

5. Angels, Satan and Demons

The Bible Unpacked

Comprehensive Study Series

A compilation of the Bible's teaching
for believers established in the faith

paul mallison

This series of studies is based on the
Comprehensive Edition of The Bible Unpacked.

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These aim to address the needs of
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It advocates on behalf of and aids persecuted Christians.

Christian Solidarity International – www.csi-int.org

CSI works to defend religious liberty and help persecuted Christians.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide – www.csw.org.uk

It advocates for freedom of religion and justice for persecuted believers.

Compass Direct – www.compassdirect.org

This is a Christian news service providing news, reports, interviews and analyses of situations facing persecuted Christians.

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Religious Liberty Commission – www.worldevangelicals.org/commissions/rlc/; www.ea.org.au/ea-family/Religious-Liberty.aspx

RLC defends and aids persecuted Christians. See also www.idop.org
Receive weekly updates by sending a blank email to join-rpb@hub.xc.org.

The Bible League – www.bibleleague.org/persecuted; www.bibleleague.com

It supplies Bibles to persecuted Christians and also provides training.

Voice of the Martyrs – www.persecution.com; www.persecution.com.au

VOM provides Bibles, literature, radio broadcasts and other assistance to help persecuted Christians spread the gospel. They also send material aid.

Then the King will answer, 'I tell you the truth, anything you did for even the least of my people here, you also did for me.' Matthew 25:40 NCV

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5. Angels, Satan and Demons

Composed by Paul Mallison

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Overview of *The Bible Unpacked*


There are seven editions of *The Bible Unpacked*, as shown below. Each edition is an abbreviated version of the next longest edition. As such they have similar structures. Four of the editions have studies based on them, with the same text along with questions. For more details and free downloads of all the material, go to www.thebibleunpacked.net.


 **Two-Minute Edition:** Key Bible teachings for people “on the run”
For giving to non-Christians.


 **Pocket Edition:** Key Bible teachings for seekers of truth
Largely for giving to inquiring non-Christians or young new Christians.

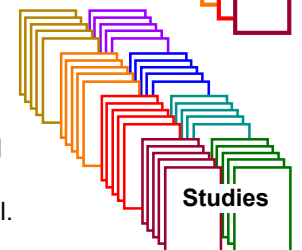
 **Concise Edition:** A look at the Bible’s teaching for new and young believers. For either new or young Christians. Suitable to give to non-Christian friends. Has study series based on it.

 **Foundations Edition:** A compilation of the Bible’s teaching for believers consolidating their faith. For newer Christians. Study series is ideal for studies with newer believers.

 **Intermediate Edition:** A compilation of the Bible’s teaching for believers growing in the faith. For developing a sound understanding of the faith. Studies are excellent for Bible study groups.

 **Comprehensive Edition:** A compilation of the Bible’s teaching for believers established in the faith. For a comprehensive knowledge of the faith. Useful as a study or a devotional tool - and preparing talks. Studies are ideal for studying topics in detail.

 **In-Depth Edition:** A compilation of the Bible’s teaching for teachers and students of the Bible. For Christians keen to gain a deep understanding of their faith. Useful for speakers preparing talks, study groups leaders, Bible students and Bible colleges. It is also in an electronic version, which is a PDF file.



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- I. Getting Right with God
- II. Staying Right with God

22. Having Faith in God

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A Quick Word

This series of studies aims to present a compilation of the Bible's teachings in a clear and readable order. There are 40 booklets in the series, based on the 40 chapters of the book *The Bible Unpacked - Comprehensive Edition*. Each booklet has two sections, which can be used for two or more studies.

See *Topics in This Series* towards the end of this booklet for a full listing of all the topics. Note that studying booklets alternatively from the two major sections (*What to Know* and *What to Do*) would add variety.

The material contains Bible verses. Before the verses are headings, which reflect what the verses say – in particular the parts of the verses in *italics*. The verses are sometimes followed by a comment.

The verses often have a brief introduction. Usually these state who is speaking and often who they are speaking to. Apart from God and Jesus Christ, the main speakers are:

- Moses – who led the Israelites out of Egypt and taught them God's laws;
- David – Israel's greatest king who wrote many of the psalms, most of which are essentially prayers;
- Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and other prophets – who spoke to the people of Israel on God's behalf; and
- Paul, Peter, John and other leaders of the early church – who spoke to various groups and wrote letters to believers.

