
Angels and Demons Principalities and Powers

In Heaven as on Earth

Brandy Marks

Copyright © 2017 by Brandy A Marks All rights reserved

This book or any portion of it may not be reproduced or used in any way whatsoever without the express written permission of the author except for brief quotations in a book review.

Printed in the United States of America

Angels and Demons Principalities and Powers

First edition

ISBN: 978-

See all books to-date by Brandy A (Coffee) Marks:

Angels and Demons, Principalities and Powers

Biblical Counsel for Lay and Professional...

GPS for Life: Guidance of a Personal Savior

Impossible Dreams: Failure and Despair to Hope...

Jerusalem Bible. Annotated with Apocrypha

Practical Parenting... Capable Competent Children...

Coming soon:

Help and Healing through Your Dreams and Visions

Tears of the Dragon: Book of Poems and Prose

Waters of Life: It's All about Forgiveness

Doctrine of the Cross Publishing

3829 E 18th Street

Vancouver WA 98661-5779

Fax: 800-592-6701

www.dotcross.org

Contents

ANGELS AND DEMONS	1
PREFACE	5
INTRODUCTION	9
HEAVENS HIERARCHY	13
FIRST SPHERE	13
SECOND SPHERE	14
THIRD SPHERE	15
HUMAN REASON.....	16
SERAPHIM	17
SERAPHIM OR SERAPHS	17
CHERUBIM.....	21
THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES	23
PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS	25
ANGELS, DEMONS, NEPHILIM	29
DEMONS IN THE BIBLE.....	33
ARCHANGELS.....	35
ANGELS: WHAT ARE THEY?.....	39
ANGELS VERSUS CHERUBIM AND SERAPHIM	39
MESSENGERS OF GOD OR.....	42
VISIONS.....	44
PRIDE	44
JESUS #1	44
NEGATIVES	45
JOHN	45
REASON FOR INVISIBILITY	45
THE WORD 'ANGEL' - ITS ORIGIN.....	46
HOME OF ANGELS_ HEAVEN AND HELL.....	48
ANGELS - OLD TESTAMENT	51
"THE ANGEL OF THE LORD"	52
ANGELS – NEW TESTAMENT	53
DOCTRINE OF ANGELS	55
CREATION OF ANGELS	55
FALLEN ANGELS	56
APPEARANCE OF ANGELS.....	57
WORSHIP GOD	58
ANGELS DUTIES	59
HOW ANGELS SPEND THEIR TIME	61

BRANDY MARKS

SATAN	63
SATAN’S MANY NAMES	63
WHERE DID SATAN COME FROM?	64
WHO IS SATAN?	64
SATAN’S SEDUCTION	65
WHAT’S HIS GAME?	66
THE DEVIL AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.....	68
DEMONS IN THE BIBLE	69
HOW DOES THE DEVIL DO IT?	75
THE DEVIL AND HIS ANGELS IN APPEARANCE.....	75
AN IMAGE OF POWER AND BEAUTY	76
THE ORIGIN OF THE WORD ‘DEMON’	76
DEMONIC SPIRITS.	77
HOW DOES THE DEVIL DO IT?	78
DEMONS IN THE WORLD	79
CASTING OUT DEMONS.....	79
PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS	82
ARMOR OF GOD	83
DOCTRINE OF DEMONS	85
UNCLEAN SPIRITS.....	85
THE UNSEEN ENEMY	87
AGAINST JESUS.....	88
APPENDICES	91
VERSES ON ANGELS	93
SUMMARY	97
VERSES ON DEMONS	99
ANGELS IN REVELATION	103
WHO I AM IN CHRIST	109
SPIRITUAL WARFARE	113
DEFENSIVE SPIRITUAL WARFARE	113
SPIRITUAL WARFARE #1: TEMPTATIONS	114
SPIRITUAL WARFARE #2: DECEPTION	114
SPIRITUAL WARFARE #3: ACCUSATIONS.....	115
PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD	117
A BIBLICAL MODEL OF GRIEF	119
HOPE IN THE MIDST OF YOUR GRIEF.....	119
BIBLICAL SUFFERING:	120
STAGES OF GROWTH	120

PREFACE

'A small group of nuns and priests met the woman in a house one evening. While warm outside, a chill had settled over the room.'

I read on...

'As the priests began to pray, the woman slipped into a trance and then ... When someone secretly sprinkled ordinary water on her, she didn't react. But when holy water was used, she screamed in pain and a guttural voice shouted profanities and warnings.'

You've likely seen this before in movies and books which have mimicked exorcisms. And the 1973 film "The Exorcist" profoundly shaped how many view demonic possession.

