

THE IN-BETWEEN

Angels, Demons, the Devil, Heavenly Powers, Dark Powers, Human Beings Between Death and Resurrection

Section 9

The Spiritual Realm During the Church's First Generation

(about AD 30-65)

Acts 5:1-11 — Peter says Satan had filled Ananias's heart. What did Satan prompt Ananias to do?

- There is one other person in Scripture into whom Satan is said to have entered. Can you name him? (Hint: See Luke 22:3 and John 13:27.) _____

Acts 5:12-16 — What were these "impure spirits" doing to the people who were brought to the apostles? And what did the apostles do for these people?

Acts 5:17-20 — What did the angel do for the apostles?

- What command did the angel give them?

Acts 6:8-15 — What do you think it might mean that Stephen's "face was like the face of an angel" (verse 15)? What might that look like?

Acts 7:30-38, 51-53 — Notice how Stephen recounts angels' involvement in the events of the exodus:

- 7:30, 35 — Who appeared to Moses in the burning bush? (Compare Exodus 3:2.) _____
- 7:31-32 — Who spoke to Moses from the burning bush? (Compare Exodus 3:4.) _____
- 7:38 — Who spoke with Moses on Mount Sinai? _____
- 7:53 — Through whom did God give the law to Israel? _____

Acts 8:4-8 — The signs Philip performed included healing people who were paralyzed or lame and causing _____ to come out of people—with shrieks!

Acts 8:26-29 — What did the angel do for Philip (and, it turns out, for the Ethiopian)?

Focal Point — AN ANGEL TELLS CORNELIUS TO SEND FOR PETER

Acts 10:1-38, 11:13-14

- How does Cornelius describe the angel's appearance (10:30)?
- Why was an angel needed as God worked to bring Cornelius into his kingdom?

- Cornelius, at the start of this story, was a believer in God but not a Christian. Might angels ever appear to non-Christians?
 - The angel's appearance to Cornelius is recounted four times in this story (10:3-7, 10:22, 10:30-32, 11:13-14). What is so important about his appearance that it needed to be mentioned four times?
 - Peter says Jesus went around healing all who were under the power of the devil (10:38). In what sense were the people healed by Jesus previously under the devil's power?
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THE IN-BETWEEN IN THE BOOK OF JAMES

James 2:14-19 — How do demons feel about God?

- Do demons, in some sense, have faith? And if so, what do they do with their faith?

James 3:13-16 — In what sense is the "wisdom" that is marked by envy and selfish ambition demonic in its origin?

James 4:1-10 — In this context about fights and quarrels in the church, what does resisting the devil mean?

- What will the devil do if we resist him?

***Focal Point* — AN ANGEL RESCUES PETER & AN ANGEL STRIKES DOWN HEROD**

Acts 12:1-24

- How did the angel sneak Peter out of prison?
 - Peter thought, at first, that he was seeing a vision. If you encountered an angel, how might you be able to tell whether you were experiencing a vision or not?
 - When Rhoda announced that Peter was at the door and the church members present didn't believe her, they suggested that it might be his angel. Do individuals have their own angels? What do you think these church members might have meant?
 - Why did an angel of the Lord strike Herod down? What means did the angel use to do this?
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Acts 13:6-12 — Paul calls Elymas a child of the devil. What does it mean to be a child of the devil?
(Compare John 8:37-47.)

THE IN-BETWEEN IN THE LETTER TO THE GALATIANS

Galatians 1:6-9 — What warning—even about angels—does Paul give the Galatian Christians here?

Galatians 3:19 — The law was given through _____ and entrusted to a mediator. (*Recall Acts 7:51-53, where Stephen says something similar.*)

Galatians 4:13-14 — What do you think it might mean to welcome a person as if they were an angel of God?

Acts 16:16-24 — What power did this spirit have, that brought the owners of the female slave profit?

- Can spirits (angels, demons) predict the future?
- What might have motivated this spirit to go around announcing that Paul and his coworkers were “servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved”?

THE IN-BETWEEN IN THE LETTERS TO THE THESSALONIANS

1 Thessalonians 2:17 to 3:5 — What had Satan done to block Paul’s way?

- What power does Satan have to hinder Christians in their work for God’s kingdom?
- 3:5 — What had Paul feared that the tempter might have done to the new believers in Thessalonica?

2 Thessalonians 1:6-10 — When Jesus comes again, he will be “revealed from heaven in blazing _____ with his powerful _____.”

