

discipleship essentials

Essentials for Christian Living
Study Guide

GOD AND THE SPIRITUAL REALM

LESSON 6: ANGELS AND DEMONS

INTRODUCTION

This lesson is part of a Disciple Essentials module entitled God and the Spiritual Realm. This series of lessons examines the reality of the spiritual world – one in which there are forces of both good and evil. This module deals with the origin of evil, the end punishment of Satan, the reality of spiritual warfare and strongholds in our everyday lives, the armor that God has provided us with, God’s great battle plan against Satan, God’s ultimate control over all things and the supernatural ways in which God occasionally communicates with his people through dreams, visions and angelic beings.

The Student’s Guide is intended for an individual to look deeper into a specific lesson on their own. The lessons can be used in conjunction with other Discipleship Essentials materials, such as the video and audio productions found on www.discipleshipessentials.org.

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GOD AND THE SPIRITUAL REALM

LESSON 6: ANGELS AND DEMONS

WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

We know that there are both animals and people that inhabit the earth, but what we might be less clear on is the spiritual beings that are unseen by us. The purpose of this lesson is to understand the nature of angels and demons, and to look at the purpose they serve in the world.

JUST SO YOU KNOW...

All around us are invisible beings carrying out the work of their masters. Angels belong to God and do His will on this earth, while demons belong to their ruler, Satan. Some Christians have fallen into error by worshipping these spiritual beings, by praying to them, by calling on them for help, by giving them orders, or by putting them on equal standing with Jesus. It is important to have a right understanding of what angels are and what they are not. This lesson will help sort out truth from error. In addition, it is good to properly understand what demons are and what their purpose in the world is. We can rejoice that God loves us enough to send angels to serve and protect us, and that our powerful God commands armies of these special messengers!

GETTING STARTED

1. What do you understand about angels? Who are they, and what can they do? What would your response be if an angel appeared to you?

2. Do you think people around you think too much or too little about the beings of the spiritual realm?



STUDY

❖ **WHAT ARE ANGELS?** There is more going on around us than we can view with our own eyes. The physical world is populated with plants and animals and people – the things that God has created. However, the reality is that there is a spiritual world also that is filled with beings we know very little about. Are angels real? The Biblical answer is ‘yes’! About half the books of the Bible mention angels, and Jesus Christ Himself taught about their existence. The word ‘angel’ means messenger, which gives us a clue about their purpose. So what can we learn about angels from the Bible?

- Angels are spiritual beings created by God.
- Angels were created before the physical world, and were present at the creation of the world and the creation of man.
- They do not die; they are spiritual beings who do not have an end.
- They do not have physical bodies, reproduce or inhabit places in the physical world, but they are able to eat and drink (Mark 12:25, Psalm 78:23-25).
- Angels are able at times to take a form we can see. Read John 20:12, Acts 1:10, Luke 24:4, Revelations 5:6, Revelations 10:1-3 and write down how the Bible describes the appearance of angels:

- Angels differ in class, calling and rank. In addition they can appear like military units or groupings in order to execute the will of God. There are heavenly rulers, princes, authorities, and archangels.
- There are other spiritual creatures mentioned in the Bible who may be angels, or who may be a different type of spiritual creature. Read the following verses and identify the spiritual being the verses talk about and what characteristics or job they have.

Isaiah 6:1-7	
Genesis 3:24	
Revelations 4:6-10	



❖ **WHAT WERE ANGELS CREATED FOR?** We have examined in other lessons the purpose of mankind. It is only natural to wonder why angels were created, and what purpose they serve. Let us look at a few important tasks that angels have been given in the Bible.

- **God’s Messengers:** First, it is important to note that in the original biblical languages, the word angel means ‘messenger’. It would appear that one purpose of angels is to bring messages to God’s people, especially regarding salvation. In the verses that follow, what message was delivered by an angel?

Acts 27:20-26	
Luke 2:8-18	
Matthew 28:2-7	

- **God’s Warriors:** In addition to bearing messages of hope or warning, angels are tasked with carrying out God’s judgement or warring with evil. Read [2 Kings 19:35-36](#) and write down what one angel was able to accomplish:

- o Angels are often depicted with swords in the Bible which is a symbol of their ability to protect or defend .
- o Angels are powerful and execute the will of God, including defeating mighty human armies.
- o Angels will fight and are fighting against Satan and demons.
- o Angels carry out tasks, and will one day gather the righteous together and throw the evil into the lake of fire.

- **God’s Worshipers:** Angels exist to worship God. Some angels continually praise God and never cease! They inhabit heaven and the city of God and perpetually worship Him there. Read [Hebrews 12:22](#), [Luke 15:10](#) and [Revelation 5:11-12](#). What picture do you get of the purpose and vocation of angels?



