

SATAN AND HIS DEMONS

RECOGNIZING OUR ENEMY
AND KNOWING HOW TO CONQUEOR HIM

PART 1

PRESENTED BY
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Among those books of the Hebrew Scriptures written before 300 BCE, the term "satan" (root word "s'tn") appears often. The word is derived from the original Hebrew verb "satan" which means "to oppose." The Septuagint translation of the Hebrew Scriptures into Greek was widely used in the early Christian church. They translated "satan" as "diaboloc" from which we derive our English term "devil" and "diabolic."

WHY DID SATAN FALL?

Sometime in eternity past YHWH gave all the angels the ability to make a choice concerning whom they would serve. YHWH does not desire to have robots but those who will love and serve Him willingly. Lucifer, the most powerful of all the angels that YHWH had created, became Satan by resisting YAHWEH'S will and choosing to rule his own life.

Some writers think that he began on earth as its prince or ruler, others believe that he ruled on other planets.

What we know for sure is that between the greatness of this power and the extreme beauty of his person, Lucifer chose to oppose YHWH. This resulted in his spiritual fall and the fall of one-third of the angels who chose to follow him.



YHWH QUESTION'S JOB

“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding, who set its measurements, since you know? Or who stretched the line on it? On what were its bases sunk? or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?” (Job 38:4-7).

Job was not present at creation. No man was, but the angels were. The serpent was created an adversary, an opponent, and an accuser, whereby the sons of God would be tried, even as the adversary tried the Son of God in the wilderness at the beginning of His ministry.

The Hebrew word for “serpent,” as found in Genesis 3 (Strong’s #H5175 – “naw-khawsh”) is rooted in the word “naw khash,” which means, among other things, “to learn by experience.”

While most nominal Christians believe Satan was cast out of Heaven before the creation of man, we find that Satan was in Heaven among the sons of YHWH in Job's day, as they presented themselves before YHWH, obviously at a time after creation of the earth and the fall of man. Was YHWH surprised to see him there in Heaven, among His sons? Not only was He not surprised, He even appointed him a task of power over Job, a man made in His image, who was perfect and upright, who feared YHWH and shunned evil.

The conclusion of the story is that Job was delivered from his bondage of self-righteousness. He had trusted in his powers of sacrifice and obedience to earn YHWH's favor, until Satan was done wreaking his havoc on him. In the end, Job declared to YHWH:

“I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; but now my eye has seen You. Therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes” (Job 42:5-6 MKJV).

That isn't the only time we see Satan play this kind of role. The apostle Paul candidly declares that YHWH kept him humble through Satan:

HOW DOES YHWH EMPLOYEE HIS SERVANT SATAN?

By imprisoning YHWH's chosen people (physically or spiritually), the Devil (or Satan) serves God's purposes:

“Do not at all fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the Devil will cast some of you into prison, so that you may be tried. And you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful to death, and I will give you the crown of life” (Revelation 2:10 MKJV).

So we see that Satan does much good for the saints, according to YHWH's will. HE uses Satan's adversarial nature to refine men in spirit and motive, bringing them to perfection. Only then will all things become subject to mankind, because men have returned to their rightful place of rulership with YHWH. That may not be Satan's intent, but it is YHWH's intent. “A man's heart devises his way but YAHUWAH directs his steps” (Proverbs 16:9).



2 Corinthians 12:6-9 MKJV

For if I desire to boast, I shall not be foolish. For I will speak the truth. But I spare, lest anyone should think of me as being beyond what he sees me, or hears of me; and by the surpassing revelations, lest I be made haughty, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be made haughty. For this thing I besought the Lord three times, that it might depart from me. And He said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather glory in my weaknesses, that the power of Yahshua may overshadow me.

ANGELS AND DEMONS

Angels and Demons are eternal beings, like humanity. There are no more angels being created today, they were created once at the foundation of the earth. The same number exists today as existed at the beginning. The fallen angels will have their eternity in the lake of fire, tormented eternally. They will share their abode with the lost in the Lake of Fire.

"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: Matthew 25:41

10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Revelation 20:10

INTO THE EVERLASTING LAKE OF FIRE



DO ANGELS MARRY?

The angels, like humanity are also eternal; they along with the saints will inhabit Heaven rejoicing in the presence of YHWH, praising Him in glory. In the book of Revelation, John is escorted by an angel, at one point John is overwhelmed by what he sees, and falls down at the angel's feet to worship him. The angel rejects John's mistake, telling him to worship YHWH alone, the angel then informs John he is a fellow servant (Revelation 19:10).

