still operating the controls. What was the explanation? The air chief marshal said he believed angels had actually flown some of the planes whose pilots sat dead in their cockpits.

That angels piloted planes for dead men in the battle for Britain we cannot finally prove. But we have already seen from Scripture some of the things angels have certainly done, can do, and are yet going to do as history approaches its climax. The important question for each of us is how angels can assist us in our lives here and now: How do they help us attain victory over the forces of evil? What is our continuing relationship to them?

We know that God has given His angels charge over us so that without their help we could never get the victory over Satan. The apostle Paul said, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12). Let's consider how we can gain help from God through angels. ➤➤➤



Angels in Our Lives Today

CONTINUED

THE GOD OF THIS AGE

Lucifer, our archenemy, controls one of the most powerful and well-oiled war machines in the universe. He controls principalities, powers and dominions. Every nation, city, village and individual has felt the hot breath of his evil power. He is already gathering the nations of the world for the last great battle in the war against Christ—Armageddon. Yet Jesus assures us that Satan is already a defeated foe (John 12:31; 16:11). In 2 Timothy 1:10 Paul says that Jesus Christ has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. Peter declares that Jesus “has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him” (1 Peter 3:22 NIV).

ANGELS IN JUDGMENT

As we continue to study how to gain the help of angels in our lives today, we need to look soberly once again at the relation of angels to judgment.

Just before fire and brimstone fell on Sodom because of its sins, the angel said, “For we will destroy this place...the Lord hath sent us to destroy it” (Genesis 19:13). In Daniel 7:10 the Word of God says, “A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him...the judgment was set, and the books were opened.” In scores of places in the Bible God tells us that He will use angels to execute His judgments on all those who refuse to obey His will by failing to receive Christ as Savior and Lord. As Jesus said, “The Son of Man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 13:41-42). Jesus also said, “It shall be more toler-

able for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you” (Matthew 11:22). And again, “every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment” (Matthew 12:36). “For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known” (Luke 12:2).

God is recording not only the words and actions but all the thoughts and intents of our hearts. Someday you and I will have to give an account, and at that time our final destiny will be determined by whether we have received or rejected Jesus. Paul said that God would give “to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Thessalonians 1:7-8).

Justice demands that the books of life be balanced, but without a final judgment this would be impossible. Laws too are meaningless unless accompanied by a penalty for those who break them. Reason alone should tell us that there must come a time when God will call upon the Hitlers and the Idi Amins of the world for an accounting. Otherwise there is no justice in the universe.

Thousands of wicked men have lived evil lives and perpetrated their evil designs upon others without seeming to pay any penalty for their misdeeds in this life. However, the Bible says that a time will come when the crooked places will be made straight (see Isaiah 45:2). In the great day of God’s judgment men will call on Him for mercy, but it will be too late. In that day if men were to seek God, they would not be able to find Him. It would be too late. They could cry out for angels to deliver them, but it would be of no avail.

ANGELS REJOICE IN THE SALVATION OF SINNERS

While angels will play an important role in executing the judgment of God on those who refuse Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, yet at the same time the Bible informs us that they also rejoice in the salvation of sinners. Jesus tells several striking stories in Luke 15. In the first, a man had a hundred sheep. When one was lost, he left the ninety-nine in the wilderness to seek it. When he found the sheep he slung it over his own shoulders and brought it back to the fold. At home he summoned all his friends, saying, "Rejoice with me: for I have found my sheep which was lost" (verse 6). Jesus said, "I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance" (verse 7).

His second story is that of a woman who lost a valuable silver coin. She looked everywhere. She swept her house carefully. At last when she recovered the coin she called all her friends and neighbors saying, "Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost" (verse 9). "Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth" (Luke 15:10).

In these two parables is not Jesus telling us that the angels of heaven have their eyes on every person? They know the spiritual condition of everybody on the face of the earth. Not only does God love you, but the angels love you too. They are

anxious for you to repent and turn to Christ for salvation before it is too late. They know the terrible dangers of hell that lie ahead. They want you to turn toward heaven, but they know that this is a decision that you and you alone will have to make.

A rich young ruler came running to kneel before Christ one day, and asked, "Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" (Mark 10:17). When Peter had preached his great sermon at Pentecost, Luke says the people were "pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter...what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37). The African nobleman riding in the chariot across the desert talked with Philip the evangelist. Suddenly the nobleman stopped his chariot and said, "What doth hinder me to be baptized?" (Acts 8:36). At midnight the Philippian jailer asked Paul and Silas, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30). Modern man forever asks this same question. It is old, but always new. It is just as relevant today as it was in the past.

Just what must you do to cause the angels to rejoice? How do you become reconciled to God? How do you repent of your sin? A simple question demands a simple answer. Jesus made everything so simple, and we have made it so complicated. He spoke to people in short sentences, using everyday words, illustrating His message with never-to-be-forgotten stories. He presented the message of God in such simplicity that many were amazed at what they heard. They could hardly believe their ears, because the message was so simple.



**As I
look
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my life
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I came to
Jesus Christ
as Savior
and Lord.
The angels
rejoiced!
Since then
I have
been in
thousands
of battles
with Satan
and his
demons**





Angels in Our Lives Today

CONTINUED



**THERE IS JOY IN THE
PRESENCE OF THE ANGELS
OF GOD OVER ONE SINNER
THAT REPENTETH**

In the Acts of the Apostles, the Philippian jailer asked the apostle Paul, “What must I do to be saved?” Paul gave him a very simple answer, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved” (Acts 16:30-31). This is so simple that millions stumble over it. The one and only way you can be converted is to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as your own personal Lord and Savior. You don’t have to straighten out your life first. You don’t have to try to give up some habit that is keeping you from God. You have tried all that and failed many times. You can come “just as you are.” The blind man came just as he was. The leper came just as he was. The thief on the cross came just as he was. You can come to Christ right now wherever you are and just as you are—and the angels of heaven will rejoice!

Some of the greatest and most precious words recorded in all of Scripture were spoken by Satan himself (not that he intended it to be

so). In his discussion with God about Job, he said, “Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land” (Job 1:10).

As I look back over my life I remember the moment I came to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. The angels rejoiced! Since then I have been in thousands of battles with Satan and his demons. As I yielded my will and committed myself totally to Christ—as I prayed and believed—I am convinced that God “put a hedge about me,” a hedge of angels to protect me.

The Scripture says there is a time to be born and a time to die. And when my time to die comes an angel will be there to comfort me. He will give me peace and joy even at that most critical hour, and usher me into the presence of God, and I will dwell with the Lord forever. Thank God for the ministry of His blessed angels! ←

**A TIME WILL
COME WHEN THE
CROOKED PLACES
WILL BE MADE
STRAIGHT**

➤➤➤ **BILLY GRAHAM** is an American Christian evangelist, who rose to celebrity status as his sermons were broadcast on radio and television. Graham has been spiritual adviser to several United States presidents.

