

08 | Enemy

The kingdom of darkness



BOOTCAMP
Basic training for new and growing Christians

Introduction

There are three distinct enemies of the Christian.

- **The world's belief system (The World)**
- **The Sin Nature (The Flesh)**
- **The Devil (Satan and his kingdom)**

This study will focus on the Devil, the archenemy of God, and his minions. Many Christians have only a vague understanding of the devil, and some actually believe he is just an imaginary representation of evil. Satan is no Santa Claus, and his demons are no happy elves. He is not equal in power to God as some believe, but he does have great power. Satan and his forces are alive and well on planet earth, and we need to be aware of their history, purpose, power, and future.

Satan

The origin of Satan In a nutshell...

- **Lucifer was created as an archangel by God.**
- **Lucifer led a rebellion against God, along with one third of all the angels.**
- **They were cast out of Heaven to earth.**
- **Lucifer became Satan, and his angels became demons.**

¹²How you are fallen from heaven, O shining star, son of the morning! You have been thrown down to the earth, you who destroyed the nations of the world. ¹³For you said to yourself, 'I will ascend to heaven and set my throne above God's stars. I will preside on the mountain of the gods far away in the north. ¹⁴I will climb to the highest heavens and be like the Most High.' ¹⁵But instead, you will be brought down to the place of the dead, down to its lowest depths.
Isaiah 14:12-15 (NLT)

¹⁷When the seventy-two disciples returned, they joyfully reported to him, "Lord, even the demons obey us when we use your name!"

¹⁸"Yes," he told them, "I saw Satan falling from heaven as a flash of lightning! ¹⁹And I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you. ²⁰But don't rejoice just because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered as citizens of heaven." **Luke 10:17-20 (NLT)**

*³Suddenly, I witnessed in heaven another significant event. I saw a large red dragon with seven heads and ten horns, with seven crowns on his heads. ⁴His tail dragged down one-third of the stars, which he threw to the earth. **Revelation 12:3-4a (NLT)***

*⁷Then there was war in heaven. Michael and the angels under his command fought the dragon and his angels. ⁸And the dragon lost the battle and was forced out of heaven. ⁹This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the Devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels. **Revelation 12:7-9 (NLT)***

Satan's purpose

¹⁰The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give life in all its fullness.
John 10:10

Satan's purpose is to rob, kill and destroy. Satan is not a friend of anyone. He hates everyone, as everyone is made in the image of God. He is hell-bent on causing as much pain, destruction, and death as he can, because he knows his time is limited.

It is obvious that spiritual forces in allegiance to Satan will have the same ambition. Demons are degenerate, corrupt beings, intent on preventing, distorting and destroying people's relationship with God. They will attempt to achieve this by any means necessary. I believe one of their most effective weapons is deception, just like their leader...

⁴Satan, the god of this evil world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe, so they are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News that is shining upon them. They don't understand the message we preach about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.
2 Corinthians 4:4 (NLT)

Satan's final destination

In Matthew 24 Jesus teaches about the final judgement, and tells us very clearly where Satan and His demons are going.

⁴¹"Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, 'Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the Devil and his demons!'" **Matthew 25:41 (NLT)**

The eternal destination of Satan and His armies is hell. That's why hell is so horrible. It wasn't created for humans!

Demons

Demons can be described as evil personalities without bodies, or spiritual beings at enmity with God. They are able to influence people through thoughts and senses, in varying degrees from oppression to possession.

The Greek word for demon is 'Daimonion' and means:

- **A spirit, a being inferior to God, superior to men.**
- **Evil spirits or the messengers and ministers of the devil.¹**

Where do demons come from?

There are various opinions about the origin of demons, and I will cover the two most widely accepted.

- **Fallen angels**

The most common and accepted belief as to how demons originated is that they were once the angels who rebelled with Satan (as previously mentioned above).

- **Spirits of the Nephilim**

Another belief as to the origin to demons is that they are the disembodied spirits of the Nephilim.

¹When men began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, ²the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. ³Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days will be a hundred and twenty years."

⁴The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown. **Genesis 6:1-4 (NIV)**

The Greek word "Nephilim" literally means 'fallen ones'. Some scholars (i.e. Chuck Missler) believe that since the Nephilim were half fallen angel and half human, their spirit could not be redeemed or 'born again'.