Yahshua talking about our eternity says, we will be like the angels one day. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of YHWH in heaven. Matthew 22:30

34 YAHSHUA answered and said to them, "The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage. 35 But those who are counted worthy to attain that age, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; 36 nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are sons of YHWH, being sons of the resurrection. Luke 20:34-36

Therefore, we can see the destiny of humanity is linked to the angelic realms; the saved will dwell with the angels in eternity, while the lost will dwell with the fallen angels in eternal dwellings.

THE JEWISH PERSPECTIVE ON SATAN

Although it is common to find Christians speaking of the universe as a place divided between good and evil forces (YHWH and Satan respectively), this is not the picture of things in the Old Testament. As far as the writers of the Old Testament are concerned, everything that happened was an act of YHWH. When bad things happened to people in the Old Testament, they did not blame a devil but assumed they had upset (or offended) YHWH. When good things happened, it was believed to be because people had pleased/obeyed YHWH. A good example of this can be seen in Deuteronomy 28:1-68, where blessings and curses are set out for obeying and disobeying YHWH.

YHWH your ELOHIM will send on you curses, confusion and rebuke in everything you put your hand to, until you are destroyed and come to sudden ruin because of the evil you have done in forsaking him. YHWH will plague you with diseases until he has destroyed you from the land you are entering to possess. YHWH will strike you with wasting disease, with fever and inflammation, with scorching heat and drought, with blight and mildew, which will plague you until you perish. (Deuteronomy 28:20-23)

It was from Mount Ebal, where the curses of YHWH were pronounced on the disobedient. The second twin, Mount Gerizim was the place where blessings of YHWH were spoken to the obedient. Mount Ebal is north of the West Bank city of Nablus and rises above the Valley of Shechem. The mountain (Arabic el-Iclamiyeh) reaches a height of 1,402 ft. above the floor of the valley, and 3,077 ft. above the level of the Mediterranean.



This notion of YHWH blessing and cursing (or punishing) people, can be seen in all aspects of human relationships. For example, women who could not have children were encouraged to find out what they had done to offend God, as infertility was considered to be a sign of divine dis-favour (Genesis 30:1-2).

In Genesis 3:17-19 the ground is cursed by YHWH to produce thorns, which will make man's working of the land much harder. This aspect of the world (i.e. YHWH as the source of both good and 'evil' events in the world), can also be seen when the Jewish nation was taken into exile by the Babylonians in 586 BCE, and the temple in Jerusalem was destroyed. The prophets believed this catastrophe was not the work of any evil being such as a devil, but the result of divine judgement against the people for turning away from YHWH.

The peaceful meadows will be laid waste because of the fierce anger of YHWH. Like a lion he will leave his lair, and their land will become desolate because of the sword of the oppressor and because of the Lord's fierce anger. (Jeremiah 25:37-38)

So if every event in the world (either good or bad) was originally traceable to YHWH, then who is Satan?

The word satan in Hebrew (the language of the Old Testament), is generally accepted to mean 'to obstruct', but it also has in it the idea of an opponent or an adversary (i.e. one who challenges). Thus 'the satan' HaSatsan originally meant one who 'obstructs', or 'challenges'.

The word is used to refer to:

Any person acting as an accuser or enemy. For example: 1 Samuel 29:4: The Philistines were distrustful of David, fearing that he would be a satan. (translated "adversary" or "someone who will turn against us").

2 Samuel 19:22: Shime-i apologizes to King David. The King rejects the apology, saying that they should not be a satan to each other (translated "adversary" or "opponent").

1 Kings 5:4: King Solomon is talking to Hiram, the King of Tyre. He says that now that there is neither satan nor bad luck to stop him, he can build the Temple. (translated as "adversary", "enemy", or "one who opposes").

1 Kings 11:14: YHWH raised up Hadad the Edomite as a satan against Solomon. (translated as "adversary," or "opponent").

SATAN IS YHWH'S SERVANT

Satan is simply the challenger, the tester or the accuser.

Then YHWH said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no-one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears YHWH and shuns evil" "Does Job fear YHWH for nothing?" Satan replied. Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has?... But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face." (Job 1:8-11)

If Satan is being of pure-evil, then this is a strange conversation. Yet it begins to make sense if we see Satan's role simply as that of an 'accuser' (or one who tests/challenges others). Furthermore, Satan only afflicts Job within the bounds of what YHWH allows, and never goes against what YHWH says (Job 1:12-2:10). Once again, this is not the image of Satan traditionally held by many Christians as a being who has, and does, find any and every way possible to intentionally disobey YHWH. Yet it does fit in with the Old Testament picture of YHWH as the source of both good and bad (or misfortune) in the world, and Satan as nothing more than YHWH's adversary (but not in an evil sense).