Excerpt from *Angels—God’s Secret Agents*.
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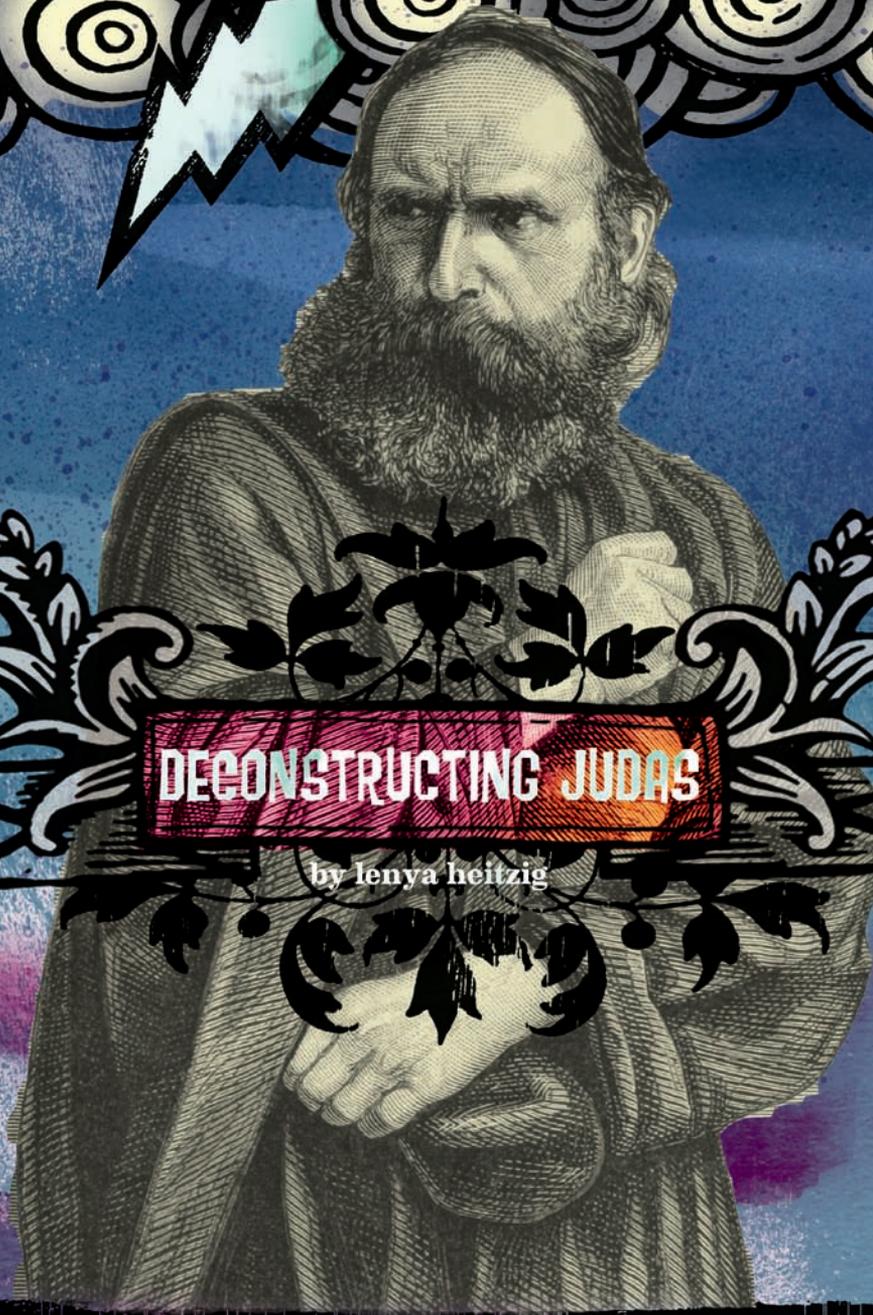
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18

CLEANINGS



DECONSTRUCTING JUDAS

by lenya heitzig



Marcus Brutus, Benedict Arnold, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. These names are synonymous with the words traitor or betrayer. When Marcus Brutus joined forces with those plotting to remove Caesar from power, Caesar uttered the infamous words, “*Et tu, Brute?*” Benedict Arnold, an American by birth and a general in the United States army, shifted his allegiance to the British during the Revolutionary War. And the Rosenbergs were executed in 1953 for their acts of treason and espionage against the United States when they sold atomic secrets to the USSR.

All of these individuals worked to earn the trust and respect of the very ones they betrayed. They told blatant lies and lies of omission. Having access to those in power, they hid in plain sight, listening for coveted classified information. Their motives included power, prestige, hatred, and money.

While these people are notorious, none compare with the betrayer to end all betrayers: Judas Iscariot. As one of Jesus’ 12 disciples, Judas had deep exposure to the Lord’s teachings, actions, and love. He witnessed the miracles Jesus performed. He assisted in the feeding of the 5,000. He saw demons exorcised and held the trusted responsibility of treasurer. It’s mind-boggling to consider how one so blessed could react with such cold, calculated betrayal. 



A PATTERN OF DECEPTION

Judas' act of betrayal did not come out of the blue. Before the events unfolded in the upper room, Judas displayed a pattern of deception. Jesus taught many lessons about money and covetousness, but Judas' love of money was exposed when Mary anointed Jesus' feet with valuable oil.

Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair....But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" (John 12:3-5).

Scripture reveals his true motives when he declared that the oil could be sold and the money given to the poor. Judas may have thought he successfully deceived Jesus with pious words, but nothing could have been further from the truth. Judas objected to Mary's actions because the expensive oil poured over Jesus' dusty feet could have been sold for cash that would line his own pocket.

When Judas commented on the squandered oil, Jesus reprimanded him, saying, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial" (John 12:7). Mary's lavish love shone the spotlight on Judas' selfish greed. A soft heart would have broken at the direct comparison—but Judas was undeterred from his diabolical goal.

A HARDENED HEART IN THE UPPER ROOM

Later, Jesus and the disciples were in the upper room preparing for the Feast of the Passover. At this critical moment in history,

while the other eleven were growing in their love and devotion to the Lord, Judas' greed and anger were hardening into murderous intent. The Lord knew exactly what was going on, and His heart was filled with grief and love: "Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end" (John 13:1).

At the conclusion of the meal, the devil already occupied the heart and mind of Judas, prompting him to betray the Lord. Yet fully aware of this, Jesus stooped with a towel and a basin of water to wash the disciples' feet—including the feet of Judas. Peter was so touched by the Lord's gesture that he struggled to accept it, but not Judas. He was coldly unaffected by this act of love and tender service. His freshly washed feet would carry him out of the upper room and into the filthy presence of those seeking to kill the Son of God.

At this point, Jesus began the process of revealing His betrayer to the disciples: "You are not all clean" (John 13:11). Then Jesus narrowed it further: "He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me" (John 13:18). He announced the betrayal in advance: both to confirm His deity and to remind His disciples that this unthinkable action was the fulfillment of a prophecy concerning the Messiah, rather than a successful maneuver by Satan.

Jesus walked an emotional tightrope, giving encouragement and instruction to His much-loved disciples, while acknowledging the deadly betrayal in progress.

He who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me....Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me (John 13:20-21).

The disciples must have reeled at this revelation and quickly examined their own hearts. But Jesus assured them that as His "chosen" they were neither suspected nor guilty. Then, the betrayer was revealed:

"It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it." And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon (John 13:26).

This sealed the deal for Judas.



His freshly washed feet would carry him out of the upper room and into the filthy presence of those seeking to kill the Son of God.



Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, “What you do, do quickly” (John 13: 27).

Judas left and met with the Jewish leaders to discuss his fee for delivering Jesus to them:

Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?” And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 26:14-15).

Step by step, one conscious decision after the other, Judas plotted a course of evil, greed, and deception. He had unparalleled opportunity to hear the truth and live accordingly. He was not a good man gone wrong, but an evil man living out his evil choices.

IN THE ABSENCE OF EVIL: LOVE

When Judas departed, the atmosphere in the room transitioned from gloom to glory. Jesus turned His focus on His beloved disciples.

So, when he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him. If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him immediately. Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come’” (John 13:31-33).

While Judas went about the business of betrayal and murder, Jesus poured out blessings, power, heaven, and love on the eleven. He challenged them with a new commandment:

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another
(John 13:34).

Great privilege and responsibility fell on this group of men. They would carry on when Jesus was no longer physically with them, and He wanted their actions to unmistakably identify them as His followers: “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35). ➤➤➔

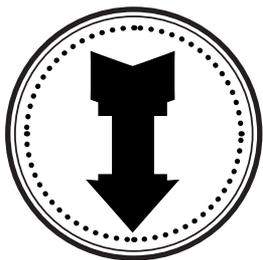
ANATOMY OF EVIL

Satan is the superhuman enemy of God and man. Other names for him include the “devil,” the “tempter,” the “wicked one,” the “prince of the power of the air,” and the “accuser of the brethren.” These names accurately describe his character and scheming ways. As followers of Christ, we are to be wisely aware of his means and methods: “Lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices” (2 Corinthians 2:11).

Almost 500 years prior to this time, the prophet Zechariah predicted the betrayer of the Savior would speak these words: “‘If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain.’ So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver.” (Zechariah 11:12). Have you ever wondered if Judas had a choice in this matter? Most commentators agree that Satan could not have entered Judas without his permission. Matthew Henry wrote, “When the evil spirit is willingly admitted, the good Spirit justly withdraws.”