Therefore, when they died they became bodiless parasitic entities, roaming the earth until judgement-day seeking humans if possible to be their hosts. In other words... demons.

Whatever the true origin of demons, one thing is certain, they are supernatural creatures under the dominion of Satan, and are absolute enemies of God and God's people.

¹²For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against those mighty powers of darkness who rule this world, and against wicked spirits in the heavenly realms. Ephesians 6:12 (NLT)

Where do demons live?

The following Biblical account shows that demons can inhabit three places:

- **People. The man was possessed by many evil spirits.**
- **Animals. Jesus allowed the demons to enter the herd of pigs.**
- **Places. The demons begged Jesus not to send them to a 'distant place'.**

¹So they arrived at the other side of the lake, in the land of the Gerasenes. ²Just as Jesus was climbing from the boat, a man possessed by an evil spirit ran out from a cemetery to meet him. ³This man lived among the tombs and could not be restrained, even with a chain. ⁴Whenever he was put into chains and shackles—as he often was—he snapped the chains from his wrists and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to control him. ⁵All day long and throughout the night, he would wander among the tombs and in the hills, screaming and hitting himself with stones.

⁶When Jesus was still some distance away, the man saw him. He ran to meet Jesus and fell down before him. ⁷He gave a terrible scream, shrieking, "Why are you bothering me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? For God's sake, don't torture me!" ⁸For Jesus had already said to the spirit, "Come out of the man, you evil spirit."

⁹Then Jesus asked, "What is your name?"

And the spirit replied, "Legion, because there are many of us here inside this man." ¹⁰Then the spirits begged him again and again not to send them to some distant place. ¹¹There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding on the hillside nearby. ¹²"Send us into those pigs," the evil spirits begged. ¹³Jesus gave them permission. So the evil spirits came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the entire herd of two thousand pigs plunged down the steep hillside into the lake, where they drowned. **Mark 5:1-13 (NLT)**

How to get demonically infected

The following give far-from-exhaustive instructions on how to become the host for demonic parasites.

- **Practice deliberate sin**

²⁷and do not give the devil a foothold. **Ephesians 4:27 (NIV)**

The Greek word 'foothold' can literally mean real-estate, or an inhabited place. When we practice deliberate sin we give Satan real estate in our life and give him legal access to wreak havoc! Every time we choose to practise sin, we mark off another boundary line of property given to the enemy in our life. He takes up residence there and there is nothing we can do about it, unless we truly repent and take back ground. This is the only way.

- **Own objects attributed to Satan and witchcraft**

Just as deliberate sin can give demons legal access, owning objectionable objects, or objects dedicated to demonic forces can give demons legal access also.

- **Entertain yourself with things glorifying the devil**

Hollywood releases multiple big-budget horror films every month. It is no accident that the entertainment industry is churning out horror movies, television shows glamorising witchcraft, and satanic computer games in phenomenal numbers.

- **Don't forgive**

²¹Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"

²²Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³"Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. ²⁶"The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷The servant's master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go. ²⁸"But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. ²⁹"His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' ³⁰"But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened. ³²"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' ³⁴In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart." **Matthew 18:21-35 (NIV)**

We all know that Jesus' parables always showed a spiritual truth. The spiritual truth of these verses is if we refuse to forgive someone, God will allow Satan to torture and torment us! Anyone involved in deliverance ministry will be quick to tell you that unforgiveness is one of the main reasons why people don't get delivered and find freedom and victory. They will also tell you that unforgiveness opens the door to demonic torment in one's life! These examples show in reality the truth of this parable. If you don't forgive, God will allow Satan and his demons to torment you, plain and simple.

...And when I forgive him (for whatever is to be forgiven), I do so with Christ's authority for your benefit, ¹¹so that Satan will not outsmart us. For we are very familiar with his evil schemes.

2 Corinthians 2:10b-11 (NLT)

- **Have pre/extra-marital sex**

Just as bodily fluids are exchanged during sexual activity, demonic inhabitants can also be exchanged. Sex is so much more than a physical act. It is very spiritual also, and must be saved for marriage!

¹⁶And don't you know that if a man joins himself to a prostitute, he becomes one body with her? For the Scriptures say, "The two are united into one." ¹⁷But the person who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.

¹⁸Run away from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. **1 Corinthians 6:16-18 (NLT)**

- **Receive a generational hand-me-down**

Just as we receive our physical attributes from our parents, we can also receive spiritual 'hand-me-downs' from them.

