***Demons***

1. **Names of Demons**
   1. Names in the Old Testament
      1. Demon – This term is used in three Old Testament passages: Lev 17:7, Deut 32:17, and Psalm 106:37. It is translated from two Hebrew words:
         1. *Sayer* – Originally an adjective meaning “hairy,” used in connection with the worship of a goal idol in Lev 17:7
         2. *Shedim –* used in connection with idolatry in Deuteronomy and Psalms.
      2. Evil Spirit – Used in 1 Samuel’s account of King Saul; appears in 1 Samuel 16:14-16, 23; 18:10; 19:9. It seems to indicate demon possession (“…an evil spirit from God came mightily upon Saul, and he raved in the midst of the house…”) 1 Samuel 18:10
   2. Names in the New Testament
      1. Demon/demons
         1. Used in connection with Satan (Matthew 12:24; Mark 3:22; Luke 11:18)
         2. Used many times in connection with demon-possession (Mark 1:34, 6:13, 16:9; Luke 8:27, 8:33)
      2. Evil/Unclean Spirits
         1. “Unclean spirit” – Luke 4:33, 11:24-26 (used together with “evil spirit.”)
         2. “Evil Spirit” – Luke 7:21; 8:2; Acts 19:13-15
         3. 1 Peter 3:18-19 – “For Christ…went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison, who once were disobedient….” This passage probably refers to spirits of fallen angels (demons).
      3. Evil (fallen) angels – Demons referred to as fallen angels – Matthew 25:41, 2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6; Revelation 12:7-9
2. **Existence of Demons**
   1. Existence assumed in the Old Testament
      1. Saul is terrorized by an evil spirit – 1 Samuel 16:14-16
      2. There were sacrifices to demons – Lev. 17:7
   2. Existence is clear in the New Testament
      1. Satan is the “ruler of the demons” – Matthew 12:24
      2. Demons possessed people – Mark 1:32
      3. Jesus talked with and cast our demons – Luke 8:29-33
      4. Christians struggle against demonic forces- Ephesians 6:12
3. **Origin of Demons – Demons are Fallen Angels (Likely but not proven)**
   1. Demons are angels
      1. They are similarly identified with Satan
         1. Luke 11:15 – “But some of them said, ‘He cast out demons by Beelzebul [Satan], the ruler of the demons.’”
         2. Revelation 12:9 – “And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world: he was thrown down to earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.” – his angels refers back to Satan.
      2. They are similarly identified in general – Scriptures offer no differentiation in the characteristics or activities of demons and evil angels.
         1. They are both spirit beings
            1. Demons are spirits – Luke 11:24-26; Revelation 16:13-14
            2. Angels are spirits – Hebrews 1:14; Psalm 104:4
         2. Similar activities
            1. Demons oppose God – Revelation 16:13-14
            2. Evil angels oppose God – Revelation 9:13-15
         3. No scripture differentiates demons with fallen angels
   2. Demons are fallen angels who rebelled against God
      1. Angels sinned – 2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6
      2. Angels were cast out of heaven – Revelation 12:9
4. **Characteristics of Demons**
   1. Demons are spirit beings – Luke 8:29-33
   2. Demons are highly intelligent
      1. Demons have supernatural knowledge – Luke 4:33-34
      2. Demons are cunning and deceitful – 1 Timothy 4:1
   3. Demons are evil
      1. They rebelled against God – Jude 6, 2 Peter 2:4
      2. They are associated with idolatry and child sacrifice – Deut 32:17; Psalm 106:37
      3. They are called wicked – Eph 6:12 – “spiritual wickedness in high places (KJV)
   4. Demons have emotions – James 2:19
   5. Demons have a will – Luke 8:32
5. **Activities of Demons**
   1. Demons are opposed to God’s kingdom
      1. Associated with Satan’s kingdom – Luke 11:17-22
      2. Demons therefore work with Satan against believers – Eph 6:11
   2. Demons extend the authority of Satan by doing his bidding
      1. Satan is the ruler of demons – Matthew 12:24; Luke 11:15
      2. Satan has a cooperative kingdom which evil spirits form a part of – Luke 11:17-22
   3. Demons can work cooperatively – Luke 18:24-26
   4. Demons may be used by God – 1 Samuel 16:14-16
   5. Demons may possess men – Matthew 8:28, Mark 9:17-18
      1. Use vocal chords of demonized to speak – Matthew 8:29, 31
      2. Cause muteness (Matthew 12:22) or blindness (Matthew 12:22)
      3. Give supernatural physical strength – Mark 5:3
      4. Force self-mutilation upon victim – Mark 5:5
   6. Demons may possess animals – Matthew 8:31-32, Luke 8:32-33
   7. Demons can inflict diseases – Matthew 12:22, Mark 9:17
   8. Demons influence people through deceit – 1 Timothy 4:1
   9. Demons oppose the growth of believers – 1 Timothy 4:1, Eph 6:12
6. **Destination of Demons**
   1. There is no salvation for fallen angels
      1. Christ had to be of human nature, not angelic, to save humans – Hebrews 12:14-16 infers salvation as unique to mankind.
      2. Angels long to look into salvation – 1 Peter 1:12
         1. They long to look into salvation because it is unique to humans and not offered to angels if they rebel against God.
      3. Why? Possibly because angels had a higher position than man – Hebrews 2:6-7
         1. May indicate greater intelligence
         2. May indicate exposure to greater revelation before they rebelled
   2. Demons may be bound during the millennium – Isaiah 24:21-22; Revelation 20:1-3
   3. Satan and demons destined for “lake of fire,” or hell – Matthew 25:41
7. **A Complex Issue: The Imprisoned Demons –** Theologians have for centuries debated on the meaning of 2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6, 1 Peer 3:18-20, specifically, whether they describe the present condition of all demons or whether they indicate a group of demons confined due to some special terrible sin.
   1. Key Passages
      1. 2 Peter 2:4
      2. Jude 6
      3. 1 Peter 3:18-20
   2. Interpretation 1: All demons are “bound” from their original heavenly activities, but still free in a sense that they can carry out activities on earth.
      1. All demons committed the sins mentioned in 2 Peter 2:4 (“they sinned”) and Jude 6 (“abandoned their proper abode”)
      2. 1 Peter 3:18-20 could be referring to spirits of men who died in Noah’s day and rejected the flood.
   3. Interpretation 2: A group of demons committed an exceptionally bad sin and were literally imprisoned somewhere and confined from further activities until the judgment.
      1. 1 Peter 3:18-20 probably indicates spirits of fallen angels
         1. Use of the word “spirit” in the New Testament is almost always used in reference to angels.
      2. Episode with the Gadarene man – Luke 8:31
         1. When Jesus confronted the demon-possessed Gadarene man, the demons begged Him not to cast them into the abyss.
         2. The abyss would probably be this place of confinement for spirits.
         3. Indicates that fallen, free angels knew
            1. Abyss existed
            2. It was a terrifying prospect that God would send them there.
         4. Logically, God had confined demons to this awful place at some point in the past.
      3. Purpose of 1 Peter 3:18-20
         1. Christ had just displayed his victory over sin on the cross
         2. Christ was proclaiming to the enemy who had somehow strongly opposed God in the pas His ultimate victory over their plans.