As God, Jesus foreknew the acts and purposes of Judas without ever causing or altering them. “Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?” (John 6:70). While Judas’ evil broke His heart, there was never an instant when He was at the mercy of Satan.

In Gethsemane, Judas led a multitude of soldiers sent by the chief priests and elders to



**AS FOLLOWERS OF
CHRIST, WE ARE TO
BE WISELY AWARE**

IN A FINAL MOCKERY OF AFFECTION, RESPECT, AND ALLEGIANCE, HE CHOSE TO IDENTIFY JESUS WITH A KISS

arrest Jesus. He could have simply pointed at Him and said, “There He is!” But in a final mockery of affection, respect, and allegiance, he chose to identify Jesus with a kiss.

The Lord, ever loving, responded, “*Friend, do what you came for*” (Matt. 26:50 NIV, emphasis added).

In his greed, Judas briefly thought he had successfully sold the Lord to the enemy, but in reality, he sold his own soul for a mere 30 pieces of silver. Although he tried to give the money back, he did not seek forgiveness and mercy—even when his dormant conscience awakened and led him to hang himself. It’s been said that hell is a conscience that won’t be silenced.

Unstoppable events were put in motion that would culminate in the Lord’s crucifixion. Jesus would glorify His Father through perfect obedience and accomplish the payment for our sins so we might love Him and enjoy Him forever. Jesus said,

**For God so loved the world that He gave
His only begotten Son, that whoever
believes in Him should not perish but have
everlasting life (John 3:16). ←**

➤ **LENYA HEITZIG** is an award-winning author and sought-after speaker at conferences and retreats worldwide. Visit Lenya’s Corner at sheabq.org to read encouraging articles from Lenya.



Nowhere does Scripture encourage us to have an angel-fetish, or to look for evidence of angels in everyday life...biblical appearances of angels—unlike those of popular lore—often cause trauma and great fear. —**JOHN MACARTHUR**



Millions of spiritual creatures walk the earth unseen, both when we wake and when we sleep. —**JOHN MILTON**



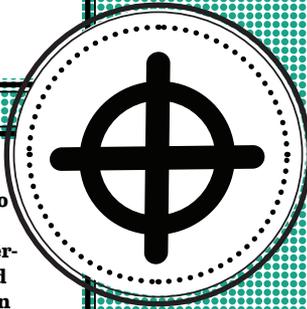
Whether or not each believer has a single angel assigned to him for his defense, I dare not positively affirm. —**JOHN CALVIN**



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, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors, and hail a materialist or magician with the same delight. —**C.S. LEWIS**



Believers, look up—take courage. The angels are nearer than you think. —**BILLY GRAHAM**



24

FROM THE BLOG



DO WE HAVE
GUARDIAN
ANGELS?
BY SKIP HEITZIG



THE PERSONAL “GUARDIAN ANGEL” IS A VERY POPULAR FIGURE. PERHAPS THE MOST FAMILIAR EXAMPLE IS THE GUARDIAN ANGEL IN THE FILM *IT’S A WONDERFUL LIFE*, WHO KEEPS THE HERO FROM COMMITTING SUICIDE.

Some people are obsessed with guardian angels. One woman said that her guardian angel helped her lose 150 pounds. I have my doubts about that one.

So misconceptions about angels are common. Some believe that we become angels when we die, or that our departed loved ones become our personal guardian angels. These are all myths—the product of imagination.

What does the Bible have to say about angels? What do they do?

The Bible tells us that angels stand in God’s presence, worshiping and serving Him. It also says that they share in God’s work. Scripture calls them “mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word” (Psalm 103:20 NIV). And it says they send God’s judgment. In the Old Testament, a single angel destroyed 185,000 Assyrians, and God dispatched two angels to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah.

During the tribulation, angels will unleash the judgment of God. Jesus said, “The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth” (Matthew 13:41-42). And He also said, “And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other” (Matthew 24:31).

But are there truly guardian angels? Good news: The Bible says that angels are sent on your behalf. It calls them “ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit

salvation” (Hebrews 1:14). And it says, “The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them” (Psalm 34:7). And they are called “watchers” in Daniel 4:17—like heavenly surveillance teams.

So one of the things they do in the lives of believers is protect us. The Lord sent an angel to protect Daniel in the lion’s den. And He sent an angel to Paul as he rode in a storm on a prison ship bound for Rome.

THE BIBLE SAYS THAT ANGELS ARE SENT ON YOUR BEHALF

Did you know that angels are sent when you pray? An example of this is in Acts 12, when an angel is sent to deliver Peter from prison, in response to the believers’ prayers. (But it’s important to note here that in the same chapter where Peter was delivered, James was killed. We can’t always figure out the purposes of God. He is sovereign; He can answer prayers any way He wants to. That’s the bottom line.)

What’s the common denominator in all this? It’s not the angels, but God Himself. The Bible doesn’t say that we each have a personal guardian angel. But God always knows our individual situation, and He sends His angels to us as He wills, in His sovereign knowledge. ←



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with Skip Heitzig

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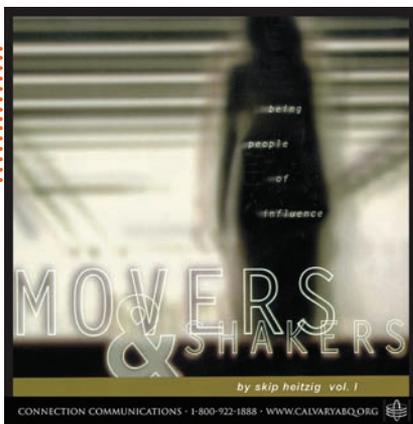


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• FROM THE LISTENERS •



Dear Pastor Skip,

I work in Kabul, Afghanistan, and download your teaching and preaching podcasts. You are an excellent speaker and teacher, conveying the Word of God. Thanks for helping me draw closer to God.

—DAVID, AFGHANISTAN

Dear Pastor Skip,

As a new believer, your messages and resources have made my journey getting to know God a very joyful experience.

—JULIE, LOS ANGELES

Dear Pastor Skip,

I am blessed to listen to your messages on Connection Radio as I drive to work each day. Thank you for being one of my "counted blessings."

—CAROL, CALIFORNIA

“**A**nd the Lord God said, What is this that thou hast done?” What a wonderful concern does God express in this expostulation! “What a deluge of misery hast thou brought upon thyself, thy husband, and thy posterity? What is this that thou has done? Disobeyed thy God, obeyed the devil, and ruined thy husband, for whom I made thee to be an help-meet! What is this that thou hast done?” God would here awaken her to a sense of her crime and danger, and therefore, as it were, thunders in her ears: for the law must be preached to self-righteous sinners. We must take care of healing before we see sinners wounded, lest we should say, peace, peace, where there is no peace. Secure sinners must hear the thunderings of mount Sinai, before we bring them to mount Zion. They who never preach up the law, it is to be feared, are unskillful in delivering the glad tidings of the gospel. Every minister should be a Boanerges, a son of thunder, as well as a Barnabus, a son of consolation. There was an earthquake and a whirlwind, before the small still voice came to Elijah: We must first show people they are condemned, and then show them how they must be saved. But how and when to preach the law, and when to apply the promises of the gospel, wisdom is profitable to direct. “And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou has done?”

“And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.” She does not make use of so many words to excuse herself, as her husband; but her heart is as unhumbed as his. What is this, says God, that thou hast done? God here charges her with doing it. She dares not deny the fact, or say, I have not done it; but she takes all the blame off herself, and lays it upon the serpent; “The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.” She does not say, “Lord, I was to blame for talking with the serpent; Lord, I did

ESIS 3:15

FEATURING: GEORGE WHITEFIELD

**AND I WILL PUT ENMITY BETWEEN THEE
AND THE WOMAN, AND BETWEEN THY SEED
AND HER SEED; IT SHALL BRUISE THY HEAD,
AND THOU SHALT BRUISE HIS HEEL.**

wrong, in not hastening to my husband, when he put the first question to me; Lord, I plead guilty, I only am to blame, O let not my poor husband suffer for my wickedness!" This would have been the language of her heart had she now been a true penitent. But both were now alike proud; therefore neither will lay the blame upon themselves; "The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. The woman which thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat."