Focal Point — THE COMING OF THE LAWLESS ONE

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

- 2:4 — What will the “man of lawlessness” do?
- 2:7 — Who do you think might be “the one who now holds” the lawless one back and who “will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way”?
- 2:8 — The lawless one will be overthrown by...
...and destroyed by...
- 2:9-10 — How does Satan work? The work of the lawless one will be the same:
 - displays of power through _____ and wonders that serve the _____
 - all the ways that _____ deceives those who are perishing

- Consider verses 4 and 9-12. What do you think will be the lawless one's goals?
- *Notice that nothing the man of lawlessness will do will be done outside of God's control. Someone—apparently from God—is holding back the coming of the lawless one (or was when Paul wrote this letter; verses 6-7). When that being is taken out of the way, the lawless one will do everything he intends—but his evil work will ultimately serve God's purpose of revealing and condemning those "who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness" (verse 12). And in the end, Jesus himself will bring about the lawless one's destruction (verse 8).*

2 Thessalonians 3:1-3 — The Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the _____ one. *Following the mysterious teaching about the man of lawlessness in chapter 2, this was a word of great encouragement for the church. We have nothing to fear if we walk with the Lord.*

Acts 19:11-20 — What was extraordinary about the way these evil spirits were being driven out (verses 11-12)?

- Why did the seven sons of Sceva fail in their attempt to drive out this evil spirit (verses 13-16)?
- What happened to the seven sons of Sceva?

THE IN-BETWEEN IN 1 CORINTHIANS

1 Corinthians 4:8-13 — Consider verse 9. Do angels watch what happens to human beings? Do they care what happens?

1 Corinthians 5:1-5 — What does it mean for a believer to be handed over to Satan?

- verse 5 — What was Paul's goal for this man who was to be handed over to Satan?

1 Corinthians 6:1-6 — Believers will judge the world (verse 2). We will also judge _____ (verse 3)!

- What do you think might qualify Christians—glorified in eternal life—to rightly and accurately judge angels?

1 Corinthians 7:1-7 — Why should married couples fulfill their marital duty to each other, according to verse 5?

1 Corinthians 10:1-10 — In the time of Moses, what happened to the Israelites who grumbled? (Recall, for example, Numbers 16:41-50.)

1 Corinthians 10:14-22 — The sacrifices of pagans are offered to _____, not to God.

- According to Paul here, why can a Christian not participate in both the Lord's Supper ("the Lord's table") and sacrifices offered to idols?

1 Corinthians 11:2-16 — A woman should have a sign of authority on her head (*some translations say, "ought to have authority over her own head"*) because of the _____.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 — Do angels have their own languages?

THE IN-BETWEEN IN 2 CORINTHIANS

2 Corinthians 2:5-11 — How does forgiving each other thwarts Satan's schemes?

2 Corinthians 4:1-6 — Who is "the god of this age"?

- What has he done to the minds of unbelievers?

Focal Point — OUR TENT AND OUR HEAVENLY DWELLING

2 Corinthians 5:1-10 — Paul talks about what happens to us when we die. The earthly _____ we live in is destroyed. But we have a _____ from God, an eternal _____ in heaven, not built by human hands. For now, facing death, we groan, longing to be clothed with our _____ dwelling. We groan while in our current tent because we do not wish to be _____ and found naked (that is, bodiless), but wish instead to be clothed with our _____ dwelling. Then what is mortal will be swallowed up by _____.

- In what sense is our mortal body a "tent"?
- In what sense is our eternal body a "house"?
- verse 6 — We know that as long as we are at home in the _____ we are away from the _____.
- verse 8 — We would prefer to be away from the _____ and at home with the _____.
- verse 9 — We make it our goal to _____ God, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.
- verse 10 — We must all appear before the judgment seat of _____ to receive what is due us for the things done while in the _____, whether good or bad.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 — There is no harmony between Christ and _____ (a name for Satan).

- Because this is true, Paul urges believers not to be yoked together with _____.
What does this mean?

2 Corinthians 11:2-4 — Paul recalls that _____ was deceived by the _____'s cunning (recall Genesis 3).

2 Corinthians 11:12-15 — Satan himself masquerades as an _____ of _____. And so do his servants—in this case, Paul's opponents who want the church in Corinth to listen to them instead of to him.

Focal Point — PAUL'S VISION AND HIS THORN IN THE FLESH FROM SATAN

2 Corinthians 12:1-10

- Are out-of-body experiences possible? (Notice verses 2-4.)
- What is “the third heaven” (verse 2)?
- Why was Paul given “a messenger of Satan” to torment him?
- What might this “thorn in my flesh” and “messenger of Satan” have been (verse 7)? Does Paul give us any hints?
- Did God take away this “thorn”? Why or why not?

THE IN-BETWEEN IN THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS

Romans 8:31-39 — Things that cannot separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus (verses 38-39): death, life, _____, _____, the present, the future, any _____, height, depth, anything else in all creation.

Romans 14:7-9 — Alive or dead, we belong to the Lord. Christ is Lord of both the _____ and the _____.

Romans 16:20 — The God of peace will soon crush _____ under your feet. *What do you think Paul meant when he wrote this to the church in Rome?*

Acts 23:6-10 — The Sadducees say there is no _____, and that there are neither _____ nor _____, but the Pharisees believe all these things.

Acts 26:12-18 — Jesus sent Saul to turn people from the power of _____ to God.