However, the above was an actual exorcism, says the author -- and included a character not often seen in the traditional drive-out-the-devil scripts.

~~~~~

The above referenced article is about Dr. Richard Gallagher, an Ivy League-educated, board-certified psychiatrist who teaches at Columbia University and New York Medical College. He was part of the team that tried to help the woman.

While not part of Gallagher's career plan, he'd heard biblical accounts of demonic possession but thought they were an ancient culture's attempt to grapple with mental disorders and he at the time, called himself a "man of science."

Yet today, Gallagher will tell you demonic possession is very real. He's seen victims suddenly speaking perfect Latin; sacred objects flying off shelves; people having "hidden knowledge" or secrets about people they could not have possibly have known.

## BRANDY MARKS

Gallagher is now, as he says, a "consultant" on demonic possessions and has, for the past 25 years helped clergy distinguish between mental illness and "the real thing." Likely he's seen more cases of possession than any other physician in the world.

"He's so respected in the field, he's not like many therapists, who are either atheists or agnostics." said one man.

Possession, Gallagher says, is rare -- but real.

Some critics (and there are always critics of course) say Gallagher has been possessed by his own delusions; what he's seen are cheap parlor tricks by people who might need therapy but certainly not exorcism; and there's no empirical evidence ... and so on.

Paraphrased from the original article at: <https://www.cnn.com/2017/08/04/health/exorcism-doctor/index.html>

One man said, "When bad things happen to me, I usually attribute them to unfortunate circumstances every person encounters." Then, of course, as sometimes happens, certain events transpire that lead one to consider whether he or she is being attacked by some demonic spiritual force, or perhaps you may continue to feel picked on by the universe.

Those who face life's challenges, may feel "I can't catch a break." And "The words of St. Teresa of Avila seemed apropos:" he said. "If this is the way you treat your friends, Lord, no wonder you have so few!" While reading this is laughable, it's because it's very real, and also tragic, because we often do blame God for our misery. Adam did while Eve got it right to some extent when she said, "The serpent deceived me" (Genesis 3:13). It's what he does!

So, what can the ordinary person do about the devil and demons?

In a book by Mike Driscoll, *Demons, Deliverance, Discernment: Separating Fact from Fiction about the Spirit World*, the author explains demonic possession but also types of demonic attack and in-between temptation and possession is a middle ground he labels obsession and oppression. These beliefs are not Catholic dogma but are acceptable opinions for *Catholics to hold*. But he then goes on to say nothing like what Jesus said or did.

In Luke 4:1-13 Jesus enters the wilderness after forty days fasting, he is not possessed but is tempted by Satan and overcomes him by God's Word. After this, he goes into the synagogue and reads from Isaiah, letting the people know in His mission, *God had sent him*. Not once did he claim casting out demons as part of His ministry.

However, the next event in Luke 4:33-35 he does exactly that with a man possessed by demonic spirits. Jesus casts out the demons right after the demons cried, “What business do we have with you, Jesus from Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are; the Holy One of God.”

When Christ Jesus is present, the demons fear him, which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> best reason in the world for inviting Christ into your heart and accepting him as your Lord and Savior. Salvation is 1st, of course. Demons know Jesus, who He is, and they are afraid of Him. So, if you don’t deeply believe or your faith is not built on His Word, it will be much easier for the devil’s demons to influence you, and ultimately destroy your faith along with your life.

This is another reason in writing this book, so you understand both angels and demons and their place in your life and what you can do about it. The man I mentioned above, who is a Catholic, said once he knew he was under demonic oppression, “I knew what *not* to do: it is not the role of the laity [average person] to enter ... combat against demons. Demons are far craftier than [humans], and we can’t see them to know when they are lurking about.”

How absurd! For even if they’re crafty, Jesus offers a solution.

Because we cannot see them or what they’re doing, does not mean they’re not there, doing their thing. Demons are under Satan’s command, are his followers and are organized in spiritual forces of evil. So, the very best weapon available to us to defeat Satan is effective and ongoing discipleship.

God has given us the spiritual armor needed to stand against Satan and his demons: truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, the Bible and prayer. See also *Spiritual Warfare*.

First, get to know Christ, the spiritual forces that work for God, namely His angels who follow him in helping us to defeat the devil and demonic oppression on earth as in heaven. Finally, know your enemy, the devil and his demons. To know God first is imperative by immersing yourself in His Word, meditating on His Word, and then in prayer, talking to Him and listening for His Words to you however they may arrive. And God speaks to us through people and dreams and vision, and many other ways. But also, be aware the devil and his demons can trick you too, as he *tried* to trick Jesus. Thus, “knowing your Bible” is critical, for as we’ve seen already, *Jesus defeated Satan by simply speaking the Word*.

## BRANDY MARKS

And do not believe every word of the preacher or priest on Sunday. Get into the Word yourself! I cannot emphasize this enough, so you will not easily be deceived, unintentional or not. It's not that your pastor or priest is deliberately trying to deceive you, but even men and women of God can be deceived.

*Now the Holy Spirit says, in later times [Now is the time! The New Testament though usually refers to the period following the first coming of Christ], some people will fall away from the faith [Christ's teachings]. They will pay attention to deceitful spirits [those influenced by Satan] and the teaching of evil spirits. -1Timothy 4:1*

Those who refuse God though they know in their heart he exists - unbelievers - will be easily blinded by Satan's deceptions.

*For the god of this world [Satan] has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so they would not see the light of the Gospel of the splendor of Christ, who is the image of God. -2Corinthian 4:4*

So, let people know He is real and after His resurrection...

*Jesus said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go [As you are going—wherever you're going—share the gospel], therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. ...' -Matthew 28:18-20*

And remember Jesus words:

*These signs will follow those who believe [not just anyone, but believers] In My name they will cast out demons... -Mark 16:17a*

Once you get on board, and begin to share your faith in Christ, in time with patience and persistence you will become bolder and more assured in speaking the truth.

*Jesus said, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no one comes to the Father, but by me. -John 14:6*

*But anyone who denies me here on earth will be denied before God's angels. -Luke 12:9*



## *Introduction*

Angels and Demons: the fact that angels exist should amaze you while demons should elicit caution, but certainly not fear. Sadly, Hollywood is notorious for misinformation on angels and demons. They often depict angels as feminine and winged, or charming folks helping the not-so-charming humans, or a curly dark-haired guy trying to 'earn' his wings (not biblical). Sometimes, especially in art they are depicted as naked babies, or worse yet, in the movies as men in black like "City of Angels" with Nicholas Cage. Demons on the other hand are portrayed as having such great power that even pastors and priests are left disabled if not dead.

Angels and demons do exist, but not always as Hollywood would have us believe and the Bible is not all that clear. Angels are a species of celestial beings who are not alone in the heavens. But if you believe they are the same as Cherubim and Seraphim, think again. And big surprise - Satan is no angel! Whether these celestial creatures be angel, cherub or seraphs, they serve a purpose. "If there were no angels, there would be a great gap between us and God." Dr. Peter Kreeft says, author of *Angels (and Demons): What Do We Really Know About Them?*

No. I don't accept that statement for Jesus at His ascension said, He later would send the Holy Spirit who would teach us all things. So, we know God is with us, with or without angels though there is a place for angels and even demons, for God allows them to exist - perhaps to strengthen our faith when tempted (?).

I've written this book on Angels and Demons because, like many of you, I wanted to know the truth, fact versus the fiction that flows in and out of fantasy novels. Novels abound with fiction too many people believe are real, like in Dan Brown's 'Angels and Demons' and other authors with similar creative imaginations.

## BRANDY MARKS

But as a biblical counselor, it was important to understand angels, and demons in particular, to help clients who wanted help sorting out the truth of demons and to strengthen their faith. While it's not easy to figure out who's who, one can make a reasonable and educated assumption about both angels and demons. However, in the Bible is where you will find the truth.

In writing *Angels and Demons*, I researched information in the Bible and on the web, for on the web there is some truth, whereas with the authors of fiction there is - well - a lot of fiction. One author says angels who die are reborn as humans. And a woman I knew, a Christian, believes she will become an angel when she dies, wings and all. Another says fallen angels when they die... well, angels don't die according to Jesus (see Luke 20:36).

The truth is, when we pass on from this life and enter heaven we become even greater than the angels! Angels are spiritual beings created by God to be His servants, and God has given them the authority and power to do His will - to fight in heaven's army against demonic forces, and as God's messengers to us humans.

While the Bible says here on earth we are lower than the angels, in heaven we will be higher than the angels - because we will be like Christ. Paul challenges believers saying "Do you not know we will judge the angels?" (1Corinthians 6:3). While this verse may refer to the rebellious angels who followed Satan, it implies that after death our status will be above the angels.

Another writer says Satan's fallen angels, upon dying, become demons. Truth, fiction, or creative thinking? This is what the Bible says. "*Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon [the devil]. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated ... and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.*" — Revelation 12:7-9. Peter remarks, "*God did not spare the angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment*" — 2 Peter 2:4.

Still, nothing in the Bible suggests that fallen angels are demons and nothing there says they are not. As I look upon those creatures the metaphor for demons that comes to mind is cockroaches. Imagine demons as the proverbial cockroach; they hide in the dark (perhaps the dark of our minds) and are dispelled by the light. So, with Jesus we have the light that quells the demon cockroaches or the powers and principalities here on earth.

Have you noticed in the Old Testament, there were the Seraphim and Cherubim and God's holy angels? It really wasn't until the New Testament that we began to hear about demons. Interesting.

Dennis Bratcher writes, there are places in the Old Testament where some English translations use the word "demon" or "devils" ("demons": Deut 32:17, Psa 106:37; "goat-demons": Isaiah 13:21, NRSV; "devils": 2 Chron 11:15, AV). In other places, it is easy for those in the modern world after reading the New Testament to think "demons" when reading about "an evil spirit," though the text clearly says the evil spirit is from God (see, Jude 9:23, 1Samuel 16:14-23). And in Old Testament some English translations use the word "demon" or "devils" ("demons": Psalm 106:37; "goat-demons": Isaiah 13:21, NRSV; "devils": 2 Chronicles 11:15, AV).

Given these translation issues, no word in Hebrew is equivalent to the English word "demon," nor does any other word communicate the same meaning of a malevolent being in service to the devil. Bratcher says in today's culture this came from the imagination of medieval writers, which then became popular in the church and was seen as evil beings against which Christians needed to wage "spiritual warfare." Yet, the ancient Israelites view of "demons" simply was not part of their culture or way of thinking.

Does this mean demons do not exist? Of course, not. Whether the Old Testament writers believed in demons is a moot point, because Jesus certainly did; he cast out more than a few. So, we know that demons did exist during Jesus time. As to the Old Testament well, when translating from one language to another we do not seek out an exact word in, say Hebrew and then translates it into English. Rather, translation is more about ideas rather than merely words, and there is rarely a one-to-one correlation between single words with languages, especially when they are separated by 3,000 years of history and culture, Bratcher remarks (paraphrased). But we'll look more on this in a later chapter.

Myths in fiction while common, in the Bible demons are real, yet stories of these demonic creatures and how they are portrayed, as in Dan Brown's *Angels and Demons*, often are pure fantasy and bothersome. While the Order of the Illuminati, of which he wrote, is true – it was started on May 1, 1776 at the University of Ingolstadt in Germany – a lot of what he wrote, as I said before, is pure fantasy, and unfortunately many people accept his fiction as the truth! Very dangerous.

## BRANDY MARKS

To sort things out, this book will define angels and demons and how they appear in both the Old and the New Testament. Also, cherubim and seraphim and are they angels or something else. And which of these is Satan, and the 'how to' of spiritual warfare.

So, if you want to know the truth about angels and demons, cherub and seraph according to the Bible, then take a ride with me into the heavens and discover for yourself what Angels and Demons, Cherubim and Seraphim are all about and the principalities and powers and how Spiritual Warfare defeats demonic powers! But let's begin by looking at what the Bible has to say about these. I've listed below several versions of the Bible with the term cherub or cherubim or angel, and so on: Whether a Cherub is seen as an angel or not depends upon which version you read!

Cherubim: KJV, NKJV, WEB, CJB, DRB, ERRB, ISV, ABBR, JB

Cherub/Angel: ERV

Creatures: CEV

Winged Creature: NJB, BBE

Guardian Angel: TLB

We now understand how some heavenly beings are classified, so let's take a look at Satan. Who or what he is called will again depend upon which version of the Bible you prefer. Some Bibles are more liberal than others.

- Lucifer (Isaiah 14:12) (ERRB, KJV, NKJV, TLB)
- ruler of the demons (Matthew 12:24)
- god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4)
- devil/accuser (Matthew 4:1)
- prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2)
- roaring lion (1 Peter 5:8)
- serpent (Genesis 3:1)
- dragon (Revelation 12:9; 20:2)
- adversary (Job 1)
- tempter (Matthew 4:3)
- the anointed Cherub that covers (Ezekiel 28:14)
- Beelzebub (Matthew 12:24)
- Belial (2 Corinthians 6:15)
- wicked one (Matthew 13:19)

## **HEAVENS HIERARCHY**

Like the Greeks, some believe in a hierarchy of angels, ranked in a certain order. Regardless, whether the seraphim are angels, which we'll see more on later, they're ranked highest. Some theologians say the cherubim are second in line, then the archangels, and lastly the warrior or regular angels. And somewhere are principalities and powers in heaven and on earth. We know there are warrior angels, as well as guardian angels, at least for children and perhaps us grownups too. In fighting a war, the archangels lead Gods army, and angels assist them. An archangel came to Joshua and when questioned said, "I have come as commander of Adonai's army." (Joshua 5:14). So, as a commander of Adonai's army, it is clear, there is a hierarchy in heavens army, which makes sense.

Some Christian theologians of the medieval period, placed angels in Angelic Choirs. Apparently, from the New Testament, Pseudo-Dionysius and Thomas Aquinas were able to develop a scheme of three hierarchies, triads or spheres of angels. I would like to have gotten in on that conversation because I just don't see how they came up with some of these definitions.

### *First Sphere*

The heavenly beings of the first sphere are the servants of God, Jesus, Son incarnate and also includes the Seraphim, Cherubim and Thrones, in that order, which Aquinas believed were angels.

*Seraphim:* These beings belong to the highest heavenly class and are caretakers of God's throne. They are six-winged, fiery beings whose wings are used to cover parts of themselves. Believing they are angels could be why angels are depicted with wings.

## BRANDY MARKS

*Cherubim:* A Cherubim has four faces, one of an ox, one man, an eagle and a lion and they have with four wings, are covered with eyes, and have the body of a lion and ox's feet. In the entrance to the Garden of Eden Cherubim along with a flaming sword, which turns every way, guard the way to the tree of life. It's not clear whether the cherubim carry the flaming sword or if it's merely present. Again, it seems to depend upon which version you read.

*Thrones:* These celestial beings, only in the New Testament are symbols of authority and God's justice. The throne is one symbol for them, yet no other was indicated. Not sure if another would be needed anyway. After all, a throne is a throne.

### *Second Sphere*

These beings are heavenly governors of creation, ruling and guiding the spirits and include the Dominions or Lordship Virtues and Stronghold Powers or Authorities.

*Dominions or Lordships:* These celestial beings regulate duties of the lower angels. Dominions have beautiful wings and differ from other celestial beings by a flashing globe of light fastened to the pommel of their swords or scepters on their heads. Although this sounds more like modern day Hollywood to me. Nothing was found in the scripture to even suggest such a description other than the garden of Eden scenario and the Cherubim and flaming sword.

*Virtues or Strongholds:* These are the ministries for miracles and signs in the world. Infused with profound like-God energy, they are bestowed with illuminations and endow others with virtues. Again, these are not mentioned in the Bible.

Interesting, the Bible has the word virtue only three times (NKJV): *whatever is true, noble, just, pure, lovely, of good report, if there is any virtue think on these....* Philippians 4:8

*...as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue... 2Peter 1:3*

*But for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge... 2Peter 1:5*

*Powers or Authorities:* These warrior angels fight against the evil spirits in the world and are armored and equipped with weapons. They keep order in the universe, supervise other heavenlies and the distribution of powers among the human race.

### *Third Sphere*

*Principalities* are protective angels who guide and safe guard the Church, people and nations, some govern while others assist. These could have been discerned from the angels spoken of in Revelation who were sent to the seven churches. These beings are protectors, messengers and guides, sent to help humans.

Shown wearing crowns and a scepter, they are the guardians and educators of the earth, though scripture does not describe such a being, while certain electronic games do employ them.

*Archangels:* There are seven who guard the nations and countries and look after politics, trade and commerce. This seems to come from Revelations 2-4 where Jesus' angel has John write letters to the seven churches. Yet, the angels in the seven churches are more likely the ministers responsible for the churches as opposed to being angelic spirits, which is possible.

*Angels:* The common, most popular and lowest order, are sent messengers who serve the human race. And these are the ones who are generally seen throughout the Old and New Testament bringing messages to various persons.

Wow! Those who created this hierarchy certainly have a vivid imagination, which is fodder for authros. Still, how they came up with the spheres is interesting. I'd of thought the archangels would be nearer the top but seraphim are listed first then the cherubim. The archangels in the third tier or sphere as messengers does makes sense, in that they interacted with humans. Still, I have to wonder what actual angels think of these fanciful and possibly real, at least in part, descriptions of them. No matter, for now, let's take a look at the first sphere, the Seraphim.

Much of what is written by theologians came from human reasoning and the Bible warns us about this:

*The time is coming when people won't listen to sound doctrine [teaching]. Instead, they will look for teachers who will please them by telling them only what they are itching to hear. They will turn from the truth and eagerly listen to senseless stories. 2Ti 4:3-4*

The Forerunner Commentary shares some ideas in this, regarding human reasoning and how ours differs from God's.

## *Human Reason*

Of Deuteronomy 15:19 John Reid (Forerunner Commentary) says, “we can see the human reasoning coming into play here: ‘I have a bullock that I am going to give to God, *but* he looks really great. Maybe I can use him for a while before I give him [to God].” ‘This is just human nature’ the author says, and while the passage refers to tithing, the same holds true for anything. Our human minds use reasoning to justify our faulty actions or words.

John 6:44 says our attraction to God is not by human reason but occurs when we are drawn to the Lord by the Holy Spirit and not by our ability to make sense of or reason about God.

1Corinthians 2:9-13 makes it clear that human reason was at play when Adam and Eve sinned and were cut off from the Holy Spirit. Human actions are generally based on human reasoning. Once we allow human reason to take over, access to the Holy Spirit is closed off, and something is then missing in our reasoning ability. While God created us with a spiritual capacity, it is limited so we cannot discern the things of God without Him.

The lesson we can learn from Corinthian’s is to grow in knowledge of the truth and the spirit world and spiritual principles, and so, humble ourselves before the Word of God. In such matters (angels and demons), human logic and wisdom are totally useless. We are inclined to believe those things that appeal to us. Yes, even I. Our understanding of God and the spiritual must be limited to what is revealed in His Word. All of our beliefs and practices must be based on the Bible and it alone, not human reasoning.

1John 4:1 warns us “do not believe everyone who claims to have the Spirit of God. Test them all to find out if they really do come from God.” The message he referred to appealed to human not divine nature. Humans tend to accept their own reasoning when it ‘sounds’ logical and right, but we are to test it by God’s word, which is true and right even if it seems illogical to our human mind. This is true for any ‘words of wisdom’ written about angels and demons and other spiritual creatures. Read about them in the Word of God and test the words, whether they are true.

## **SERAPHIM**

### *Seraphim or Seraphs*

The word "seraphim" comes from the Hebrew word *saraph*, which means "to burn." Seraphim means to 'burn with passion' for God, igniting the fiery love emanating from them. The Bible describes love as "a blazing fire, like a mighty flame" (Song of Solomon 8:6). As the seraphim absorb God's radiant love being in God's presence, they are completely enveloped by His powerful light of love.

One of the sacred texts in Kabbalah, the *Sefer Yetzirah*, tells us the seraphim live near God's throne in a place called Beriyah, which is full of fiery energy. Seraphim are described in the Bible only twice, in Isaiah 6:2, and Isaiah 6:6.

*"In the year King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up; the train of His robe filled the temple. Above stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. One cried to another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!" ... Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar. And he touched my mouth with it, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away and your sin purged." (Isaiah 6:1-7)*

So, seraphim have six wings, two for flying, four covering God and they fly above God's throne, similar to the Cherubim who cover [God's throne]. Jewish myths at one time, cited the seraphim as angels, however the Bible does not speak of them as such.

## BRANDY MARKS

For anyone interested in apocryphal books (and I always find them interesting) there is a website with tons of information on these books: Cherubim & Seraphim in in the Testament of Job, Gospel of Bartholemew aka Questions of Bartholemew, Bartholomew's Book Of The Resurrection of Christ, Epistle of Ignatius to the Trallians, Spectacles by Tertullian, Prayer of Azariah and Song of the Three Holy Children, Book of the All-Virtuous Wisdom of Joshua ben Sira aka Wisdom of Sirach aka Sirach aka Book of Ecclesiasticus (not to be confused with the biblical book Ecclesiastes), The Narrative of Joseph of Arimathaea and Melchizedek.

<http://www.truefreethinker.com/articles/cherubim-seraphim-various-apocrypha>

In art, though, Seraphim are often red (the 'burning ones') who hold a flaming sword with the words 'holy, holy, holy' on the blade. Seraph as a class of heavenly beings, as already noted are mentioned only once in the Old Testament, and that is in Isaiah's vision and nowhere else, except apocryphal texts.

Isaiah gives no further description of the seraphim's appearance; he apparently assumes his readers are acquainted with them or he doesn't believe it matters, or maybe he doesn't believe anyone would really believe. Still, we can conclude, from the description, the seraphim were seen as having human faces, human hands, and human voices. However, let us not hastily conclude the seraphim are winged human forms. At least this was not the original concept, although later Judaism pictured them so.

The seraphim are also mentioned in the Book of Enoch (20:7), and are designated "serpents", and always with the cherubim, and heavenly creatures standing nearest to God. Bible Odyssey says the image of the seraph as a snake probably comes from Egyptian art. (The term 'seraph' means both fiery and snake; the idea is that the snake's venom is fiery, i.e., the victim of a snake bit feels a burning sensation) There are eighth century B.C.E. stamp seals from ancient Judah that portray the seraph, and the image is similar to a snake seen in Egyptian art of then.

In Rev. 4:6-8 four animals are pictured standing near Gods throne. There is much evidence against the idea that was popular then and now, that the seraphim are the same as angels. Yet, it is clear the seraphim have nothing whatsoever to do with "messengers of God." Daniel 10:13, the Book of Tobit (apocryphal) and others, offer information on a series of "chief" angels, but allusions to the seraphim actually being angels does not exist.

As seen, there is a similarity between the seraphim and cherubim. Both are winged, part human, part animal; both stand near the throne of God, and appear as its guardians; and, as noted, they always are together in the Book of Enoch. This by no means proves the origin of the two as being the same, however. Even in art they are depicted as quite similar. Still most art is inadequate to render the image of seraphim and cherubim as they actually exist.

Some say seraphim originated in the Egyptian "seref," as a winged creature, half lion and eagle, which guarded graves, carried dead kings to heaven and peoples' prayers. The form of the seref suggest rather the Jewish cherubim.

According to others, the concept was from Babylonian origin, and in Canaan was the Babylonian fire-god Nergal. The seraphim, then, would be the flames in which this god revealed himself. However, no one has been able to prove the word "seraph" was ever used as a name of a god. Most likely, the seraphim originally were serpents, as the name implies.

And the serpent filled a special role as a demon - evident in the story of Adam's fall (Gen 3). A brazen serpent brings relief from the effects of the bite of the fiery serpents (Num. 21:9) Yahweh sent among his disobedient people in the wilderness. Isaiah 14:29, 30:6 speaks of fiery, flying serpents and dragons; and a brazen serpent, stood in the Temple at Jerusalem, and was an object of worship until the time of Hezekiah, who destroyed it as being idolatrous (2 Kings 18:4).

Nonetheless, it may be the seraphim have a counterpart in the flying serpents of Isaiah (also 2 Esdras 15:29). It is only natural these winged guardians of Yahweh's throne were ranked as higher beings and given some features of a human (2Kings 2:11)

Why some insist, like the cherubim they are angels is beyond me. Is it so inconceivable that God created more than one heavenly being other than an angel? After all, He did create a multitude of species of various sorts on earth. And there are horses in heaven though some believe the horse is merely a symbol of God's power.

*Elijah and Elisha were walking ... when there appeared  
between them a flaming chariot pulled by fiery horses.  
-2Kings 2:11*

## BRANDY MARKS

Oh, I don't know. It sounds to me like they're talking about horses but perhaps I simply enjoy the idea. I am an animal lover. Still, those fiery horses and chariot were symbols of God's power, and the greatest means of warfare then, letting people know His power was far greater than any military might.

Nonetheless, regarding more than one heavenly species in relation to earth, there are about 8.7 million (give or take) species on Earth -- the most precise calculation ever offered -- with 6.5 million on land and 2.2 million in oceans, according to Science Daily Aug. 2011. So, it's not so difficult to imagine that God created a variety of celestial beings. Maybe not millions but more than one species, including horses for sure.

*I can only relate my own experience, which was not in heaven but in dreams here on earth (or the spiritual realm, perhaps) wherein the first time, two dogs which died in a garage fire showed up and seemed to indicate they were happy and healthy. Another dream years later, brought one of my other dogs who had died, and also was healthy and happy. It seemed to me God was letting me know they were safe somewhere (heaven, perhaps). Regardless, I chose to view those dreams as messages from God bringing me peace and letting me know there is a place in heaven for animals.*

And really, if you stop and think about it and how the seraphim and cherubim are described, then it's a short hop to imagine creatures of earth also being in heaven. Seraphim and Cherubim both have animal faces and other peculiar characteristics.

†

## **CHERUBIM**

The cherubim occur quite often in the Hebrew Bible, appearing ninety-one times. Yet, the role of the cherubim is never explicitly explained. While Hebrew tradition saw the cherubim as guardians of the Garden (they guard the way to the Tree of Life) they also had other roles, for example, in the book of Ezekiel they transport Yahweh's throne. Satan as a Cherubim, covered God's throne and walked upon the stones of fire on God's holy mountain.

In the Hebrew Bible the cherubim do not have the status of angels. It is only in later sources like the *De Coelesti Hierarchia* or "On the Celestial Hierarchy", a Pseudo-Dionysian work from the 5<sup>th</sup> century on angelology, which described them as divine messengers.

The Bible describes Cherubim in Genesis and in Ezekiel, Cherubim guard the entrance to the Garden of Eden with a flaming sword.

*God put winged creatures at the entrance to the garden and a flaming, flashing sword to guard the way to the life-giving tree (Gen. 3:24).*