Much care has been taken in order to correctly interpret the verses. Nevertheless, if you encounter a verse that is used to teach something that is contrary to or goes beyond your understanding, assess its use by doing such things as: reading the passage it is from; and considering how its teaching fits in with Scripture as a whole (e.g. interpret OT teaching in the light of NT teaching).

For more information on *The Bible Unpacked* and free downloads, go to the website: www.thebibleunpacked.net

Paul Mallison

Topics in This Series

Section I: What to Know

Part A. God and Spiritual Powers

1. God's Being

- I. Basics
- II. God's Pre-Eminence

2. God's Character

- I. Holy Characteristics
- II. Loving Characteristics

3. Jesus Christ

- I. General
- II. Jesus Christ and God

4. The Holy Spirit

- I. General
- II. God, Christ and the Holy Spirit as One

5. Angels, Satan and Demons

- I. Angels
- II. Satan and Demons

Part B. God and the World: Basics

6. God's Creation

- I. General
- II. God's Creation of People

7. God's Sovereignty

- I. God's Supreme Authority
- II. God's Control over the World

8. God's Word

- I. General
- II. Key Old Testament Covenants

9. The Problem of Sin

- I. General
- II. The Law's Provision for Israel's Sin

10. God's Judgment

- I. Basics
- II. The Manifestation of God's Judgment

Part C. God and the World: Jesus Christ

11. God's Promised Messiah

- I. The Messiah's Identity
- II. The Messiah's Purpose and Person

12. Jesus Christ's Mission

- I. God's Enablement of Jesus Christ
- II. Jesus Christ's Ministry, Death and Resurrection

13. Salvation through Jesus Christ

- I. Salvation from Sin
- II. Salvation for the World

14. The New Order

- I. Jesus Christ and the Law's Diminished Role
- II. Key Elements of the New Order

15. 'The Last Things'

- I. Jesus Christ's Return and the Final Judgment
- II. The Afterlife

Part D. God and His Own People

16. The Standing of God's People

- I. Belonging to God
- II. Being 'in' Jesus Christ

17. Keys to God's Interaction with His People

- I. Basics
- II. God's Holy Spirit in His People

18. God's Transformation of His People

- I. General
- II. Spiritual Attributes

19. God's Care of His People

- I. God's Saving of His People
- II. God's Preservation of His People

20. God's Plans for His People

- I. General
- II. God's Plans for Israel

Have you or someone you know of had an experience that you think involved demons?

How does a person come to be possessed by a demon?

What can be done for a person who is demon-possessed?

Suggestions for Study Groups

Preliminary matters:

- Beforehand the leader should: check the context of any verses they are not familiar with; and review the questions. If need be, they should compose questions more applicable to the group.
- Each person should have a Bible, for things such as checking a verse's context. It would also be helpful to have Bible commentaries on hand.
- Pray before beginning the study. Ask God for help in understanding the meaning of the verses and to affect your lives through them. Also pray together at the end.

Doing the study:

- Ideally, read the material and answer the questions prior to the meeting. Then share answers and discuss any issues arising from the material in the meeting.
- Alternatively, read the material and answer the questions in the meeting – reading either aloud as a group or individually (prior to sharing answers). If reading as a group, **try having one person read the headings, another read the verses and another read the comments.** Additionally, a fourth person could read the Bible references.
- Answers need not be limited to only what is mentioned in the material.
- The group should feel free to diverge from the study if related issues arise.

General or concluding questions:

If time permits, conclude with one or more of the following questions:

- What is something that you either: **did not know** before; gained **greater insight** into; or **needed reminding** of?
- What verse would be helpful to memorize and bear in mind during the next week?
- In taking the verses seriously, is there anything you should change in:
 - (a) how you relate to God or to other people; or
 - (b) any other area of your life (e.g. attitudes, values or behavior)?

If so, are there any specific steps you could take to do this?

Demons can possess people . . .