The Satan is described in only a few places in the Hebrew Scriptures. In every instance, he is an angel who works FOR YHWH, not against YHWH, and must get permission from YHWH for everything that he does. Chronicles, Job, Psalms, and Zechariah are the only places where The Satan is mentioned. In each instance, the job description of The Satan is to act like what we now call a Prosecuting Attorney, or District Attorney, and accuse and show evidence against the defendant. Furthermore, the biblical text paints this same picture of The Satan, when it uses the character of The Satan in what appears to be the end of a court scene.

YHWH IS CREATOR OF ALL

In essence, the ancient writers of the early Hebrew Scriptures looked upon YHWH as performing both good and evil deeds. A good indication of this is found in:

Isaiah 45:6-7: "...I am and YHWH and there is none else. I form the light and create darkness. I make peace and create evil. I YHWH do all these things." (KJV)

or in Job 9:22-23: "...YHWH destroys both the blameless and the wicked. When a scourge brings sudden death, he mocks the despair of the innocent."

or in Lamentations 3:37-38: "Who has commanded and it came to pass, unless YHWH has ordained it? Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that good and evil come?"

Evil spirits which cause mental disturbances are mentioned in the Hebrew Scriptures. But they were not dispatched or controlled by Satan; they were sent by YHWH to torment people:

Judges 9:23: "Then YHWH sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem.."

1 Kings 22:23: "...behold, YHWH hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets..."

1 Samuel 16:14: "But the Spirit of YHWH departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from YHWH troubled him."

1 Sam 18:10: "And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from YHWH came upon Saul..."

1 Sam 19:9: "And the evil spirit from YHWH was upon Saul..."

THERE IS NO OTHER god EXCEPT YHWH ELOHIM

In the Bible there is also a verse which show that it is YHWH, the Creator and Ruler of the whole universe, who is responsible for both the Good and the Bad, and not a devil or YHWH of the underworld:

I am the Eternal, and there is none else, there is no YHWH beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the Eternal, and there is none else. I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Eternal do all these things. [Isaiah 45:5-7]

For G-d, the Bible, and for Judaism, to have an entity that competes with YHWH, that has power and authority of his own in opposition to YHWH, is to violate the basic biblical idea of monotheism. YHWH is One.

IN SHORT... For Jews, anything that even remotely conflicts with the idea that YHWH is One and Indivisible will be rejected out of hand because it precludes true pure monotheism. The idea that there is a YHWH in heaven above who fights against a god of the underworld, or of hell, is not monotheism.

It is, however, the same duality found in other pagan faiths. The Bible speaks of a character known as The Satan, who acts like a prosecuting attorney, or a district attorney, in YHWH's court. However, The Satan has no power or authority in and of himself, rather he must get permission from the Judge, YHWH, to do anything.

- Other faiths had this same duality:
- Greek: Zeus/Hades
- Roman: Jupiter/Pluto
- Norse: Odin/Loki
- Mesopotamia: Marduk/Tiamat
- Zoroastrian: Ahura Mazda/Angra Mainyu
- Christian: Gd/Devil
- This duality is expressed in the Christians' New Testament in two places. In Luke it states,
- And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. [Luke 10:18]
- And this is also found in Revelation: And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. [Revelation 12:9]

WHY YHWH ADMONISHES US TO FOLLOW ONLY HIM

A good place to begin is Deuteronomy 32:16-17:

16 They made him jealous with strange gods, with abhorrent things they provoked him. 17 They sacrificed to demons, not YHWH, to deities they had never known, to new ones recently arrived, whom your ancestors had not feared.

The Hebrew word translated "demons" in verse 17 (,טשseed) occurs here in the plural with the preposition "to" and vocalized with the definite article "the" (,לשדיםlassedim), which gives us "to the demons."

strange or foreign gods (זָרִים, zariym)

abhorrent things (טֹעֵבֹת, 'eybot)

demons (לַשְׁחֵדִים, lashshediym)

gods [they did not know] (אֱלֹהִים, elohiym)

new ones [recently come {of whom} your fathers were not afraid]
(חֲדָשִׁים, chadashim,)

The first of these parallel terms is simply the word "strange" (or "stranger") or "foreign" ("foreigner"). It is most often used of things that present a threat to the community, such as foreign people who are enemies (Hos 7:9, Isa 1:7, Jer 5:19, etc.), prostitutes ("strange women," Prov 2:16), or things that violate custom or law ("strange fire," Lev 10:1, Num 3:4; "strange incense," Ex 30:9). In this sense it is also used to refer to the gods of foreign peoples that present a threat to the proper worship of God (Psa 44:21, Isa 43:12, Jer 2:25, etc.).

The immediate context of the use of)טוseed) here is also important. Just a few verses later in this passage, there is a clear statement that these "demons" or "strange gods" or "abhorrent things" that the people are so tempted to elevate to deity and use to replace Yahweh are really not gods at all (Deut 32:21):

32:21 They made me jealous with what is no god, provoked me with their idols.

