

Good and Evil Angels (Demons)

The road to hell is paved with adverbs.

—Author Stephen King

None of us will arrive in hell by selecting the wrong words for a horror novel. However, most of us can recall having taken a wrong road and ending up in the wrong place. Most of the time, our travel stories have a happy ending. However, sometimes travelers are not able to get back on the right road. A wrong road leads to a place of great danger, and before they realize it, it is too late.

35. Describe the time or times you've taken a wrong turn and ended up on the wrong road. Were you able to get back on the right road? What helped you get there?

Which Road?

God's created angels faced a fork in the road. Everything was going fine until that point.

36. Read Genesis 28:11–13; Psalm 103:20–21; and John 1:50–51. According to these passages, what are some additional activities of God's good angels?

37. Read Genesis 1:31 and 3:1. When God says that everything that He created was "very good," what does that say about *all* the angels God created? When might that have changed?

38. Read Isaiah 14:12–15, Ezekiel 28:12–19; 31:1–17. What elements in these passages depict Satan's fall from heaven?

39. Read Jude 6 and Revelation 12:4. Describe the wrong road taken by some of God's good angels.

40. Job 1:6–7, 2:1–2, 7; Mark 5:12–13; and Matthew 12:43–44. Prior to Christ’s ascent into heaven, the devil and his evil angels were allowed into God’s presence in heaven. Where are they now?

41. Read Matthew 6:13. In the Lord’s Prayer, we asked that God deliver us from evil. How is this accomplished?

The Right Road

The above passages show that God’s angels were faced with the decision to either go off on the wrong road with Satan or stay on the right road with God, their Creator. The following passages strongly emphasize this truth.

42. Read Matthew 18:10. What benefit do the elect angels now enjoy?

43. Read 1 Timothy 5:21. Describe the state and condition of God’s good angels.

The Wrong Road

The good angels remained on the right road, but some angels did not, including Satan. The world has never been the same since.

44. Read John 8:44 and 1 Timothy 3:6. In what did Satan no longer abide? What caused that? In other words, what was the devil’s original sin? Discuss this in reference to Romans 1.

45. Read 2 Peter 2:4 and Matthew 25:41. What was the result of the fall of the evil angels, including Satan? What will be their final abode?

Comparisons

Many philosophical ideas compete for our attention when we discuss biblical concepts like angels and demons. Often Bible readers are not even aware that such ideas influence and color their interpretation of God's Word.

Rationalism: "We can figure that out." Rationalism rejects religious faith or dogma in determining truth and relies solely on human reason and analysis. Secular Humanism, which deifies the human person, human society, and its achievements, and atheism, which denies that God exists, are philosophically related to Rationalism. Rationalists would deny the existence of angels and demons because the concept of invisible, bodiless beings is irrational.

Relativism: "Everything is relative." There is no absolute reference for the values human beings place in their beliefs or behaviors. As a philosophical theory, relativism has two inherent problems: either it is itself relativistic (that is, subject to change) or absolutist (by claiming there are no absolutes). Relativists would allow for multiple and competing authorities or sources of information about angels and demons besides the Bible.

Subjectivism: "Perception creates reality." There is no true reality apart from our perception. Objectivists, however, argue that there is an underlying reality to all things existing independently of our perception. Subjectivists would tend to base what they believe about angels and demons not on external sources of authority but on their own personal experience or feelings.

Point to Remember

"In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels, I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality." 1 Timothy 5:21

To prepare for "What Do Evil Angels Do?" read Matthew 4:1–11.