I have been the more particular in remarking this part of their behavior, because it tends so much to the magnifying of free-grace, and plainly shows us, that salvation cometh only from the Lord. Let us take a short view of the miserable circumstances our first parents were now in: They were legally and spiritually dead, children of wrath, and heirs of hell. They had eaten the fruit, of which God had commanded them, that they should not eat; and when arraigned before God, notwithstanding their crime was so complicated, they could not be brought to confess it. What reason can be given, why sentence of death should not be pronounced against the prisoners at the bar? All must own they are worthy to die. Nay, how can God, consistently with his justice, possibly forgive them? He had threatened, that the day wherein they eat of the forbidden fruit, they should "surely die;" and, if he did not execute this threatening, the devil might then slander

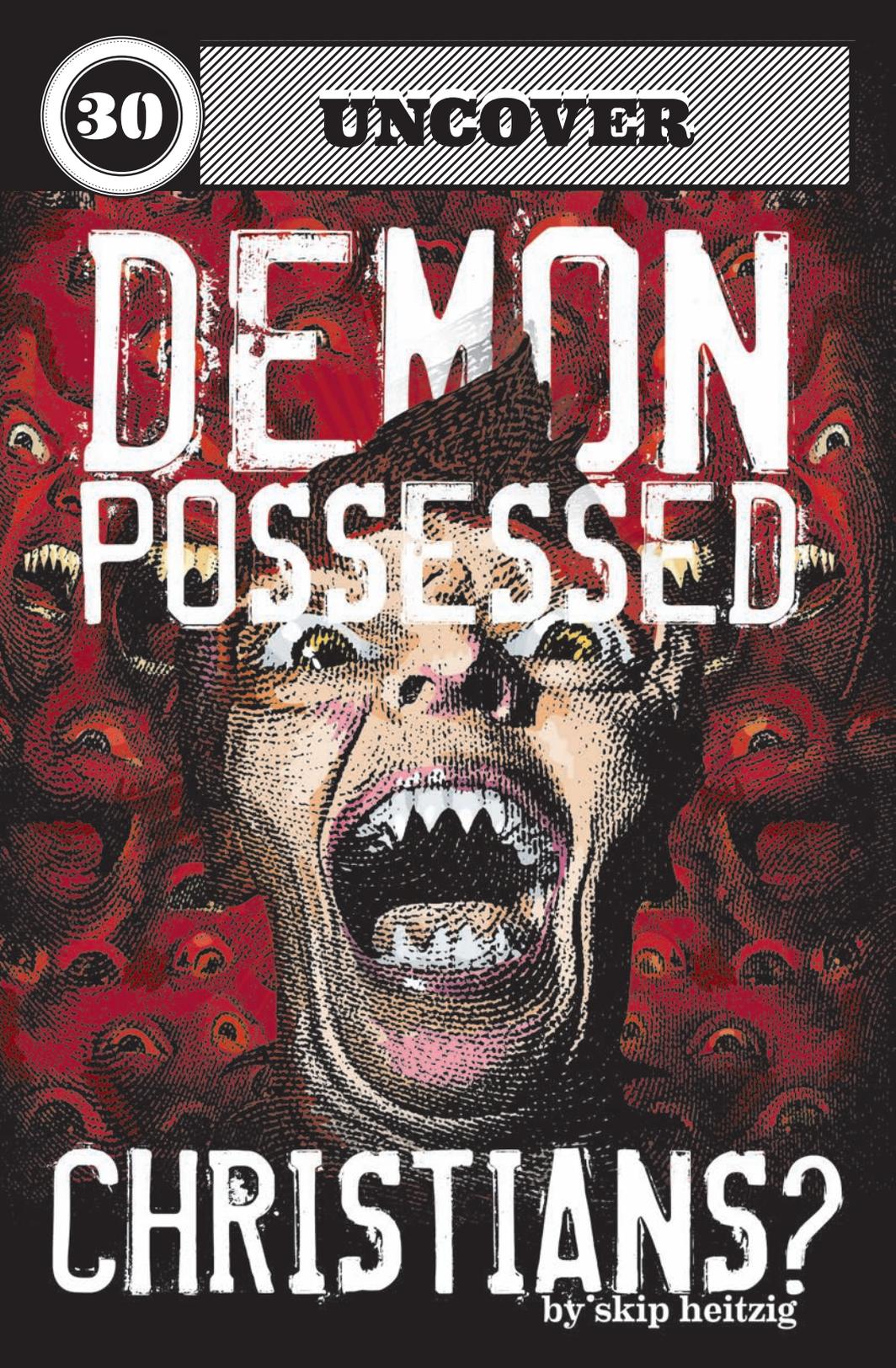
the Almighty indeed. And yet mercy cries, spare these sinners, spare the work of thine own hands. Behold, then, wisdom contrives a scheme how God may be just, and yet be merciful; be faithful to his threatening, punish the offense, and at the same time spare the offender. An amazing scene of divine love here opens to our view, which had been from all eternity hid in the heart of God! Notwithstanding Adam and Eve were thus unhumbled, and did not so much as put up one single petition for pardon, God immediately passes sentence upon the serpent, and reveals to them a Savior.

"And the Lord God said unto the serpent, because thou hast done this, thou art accursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life;" i.e. he should be in subjection, and his power should always be limited and restrained. "His enemies shall lick the very dust," says the Psalmist. "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed: it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." 

 **GEORGE WHITEFIELD** (1714-1770) was an English Anglican priest who helped spread the Great Awakening in Britain. He was one of the founders of Methodism and of the evangelical movement generally.

30

UNCOVER



DEMON
POSSESSED

CHRISTIANS?

by skip heitzig



ONE OF THE TRENDS I SEE DEVELOPING INSIDE THE CURRENT CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT—AND ONE THAT I CONSIDER VERY DANGEROUS—IS THE EMPHASIS ON DEMON POSSESSION.

Some teachers claim that Christians can be demon possessed, or at least “demonized.” It’s a very destructive doctrine! And some people say, “A believer’s spirit can never be possessed by Satan, but the body can be.” That’s an outrageous claim; contrast it with the teaching of the apostle Paul: “Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you?” (1 Corinthians 6:19). God owns your body. He’s not going to let the devil rent out half the apartment!

One day at church we got a call from a lady who asked, “Do you exorcise demons?” We told her we did—if it was an obvious, real case of demon possession. “We’ll take authority over it in Jesus’ name,” we said. But that’s not what she meant. She said she had some “be-setting sins” that she called demons, and she wanted to be delivered from them. This bizarre doctrine claims you can get different so-called demons—the “demon of lethargy,” the “demon of overeating,” the “demon of intimidation”—but people of faith can cast them out.

The Bible recognizes problems like that, but it calls them “works of the flesh.” And the truth is that you must bring them to the cross and crucify the “old self” that indulges them. This process hurts—and it’s hard. It’s called mortification, and it’s part of a longer process called sanctification. God has delivered you from the power of Satan, but now you must yield to the power of the Holy Spirit. You must choose to put to death the old man, “for sin shall not have dominion over you” (Romans 6:14).

Actual demon possession is real, and the Bible talks a great deal about it. Jesus and His disciples delivered people from demons. But not once do you find Jesus or the disciples casting a demon out of a Christian. Get that:

Not once! Why not? Because the power of God that rests upon a believer will never allow a demon to take up residence in God’s house.

Some people say, “What about Ananias in Acts 5?” Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit?” (v. 3). But this wasn’t an example of possession; it was an example of instant judgment. Ananias died on the spot because of his hypocrisy. The Bible gives no indication, not even a hint, that Ananias was possessed by a demon. He simply acted on a lie that Satan told him.

