

## Lesson Four

# The Fall of the Evil Angels

*Angels and Demons, pp. 43-57*

### Goals

1. To help us understand that the devil and his demons are real spiritual beings who threaten our salvation.
2. To help us appreciate that Jesus has delivered us from the devil through his sinless life and sacrificial death.

### Introduction

- From what kind of homes do criminals come—good homes or bad homes?

### When did the evil angels fall?

- The fall of the evil angels took place between the creation of the world and man's fall into sin. What seems to indicate that this was a relatively short period of time?

### How powerful are the evil angels?

*Mark 5:9* Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many."

*Revelation 12:3,4* Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth.

- What do these verses teach us about the number of evil angels?

**Matthew 24:24** “For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible.”

- What does this verse teach us about the power of the evil angels?

**Luke 11:24-26** “When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, ‘I will return to the house I left.’ When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and take seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first.”

- Evaluate: Some demons are more wicked than others.

**Matthew 4:1-11** Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: ‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’” Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’” Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

- We can learn something about the devil’s techniques from how he tempted Jesus. Why was the first temptation such an appealing one?
- What approach did the devil use in the second temptation?
- In what way did the final temptation hit at the heart of Jesus’ redemptive work?

- What can we learn from this account about how to defend ourselves from the devil?

### How does Satan try to influence our personal lives?

*Revelation 12:10* Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.”

- Usually we think of Satan as the tempter. What else does the devil do?
- Why are both the tempter role and the accuser role effective ways of leading us away from God?
- Discuss how the devil served as both tempter and accuser in the life of Judas Iscariot.
- Evaluate: When our conscience accuses us of sin, we have to determine whether the accusation comes from God or from the devil.

*Romans 8:33,34,38,39* Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Note how these words help us answer the devil’s accusations.

### Summary

We are no match for Satan and his evil empire. They possess powers that are far superior to our own. However, through his life and death, Jesus conquered Satan's army. With this gospel message, God defends us from Satan's temptations and accusations that try to deprive us of our eternal life.

### **During the week**

1. Read Matthew 26:47–27:10. Note how the devil tempted two of Jesus' disciples to sin and how one was led to repentance while the other was led to despair.
2. To review this lesson, read chapter 4 of *Angels and Demons*.