The prophet Ezekiel had a vision of heaven and saw many angelic beings. His description of Cherubim is powerful. Not an average cute little cherub as often depicted in art! These are powerful heavenly beings with four faces and four wings (See Ezekiel 10).

*I saw a windstorm blowing in from the north. ... and what looked like four living creatures. They were somewhat like humans, except each one had four faces and four wings. Their legs were straight, but their feet looked like the hoofs of calves and sparkled like bronze. Under each of their wings, was a human hand... standing back to back,*

## BRANDY MARKS

*the tips of their wings touching [each other and] moved in every direction, without turning.*

*Each had the face of a human in front, the face of a lion on the right side, the face of a bull on the left, and the face of an eagle in back. Two wings of each were spread out and touched the wings of the creatures on either side. The other two wings of each creature were folded against its body. ... glowing like hot coals... something like a flaming torch moved back and forth among them. Lightning flashed from the torch every time its flame blazed up. ... on the ground beside each ...The rims of the wheels were large with eyes all around. The creatures controlled when and where the wheels moved--the wheels went wherever the four creatures went and stopped when they stopped. Even when they flew ...*

*Whenever the creatures flew, their wings roared like an ocean or a large army or the voice of God All-Powerful...  
Ezekiel 1:4-28*

This images of just one creature is so astonishing that I can barely imagine the cherubim with wings alongside, glowing like hot coals, never mind there being four of them with a flaming sword flashing back and forth with lightning bolts coming out from it each time the flame blazed up. I sought an artists' rendition on the internet but none could come close to how the Bible describes them. Like a dream, when you awaken, you can barely describe its contents, and trying to do it justice in art work, not an easy task.

While some versions of the Bible (ERV) add the word "angel" after "cherubim", it is not in the Jewish Publication version or the Exegesis Research Ready Bible, the King James, or most other Bible versions. Regardless, these creatures are so amazing. It will be an astonishing thing to actually see them - one day in heaven. Not likely here on earth.

The Cherubim are 'Ark of the Covenant' decorations and their wings cover the ark, symbolic of covering God's throne. God must have seen them as worthy creatures. Ezekiel sees a vision, and visions like dreams can be tricky. One must use caution in assuming what is seen in the vision parallels reality exactly. Regardless, Cherubim guard God's Holy domain. Some refer to them as the throne angels but as noted earlier, the Cherubim are not designated as angels, except rarely in some versions!

## **THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES**

Revelation describes 'Four Living Creatures' having features in common with the Seraphim, with six wings and praising God; and, like the Cherubim, they number four, are covered in eyes and look like a lion, ox, man and eagle. For this reason, I've included these here. Whether these are Seraphim, Cherubim or another sort of heavenly being, is completely unknown.

Many bible-versions in a number of Old Testament passages have words such as "cherub" and "seraph". And many people think those words refer to angels so, they imagine there are different "types" of angels. But, as we have seen, Cherubim and Seraphim are flying creatures whereas angels are beings who, in scripture, appear as white-robed men.

Angels seen in the Old Testament exclude beings that many have always thought were angels when they are not. So, when you see the cherubim from the Garden of Eden not included, do not be surprised. We've already talk about them, and how they differ from angels and it is very clear that cherubs or the cherubim are not the same as angels.

There is very little in the Bible about the four living creatures and the description leaves one wondering if they are the same as the seraphim and cherubim, simply with different names.

How delightful it will be to one day enter heaven and see these heavenly beings and what they truly look like, wings and their glory around Gods throne, including the archangels. In the meantime, realize these creatures are not referred to in the New Testament, which does not mean they don't exist. It could mean there was or is a language barrier messing up the interpretation.

BRANDY MARKS

†

## **PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS**

The phrase *principalities and powers*, found six times in the Bible, is always in the King James version and its modern counterparts (NKJV, MKJV), never in the Old Testament. In other versions, it's translated "rulers and authorities" and "rulers and powers" etc. In most instances, its reference is to evil spirits who make war against the people of God. The principalities and powers of Satan are beings who wield power in the unseen realms to oppose everything and everyone of God. Which now makes me wonder, why did those men who created the hierarchy assign them heavenly roles?

Just wondering...

Principalities and powers are first mentioned in [Romans 8:37-39](#): "I know neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ...nor any other created thing, can separate us from the love of Christ" Paul said.

The "powers" are those such as false teachers and prophets or demonic spirits that empower them. Regardless, who they may be, they cannot separate us from the love of God. Principalities and powers are also mentioned in Colossians 1:16 with thrones, rulers and authorities and all were created by God.

*"By him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him" (Colossians 1:16)*

I question these thrones or powers or rulers or authorities - if they are heavenly entities? Spirit beings created by God, but it seems implausible to consider them like angels or cherubim or seraphim.

## BRANDY MARKS

When considering thrones, as in the early church, are kings and queens on their thrones, rulers and authorities being those in governments, persons who rule.

In Colossians chapter 2, we read about Jesus' power over all other: "Having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross" (Col. 2:15). Here he refers to earthly power given the devil by God and Christ overcame it on the cross. The Savior, by His death, took dominion from them, and took back what they had been given at the fall.

*He put Christ over all rulers, authorities, powers, and kings. He gave him authority over everything that has power in this world or in the next world. God put everything under Christ's power and made him head over everything for the church –Ephesians 1:20-21.*

Yet, Ephesians speaks of the warfare in which we battle daily.

*"against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." –Ephesians 6:12*

Being saved, we continue to struggle to do good. While Jesus saved us we continue to face an army of dark powers, whose real power has been removed, and we have the promised victory. Our task is to not only show by our faith but to depend upon the wisdom and power of God to defeat these evil forces in our lives that tempt us. We do this by trusting in God's victory.

In Titus 3:1 principalities and powers are governmental authorities whom God placed over us for our protection and welfare. So, those who rebel against earthly authorities "rebel against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves" (Romans 13:2).

There's no doubt Satan will use his power and authority to tempt a believer to rebel against the authority which God has established on the earth for our well-being. But, Jesus let us know, we have "the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions and *over all the power of the enemy...*" (Luke 10:19).

Susan R. Garrett wrote about Satan and the Powers of darkness, which is summarized in the following:

*Ancient apocalyptic writers used language about Satan and the powers to make sense of the relationship between events on earth and events in the heavenly or spiritual.*

*Christians today often interpret biblical language about the “principalities and powers” by understanding them either as entities separable from humans (and this world) or incarnated in the earthly officeholders and structures of power that govern our day-to-day existence. In the latter view, many of the principalities and powers were created to serve good purposes, but all are prone to sinful demands, especially the demand—exemplified by Satan in his tempting of Jesus in the wilderness—that humans regard them as ultimate and give homage to them instead of to God.*

*United to Christ through the Holy Spirit, however, we are freed from bondage to these powers, and enabled to resist their corrupting influence. Jesus heals our blindness, enabling us to see the powers for the created and fallen entities they are. Yet, because the powers are equivalent to the social and cultural bodies that structure our daily lives, most of the world remains in thrall to them, and even we who are saved are constantly faced with temptations to submit to them (Galatians 5:1; cf. Romans 6:12-16). So, our resurrection hope is not for life beyond death, alone, but for divine deliverance from ruling idolatrous powers. Then, truly, God will be all in all.*

As believers in Jesus, God is our provider and protector. He sends His angels to watch over us and protect us from the harm of the world and Jesus said “I give you my peace” –John 14:27.

As seen in the Old Testament, angels have an amazing ability to protect Gods people as Psalm 91:11 says in reference to Jesus, but it’s also relevant for believers.

*”He [God] will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways.”*

This quite literally means God will instruct His angels to watch over each one of us. His angels purpose is to guard us, His children.

And God sends His angels to protect those who have committed themselves to Jesus, but not to when we try to test Him. Rather, as Psalm 34:7 says

*”The angel of the Lord settles around those who fear Him [God], and He delivers them.”*

God has given each of us angels for our protection - no matter who we are or how low we may feel, God doesn’t discriminate. Also, angels are liaisons of God between heaven and earth.

## BRANDY MARKS

*“Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?” –Hebrews 1:14*

God sends angels to protect and help deliver us from sin; they are ministering spirits who protect and guard us.

*“See, I am sending an angel ahead to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared.” – Exodus 23:20*

So, if we trust God, His angels protect us as we walk through life. Angels are one way for us to connect with the Lord, Nevertheless, it is the prayers of believers that activates angelic activity. Often, God waits on our prayers before sending His angels to fulfill His purposes, according to many intercessory prayer warriors.

One day, the angel Gabriel showed up during Daniel’s prayer time.

*As soon as you began to pray, an answer was given, which I have come to tell you. – Daniel 9:23*

*Don’t be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer. But 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. Now I am here to explain what will happen to your people in the future. – Daniel 10:12-14*

So, the moment Daniel began praying, the answer was given but demonic forces blocked the way of the angel bearing the answer. When the archangel Michael arrived, the standoff ended, and the angel went on to give Daniel the answer to his prayer.

Isn’t that an amazing and inspiring story? Imagine, when you pray, God immediately sends an answer, though it may not be exactly what or when, as Habakkuk reminds.

*“How long, Lord, will I call for help, and You will not hear?”  
–Habakkuk 1:2*

Yet, while we cannot see the what or when, God is working behind the scenes to answer our prayer. It’s just about me or you; He has a lot of things and peoples to consider in His answer.



## **ANGELS, DEMONS, NEPHILIM**

Some Bible teachers and preachers believe angels took the form of man in the flesh, had sex with human women and brought forth or birthed the Nephilim. This theological position from Genesis 6 is common - fallen angels had sex with humans and created a race of giants. But let's see what the Bible says about the Nephilim:

*“The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men of old, men of renown” (Genesis 6:4)*

It says the Nephilim were on the earth and afterward... *when the sons of God* came to the daughters of men. It does *not* say they were angels nor were the Nephilim God's angels or Gods sons. Then these *sons of God*, bore children with the human women. And the Bible clarifies: “*those [sons of God] were mighty men of old, men of renown*” and not angels or the Nephilim!

Let's take a closer look at what different versions of the Bible say about what was happening at the time, starting with Genesis 6:2. My e-Sword bible has over twenty different versions of the Bible but I will only reference a few to illustrate the variations on these texts regarding angel vs Nephilim vs spirit vs giant, and so on.

Whether one chooses to see the sons of God as giants, Nephilim or angels will depend upon which version of the Bible you prefer and your own inclination. Genesis 6:2 speaks of the “sons of God” in many versions while a few say “divine beings” aka possibly angels. Genesis 6:4 is where the Nephilim are first brought into the conversation and they are either recorded as “the Nephilim” or “the giants” and only the CEV calls them “Supernatural”.

## BRANDY MARKS

“*The sons of God saw the daughters of men*” is in several versions such as: KJV, LITV, MKJV, BBE, CJB, DRB, NJB, NKJV, ERB

**World English Bible:** God’s sons saw that men’s daughters were beautiful, and is similar to the above.

**Easy to Read Version** records: ... *the sons of God* saw how beautiful they were [the daughters of men]. So, they chose the women they wanted... (Genesis 6:1-2)

**The International Standard Version:** “*some divine beings* noticed how attractive human women were, so they took wives...

**Contemporary English Version:** “Some of their daughters [people on the earth] were so beautiful that *supernatural beings* came down and married the ones they wanted.” Genesis 6:1-2

**The Living Bible:** It was at this time *beings from the spirit world* looked upon the beautiful earth women and took any they desired to be their wives. In verse 4, the Nephilim are first written about: “In those days, and even afterwards, when the *evil beings from the spirit world* were sexually involved with human women, their children became giants, of whom so many legends are told.”

Generally, the Nephilim are referred to as giants:

**WEB:** “The Nephilim were in the earth in those days”

**Other versions:** “The *giants* were in the earth in those days” (v4)

And the CEV, refers to them as “*the supernatural beings*” (v4)

God gave His authority to humans when he created them. And God made a man alone in the flesh with a soul. The Nephilim were on the earth when sons of God came in to these women but it does not say the Nephilim were angels. What it does say is they were on the earth when the mighty *men* came.

Demons, who most believe are fallen angels have a soul but no body. However, the Bible does not support this position. Animals have a body and a mind and according to the Exegesis Research Ready Bible, they have a soul, for Elohim said:

*Let the waters teem with teemers (fish) that have a living soul (Gen. 1:20, LITV, KJV, MKJV, ERB, and others).*

Regardless, man is uniquely made in God's image spirit, soul (mind, will, and emotions), and a body. God gave dominion to man on the earth to rule being made in His image. Demons cannot take on flesh and the Bible does not say they can.

Of course, we know angels can and do appear in human form. While angels do not actually have a corporeal or flesh form and remain spirit beings, they can still appear as humans.

*Do not forget to show hospitality toward strangers, for by doing so, you may entertain angels without realizing it.  
-Hebrew 13:2*

Also, God says, '... Let the earth produce living creatures according to their own 'kind' which suggests a fish cannot produce with a bird nor a snake with a cat. So, man cannot reproduce with an animal or a demon. All creatures produce only after their own 'kind'.

In one passage, the Bible says:

*'The sons of God' saw the daughters of man were beautiful' (Genesis 6:2)*

The Hebrew term ben Elohim means "sons of God." In biblical interpretation, we allow the Scripture to interpret itself. It is a mistake to try and make the Bible say something to fit with what we'd like it to say, our doctrine, when the text says something else. In the text it says 'sons of God', or humans and nowhere, as far as I could see, does it refer to demons as 'sons of God' or sons.

There are three passages in Job that refer to the 'sons of God', which indicate these were godly angels, since mankind did not have access to God's presence before the resurrection of Christ, and angels had been expelled from God's presence.

*There was a day when the sons of God (angels) came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan (a Cherubim) also came among them (Job 1:6, 2:1). And when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God (angels) shouted for joy (Job 38:7)*

Throughout the rest of the Bible, and in the New Testament, when the term 'sons of God' is used it refers to humans, not angels, and never demons or fallen angels. Luke also writes, '...son of Seth, son of Adam, son of God' (Luke 3:38). And Jesus referred to humans as 'sons of God' but to himself as son of man, but that's another story.

*"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. (Matt. 5:9)*

And there are many other references to "sons of God" and they are usually in reference to humans:

## BRANDY MARKS

*Jesus said "... [they] cannot die anymore, because they are like angels [not are angels] and are 'sons of God' being sons of the resurrection. (Luke 20:36)*

*All who are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. (Romans 8:14)*

*For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. (Romans 8:19)*

*You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:26)*

### **Creator and Destroyer**

*"My Spirit will not remain with 'mankind' forever, because they were corrupt"(Gen. 6:3).*

*"I will wipe off of the earth: man, whom I created..." (v7, emphasis added)*

Here is a clear reference to those whom God intends to bring judgement upon; it was man. God says nothing about demons or fallen angels. What God created, man, was destroyed - with the exception of Noah and his family.

God is the Creator. Demons or angels or Nephilim do not have the power to create, so they cannot re-create, or reproduce with humans. If these were a separate race created by demons who birthed men - not created by God -- then God would have made it clear these were also being destroyed along with mankind.

The point here is to not force the Bible to say what it doesn't say. This is how cults and false religions start. Instead, allow the Bible to say what it says, adding nothing and taking nothing away as several verses warn us against.

*Do not add to His words, or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar. –Proverbs 30:6*

*"Whatever I command you, be careful to do; do not add to nor take away from it. –Deuteronomy 12:32*

Now that we've covered the Nephilim, let's take a closer look at those pesky demonic spirits, which seem so prolific in Jesus' day but cannot seem to be found in the Old Testament or even in the apostle Paul's letters to the churches. How come they seem to be only in the New Testament Gospels of Christ?

### *Demons in the Bible*

Unless you look closely, the Old Testament seems to say very little about demons. But if we look at the Old Testament in view of the New Testament, Paul clarifies the issue, saying the gods of the pagans were 'dumb idols' (I Corinthians 12:2; Habakkuk 2:18) Those idols were nothing but blocks of wood (Isaiah 44:9). But that does not mean there was no power in idol worship. The difference is, the power of the idol worship was demonic, not divine power. When we worship something or someone other than God, we are actually worshiping a demon and, in so doing, we worship Satan. While biblical writers may have been dismissive of such idols, those made of wood, stone, or metal, "what cannot see or hear or walk" (Rev. 9:20), they knew they represented demons. In Isaiah 44:9-20 the prophet both ridicules idol worshippers for making an idol out of wood but for building a fire from the same chunk of wood!

Demons as they are referred to in the Old Testament are very rare. Their existence is assumed, and are not depicted as independent agents, but operate under God's control. Though not seen as the malicious beings as in the New Testament, God's people are told to avoid them anyway. The Old Testament word for demons translated, "gods they had not known, gods that recently appeared, gods your fathers did not fear" in Deuteronomy 32:17, and Israel is condemned for sacrificing to them (Psalm 106:37) and evil spirits were sent from God (Judges 9:23-24).

While limited in the Old Testament, the demonic activity during Jesus' life time was more than any other in biblical history. While demonic confrontations are mentioned in the Gospels, only eight actual encounters are recorded: Jesus' temptation ( Matt 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13) and seven others. Other examples are the seven demons expelled from Mary Magdalene (Luke 8:1-2), and several others. Then there were "the seventy-two disciples who returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the evil spirits submitted to us in your name [*by your authority*]." (Luke 10:17-20 ).

Compared to the Gospels, demonic encounters were rare, only five instances in Acts. What's really interesting is the term "exorcism" so common in certain religions today is not used in Jesus' ministry. An exorcism implies ritual, and Jesus and the early church relied on God's authority not ritual. And nowhere in the New Testament is there an exorcism ritual recommended or even suggested.

## BRANDY MARKS

How are demons then dealt with? Christians who have the identity in Christ, have the god given authority and mandate to resist Satan and his demons. This is done the basis of Christ's finished work on the cross. Because the One who is in us is greater than he [Satan] who is in the world (1John 4:4). A believers weapons of warfare is our authority as seated with Christ at the right hand of God, above every power (Ephesians 1:15-2:6), the name of Jesus (Philippians 2:10), our spiritual armor (Ephesians 6:18), prayer (Mark 9:29), deliberate resistance (James 4:7), forgiveness (Ephesians 4:26-27), and the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23 ; Ephesians 4:22-29 ; 6:10-18 ).

And so, the Scriptures in regarding demons is clear and consistent; they are spiritual entities who oppose God's sovereignty; they seek to succeed in their unholy rebellion by influencing believers and unbelievers alike to live in a way opposed to God. And, they remain under Gods sovereignty and can be used by Him in His divine plan. As believers we are to submit to God and resist the attacks of Satan and his demons. To do this, we must be aware of the basic truths in Scripture concerning demons and their methods and how they work to influence our lives. Once aware, we stand in Christ and oppose the works/influences of demons, whether personally, in the church, or within the structures of society.

Now that we've dealt with the demonic realm, let's move onto the angels, beginning with the top tier, the archangels.

†

## **ARCHANGELS**

An "archangel" is no ordinary warrior angel but has a position of authority and leadership. Yet if you believe the angels hierarchy, they are so much more. Michael is the only archangel identified in the New Testament (see 1Thessalonians 4:16; Jude 1:9), indeed, throughout the entire Bible.

*The Lord himself will come down from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. -1 Thessalonians 4:16*

*Michael, the archangel, when contending with the devil...  
-Jude 1:9*

Still, with legions of angels at Gods command, we can imagine more than one archangel leading the warrior angels in heaven. And perhaps, one day we will know for certain.

Michael is the only archangel who heads God's army, at least the only one to appear on earth. Actually, there are only two angels named in Scripture – Gabriel (Luke 1:26) and Michael (Daniel 12:1; Jude 1:9; Rev 12:7), the latter is designated an "archangel" in Jude 1:9. A third, Raphael, is only in the apocryphal book of Tobias.

The Bible says the Lord will descend from heaven with a shout and with the voice of an archangel (1Thess. 4:16), which suggests there are other archangels and the archangel Michael is just one of them, the one who disputed with the devil over [the disposal of] Moses' body ... (Jude 1:9). More on that later.

There was a war in heaven. Michael the archangel (Jude 1:9) and his angels fought Satan and his angels. The time of this war was not indicated but the context referred to is in the end time and in reference to the time before creation.

## BRANDY MARKS

Some believe Satan was an archangel, yet the Bible never refers to Satan as an “archangel” - or even an angel. In fact, only once does it say Satan ‘*disguising* him as an angel of light.’ And Job 1:6 says ‘One day the angels presented themselves before the Lord, and Satan came with them’. Because he came *with the angels* does not mean he himself is or was an angel; he was a Cherubim.

As to rankings, while here on earth in the military, we have leaders in ranks: generals, captains, and such, and the church has ranks of leadership: apostles, preachers, teachers. As such, common sense says angels in heaven have ranks too, for in Luke 11:2 Jesus teaches his disciples to pray. “... let Your kingdom come, let Your will be done on earth *as it is in heaven* (emphasis added).

Gabriel and Michael are important messengers, angels of God. Michael the archangel, and Gabriel helps Daniel with the vision given to him, and Gabriel (who stands in the presence of God) was also sent to Mary with a message; highly favored by God, she would bear a son who would be the Messiah, the Savior of the world.

In that there is only one archangel we know of for certain, there’s not a lot to say about them. I suppose it’s like military commanders and five-star generals in earth’s armies, they’re not as common as the everyday soldier either. Although, their duties carry a heavier responsibility than that of the common soldier, so I would imagine the same is true for archangels, especially Michael and possibly others who lead God’s angelic army in heavens battles against the devil and his demons. The rest of the archangel comments came from Wikipedia and has few actual sources noted.

The most famous group of seven Archangels appears to have been borrowed from the Jewish Pseudepigrapha, namely the 250 BC Book of the Watchers, which was merged with other books in what is known as the Book of Enoch. Rejected as canonical scripture, despite having been widespread in Jewish and early Christian Apostolic customs (as well as the early Christian leaders writings), resulting in the text being forbidden, from 7th Century AD on. The list of Angels survived only as part of oral traditions that differed to one another depending on the area wherein they were present, and thus many different lists of angels (termed "Archangels") exist, but to different levels of acceptance.

In the Book of Enoch, Ramiel is said to be one of the leaders of the 200 Grigori, the fallen angels. Other names from pseudepigrapha and recognized by Eastern and Oriental Orthodox churches are Selaphiel, Jegudiel, and Raguel.

Seven angels or archangels are given as related to the seven days of the week: Michael (Sunday), Gabriel (Monday), Raphael (Tuesday), Uriel (Wednesday), Selaphiel (Thursday), Raguel or Jegudiel (Friday), and Barachiel (Saturday).

Various occult systems associate each archangel with one of the traditional "seven luminaries": the sun, the moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn; but there is no agreement as to which archangel corresponds to which body. Also, four archangels display periodic spiritual activity over the seasons: Spring is Raphael, summer is Uriel, autumn is Michael, and winter is Gabriel. These are quite likely part myth but no one knows for certain what if any of these are accurate. I've read about all the above archangels in fiction books wherein angels were characters in the story.





## **ANGELS: WHAT ARE THEY?**

### *Angels versus Cherubim and Seraphim*

The **seraphim** (fiery, burning ones) are heavenly beings in the Temple and in the prophet Isaiah's vision, God calls him to ministry (Isaiah 6:1-7) and also records:

*“Above were seraphs, each with six wings: with two they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. They called to one another: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.’ At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke”*  
–Isaiah 6:2-4

Seraphs clearly are creatures who worship God continually; and while celestial, the Bible never describes them as angels! Isaiah chapter 6 is the only place where the seraphim are mentioned. What an interesting creature, with six wings they use to cover their faces and feet for some reason. Was it because Isaiah could not look upon the face of a Seraph, but why its feet? One author wrote, in saying it covered its feet, it may have been a delicate way of actually saying it covered its genitals.

**Cherubim** are first seen in Genesis “After He drove the man out, He placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way...”

So, the Cherubim are heavenly beings who worship and praise God but are never named as being angels! Although, it's easy to see why some 'think' cherubim are angels. Satan, who was a Cherubim, disguised himself as an angel of light, and cherubim have wings so, perhaps this is the reason people think angels have wings!

## BRANDY MARKS

Nonetheless prior to his rebellion and expulsion from heaven, he was a Cherubim and glorious to behold. Yet, when one considers Satan's description in Revelation, what he is becomes clear.

*The great dragon, the primeval serpent, known as the devil or Satan, who had led all the world astray, [he] was hurled down to the earth and his angels were hurled down with him. – Revelation 12:9*

In reading this, one wonders how anyone could ever imagine Satan as an angel. Indeed, he seems to be a seraph, a serpent, yet he is named a Cherubim with its wings and many faces. Perhaps it's the seraphim and Cherubim who are one and the same. Yet, Ezekiel's vision clouds the issue further. In speaking to the king of Tyre, God compares his rule to Satan's sin and fall:

*“Ezekiel, son of man, sing a funeral song for the king of Tyre and tell him, I [God] am saying: At one time, you were perfect, intelligent, and good-looking [like Satan, whom he refers to next].*

*“You were in Eden the garden of God. Every precious stone adorned you: [he lists several]. Gold work of tambourines and of pipes was in you. They were prepared the day you were created. You were the anointed cherub who covers.*

*Then I set you up on the holy mountain of God. You walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. You were perfect in your ways from when you were created, until unrighteousness [pride] was found in you. –Ezekiel 28:13-15 (emphasis added)*

Were Satan an angel, do you not think somewhere it would have been mentioned? As noted before, he has only been described as “disguising himself as an angel of light” once!

Ezekiel describes “four living creatures” (1:5) as the same beings as the cherubim (Ch. 10), and the seraph sound a lot like cherubim. Each had four faces—a man, a lion, an ox, and an eagle (1:10; 10:14)—and each had four wings.

The cherubs appearance was “a human form” (Ezekiel 1:5) and they used two of their wings for flying and two for covering their body (1:6, 11). And there's more. Under their wings they had the form of a man's hand (1:8; 10:7-8, 21).

Again, as did the seraph, we note the cherub use their wings to cover parts of themselves for an unknown reason.

*Heaven opened and I saw visions from God. I looked; a stormy wind blew from the North, a great cloud with light around it, a fire from which flashes of lightning darted, and in the center a sheen like bronze at the heart of the fire. In the center I saw what seemed to be four animals (Ezekiel 1:1):*

They were of human form.

- Each had four faces, each had four wings.
- Their legs were straight with hooves like oxen, glittering like polished brass.
- Human hands showed under their wings;