Acts 27:21-26 — The angel told Paul that he must stand trial before _____. The ship would run aground on an island. What would happen to those with Paul on the ship?

THE IN-BETWEEN IN THE LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS

Philippians 1:20-26 — Paul believes that when he dies, he will be with _____—which is better by far.

THE IN-BETWEEN IN THE LETTER TO THE COLOSSIANS

Colossians 1:15-20 — In God's Son, all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or _____ or rulers or _____; all were created through him and for him.

- What sorts of invisible "powers" might Paul be thinking of?

Colossians 2:13-15 — Christ triumphed over certain "powers and authorities" at the cross. Paul does not seem to be talking about human "powers and authorities" here. What beings might he be thinking of?

Colossians 2:16-19 — Don't let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of _____ disqualify you (by persuading you to join them).

THE IN-BETWEEN IN THE LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS

Ephesians 2:1-2 — What title does Paul use for the devil here?

Ephesians 3:8-11 — God's intent was that, through the church, his wisdom should be made known to the _____ and _____ in the _____ realms.

Ephesians 4:26-27 — In your _____ do not sin, and don't let the sun go down while you're angry. In this way, we keep from giving the devil a _____ in our lives.

Ephesians 6:10-17 — The full armor of God equips us to stand against _____.

- Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, authorities, and powers of this dark world, and against the spiritual forces of _____ in the _____.
- verse 16 — With the shield of _____ we can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the _____ one.

THE IN-BETWEEN IN PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO TIMOTHY

1 Timothy 1:18-20 — Paul handed 2 men over to Satan: _____ and _____. For what purpose?

1 Timothy 3:1-7 — An elder must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the _____.

- An elder must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's _____.

1 Timothy 3:16 — Jesus appeared in the flesh, was vindicated by the Spirit, and was seen by _____.

1 Timothy 4:1-5 — The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow _____ spirits and things taught by _____.

- verse 3 — Two such teachings include requirements forbidding _____ and an order to abstain from certain _____.

1 Timothy 5:11-15 — When Paul says some of these younger widows have “in fact already turned away to follow Satan,” what do you think he means? Judging from verse 13, what sorts of things have they done that could qualify as “following Satan”?

1 Timothy 5:21 — Paul charges Timothy, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect _____, to obey his instructions.

- What do you think Paul means by the “elect” angels? What would a non-elect angel be?

THE IN-BETWEEN IN THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

Focal Point — THE SON IS SUPERIOR TO THE ANGELS

Hebrews 1-2

- List 2 or 3 ways in which God’s Son is superior to the angels:

- 1:14 — What are angels?

- 2:2 — What binding message was spoken through angels? (Hint: Recall Acts 7:53 and Galatians 3:19.)

- 2:14-15 — What power of the devil did Jesus break?

- 2:16 — Does Jesus help angels?

Hebrews 11:28 — Moses kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the _____ of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel. (Recall Exodus 12:23.)

Hebrews 12:22-24 — You have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of _____ in _____ assembly. *How many angels are there?*

Hebrews 13:2 — We should show hospitality to strangers because by doing so, some people have...

THE IN-BETWEEN IN PETER'S FIRST LETTER

1 Peter 3:17-22 — After being made alive (verse 19), Jesus made proclamation to the imprisoned _____ —to those who were _____ long ago when God waited patiently in the days of _____ while the _____ was being built.

- We have many questions about this mysterious statement by Peter. Were these spirits human or angelic? Can the spirits of the dead repent? What might Jesus have proclaimed to these spirits? What do you think?

- Jesus has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand, with _____, _____, and _____ in submission to him.

1 Peter 5:8-9 — Our enemy the _____ prowls around like a roaring _____ looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of _____.

THE IN-BETWEEN IN JUDE AND 2 PETER

***Focal Point* — ANGELS BOUND FOR JUDGMENT; MICHAEL; THE SECOND COMING**

Jude 5-16, 2 Peter 2:4-12

- Jude 6 — What did the angels bound for judgment do wrong?
 - 2 Peter 2:4 — Where did God imprison the angels who sinned?
 - Jude 8 — How do these ungodly people treat celestial beings?
 - Jude 9 — How did Michael treat the devil?
 - 2 Peter 2:10-11 — How do angels treat celestial beings?
 - Jude 9 — *The story of Michael's dispute with the devil is not in the Bible. It comes from the book of 1 Enoch, a Jewish writing from approximately the first century B.C. It is mentioned here to demonstrate that even the highest angels do not speak abusively against celestial beings like the devil, but call on the Lord, in his greater authority, to deal with such beings. In contrast, the ungodly people Jude (and Peter) writes about have the audacity to heap abuse on beings far greater than themselves.*
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THE IN-BETWEEN IN PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO TIMOTHY

2 Timothy 2:22-26 — What trap of the devil does Paul hope Timothy's opponents might, with Timothy's help, be able to escape?