

# **Dr. Robert A. Peterson, Theology Proper, Session 20, The Works of God, Angels, Satan, and Demons**

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This is Dr. Robert Peterson in his teaching on Theology Proper, or GOD. This is session 20, The Works of God, Angels, Satan, and Demons.

We're dealing with the Doctrine of God, specifically now His works.

We treated the Holy Trinity and God's attributes. God's works include His works of creation and providence, which we have treated. His works of redemption and consummation belong to other courses, not to this one.

So, we move to God's creatures, the angels. God creates angels, and some rebel. God creates all things, and that includes angels.

Does God then create Satan and demons? God creates them as good angels, but they rebel against Him and become evil angels. Although we do not fully understand, God, in His providence, allows the rebellion. Sovereignly and mysteriously, He uses even evil for ultimate good.

Scripture does not present a complete angelology, Doctrine of Angels. Scripture does not present a complete Satanology, Doctrine of Satan. And it does not present a complete demonology, Doctrine of Demons.

Scripture does not present a complete angelology, Satanology, or demonology, but teaches some truths on these topics. Angels. God creates angels to worship and serve Him.

Apparently, many angels rebel before the creation of human beings. And this is the origin of Satan and his demons. Apparently, it is an important word.

So many aspects of the doctrine of even angels, but then especially Satan and demons, are surmised. Well, here's an implication. It's so hard.

That's why I say we don't have a complete doctrine of any of this. But we have some truths. We work with them and try not to speculate and let it say it when we make a move, when we make an inference, and so forth.

Scripture does not give us a complete doctrine of angels, Satan or demons, but speaks of them all, this is very important, in relation to God. Unlike the Trinity, angels play no part in creation or redemption. But the good angels have important roles as God's messengers, judges, and preservers.

They appear before God. Job 1:6, Job 2:1. The angels praise Him. Psalm 148:1 and 2, which we read.

Isaiah 6:3. The seraphim said to one another, Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty. The whole earth is filled with His glory. And they worship Him.

Hebrews 1:6. When God brings His Son, His firstborn, into the world, in the context of Hebrews 1, it is not a Bethlehem saying, it is into the heavenly world. Hebrews 1 is about the coronation of Christ as King when He sits down at God's right hand. The angels praise God, and they worship Christ and the Father, and we would say to be complete, and the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 1:6. When God brings His firstborn into the heavenly world, He says, let all God's angels worship Him, Christ. Revelation 4:8. God is worshipped by angels. Angels appear before God.

Job 1:6, 2:1. They praise God. Psalm 148:1 and 2. Isaiah 6:3. And they worship God. Hebrews 1:6. Even Christ.

Revelation 4:8. God creates angels as spiritual beings. Psalm 148:1 to 5. Colossians 1:16. The angels are among the invisible things that God creates. Hebrews 1:14. Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve those who will inherit salvation? God creates angels as spiritual beings.

Psalm 148:1 to 5. Colossians 1:16. Hebrews 1:14. He creates them in large numbers. Deuteronomy 33:2. Myriads of myriads. Matthew 26:53. Hebrews 12:23. Revelation 5:11. When the writer to the Hebrews compares spiritual Mount Zion, a picture of heaven, with literal Mount Zion, where the law was given, he says, Hebrews 12:22. You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering.

And it goes on and says more to innumerable angels in celebration. God created angels in large numbers.

Deuteronomy 33:2. Matthew 26:53. Hebrews 12:22. Revelation 5:11. They have some organization because there are archangels, angels over others, leaders. 1 Thessalonians 4:16 and Jude 9. Scripture names two angels, Michael, Daniel 12:1 and Gabriel, Daniel 8:16, Luke 1:19 and 26. So, we don't know all that we might like to know about the organization of angels, but some obviously are leaders.

That's a good way to say it. Archangels. 1 Thessalonians 4:16 and Jude 9. Two angels are named, Michael, Daniel 12:1, Gabriel, Daniel 8:16, Luke 1:19 and 26.

Although angels sometimes appear in human form, Genesis 18:1 and 2, they do not have physical bodies, do not marry or procreate, and do not die. They appear in human form sometimes, Genesis 18:1 and 2, do not have physical bodies, do not marry or procreate, Matthew 22:30 and do not die, Luke 20:36. Contrary to common misrepresentations, angels in Scripture do not appear as women or infants, but sometimes appear as mighty human warriors. Angels have great intellectual prowess, but unlike God, their knowledge is limited, Matthew 13:32. Even the angels do not know the time when the Son of Man will come back.

Concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven. That is an indication that they, when it says not even, not even these greatly intelligent beings, nor the Son but only the Father. This raises a question, a problem for Christian theology.

I thought the Son knew everything. I thought he was God. He is God.

He has all his divine powers as the God-Man, but he only uses them in obedience to the Father. And for reasons we do not know, the Incarnate Son, while on earth, did not know the time of his return because the Father did not want him to know. Of course, now he knows that as the Incarnate Son in glory in heaven.

Angels are stronger than human beings. Psalm 103:20 calls them mighty and powerful. 2 Peter 2:11 warns against blaspheming angels concerning what we do not know we are talking about.

We should not meddle, but that is what the false prophets were doing. Bold and willful, these false teachers, 2 Peter 2:10, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones. Whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord.

They let the Lord do it. Again, we're taking a little piece there and a little piece there and trying to weave together a doctrine, but it is not complete. Angels are stronger than we are.

Psalm 103:20, 2 Peter 2:11, but unlike God, their power is limited, for they are his creatures. As creatures of God, angels are not divine and are not to be worshipped. Twice, John, in the book of Revelation, as he receives these visions from God, is overwhelmed and falls down at the feet of the angel whose revealer.

Revelation 19:10, Revelation 22:8 and 9. Get up! Don't do that, the angels say. We both worship God. You don't even give the appearance of worshipping me.

Revelation 19:10, Revelation 22:8 and 9. Angels are creatures who worship God, their maker. Good angels are God's servants who do his will. Psalm 103:20 and 21.

I keep coming back to that one. Psalm 103. The Lord has established his throne in heaven and his kingdom rules over all.

Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones. There's a good proof for their power. Psalm 103:20. Who do his word, obeying the voice of his word.

Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers who do his will. Good angels are God's servants who do his will. Psalm 103:20 and 21.

And they perform four main functions. One, they adore and praise God. Psalm 148:2. Luke 2:13 and 14. Revelation 5:11 and 12.

They serve as God's messengers. Daniel 9:21,22, Luke 1:19, Acts 10:22, Revelation 1:1.

Three, they bring God's judgment on rebellious human beings. 2 Kings 19:35, Acts 12:23, Revelation 9:15.

Four, they serve God's people. Hebrews 1:14, Acts 5:19. Especially by preserving them. Matthew 2:13, Acts 5:17-21. To review, good angels are God's servants who do his will and perform four main functions.

They adore and praise God. They serve as his messengers. They bring judgment. And they serve God's people. They adore and praise God. Psalm 148:2, Luke 2:13 and 14.

At the birth of Christ, the angels sang in praise. Revelation 5:11 and 12. They serve as God's messengers.

Daniel 9:21 and 22. Luke 1:19, Gabriel brings a message to Mary about her pregnancy with the Messiah. Acts 10:22, Revelation 1:1. Well, that was wrong.

The angel Gabriel appeared to Zechariah, John the Baptist's father. I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God.

I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. God's going to send the one who's going to go before the Lord. He's going to be born to you and your wife.

Because you doubted, you're going to be not able to speak dumb until he's born. And when he was born, he wrote on the tablet, his name is John. It was a shock, John the Baptist.

An angel does come to Mary and that is Gabriel. And he also brings a message to her. In Luke 1, I just had the wrong verses.

Luke 1:28 and following. Sometimes angels bring God's judgment on rebels. 2 Kings 19:35, Acts 12:23, Revelation 9:15. And angels also serve God's people.

Hebrews 1:14. Are they not all ministering spirits, serving those who will inherit salvation? Acts 5:19. Especially preserving God's people, keeping them. Matthew 2:13, Acts 5:17-21 where angels warn God's people of coming opposition so they can get out of the way. The eternal son of God has to do with angels.

He creates them. Acts 1:16, as the father's agent. Along with everything else he creates.

John 1:3. All things were created by him. The devil tempts Christ. Matthew 4:1-11. Attempting to thwart Christ's work.

Matthew 16:23. Luke 22:31. John 8:44. And the devil incites Judas, John 13:2. And then empowers Judas, John 13:27 to betray Jesus. Good angels play roles in the life of Christ. Predicting his birth.

Matthew 1:20. Luke 1:26-38. Announcing his birth. Luke 2:13-15. Serving him after his temptation. Angels came and ministered to him.

Mark 1:13. And in Gethsemane, Luke 22:43. Announcing his resurrection. He is not here, he is risen. Matthew 28:2-5. John 20:15. Witnessing his ascension.