- Their wings touched each other;
- they did not turn as they moved;
- each one went straight forward.
- ... they had human faces; all four had a lion's face to the right, and a bull's face to the left, and all four had an eagle's face. (Ezekiel 1:4-10)

While angels appear in human form without wings Cherubim and Seraph are winged with unusual features who also have the form of a man - certain parts of them anyway.

**Angels** came as a man when appearing to people, never as winged creatures. All are spirit beings so, likely they can take on any form God wishes so they can complete their purpose. Still, they've never worn wings. Satan, in *disguising* himself as an angel of light to deceive, did he keep his cherubic wings when he did and deceive the people, who then believed angels had wings?

Of course, there's no way to answer that question, not until God reveals the truth. It's hard to imagine even the reality of angels, never mind cherubim and seraphim.

In John's Revelation vision, an angel comes [from heaven] and seizes the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan (Rev. 12:9). If he showed up with wings that would make sense yet nothing tells how he appeared other times.

While "we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against rulers, the authorities, the cosmic powers over this present darkness [rather] our battle is against spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places (Ephesians 6:12).

## BRANDY MARKS

And doubtless, demonic forces here on earth don't care what body they're in as long as they're in one and don't have to return to hell, or so it would seem.

In the New Testament (NT) a legion of demons begs Jesus to send them into a herd of 3000 pigs, and he did. What they looked like - their appearance - was not mentioned. If they are spirit forces then that is what Jesus cast out of the man and into the pigs and so, they had no physical form. Perhaps they were cast out of heaven as spirits and stayed as such.

What we know is demons influence people in the world today as they did during Jesus' time on earth. The NT says such men [those who teach a false doctrine], false apostles, deceitful are disguised as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for Satan disguises himself as an angel of light, so, it's no surprise if his servants disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. ... (2Corinthians 11:13-15)

Here, as with demons, it is not their physical appearance so much as how these false apostles operate; it's what they do and their motives - to deceive the people, likely under the influence of evil demonic spirit forces.

Jude 1:6-7 says fallen angels who did not stay within their position of authority in heaven but left their proper dwelling place God has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment day. So, it appears fallen angels take on a physical form else why the chains. Of course, it could be a metaphor for whatever God uses to keep them captive.

Anyway, demons who in movies appear as green drooling monsters with red eyes and such are from nothing more than human imagination or that is the most likely explanation. The Bible certainly does not describe demons in the ways of Hollywood or most of the fiction books, at least those I've read.

### *Messengers of God or...*

In many religions, angels are spirit beings, intermediaries or messengers of God. Yet angels can serve any number of purposes: teach, command, and inform one of their destiny. Angels may also protect or help a person. And, from my experience, angels who protect people and help them fulfill their destiny are not limited to Christians. Even unbelievers have reported traumatic events where they were supernaturally saved from death.

*For instance, several incidents occurred in my life where death seemed a certainty had there not been some divine intervention, or good luck as some would say. And this was before I became a believer. Yet since becoming a believer, there have been numerous times when it felt like the forces of hell were against me. In deciding whether it's my emotions or demonic influence, I look at what's going on in my life and what part that may play.*

*Like dreams, if when I'm struggling with concerns, often a dream comes to help me clarify and find a solution. Or also, often, in something I read or hear preached. So too, with demonic influence. For instance, in writing this book, once the first draft was finished and I ordered a proof copy, there was a sudden whirlwind of craziness in my life. Telling my friend, I'd finished the first draft of the book, she said it was no surprise the devil was attacking me, considering the nature of the book. Oh, right. Why I hadn't thought of it? But that's why we have friends.*

In Western religions, angels are caring creatures and demons are not. However, in many religions, the line separating "good" angels from "bad" is not clear. In Christianity, angels serve God. The Bible tell us angels were created by God, but just not when they were created. They are portrayed as praising God at creation, so clearly, they existed prior to creation. And God challenges Job saying, "Where were you ... when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God [angels] shouted for joy?" (Job 38:4, 7)

In the Nicholas Cage movie, "City of Angels" these so-called angels gathered at dawn on the beach to listen to the rising of the sun, which apparently was music to their ears. The part that does not fit with scripture is the way in which the angels were portrayed, as men in black. As you will see later, angels – at least those in the Bible – are men and generally wear white robes and have glowing faces. This is nothing like what the angels in television dramas and movies are portrayed.

In Judaism, angels (in Hebrew: מַלְאָךְ mal'akh, plural: מַלְאָכִים mal'akhim) are agents of God. ...) This term appears in the Hebrew Bible translated in English it is "angel". It simply means messenger and describes their role as God's servants (Hebrew 1:14).

## BRANDY MARKS

Angels bring messages to God's people (Luke 1:26-27), protect people (Psalm 91:11), and bring down judgment on God's enemies (Matthew 13:49-50), and as we saw in Daniel, they answer prayer. Some see angels as divine beings to be worshiped while the Bible shows angels refusing and insist only God is to be worshiped.

In Revelation John falls at the feet of an angel to worship him, the angel says: "No! I am your fellow Servant and of your brothers who have the testimony of Ye'shua. Worship God ..." (Rev. 19:10) The Blue Letter Bible has an article on angel worship and its source.

First, angel worship was practiced at the time Paul wrote to the Colossians. Paul forbade believers to be engaged in such conduct. Why? There are a few reasons listed:

### *Visions*

People engaged in angel worship after experiencing visions and they then dwelt on these visions, giving them too much attention. And we are warned to beware of the appearance of angels, especially if they are proclaiming a false gospel.

*Even if we or an angel from heaven should proclaim to you a gospel contrary to what we taught you [about Christ], let that one be accursed! ...! (Galatians 1:8,9).*

It's not that Gods heavenly angels would do such a thing and proclaim a false gospel. More than likely, Satan would show up disguised as an angel and bring a false gospel thereby deceiving people. He is the deceiver, after all, the father of lies.

### *Pride*

Those practicing angel worship often were filled with pride - considering themselves more holy because of their visions. This, in turn, brought a false humility. *I tried to share one of my visions with a woman at a ministry so as to understand what I'd seen and she told me not to tell anyone about my visions. Perhaps for this very reason but my vision wasn't even about angels.*

### *Jesus #1*

Instead of dwelling on Jesus they dwelt on angels in visions. This type of thinking was not divine, but human. When you really think about it, being confronted by a genuine angel in all its glory could likely drop you to your knees, a position of worship. Getting up off our knees however and simply being amazed by their glory would, I imagine be quite enough.

## *Negatives*

The worship of angels, as John discovered has negative results because it centers on the creation who or what had been created rather than the Creator and Christ.

## *John*

Once the apostle John was rebuked by an angel when he fell down and attempted to worship the angel.

*I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy" (Revelation 19:10).*

The angel made it clear, only God is to be worshipped and we are never to worship angels whether seen or invisible. Nowadays, angels for the most part are invisible.

## *Reason for Invisibility*

One reason angels remain invisible, if visible, possibly we humans would worship them, they are so amazing. As long as we cannot see angels, directly experience or contact them, then the chance of angel worship is greatly diminished. If we saw them as physical beings we might be too overwhelmed.

Some still believe angels have physical bodies while others say they're purely spiritual and only assume a physical body when needed. And the Old Testament seems to corroborate that, in that, Abraham was visited by three men in white, yet they ate with him and they were angels. It doesn't say they announced themselves as angels, only that Abraham seemed to know they were angels by their appearance.

And likely Abraham's visitors meant to convey intimate fellowship. To eat together was important for fellowship and peace offerings.

When angels appear to people, they resemble normal men. Aside from the Abraham experience, angels appear as men often (Joshua 5:13-14; Mark 16:5), never as a woman. So, either angels clearly are not women or because of the patriarchal society in that day and age, God felt it best to send angels only in the likeness of men. In this way they would be taken seriously.

## BRANDY MARKS

At times, angels appear as other-worldly and not human, as their appearance terrified those who saw them. “Do not be afraid” was a phrase often heard spoken because fear was such a common reaction. The shepherds in the fields in Luke 2 were “sore afraid” when the angel of the Lord appeared and the glory of the Lord shone around them. And the guards of Jesus’ tomb became as dead men when they saw the angel of the Lord (Matthew 28:4).

If I were to see a man in a white robe with a glowing face, I’d be startled if not shocked, even after writing about them; it would indeed be an event to remember.

### *The Word ‘Angel’ - its Origin.*

New Testament writers refer to messengers of God using the Greek noun angelos, for “messenger”; the Old Testament Hebrew uses the term Mal’ahk. In the Scriptures, both words refer to human messengers about as often as to angels or God’s messengers. Below, are examples of the word angelos in the New Testament.

John the Baptist is referred to as angelos in Matthew 11:10. Luke 7:19-24 tells how John had sent messengers to ask Jesus a question. The Devil (the “accuser”) has his messengers, angelois as recorded in Matthew 25:41.

When Peter was miraculously freed from prison and went and knocked on a door, and the young woman Rhoda, recognized Peter’s voice [speaking to her from outside], she ran back in [inside] without opening the door, and joyously told them it was Peter [knocking]. They told her, “You’re crazy.” Yet she insisted what she saw was true. The apostles were convinced it was his angel (Acts 12:13-15); they were clearly mistaken, as noted later.

Most often, in the Bible, people had no problem knowing it was an angel who appeared to them. Actually, angels appear more in the New Testament than in the Old Testament, perhaps because they played such a vital role in the visions of Revelation.

*When he [Abraham] looked up, behold, three men were standing opposite him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth – Genesis 18:2-15*

*Now the angel of the Lord found her [Hagar] by a spring of water .... – Genesis 16:7-14*

*Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening as Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom.*

*When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground. – Genesis 19:1-22*

*Then Jacob .... In a dream saw a ladder that reached from earth to heaven, and God's angels were going up and down on it. – Genesis 28:10-12*

*Moses was pasturing the flock... an angel of the Lord appeared to him from a burning bush. – Exodus 3:1*

*Then the Lord opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the Lord ... – Numbers 22:31-35*

*When Joshua was by Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing with sword drawn and Joshua said, "Are you for us or our adversaries?" "Neither. I am the commander of the Lord's army." The angel said – Joshua 5:13-15*

*The angel of the Lord [God?] came from Gilgal to Bochim and said, "I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land which I have sworn to your fathers; and I said, 'I will never break My covenant with you, – Judges 2:1-4*

*The angel of the Lord came and sat under the oak ... Gideon was beating out wheat in the wine press to save it from the Midianites. – Judges 6:11-24*

*Then the woman came and told her husband, saying, "A man of God came to me and his appearance was like the appearance of the angel of God, awesome. And I did not ask him where he came from, nor did he tell me his name. – Judges 13:6-21*

*When the angel stretched out his hand toward Jerusalem to destroy it, the Lord relented from the calamity and said to the angel .... – 2 Samuel 24:16*

*Daniel spoke to the king, "O king, live forever! My God knew I was innocent, and he sent an angel to keep the lions from eating me." – Daniel 6:21-22*

*And behold, the angel who was speaking with me was going out, and another angel was coming out to meet him, – Zechariah 2:3*

## BRANDY MARKS

In the Old Testament, there are not so many angel appearances, and those which did occur were hundreds of years apart, and yet, they were significant to the events unfolding then.

Angels fulfill a purpose both in heaven and on earth, revealing God's plans and helping fulfill His purposes, which includes fighting a war in the heavens and helping us do what is right so we follow the narrow path set before us.

Aside from writing, as a biblical counselor, clients and I often have conversation about these demons and how we can be influenced by demonic forces and what the Bible says the angels part is in helping us. Clients often realize it is through prayer an angel is then sent by God to lend a hand in certain situations.

And we know, angels respond to the Word of God, so the client needs to have some knowledge of God's word. This, of course, can be achieved through reading and studying the Bible, familiarizing oneself with what it says.

### *Home of Angels\_ Heaven and Hell*

In the Old Testament, the Jews saw earth as the home of humans and Heaven the home of God and His angels. Hell was once reserved for Satan and the angels foolish enough to follow him in rebellion against God. God did not create hell as a place of judgment and suffering for humans but intended it for the punishment of the devil and his angels. However, that changed when sin entered the world.

*“He will say... ‘Go away from me you accursed - into the never-ending fire prepared for the devil and his angels” Jesus said (Matthew 25:41).*

However, humans, created in God's image, are meant to spend eternity in the presence of God, in heaven:

*“In My Father's house are many mansions” Jesus said “if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come and receive you to Myself, so where I am, there you may be also” (John 14:2,3).*

While Hell was not created for us, it soon became the roads-end for those who reject God's salvation in Christ. Jesus also said,

*“You can have life only through the narrow gate. The gate to hell is very wide, and there is plenty of room on that road. Many people go that way” (Matthew 7:13)*

We have a choice to make and trust Gods angels will be there to protect and guide us along the way. But, even so, we also have the scriptures, God's word to show us the way to a life of peace and contentment when we are in obedience to the Lord our God.

After spending years reading and studying the Bible, I still make mistakes and sin, repeatedly in some areas, however, the more one reads the scriptures the easier it gets to allow God to alter my life so I am more obedient to the Lord. Knowing who He is and His purpose for us makes a huge difference.

Nevertheless, let's take a look at the angels in the Old Testament and learn a bit more about them. There were some fascinating events that unfolded prior to the New Testament and angels played a big role in those events.

†



## **ANGELS - OLD TESTAMENT**

An appreciation of the ministry of angels is best revealed in the Old Testament and though not quite common they played a role of great importance both for God and humankind.

Before the Flood the 'Sons of God' (likely angels) shouted for joy at Creation (Job38:7). The 'Cherubim' were placed at the east of the Garden of Eden to guard the way to the tree of life (Gen 3:24) and some believed them to be angels.

And, the 'Sons of God' (not angels) took 'daughters of men' as wives (Gen 6:2). Yet, Jesus says "in the resurrection they [humans] neither marry nor are given in marriage but are like angels [not that they are angels] of God in heaven" (Matt. 22:30)

Angels appear several times in the Old Testament: to Hagar in the wilderness (Genesis 16:7-14), and the same Angel called to Hagar out of heaven (21:17).

Three angels of the Lord came to Abraham (Gen. 18:1-2) and the same three angels came to Lot before the destruction of Sodom (Genesis 19:1-22). Abraham was visited by an angel who prevented him from sacrificing his son, Isaac (Gen. 22:11-18). Later, he was confident an angel would guide his servant to find a wife for Isaac (Gen 24:7, 40), which happened.

Jacob saw angels ascending and descending on a ladder to heaven (Gen 28:12), which then begs the question, if angels have wings would they use a ladder to heaven?

The angel of God told Jacob in a dream, to return to Canaan (Gen. 31:11-13); he was met by an angel on his return (32:1-2); then he wrestled with a man who is called 'the angel' (Gen. 32:24-30; Hosea 12:4). And an Angel redeemed him from evil (Gen. 48:15).

## BRANDY MARKS

When God led Israel out of Egypt through the wilderness and sent an angel before them to guard them on the way (Exo. 23:20-23). The Angel of the Lord came to Balaam's donkey, then to Balaam himself (Numbers 22:22-35). Joshua saw a man and asked 'Are you with us or with our enemies?' He answered, "I am Commander of the Lord's Army" (Joshua 5:13-15).

The Angel of the Lord appears to Gideon (Judges 6:12), and to the parents of Samson (Judges 13:9-16). The 'Angel of the Lord' came to Elijah, slew 185,000 men, and so on, in the Old Testament. Yahweh's angel called to Abraham in Genesis chapter 22 and to Jacob. Nevertheless, have you ever wondered, who is this angel referred to as 'the angel of the Lord'?

### *"The Angel of the Lord"*

The identity of the "angel of the Lord" is not in the Bible, or is it? In reading the Old Testament, we hear about the angel of the Lord several times. But is this an angel like Michael the archangel or a manifestation of deity? Who is this angel?

The first reference to the angel is with Moses who, while tending the flock of his father-in-law, he saw a burning bush and it was not being burned up by the fire. As he approached the bush, he states 'the angel of the Lord' appeared to him *in the flames* of the bush. *The Lord spoke to him* from within the bush; He then identifies Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

As they speak, the entity announces His name, "I AM WHO I AM". 'The *angel of the Lord*' in this instance, identifies Himself as God. In other verses in the Bible those who saw the '*angel of the Lord*' feared for their very lives because they had "*seen the Lord.*" So, the '*angel of the Lord*' clearly was then an appearance of God. And another reference to the angel of the Lord is Zechariah 3:1-10: "Joshua the high priest stood before '*the angel of the Lord*' and Satan stood at his right side to accuse him." This was not God whom Satan accused but Joshua who stood there in filthy rags (sin). Also, there are twelve verses in the Gospels and the Book of Acts, when this phrase is used and the Bible is not referring to God.

Matthew 1:20, 1:24, 2:13, 2:19, 28:2; Luke 1:11, 2:9; John 5:4; and Acts 5:19, 8:26, 12:7, and 12:23.

## **ANGELS – NEW TESTAMENT**

In the New Testament Gospel of Matthew, angels appear as the ministers of God and of revelation (to Joseph in Matt. 1:20, to Jesus in Matt. 4:11, and in Luke 1:26 to Mary, in Acts 12:7 to Peter); and Jesus says angels will be present when he comes in his Father's glory (Mark 8:38, 13:27), and says angels do not marry (Mark 12:25) nor are they given in marriage.

Angels are prominent throughout the book of Revelation, and while Satan never appears before any people, other than Jesus in the wilderness, yet, there are angels in the Bible who do appear before various persons. For instance, the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary as a messenger of her impending pregnancy and later proclaimed Jesus' birth. An angel appears at Jesus' tomb, frightening the Roman guards, rolled away the tomb stone, and the women...

*...they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus, and they did not know what to think. Suddenly two men [angels] in shining white clothes stood beside them. The women were afraid and bowed down. But the men [angels] said, "Why do you look in the place of the dead for someone who is alive? Jesus has been raised from death. Luke 24:2-*

Can you imagine such an astonishing event? Though the eleven disciples at the time didn't believe when told by the women, later and only in the Book of Acts, he prepares them...

*The Holy Spirit will come to you and give you power. Then you will tell everyone about me in Jerusalem, in Judea, Samaria, and everywhere in the world."*

## BRANDY MARKS

*After Jesus said this, while they were watching, he was taken up into a cloud. ...they kept looking into the sky. Suddenly two men [angels] dressed in white clothes were standing there beside them. They said, "Why are you men from Galilee standing here and looking up into the sky? Jesus has been taken to heaven. But he will come back in the same way you have seen him go." Acts 1:8-11*

When imprisoned, an angel put Peter's guards to sleep, released him from chains, and led Peter out of the prison. Angels appear throughout Revelation, as well.

*Christ sent his angel to John to announce that 'John's going to write Revelation' (Revelation 1:1)*

*Angels of the Seven Churches appear (2-4).*

*Angels [Described as Cherubim] around the Throne of God sing "Holy, holy, holy" (4:4-7)*

*A mighty angel asked, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" (5:2)*

*Myriads of angels, praise God (5:11).*

*Angels sound trumpets of destruction all over the Earth (8:7-10:7)*

*Angels gather unbelievers to crush them in a giant wine press (14:19)*

*Angels pour out bowls of plague and death on the [unbelieving] people of Earth (16:2-17)*

While the angel of the Lord in the Old Testament could have been Jesus Himself, the Bible also says the angel of the Lord appeared in New Testament times. Yet Luke identifies the 'angel of the Lord' as Gabriel and not God.

*The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news (Luke 1:19).*

Clearly, in this particular case, the angel of the Lord could not have been Christ/God. And while several other passages mention the 'angel of the Lord' it is apparent it is Gabriel and not the Lord. There are other references, but they indicate nothing new.

## **DOCTRINE OF ANGELS**

Clearly the Bible says angels definitely exist. Thirty-four books out of sixty-six refer to angels. In the New Testament, Christ said there were angels. Matthew 24:31 says:

“He will send His angels [as messengers] with the sound of a great trumpet” (1Thessalonians 4:16) to gather His elect [God’s people - believers] at his 2<sup>nd</sup> coming.” Jesus asked, “Surely you know I could ask my Father and he would send more than twelve legions [3,000-6,000 men as in the ancient Roman army] of angels” (Matt. 26:53) should he feel the need to be defended.

The Bible says God did create angels but not when, because what God did "before the foundation of the world" puts those events outside of time itself. Time and space are human traits, not Gods' - who is not limited by our hours, days, and years. The Bible says "with the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day" (2Peter 3:8). This could mean any number from one 24-hour day to a day that lasts a thousand earthly years of three hundred and sixty-five 24-hour days each, plus leap years, or any amount of days and years in between. Like I said, problematic.

### *Creation of Angels*

We do know God created angels before He created the physical universe. God challenges Job as he describes the angels while He was creating the world:

*"Were you there when I laid the foundation for the earth?  
...What supports its foundation? Who placed the  
cornerstone, while the morning stars sang, and all the  
angels rejoiced?" (Job 38:4-7).*

## BRANDY MARKS

If we consider the function of angels, we might conclude God created the angels prior to our creation because one of their duties is to be "ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation" (Hebrews 1:14). We are those who will inherit salvation when we believe in and make Jesus our Lord and Savior.

We also know angels existed prior to the garden of Eden, because Satan, who was formerly the cherubim Lucifer, was present in the garden in his fallen state. And because another function of angels is to worship God around His throne (Revelation 5:11-14), they may have existed millions of years—as we gauge time—before God created the world, worshipping and serving Him.

So, while the Bible does not state when God created angels, it was before the world was created. And all things were created in the heavens and on the earth, visible and invisible (Colossians 1:16). So, Angels were created before the world then humans (Job 38:6,7) after the foundation of the world with all its plants and animals (Genesis 1:1-31).

### *Fallen Angels*

Angels were created holy yet, we know some left their proper place [of holiness] and these He reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment; (Jude 1:6). So, from this it seems fallen angels are in chains and these angels are not demons who plague humankind. Yet as noted earlier, the Bible says the angels were cast down to the earth with the devil. So, how can the angels be both in chains in darkness and cast down on the earth? Always something to think about and wonder over.

Some believe those angels who fell from heaven did so after two different events: those who fell before the flood and were put in chains in everlasting darkness until the day of judgment, and those who were cast down to the earth with Satan. Different people have different viewpoints on these scriptures too.

*And angels, who did not remain within [the bounds of] their proper authority, but left their own realm, God has kept in perpetual bondage, under darkness, awaiting judgment on the Great Day [when they will be punished].  
—Jude 1:6*

*The great dragon was thrown out [of heaven]; he is the snake from ancient times who is [also] called Devil," and "Satan," the deceiver of the entire world. He was thrown down to earth along with his angels. —Revelation 12:9*

What we do know is Angels are personal and have an intellect: “even the angels in heaven would love to know more” 1Peter 1:12. They have emotions as Luke 15:10 says “there is joy in the presence of the angels of God in heaven when one sinner repents.”

Angels have a will, as some used their freewill to follow Satan and rebel against God and leave heaven, and because of their choice, they are now bound in chains in darkness away from Gods light. Yet other angels are also spirit-messengers:

*Angels [in heaven] are spirit-messengers sent to help and care for those who will receive his [Gods] salvation  
-Hebrew 1:14.*

Spirits appear as men in dreams, Matthew1:20 and with people, Genesis 18:1-8; 22: 19:1; and certain persons as Elisha who had to pray for a servant before the servant could to see the angels. This is a lesson from which we all can learn more on faith.

Those with little or no faith, the smallest of unusual events can seem confusing and fearful. So, we worry and fret, ‘what will I do?’ But with sure faith in Jesus we can rest not in what we can do but in what the Lord can do. Then with Jesus before us and with us we don’t have to see a mountain full of horses and chariots of fire, for we are strengthened by his presence to carry on regardless.

### *Appearance of Angels*

Still, angels clothed in white robes may seem ‘different’ to us or even scary, one angels’ appearance surely was glorious to behold.

*Suddenly there before me stood a person robed in linen garments, with a belt of purest gold around his waist and glowing, lustrous skin! From his face came blinding flashes like lightning, and his eyes were pools of fire; his arms and feet shone like polished brass, and his voice was like the roaring of a multitude. Dan 10:5-6 (TLB)*

How marvelous to see angels such as this standing before us. Have you ever imagined how you would feel were you to experience an actual angel appearing before you, all in white and glowing? And, while we are not to worship angels, we can appreciate them for who and what they are, creations of God, and marvelous to behold. Yet the Bible also tells us the angels in heaven, do not marry (Mark 12:25); and as Jesus said:

## BRANDY MARKS

*“Children now marry and are given in marriage. But those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage. For they can’t die any more, being like angels, and are children of God, and of the resurrection. (Luke 20:34-36)*

Angels have greater knowledge than we humans (Matthew 24:31; Luke 1:13-16) because, let’s face it, they’ve been around a long time, and seen a lot of history. But they have less knowledge (Matt, 24:36) and less power than God, yet, they have more power than humans (2Peter 2:11; Acts 5:19).

### *Worship God*

Angels throughout the Bible, worship God and sing His praises (Rev. 5:8,9). And an angel greeted Mary with “God is pleased with you” saying she would have a child by the Holy Spirit. Mary responded, “I am the Lord’s servant! Let it happen as you have said.” And the angel then left her.

Mary, Jesus’ mother was pledged in marriage to Joseph, when she was found to be with child. Though an angel had told Mary, Joseph her husband wasn’t in on the secret at first. So, thinking she was pregnant by a human male, and being righteous he did not want to expose her to public disgrace, so decided to divorce her quietly.

But God took care of that problem too. An angel of the Lord came to him in a dream and said, ‘Do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for what is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit... Joseph awoke and did what the angel of the Lord had commanded and took Mary home as his wife (Matthew 1:18-25).

Months later, after the birth of the baby, Jesus, some shepherds in the fields had an angel appear among them to say the Savior—the Messiah—had been born tonight!” The angel then was joined by a vast host of other angels —the armies of heaven—praising God: “Glory to God in the highest heaven,” they sang, “and peace on earth for all those who please him.” Then these angels returned again to heaven (Luke 2:6-15).

Wise men from the east came to visit the baby Jesus too after being told about his birth. Afterward, an angel from the Lord came to Joseph and warned him in a dream to take the child and his mother to Egypt and stay until told to return (Matt. 2:18). After Herod died, an angel from the Lord again came in a dream while Joseph was in Egypt and told him they could return to Israel (Matt. 2:19).

An angel from the Lord appeared to Zechariah months before Joseph learned about Mary and the baby Jesus. His prayers concerning his barren wife brought the angel who told him his wife Elizabeth would have a son, John. The angel, Gabriel, said “I was sent to tell you this good news” (Luke 1:11-18).

These are truly amazing events and it’s easy to see why God would send an angel to make these announcements.

Imagine how you would have responded to such news. Of course, in our modern world, it’s much more difficult to accept these sorts of miraculous or extraordinary events. Likely, this is one reason why we see so few miracles, except in 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries.