WHAT ARE ABHORRENT THINGS?

The same is true of the second term, "abhorrent things." This term is often used to refer generally to the whole practice of Baal worship that included cult objects like household idols, images, sacred poles, trees, and high places, as well as sexual practices of the fertility religion, which were all "abhorrent" or "offensive" to Israelites (Lev. 18:22, Deut 7:25, 1 King 14:24, etc).

The final two terms also refer to the gods of Canaan with which the Israelites had come into contact only after their entry into the land (for the time frame of Deuteronomy see The Book of Deuteronomy; the "golden calf" or bull in Exodus 32 may have reflected Egyptian religious beliefs). In this sense they were "new" gods that the people "did not know" before.

BAAL AND ASTORETH



Deuteronomy 18:10-12,14 Let no one be found among you ... who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to YHWH, and because of these detestable practices YHWH your ELOHIM will drive out those nations before you. The nations you will dispossess listen to those who practice sorcery or divination. But as for you, YHWH your ELOHIM has not permitted you to do so.

Galatians 5:19-21 [19] The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of YHWH.

LET NO ONE AMONG PRACTISE ANY
WITCHCRAFT.....



FALSE RELIGIONS

Our Bible is very clear on this next issue. Per our article titled, “The Basics of Salvation Through Yahshua HaMaschiach,” there is only one name and one way into heaven – and that is directly through Yahshua/Jesus and His sacrificial death on the cross.

There are no other ways, no other names, and no other religions in this world that can get us into heaven. Jesus has made it very clear that He, and only He, is the only way into heaven, and that no one will come to His Father unless they come directly through Him.

With Yahshua being the only way into heaven, then it can only be expected that demons will try and conjure up as many other “ways” as they possibly can so they can keep people from finding the only one true Way. Hence you have many false religious systems that are still in operation in the world today.

We believe that all of these other false religious systems in the world today are being run by demons, and each one of these areas are major stronghold areas, with some of Satan's best and smartest demons running all of these false religious systems.

Here are the major false religious systems still in operation in the world today, with each one of them being run by demonic spirits who specialize in each one of these demonic systems:

YHWH HAS WARNED US NO-ONE CAN ENTER HEAVEN THROUGH THESE FALSE RELIGIONS

- Islam, Jehovah's Witnesses , Mormonism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Shintoism, Sikhism, Jainism, Zoroastrianism
- Spiritualism, Christian Science
- Hare Krishna, Scientology, Kabbalah
- Unification Church
- Freemasonry
- The Children of God
- EST, Eckanar
- The Forum
- The Way International
- Theosophy
- Rosicrucianism
- Atheism

The world may want us to have a politically correct tolerance for all of these other false religions of this world, but YHWH the Father is not going to, and as such, and as His direct ambassadors on this earth, we have to tell the rest of the world what the real truth is.

Once you see what the real truth is through Yahshua HaMaschiach, it is just heart-breaking to see so many people bound up and in captivity to all of these other false religious systems across the world. Millions and millions of people are being held behind enemy lines in all of these other false religions, and they have absolutely no idea and no clue they are all on the wrong side of the fence.

This is one area where Satan and his demons have been very successful across much of the world. To think that there is only one way, one name, and one faith – and that Satan has managed to create all of these other false religions in order to try and prevent people from finding this one true way is just heartbreaking!

“CHOOSE THIS DAY WHOM YOU WILL SERVE, AS
FOR ME I WILL SERVE YHWH AND HIM ONLY”

Proverbs 14:12 says, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death." People say they keep Christmas and Easter to worship Christ, but they are also defining the nature of YHWH according to their own ideas. Just as surely as the ancient Israelites blended paganism with what YHWH truly revealed, so people do today. This is the basic principle of acts of presumption, and each of us has done this, not once, but sadly, repeatedly, even though we may know better.

Today, a person may claim that his god is the Creator YHWH, but if he is not obedient to the Creator YHWH's commandments, he is merely deluding himself. Sincerity is only part of the picture. We are to worship in spirit and truth.

(John 4:24). , "YHWH is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth," meaning we must worship to the fullest of YHWH's intent as revealed in His Word, with every act guided and determined by His revealed truth. Yet, how many corners do we cut when we feel it serves us better at the time?

The closer one is associated with YHWH's work, the more necessary it is to ensure that the relationship with YHWH is not marred by spiritual blemishes. Otherwise, the person cannot function properly as a channel for YHWH to work through. YHWH will not be glorified before the people unless His servants submit to His commands.