Acts 1:10-11. And they will accompany Jesus at his return. Matthew 16:27. Matthew 25:31. 2 Thessalonians 1:7.

Satan and demons is our last topic. God creates the angels holy, but many of them join Satan and rebel against God. We cannot fully comprehend why, and yet it's true. Many think the prophets describe this rebellion symbolized in the kings of Babylon and Tyre.

Isaiah 14:12-14. Ezekiel 28:12-17. I would leave it as a controversial point. I am not especially persuaded that that is the case. It certainly speaks of those rebellious kings.

Does it speak of them symbolically also of Satan who inspired them? I'll leave it to Old Testament scholars, but this theologian would not teach that as true for sure. Satan. Revelation 12:9-20. Perhaps it's one or two.

Gives these names. Satan, the great dragon, the ancient serpent, or the devil. Revelation 12:9. He's the leader of the unholy angels or demons.

Matthew 12:26. Is a liar, murderer. John 8:44. Accuser. Revelation 20:10. And deceiver.

Revelation 12:9. Satan, the great dragon, the ancient serpent, or the devil. Revelation 12:9. The leader of unholy angels or demons. Matthew 12:26. Is a liar, murderer.

John 8:44. Accuser. Revelation 12:10. Accuser of the brothers. And deceiver.

Revelation 12:9. The unfallen or elect angels. Yes, there's a reference to elect angels. 1 Timothy 5:21. So God chose some angels.

Presumably those are the ones that didn't fall. The unfallen or elect angels. 1 Timothy 5:21. Are still holy.

Mark 8:38. But the rebellious ones are apparently, there's that word again, to be identified with unclean spirits. Unless they are some other kind of entity. I think they are to be identified.

Would I make it an article of church you have to believe to join? No, I would not. Would I teach it with the same assuredness that I teach the deity of Christ? No, I would not. But I think it's a reasonable assumption.

Matthew 10:1. Mark 3:11. Demons, the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens. Ephesians 6:12. Carry out Satan's evil plans. 2 Corinthians 11:15. By promoting idolatry.

Deuteronomy 32:16-17. Psalm 106:36-38. 1 Corinthians 10:19-20. And false teaching. 1 Timothy 4:1. Doctrines of demons. It doesn't mean demonology; it means doctrines promoted and taught by demons through false prophets.

And demons carry out Satan's evil plans. Possessing and afflicting people. Matthew 8:28. Matthew 17:15. And 18.

Demons, the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens. Ephesians 6:12. Carry out Satan's evil plans. 2 Corinthians 11:15. By promoting idolatry.

Deuteronomy 32:16-17. Psalm 106:36-38. 1 Corinthians 10:19-20. By carrying out false teaching. 1 Timothy 4:1. And possessing and afflicting people. Matthew 8:28. Matthew 17:15. Matthew 17:18. Can believers be possessed by the devil? I think not.

But they can apparently be afflicted by him. And the result may not be that different. However, I confess ignorance in any kind of practical knowledge of those things.

I know missionaries who went to the mission field not expecting to learn more about demon possession but came in contact with it because they met human beings who were indeed possessed or at least greatly afflicted. Satan and his demons hate God and his people and seek to destroy them. 1 Peter 5:8. Satan prowls around like a roaring lion seeking to destroy, to devour.

The devil sometimes disguises himself as an angel of light. 2 Corinthians 11:14.15. Satan blinds unbelievers' minds to prevent them from believing the gospel. 2 Corinthians 4:4. The devil tempts believers to materialism.

1 Timothy 6:10. Pride. 3:6. Immorality. 1 Corinthians 7:5. Lying.

Acts 5:3. Sinful anger. Ephesians 4:26-27. Lack of forgiveness. 2 Corinthians 2:6-8. And divisiveness.

Titus 3:10-11. The devil promotes false teaching. 1 John 4:1-4. The denial of the incarnation. Thankfully, believers, by God's strength, can resist the devil, who is subject to the rule of God.

Job 1:9-12. Luke 22:31. James 4:7. Satan and demons' rebellion against God seals their fate. Eternal punishment in hell. Matthew 25:41. Revelation 20:10. I am God, and there is no other.

I am God, and no one is like me. Isaiah 46:9. God the Trinity alone is God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He alone possesses all the attributes of deity, both His unique ones and those He shares in part with human beings.

He alone performs His wonderful works of creation and providence. He alone creates all things, including the angels, some of whom rebel. He alone is the Lord who in the end will save His people and triumph over all His enemies.

To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen.

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