### *Angels Duties*

Angels as God’s servants cared for Jesus after the temptations (Matt.4:11); they’re messengers (Luke 1:19); they control nature (Rev.7:1; 16:3, 8, 9), affect nations (2 Kings 19:35), deal with Satan and demons (Dan.10:13, 21; 12:1); and they protect God’s people and serve believers (Hebrew 1:14). Some are guardians angels (Matt.18:10), and others answer prayer (Acts 12:7), bringing physical help (Gen 21:17-20; 1Kings 19:5-7).

Angels also assist believers at death (Luke 16:22).

*“And it happened the beggar died and [his spirit] was carried away by angels to Abraham’s side.”*

Angels have a place and purpose in God’s plan for us and there are other ways angels serve God too.

*“Always remember to help people by welcoming them into your home. Some people have done so and have helped angels without knowing it.” (Hebrews 13:2).*

Doesn’t that make you stop to think about how you treat those who knock at the door, even Jehovah’s Witnesses?

Angels also watch over believers.

*“He will give His angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways.” (Psalm 91:11)*

An angel of God does not come at our beck and call, but at the command of God when we pray especially by the scriptures.

## BRANDY MARKS

*“Don’t you know I can appeal [pray] to my Father and He will immediately send over twelve legions of angels to me?” (Matthew 26:53)*

If Jesus felt the need to pray, should not we also!

John Paton, a missionary, tells of angelic protection he received one night. Natives who desired to kill John and his wife, left after John and his wife prayed. Later the chief became a Christian and met John who then asked him, “What happened that night... all of a sudden you left?”

The chief said. “Because of all those men with you, we left.” John said, “There were no men, just myself and my wife.”

Yet, those natives had seen hundreds of men in shining clothes standing guard with swords, completely encircling his home.

Joyce Meyer, in a television broadcast I heard one day, reported a similar event. At one of her teachings, an unbelieving man who came with his wife, said he saw men in white with swords upraised surrounding Joyce whenever she quoted the Scriptures. He thought it was part of the show, but his wife said she saw no one on the stage except for Joyce. Later, as a result of his vision, the man came to believe in Jesus.

What about when tragedy strikes? Where were Gods angels then, you might ask. Jesus said, “In this world you will have troubles, but take heart for I have overcome the world”. God is in the midst of our troubles but we must turn to Him. Even in the Bible, Egypt was in famine and crops didn’t grow; businesses failed.

King David’s child, a result of his adultery died; it was David’s punishment for adultery, though he was forgiven. Ruth lost her husband as did other women. King Hezekiah had a horrible illness and warned by a prophet he would die, he begged not to die and was granted fifteen years longer to live, but even then, his life was a mess. Many question where God is when tragedy strikes and accuse: “God didn’t help” or “God was not there.” Pain hurts, but to believe God is not there, is error. I’ve included in the appendix A Biblical Model of Grief process, which is a quite different from the secular model of the grief process.

While we have freewill, there are accidents in life and people die (2Corinthians 1:3-4). “Praise be to God... who comforts us in all of our troubles so we can [learn to] comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves received from God.” So, we can share our testimony and how Christ helped us in a similar circumstance.

Psalm 34:7 says “The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him and delivers them.” Some say this is Jesus, while others say, the ‘Angel of the Lord’ are divine messengers, protectors surrounding those who fear God.

In thinking the ‘Angel of the Lord’ is Jesus, this comes from when an Angel of the Lord (Gen 22) called to Abraham from heaven (v11) and said when he was about to slay his son “I know you fear God, since you have not withheld your son... from me.”

And again, later he appeared to Moses in a burning bush and said “I am the God of your father – the God of Abraham ... Isaac ... and ... Jacob” (Exodus 3:6).

If the Scriptures are true, why accept the presence of demons and not angels? “It is possible that in a different dimension” Einstein said “a train is coming right through the middle of this room, only we can’t perceive it for it’s in an entirely different dimension.”

And, this room may be filled with angels and maybe a few demons. Just because we can’t see them doesn’t mean they aren’t there. As Milton remarked:

*“Millions of spirit creatures walk the earth unseen...”  
(John Milton)*

In a young man’s vision in 2Kings 6:17, he could not see until Elisha prayed, then he saw the angel army. *“And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha”.*

### *How angels spend their time*

We’ve seen angels involved in life here on Earth, but they also like watching events on earth as they happen! Apparently, angels saw the creation and have been watching ever since.

*“...for we are made a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men.” - 1 Corinthians 4:9*

We are a *spectacle to the world*, men and angels - to all that exists? We like to think that this idea is true, but in what way? What does that mean? Sadly, when the apostle Paul wrote this he was referring to the apostles who like doomed gladiators, were ridiculed, spit on, imprisoned, and beaten and did not live a life of plenty; yet, God glorified His name through them as He used them to build His kingdom. And the angels were watching even then.

## BRANDY MARKS

As well as watching creation, Paul describes the angels watching people like we would watch a sports event at a large stadium, or in the 'Roman Arena' – 1Corinthians 4:9.

Angels also really celebrate when someone becomes a Christian and accepts Jesus into their life! – Luke 15:7, 10

As well as those who watch, there might be special 'watching' class of angel. Angels as 'watchers' are mentioned only once in the Bible in a dream/vision of the Babylonian King, interpreted by Daniel, a Jewish prophet – Daniel 4:13-17.

The king then explained that he saw a messenger, a holy one who, unknown to Nebuchadnezzar, would have been known as an angel sent from heaven. The messenger said the tree was to be cut down, the branches trimmed from the trunk, the leaves stripped off, and the fruit scattered. The animals and birds that found shelter under and in its branches were to scatter.

The word used for 'watcher' comes from the Hebrew for 'to be watchful' or 'on the watch'. It's a positive, active word or action, not simply observing. It also describes them in plural in Ezekiel, so there's likely more than one –Ezekiel 1:18.

Truth be told, angels have been watching the history of the earth since the dawn of creation beings as they've existed long before we were created. However, they don't know what's going to happen or when Jesus will return to the earth – Matthew 24:35-36.

While fascinating, unfortunately, people are a lot more interested in the demons than in Gods angels, maybe because so much in the church depends on what is going on in the world, and perhaps it's one reason why we need to look at Satan.

## **SATAN**

Satan, even before he rebelled, doubtless had a plan in mind and though he lost the battle in the heavens against God, and was thrown down to the earth, he hasn't given up on his plan to take over heaven and put himself on God's throne. The Bible refers to him many times and under many different names. And he's been a busy beaver, or whatever, doing his best to destroy God's people and will use any means to deceive you into believing his lies.

Seven Old Testament books and every New Testament writer refer to Satan including Jesus in Matthew 13:39 and Luke 10:18; 11:18. Like Angels, Satan has a personality, intellect (2 Corinthians 11:3), emotions (Revelation 12:17) and the will to act from to his desires (2 Timothy 2:26).

### *Satan's Many Names*

The Devil (slanderer), Lucifer (son of the morning), Beelzebub (Prince of the demons - Matt.12:24), and Belial (unbeliever - 2 Cor. 6:15), evil one (1John 5:19), tempter (1 Thess. 3:5), prince of this world (John 12:31), god of this age (2 Cor.4:4), prince of the power of the air (Eph.2:2), accuser (Rev.12:10), angel of light (2 Cor.11:14), a serpent (Rev.12:9), and a dragon (Rev.12:3).

Satan was created and highly esteemed, full of wisdom, and beauty (Ezekiel 28:12-14). Now, he is enemy of all that is good and perfect. A murderer (John 8:44), a liar (John 8:44), and accuser (Rev.12:10); he is our adversary (1 Pet.5:8).

Satan wanted to ascend and take over God's throne in heaven but is limited by God (Job.1:12) and is not God's equal (1John 4:4).

## BRANDY MARKS

Satan is not omniscient, omnipotent or omnipresent like God. And when obedient to God, believers can and should resist Satan (James 4:7).

Satan opposes God by encouraging evil, through the world system (1 John 2:13-15) and exploiting our fleshly nature that wars within us (Rom.7:18; Gal.5:19-21). Satan tempts us just as he tempted Christ (Matt.4:1-11), so as to oppose Christ's work (John 8:44; Matt.16:23; Luke 22:31).

Satan blinds our minds and hinders believers understanding of the gospel (2 Corinthians 4:4). He knows he is powerless in the face of the Word, so it is our job to know the Word.

Satan tempts believers (pride, 1Chronicles 21:1-8; greed, John 2:15, James 5:1-7; immorality, 1Cor.7:5; deception, Acts 5:3; discouragement, 1Pet.5:6-10; our hardened hearts not forgiving, 2Cor, 2:10,10), and hinders believers ministries, encourages false teaching (1John 4:1-4) encourages anger, bitterness and division (Eph.4:26,27; 2 Cor.2:5-11).

Satan truly works overtime to destroy believers and their faith, and he generally uses his demons to do his dirty work.

### *Where did Satan come from?*

Satan's history is described in the Bible in Isaiah 14:12-15 and Ezekiel 28:12-19. These two passages also reference the king of Babylon, the King of Tyre, and the power behind the kings.

So, why was Satan cast from Heaven? His pride from his desire to rule over God instead of being a servant of God caused him to rebel and be cast out of heaven. In pride, he desired to be God and so, God tossed Satan out of heaven.

### *Who is Satan?*

Satan all too often is shown as a red, horned, trident-carrying villain. What he looks like may have come from the way seraphim are described, 'burning ones' and shown holding a flaming sword, though God once called Satan a Cherubim.

His existence is not a fantasy, however. The same book that tells of Jesus' life and death (Genesis 3:1-16, Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11) reveals Satan's true self, and Satan, a Cherubim, poses as an "angel of light," deceiving people as he did Eve in the garden of Eden (Genesis 3).

Jesus testified of Satan's existence. During His ministry, He personally faced temptation from the devil (Matthew 4:1-11), cast out demons who possessed people (Luke 8:27-33), and defeated Satan at the cross.

With Jesus Christ on our side, we need not fear Satan's power (Hebrew 2:14-15), but we must be wise so we can resist his strategies to defeat us:

*"For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world.*

*On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ"* (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).

Satan wants us denying, fearing, obeying, or worshiping him. Without God's word firmly planted in our mind and heart, he'll deceive us (Ephesians 6:10-11) in any way he possibly can.

### *Satan's seduction*

In our rational age, often, spiritual beliefs are scorned as myth. Satan loves it if you deny the reality of demons. By disguising his demons and himself, he deceives people and tempts them to believe there is no God no heaven or hell. Never forget Satan and his demons are determined to deceive you and you are fighting real battles and wars against him and his spiritual forces.

Satan compels or entices people to follow him even when they don't realize it. Maybe you are simply confused or pride leads you to believe you're in control. Or maybe you prefer to believe human scientific theory rather than obey divine revelation and natural law. Whether blind, bound, or flat out willing, if you join Satan you have already condemned yourself to eternity in hell.

Satan may be more powerful than us, but, we are not powerless (Ephesians 6:10-11). Yet, to utilize our god given power, we must "submit to God, then resist the devil, and he will flee from you" James 4:7. God can rebuke the devil, for at the Lord's rebuke, Satan and his demons shudder and flee (James 2:19; Jude 1:9). We are not to rebuke him but like the archangel, Michael we can say, "God rebuke you, devil."

## *What's His Game?*

The devil wants to hijack God's people so, he introduces subtle destructive deceptions. These deceptions are easy to for some to embrace even though they are not in Scripture, as he makes them seem reasonable because they appeal to insecurity and fear.

Let me give you a classic example. I'm writing this here book called "Angels and Demons" and while reading an article by Jack Graham, as I begin to read what Graham's written, I'm beset by doubt and negative thoughts that go something like: *My writing is nowhere near as good; No one will want to read what I've written; My book is so inadequate; and so goes the litany of doubt and insecurity - much to the devils delight, no doubt.*

And part of me wants to give up and stop writing. On the other hand, there's another spiritual force at work in my life as well, God's angelic forces fighting the battle between good/God and evil/Satan. And whether my book is as good as Jack Grahams is not the point. The point is, God prompted me to write about spiritual things and so, write I will. Maybe I'm not as good a writer as some authors, but one day, if I persist, I may be. What makes me think that way? Well, because I trust God who works all things together for the good of those who love him and are obedient when fulfilling the purposes for which He has called them.

You see, the more the enemy can confuse the church - that's us believers - not a building of glass and stone - about the Holy Spirit, the more he can influence us into doubting His presence. Another lie is our believing controversial ungodly doctrines rather than what the Bible plainly states.

The Spirit of God empowers believers, a restraining force keeping back the darkness in the earth. But if Satan can confuse the people with controversial ungodly doctrine we either tolerate or ignore, he gains more influence over us.

Satan hates the Holy Spirit because if you embrace the idea that you are filled with the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead you become a spiritual force to reckon with. Then you begin thinking, speaking, and acting like people possessed by God. And Satan is not going to be happy with that situation.

And so, the enemy persistently perpetuates lies about the Spirit and has done so since his fall. This causes division and controversy. What controversial doctrines, you ask?

Everything from speaking in tongues to modern-day miracles to being “slain in the Spirit”; these are all fair game for criticism and debate keeping us away from the truth, Christ Jesus. All the while, darkness is gaining ground because of Satan’s lies.

There is another lie among people of God obstructing us from embracing the supernatural that is the part of every believer. The very word, supernatural brings up images of Hollywood and its lies, no doubt perpetuated by the devil. Who else?

Supernatural defined:

Webster’s Revised Unabridged Dictionary

(a.) Being beyond, or exceeding, the power or laws of nature; miraculous.

Unearthly and unnatural are other synonyms that could describe God and his angels, and the devil and his angels. Nonetheless, to imagine God and his angels to be natural to everyday life is exactly what God would have us do. Because they are beyond or exceed the very laws of nature, and is what makes miracles possible. And, to believe in the impossible is what makes life worthwhile. If we could not believe beyond what we know by what our eyes see, what good is faith and what hope?

Aside from Hollywood’s *Supernatural* series, another perpetuated lie is the Holy Spirit is too loving to speak harshly to a believer. He wouldn’t dream of making us feel awkward or uncomfortable. That’s a lie, of course, because God is not interested in our comfort or anyone else’s; rather he’s concerned with His kingdom.

When Jesus healed the sick or drove out demons or confronted the hypocrisy of the Pharisees, he wasn’t concerned with his comfort and certainly not theirs. His only concern was God’s kingdom, which he spoke of 54 times in Matthew alone; 19 times in Mark; 44 times in Luke; and three times in John (John is the gospel of love). Sounds like he thinks it’s important, right?

This false idea about the Holy Spirit has put a cramp on what we expect from God in our lives, our churches and in our world today. As C.S. Lewis wrote of Aslan, “He’s not a tame lion, but he is good.” Yes, the Holy Spirit comes to faithfully represent Jesus who is kind, compassionate, gentle and caring. But he is also a King, a Warrior and a Conqueror. While He blesses little children one moment He’ll cast out devils the next.

## BRANDY MARKS

Consider the scriptural accounts when the Holy Spirit comes upon the judges and the prophets with great power in Old Testament, anointing them for supernatural deeds. On the Day of Pentecost, He enters the room as a mighty rushing wind (Acts 2:2-3) and He wants to bring heaven's revolution upon us, a mighty rushing wind. Nonetheless, for this to happen, we have to get out of his way and allow it to occur, but first in obedience to the Lord, resist the devil so he's out of the way as much as possible.

### *The Devil and the Holy Spirit*

1. At Jesus baptism, the Holy Spirit came upon Him like a dove (Luke 3:22).

And ... the old serpent, called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world; (Revelation 12:7).

2. Father of Lies versus the Spirit of Truth

Jesus called Satan the father of lies, while the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth (John 8:44).

When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth; (John 16:13).

3. Mute Spirit or Praise to God

Satan possesses a human, to keep that person silent. (Matt 9:32).

The Holy Spirit loosens the tongue of the believer to praise God. (Ephesians 5:18,19).

4. Murderer or Life-Giving Spirit

Satan [the devil] was a murderer from the beginning (John 8:44).

But, it is the spirit who gives life.... Jesus said (John 6:63)

5. Slanderer and Advocate

The Devil is a slanderer - the accuser of believers ... (Rev 12:10).

The Holy Spirit is the Advocate for the believer.

... we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus ... (1 John 2:1).

6. Search Deep Things of God

The Holy Spirit searches the "deep things" of God. (1 Cor 2:10).

Satan also has "deep things" but doesn't work alone. He has a host of demons who do most of his dirty work for him.

## **DEMONS IN THE BIBLE**

Demons, some believe are fallen angels who fell with Satan in his rebellion against God. A description of the fall of Satan and his angels can be found in Revelation 12:9, which says:

*"The great dragon [Satan] was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world – he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels ... with him."*

Satan's fall is shown, symbolically, in Isaiah 14:12-15 and Ezekiel 28:16. And Revelation 12:4 says a third of the angels fell with him. The sin of the angels is also in Jude 1:6-7, comparing their sins to those of Sodom and Gomorrah's sexual immorality.

Angels, who did not remain within [the bounds of] their proper [Gods] authority, but left their own realm, God has kept in perpetual bondage, under [thick] darkness, awaiting judgment on the Great Day [when they will be punished].

So, similarly, Sodom and Gomorrah, and their surrounding towns had abandoned themselves to sexual immorality ... (Jude 1:6-7)

What is the purpose of demons? Satan and his demons slander God's name to bring about the destruction and deception of all who serve God (1 Peter 5:8; 2Corinthians 4:4, 11:14-15).

The Bible calls demons "evil spirits" and "unclean" (Mark 1:27) yet, the fallen angels are never referred to as demons (Rev. 12:9b) though they clearly went with Satan against God so we know for sure they're not good angels.

Satan and his demons attack Christians (2Cor. 12:7; 1Peter 5:8) and do battle with God's angels (Revelation 12:4-9).

## BRANDY MARKS

God's angels are spirit beings that sometimes take on physical form (2Cor. 11:14-15) yet demons do not, except in movies. And if Satan can disguise himself as an angel of light, his demons may disguise themselves as ministers of righteousness and overpower ungodly unbelievers as in Acts 19:13-16, quite easily.

But what about believers in Christ Jesus? What influence does Satan and his demons have over those humans?

### **Demonic Influence in Our Lives**

One author said demons can enter as a squatter, not as an owner or a guest for he has no right to be there. Rather he is an intruder, an invader and an enemy. But come he can only do so if the door is opened by serious and/or lingering sin.

Satan hates believers and his plan for their life is destruction. If he cannot rob a believer of eternal life, he will do his best to deprive you of joy, influence, and rewards from serving God. Since Satan cannot be in more than one place at a time, however, he has a truck load of demons to do his dirty work; they are the ones who discourage, distract and deceive by any means possible.

### **Thunder and Lightning**

Satan as "ruler of this world" (John 12:31) and "prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2) he and his demons have control, to some extent, over the elements of nature such as wind and rain, and fires caused by drought, etc. How we respond to tragedies brought about by the elements depends on different factors.

Having my home destroyed by fire in 2007, nothing is more traumatic than seeing your home and your possessions destroyed. While the fire, from my perspective, seemed to be a God-send and helped me get my fixer-upper house rebuilt, it could have been Satan (or one of his "demons") who directed the fires start like the "great wind" that collapsed the home of Job's oldest son, resulting in the deaths of all Job's children (Job 1:19).

No one died in my house fire, yet it was still a disaster and had a profound effect on me then. And while Satan may be responsible for such disasters we have a choice in how we respond to the event. Yet, we have to understand God works all things together for good, for those who love Him and are called according to his purpose. So, even if a disaster is caused by Satan and his demons, it's best if we trust in God greater purpose in what happened.

## **Disease and Illness**

While disaster do happen and Satan may be responsible at times, to blame every illness or diseases on demon activity is illogical and not biblical. Some illnesses are the result of sin-infested bodies. Other times, our diseases come about through poor choices: poor eating habits, no exercise, addictions such as alcohol, drugs, nicotine, or ice cream and cheesecake (love the stuff).

Though not all illnesses and diseases are caused by Satan and his demons, Jesus made it clear in the gospels, some were allowed for Gods glory, like the man who was born blind. Jesus said it was so the works of God could be seen in his life. –John 9:1-3.

## **Emotional and Mental**

Not all mental illness can be blamed on demons. And our thoughts and emotions are from a series of electrical and chemical impulses in the brain. When the brain does not function properly, drugs can help restore the natural balances God intended. Yet, our thoughts and emotions are more than a series of electrical and chemical impulses, so drugs alone are not the answer.

There's a very real, spiritual component influencing both thoughts and emotions. And this spiritual component can help anxiety: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God, and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).

Thus, if spiritual effort like prayer can influence our thoughts by removing or reducing anxiety, then it is reasonable to conclude there are also other spiritual influences (such as demonic) that can get control of our minds and emotions. While not all mental disorders are caused by external spiritual forces such as demons or angels, some are quite possibly.

For example, the man in Luke 8 who was controlled by a legion of demons; he refused to wear clothes; he withdrew from society; he made strange sounds, and he displayed self-harming behaviors. These were symptoms that today would warrant a serious mental health diagnosis and likely land him in the mental ward. Yet as soon as the demons left the man there was a radical change in his mental state and his behavior. He was able to converse with Jesus; he put on clothing; and he wanted to go with Jesus.

## BRANDY MARKS

*"The people went out to see what had happened; and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting down at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they became frightened. Those who had seen it reported to them how the man who was demon-possessed had been made well" (Luke 8:35-36).*

This man's mental health was not restored after years of counseling or therapy or even drug treatment, because his problem was not physical or emotional; it was spiritual. So, clearly biblical counsel and appropriate drug therapy can bring emotional healing to people and I'm equally certain God would not object, but all things in moderation. Clearly, there is a spiritual component to mental disorders that should not be ignored. While medications for some should be short term while a client learns better coping skills, some may require longer drug treatment.

I've seen clients in counseling with spiritual issues they deny or behavior patterns they fail to address or complete the homework assigned that would help alter the faulty behaviors. Many people are looking for the quick fix and so they seek out the professional who will supply a bottle of pills.

### **Social Support**

Demons can use people to discourage, distract, and deceive us too, and they have the ability to use humans to persecute and murder Christians. John attributes the slaughter of God's people during the Great Tribulation, yet to come, to demonic activity (see Revelation 18:2,24). Similar persecutions are evident throughout history and continue in many parts of the world today.

### **The Solution**

While a believer cannot be possessed by a demon, one can be influenced or oppressed by demons. Any area of your life you give over to Satan, leaves you vulnerable to being controlled by Satan and his demonic forces. Nature abhors a vacuum and this applies to the spiritual realm. Jesus spoke of the person who cleans his house but when he leaves it empty, demons seven times stronger return. So, even if you kick out the demons, some spiritual force will come and fill your life if you don't fill it with the Word of God and Christ. Any area wherein the Holy Spirit does not reside – finances, marriage, work, and morality – or not directed by the Holy Spirit is vulnerable to demonic influence.

The key is to make sure every area of our lives is filled with the Holy Spirit and controlled by God.

(Adapted from an article on The Divine Defense by Robert Jeffress, Waterbrook Press, 2006)

Nonetheless, the Bible in the Old and New Testament tells us how to deal with temptation and demonic influences.

*Let all who take refuge in you rejoice, let them always shout for joy, because you defend them. Let them who love your name be joyful in you. For you will bless the righteous. Yahweh, you will surround him with favor as with a shield. Psalm 5:11-12*

Those who are corrupted with lusts of the flesh (physical desires: pornography, gluttony, and others) and despise authority. They are self-willed and are not afraid to speak against God and His angels, while angels, who are greater in strength and power, refuse to speak against demonic powers to condemn them before the Lord. They know...

*"Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places [the devil and demons]" (Ephesians 6:12).*

God has allowed Satan power and influence on the earth, for now, but within God's control. Satan prowls around like a lion in search of prey, looking for victims to devour (1Peter 5:8). Unbelievers are under control of the devil (Acts 26:18; 2Cor. 4:4). Christians are no longer a slave to sin, however (Romans 6:6-7) but are not immune to temptations. So, the devil invites them into sin with trickery and through natural human inclinations.

While believers do not have the authority to rebuke the devil, we do have an alternate method for dealing with the devil.

First of all, we must "Submit to God. [Then] Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). Zechariah 3:2 says the Lord is the one who rebukes Satan. Nonetheless, there are many other ways in which we can fight against the powers of darkness. Using spiritual warfare and the whole armor of God, for one. However, in *Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices*, Thomas Brooks offers these ten strategies the Christian can use to resist Satan's temptations; and they are paraphrased below.

## BRANDY MARKS

1. *The Word.* Make the Word of God your guide and authority and live in obedience to all and it will keep you walking straight and guard you from all manner of temptation.

2. *Grieve the Holy Spirit.* The Holy Spirit helps us to discern Satan's temptations and to see how he's manipulating life's circumstances behind the scenes. If you grieve the Holy Spirit, you drive off the one who guards you against Satan's attacks.

3. *Wisdom.* There is a difference between knowledge and wisdom, between acquiring facts and applying Scripture to life wisely. It is not the Christian with the most knowledge, but the Christian with the most wisdom, who is equipped to battle Satan's temptations.

4. *Resist Temptation.* It is safe to resist temptation and dangerous to dabble in it. God says we can resist *temptation*. Once you begin to dabble in the sin, it's a lost cause. Temptation is not sin, going along with the temptation is when sin occurs.

5. *Fill Up on the Spirit.* The Spirit's light shines against the darkness of sin and his power will overcome all evil and temptation. When it resisting Satan's temptations, have a heart filled with the Spirit rather than a head filled with facts.

6. *Humility.* A humble heart would rather lie in the dust than rise to prominence in sin, which means you prefer to lose everything than to sin against God and be left with a guilty conscience. The humble person is neither drawn in by what Satan offers, nor terrified by his threats and has confidence in God not self.

7. *On Guard.* A secure soul is in a position to be led astray and ensnared. So, watch carefully for temptations, or you will certainly fall under its power. Alcohol, prescription drugs, and the scantily clad young lady, or healthy male strutting along the street can be easy on the eyes and lead one quickly into temptation and sin.

8. *Commune with God.* Join in communion with God to receive his strength to resist Satan's attacks. If tempted, you will not easily be conquered. Take God's grace upon you.

9. *In Your Own Strength.* We draw the power to resist sin in Jesus Christ and do this ongoing throughout the day. Communicate with God in prayer, be on guard, be humble-do all of these things! But do not rely on them in the battle; instead, rely on Christ.

10. *Pray Constantly.* Keep God in your thoughts and tell Him of your inability to manage temptation, your weaknesses, and lean on his grace, asking God to deliver you from temptation.

### *How Does the Devil Do It?*

Ever wonder how the fallen angels were ensnared by Lucifer when they were in heaven? I have. My guess is, those earlier angels who rebelled with Satan let themselves be enticed by Satan's sweet talk of power and privilege. Here we have the lowly angels next to the powerful cherubim whose grandeur may have overwhelmed those angels who longed to be more like him. He merely was the gang leader who convinced them he was 'the one'.

So, how then do we defeat the devil if even the angels were under his influence, or at least a third of them? Michael, a most powerful and an archangel, even did not dare to accuse Satan, but declared, "The Lord rebuke you" when the two of them were arguing about the body of Moses (Jude 1:9).