WHEN YOU ASK JESUS CHRIST TO COME INTO YOUR LIFE, HE DOESN’T COME ON A TIME-SHARE PROGRAM



As a Christian, your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. When you ask Jesus Christ to come into your life, He doesn’t come on a time-share program. When He has control, He has control. You may be oppressed, you may be tempted, but you certainly cannot be taken over to the point where you need exorcism or deliverance from a demon. That is nonsense; it’s simply a ploy of the devil to get you focused on his power. The bottom line is that many of us should be far more concerned with demon obsession than demon possession. ←

hosted by skip heitzig



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THE WORLD"**

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ENCOUNTER WITH AN
ANGEL OR A DEMON**

40%

**OF CHRISTIANS
BELIEVE SATAN "IS NOT
A LIVING BEING BUT IS A
SYMBOL OF EVIL"**

8%

**OF CHRISTIANS WERE
NOT SURE WHAT THEY
BELIEVE ABOUT THE
EXISTENCE OF SATAN**

A majority of Christians believe that a person can be under the influence of spiritual forces, such as demons or evil spirits. Two out of three Christians agreed that such influence is real (39% agreed strongly, 25% agreed somewhat), while just three out of ten rejected the influence of supernatural forces (18% disagreed strongly, 10% disagreed somewhat). The remaining 8% were undecided on this matter.

HOW does IT KNOW?

by PAUL BISHOP



**“AND NO WONDER! FOR SATAN HIMSELF
TRANSFORMS HIMSELF INTO AN ANGEL OF LIGHT”
(2 CORINTHIANS 11:14)**

One of my favorite dumb jokes centers on two guys working at a job site. They’ve only been working together for two weeks. The older of the two men brings a Thermos with him to work each day. Sometimes hot soup pours out of the Thermos; sometimes a cold, refreshing drink. Finally, the younger man, who hasn’t been in the city for very long, can’t stand it any longer. He asks, “How does it know?” The older man looks at him with a strange expression on his face. “What?” “How does it know?” asks the younger man, again. “How does it know when to make it hot and when to make it cold?” This joke (which may have elicited a groan or perhaps a smile) really does illustrate a dilemma that Christians face when trying to discern good forces from evil forces at work in the world—and possibly in our own lives.

How can we know the difference between angels and demons? Scripture tells us that angels are real. But Scripture also teaches that Satan and his demons can masquerade as angels of light (good angels). So how can we tell them apart?



In 2 Corinthians 11, Paul talks about false teachers. To illustrate his point, he brings to the reader's mind how Satan transforms himself into a being that mimics one of the good guys—one of God's ministering angels.

In their book, *Sense and Nonsense about Angels*, Kenneth Boa and Robert Bowman, Jr. provide a concise description of what the Bible teaches on the subject of angels and demons, and how to discern which is which. Whenever someone thinks he has encountered an angel, there are five possibilities that could explain the experience:

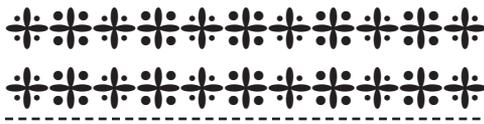
1. He saw a human being and mistook him for an angel.
2. He was mistaken—he did not see anyone.
3. He has a problem with honesty—he really didn't see anyone.
4. He saw a true angel.
5. He saw an angel, but it was a demon (fallen angel).



HAVE YOU STUDIED GOD'S "PLAYBOOK"? CAN YOU TELL IF SOMEONE CALLS A PLAY THAT IS NOT IN THE BOOK?



I want to offer some biblical help when determining the difference at points (4) and (5). Determining if you've encountered an angel or a demon works the same way as determining if a group is a cult or not. It depends totally on what they do with Christ.



➤ Does the group have a biblical view of Christ? (If not, they are a cult.)

➤ Do they think Christ is the archangel Michael and not the second person of the Trinity? (If they do, you are dealing with a cult.)

➤ Does the group think that Christ was the first of all creations of God and not God Himself from eternity past? (Again, if yes, you are dealing with a cult.)

To determine whether a being is actually angelic or demonic, ask the following questions.

➤ Does the being promote someone or something other than Christ? (If so, they aren't from God.)

➤ Does the being pretend to have knowledge beyond the Word of God? (Again, they aren't from God.)

APPLICATION

How about you? Do you know your Bible? Can you tell when someone is selling you a "bill of goods"? Can you discern when there is a deviation from what the Word of God teaches? Let's be good Bereans, of whom Luke states in Acts 17:11: "These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so" (emphasis added).

Before training camp begins in football, the coach issues everyone a playbook. It is the job of every player to know the plays—to memorize them. When a play is called, everyone knows what to do. How about you? Have you studied God's "playbook"? Can you tell if someone calls a play that is not in the book? If not, take time each day to become familiar with His Word. You never know when you might be entertaining angels unawares. And you need to know the difference! ←→

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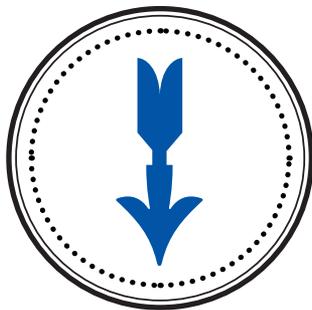
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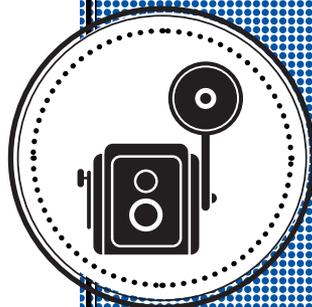
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 And now we inherit all fulness in thee;
 All fulness of peace, all fulness of joy,
 And spiritual bliss that never shall cloy:
 To us it is given in Jesus to know
 A kingdom of heaven, a heaven below.
 No longer we join while sinners invite,
 Nor envy the swine their brutish delight:
 Their joy is all sadness, their mirth is all vain,
 Their laughter is madness, their pleasure is pain.
 O might they at last with sorrow return,
 The pleasures to taste for which they-were born;
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 The joy of believing, the heaven of love!

—**John Wesley**



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PROMO VIDEO

04

APRIL 1**READ:** Judges 6**REFLECT:** Then the LORD said to him, "Peace be with you; do not fear, you shall not die" (Judges 6:23).**RETURN:** Judges 7**APRIL 2****READ:** Judges 8**REFLECT:** But Gideon said to them, "I will not rule over you, nor shall my son rule over you; the LORD shall rule over you" (Judges 8:23).**RETURN:** Judges 9**APRIL 3****READ:** Judges 10-11**REFLECT:** So they put away the foreign gods from among them and served the LORD (Judges 10:16).**RETURN:** Judges 12**APRIL 4****READ:** Judges 13-14**REFLECT:** So the woman bore a son and called his name Samson; and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him (Judges 13:24).**RETURN:** Judges 15**APRIL 5****READ:** Judges 16-17**REFLECT:** In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes (Judges 17:6).**RETURN:** Judges 18**APRIL 6****READ:** Judges 19-20**REFLECT:** Then the children of Israel arose and went up to the house of God to inquire of God (Judges 20:18).**RETURN:** Judges 21**APRIL 7****READ:** Ruth 1-2**REFLECT:** Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God (Ruth 1:16).**RETURN:** Ruth 3-4**APRIL 8****READ:** 1 Samuel 1-2**REFLECT:** No one is holy like the LORD, for there is none besides You, nor is there any rock like our God (1 Samuel 2:2).**RETURN:** 1 Samuel 3**APRIL 9****READ:** 1 Samuel 4-6**REFLECT:** Who is able to stand before this holy LORD God? (1 Samuel 6:20).**RETURN:** 1 Samuel 7-8**APRIL 10****READ:** 1 Samuel 9-10**REFLECT:** And Samuel said to all the people, "Do you see him whom the LORD has chosen, that there is no one like him among all the people?" (1 Samuel 10:24).**RETURN:** 1 Samuel 11-12**APRIL 11****READ:** 1 Samuel 13**REFLECT:** And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God" (1 Samuel 13:13).**RETURN:** 1 Samuel 14**APRIL 12****READ:** 1 Samuel 15-16**REFLECT:** Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams (1 Samuel 15:22).**RETURN:** 1 Samuel 17**APRIL 13****READ:** 1 Samuel 18-19, Psalm 11**REFLECT:** And so it was, whenever they went out, that David behaved more wisely than all the servants of Saul, so that his name became highly esteemed (1 Samuel 18:30).**RETURN:** 1 Samuel 20, Psalm 59**APRIL 14****READ:** 1 Samuel 21-22**REFLECT:** But the servants of the king would not lift their hands to strike the priests of the LORD (1 Samuel 22:17).**RETURN:** 1 Samuel 23-24**APRIL 15****READ:** Psalm 7, Psalm 27, Psalm 31**REFLECT:** The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? (Psalm 27:1).**RETURN:** Psalm 34, Psalm 52**APRIL 16****READ:** Psalm 56, Psalm 120**REFLECT:** In my distress I cried to the LORD, and He heard me (Psalm 120:1).**RETURN:** Psalm 140-142

APRIL 17

READ: 1 Samuel 25-26

REFLECT: *May the LORD repay every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness* (1 Samuel 26:23).

