

16. The Evil Angels.

Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. *Matt. 25, 41.*

The evil angels were created as good angels. But they sinned against God and were cast out of heaven. So we are told 2 Pet. 2, 4: "God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down into hell and delivered them into chains of darkness to be reserved unto Judgment." These fallen angels are the original sinners. They abode not in the truth. Truthfulness was their nature as given them by God, and they could not be reclaimed. As rebels against their Maker and Lord they were outlawed from the celestial kingdom and forever rejected from His blissful presence. So we read Jude 6: "The angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, He hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the Great Day." They dare entertain no hope of redemption.

Now they form the kingdom of evil; theirs is the power of darkness. They are a united host, organized under the direction of Satan, the prince of the evil spirits. And what do they busy themselves with? They are the declared enemies of God and man and are intent upon destroying the works of God. Their evil intention at all times is to lead man into sin. They tempt also us Christians to hate, to lie, to slander; they tempt us to disobedience; they fill our hearts with impure thoughts. All their faculties are bent on evil. They are utterly wicked and unclean. They hate, and seek to destroy, all that is of God and labor to promote evil. They are cruel adversaries and have great wrath. They cannot but will what is evil and sinful.

They are enemies whom we dare not ignore. Let us not be deceived as to these enemies in the spiritual realm! These demons of hell, with spiritual wickedness in high places, are the greatest and the most dangerous enemies we Christians have. The apostle calls them "principalities and powers." So great is their power that no man can overcome them except in the name and by the power of Jesus Christ, who overcame Satan in our stead and for our benefit.

Prayer.

Eternal, almighty God and Father, I return unto Thee most heartfelt thanks for having this day and all the days of my life graciously kept me through Thy holy angels from all harm and danger of body and soul; and I pray Thee from my inmost heart, protect me against the assaults and wickedness of the evil spirits that they may neither harm nor disquiet me and that Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Though devils all the world should fill,
All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill,
They shall not overpower us.
This world's prince may still
Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none;
He's judged, the deed is done;
One little word can fell him.

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