

San Juan church of Christ

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What Does God's Word Say About... Demons - Part 2

God created everything that was created, and it was very good. This, of course, includes angels (Col. 1:16). The question one may have is "when did God create the angels?" In Gen. 1:1, God created space, time, and matter because He was going to inhabit the creation with physical beings. Since angels are not "physical beings" [although they have been allowed to take on physical form in the O.T. - Gen. 18:1-8, 19:1-11] they did not require a physical realm for their existence. In other words, God did not need the creation for them. When God created the "lights in the expanse of the heavens" (Gen. 1:14), which Job called "the morning stars" (Job 38:7), "ALL the sons of God shouted for joy." Since the context of this scripture deals with "creation issues" we know that God is talking about the stars and planets (i.e. "morning stars") which demands that all angels were created holy [sons of God] before day 4 of the creation. We know that some time after the creation of the physical world Satan and his demons "did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode" (Jude 6). "Now there was a day when the sons of God [holy, obedient angels] came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them" (Job 1:6, 2:1). This scripture establishes the fact that Satan and his demons were no longer considered "holy" angels.

When Jesus was speaking to the Pharisees He said that the devil "was a murderer from the beginning" and whenever the devil "speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44). Abel's death was so close to the creation that Jesus said, "...the blood of all the prophets shed since the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation, from the blood of Abel..." Recognize that Satan was not only a "murderer" from the beginning, he was also a "liar" in the Garden of Eden.

Only with the coming of Jesus do we see the overt activity of demons increase in the Old Testament. With their increase in ability to possess one's body, there also came an ability to deal with these demons. Jesus gave His apostles the ability to cast out demons as a part of their confirming signs. But once God had confirmed His complete written word, these signs would disappear with the apostles (Heb. 2:24). It would seem that Satan would have an advantage over man if he could still take bodily possession of an individual with no way to cast them out. No longer does Satan seek to possess the body, but today he wants your heart and your mind!

Satan, called the devil, and his angels, are bound [chained] by what Jesus did for us on the cross (Rev. 20:1-2). Satan can no longer come into the presence of God and accuse the saved before God (Job 1:6-12). Satan has been thrown from the presence of God down to the earth (Rev. 9:1-2, 12:7-9, 12). Satan has "only a short time" (Rev. 20:7-8) to work on our minds and hearts (Rom. 12:2; Eph. 2:3, 4:23; James 4:7-8).

How can we defeat Satan and win the battle that has been set before us? There is a wrong way and a right way. The wrong way is being used by "false exorcists." Remember, only Jesus and the apostles could cast out demons from possessing one's body. "But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, 'I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches. Seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. And the evil spirit answered and said to them, 'I recognize Jesus and I know about Paul, but who are you?' " (Acts 19:13-16). In referring to the men who proclaim today to "cast out demons," Jesus says, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness" (Matt. 7:21-23). Today, the right way to overcome Satan would be to "Put on the full armor of God..." (Eph. 6:10-16). "Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (James 4:7-8) "Be of sober spirit, be on the alert...But resist him, firm in your faith" (1 Pet. 5:8-9).

Please send any comments, questions, or requests for a Bible study to:
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