- **Dabble in witchcraft**

The numbers of people interested in and participating in witchcraft/paganism is increasing at an alarming rate. For example, in the West, the celebration of Halloween is now only second to Christmas in popularity.

⁹"When you arrive in the land the LORD your God is giving you, be very careful not to imitate the detestable customs of the nations living there. ¹⁰For example, never sacrifice your son or daughter as a burnt offering. And do not let your people practice fortune-telling or sorcery, or allow them to interpret omens, or engage in witchcraft, ¹¹or cast spells, or function as mediums

or psychics, or call forth the spirits of the dead. ¹²Anyone who does these things is an object of horror and disgust to the LORD. It is because the other nations have done these things that the LORD your God will drive them out ahead of you. ¹³You must be blameless before the LORD your God. ¹⁴The people you are about to displace consult with sorcerers and fortune-tellers, but the LORD your God forbids you to do such things. **Deuteronomy 18:9-13 (NLT)**

Why is God so firm on the practice of witchcraft? Because He knows that it is a foolproof way to become bound by demonic forces. There are many seemingly harmless and culturally acceptable practices that are demonic in origin and must be avoided like the plague. For example, horoscopes, acupuncture, yoga, Tarot card reading and various holistic healing methods to name just a few. Do research on the origins of our culture's in-vogue alternative trends and practices. We can never be too careful.

- **Experience a traumatic ordeal**

Experiencing a traumatic incident can sometimes open the door to demons. For example, a person who suffers a terrifying ordeal can become vulnerable and home to a spirit of fear.

- **Practice other religions**

¹Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from what we believe; they will follow lying spirits and teachings that come from demons.

1 Timothy 4:1 (NLT)

It is no secret that by practicing other religions, people willfully open themselves up to and even welcome demons to inhabit them. Using Mormonism as an example, it is interesting to note that Anton LaVey's Satanic Bible calls the God of the ghouls 'Mormo' and his followers 'Mormons'.²

- **Use hallucinogenic drugs**

A fact that not many people know is that the Greek word which we get the word drugs from (pharmakeia), is the same word used by the Greeks for witchcraft and sorcery!³

Pieces of furniture assumed grotesque threatening forms... A demon had invaded me, taken possession of my body, mind and soul... I was seized by the dreadful fear I was going insane... I was taken to another world, another place, another time... Was I dying? Albert Hoffman, inventor of LSD, recalling the world's first LSD trip in 1938.⁴

One trip with LSD can mar a mind for life... Seven per cent of LSD experiments never return to normalcy and have to be admitted to psychiatric hospitals... It appears to open a doorway into the unconscious of the mind that never completely closes.⁵

- **Become hypnotised**

Hypnosis is so dangerous because by being hypnotised, a person willingly relinquishes control of their subconscious. Demons take advantage of this vulnerability and take up residence, planting a range of deceptive memories, such as alien abduction, former-life experiences etc.

How to be free from demonic infection

When we get a viral infection, we have become exposed to the virus in some way, and if we are not immune, we become infected by the virus. Some people are more vulnerable than others because of physical strength, health etc. When we become infected, our body works at combating the virus, and many times succeeds in overcoming and destroying the virus, but sometimes, we need to get medical help from a doctor who will prescribe us medicine to evict the virus from our body.

The same applies to demonic squatters. Because we have allowed ourselves to become vulnerable to demonic infection (by being involved in the things mentioned in the previous section), many times a demon takes up residence within us. In many cases we can effectively fight against and evict demonic forces on our own, but sometimes we need help from others to help us get free.

Here are some ways to get free.

a. Repent (and confess)

To repent means literally to turn and walk in the opposite direction. Many people are sorry for what they have done, but they don't turn away from it.

¹⁶*Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results.* **James 5:16 (NLT)**

A lack of repentance is a major reason why demons won't leave. They have a right to be there. Remember the foothold analogy.

b. Renounce

To renounce something means to reject and leave it completely, in word and deed. It is similar to repentance but more aggressive.

c. Release (forgive)

Contrary to what many people believe, forgiveness is a choice, not a feeling.

d. Remove (yourself or objects)

A proof that we have truly repented and renounced something is removing it completely from our lives. We may need to remove ourselves from the practice, or remove objects from our life.