RETURN: 1 Samuel 27

APRIL 18

READ: Psalm 17, Psalm 35

REFLECT: *Uphold my steps in Your paths, that my footsteps may not slip* (Psalm 17:5).

RETURN: Psalm 54, Psalm 63

APRIL 19

READ: Psalm 18,

1 Samuel 28-29

REFLECT: *Because you did not obey the voice of the LORD nor execute His fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore the LORD has done this thing to you this day* (1 Samuel 28:18).

RETURN: 1 Samuel 30-31

APRIL 20

READ: Psalm 121,
Psalm 123-125

REFLECT: *I will lift up my eyes to the hills—from whence comes my help? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth* (Psalm 121:1-2).

RETURN: Psalm 128-130

APRIL 21

READ: 2 Samuel 1-2

REFLECT: *Then the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah* (2 Samuel 2:4).

RETURN: 2 Samuel 3-4

APRIL 22

READ: Psalm 6, Psalm 8-10,
Psalm 14

REFLECT: *O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth!* (Psalm 8:9).

RETURN: Psalm 16,
Psalm 19, Psalm 21

APRIL 23

READ: 1 Chronicles 1

REFLECT: *The sons of Abraham were Isaac and Ishmael* (1 Chronicles 1:28).

RETURN: 1 Chronicles 2

APRIL 24

READ: Psalm 43-45,
Psalm 49

REFLECT: *But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave, for He shall receive me* (Psalm 49:15).

RETURN: Psalm 84-85,
Psalm 87

APRIL 25

READ: 1 Chronicles 3-4

REFLECT: *So God granted him what he requested* (1 Chronicles 4:10).

RETURN: 1 Chronicles 5

APRIL 26

READ: Psalm 73

REFLECT: *But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the LORD God, that I may declare all Your works* (Psalm 73:28).

RETURN: Psalm 77-78

APRIL 27

READ: 1 Chronicles 6

REFLECT: *And their brethren, the Levites, were appointed to every kind of service of the tabernacle of the house of God* (1 Chronicles 6:48).

RETURN: Psalm 81

APRIL 28

READ: Psalm 88, Psalm 92

REFLECT: *It is good to give thanks to the LORD, and to sing praises to Your name* (Psalm 92:1).

RETURN: Psalm 93

APRIL 29

READ: 1 Chronicles 7-8

REFLECT: *They had many sons and grandsons, one hundred and fifty in all. These were all the sons of Benjamin* (1 Chronicles 8:40).

RETURN: 1 Chronicles 9-10

APRIL 30

READ: Psalm 102-103

REFLECT: *The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy* (Psalm 103:8).

RETURN: Psalm 104



MAY 1

READ: 2 Samuel 5:1-10

REFLECT: *So David went on and became great, and the LORD God of hosts was with him* (2 Samuel 5:10).

RETURN: 1 Chronicles 11-12

MAY 2

READ: Psalm 133

REFLECT: *For there the LORD commanded the blessings—life forevermore* (Psalm 133:3).

RETURN: Psalm 106

MAY 3

READ: Psalm 107

REFLECT: *Yet He sets the poor on high, far from affliction, and makes their families like a flock* (Psalm 107:41).

RETURN: 2 Samuel 5:11-6:23

MAY 4

READ: 1 Chronicles 13-16

REFLECT: *Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His face evermore!* (1 Chronicles 16:11).

RETURN: Psalm 1-2

MAY 5

READ: Psalm 15,

Psalm 22-24

REFLECT: *This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him, who seek Your face* (Psalm 24:6).

RETURN: Psalm 47,
Psalm 68



MAY 6

READ: Psalm 89, Psalm 96, Psalm 100

REFLECT: Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; mercy and truth go before Your face (Psalm 89:14).

RETURN: Psalm 101, Psalm 105, Psalm 132

MAY 7

READ: 2 Samuel 7

REFLECT: And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name (2 Samuel 7:9).

RETURN: 1 Chronicles 17

MAY 8

READ: Psalm 25, Psalm 29, Psalm 33

REFLECT: For the word of the LORD is right, and all His work is done in truth (Psalm 33:4).

RETURN: Psalm 36, Psalm 39

MAY 9

READ: 2 Samuel 8-9

REFLECT: And the LORD preserved David wherever he went (2 Samuel 8:14).

RETURN: 1 Chronicles 18

MAY 10

READ: Psalm 50, Psalm 53

REFLECT: Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me (Psalm 50:15).

RETURN: Psalm 60, Psalm 75

MAY 11

READ: 2 Samuel 10

REFLECT: Be of good courage, and let us be strong for our people and for the cities of our God. And may the LORD do what is good in His sight (2 Samuel 10:12).

RETURN: 1 Chronicles 19, Psalm 20

MAY 12

READ: Psalm 65-67

REFLECT: God be merciful to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us (Psalm 67:1).

RETURN: Psalm 69-70

MAY 13

READ: 2 Samuel 11-12

REFLECT: So David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD" (2 Samuel 12:13).

RETURN: 1 Chronicles 20

MAY 14

READ: Psalm 32, Psalm 51

REFLECT: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me (Psalm 51:10).

RETURN: Psalm 86, Psalm 122

MAY 15

READ: 2 Samuel 13-14

REFLECT: And David mourned for his son every day (2 Samuel 13:37).

RETURN: 2 Samuel 15

MAY 16

READ: Psalm 3-4, Psalm 12-13

REFLECT: Be angry and do not sin. Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still (Psalm 4:4).

RETURN: Psalm 28, Psalm 55

MAY 17

READ: 2 Samuel 16-17

REFLECT: It may be that the LORD will look on my affliction, and that the LORD will repay me with good for his cursing this day (2 Samuel 16:12).

RETURN: 2 Samuel 18

MAY 18

READ: Psalm 26, Psalm 40, Psalm 58

REFLECT: Surely there is a reward for the righteous; surely He is God who judges in the earth (Psalm 58:11).

RETURN: Psalm 61-62, Psalm 64

MAY 19

READ: 2 Samuel 19-20

REFLECT: But the men of Judah, from Jordan as far as Jerusalem, remained loyal to their king (2 Samuel 20:2).

RETURN: 2 Samuel 21

MAY 20

READ: Psalm 5, Psalm 38

REFLECT: LORD, all my desire is before You; and my sighing is not hidden from You (Psalm 38:9).

RETURN: Psalm 41-42

MAY 21

READ: 2 Samuel 22-23

REFLECT: For by You I can run against a troop; by my God I can leap over a wall (2 Samuel 22:30).

RETURN: Psalm 57

MAY 22

READ: Psalm 95, Psalm 97

REFLECT: He preserves the souls of His saints; He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked (Psalm 97:10).

RETURN: Psalm 98-99

MAY 23

READ: 1 Chronicles 21-22

REFLECT: Be strong and of good courage; do not fear nor be dismayed (1 Chronicles 22:13).

RETURN: 2 Samuel 24, Psalm 30

MAY 24

READ: Psalm 108-109

REFLECT: Through God we will do valiantly, for it is He who shall tread down our enemies (Psalm 108:13).

RETURN: Psalm 110

MAY 25

READ: 1 Chronicles 23-24

REFLECT: So when David was old and full of days, he made his son Solomon king over Israel (1 Chronicles 23:1).

