



Discussion Questions:

What do you know/think about Satan?

What do you know/think about angels?

Article Fifteen—Spiritual Realities

We believe that Satan is a created being who rebelled against God and became the active enemy of God and His purposes. Satan and his demons wage war against God and His angels in a spiritual battle, which profoundly affects humanity. Both angels and demons have limited powers given to them as God sees fit. This spiritual battle will continue until Jesus returns and renews all things.

The Church is physical AND spiritual

(Acts 2:1-4, 37-41, 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:19-20, 1 Peter 2:4-5)

We have a spiritual enemy (Genesis 3:1-16)

Satan = adversary (Luke 10:18)

The devil = false accuser, slanderer (Job 1-2)

Beelzebul = “lord of the fly” (Matthew 12:24, see also 2 Kings 1:2-3)

Lucifer (“Day Star, son of Dawn” – Isaiah 14:12-15)

Our spiritual enemy is active:

Satan snatches the seed off the hardened ground (Matthew 13:19)

Satan sows weeds among the wheat (Matthew 13:28)

Satan is compared to a wolf snatching sheep (John 10:12)

Satan is a lion looking for someone to devour (1 Peter 5:8)

Satan is the great dragon and “that serpent of old” (Revelation 12:9)

Satan and his demons rebelled against God and were cast out of heaven (Ezekiel 28:12-19, 2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6). Jesus describes Satan’s methods (John 8:44), and he has help.

Satan and his demons:

oppose the spiritual progress of God’s people (Ephesians 6:11-12)

have limited power (Job 1, Matthew 8:30-32),

have a clear end: destruction (Isaiah 14:12-21, Matthew 25:41)

Until the end comes and they face final judgment, Satan and his demons continue to sow confusion and encourage the destruction of God's people. The Bible tells us that demons are able to infiltrate people to control their minds and movements. This is called demon possession, and both Jesus and His disciples cast out demons (i.e. Matthew 17, Mark 5, Luke 8). The early church also encountered demons (or evil spirits) in people (Acts 8, 19).

Believers who have the Holy Spirit cannot be possessed, but Satan and his demons can still oppress believers through temptation, lies, and circumstantial challenges

We have spiritual champions

Angel (mal'ak, angelos) = messenger, whether human or angelic

OT examples: "sons of the Elohim" (Job 1:6, 2:1)

Holy ones (Ps. 89:5, 7)

Watchers (Daniel 4:13, 17, 23)

The assembly or the council (Psalm 89:5, 7)

NT examples: "angels in heaven" (Matt 24:36)

Heavenly host (Luke 2:13)

Ministering spirits (Hebrews 1:13-14)

Angels:

Continually praise and glorify God (Luke 2:13-14, Revelation 5, etc.)

Reveal and communicate God's message to humans (Luke 1-2, Acts 8:26, 10:3-7, etc.)

Minister to believers, primarily to spiritual needs (Matthew 4:1-11, Acts 5:19, 12:7-11)

Act on God's behalf to bring judgment (Exodus 14:19-20, Matthew 13:39-42, 47-49)

Will accompany Jesus at His second coming (Matthew 24:31, 25:31, 1 Thess. 4:16-17)

We are in a spiritual war (Ephesians 6:10-12)

Three overlapping battlefields of the spiritual war:

God vs. Satan, Angels vs. demons, Satan vs. God's people

Satan attacks:

Our minds, our relationships, our churches, our marriages, any work of the Gospel

How do we fight spiritual battles?

Be aware of how the enemy works (1 John 4:1-6)

Take up the armor of God (Ephesians 6:13-17)

The Belt of Truth – keeps everything in place

The Breastplate of Righteousness – right living guards your heart

Feet fitted with readiness – happy feet for the gospel

Shield of Faith – Overcomes the arrows of the enemy

Helmet of Salvation – Right thinking about your position before God

Sword of the Spirit (Word of God) – A double-edged sword that cuts to the heart

Takeaway: Learn how to fight spiritual battles