A similar careless notion got Cain into trouble. If we add or omit with knowledge, it is presumption, and presumption springs from pride. It is as if we are telling YHWH He does not know what He is doing. We have elevated ourselves to His level. Nothing more, nothing less, nothing else than His will must be our attitude.

John W. Ritenbaugh

DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE YOU CAN SERVE YHWH ALONG WITH OTHER FALSE gods?

Again, Yahshua said: "In vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Matthew 15:9). Christmas observance is a tradition of men, and the commandments of God, as quoted, forbid it. Jesus said, further, "full well ye reject the commandment of YHWH, that ye may keep your own tradition."

That is precisely what the millions are doing today. They ignore the commandment of YHWH. He commands, regarding taking the customs of the pagans and using them to honor or worship YHWH: "Thou shalt not do so unto YHWH thy ELOHIM." Still, most people today take that command of YHWH lightly, or as having no validity whatsoever, and follow the tradition of men.

Make no mistake! YHWH will allow you to defy and disobey Him. He will allow you to follow the crowd and the traditions of men. He will allow you to sin. But He also says there is a day of reckoning coming. As you sow, so shall you reap! Yahshua was the living Word of YHWH in Person, and the Bible is the written Word of YHWH. And we shall be judged, for eternity, by these words! They should not be taken lightly or ignored.

Herbert W. Armstrong (1892-1986)

PROVERBS 14

The house of the wicked will be destroyed,
but the tent of the upright will flourish.

12 There is a way that appears to be right,
but in the end it leads to death.

13 Even in laughter the heart may ache,
and rejoicing may end in grief.

14 The faithless will be fully repaid for their ways,
and the good rewarded for theirs.

15 The simple believe anything,
but the prudent give thought to their steps.

16 The wise fear the Lord and shun evil,
but a fool is hotheaded and yet feels secure.

Does YHWH Occupy the First Place in our Lives?

Rev 3:14-16 “And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of YHWH: 15 “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

We all should ask ourselves a crucial question: Does YHWH occupy the first place in my life?

Many are willing to serve YHWH as long as it doesn't cost them too much time or effort. They give Yahshua the crumbs of their lives, and as far as they are concerned, He'll just have to be satisfied with that. But He isn't.

YHWH never asks for more than we can give. But He does ask for the best we can give.

Under the old covenant, when people brought sacrifices to YHWH, they were to offer Him only the very best. YHWH did not accept a sacrifice that was second-rate or that had flaws.

Malachi 1:6-8,13,14

6 "A son honors his father,
And a servant his master.
If then I am the Father,
Where is My honor?
And if I am a Master,
Where is My reverence?
Says YHWH of hosts
To you priests who despise My name.
Yet you say,
'In what way have we despised Your name?'

It was bad enough that they brought second-rate offers, but they also complained and grumbled saying: "What a drudgery it is!"

If serving YHWH seems like a "weariness" to you, maybe you are just giving YHWH the crumbs of your life from a sense of obligation or fear. But YHWH isn't pleased with scraps anyway. Giving the plate-scrapings of your life to YHWH can never bring the "joy of the Holy Spirit" (1 Thessalonians 1:6).

"You also say,
'Oh, what a weariness!'
And you sneer at it,"
Says the Lord of hosts.
"And you bring the stolen, the lame,
and the sick;
Thus you bring an offering!
Should I accept this from your hand?"
Says YHWH ELOHIM.

14 "But cursed be the deceiver
Who has in his flock a male,
And makes a vow,
But sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished --
For I am a great King,"
Says YHWH of hosts,
"And My name is to be feared among the nations."

Does Satan know the future?

Isaiah 44:6-7 [6] "This is what YHWH says-- Israel's King and Redeemer, YHWH Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God. [7] Who then is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and lay out before me what has happened since I established my ancient people, and what is yet to come-- yes, let him foretell what will come.

Isaiah 48:3,5 [3] I foretold the former things long ago, my mouth announced them and I made them known; then suddenly I acted, and they came to pass. [5] Therefore I told you these things long ago; before they happened I announced them to you so that you could not say, 'My idols did them; my wooden image and metal god ordained them.'

Demon Rulers Over Nations

Daniel speaks of the Prince of Persia (Daniel 10:13) and the Prince of Greece (Daniel 10:20), demon warriors who battled the archangel Michael.

To sum up, there are three clear ranks of demons, and there may be more. In descending order of authority, they are: king or prince, rulers over nations, and all other demons. It is also possible that the original levels of authority granted to cherubim, seraphim, and rank and file angels are retained in the demonic realm. Satan certainly has retained his. Scripture does not appear to make demonic rankings any clearer than this.

