



Provided by the Church of the Lutheran Confession - Board of Missions

## A Systematic Study of Bible Teachings (Dogmatics) Lesson 3.4.2 – The Doctrine of Creation

### Evil Angels, Evil Spirits, Demons, and the Devil

Since God is the Creator of all things, visible and invisible, it is obvious that He is also the Creator of the evil angels (devils, demons, evil spirits). God created them originally as good angels, but they fell into sin. We learn this from apostle Peter and Jude, the brother of Jesus and James: **“God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment”** (2 Peter 2:4). **“The angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day”** (Jude 6).

At the end of the six days of creation God saw that everything was **“very good”** but there was at least one evil spirit who led Adam and Eve into sin (Genesis 3) therefore, it is clear that the fall of the angels took place sometime between the six days of creation and the fall of man into sin. Jesus said of one evil angel, the devil: **“He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it”** (John 8:44). This shows that the devil, known also as Satan, the serpent, and the dragon, was the first good angel to become an evil angel. He apparently led a number of other angels to rebel with him. Jesus spoke of **“the devil and his angels”** (Matthew 25:41). This indicates that the devil is the leader of the other evil angels. The apostle Paul taught the Christians in Ephesus that the devil and his angels are a formidable force of evil in the world. He said: **“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places”** (Ephesians 6:11-12).

Jesus’ apostles were well aware of the power and the craftiness of the devil and his angels. The apostle Paul was concerned about the reaction of the Christians in Corinth to the repentance of the man whom they had excommunicated. He said they needed to forgive the repentant sinner, **“lest Satan should take advantage of us, for we are not ignorant of his devices”** (2 Corinthians 2:11). Later in the same letter Paul warned his readers against the wiles of the devil, saying: **“I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ”** (2 Corinthians 11:3).

In his second letter to the Thessalonian Christians the apostle Paul foretold the coming of the Antichrist, whom he called **“the man of sin”** and **“the son of perdition.”** Where would this Antichrist derive his power and his deceiving tricks? **“The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish”** (2 Thessalonians 2:9-10). In studying the activities of the Antichrist (the Roman papacy) throughout history, we see how this prophecy is being fulfilled even to the present day.

The apostle Peter emphasized the viciousness of Satan and his desire to deceive Christians and to turn them away from eternal life in Jesus Christ: **“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour”** (1 Peter 5:8).

Nevertheless, the activity of Satan is controlled and limited by God. The Old Testament book of Job shows how God limited what Satan could do in his attempt to turn Job away from God. At first God

said to Satan: **“Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person”** (Job 1:12). After Satan went as far as he could under this limitation, God permitted him to go even further. **“The LORD said to Satan, ‘Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life’”** (Job 2:6). Likewise, Jesus gave the evil spirits dwelling in the maniac who lived in the tombs permission to enter a herd of pigs. **“And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water”** (Luke 8:33).

### Questions

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1. Why can we be sure that the evil angels were good angels at first?
2. Where did evil come from?
3. Why did Jesus speak of some angels as being the devil’s angels?
4. Why must Christians be on guard against the devil and evil spirits?
5. What is Satan able to accomplish through the Antichrist?
6. What was Satan attempting to do to the excommunicated man in Corinth?
7. How does the devil devour Christians?
8. How do we know that God limits the activities of the devil?
9. Do the residents of your locale believe that there is a devil or demons?
10. What can we say to someone who denies that the devil exists?
11. Why must we be careful to believe only what the Bible says about demons?