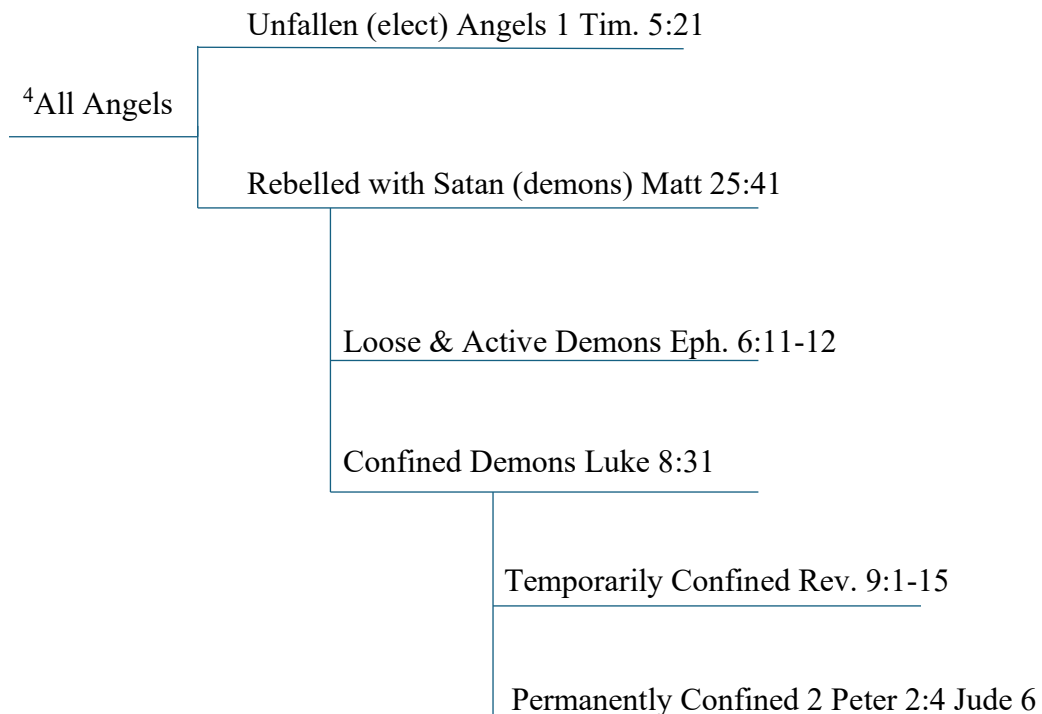


## AN EXCURSUS ON DEMONS

---

- Speaking about Demons, “We do know that they certainly are not, as some folks believe, the spirits of dead people.”<sup>1</sup>
- To deny the existence of demons is to deny the teachings of Scripture and Jesus Himself.
- “The spirits of the deceased do not tarry near graveyards nor in haunted houses, for, according to Scripture, the spirits of the saved ‘depart and be with Christ’ (Phil. 1:23) while the lost go to a place of torment (Luke 16:22, 23).”<sup>2</sup>
- “We can state with absolute certainty only that they are fallen spirit beings who have committed themselves to Satan (i.e. the adversary) and that they hate God and seek to harm His people. ‘No clear distinction can be made between fallen angels and demons, for they are all evil spirits ... far too great and powerful for us to defeat in our own strength.’”<sup>3</sup>



---

<sup>1</sup> Robert Duncan Culver, *Systematic Theology: Biblical and Historical* (Ross-shire, UK: Mentor, 2005), 183.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 184.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 184.

<sup>4</sup> I found a similar chart online but do not know where it originated from.

## Elect Angels and Those Who Rebelled With Satan

- **1 Timothy 5:21** “I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus *and of His chosen angels*, to maintain these principles without bias, doing nothing in a spirit of partiality.”
- **Matthew 25:41** “Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the *devil and his angels*...’”

## There are Loose and Active Demons

- **Ephesians 6:12** “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

## There are Confined Demons

- **Temporarily Confined**
- **Revelation 9:1-2** “Then the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him. {2} He opened the bottomless pit, and smoke went up out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit.”
- **Luke 8:30-31** “And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. {31} They were imploring Him not to command them to go away into the abyss.”
- These demons are confined in “the pit,” apparently too depraved and harmful to be allowed to roam upon the earth
- **Revelation 20:1-2** “Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. {2} And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years...”
- **Permanently Confined**
- **2 Peter 2:4** “For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment...”
- **Jude 1:6** “And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day.”
- These demons are permanently confined to tartarus (which is translated as “hell” in 2 Peter 2:4)
  - This term is used only once in the New Testament (2 Peter 2:4) and refers to the deepest pit of gloom where certain angels are held until the final "Great White Throne" judgment.
- They are confined because of some enormous sin they committed

- Perhaps the best explanation is that these demons were the “sons of God” who came down to the “daughters of men” and cohabitated with them, seeking to create a race of unredeemable people in order to thwart God’s plan of redemption in Genesis 6
- Peter seems to confirm this in **1 Peter 3:18-20** “For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; {19} in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison, {20} who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water...”
- What does it mean that *Christ went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison, who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah?*
- “...the majority view among scholars today is that the text describes Christ’s proclamation of victory and judgment over the evil angels. These evil angels, according to Gen 6:1–4, had sexual relations with women and were imprisoned because of their sin. The point of the passage, then, is not that Christ descended into hell but, as in 3:22, his victory over evil angelic powers.”<sup>5</sup>

## **WHAT DEMONS ARE AND ARE NOT IN BELIEVER’S LIVES**

---

- **God has complete and total control over all demons (to include Satan himself)**
  - **Luke 22:31-32** “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; {32} but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”
- **Believers cannot be possessed by demons.**
  - **1 Corinthians 6:19** “Or do you not know that *your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you*, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?”
  - **1 John 4:4** “You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because *greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.*”
  - **Ephesians 1:13** “In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, *you were sealed* in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise...”
- **Believers can be harassed by demons.**
  - **2 Corinthians 12:7** “Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, *a messenger of Satan to torment me*--to keep me from exalting myself!”

---

<sup>5</sup> Thomas R. Schreiner, *1, 2 Peter, Jude*, vol. 37, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2003), 185.

- **2 Corinthians 11:3** “But I am afraid that, *as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray* from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.”
- **2 Corinthians 11:13-15** “For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. {14} No wonder, *for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light*. {15} Therefore it is not surprising if *his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness*, whose end will be according to their deeds.”
- **Believers have the power to resist.**
  - **Ephesians 6:10-13** “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. {11} Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be *able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil*. {12} For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. {13} Therefore, *take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day*, and having done everything, to stand firm.
  - **James 4:7** “Submit therefore to God. *Resist the devil* and he will flee from you.”

## Final Thoughts:

---

- There are no generational curses for families or demons in family lineage.
  - **Galatians 3:13** “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us-- for it is written, ‘cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.’”
  - I would say there are sinful patterns that affect families and have continual consequences.
- Demons do not rule over hell in an eternal party.
- Demons are not omnipresent (in all places) nor are they omnipotent (all powerful) nor are they omniscience (all knowing).
  - They cannot read our minds; they are not in all places at one time. We must remember that demons have been **observing** mankind for some 6000 years.
- Demons do not come with horns and tails.
- Demons are not bound by deliverance ministries.
  - Believers are **never commanded** in the Epistles to speak to demons or to exercise the demons.
  - Jude 1:9 “But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, ‘The Lord rebuke you!’”
- There are no demons of lust, demons of poverty, demons of drugs...but there is individual responsibility for each person to submit to the Spirit and the Word of God.