MATT 8:28 When he [Jesus] came to the other side, to the region of the Gadarenes, *two demon-possessed men* coming from the tombs met him. They were extremely violent, so that no one was able to pass by that way.

ACTS 19:13 But some itinerant Jewish exorcists tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over *those who were possessed by evil spirits*, saying, “I sternly warn you by Jesus whom Paul preaches.”

. . . and demons can cause such people much harm

MATT 15:22 A Canaanite woman from that area came to Jesus and cried out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! *My daughter has a demon, and she is suffering very much.*” NCV™

LUKE 9:39 [A FATHER OF A DEMON-POSSESSED BOY:] *A spirit seizes him, and he suddenly screams; it throws him into convulsions and causes him to foam at the mouth. It hardly ever leaves him alone, torturing him severely.*

Demons both fear and have to submit to God and Jesus Christ

JAMES 2:19 *You believe that God is one; well and good. Even the demons believe that – and tremble with fear.*

MARK 1:25–27 But *Jesus rebuked him* [a demon-possessed man]: “*Silence! Come out of him!*” ²⁶*After throwing him into convulsions, the unclean spirit cried out with a loud voice and came out of him.* ²⁷They were all amazed so that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! *He even commands the unclean spirits and they obey him.*”

Demons face eternal punishment

MATT 25:41 Then he [Jesus Christ] will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you accursed, into *the eternal fire that has been prepared for the devil and his angels!*

d) Demons

Evil spiritual forces are referred to by a number of names, including “demons”, “evil spirits”, “spirits” and (evil) “angels”. In order to be concise, only “Demons” has been used in this and the following subheadings.

Demons are evil and powerful spiritual beings

EPH 6:12 [PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens.*

The terms “rulers” and “powers” are indicative of the great – but limited – power of demons. The last two clauses appear to together refer to the whole of the spiritual realm.

Demons are aligned with Satan

REV 12:7–9 Then war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and *the dragon and his angels fought back.* ⁸But the dragon was not strong enough to prevail, so there was no longer any place left in heaven for him and his angels. ⁹So *that huge dragon – the ancient serpent, the one called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world – was thrown down to the earth, and his angels along with him.*

This illustrates that evil angels or demons are aligned with Satan.

Demons are deceitful, propagating what is false

1TIM 4:1–2 Now the Holy Spirit clearly says that in the later times some people will stop believing the faith. *They will follow spirits that lie and teachings of demons.* ²*Such teachings come from the false words of liars whose consciences are destroyed as if by a hot iron.*

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Note that this refers to the teachings of demons as being spread by false teachers.

I. Angels

The Bible often mentions angels. The existence and role of these mighty servants of God should be a great encouragement to believers. This is in no small part due to the fact that their work often involves believers, including giving believers supernatural help.

Note that while the great majority of references to angels in the Bible are to God’s holy angels, evil angels are also mentioned. These evil angels are commonly identified with demons (discussed in the second half of this chapter). In headings in this book, “Angels” primarily refer to angels of God. But bear in mind that some concepts, such as angels being very powerful, are applicable to all angels.

a) Attributes of Angels

Angels have human-like features, but are very awesome in appearance . . .

DAN 10:5–6 [DANIEL, DESCRIBING A VISION:] *I looked up and saw a man clothed in linen; around his waist was a belt made of gold from Upaz. ⁶His body resembled yellow jasper, and his face had an appearance like lightning. His eyes were like blazing torches; his arms and feet had the gleam of polished bronze. His voice thundered forth like the sound of a large crowd.*

This is describing an angel. The reference to the angel as a “man” and the mention of his human-like features (waist, face, eyes, arms and feet) suggest that angels have a human-like form.

. . . Angels also have wings and can fly

ISA 6:2 [ISAIAH, DESCRIBING A VISION OF A SCENE IN HEAVEN:] *Seraphs stood over him [God]; each one had six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and they used the remaining two to fly.*

The “seraphs” are apparently a high order or class of angelic beings. This verse illustrates that at least some kinds of angelic beings have wings.

