

Names and titles of the fallen

1. What are the names and titles of fallen angels? What do you observe between the accounts in the Old Testament verses the New Testament? Examine 1 Sam 16:15-16, 23; 1 Kings 22:21-23; Matthew 10:1; 12:43; Mark 1:23-26, Luke 7:21; 8:2; Acts 19:12-13; Romans 8:38-39; 1 Corinthians 15:24; and Colossians 2:8-15.

In the Old Testament, demons are associated with God in a manner that emphasizes the sovereignty of God. In contrast, the New Testament portrays demons with much more personality. Consequently much of what we know about fallen angels and the doctrine of demons comes from the New Testament.

Some scholars speculate that the high frequency of demonic references in the Gospels represent the fierce spiritual conflict against Christ in His mission to fulfill His Father's will especially after Satan's failure to tempt Christ in the wilderness.

The Old Testament presents fallen angels as:

- evil spirits (1 Sam 16:15-16, 23)
- deceiving spirits (1 Kings 22:21-23)

The New Testament presents fallen angels as:

- unclean spirits (Matt 10:1; 12:43 and Mark 1:23-26)
- evil spirits (Luke 7:21; 8:2 and Acts 19:12-13)
- principalities and powers (Rom 8:38-39, 1 Cor 15:24, and Col 2:8-15)

2. How is the term "principalities" defined? How is it associated with demons? Study Titus 3:1, Romans 8:38, Ephesians 6:12-13, Colossians 2:15, Ephesians 3:9-11, and Colossians 1:16.

The term "principalities" refers to "powerful ruler or the rule of someone in authority." The term, used in the Bible, can refer to:

- a) Human rulers (Titus 3:1)
- b) Fallen angels (Rom 8:38, Eph 6:12 and Col 2:15)
- c) Both unfallen and fallen angels (Eph 3:10, Col 1:16)

The term "principalities" refers largely to any type of rule other than God. In a similar sense, this concept also applies to the terms "thrones, dominions, and powers."

3. How did demons originate? Read Revelation 12:7-10.

The Bible does not say specifically how angels became fallen angels. But this doctrine is based on Revelation 12:7-10 where a conflict occurred in heaven, and the dragon and his angels lost and were displaced from heaven. Whether the dragon is literal or symbolic, verse 9 identifies clearly that it is Satan, and it is the same Satan, that "serpent of old", who tempted Adam and Eve. Hence, Satan and his followers were removed and no longer had an abode in heaven.

The Bible is clear that demons really do exist.

1. Every single New Testament author writes of fallen angels.
2. Jesus taught and spoke of demons. He spoke to demons. And He cast out demons.
3. The disciples recognized and affirmed the existence of demons.

Reference:

1. Youngblood RF, Kaiser WC, Harrison RK, eds., Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Nashville, Tn: Thomas Nelson Publishers (1995).

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