

Angels & Demons

The Biblical Story of Satan



Angels (messengers) are immortal spiritual beings created by God. One among them, Satan (opposer/enemy), was a celestial functionary appointed to govern the world.

He defied God and was cast down from heaven to earth. Satan became the leader of other fallen angels, now known as demons.

Jesus predicted that his rule will soon come to an end.



The Bible

c.500 BC to AD100

Hebrew Bible Old Testament & Apocrypha

Satan, ha-satan, the Angel of Yahweh, Angelic patrollers, Watchers, the Troubling Spirit and the Lying Spirit. David was also called a satan.

Greek Old Testament (LXX)

In the Job and Zechariah of the LXX, ha-satans (Hebrew) were translated as ho Diabolos (Greek) or devils.

Greek New Testament

Satan/Devil has been put in charge of the Kingdoms of the World. His main function is to test the virtue of Mankind.

Satan tested Job, Jesus and the Disciples. He can inflict diseases caused by parasitic Demons or Unclean Spirits.

Greek New Testament

St. Paul

Satan is an impedier of Christianity, punisher of wrongdoing and the means to rehabilitate wrongdoers.

Greek New Testament

Pseudo-Pauline Epistles

Satan is the Angel of Death. The Devil as lion (1 Peter) and the Devil as coward (James).

Angels of the Holy Bible

MALAKH (ANGELS IN HEBREW).
THE 7 ARCHANGELS: MICHAEL, GABRIEL,
RAPHAEL, URIEL, RAGUEL, SARAQAEI, AND
REMIEL.

Angels of the Holy Quran

MALAIKAH (ANGELS IN ARABIC).
THE 7 ARCHANGELS: JIBRIL, MICHAEL,
IBLIS (SATAN), MALIK, HARUT, MARUT AND
MALAIKU 'I-MAUT (ANGEL OF DEATH).

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The Post-Biblical Story of Satan



The Church Fathers

AD 100 - 500

The Rise of Lucifer:

Morning Star was used in the OT and the NT to refer to Satan and Jesus respectively.

The Church Fathers interpreted it as Satan and added the Latin term Lucifer.

Satan (Hebrew)/Devil (Greek)/Lucifer (Latin) was jealous of Adam and tempted Eve to sin.

God banished Satan from Heaven and he fell to Earth, where he was given legal title to Mankind with the power to torment them. Jesus came to redeem the legal title with the payment of his death.

Middle Ages

AD 500 - 1500

Satan became the Punisher of the Dead in Hell and the Lord of Sorcerers.

Satan and the other Fallen Angels are Pure Spirits of great intellect who became the enemy of God and Humanity.

Satan became the Superintendent of Hell.

*Dante, Milton, et ceteri

Reformation

16th Century

"The Devil made me do it."

Satan became the ever-present Tempter.

Satan has the power of diabolical (demonic) possession over humans.

Satan enslaved while Christ redeemed Humankind.

The Age of Science

17th Century - now

The modern sciences of physics, chemistry and biology alongside radiochronometric archaeology recovered geohistorical contexts of the biblical and post-biblical statements regarding angels, demons and Satan/Devil/Lucifer/Mephistopheles.

However, the persistence of the Original Sin doctrine in some Christian denominations relies on the postbiblical interpretation of Satan.

New scientific discoveries and spiritual insights will continue to provide a deeper understanding of God.

The modern Christian idea of Satan is not the biblical Satan. The Bible's message is embedded in the media used. The Bible has been retold, rewritten and reinterpreted for new geohistories, for new demographics and in response to new knowledge.

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Orders of Angels

Pseudo-Dionysius in the 6th century AD described nine orders of Angels - immortal spiritual beings who surrendered their free-will upon creation:

They include the Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones, Dominions, Virtues, Powers, Principalities, Archangels and Angels.

- 1 Seraphim** ('fiery ones') are the highest angelic class. These majestic beings with six wings, human hands and voices serve as caretakers of God's throne.
- 2 Cherubim** ('blessers') are angels with four faces, one of a man, an ox, a lion, and an eagle (later adopted as the symbols of the four evangelists). They have four conjoined wings covered with eyes, a lion's body, and the feet of oxen. Cherubim are keepers of celestial records and knowledge of God.
- 3 Thrones** are angels who serve as God's chariot and dispense his judgment. Thrones exist in a state of transition between the celestial and human worlds, serving as heavenly governors, to strike a balance between matter and spirit, good and bad.
- 4 Dominions** are angels who receive orders from seraphim and cherubim. They maintain the cosmos by sending down power to heads of government and other authority figures.
- 5 Virtues** are angels in charge of maintaining the natural world. They take orders from higher-ranking angels and convert them into miracles. The two angels at the ascension of Jesus are believed to have been virtues.
- 6 Powers** are angels of birth and death that patrol the border between Heaven and Earth.
- 7 Principalities** are angels who oversee and guide our entire world -- nations, cities, and towns. They oversee religion and politics while managing the earthly duties of the angels below them.
- 8 Archangels** are the first order of angels that appear only in human form. These seven "lead angels" (arch angelos in Gk) function among humans as pioneers for change in the form of explorers and philosophers.
- 9 Angels** are ordinary divine messengers who guard humans and all things physical. **Demons** are Fallen Angels.