RETURN: 1 Chronicles 25



MAY 26

READ: Psalm 131,

Psalm 138-139

REFLECT: *Though the LORD is on high, yet He regards the lowly; but the proud He knows from afar (Psalm 138:6).*

RETURN: Psalm 143-145

MAY 27

READ: 1 Chronicles 26-28

REFLECT: *He will not leave you nor forsake you, until you have finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD (1 Chronicles 28:20).*

RETURN: 1 Chronicles 29, Psalm 127

MAY 28

READ: Psalm 111-115

REFLECT: *Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but to Your name give glory, because of Your mercy, because of Your truth (Psalm 115:1).*

RETURN: Psalm 116-118

MAY 29

READ: 1 Kings 1-2

REFLECT: *Then Solomon sat on the throne of his father, David, and his kingdom was firmly established (1 Kings 2:12).*

RETURN: Psalm 37, Psalm 71, Psalm 94

MAY 30

READ: Psalm 119:1-44

REFLECT: *Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You (Psalm 119:11).*

RETURN: Psalm 119:45-88

MAY 31

READ: 2 Chronicles 1

REFLECT: *Now give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this great people of Yours? (2 Chronicles 1:10).*

RETURN: 1 Kings 3-4, Psalm 72



JUNE 1

READ: Psalm 119:89-145

REFLECT: *You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your word (Psalm 119:114).*

RETURN: Psalm 119:146-176

JUNE 2

READ: Song of Solomon 1-4

REFLECT: *Do not stir up love nor awaken love until it pleases (Song of Solomon 3:5).*

RETURN: Song of Solomon 5-8

JUNE 3

READ: Proverbs 1-2

REFLECT: *He guards the path of justice, and preserves the way of His saints (Proverbs 2:8).*

RETURN: Proverbs 3

JUNE 4

READ: Proverbs 4-5

REFLECT: *Ponder the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established (Proverbs 4:26).*

RETURN: Proverbs 6

JUNE 5

READ: Proverbs 7-8

REFLECT: *The fear of the LORD is to hate evil (Proverbs 8:13).*

RETURN: Proverbs 9

JUNE 6

READ: Proverbs 10-11

REFLECT: *In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise (Proverbs 10:19).*

RETURN: Proverbs 12

JUNE 7

READ: Proverbs 13-14

REFLECT: *He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly (Proverbs 13:24).*

RETURN: Proverbs 15

JUNE 8

READ: Proverbs 16-17

REFLECT: *A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps (Proverbs 16:9).*

RETURN: Proverbs 18

JUNE 9

READ: Proverbs 19-20

REFLECT: *Do not say, "I will recompense evil"; wait for the LORD, and He will save you (Proverbs 20:22).*

RETURN: Proverbs 21

JUNE 10

READ: Proverbs 22-23

REFLECT: *By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches and honor and life (Proverbs 22:4).*

RETURN: Proverbs 24

JUNE 11

READ: 2 Chronicles 2-3

REFLECT: *But who is able to build Him a temple, since heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him? (2 Chronicles 2:6).*

RETURN: 1 Kings 5-6

JUNE 12

READ: 2 Chronicles 4

REFLECT: *Thus Solomon had all the furnishings made for the house of God (2 Chronicles 4:19).*

RETURN: 1 Kings 7

JUNE 13

READ: 2 Chronicles 5

REFLECT: *For He is good, for His mercy endures forever (2 Chronicles 5:13).*

RETURN: 1 Kings 8



JUNE 14

READ: 2 Chronicles 6-7
REFLECT: *Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place* (2 Chronicles 7:15).
RETURN: Psalm 136

JUNE 15

READ: Psalm 134,
Psalm 146-147
REFLECT: *The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His mercy* (Psalm 147:11).
RETURN: Psalm 148-150

JUNE 16

READ: 2 Chronicles 8
REFLECT: *Now all the work of Solomon was well-ordered from the day of the foundation of the house of the LORD until it was finished* (2 Chronicles 8:16).
RETURN: 1 Kings 9

JUNE 17

READ: Proverbs 25
REFLECT: *A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver* (Proverbs 25:11).
RETURN: Proverbs 26

JUNE 18

READ: Proverbs 27-28
REFLECT: *Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips* (Proverbs 27:2).
RETURN: Proverbs 29

JUNE 19

READ: Ecclesiastes 1-3
REFLECT: *I know that whatever God does, it shall be forever. Nothing can be added to it, and nothing taken from it* (Ecclesiastes 3:14).
RETURN: Ecclesiastes 4-6

JUNE 20

READ: Ecclesiastes 7-10
REFLECT: *For I considered all this in my heart, so that I could declare it all: that the righteous and the wise and their works are in the hand of God* (Ecclesiastes 9:1).
RETURN: Ecclesiastes 11-12

JUNE 21

READ: 2 Chronicles 9
REFLECT: *And all the kings of the earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart* (2 Chronicles 9:23).
RETURN: 1 Kings 10-11

JUNE 22

READ: Proverbs 30
REFLECT: *Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him* (Proverbs 30:5).
RETURN: Proverbs 31

JUNE 23

READ: 1 Kings 12-13
REFLECT: *There was none who followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only* (1 Kings 12:20).
RETURN: 1 Kings 14

JUNE 24

READ: 2 Chronicles 10-11
REFLECT: *So the king did not listen to the people; for the turn of events was from God, that the LORD might fulfill His word* (2 Chronicles 10:15).
RETURN: 2 Chronicles 12

JUNE 25

READ: 2 Chronicles 13-16
REFLECT: *O children of Israel, do not fight against the LORD God of your fathers, for you shall not prosper!* (2 Chronicles 13:12).
RETURN: 1 Kings 15:1-24

JUNE 26

READ: 1 Kings 15:25-16:34
REFLECT: *Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him* (1 Kings 16:33).
RETURN: 2 Chronicles 17

JUNE 27

READ: 1 Kings 17-18
REFLECT: *And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him"* (1 Kings 18:21).
RETURN: 1 Kings 19

JUNE 28

READ: 1 Kings 20
REFLECT: *Thus says the LORD: "Have you seen all this great multitude? Behold, I will deliver it into your hand today, and you shall know that I am the LORD"* (1 Kings 20:13).
RETURN: 1 Kings 21

JUNE 29

READ: 2 Chronicles 18
REFLECT: *And Micaiah said, "As the LORD lives, whatever my God says, that I will speak"* (2 Chronicles 18:13).
RETURN: 1 Kings 22

JUNE 30

READ: 2 Chronicles 19-21
REFLECT: *Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper* (2 Chronicles 20:20).
RETURN: 2 Chronicles 22-23

Adapted from *Reading Plan—the Bible Chronologically in a Year*; bibleplan.org

All Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, NKJV.





APOLOGIA



by brian nixon



ANGELS

WINGS, HARPS, BOWS AND ARROWS, AND SINGING CHILDREN ARE SOME OF THE POPULAR IMAGES OF ANGELS IN OUR WORLD TODAY. SOME ARE ACCURATE—AND SOME ARE DOWNRIGHT WRONG.

I don't know about you, but I am very interested to know that God created things other than life on earth. It's interesting to think of what may be out there in the universe. We may never know (until heaven) the extent of what God has fashioned throughout all creation. However, one of the most fascinating creations God made, and that the Bible is firm in telling of their existence, is angels! Here are a few things to know about angels:



God made angels. Angels are not like God. They are not all-knowing and all-powerful. As a matter of fact, angels are more like human beings in a sense. They were created by God and have free will like humans. Angels can talk, fight, and they worship God. The Bible even tells us some of the names of the angels: Michael and Gabriel, for example.



Angels do not have a physical body like humans. Angels are called spirits in the Bible (see Hebrews 1:14), and usually cannot be seen by the human eye. Though, at times, God has allowed angels to enter our time dimension in order for us to communicate with them. Jesus tells us that angels are not given in marriage (Luke 20:34-35), which may mean that they do not have family relations or the ability to procreate.



Angels have a job. The Bible teaches that angels have three main jobs. First, angels enact the will of God. In a sense, they are messengers and ambassadors for God, doing what God asks them to do. Second, they minister to us, the children of God (see Psalm 91:11-12, Matthew 18:10, and Hebrews 1:14). Third, angels worship and surround God in heaven (see Revelation 4:8).



We do not know how many angels there are, but the Bible tells us that there are different types of angels. Besides those referred to simply as angels (the word angel means messenger), there are archangels, such as Michael (see Jude 9), there are cherubim (see Genesis 3:24 and Ezekiel 1:5-25; 10), and finally there are seraphim (see Isaiah 6:2-3 and Revelation 4:6-8).