Angels are very powerful

2THES 1:7B He will do this when the Lord Jesus is revealed, coming from heaven *with his mighty angels* in a blazing fire. GW

MATT 28:2 Suddenly *there was a severe earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descending from heaven came and rolled away the stone and sat on it.*

The accompanying earthquake appears to be indicative of the angel’s awesome power. The stone was the very large one that had sealed the entrance to Jesus’ tomb.

What role do you think Satan plays in temptation – as opposed to sinful human nature?

What role do you think Satan plays in bad things that happen to Christians – as opposed to God’s providence and “chance”?

What can we do to counteract Satan’s work against us?

But Satan can only tempt and afflict as God and Jesus Christ permit

1COR 10:13 [PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] No temptation has overtaken you that is unusual for human beings. But *God is faithful, and he will not allow you to be tempted beyond your strength. Instead, along with the temptation he will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to endure it.* ISV

2COR 12:7–9 [PAUL:] So that I would not become too proud of the wonderful things that were shown to me, *a painful physical problem was given to me. This problem was a messenger from Satan, sent to beat me and keep me from being too proud.* ⁸*I begged the Lord three times to take this problem away from me.* ⁹*But he said to me, “My grace is enough for you. When you are weak, my power is made perfect in you.”* So I am very happy to brag about my weaknesses. Then Christ’s power can live in me. NCV™

Paul’s affliction apparently came from Satan. But Paul implies that Jesus Christ permitted it, using it to both keep Paul from becoming conceited (v. 7) and make Paul receptive to Christ’s power working in him. As such, this passage illustrates that God and Jesus Christ may permit Satan to afflict their people, but only in accordance with their purposes.

Satan accuses God’s people before God

JOB 1:8–11 So the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a pure and upright man, one who fears God and turns away from evil.” ⁹*Then Satan answered the LORD, “Is it for nothing that Job fears God? ¹⁰Have you not made a hedge around him and his household and all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his livestock have increased in the land. ¹¹But extend your hand and strike everything he has, and he will no doubt curse you to your face!”*

The Greek word from which “Devil” comes, means “an accuser, a slanderer”. In being used of Satan it points to him carrying out such activity, notably accusing and slandering believers before God (as is the case in this passage). To what extent Satan is still able to accuse believers before God, if at all, depends partly on the meaning of Revelation 12:7–12.

Angels have great wisdom and knowledge – but their knowledge is limited

2SAM 14:20 [A WISE WOMAN, TO DAVID:] My master, *you are wise like an angel of God who knows everything that happens on earth.* NCV™

MARK 13:32 [JESUS, SPEAKING OF THE TIME OF HIS RETURN:] *But as for that day or hour no one knows it – neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son – except the Father.*

Angels can communicate and interact with others

(► Rev 22:8–9 ⇓; *Angels worship God and Jesus Christ*, p.6; *Angels give God’s people messages, such as instructions . . .*, p.9; . . . *They also give messages about future events*, p.10)

1KI 19:5–7 Then he [Elijah] lay down under the tree and slept. *Suddenly an angel came to him and touched him. “Get up and eat,” the angel said.* ⁶Elijah saw near his head a loaf baked over coals and a jar of water, so he ate and drank. Then he went back to sleep. ⁷Later the LORD’S angel came to him a second time. *The angel touched him and said, “Get up and eat. If you don’t, the journey will be too hard for you.”* NCV™

Angels have a will . . .

1PET 1:12 They [the prophets] were shown that they were serving not themselves but you, in regard to the things now announced to you through those who proclaimed the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven – *things angels long to catch a glimpse of.*

This clearly illustrates that angels have a will – also suggesting that they have a mind and the ability to reason.

. . . and angels have emotions – notably joy

JOB 38:6–7 [GOD, TO JOB:] What were the earth’s foundations set on, or who put its cornerstone in place ⁷while the morning stars sang together and *all the angels shouted with joy?* NCV™

Note that the fact that angels have a will and emotions suggests that they are personal beings.

Angels are holy

MARK 8:38 [JESUS:] For if anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when he comes in the glory of his Father with *the holy angels*.

Further attributes of angels

HEB 1:14 *All the angels are spirits* who serve God and are sent to help those who will receive salvation. NCV™

Angels are spiritual beings.