So, in response to Satan's attacks, we must appeal to Christ. Rather than trying to defeat the devil, keep your eyes on Christ (Hebrews 12:2) and trust He will defeat the evil. The most effective weapons we have is our faith and knowledge of the Word. Scripture is our strongest ally. It's what Jesus turned to when tempted.

Many illustrations picture "demons" in a way not very real. These are intelligent and powerful beings who are led by a very powerful created being (Jude 1:9), Satan, whose example they follow. Were demons to appear as the evil beings they really are (like Hollywood attempts to portray), well, likely it would hinder their mission of deception and temptation. We'd be too terrified of their ugly to do anything but run, and not be taken in by them. Their deception is subtle and very convincing, like some sales men.

### *The Devil and His Angels in Appearance*

Satan's name Lucifer was described like a bright morning star when he was created by God, there was nothing like him in all of God's creation. He was the greatest of all God's creation. A Cherubim he walked among the stones of fire on God's holy mountain, until he sinned in his pride and lusted after God's position. Not satisfied with who he already was, as created, he wanted more and more. The name Satan means "the accuser" and that's how the Bible describes him – as the accuser of God's people.

*"For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night" – Revelation 12:10.*

## *An Image of Power and Beauty*

In Ezekiel 28:1-10 the downfall of the Prince of Tyre is described as his pride, wisdom, and wealth in verses 1-6, and vv. 7-10 describe his destruction as being similar to the devil's destruction when all his power is removed. And Verse 9 challenges the prince and mocks him as a pretender just as was Satan.

*"Will you still say before him who slays you, 'I am a god'?  
But you shall be a man, and not a god, In the hand of him  
who slays you.*

Then, the Word compares his downfall with Satan:

*"Thus, says the Lord God, you had the seal of perfection,  
Full of wisdom and perfection. You were in Eden, the  
garden of God [so we know it is not the prince of Tyre to  
whom he speaks]; Every precious stone was your covering:  
The ruby, the topaz, and the diamond; The beryl, the  
onyx, and the jasper; The lapis lazuli, the turquoise, and  
the emerald; And the gold, the workmanship of your  
settings and sockets, was in you. [was he not gorgeous?]*

*"On the day you were created they were prepared. You  
were the anointed cherub who covers, and I placed you  
there. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked  
in the midst of the stones of fire. You were blameless in  
your ways from the day you were created until  
unrighteousness was found in you." – Ezekiel 28:12b-17*

So, Satan was "the anointed cherub who covered" the very throne of God. And he was perfect and "blameless". In this description we see all the precious stones ever created were a covering: gold, emeralds, etc. He was "full of wisdom and beauty" but clearly being so high up, he became prideful; his pride lifted up his self-worth to reveal his "unrighteousness".

## *The Origin of the Word 'Demon'.*

The English word "demon" is from the old Greek nouns daimôn and daimonion and in Greek it means (small g) "god", "goddess", "the gods", "deity" and "divine power".

In the New Testament, the term demon is used of wicked spirits who possess a human, often. Jesus and his apostles freed many people possessed by demons. Many today struggle to believe they can be possessed yet, unbelievers can be possessed by demons.

People may think of demons as ugly beings that are pure evil and they don't see how these demons can live within them. Often, the name of a demon tells what it does, its function, or the role it plays. Some demons are known as deaf, dumb, infirmity, and so on. (Mark 9:25, Luke 13:11).

Satanic demons in witchcraft are evil, and obvious. As an atheist and into witchcraft and the dark arts, I guarantee there is nothing good or righteous about its use. Unbelievers who're delivered, but have not accepted Jesus, those demon can return with seven even worse ones. If you are a believer and the demons were kicked out, then their legal right is broken, so, this isn't a concern. However, if you re-open the door and let the demon in (via pornography or other sins), you have invited it back. But if you keep your hedge of protection secure, you don't have to worry about it.

Other demons are the opposite of the fruit of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. These are not our fruit, but the Holy Spirits within us. Demons opposed to the fruit of the Spirit would be hate, despair, unrest, impatience, evil, faithlessness, rude and undisciplined. But there is a difference between being possessed by a demon and being oppressed and/or influenced by a demonic spirit.

Possession is when a demon has direct/complete control over the thoughts or actions of a person (Matthew 17:14-18; Luke 4:33-35; 8:27-33). Oppression or influence is when demons attack a person spiritually and encourage or tempt sinful behavior. So, what to do?

The New Testament says to cast demons out (Mark 16:17) of unbelievers, and we believers are to resist the devil (James 4:7; 1Peter 5:8-9) then he will run from us. Believers cannot be demon possessed but can be influenced by demons.

### *Demonic Spirits.*

Sinful emotions thoughts and feelings are not our own. Yet we are to be transformed by renewing our minds so we choose to think good thoughts not critical thoughts. These are powerful and we must retrain our thought to be always focused on God!

*I have treasured Your word in my heart, so I might not sin against You. (Psalms 119:11)*

Like David, speak the Word, and meditate on His laws, and do as He says and never forget His word. (Psalms 119:13-16)

### *How does the devil do it?*

When we ignore God's Word and do not pray, His angels cannot do the work they were designed to do. So\_\_

*Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you heard of, and is already in the world (1 John 4:1-3, NKJV).*

Anti-Christ is about self: self-indulgence, self-promotion, self-pity, self-will, and self-want; "I want, want, want and I want it now." If you are not walking in the fruit of the Spirit then you still have sin and demonic influence in your flesh.

*For I do not do the good I want to, but I do the evil [things] I do not want to do (Romans 7:18).*

Once you make Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior, your spirit, which houses the Holy Spirit rules over your soul. This doesn't mean you can't sin, rather you have Christ's spirit helping you to not sin the more you stay in the word and obedient to it.

†

## **DEMONS IN THE WORLD**

*“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation... these signs will follow those who believe. In my name they will cast out demons...” (Mark 16:15-18)*

*“Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee... the Spirit of the Lord is upon Me for He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor, He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty the oppressed, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.” (Luke 4:14-18)*

*“I give you the authority to trample on serpents and ... over all the power of the enemy...” (Luke 10:19)*

*“He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons ....” (Luke 9:1)*

Every time Jesus gave His disciples the power and then commanded them to go out and walk with His anointing, He always told them to cast out demons as one of His specific commands - no exceptions! If Jesus cast demons out and *always* told the disciples to cast out demons, and they always cast out demons, then we should also. But how exactly do you cast out a demon?

### ***Casting Out Demons***

How would you go about casting out a demon? How would you even know a person was under the influence or possessed by a demon?

Right now, I'm thinking of a new client, whom I recently saw, who had such bizarre behavior it seems certain she is demon possessed.

## BRANDY MARKS

Gnashing of teeth, moaning and groaning as she paced the hall outside my office. Once she entered the office, everything seemed to offend her. She stayed but bitterly complained and thought the questions on the intake form were 'religious' and judgmental. And at the time, I didn't know what to do so I simply listened and did my best to answer any questions she had.

Is there a good way to manage it as 2Timothy 2:20-26 indicates? Possibly. And using a biblical model usually helps. 2Timothy is one example, but we're also told to confess our faults to one another and confront one another in love - to challenge demonic spirits or faulty thinking and behavior. But with this woman nothing seemed to make a difference and I never saw her again.

Nonetheless, you may see a demonic power so deliberate and so in control of a person that an extraordinary intervention is needed. I've seen some who I was certain were under demonic influence and I've read about others so, it is much more common than one imagines. This is especially true when you're in places where they are more explicitly demon-driven than we might experience.

Still in the above passage, teaching and love and patience and God's sovereignty—praying he'll intervene—is the normal way Timothy is being told to free people from the devil.

It's doubtful one needs to engage in spiritual warfare doing exorcisms. Rather be faithful, loving, humble, and repenting – and a lover of people. Satan is a liar and a murderer, and he will not abide love or the truth. So, if you are a truth-giver and a deep, self-sacrificing lover, you will win.

Revelation 12:11 says, “they overcame the devil by the blood of the lamb, and the word of their testimony for they loved not their lives even unto death.” What does that say?

I know I overcome the devil by the gospel, by believing in the Word and by applying and teaching and preaching the Word of God, and then sacrificially dedicating to people's lives so I was willing to go the extra mile and not run away from a situation. I've not yet been in a life and death situation, so cannot attest to such. When the former happens, Satan is defeated.

Demons are real, as is Satan, and every biblical counselor needs to understand the devil, his ways and the demons' ways and decide how she or he will deal with them. Because there is an attack on the church in various forms all the time we must know what to do. Yet, once the demon is removed, what then?

*“When an unclean spirit goes out of a person, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. Then he goes and takes with him seven others more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there;” Matthew 12:43*

In becoming a believer, the first step is to repent, get rid of sin in one’s life and fill ourselves with God’s Word and the Holy Spirit. Unfilled and complacent people are easy targets for Satan.

*God’s firm foundation stands: “The Lord knows those who are his”*

*“Let everyone who names... the Lord depart from unrighteousness.”*

*[some] vessels of gold and of silver, but others wood and clay. Some are for honor and some for dishonor.*

*If one purges self from the dishonorable, the person will be for honor, sanctified, and suitable for God’s use, prepared for every good work.*

To do this one must:

*Flee lust; pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace with those who call on the Lord with a pure heart.*

*Refuse foolish questions, which generate strife.*

*Lord’s servant must not quarrel, be gentle towards all, able to teach, patient, gently correcting opposition:*

*[and] perhaps God may give them repentance leading to a full knowledge of the truth, and*

*they may recover themselves out of the devil’s snare, having been taken captive by him to his will.*

*—2Timothy 2:19-26*

Having done all to evict Satan, when a person fails to replace a sinful life with a godly life, Satan is there to tempt that person back into sin. When we resist him and his demons, and their temptation they move on to more receptive people.

Now, let’s look at some references to demons:

- Demons have no body and can enter a human body (Mark 5:8), the body of unbelievers.

## BRANDY MARKS

- Demons can possess unbelievers (Luke 8:30); and fallen angels do not or cannot.
- Demons are imprisoned in the Abyss (Luke 8:30-31); fallen angels are kept in Sheol (2Peter 2:4, Jude 6) awaiting judgment.

In the Hebrew Scriptures, the word for the realm of the dead is Sheol. It is “place of the dead” or “place of departed souls.” The New Testament is hades, also a reference to “the place of the dead.” The Greek word Gehenna is in the New Testament for “hell” and is from the Hebrew word Hinnom. Other are Sheol where souls await the resurrection. The souls of the righteous, at death, go directly into the presence of God— “heaven” or “paradise.”

Demons roam the earth (Matt 12:43); fallen angels [actually spirit forces] rule in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:12 says *we fight not against flesh and blood, but the principalities, powers, world rulers of the darkness of this age, and against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.* With such differences, it’s clear these are not the same entities. We know fallen angels are in chains - locked up. So, demons are the ones causing temptation and trials for believers.

Yet Jesus disarmed the demons, principalities and powers on the cross. Colossians 2:15 is where principalities and powers are spoken of, and in Romans 8:38 with angels. When we evict Satan and his demons and input the Word of God, they have no power over a us. Who would want to give themselves over to the devil? Anyone? No. So it’s reasonable to assume most who do are unaware or perhaps they want to belong somewhere even if it’s in hell.

### *Principalities and Powers*

The Apostle Paul instructs us to put on our spiritual armor because our battle in this world is "spiritual". A warfare that involves the devil; it’s a spiritual and not a human battle. Humans do play a role with the schemes of the devil, but they are being used for the purposes of accomplishing evil. And so, we must learn to overcome evil. How? With good, Jesus said as did 2Timothy. Evil spirits are the power behind those who oppose the things of God.

*Our struggle is not [actually] against humans, but against rulers and authorities and leaders of this world’s darkness, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. – Ephesians 6:12*

As we've seen, there's more than one type of evil spirit. The Bible also uses terms like *unclean* or *evil spirit*. And the New Testament speaks of principalities and powers, and depraved entities which seem to crave a body to possess even a pig. So, it's clear these demons aren't fallen angels, but simply evil spirits. Why would an angel fallen or otherwise want to be in a human body unless it enabled the spirit to commit sinful acts impossible for a spiritual being? It's hard to really grasp the depraved nature of an evil spirit.

Evil spiritual forces that interact with humanity could include many types of malicious beings: fallen angels, evil spirits, and others. Perhaps some of these spirits influence events on a cosmic level as principalities and powers, while the others simply want to cause problems at the earthly level and harass, oppress and "possess" individuals, for instance.

The battle is against these demonic forces, against evil spirits who wield great power. Though we cannot see them, we are constantly surrounded by wicked spirit-beings. While they cannot indwell a true believer, they can oppress and harass us. Yet, we should not fear demons for with the armor of God being ours, we have all we need to hold up against this enemy.

### *Armor of God*

Belt of truth is God's word and when the father of lies, Satan attacks with his lies, half-truths, and distortions, we believers can stand firm in the truth of God's word. Of course, to do this one must know the Word. The breastplate of righteousness is evidence we're right with God and this righteousness is of the Holy Spirit. On our feet the good news of Christ's sacrifice is our salvation and means we walk in the truth and not just talk about it.

The shield of our faith protects us against the devils lies. It means believing in God's promises even when we don't see them in real life yet. Fiery arrows: temptation, doubt, wrath, lust, despair, vengeance, problems, and trials into our lives, our shield of faith stops them. We have to lift it up and hold it firmly.

Faith gives us the strength to stand against Satan with courage. With our helmet of salvation protecting us when the devil tries to get us to doubt our salvation, which God has promised. Powers and principalities cannot defeat us if our faith is firmly in place, and make the choice to not waver in doubt.

## BRANDY MARKS

To be under the power of spiritual hosts such as a demon who rule the world's kingdoms and oppose the truth of God, is not a good place to be. Satan is the chief prince or ruler, of both the world system and its organization of demons.

In Matthew 12:24, the devil is "Beelzebub" - lord of the dwelling to which these evil spirits are subject and operate under Satan's dominion. They, like their chief prince, direct, control, rule and carry out the present darkness of this world.

Daniel is visited by an angel in response to his prayer to God. The angel, sent in answer to Daniel's prayer, was delayed twenty-one days because of a battle between God's angel and "a prince of the kingdom of Persia." But Michael, the archangel came and helped out so Gabriel could get the answer to Daniel.

Romans 8:38-39 says, I am convinced neither death, not life, [evil] angels, rulers, present or future [situations], powers, [things] above or below, any created thing can separate us from God [His love for us], revealed through Christ Jesus. A powerful statement and one to keep constantly in mind.

†

## **DOCTRINE OF DEMONS**

The Holy Spirit states in later times [Usually refers to before the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ and the establishing of Gods kingdom on earth], some people will fall away from the faith.

They will give attention to deceitful spirits [lying people] and the teaching of evil spirits. Such teaching will be spread by liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron making them insensitive to their guilt.

They will forbid people to marry and will require them to avoid certain foods, which God created for us to be eaten with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

*Everything created by God is permitted [to be eaten] and should not be refused, if received with gratitude, for it is consecrated [made acceptable] by the word of God and prayer – 1 Timothy 4:1-5*

### ***Unclean Spirits***

Unclean spirits are well documents in Matthew 10:1, and spiritual forces of evil in Ephesians 6:12). When Satan fell, many angels followed him (demons are not fallen angels but may be unclean spirits) – Rev.12:4.

*He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.) (Luke 8:29)*

## BRANDY MARKS

Demons are unclean spirits - amiable, intelligent, rebellious and morally wicked. In Matthew, Ye'shua called His twelve and gave authority over all unclean spirits, so they could drive them out and heal every kind of disease and sickness. Jesus in Luke 7:21 healed many diseases, sicknesses, and evil spirits, and in Ephesians 6:12 says our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against rulers, powers, worldly and spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. 1Timothy 4:1-3 warns some will fall away from the faith and follow deceitful spirits and teachings of demons.

While Coursan's commentary (e-Sword) doesn't believe a person can lose his or her salvation (John 10:29), he says the person can choose to turn away from the Lord, and God will not force him to stay with Him. We have freewill!

But who would prefer an eternity in hell with demons and fallen angels (who are currently in chains awaiting the day of judgment). As noted, demons are like hell's cockroaches; they hide in the dark and only come out in the deep darkness [of our mind]. So, they can be quenched in our presence by the light which shines out of us from the Holy Spirit within us. However, we must also be in the Word, knowledgeable of it, and able to speak it to bring forth the light.

While invisible spirits, demons can also appear in some form or other. (Satan, Zechariah 3:1-4; Matthew 4:9,10; Demons, Revelation 16:13-16 and other).

*The rest of mankind, not killed with the plagues, didn't repent of the works of their hands, so they wouldn't worship demons... (Rev. 9:20)*

*...they are spirits of demons, performing signs; which go out to the kings of inhabited earth... (Rev. 16:14)*

*He cried with a mighty voice, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she has become a habitation of demons, a prison of every unclean spirit... (Rev. 18:2)*

Demons knew Christ's identity and power (Mark 1:14,34; 5:6,7); they know their future judgment (Matthew 8:28,29); having learned it through experience over thousands of years.

Demons encourage idolatry (Lev. 17:7; Deut. 32:17; Psalm 106:36-38) and deter spiritual progress every way possible. They are deliberate and well organized (Eph.6:10-12).

Demons encourage false teaching (1 Timothy 4:1), can possess unbelievers and afflict believers. While demons can afflict believers, they cannot possess those with the Holy Spirit.

Demons cause physical issues (dumbness, Matthew 9:32,33; blindness, Matthew 12:22; convulsions, Matthew 17:15-18; Mark 9:20; self-injury, Mark 5:5, 9:22; mental disorders (isolation, irrational behavior, depression, Luke 8:27-29; and suicidal ideation, Mark 9:22).

Demons inflict problems on believers if allowed by God (Job's troubles, Job 2:7-9; Paul's "thorn in the flesh", 2 Cor. 12:7), and encourage selfishness and division (James 3:13-16).

Demons prey on believers. Why bother unbelievers, they have them under their control and don't need to be around them, unless the unbeliever is being influenced by a Christian. Then, they work to undo that influence.

### *The Unseen Enemy*

*"The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy" John 10:10*

For certain, selfish pursuit or moral compromise that come to tempt you away from God is very deliberate. You think it's okay to have sex or 'sleep together' before marriage, or with another woman or man when you're married, is the devil's lie to move you farther from God.

Satan is after your soul until the day you die. As God's child designed for a purpose you are Satan's target. His purpose is to keep people self-centered, so you won't be God-centered and filled with His Spirit. It's hard to imagine the devil as a beautiful Cherubim:

*"... the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty... an anointed guardian cherub... on the holy mountain of God. You walked among the stones of fire. You were perfect in your ways... Ezekiel 28:12-17*

It's a sad commentary, but John Milton said in Paradise Lost, "Better to reign in Hell, then serve in Heav'n" Yet, I wonder if the devil ever wishes he had stayed in heaven. Still, he maybe likes the world under the control (1John 5:19), at least for now. And we've

## BRANDY MARKS

all done business with him. however, most of the time we're too deceived to realize it. Revelation says, "... Satan, who deceives the whole world was cast out to earth, and his angels cast with him." Revelation 12:9

While the angels are bound in darkness until judgment, the devil and demons continue to rebel against God to this day. They attack God's children with deceptions to cause stress and drive them to destruction. But Jesus said:

*"I am the gate: whoever enters by me will be saved." John 10:9*

*"... you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you use to live when you followed the ways of this world, and the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit now at work in those who are disobedient." Ephesians 2:1-2*

### *Against Jesus*

The devil hates Jesus, because His work on the cross set you free from the fires of hell and into the Kingdom of Heaven. So, you met the Savior who delivers you out of darkness, the one Person the devil doesn't want you to know.

Jesus says:

*"I am the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except by me." –John 14:6*

Anyone who denies Jesus came as a man is an antichrist. The great danger of deceitful leaders is they seem so sincere and believable. They are not easy to spot and usually are winsome and attractive; otherwise, how would they gather people to themselves? We do not want to become paranoid and suspicious about everyone, but we do need to evaluate the character and conduct of those who influence people. The way a person lives shows a lot about what they believe about Christ.

*"Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus ... as coming in the flesh, have gone into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist." 2John 1:7.*

Once you become a Christian, you will be tempted to believe it's too hard, costly, boring, weird, or just not necessary. And someone may have convinced you that sin is no problem. 'We all know Christ died for our sins, so it's no big deal to sin.' But they are so wrong. We are to strive not to sin and to resist the devils' temptation to lead us into sin.

Perhaps, you're afraid it's not real. Don't be surprised when you feel your relationship with Jesus under attack. The devil will not be satisfied until you turn your back on Jesus and wander back into sin and darkness, into the feelgood lusts.

Jesus said however, you are blessed when you don't fall for the devil's tactics to reject Him.

*"Those who do not find reason to doubt my identity [who I truly am], are fortunate indeed." (Luke 7:23)*

The devil knows when you follow Christ, His Holy Spirit will lead you to your heart's desire. Thus, the Bible says:

*"Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given you as well." –Matthew 6:33*

The only way to defeat the devil is to know as long as you live in this world, you will have opposing natures inside: your sin nature (flesh) and righteous nature (the Holy Spirit within), and you will be directly connected to God. The devil will use your sinful nature against you. But sinful, selfish, fearful thoughts are your sin nature, which died, according to God. So, ignore it and focus on your righteousness in Christ.

Your righteous nature with Christ in you is how God sees you. Once you agree with God, the devil will not be able to condemn or manipulate you because of your thoughts.

*"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:1*

The many names for Satan give a fuller picture of who Satan is and what he does. There are more names for Satan in the Bible than for anyone else except Jesus Christ.

Names for Satan:

- a. Morning star or Day Star aka Lucifer, Isaiah 14:12
- b. Son of the dawn, Isaiah 14:12
- c. Abaddon (destroying angel), Revelation 9:11
- d. Angel of the bottomless pit, Revelation 9:11
- e. Apollyon (destroyer), Revelation 9:11

BRANDY MARKS

- f. Accuser (complains to God against those who believe in God and his Christ), Revelation 12:10
- g. Adversary (opponent), 1Peter 5:8
- h. Angel of light (messenger of light), 2Cor. 11:14
- i. Antichrist (opponent of the Messiah), 1John 4:3
- j. Beelzebub (ruler of demons), Luke 11:15
- k. Belial (worthlessness), 2Corinthians 6:15

Well, I pray all this has been helpful to you in sorting out who and what angels and demons truly are and the part they play in our lives here on earth, as well as how to defeat them in your life so you do not remain under their influence.

Having found this so interesting, I forgot all about writing the fiction book on angels and demons and began to apply some of the principals I learned in my counseling practice. I hope you find a helpful way to apply what you've learned as well.

†

## **APPENDICES**



## **VERSES ON ANGELS**

*It was revealed to these prophets ... [and] now being told to you by those who preached the Gospel by the Holy Spirit, sent from heaven [things of which] even angels long to catch a glimpse. – 1Peter 1:12*

*There was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. – Job 1:6*

*When the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy? – Job 38:7*

*for they cannot even die anymore, because they are like angels, and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. – Luke 20:36*

*Bless the Lord you His angels, mighty in strength who perform His word, obeying the voice of His word! – Psalms 103:20*

*"Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; – Matthew 25:41*

*An angel from heaven appeared, strengthening Him. – Luke 22:43*

*"You alone are the Lord You have made the heavens, the heaven of heavens with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them You give life to all of them and the heavenly host bows down before You. – Nehemiah 9:6*

## BRANDY MARKS

*And an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. – Luke 1:11*

*"A river of fire was flowing and coming out from before Him; thousands upon thousands were attending Him, and myriads upon myriads were standing before Him; The court sat, And the books were opened. – Daniel 7:10*

*while I was still speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision before, came to me in my extreme weariness about the time of the evening offering. – Daniel 9:21*

*far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. – Ephesians 1:21*

*"Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. – Luke 16:22*

*God has shown us apostles last of all, as condemned to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. – 1 Corinthians 4:9*

*Then the devil left; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him. – Matthew 4:11*

*The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; – Ex. 3:2*

*The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him and rescues them. – Psalms 34:7*

*Then it happened that night the angel of the Lord went out and struck 185,000 in the Assyrians camp; and when men rose early in the morning, behold, all were dead. – 2 Kings 19:35*

*I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, – Revelation 5:11*

*"See you do not despise one of these little ones, for I tell you their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven. – Matthew 18:10*

*"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. – Matthew 24:36*

*"I tell you in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. -- Luke 15:7*

*Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels... – Colossians 2:18*

*... show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels – Hebrews 13:2*

*"Or do you not think ... My Father... will put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels? – Matthew 26:53*

*Jesus knew if he prayed to His father in heaven, God would hear his prayer and immediately send "legions" of angels to help and minister to him. Indeed, at the start of his ministry, after fasting forty days and being tempted by Satan, when the devil left Him, angels came and tended to His needs – Matthew 4:11.*

*When Peter was imprisoned, during the night an angel of the Lord opened the gates of the prison and [set him free] – Acts 5:19*

*"And Let All the Angels of God Worship Him" [the first born of God] – Hebrews 1:6*

*"...everyone who confesses Me before men, the Son of Man will confess him before the angels of God; but he who denies Me before men will be denied before Gods angels. – Luke 12:8-9*

*Now the angel of the Lord came up ... and I said, 'I will never break My covenant with you... – Judges 2:1*

*I said, "My lord, what are these?" And the angel who was speaking with me said, "I will show you what these are." – Zechariah 1:9*

*... a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven ... – Matthew 28:2*

BRANDY MARKS

*He sent upon them His burning anger, fury and indignation and trouble, a band of destroying angels. – Psalms 78:49-51*

*And an angel of the Lord appeared to him.... Zacharias was troubled when he saw the angel, and fear gripped him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid... – Luke 1:11-20*

*you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God... and to myriads of angels... – Hebrews 12:22*

*Praise the Lord from the heavens; Praise Him in the heights! Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts! – Psalms 148:1-2*

*"In the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage but are like angels in heaven. – Matthew 22:30 [they do not become angels]*

*"Now at that time Michael [an angel], the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise .... – Daniel 12:1*

*And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host ... – Luke 2:1*

*For they cannot die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are children of God, children of the resurrection. – Luke 20:36*