- **God's Servants:** The incredible truth is that angels are sent to serve those who belong to God; they protect, watch over and minister to them. It is not clear in the Bible if individuals have a specific guardian angel, but angels are tasked with watching over God's children.
 - Angels served Hagar ([Genesis 21:14-19](#)), and Elijah ([1 Kings 19:3-8](#)).
 - Angels are sent to help us, though we may not see them ([Hebrews 1:14](#), [Psalm 34:7](#), [Psalm 91:9-11](#)).
 - Angels are under God's command, not ours. We cannot ask angels to come to us. They are sent as God wills and desires.
 - Angels are especially tasked with guarding children ([Matthew 18:10](#)).
 - We may be visited by an angel and be unaware that this has happened ([Hebrews 13:2](#)).

❖ **WHAT SHOULD OUR RESPONSE TO ANGELS BE?** We frequently see people cowering in fear before angels in the Bible, as they are such powerful and supernatural creatures! Throughout the history of the church people have erroneously worshipped angels as beings that deserve praise. It is important to know what our response to angels should be!

- **Jesus is superior to the Angels:** The writer of the book of Hebrews was writing to a church that fell into the error of elevating angels. The writer demonstrates that Jesus Christ is God's Son, equal with God, and therefore more important than the angels.
- What does the writer to the Hebrews say about Jesus in [Hebrews 1: 4-14](#)?

- **We will be Superior to Angels:** We are for now "a little lower than the angels", but this is a temporary position because during the millennium we will rule with Christ who is above them.
- **We must Worship Only God:** Only God is worthy of worship, not His creation. We, along with angels, worship God! Our response if an angel ever visited us might be one of fear, awe or joy, but we must not worship Him.

❖ **WHAT ARE DEMONS?** The other beings that inhabit the spiritual realm are referred to as demons. From what we know from Biblical accounts, these are angels who were created perfect by God but who chose to disobey Him. They were cast out of God's presence and now work to destroy God's creation tempting it to sin. Satan, the ruler of the demons, is described in Revelation 12:9 as the deceiver of the whole world.

- **Read [Luke 9:37-43](#) and [Luke 4:31-41](#).** What were demons doing to the people? What power did they have? What power over them did Jesus have?



- Demons recognize the authority of Jesus but do not obey Him.
 - Demons are powerful and may inhabit people or places.
 - Demons can affect our spiritual state as well as our physical state. Demons cannot separate us from the love of God, and cannot fully possess that which is already inhabited by the Holy Spirit.
 - Demons promote division in the Church and false teaching.
 - Demons are connected to idol worship and the occult.
- ❖ **ANGELS AND DEMONS IN THE WORLD TODAY:** God is doing great things in this world, and some He chooses to accomplish through His angelic messengers. God may choose to send a message to individual people through angels, directing them to where they can hear the Gospel. Angels may appear in a dream to give a warning, or to identify an individual as chosen by God.
- In the same way, Satan is at work in the world causing evil and strife. Demons are sent to torment people and cause destruction. Demons may possess individuals or places, but they are subject to God. Only Jesus Christ has power over demons. We do not. We are instructed to put on the armour of God in order to stand against the attacks of the evil spirits, knowing that God can send an army of angels to protect us!
 - As Christians, we must not only be aware of the schemes of Satan and his demons, but resist him (James 4:7). If we do, he will flee from us as we submit to God. Read Ephesians 6:10-18 as a reminder that we must deliberately put on the whole armour of God.



IN SUMMARY

- ❖ Angels are spiritual beings created by God. They were created before the physical world and do not die.
- ❖ They do not have physical bodies but can take a form that is visible to us. It can look like light, shining cloth, having a face like the sun, clothed in rainbows, fire, cloud or lightning.
- ❖ Angels are powerful, but are limited in their power
- ❖ Angels were created to be messengers, warriors, worshippers and servants of God.
- ❖ We should not worship angels, but rather recognize that Jesus is superior to them and worship God as the angels do.
- ❖ Demons are fallen angels which are able to torment and inhabit people and places. They are subject to God's command, and Jesus is able to send them away.
- ❖ Demons promote division, false teaching, the occult, and can affect our spiritual state. A demon can never separate us from the God or take away our salvation.
- ❖ Angels and demons are active in the world today, and we should be aware that there is spiritual activity going on around us.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What did you learn about angels in this lesson that was new to you? What common misconceptions about angels do people have that are not found in the Bible?

2. How can you keep yourself out of the grip of evil spirits, and remain close to God and His holy angels?