

LESSON 8 The Spirit World

“The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world” (1 John 4:4).

Marina was a teenager when she became a spiritist medium. When I met her, she was 25 and already bound by Satan and evil spirits. The first three weeks of those months that several other believers and I lived with Marina and her husband were a time of terrible spiritual battle.

Every evening we laid hands on Marina, praying for her deliverance. The evil spirits tried to kill her and also to harm us, but they could not. We resisted the satanic forces and sought protection through the blood of Jesus. Slowly the evil spirits left. The power of God was greater, and soon Marina was completely free!

Marina became a member of God’s family, part of the church that we have just studied about. Only God controlled her and only the Holy Spirit lived in her.

Perhaps you, too, have seen the power of Satan working. But you do not have to be afraid. The power of God is greater! In this lesson we will learn about the forces of the spirit world and the protection that we as believers have in Christ.

The Plan

- A. Satan and Evil Spirits
- B. Angels

The Goals

1. Explain who Satan is and what is his destiny.
2. Identify three functions of angels.

A. SATAN AND EVIL SPIRITS

Goal 1. Explain who Satan is and what is his destiny.

Satan is a wicked angel who was cast out of heaven because he wanted to exalt himself above God. But God brought him down to the deepest part of the world of the dead (Isaiah 14:14–15). The evil angels who followed him met a similar fate: “God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment” (2 Peter 2:4). Jesus himself said, ““I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven”” (Luke 10:18).

Satan (sometimes-called *Lucifer* or the *devil*) tries to turn people away from serving the living God. First Peter 5:8 warns us, “Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”

Evil spirits work with Satan to hurt and destroy people. Matthew 8:28–34 tells of two men who were driven insane because evil spirits or demons possessed them. But the power of God has always been greater than the power of the devil. Jesus showed that power by casting the demons out of the men.

When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: “He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases.” (Matthew 8:16–17)

Revelation 20:1–3 tells that when Christ comes to set up His kingdom on earth, Satan will be bound for a thousand years. After this he will be set free for a while and then be cast into hell forever. John’s vision indicates,

The devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever. (Revelation 20:10)

When you are faced by temptations from Satan or are in danger because of evil spirits, you can stand against him. James 4:7 says, “Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” Revelation 12:11 notes, “They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.”

As we will study in the next section, God sends His angels to be of service to you. You have nothing to fear if you are a child of God!

Application

- 1** God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of ; , and (2 Timothy 1:7).
- 2** Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement about Satan and evil spirits.
 - a)** Satan is like a roaring lion wanting to hurt Christian believers.
 - b)** Evil spirits are just imagined by people who do not know better.
 - c)** Satan and evil spirits are overcome by the blood that Jesus shed on the Cross.
 - d)** If a believer resists the devil, the devil cannot harm him.
- 3** Read Matthew 25:41. What has been prepared for the devil and his angels?

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B. ANGELS

Goal 2. Identify three functions of angels.

Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation? (Hebrews 1:14).

Have you heard about guardian angels? They are real. The Bible says that God will “command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways” (Psalm 91:11).

Angels have many functions, the first of which is to serve God, their Creator. Angels worship God at all times. Nehemiah 9:6 states, “You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you.” Angels do not act on their own, but are under Christ’s authority. First Peter 3:22 tells us that Jesus “has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.”

Angels participated in the giving of the old law (Galatians 3:19) and later sang over the Judean hills, announcing the birth of Jesus (Luke 2:13–14). They ministered to Jesus while He was here on earth. Luke 4:11 tells us that after His temptation in the wilderness, angels helped Him. When Jesus prayed in agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, an angel came to strengthen Him.

Angels minister to us as well. Though they are not often seen, they watch over us—keeping and protecting us from danger. We have no way of knowing the accidents and other kinds of trouble that we have been spared because of their ministry on our behalf.

Yet we know they have been sent to help us because the Bible says so. Biblical examples are given to encourage us to believe. For instance, Paul tells how an angel visited him and he in turn encouraged those on the ship to believe they would live (Acts 27:22–25).

First Kings 19:5 tells that an angel brought food to the prophet Elijah when he was so tired he thought he would die. And an angel freed the apostle Peter from prison when he was being persecuted for the gospel’s sake (Acts 12:17).

Whether angels are seen or are invisible, we know they are sent to minister to us. How comforting to know they are ready to do whatever God tells them.

As we have already learned, angels do not act except under divine authority. Nor do they accept praise. John the Beloved was so overwhelmed with a message given him by an angel that he fell down and began to worship him. But the angel stopped him. “Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God!” (Revelation 19:10).

You must not worship angels, but you can give them cause for rejoicing. If you have given your life to Christ, you have already given angels joy. Jesus said, “I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents” (Luke 15:10).

Application

4 Read the following verses and beside each one write the function of the angels mentioned in that verse.

- a)** Hebrews 1:6
- b)** Acts 8:26
- c)** Psalm 91:11

5 Angels _____

- a)** are beings to be worshipped.
- b)** can act or speak without God’s authority.
- c)** are servants of God and help God’s children.



Check Your Answers

- 1** power, love, self-discipline
- 4**
 - a)** Worship Christ
 - b)** God's messenger
 - c)** Guard or protect
- 2**
 - a)** Satan is like a roaring lion wanting to hurt Christian believers.
 - c)** Satan and evil spirits are overcome by the blood that Jesus shed on the cross.
 - d)** If a believer resists the devil, the devil cannot harm him.
- 5** **c)** are servants of God and help God's children.
- 3** Eternal fire