~~~~~

In the NKJV of the Bible the word angel is found 91 times while the word demon is a mere 30 times. We find the word cherubim 58 times in the Bible but seraphim twice, in Isaiah 6.

The word demon is in 42 verses, 4 in the Old Testament and 38 in the New Testament. Unclean spirit is once in Zechariah and 11 times throughout the New Testament.

The word Satan is in 48 Bible verses

The name Jesus is in 941 verses in the New Testament, while Ye'shua (CJB) is 1154, the Old Testament is 30.

SUMMARY

Angels do not seem to be cherubim and seraphim. They certainly are described differently. And whether they fly with wings - well, it seems unlikely. Other than one reference to “the man Gabriel, seen in the vision, being caused to fly swiftly (Dan 9:21).

As to Satan being an angel, he is only described as having ‘disguised’ himself as an angel of light while another says he ‘was’ a cherub who once covered the throne of God before his pride led him to fall from grace and heaven.

And so, here is what I gleaned from my research, though so much more could have been written. There is a lot out there in books and on the internet, both truth and fiction about angels, demons and other spiritual beings. So, you can read and decide for yourself what you will believe.

As to writing fiction, angels, cherubim and seraphim are different, never mind principalities and power. And all of it together certainly allows for a wider use of characters with different looks, talents and skills, much as human characters vary in looks, talents and skills, as well as gifts of the spirit.

VERSES ON DEMONS

They sacrificed their sons and daughters to demons. Psalm 106:37

Do you truly want to be part of a culture that does such a thing? It is already going on in our society today; it's called abortion! And the demon is self, self-desires, unconcern for others, and other selfish desires and lusts of the flesh.

Research shows an infant in the womb form a bond with its mothers and he or she sees and hears what is going on in the world outside itself. Infants have memories from in the womb and so, to murder a child just because it has not yet taken its first breath, is not right. It's appalling. And I do understand the fear that comes with an unplanned pregnancy. Been there and done that, and so, I also know the joy of having followed through, birthed the baby and made a better life for myself and my child, though difficult at times.

Okay. Enough preaching. Demons have an influence on women and men in tempting one to have sex outside of marriage and then a child results, who often is unwanted. The feeling of not being wanted is experienced by that child also, and they carry that experience with them throughout life. You can ask my oldest son, if you don't believe me. But let's move on...

And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed them. Mar 6:13

The demons begged Him, saying, "If You cast us out, permit us to go into the herd of swine." Matthew 8:31

The Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons." Mat 9:34

BRANDY MARKS

Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. Matthew 10:8

He healed many who were sick with various diseases and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him. Mark 1:34

He preached in their synagogues throughout all Galilee and casting out demons. Mark 1:39

He appointed the twelve... [gave] power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons: Mark 3:15

Now John answered, "Teacher, we saw someone who does not follow us casting out demons in Your name... Mark 9:38

He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons. Mar 16:9

Demons also came out of many, crying out and saying, "You are the Christ, the Son of God!" Luke 4:41

Women were healed of evil spirits and all sorts of diseases. One of the women was Mary Magdalene, who once had seven demons in her. Luke 8:2

And ...on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time.... Luke 8:27

Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," because many demons had entered him. Luke 8:30

Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran down into the lake and drowned. Luke 8:33

[They] and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus... Luke 8:35

Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. Luke 9:1

But some said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons." Luke 11:15

If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say I cast out demons by

Beelzebub. So, if I [do this], by whom do your sons cast them out? But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. Luke 11:18-20

The Gentiles sacrifice to demons and not to God, so ... have fellowship with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and demons. 1Corinthians 10:21

...some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons 1 Timothy 4:1

You believe there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! James 2:19

[those] not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so they should not worship demons ... Rev 9:20

They are spirits of demons, performing signs... Rev. 16:14

"Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! Rev 18:2

Satan and his demons are subject to God's sovereignty and can do nothing against the will of God nor may they take human lives. When deceived and choosing a selfish way of life we make the choice to give into the devils' temptations.

Satan has deceived the whole world and much of the world does not believe he exists. I pray you know, and do not allow him a stronghold in your life.

†

BRANDY MARKS

ANGELS IN REVELATION

This is what God showed to Jesus Christ, so he could tell his servants what must happen soon. Christ then sent his angel ... to John. Rev 1:1

This is what you must write to the angel of the church in Ephesus: ... Rev 2:1

This is what you must write to the angel of the church in Smyrna: ... Rev 2:8

This is what you must write to the angel of the church in Pergamum: ... Rev 2:12

This is what you must write to the angel of the church in Thyatira: ... Rev 2:18

This is what you must write to the angel of the church in Sardis: ... Rev 3:1

This is what you must write to the angel of the church in Philadelphia: ...Rev 3:7

This is what you must write to the angel of the church in Laodicea... Rev 3:14

The seven letters to the angels or 'messengers' of the churches are not actual angels but messengers sent to warn the churches, praise them and encourage change.