¹⁷*The story of what happened spread quickly all through Ephesus, to Jews and Greeks alike. A solemn fear descended on the city, and the name of the Lord Jesus was greatly honored.*

¹⁸*Many who became believers confessed their sinful practices. ¹⁹A number of them who had been practicing magic brought their incantation books and burned them at a public bonfire. The value of the books was several million dollars. ²⁰So the message about the Lord spread widely and had a powerful effect.* **Acts 19:17-20 (NLT)**

e. Relationship (with God)

The most important thing for us to do is pursue, develop, and cultivate a relationship with God! If we become close to God, demons will eventually get so agitated that they will leave of their own accord.

f. Resist

Demons don't usually leave without a fight. It's like a hermit crab getting pulled from its shell. We must become aggressive and resist their attacks.

⁷*So humble yourselves before God. Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you.* **James 4:7 (NLT)**

g. (get) Radical

We cannot be half-hearted in our efforts in finding freedom. We must be radical and do whatever is necessary to get free. Sometimes that will involve much prayer and fasting.

²⁵*When Jesus saw that the crowd of onlookers was growing, he rebuked the evil spirit. "Spirit of deafness and muteness," he said, "I command you to come out of this child and never enter him again!" ²⁶Then the spirit screamed and threw the boy into another violent convulsion and left him. The boy lay there motionless, and he appeared to be dead. A murmur ran through the crowd, "He's dead." ²⁷But Jesus took him by the hand and helped him to his feet, and he stood up.*

²⁸*Afterward, when Jesus was alone in the house with his disciples, they asked him, "Why couldn't we cast out that evil spirit?"*

²⁹*Jesus replied, "This kind can be cast out only by prayer." **Mark 9:25-29 (NLT)***

(The word 'prayer' in verse 29 implies fasting also.)

Remember as genuine believers, Christ has given us authority in His Name. Much of the above ways to find freedom will include prayer in the Name of Jesus.

Demon FAQ

- **Can Christians have demons?**

Christians cannot be possessed, as possession implies total ownership, and Satan does not have ownership of Christians, God has. Christians can however be 'demonised' which means having a demonic force reside in or around them. The most common cause for this is that before people give their lives to Jesus, they have accumulated demons which still reside in them after they are born again. That is why it is important for new believers to receive teaching on demons and how to get rid of them.

- **Is all mental sickness attributed to demons?**

Just as all physical sickness is not demonic in origin, we cannot attribute all mental sickness to demons either. We must be wise in our zeal and not do emotional damage by demon-hunting when in fact the reason is emotional/mental instability, or hormonal imbalance. It has been proven that some medication can cause hallucinations that appear to be demonic, when there are no demons involved.

- **Should I pray through my house?**

Definitely. We do not know what has gone on in our places of residence before they are ours. It may have been home to a witch's coven!

- **If I am delivered, will the demons come back?**

⁴³*"When an evil spirit leaves a person, it goes into the desert, seeking rest but finding none. ⁴⁴Then it says, 'I will return to the person I came from.' So it returns and finds its former home empty, swept, and clean. ⁴⁵Then the spirit finds seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they all enter the person and live there. And so that person is worse off than before. That will be the experience of this evil generation."* **Matthew 12:43 (NLT)**

If a non-Christian gets delivered of a demon, then judging by the above verses the demon will definitely come back with its friends. Christians need not worry, if they are pursuing a relationship with God and filling themselves with Him and His ways. Christians who have been delivered of demons but choose to reject God (backslide) can be in grave danger of becoming re-inhabited by demons and become greatly afflicted, much worse than before.

Conclusion

There is so much more that I wanted to include in this study but haven't got the space. We have only touched the surface of the subject, and have not discussed ghosts, aliens etc. These subjects will be covered in further studies available soon. As a final word though, please consider the following:

There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors, and hail a materialist or magician with the same delight. **C.S. Lewis**

¹³*You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ. He forgave all our sins. ¹⁴He canceled the record that contained the charges against us. He took it and destroyed it by nailing it to Christ's cross. ¹⁵In this way, God disarmed the evil rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross of Christ.* **Colossians 2:13-15 (NLT)**

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Symon lives in Whangarei, New Zealand with his wife and four children. He serves on the pastoral staff of Christian Renewal Fellowship and has been in fulltime ministry since 1998. For further studies visit www.renewalyouth.org or Symon's blog at www.symondrake.com.

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