LUKE 20:36 *Nor can they die anymore, because they are like the angels* and, since they share in the resurrection, are God's children. ISV

Angels are immortal.

c) Satan's Work against God's People

Satan schemes and fights against God's people

EPH 6:11, 16 [PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] Clothe yourselves with the full armor of God so that you may be able to *stand against the schemes of the devil*. . . .¹⁶and in all of this, by taking up the shield of faith with which you can *extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one*.

1PET 5:8 [PETER, TO BELIEVERS:] Be sober and alert. *Your enemy the devil, like a roaring lion, is on the prowl looking for someone to devour*.

Satan tempts God's people . . .

1THES 3:5 [PAUL, TO BELIEVERS IN THESSALONICA:] So when I could bear it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith, for fear *that the tempter somehow tempted you* and our toil had proven useless.

. . . and Satan can lead them astray

2COR 11:3 [PAUL, TO THE CORINTHIAN BELIEVERS:] But I am afraid that *just as the serpent deceived Eve by his treachery, your minds may be led astray* from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

Paul was concerned that just as Eve was deceived by Satan, the Corinthians may also be led astray by false teachers who were ultimately inspired by Satan.

Satan can afflict God's people

JOB 2:7 *So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and he afflicted Job with a malignant ulcer from the sole of his feet to the top of his head*.

REV 2:10 [JESUS CHRIST, TO THE CHURCH IN SMYRNA:] Do not be afraid of the things you are about to suffer. *The devil is about to have some of you thrown into prison so you may be tested, and you will experience suffering for ten days*. Remain faithful even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown that is life itself.

How should John's statement that "the whole world lies in the power of the evil one" (1Jn 5:19; cf. John 16:11b above) influence our outlook?

Why reasons are there to be wary of but not frightened of Satan?

What can we do to help unbelievers, knowing that to some degree at least Satan works in and through them?

Do you believe in angels? Why or why not?

Some biblical passages describe angels in terms of a human-like form, but the Bible also says that they are spirits (e.g. Heb 1:14). How should we understand this apparent contradiction?

To what extent are you mindful of angels? Does any teaching in this section encourage you to be more conscious of angels?

b) Angels and God

Angels are with God, surrounding him and even standing in his presence

REV 5:11A [JOHN, DESCRIBING A VISION OF A SCENE IN HEAVEN:] Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels in a circle around the throne, as well as the living creatures and the elders.

LUKE 1:19 *The angel answered him* [Zechariah], “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news.

Angels worship God and Jesus Christ

REV 7:11–12 [JOHN, DESCRIBING A VISION OF A SCENE IN HEAVEN:] And all the angels stood there in a circle around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they threw themselves down with their faces to the ground before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying, “Amen! Praise and glory, and wisdom and thanksgiving, and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!”

HEB 1:6 And when God brings his firstborn Son into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.” NCV™

Angels serve God . . .

Ps 103:20–21 Praise the LORD, you angels of his, you powerful warriors who carry out his decrees and obey his orders! ²¹Praise the LORD, all you warriors of his, you servants of his who carry out his desires!

. . . Angels carry out judgments of God

Ps 78:49 *He* [God] sent his burning anger, rage, fury, and hostility against them. He sent an army of destroying angels. GW

REV 16:1–4 [JOHN, DESCRIBING A VISION:] Then I heard a loud voice from the temple declaring to the seven angels: “Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls containing God’s wrath.” ²So the first angel

their senses and escape *the devil’s trap where they are held captive to do his will.*

But, Satan is not as powerful as God, . . .

ROM 16:20A [PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] *The God of peace will quickly crush Satan under your feet.*

. . . nor is Satan as powerful as Jesus Christ

LUKE 11:14, 21–22 *Now he was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the man who had been mute began to speak, and the crowds were amazed. . . .* ²¹[JESUS:] When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his possessions are safe. ²²But when a stronger man attacks and conquers him, he takes away the first man’s armor on which the man relied and divides up his plunder.

In v. 22 Jesus is referring to his overpowering of Satan, stripping him of his power and taking what was his – a truth demonstrated by Jesus driving out demons (v. 14) and thus releasing people from Satan’s grip.