The King James Version of the Bible often used the term "devils" which some readers assume are Satan's demons. Other translations use "heathen gods," "idols," etc. In reality, they simply refer to the gods worshiped by Pagan tribes (or the idols that represented those gods):

Leviticus 17:7: "And they shall no more offer their sacrifices unto devils, [literally "hairy ones"] after whom they have gone a whoring."

Deuteronomy 32:17: "They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up..."

2 Chronicles 11:15: "And he ordained him priests for the high places, and for the devils, and for the [statues of] calves which he had made."

Psalms 106:35-37: "But were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works. And they served their idols: which were a snare unto them. Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils."

Specific Demons Mentioned in the OT

Foreign gods are called shedim (Deut. 32:17; Ps. 106:37; cf. I Cor. 10:20), rendered "demons" or "devils" in most translations. The word is related to Akkadian šêdu ("demon"; good or evil).

SE'IRIM ("hairy demons, satyrs") is also applied contemptuously to foreign deities (Lev. 17:7; II Chron. 11:15). These creatures haunt ruins, along with Lilith (Isa. 13:21; 34:14).



LILITH (Isa. 34:14; ultimately from Sumerian lil, "air," not Heb. layl(ah), "night") was originally a succubus, believed to cohabit with mortals, but in the Arslan Tash incantation quoted above she is identified with the child-stealing demon, a character she retains in later folklore. The tradition that the name means "screech-owl" (in so many translations) reflects a very ancient association of birds, especially owls, with the demonic.



MAVET (Mawet), the ordinary Hebrew word for death, is also the proper name of a Canaanite underworld god (Mot), the enemy of Baal in a Ugaritic epic. The proper name, not the common noun, should probably be understood in Isaiah 28:15, 18: "We have made a covenant with Death," and Jeremiah 9:20 [Eng. 9:21]: "For Death is come up into our windows" (cf. Hos. 13:14; Job 18:13, "the firstborn of Death"; 28:22).

RESHEPH is another major god of the Canaanite religion who becomes a demonic figure in biblical literature. Resheph is known as the god of plague over much of the ancient Near East, in texts and artistic representations spanning more than a millennium from 1850 B.C.E. to 350 B.C.E. In Habakkuk 3:5, YHWH on the warpath is said to be preceded and followed by respectively Dever and Resheph. (This is similar to the picture of two divine attendants who escort major gods in ancient myths.) Just as some other names of deities are used as common nouns in biblical Hebrew (Dagon (dagon, "grain"); Ashtaroth (ashtarot, "increase [of the flock]"), etc.) so Reshef (reshef) has come to mean simply "plague" (Deut. 33:29; Ps. 78:48), and the fiery darts of the bow (Ps. 76:4 [Eng. 76:3]; Song 8:6), apparently from the common association of plague and arrows.

DEVER ("Pestilence") is the other demonic herald who marches with YHWH to battle (Hab. 3:5). Dever is also mentioned in Psalms 91:5–6: "Thou shalt not be afraid for the Terror (Paḥad) by night; Nor for the Arrow (Ḥeṣ) that flieth by day; Nor for the Pestilence (Dever) that walketh in the darkness; Nor for the Destruction (Ketev) that wasteth at noonday."

Not only Dever but also the other words italicized above have been plausibly identified as names of demons. The "Arrow" is a familiar symbol in folklore, for disease or sudden pain, and Ketev (Qetev; cf. Deut. 32:24; Isa. 28:2; Hos. 13:14) is in this instance the personification of overpowering noonday heat, known also to Greek and Roman demonology.

*AZAZEL (‘Az’azel) occurs in the ritual for the *Day of Atonement (Lev. 16:8, 10, 26). Aaron casts lots over two goats, and the one "for ‘Az’azel" is presented alive before the Lord, and then released into the wilderness. The ancient Greek and Latin versions understood ‘Az’azel as "goat that departs," hence "the scapegoat" of some English versions. Most of the rabbinic commentators and some moderns take Azazel as the name of the place to which the goat is driven. The great majority of moderns regard Azazel as the personal name of a demon thought to live in the wilderness.

The vampire may be mentioned in Proverbs 30:15: "The alukah (‘aluqah) hath two daughters, crying, 'Give, Give.'" Hebrew ‘aluqah may simply mean "leech," but since ‘aulaq occurs in Arabic literature as a name of a vampire, this fabulous creature and her two daughters may be referred to in this rather difficult passage.

http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/judaica/ejud_0002_0005_0_05094.html

TITLES OF DEMONS IN THE NT

There are many titles given to demons, but the titles not only tell us what they do, they also give us some insight into the characteristics of demons. In Acts 19:12 and Ephesians 6:12, we have the word evil spirits. The Greek word for "evil" is the word poneros and it means a malignant evil. In other words, there is demon oppression and demon possession that acts like a malignancy. It gets worse. If Satan gets hold of you, his influence can only worsen. But if God gets hold of you, His influence can only increase.

