

1) Where are they from and where are they going?**2) What is their influence?****3) How should we face them?**

- It's important to have a good doctrinal understanding of demons (demonology) because they are an active part of the universe as part of the "spiritual realm" or the "unseen realm."
- KJV uses the term "devil spirit."
- Modern translations use "demon."
 - The word "demon" is a transliteration of the word from the Greek, "daimōn"
- What is a Demon?
 - A spirit being; inferior to God, but superior to fleshly man.
 - An *evil* spirit that is a messenger and minister of Satan.
 - Considered one of the "gods" of the spiritual realm.
- When we did a "Got Questions" about the Devil, we noted that most of his influence in the world is experienced "passively" (that is, you won't *meet the devil in person*).
 - However, *demons* are the "active" aspect of the Devil's evil authority, influence, and works. They work and stir the evil that we see from the authority of darkness.

The Biblical Worldview**Ephesians 6:11-12 ESV –**

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

- A biblical worldview recognizes that we are in a "cosmic" spiritual battle between darkness and light.
- We wrestle, not with flesh and blood, but with the spiritual forces of evil that are behind the evil things of the world.
- Our natural tendency is to go "too far" or "not far enough" when it comes to these matters:
 - "Too far" is fearing the darkness more than trusting the light.
 - "Not far enough" is minimizing the darkness and its evil against the light
- We must realize there is an entire REALM of unseen spiritual activity, both good and evil, of which we are an active part.

Colossians 1:12-13 ESV –

12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. 13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,

Acts 10:38 ESV – How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

- Jesus came and freed people from the oppression of the devil, which is accomplished by his angels (demons).
- When Jesus came, it was cosmic clash of good and evil, light and darkness, the Kingdom of God and the domain of darkness.

Matthew 12:22-29 ESV –

22 Then a demon-oppressed man who was blind and mute was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the man spoke and saw.

23 And all the people were amazed, and said, "Can this be the Son of David?"

24 But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, "It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons."

25 Knowing their thoughts, he said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand.

26 And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?

27 And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges.

28 But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

29 Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house.

- Jesus came to "bind the strong man" (Satan) and his host of demons.
 - This why when Jesus comes, they are all stirred up.
- This was the "cosmic clash" of the kingdom of God confronting the domain of darkness.
- We'll often see Jesus casting out demons "with a word" and the demons "crying out" that they *know who he is...*
 - They *knew* they were powerless against his heavenly authority as the Son of God.

1) Where are they from and where are they going?

- The Word of God often answers these questions together, which gives us comfort.

- Many times, in the same breath that the devil or demons are mentioned, the Scripture also mentions their demise!

Revelation 12:4, 7-10 ESV –

4 His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. ...

7 Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back,

8 but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.

9 And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world--he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.

Matthew 25:41 ESV – "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

Jude 1:6 ESV - 6 And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day--

- Demons are *fallen* angels, who joined Satan in his rebellion against God.
- They are evil spirit beings, and for their rebellion God has prepared judgment of "eternal fire" (the lake of fire) at the end of the age.

2) What is their influence?

- They are under the direction of the "prince of demons" Satan and do the work of darkness.
- They influence *regions* and *cultures*.
- They influence *individuals*.

Broad influence

Daniel 10:18-21 ESV –

18 Again one having the appearance of a man (angel) touched me and strengthened me.

19 And he said, "O man greatly loved, fear not, peace be with you; be strong and of good courage." And as he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, "Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me."

20 Then he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? But now I will return to fight against the prince of Persia; and when I go out, behold, the prince of Greece will come.

21 But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth: there is none who contends by my side against these except Michael, your prince.

- These appear to be demonic powers that have influence over a *region* of people. Influencing them according to the domain of darkness.
- They are called “princes” because they are “principalities” and “powers” or “rulers of the world.”

Ideological Influence

1 Timothy 4:1-5 ESV - 1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, 2 through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared

- In the OT, that would be like false idolatrous prophets:

Deuteronomy 32:17 ESV - 17 They sacrificed to demons that were no gods (Baal), to gods they had never known, to new gods that had come recently, whom your fathers had never dreaded.

Psalms 106:36-37 ESV - They served their idols, which became a snare to them. They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons; (the Canaanite gods)

1 Corinthians 10:21 ESV - 21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. (Greek/Roman gods)

Individual Influence

Mark 1:34 ESV - And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

- They make people physically and mentally oppressed or influenced.
- Demon-*oppressed* or demon-*possessed* (*daimonizomai*).
 - Indirect and direct.
 - They do their wickedness in both ways, Jesus came to free people from their wickedness and destroy the works of the devil!

3) How should we face them?

- Remember that Jesus came doing good and delivering those oppressed of the devil.
- He has thoroughly *bound* the strong man and judged the prince of the world.

1 Peter 3:22 ESV - 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

Colossians 2:9-10, 14-15 ESV –

9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, A

10 and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. ...

14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

- **John 12:31-32 ESV -** Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. 32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

Ephesians 6:10-13 ESV –

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

Luke 10:17-20 ESV –

17 The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!"

18 And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

19 Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.

20 Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

- Christ's authority is far superior to demons.
- He has shared that authority with us, by the holy spirit, and that life and authority is greater than the dark forces of this age.
- We are not bound or dominated by the influence and oppression of Satan by walking by the holy spirit, with the word of truth, magnifying Christ.
- We can help others escape Satan's grasp and the influence of dark powers by the power of the gospel that gives salvation from sin and Satan.