Note: Satan stands condemned

JOHN 16:11B . . . *the ruler of this world has been condemned.*

b) Satan's Power

Satan is very powerful

MATT 12:24 But when the Pharisees heard this they said, “He does not cast out demons except by the power of *Beelzebul, the ruler of demons!*”

The name “Beelzebul” refers to Satan. The description of him as “the ruler of demons” points to his extraordinary power.

HEB 2:14 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, he [Christ] likewise shared in their humanity, so that through death he could destroy *the one who holds the power of death (that is, the devil), ...*

This most likely refers to Satan's power to induce people to sin and so to render them subject to the penalty of death. As such he effectively wields the power of death, an aspect of his very formidable power. In its ultimate or eternal sense, however, this power has now been nullified by Jesus Christ's sacrifice and resurrection.

Satan has great power and authority in the world

LUKE 4:5–6 Then *the devil* led him [Jesus] up to a high place and showed him in a flash *all the kingdoms of the world.* ⁶*And he said to him, “To you I will grant this whole realm – and the glory that goes along with it, for it has been relinquished to me, and I can give it to anyone I wish.*

1JN 5:19 [JOHN:] We know that we are from God, and *the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.*

Satan works in and through unbelievers

EPH 2:2 [PAUL, TO BELIEVERS IN EPHESUS:] Yes, in the past you lived the way the world lives, following the ruler of the evil powers that are above the earth. *That same spirit* [Satan] *is now working in those who refuse to obey God.* NCV™

2TIM 2:25B–26 Perhaps God will grant them [false teachers] repentance and then knowledge of the truth ²⁶and they will come to

went and poured out his bowl on the earth. Then ugly and painful sores appeared on the people who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image. ³*Next, the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea and it turned into blood, like that of a corpse, and every living creature that was in the sea died.* ⁴*Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and the springs of water, and they turned into blood.*

Carrying out judgments of God is a prominent role of angels in their service of God. Note that the “loud voice from the temple” (v. 1) is presumably that of God, giving directions to angels.

Angels also serve Jesus Christ

MATT 13:41 *The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather from his kingdom everything that causes sin as well as all lawbreakers.*

MATT 26:53 [JESUS:] Don't you think that *I could call on my Father to send more than twelve legions of angels to help me now?* GNT

What does the teaching about angels in this section show about God?

What similarities and differences are there between how angels serve God and how we should serve him?

Is there anything in this study that should impact our attitudes and/or actions? If so, what and why?

the sealer of perfection, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. ...¹⁵You were blameless in your behavior from the day you were created, until sin was discovered in you. ¹⁶In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned; so I defiled you and banished you from the mountain of God – the guardian cherub expelled you from the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁷Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom on account of your splendor. I threw you down to the ground; I placed you before kings, that they might see you.

This is either simply “a lament for the king of Tyre” (v. 12) containing highly figurative language, or additionally also descriptive of Satan.

Why do you think that Satan is opposed to God and Jesus Christ?

What is one strategy that Satan uses to deceive people?

How can we guard against being deceitful ourselves?

a) Satan's Evilness

(⇒ *Satan's Work against God's People*, p. 21)

Satan is evil and is opposed to God's kingdom

MATT 13:19 *When anyone hears the word about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one [Satan] comes and snatches what was sown in his heart; this is the seed sown along the path.*

As such, Satan is opposed to Jesus Christ

LUKE 22:3–4 Then *Satan entered Judas*, called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve disciples. ⁴*So Judas went off and spoke with the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard about how he could betray Jesus to them.* GNT

2COR 4:4 In their case *the god of this world [Satan] has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.* ESV

Satan is deceitful . . .

JOHN 8:44 [JESUS, TO THE JEWS:] You people are from your father the devil, and you want to do what your father desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and *does not uphold the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of lies.*

. . . Those who follow Satan likewise are deceitful

ACTS 13:9–10 But Saul (also known as Paul), filled with the Holy Spirit, stared straight at him [the magician Elymas] ¹⁰and said, “*You who are full of all deceit and all wrongdoing, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness – will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord?*”

Note: Possible reference to Satan's original state and his fall

EZEK 28:12, 15–17 Son of man, sing a lament for the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘This is what the sovereign LORD says: “*You were*

c) Angels and God's People

Angels help and care for God's people . . .