We must understand from the Word of YHWH that demons are our enemies, but YHWH has given us power over them. No matter what demon we study about, Yahshua has already conquered it through the Cross. I can tell you what their future will be—eternity in the lake of fire. Their future is destruction because they will one day be banished forever!

The second word for demons is found many times in the Word of God, and it is foul or unclean spirits. This word is akathartos. Kathartos means clean but the "a" at the beginning of it is a negative meaning. This is unclean or impure. A foul or unclean spirit has to do with sexual impurities including pornography, homosexuality, lesbianism, and bestiality. These are immense perversions mentioned in the Word of God that result from foul or unclean spirits. The most common word used for demons is unclean spirits. Jesus dealt them in his day; we deal with them in our day.

The third word for demons is the Greek word astheneiais. This word is translated as spirits of infirmity, and it means a weakness or a sickness. It is used when Jesus took our sicknesses to the cross. It's used also for the word weaknesses where Paul says in Romans 8:26, for we know not what we should pray for as we ought.

In Luke 13:11-12, the woman was bowed over for eighteen years because she had a spirit of infirmity. Jesus recognized the demon and cast that devil out of her. Not all infirmities come from demons, but some do. Not all sicknesses come from demons, but some do.

The next demon mentioned in the Bible is found in Acts 16:16 and this is called a spirit of divination. The Greek word for divination is puthos. It's where we get the English word python, and it is a demon of the occult or witchcraft. Witchcraft doesn't begin as demonic; it begins as the work of the flesh Galatians 5:19-20 says the works of the flesh are manifest which are these...and one of the works listed is witchcraft. When a person starts to dabble in witchcraft, it is their flesh desiring to look into it.

Witchcraft is always seen in the Old Testament as something abhorrent to God, against the things of God, and people who dabbled in this were immediately put to death. The reason is because by dabbling in witchcraft they could open up great doors for demonic activity to come into the nation.

The last one type of demon mentioned is called a seducing spirit. The Greek word, planos, means a deceiver or imposter. First Timothy 1:4 says in these last days people will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons. Demons are seducing spirits. This particular type of demon induces, deceives, or seduces people into all types of sin. Notice, this demon must seduce you. A demon cannot force you. A demon seduces and causes us to go toward the things of the world, and if we remain in those things, demons can eventually take over.

Demons are an extension of the nature of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-20). Any problem of the flesh has a corresponding demon—sexual lust, power, lust, love of money, jealousy, anger, murder, vindictiveness. All these different manifestations of the flesh have a corresponding demon. When you yield to the flesh long enough, you'll eventually yield yourself to a demon. Demons cannot overtake you apart from your will. Demons can entice and can seduce, but you don't have to have a demon to seduce and entice because you have the flesh. The flesh nature entices and seduces you to sin stay in that sin long enough for a demon to come into your life and control you. James 1:14 says every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed.

The Greek word most often translated world in the NT is "kosmos."

It can refer to the physical earth that YHWH created. - Acts 17:24

It can refer mankind that YHWH loves. - John 3:16

But "the world" that Satan uses to seduce us away from God is something different.

It is a "a system of false values, an 'atmosphere', a climate of thought, originated by Satan, that he uses to keep people in darkness."

Here is the world (show picture of man who is trampled down in the mud with a footprint on his face). This is from an advertisement in Wired magazine for Internet stock trading software: The company's slogan: "Our apologies to the meek and the world they shall not inherit." A value is being promoted here (crush people who get in the way of your self advancement), a value that is opposed to God.

The world is in the media. It's in our educational institutions. It's in our popular literature. It's in the movies and music. And it's even in our churches.

Luke 11:23 "He who is not with me is against me, and
he who does not gather with me, scatters."

11:14-26 Yahshua's thus casting out the devils, was really the destroying of their power. The heart of every unconverted sinner is the devil's palace, where he dwells, and where he rules. There is a kind of peace in the heart of an unconverted soul, while the devil, as a strong man armed, keeps it. The sinner is secure, has no doubt concerning the goodness of his state, nor any dread of the judgment to come. But observe the wonderful change made in conversion. The conversion of a soul to God, is Christ's victory over the devil and his power in that soul, restoring the soul to its liberty, and recovering his own interest in it and power over it. All the endowments of mind of body are now employed for Christ. Here is the condition of a hypocrite. The house is swept from common sins, by a forced confession, as Pharaoh's; by a feigned contrition, as Ahab's; or by a partial reformation, as Herod's.

Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary

The house is swept, but it is not washed; the heart is not made holy. Sweeping takes off only the loose dirt, while the sin that besets the sinner, the beloved sin, is untouched. The house is garnished with common gifts and graces. It is not furnished with any true grace; it is all paint and varnish, not real nor lasting. It was never given up to Christ, nor dwelt in by the Spirit. Let us take heed of resting in that which a man may have, and yet come short of heaven. The wicked spirits enter in without any difficulty; they are welcomed, and they dwell there; there they work, there they rule. From such an awful state let all earnestly pray to be delivered. Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary

GO THROUGH THE NARROW GATE OF FOLLOWING YHWH AND YAHSHUA ONLY

The Bible describes the narrow way that leads to eternal life, and the broad way that leads to destruction. Why do you suppose Yahshua said, "and few there be that find it"? The pronoun "it" in this verse represents the way to Heaven.

The Narrow Door

22 Then Yahshua went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. 23 Someone asked him, "Master, are only a few people going to be saved?"

He said to them, 24 "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. 25 Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.'

“But he will answer, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from.’ 26“Then you will say, ‘We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.’ 27“But he will reply, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!’

28“There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of YHWH, but you yourselves thrown out. 29People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of YHWH. Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last.”

Here is a list of thirty-three names and references to Satan/Lucifer/Devil in the Bible.

- * Abaddon - Rev. 9:11
- "And they had a king over them, [which is] the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue [is] Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath [his] name Apollyon."
- * Accuser of the brethren - Rev. 12:10
- "And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. "
- * Adversary (one who stands against) - 1Peter 5:8
- "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: "
- * Angel of the bottomless pit - Rev. 9:11
- "And they had a king over them, [which is] the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue [is] Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath [his] name Apollyon."

- * Angel of light - 2Cor. 11:14
- "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. "
- * Antichrist - 1John 4:3
- " And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that [spirit] of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. "
- * Apollyon - (Greek Apolluwn, or Destroyer) - Rev. 9:11
- " And they had a king over them, [which is] the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue [is] Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath [his] name Apollyon."
- * Beelzebub - Matt. 12:24; Mark 3:22; Luke 11:15
- " But when the Pharisees heard [it], they said, This [fellow] doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils. " (Matt. 12:24)

- " And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils. " (Mark 3:22)
- " But some of them said, He casteth out devils through Beelzebub the chief of the devils. " (Luke 11:15)
- * Belial - 2Cor. 6:15
- " And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? "
- * Devil - Matt. 4:1; Luke 4:2,6; Rev. 20:2
- " And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, " (Rev. 20:2)
- * Dragon - Rev. 12:7

- " And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, "
- * Enemy - Matt. 13:39
- " The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. "
- * Evil spirit - 1Sam. 16:14
- " But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him. "
- * Father (father) of all liars - John 8:44
- " Ye are of [your] father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. "

- * God (god) of this world - 2Cor. 4:4
- " In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. "
- * Great red dragon - Rev. 12:3
- " And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. "
- * Lucifer - Isa. 14:12
- " How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! [how] art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! "
- * Man of sin - 2Thess. 2:3
- " Let no man deceive you by any means: for [that day shall not come], except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; "

- * Murderer - John 8:44
- " Ye are of [your] father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."
- * Old serpent - Rev. 12:9, 20:2
- " And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. " (Rev. 12:9)
- " And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, " (Rev. 20:2)
- * Power of darkness - Col. 1:13
- " Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated [us] into the kingdom of his dear Son: "
- * Power of death - Heb. 2:14"
- Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; "

- * Prince of this world - John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11
- " Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out." (John 12:31)
- " Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me. " (John 14:30)
- " Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. " (John 16:11)
- * Prince of the power of the air - Eph. 2:2
- " Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: "
- " Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: "
- * Ruler of darkness - Eph. 6:12
- " For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high [places]. "

- * Serpent - Gen. 3:4, 14; 2Cor. 11:3; Rev. 20:2
- " And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: . . . And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou [art] cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: " (Gen. 3:4, 14)
- " But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. " (2Cor. 11:3)
- " And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, " (Rev. 20:2)
- * Son of perdition - John 17:12
- " While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. "
- * Tempter - Matt. 4:3; 1Thess. 3:5
- " And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. " (Matt. 4:3)
- " For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain. " (1Thess. 3:5)

- * Thief - John 10:10
- " The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have [it] more abundantly. "
- * Wicked one - Matt. 13:19, 38
- " When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth [it] not, then cometh the wicked [one], and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. . . . The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked [one]; "
- Sources: <http://www.biblestudy.org/question/satanmes.html>

GO TO PART 2

HOW DID YAHSHUA DEAL WITH SATAN AND
DEMONS DURING HIS MINISTRY

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YUDAS ISCARIOT – THE SON OF PERDITION
...WHAT MADE HIM REBEL