I saw a mighty angel ask with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" Rev 5:2

After this I saw four angels ... These angels had also been given the power to harm the earth and the sea. Then

BRANDY MARKS

another angel came up from ... the east ... to put the mark of God on people. He shouted to the four angels, Rev 7:1

Another angel ... stood at the altar. ... Rev 8:3

The smoke of the incense, with the prayers of God's people, went up to God from the angel. Rev 8:4

After this, the angel filled the incense container with fire from the altar ... Rev 8:5

When the first angel blew his trumpet, hail and fire mixed with blood were thrown ... Rev 8:7

When the 2nd angel blew his trumpet, ... Rev 8:8

When the third angel blew his trumpet, a great star fell from heaven. ... Rev 8:10

When the fourth angel blew ... Rev 8:12

When the fifth angel blew his trumpet, I saw a star fall from the sky to earth... Rev 9:1

Their king was the angel in charge of the deep pit. In Hebrew his name was Abaddon ... Rev 9:11

Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet... Rev 9:13

The voice spoke to this angel and said, "Release the four angels who are tied up ..." Rev 9:14

I saw another powerful angel from heaven. This one was covered with a cloud, ...Rev 10:1

The angel I had seen on the sea... Rev 10:5

The angel said, "You won't have to wait...Rev 10:6

God told his secret plans to ... the prophets, and it will all happen by the time the seventh angel sounds his trumpet." Rev 10:7

Once again, the voice from heaven spoke to me. It said, "Go and take the open scroll..." Rev 10:8

When I went to ask the angel for the little scroll, the angel said..." Rev 10:9

I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it. ... Rev 10:10

An angel gave me a measuring stick ... Rev 11:1

I saw another angel... Rev 14:6

The angel shouted, "Worship and honor God! The time has come for him to judge ..." Rev 14:7

A second angel followed and said, "The great city of Babylon has fallen! ..." Rev 14:8

Finally, a third angel came and shouted: Rev 14:9

An angel came out of the temple and shouted, "Start cutting with your sickle! ..." Rev 14:15

Another angel with a sharp sickle then came out of the temple in heaven. Rev 14:17

After this, an angel with power over fire came from the altar and ..." Rev 14:18

The angel swung his sickle on earth and cut off its grapes. ... Rev 14:19

The first angel emptied his bowl on the earth. ... ugly and painful sores broke out on everyone who had the mark of the beast ... Rev 16:2

The second angel emptied his bowl on the sea. [and it] turned into blood Rev 16:3

The third angel emptied his bowl into the rivers and streams. ... they turned to blood. Rev 16:4

Then I heard the angel, who has power over water, say, "You have always been, and you always will be the holy God. ... Rev 16:5

The fourth angel emptied his bowl on the sun, and it began to scorch people like fire. Rev 16:8

The fifth angel emptied his bowl on the throne of the beast. ... Rev 16:10

The sixth angel emptied his bowl ... Rev 16:12

As soon as the seventh angel emptied his bowl ... a loud voice... shouted, "It's done!" Rev 16:17

With the help of the Spirit, the angel took me into the desert, where I saw a woman ... Rev 17:3

BRANDY MARKS

and the angel said: Why are you so amazed? I will explain the mystery of this woman ... Rev 17:7

I saw another angel come... Rev 18:1

The angel shouted, "Fallen! Powerful Babylon has fallen and is now the home of demons.... Rev 18:2

A powerful angel then picked up a huge stone and threw it into the sea. ... Rev 18:21

Then the angel told me, "Put this in writing. God will bless everyone who is ..." Rev 19:9

I knelt at the feet of the angel to worship him. But the angel said, "Don't do that! I am a servant, just like you and" Rev 19:10

I then saw an angel standing on the sun, and he shouted to all the birds ... Rev 19:17

I saw an angel come down from heaven, carrying the key to the deep pit and a big chain. Rev 20:1

Then the angel threw the dragon into the pit. He locked and sealed it... Rev 20:3

I saw one of the seven angels who had the bowls filled with the seven last ..." Rev 21:9

The city ... wall with twelve gates, and each one of them was guarded by an angel. ... Rev 21:12

The angel who spoke to me had a gold measuring stick to measure the city ... Rev 21:15

... When the angel measured the city... Rev 21:16

Then the angel measured the wall, and by our measurements it was ... Rev 21:17

The angel showed me a river crystal clear, and its waters gave life. ... Rev 22:1

Then I was told: These words are true and can be trusted. The Lord God ... is the one who sent his angel to show his servants ... Rev 22:6

My name is John, and ... I knelt down and began to worship at the feet of the angel ... Rev 22:8

But the angel said, don't do that... Rev 22:9

ANGELS AND DEMONS

I am Jesus! ... the one who sent my angel to tell all these things ... I am David's Great Descendant, and ... the bright morning star. Rev 22:16



WHO I AM IN CHRIST

- I am a child of God. (Consider what this really truly means! You are a child of the living God who is King and Lord of all)
... to all who receive him--who believe in his name--he gave them the right to become God's children ... (John 1:12).
- I am a branch of the true vine [Jesus] - a part of God who takes care of me so I live a fruitful productive life. I am the true vine and my Father is the gardener. Jesus is the vine; I am the branches. Those who remain in me--and I in them--bear much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing (John 15:1, 5).
- I am a friend of Jesus [confidant, companion, associate]. I do not call you slaves, ...but I call you 'friend', because I reveal to you everything I hear from my Father (John 15:15).
- I am made right with God and saved from sin. We are justified freely by his grace because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross purchased me (Romans 3:24).
- I am crucified with Christ, and I am not a slave to my rebellious sin-loving nature but free to be myself. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that our sins would no longer dominate, we would no longer be enslaved by sin (Romans 6:6).
- I am not condemned by God but freed of all guilt... The Holy Spirit will give me the life that comes from Christ Jesus and will set me free from sin and death. Rom 8:1-2
- I am set free from the law of sin and death. For the law of the life-giving Spirit in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:2).

BRANDY MARKS

- I am God's child and an heir with Jesus to God's kingdom. God's Spirit makes us sure that we are his children. His Spirit lets us know that together with Christ we will be given what God has promised. We also share in the glory of Christ, because we have suffered with him. (Romans 8:17).
- I am accepted by Christ and I accept others completely. Receive one another, then, just as Christ also received you, to God's glory (Romans 15:7).
- I am called to be a saint - pure and whole - set apart for God's service - to do His will. ... with all those in every place who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours (1 Cor 1:2).
- In Christ, I have all that I need; I want for nothing. You are God's children. He sent Christ Jesus to save us and to make us wise, acceptable, and holy (1 Corinthians 1:30).
- My body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who dwells in me and therefore I do nothing to damage God's holy temple. Do you not know you are God's temple and God's Spirit lives in you? (1 Cor 6:19)
- I am joined to the Lord and am united with Him as one. But the one united with the Lord is one with him (1 Corinthians 6:17).
- God leads me in the triumph and knowledge of Christ. Thank God, who always leads us in victory through Christ. God uses us to spread his knowledge everywhere like a sweet-smelling perfume. (2 Corinthians 2:14).
- I am opened minded to all Christ would have me see. OT people were stubborn, and something still keeps them from seeing the truth [about Jesus] when the Law is read. Only Christ can take away the covering that keeps them from seeing (2Cor 3:14). Christ removed our veil of blindness.
- I am a new creation in Christ one who thinks and behaves nothing like before, when I was selfish and self-serving. If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old person is gone and, now, we are a new person (2Corinthians 5:17)!
- I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. God made [Jesus] who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we are the righteousness of God (2Corinthians 5:21).
- I am made one with all others who are in Christ Jesus. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female--for all of you are one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28).

- I am free and not a slave, but a child and God's heir. So, I am no longer a slave but a son [daughter], and an heir ...(Galatians 4:7).
- I am set free in Christ, not to do whatever my 'self' desires to do but whatever God desires for me - to love. For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not be subject again to the yoke of slavery (Galatians 5:1).
- I am blessed with every spiritual blessing: forgiveness, insight, the gift of the Spirit, and power to do God's will. ...who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms in Christ [they are mine forever] (Ephesians 1:3).
- I am chosen, holy, and blameless before God not because I deserve it but because God loves me and is gracious. For he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world that we may be holy and unblemished in his sight in love (Ephesians 1:4).
- I am saved and forgiven by the grace of Christ. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our sins, according to the riches of his grace (Ephesians 1:7).
- I am predestined by God for an eternal inheritance and when life is chaotic, I rest in this truth, not Satan's lies. (Ephesians 1:11).
- I am sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise and He works in me to fulfill that promise. When you heard the word of truth (the gospel of salvation) --when you believed in Christ--you were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13).
- I am alive in Christ because of God's mercy and love and I am sharing that grace, mercy and love with others. But God, being rich in mercy, because of his great love with which he loved us, though we were dead in our sins, He made us alive with Christ--by grace you are saved (Ephesians 2:4-5)!
- I am seated in the heavenly places with Christ. ... And he raised us with him and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus ... (Ephesians 2:6).
- I am who God created me to be, so in gratitude, I seek to help and serve others with kindness, love, and gentleness, not merely to please myself or other people. God made us what we are. In Christ Jesus, God made us new so we would spend our lives doing the good he had already planned for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10).

BRANDY MARKS

- I have been brought near to God by the blood of Christ. But now in Christ Jesus you who used to be far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ (Ephesians 2:13).
- I am part of Christ's body and a part of His promise so all rebellion and hostility no longer is part of me. ... (Eph 3:6)
- I am able to go before God with boldness and confidence. ... In whom we have boldness and confident access to God because of Christ's faithfulness (Ephesians 3:12).
- I am that new person made to be like God, truly good and pleasing to him in all ways. Put on the new one who has been created in God's image--in righteousness and holiness that comes from truth (Eph 4:24).
- I am living a life worthy of heaven, not seeking people pleasing earthly pleasure and treasure, but heavenly. But our citizenship is in heaven--and we also await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ ... (Philippians 3:20).
- I am at peace and I am not going to worry about anything but pray to God about everything. And the peace of God that surpasses all understanding guard my hearts and mind (Philippians 4:7).
- I am without need for God supplies all my needs. And my God will supply your every need according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).
- I am complete in Christ. God resides in my mind and heart. I am equipped for life for God helps me in all things. ... You have been filled in him, who is the head over every ruler and authority (Colossians 2:10).
- I am hidden with Christ in God confident that my salvation is sure, therefore I live each day for Christ. ... For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3).
- I am chosen by God, holy and beloved. Therefore, as the chosen of God, I am clothed with a heart of mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience ... (Colossians 3:12).

The more we embrace these truths about who we are in Christ, the more stable, grateful, and fully assured we will be in this world.



SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Spiritual warfare is a struggle against evil forces in our mind as well as in the heavens. And what goes on in the mind affects our body and emotions and how we respond. Yet, the Bible is clear this is not a war fought on the physical plane but on a spiritual one:

"We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, powers, rulers of darkness of this world, and against spiritual wickedness in high places." – Ephesians 6:12

Those principalities, powers, and rulers of darkness all step from Satan's kingdom, who is not omnipresent (cannot be everywhere at once) but is a network or an army of demon spirits. When a person says she is tempted of the devil, rarely is Satan himself present, rather one of his demonic spirits is a play.

Defensive spiritual warfare

There are two kinds of spiritual warfare, offensive and defensive. In defensive warfare, demonic spirits (under Satan's command) launch what is known as fiery darts, as Ephesians says:

"With the shield of faith, you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one." –Eph. 6:16

These fiery darts include temptations, doubt, wrath, lust, despair, vengeance, problems, and trials into our lives. With our shield of faith, we have the strength to stand against Satan with courage, even when he uses his most fearsome weapons. And remember, "... those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons..." —Marks16:17

Spiritual warfare #1: Temptations

Satan played havoc on Eve's life deceiving her into giving up her God given rights. He tempted her to sin and that gave the devil a foothold in her life as it does in our lives when we submit to the temptation - to the devil. But we are to put off our old sinful nature so we do not give the devil a foothold:

"Neither give place to the devil." –Ephesians 4:27

The devil tempted Eve in the garden tricking or deceiving her into giving him the right to do so through her sin.

If Satan wants legal grounds in your life, expect temptations to come your way. That's how he gets you to sin and give him a place from which to operate. The moment we fail and sin, it is important to quickly turn from those sins and repent so we are forgiven and the legal ground he's taken is immediately removed.

Spiritual warfare #2: Deception

Countless believers live in defeat because they are deceived into believing the devils lies. If we allow his deception to take a firm grip, strongholds are formed in our mind. Strongholds are wrong thinking patterns we adopt based on falsehood and "arguments" about philosophies, reasonings, and schemes of the world. These have to do with what is proud, self-centered - self-anything.

Demonic spirits use the strongholds against believers and they have tremendous power to influence feelings and emotions. Often children of God feel guilt-ridden and worthless because they don't see themselves as God sees them. (See "Who I Am in Christ")

"Afflicted and battered by life, God is rebuilding me with glory. All us children have God for our teacher— what a mentor we have! We'll be built solid, grounded in right living, far from any trouble — we have nothing to fear! Terror won't even come close! —Isaiah 54:11-14

Born of God my inner nature is innately sinless. Jesus protects me so Satan cannot harm me. –1John 5:18

God says "Be holy for I am holy"; we are made holy through His forgiveness. I call out to God for help and he helps me--he's a good Father.

*But, he also won't let me get by with careless living. My life is a journey and I must travel it close with God.
(1Peter 1:17)*

Many feel unloved and not good enough to be accepted by God because they do not have an accurate view of God and how He sees them. Their view of God is damaged and it causes them to see Him as a cruel taskmaster or an absent uncaring father, instead of a close loving Father who desires a loving relationship with them!

*"I am afraid your minds will be led away from your true and pure following of Christ. This could happen just as Eve was tricked by that snake with his clever lies."
-2Corinthians 11:3*

Spiritual warfare #3: Accusations

Satan is the accuser of the believer. Not the accuser of the sinners or the world, but the children of God. He could care less about those who say they don't believe in God, instead he goes after the children of God, tormenting them.

"... the accuser of our brothers and sisters has been thrown out. He is the one who accused them day and night before our God..." - Revelations 12:10

He accuses by reminding us of our sins and failures. And if we listen to his accusations against us, we soon mediate on our past sins and failures, it isn't long before we feel guilt-ridden and see ourselves as failures. While it's easy to say it's been dealt with on the cross! But many people don't understand what that means to have the blood of Jesus wash away their sin! If we give attention to these accusations of the devil, they can form strongholds in our minds that need to be torn down.

We tear down strongholds in the mind by repenting or changing our faulty thinking, meditating on God's Word and applying the truth of the Word of God. One weapons we use in spiritual warfare is the sword of the Spirit:

*"...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." -
Ephesians 6.7*

A sword is an offensive weapon that will destroy the enemy. This is exactly what meditating on the truth in God's Word does to strongholds, it tears them down!

BRANDY MARKS

Strongholds are built on error and torn down by truth. Dr. Carolyn Leaf has written books on how to deal with failed thinking.

The devil tells you: "You're a failure! Look at your past!"
God says: "What past? The blood of Jesus washed it away!"

If you meditate on your sins, you will begin to feel guilty and see yourself as a failure, but if you mediate on God's Word, you begin to feel healed and whole!

Isaiah 26:3 tells us God will keep us in "perfect peace" if our minds remain on Him, meaning our minds lean on Him, center on Him, and trust in Him. We meditate on and think of Him always.

Our peace of mind is "perfect" or imperfect to the degree that the "mind is stayed on" God rather than ourselves or on our problems. Peace is experienced as we believe what the Bible says about God's nearness in Psalm 139:1-12, and about His goodness and power, His mercy and love for us, and His complete sovereignty over all of life. But we can't trust someone we don't know, and it is crucial to know intimately the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ.

How do you get to know Jesus/God? Through His Word!

Read the four gospels and meditate on them long before you read the apostle Paul's letters, so you can discern Paul from Jesus, as there are differences. Paul, a Pharisee, held to traditions and the law to a certain extent, especially as they pertain to women. Whereas Jesus invited women into his heart, opened up discussions and treated them as an equal. He did not exclude women.

The messages of Jesus and Paul were *fundamentally different* and cannot be reconciled. No benefit comes from attempts to show that Paul "perverted" Jesus' message or how they contradicted or disagreed with one another. This is an example of where the devil brings in conflict and division. But we must stick with Jesus and the peace he gave to us, not that of the world.

And so, I encourage readers to come to know Messiah Jesus first, then consider the teachings from Paul's ministry.

Jesus states the purpose of His coming and His ministry (Luke 4:17), which are the very ones many Christians look down upon; they are the poor, the downtrodden, the outcast, the unattractive, and the forgotten people. To walk alongside someone who's hurting and listen to their ramblings, or dry their endless tears is difficult, yet these are the ones to whom Jesus came to lovingly. Jesus finds a way to reach them; he is patient and kind, enduring.

While Jesus purpose in coming to earth was to heal the sick and perform other signs and wonders, Jesus also came to preach the gospel of God (Mark 1:14-15). The healing and miracles were part of his ministry but he came to preach about the kingdom of God and how to receive it as well - by trusting only in Christ and with faith and repentance. Jesus “came to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:1-10) and this salvation comes through the pouring out of His blood for “the forgiveness of sins” (Matt. 26:26-2).

Consider how the devil’s demons sidetrack you from your walk as Jesus, not walk with Him but walk as Him. When the disheveled drunk or drug addicted person pass you on the street, or you pass him or her and look the other way. Perhaps, you turn a blind eye to your neighbor who complains incessantly about her problems, or the lesson you tried to teach someone seem to fall on deaf ears; they just don’t get it and your frustration mounts. Spiritual war is fought on many battle fields.

Peace comes through prayer and faith.

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and request, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Phil 4:6-7)

A peaceful mind and heart are the result of knowledge that our loving Father God has a purpose in our trials. “We know all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28). So, in obedience we go to battle against the devil wearing the whole armor of God.

Put on the Whole Armor of God

Stand firm with the belt of truth around your waist, the breastplate of righteousness in place, and your feet fitted with knowledge of the gospel of peace. Also, take up the shield of faith, so to snuff out the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, the knowledge of your salvation and the sword of the Spirit, the word of God. Then, pray in the Spirit at all times and in all kinds of prayers and requests. And so, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people. –Ephesians 6:10-18

BRANDY MARKS

"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion" Peter warns "seeking someone to devour" (1Peter 5:8).

Ultimately, spiritual warfare is not learning some technique to defeat Satan or demons, but a heart that walks closely with God. When God is first in our lives, Satan has no power over us, though he tries to weaken our relationship with Christ.

Regardless, do not assume your God-given power over Satan is an opportunity for arrogance. Those who try to use God's power to overcome evil for their personal benefit gained a punishment for their failed efforts. Rather our desire must be to depend on a personal walk with Christ to overcome evil, not human pride.

Yes. Spiritual warfare is part of a Christian's life, but should not be taken on in fear or pride. Instead, the reality of Satan and his evil forces should cause us to draw near to God all the more, realizing His power can conquer any enemy we face.

2Timothy suggests one way to fight against demonic oppression, not demonic possession:

Stay away from the evil things ... Do your best to live right and to have faith, love, and peace, together with others who trust in the Lord with pure hearts.

Stay away from foolish and stupid arguments. You know these arguments grow into bigger arguments. As a servant of the Lord, you must not argue.

Be kind to everyone, a good teacher, and you be patient, gently teach those who don't agree with you. Maybe God will change their hearts so they can accept the truth.

The devil has trapped them and now makes them do what he wants. Maybe they can wake up to what is happening and free themselves from the devil's trap. - 2Ti 2:23-26

†

A BIBLICAL MODEL OF GRIEF

Hope in the Midst of Your Grief

The following is summary of God's way of Healing for Life's Loss. Herein we contrast the world's way of grieving with **the Word**.

How Do We Face Suffering?

Do we face suffering with God or turn our backs on God in our grieving? In life's losses, we can turn to the world's ways, or "the Word's".

The World's Way: Is That All There Is?

* Denial: This is the shock reaction. "It can't be true." "Not me." We refuse to believe what happened.

* Anger: Resentment grows. "Why me?" "Why my child?" "This is not fair!" We direct blame toward God, others, and ourselves and we feel agitated, irritated, moody, and on edge.

* Bargaining: We try to make a deal so things will be the way they used to be. "God, if You heal my little girl, then, I'll never drink again." We call it a temporary truce with God. Yet, it really sounds more like a bribe.

* Depression: Now we say, "Yes, me." The courage to admit our loss brings sadness (which can be healthy mourning and grieving) or hopelessness (which is unhealthy mourning and grieving).

* Acceptance: We face our loss calmly. A time of silent reflection and regrouping. "Life has to go on. How? What do I do now?"

BRANDY MARKS

Biblical Suffering:

Stages of Hurt – “It’s Normal to Hurt and Necessary to Grieve”

When we haven't honestly grieved, we have not processed our emotions, as a rule. Anger is a poor substitute for the hurt and grief experienced over loss of any kind. Death is one type of loss but the loss of an ideal is another: the ideal marriage; the ideal life; and so on.

Typical Grief Response

Stage One Denial/Isolation

Rather than denial - be candid and honest with yourself. We all deceive ourselves at times, being human, but with grief and loss honesty is vital.

Stage Two Anger/Resentment

You ask “How long oh Lord until I am avenged?” especially if another person has offended you and you feel wounded, as a result.

Stage Three Bargaining/Doing Works

Don't bargain with God, instead cry out to him, and ask for his help.

Psalm 34:6 David cried; the Lord heard and saved him from his troubles.

Stage Four Depression/Alienation

God work everything together for the good for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose for them." Romans 8:28

Biblical Grief Response

Candor: Honesty with Myself

Complaint: Honesty with God

Cry Out: Ask God for Help

Comfort: Receiving God's Help

Stages of Growth

The World's

Scripture's

Stage Five Regrouping

Waiting: Trusting with Faith

Matthew 21:21 Jesus said, "So I say to you, if you have faith, and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' it will happen. What mountains in your life do you need to move?"

Stage Six Deadening

Wailing: Groaning with Hope

Psalm 42:11 Why are you downcast my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God. I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

Stage Seven Despair/Doubt

Weaving: Perceive with Grace

2Cor 4:8-10 We are hard-pressed, yet not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted but not forsaken; struck down but not destroyed

Stage Eight Digging Cisterns

Worship: Engage with Love

Then he said, "Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

~~~~~