HEB 1:14 *What are all the angels? They are spirits sent to serve those who are going to receive salvation.* GW

PS 34:7 *The LORD'S angel camps around the LORD'S loyal followers and delivers them.*

PS 91:11–12 For *he [God] will order his angels to protect you in all you do.* ¹²*They will lift you up in their hands, so you will not slip and fall on a stone.*

Verse 12 figuratively depicts the work of angels in protecting God's people.

. . . Examples of angels, sent by God, saving God's people

DAN 6:22 [DANIEL, TO KING DARIUS:] *My God sent his angel and closed the lions' mouths so that they have not harmed me, because I was found to be innocent before him. Nor have I done any harm to you, O king.*

ACTS 12:11 When Peter came to himself, he said, “*Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from everything the Jewish people were expecting to happen.*”

Angels give God's people messages, such as instructions . . .

ACTS 10:3–6 About three o'clock one afternoon *he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God who came in and said to him, “Cornelius.”* ⁴Staring at him and becoming greatly afraid, Cornelius replied, “What is it, Lord?” The angel said to him, “Your prayers and your acts of charity have gone up as a memorial before God. ⁵*Now send men to Joppa and summon a man named Simon, who is called Peter.* ⁶*This man is staying as a guest with a man named Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea.*”

Note that the Hebrew and Greek words for “angel” carry the meaning “messenger”.

. . . They also give messages about future events

ACTS 27:23–24 [PAUL:] For last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve came to me ²⁴and said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul! *You must stand before Caesar, and God has graciously granted you the safety of all who are sailing with you.*’

REV 22:6 And he [an angel] said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. And *the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.*” ESV

Note: Angels played a role in the introduction of the Mosaic Law

ACTS 7:53 [STEPHEN, TO THE JEWISH LEADERS:] *You received the law by decrees given by angels, but you did not obey it.*

Note that the term “the Mosaic Law” in the above subheading refers to the law that God gave through Moses, which is referred to in this verse.

II. Satan and Demons

(⇒ II. *Spiritual Warfare*, in 36. *Standing Firm*)

Many people find the existence of Satan (i.e. the devil) and demons disturbing and choose to avoid the subject. But to live the Christian life it is vital to understand our chief opponents. Moreover, the Bible has a lot to say about Satan and demons – much of which is in fact encouraging to believers.

Have you or someone you know of had an experience that you think involved angels?

In what ways do you think angels help Christians today?

In what ways do angels act on behalf of God?

d) Further Teaching about Angels

Angels are very important, . . .

GAL 4:14B [PAUL, TO THE BELIEVERS IN GALATIA:] Instead, *you welcomed me as though I were an angel of God, as though I were Christ Jesus himself!*

This points to the great importance of angels, even making something of a parallel of them with Jesus Christ.

. . . but angels are not to be worshiped

REV 19:9–10 Then the angel said to me, “Write the following: Blessed are those who are invited to the banquet at the wedding celebration of the Lamb!” He also said to me, “These are the true words of God.” ¹⁰So *I threw myself down at his feet to worship him, but he said, “Do not do this! I am only a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony about Jesus. Worship God, for the testimony about Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”*

There are different kinds and ranks of angels

ISA 6:1–2 [ISAIAH, DESCRIBING A VISION OF A SCENE IN HEAVEN:] In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. ²*Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.* NKJV

As noted earlier, seraphim (or seraphs) are understood to be a high-ranking order of angels.

1THES 4:16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a shout of command, with *the voice of the archangel*, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

There are thousands upon thousands of angels

REV 5:11 [JOHN, DESCRIBING A VISION OF A SCENE IN HEAVEN:] Then *I looked and heard the voice of many angels* in a circle around the throne, as well as the living creatures and the elders. *Their number was ten thousand times ten thousand – thousands times thousands – ...*

Angels reside in heaven

MATT 24:36 But as for that day and hour no one knows it – not even *the angels in heaven* – except the Father alone.

Why are angels so important?

What is something in these studies on angels that you either: did not know before; gained greater insight into; or needed reminding of?

How does the teaching about angels in this and the previous sections encourage you?