ANGELS DO NOT COMMUNICATE ANYTHING OTHER THAN THE WILL OF GOD



Even though angels are really neat to study about and understand, we must know that angels can never take the place of God. Angels are not to be worshiped and/or sought after. Angels do not communicate anything other than the will of God. So we are not to seek out information from angels—we are to keep our focus on what is taught in the Bible.

But we can be thankful that God has created them, and that He uses them to minister to us and for His glorious purposes. Finally, angels will be the ones to administer God's judgment when that time comes. Angels are truly awesome creatures!



SATAN & DEMONS

WHO IS THAT WITH A PITCHFORK, POINTY EARS,
AND A FORKED TONGUE?

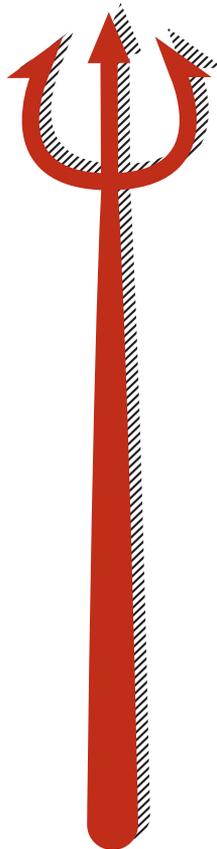


In today's world, there are many false ideas about Satan and demons. We live in a world where two extremes exist concerning the realm of the supernatural. On one hand, there are groups of people who deny that a supernatural realm even exists, saying that angels and demons—and even God—are not real. They're called materialists, because they only believe that the material world (that which we can see, touch, and test) is real. On the other hand, there are groups of people who do believe that the supernatural world exists. They believe in God, angels, and demons. They are called supernaturalists, because they believe that there is a supernatural world, beyond what we can touch, test, and see.



As Christians, we fall under the supernaturalist category, because we believe there is a supernatural world. However, we must be careful in how we describe the supernatural world. Here's the problem: not all supernaturalists believe the same thing about the supernatural world. For example, Christians are not like the animists, who believe that good demons fight bad demons, or that our relatives walk on the earth in the form of ghosts, as some religions teach. As Christians, we must adhere to a biblical view of the supernatural world. It is very important to get our information from the Bible about the things we cannot see, touch, and test.

The truth of biblical authority is very important when we turn to the subject of the supernatural and demons. Some would have you believe that demons are under every rock, behind every door, and controlling every politician. As Christians, we must check these statements with what the Bible teaches about demons. So it is to the Bible we turn to ponder some points and think through concepts regarding demons.



№ 1 ➔ THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT DEMONS ARE REAL.

№ 2 ➔ DEMONS WERE ONCE GOOD ANGELS WHO FELL DURING THE FALL OF SATAN (SEE JUDE 6).

№ 3 ➔ SATAN IS THE LEAD DEMON. CALLED LUCIFER (SEE ISAIAH 14 AND MATTHEW 4).

№ 4 ➔ SATAN ORIGINATED SIN, AND HAS SPENT HIS EXISTENCE TEMPTING AND LEADING HUMANS FROM GOD (SEE 2 CORINTHIANS 4:4).

№ 5 ➔ SATAN AND DEMONS ARE NOT AS POWERFUL AS GOD, AND ARE UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF GOD.

№ 6 ➔ DEMONS ARE NOT THE ONLY CAUSE OF EVIL IN THE WORLD; THE WORLD'S SYSTEMS AND THE WORKS OF THE FLESH ARE ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR EVIL.

№ 7 ➔ CHRISTIANS NEED NOT FEAR DEMONS (SEE 1 JOHN 4:4).

№ 8 ➔ AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE, ALL DEMONS WILL BE CAST INTO THE ETERNAL LAKE OF FIRE, BEING SEPARATED FROM GOD FOR ALL ETERNITY.

As you can see, the Bible is clear about the reality of supernatural beings called demons. But unlike the popular description of demons as pitchfork-carrying, horned, red-faced creatures, biblical demons are evil—but still well beneath the power of our Lord. For even they tremble at His name (see James 2:19). ←→

WHAT SHOULD I BRING..?

BRING DEVIL'S FOOD CAKE!

BRING DEVILED EGGS!

BRING A DEVILED HAM!

CHURCH POT LUCK
sign up

You guys are so typical!
Dude, just bring a salad.



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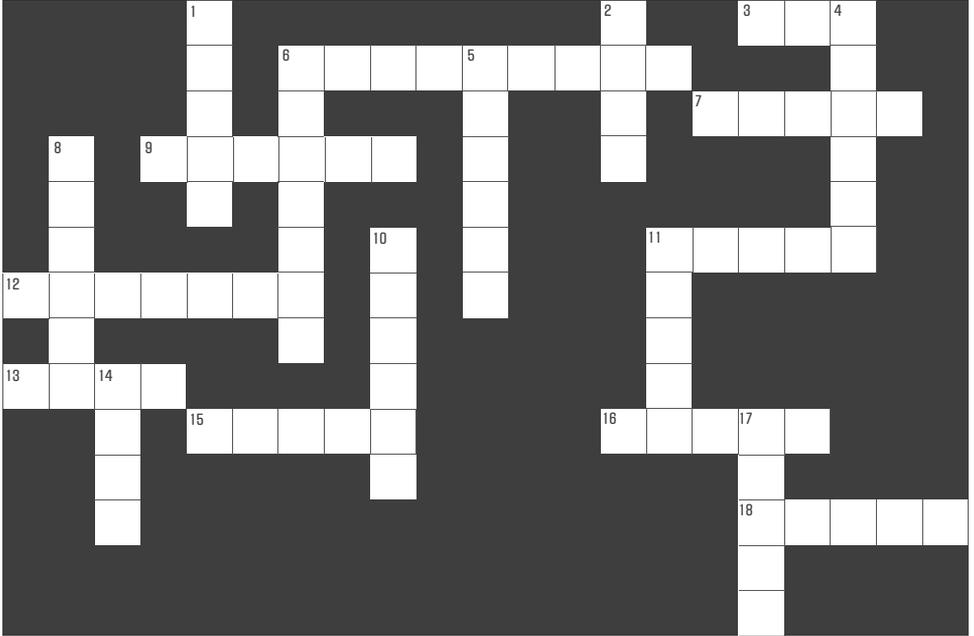
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If you have not already received Jesus Christ as your Lord and personal Savior— do it now. Please don't wait. With a sincere and repentant heart, pray:

"Father, I know I am a sinner. I repent of my sin, and turn away from it. I turn to Jesus. I believe that Jesus died on the cross and rose again, saving all who believe in Him. Fill me with Your Spirit and come into my life. Transform me. Make me into a new creation. I pray this in Jesus' name, amen."

If you prayed this prayer, please contact Calvary of Albuquerque: 505.344.0880
There are people waiting to hear from you!



ACROSS

- 3 ___ owns your body
- 5 Angels rejoice in the ___ of sinners
- 7 "He who eats ___ with Me has lifted up his heel against Me" (John 13:18)
- 9 The Lord sent an angel to protect ___ in the lion's den
- 11 Do not be concerned about ___ possession
- 12 "He will send His angels with a great sound of a ___" (Matthew 24:31)
- 13 ___ is a conscience that won't be silenced
- 15 "Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of ___" (2 Corinthians 11:14)
- 16 Works of the ___
- 18 A ___ of the angels fell

DOWN

- 1 None compare with the betrayer to end all betrayers: ___ Iscariot
- 2 "Your ___ is the temple of the Holy Spirit" (1 Corinthians 6:19)
- 4 "A great, fiery red ___ having seven heads and ten horns" (Revelation 12:3)
- 5 Angels are ___
- 6 "The Son of Man will send out His ___" (Matthew 13:41)
- 8 God has given His angels ___ over us
- 10 "And they counted out to him ___ pieces of silver" (Matthew 26:15)
- 11 "Called the ___ and Satan" (Revelation 12:9)
- 14 "The angel of the ___ encamps all around those who fear Him" (Psalm 34:7)
- 17 The archenemy of God

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NEXT ISSUE

ISRAEL





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