How many believers turn to human viewpoint and the things of this world to try and solve problems when the only answer they need is in learning, thinking, and applying Bible Doctrine!

V.8b: “conjure up” - “by the means of the familiar or demonic spirit”: Saul wants her to contact the demonic powers in order to speak to the dead.

V.9: the woman suspects something about these strangers is not right and perhaps it is a trap

V.10: Saul reassures her that all is safe for her to contact the demons – and he dares to use the name of the Lord to make this oath of safety to her!

V.8: Why is it so often true that God’s people will turn to almost anything rather than the Word of God? Many years later the prophet Jeremiah said this about Israel:

Jeremiah 5:30-31 (NASB) 30 “An appalling and horrible thing Has happened in the land:
31 The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule on their own authority; And My people love it so! But what will you do at the end of it?

So also spoke the prophet Hosea:

Hosea 4:6 (NASB) My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

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V.11: Saul requests that Samuel be called up from the place of the dead.

Sheol (the grave) O.T. times

Paradise Believing dead

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Torments Unbelieving dead

Samuel was in the place of the believing dead before the ascension of Jesus Christ.
Saul had rejected God’s man for years but now, when he was under serious pressure and could see no solutions, he wanted to talk to him! Like so many Christians today who just want the preacher to leave them alone and stay out of church until there is a big enough crises – then they call for help!

Can the dead communicate with the living?

Paradise is also called “Abraham’s bosom” in Luke 16:19-31

The man in torment asked for Lazarus to be allowed to come back from the dead to warn his family about the place where he was; but this was not allowed. All of the Scriptures bear out the truth that the dead are not allowed by God to communicate with the living.

1 Samuel 28:3-25

V.12: the medium did whatever she did to begin the séance but she did not have the opportunity to complete her incantations nor did the demon have an opportunity to begin an imitation of Samuel. The sudden appearance of the real Samuel caused her to scream out in terror – she had never seen this before. She knew it was no “ghost” or demon trick – it was the real thing and it terrified her.

Some spiritists want to use this passage to prove that the dead can be called up to communicate with the living, but the passage proves no such thing. Her own surprise and fear prove the lies of her craft. Except by the intervention of God, there is never any real communication with the dead – there is only trickery by either the medium (most common) or the demons (rarely) pretending to be the dead person.

Most communications of mediums is fraudulent. Through the years many investigators have demonstrated that the séances where people supposedly communicate with the dead are a fraud. Some mediums have left the business and exposed the fraud involved. One famous investigator years ago was Harry Houdini.

The magician and escape artist, Harry Houdini, visited so-called spirit mediums in every city where he toured, hoping to contact his deceased loved ones; but invariably he recognized that those “mediums” were using stage-magic, and he exposed them as frauds.
If the rule established by God is that dead cannot communicate with the living (and it is), then what is happening in this passage? There is nothing in the passage to indicate that this was anyone or anything (such as a demon) except Samuel himself.

Answer: God – who makes the rules – can make an exception for His own purposes.

**Divine exceptions to the rules**

- **Rule:** the earth goes around the sun making the sun pass through the sky a specific way every 24 hours
- **Exceptions:** Joshua 10:12-14 – the sun “stands still.” 2 Kings 20:8-11 – the shadow of the sun’s passing went backwards
- **Rule:** the sun shines light on the earth and even a solar eclipse is short – not more than 7 to 71/2 minutes
- **Exception:** Exodus 10:21-23 – 3 days; Matthew 27:45 – three hours at the crucifixion
- **Rule:** human beings physically die
- **Exceptions:** Enoch (Genesis 5:24); Elijah (2 Kings 2:11-12); the future rapture of the church (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17)
- **Rule:** people do not walk on water
- **Exceptions:** Jesus (Matthew 14:25); Peter (Matthew 14:29)
- **Rule:** dead people do not come back to life
- **Exceptions:** Lazarus (John 11); a young girl (Matthew 9:24-25) - The Bible records that Elijah, Elisha, Peter, and Paul raised the dead, as well as Jesus Christ.
- **Rule:** the dead do not come back to be seen by the living
- **Exception:** Moses and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:2-4); Samuel (1 Samuel 28:13-20)

**The exception to a rule only confirms the rule**

- **God can make exceptions on His own initiative (miracles) but man cannot initiate exceptions**
No medium or Spiritist can call up the dead nor can the dead communicate with the living. God does not communicate in any fashion today except through His Word – period.

Because one sees God acting at a certain time in a certain way is no reason to build up a teaching that this is the way things always are or that this is something we humans – including believers – are to do. This will lead to false teaching.

1 Samuel 28:3-25

V. 13: “a divine being” – or a “god”: a Hebraism referring to judges and prophets, men to whom the Word of God came in direct communication. Samuel was God’s judge and prophet so she referred to him in the common term of honor but she was also acting in terror!

“coming up out of the earth”: from the direction of Paradise under the earth side by side with the place of torment.

V. 14: Samuel appeared in his familiar form, again an allowance by God to insure Samuel was recognized by Saul. Samuel does not yet have a glorified body. That event will happen for the Old Testament believer after the Second Coming of Christ.

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1 Chronicles 10:13-14 (NASB) 13 So Saul died for his trespass which he committed against the Lord, because of the word of the Lord which he did not keep; and also because he asked counsel of a medium, making inquiry of it. 14 and did not inquire of the Lord. Therefore He killed him and turned the kingdom to David the son of Jesse.

The sin unto death for Saul was for two reasons:

1. He did not keep the Word of the Lord
2. He went to inquire from a medium rather than the Lord
Demon communication: Ouija board

This so-called “game” is absolutely a form of necromancy / spiritism.

While some claim their just “talking to the board,” in reality it is an attempt to communicate with the dead, but it is in reality a communication with demons.

This “game” has been a tool to introduce many people – especially young people – to the occult. For anyone it is dangerous, but this is especially so for a believer.

Demon communication: Séances in the White House

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The Clinton White House

“A new biography on… Hillary Clinton reveals that during her time as First Lady, Clinton participated in strange moments of imaginary conversation with a deceased Eleanor Roosevelt from the solarium atop the White House. (Grove City College professor Paul Kengor’s God and Hillary Clinton)”

“The woman who arranged the séance-type sessions atop the White House, Jean Houston, became very close to the Senator. Houston… was known for delving into altered consciousness, the spirit world, and psychic experiences, according to a source quoted in the book ….”

(The above taken from the internet, but I forgot where!)
*Three spirit sources of communication*

1. The Holy Spirit: the Scripture is complete and there is no additional communication from God in this age – Rev. 22:18-19
2. The human spirit – from our own minds and imagination
3. The hellish spirit – satanic / demonic communication

If a person rejects the Word of God and is open to spirit communication, they may hear from the demonic spirits. Or they may have such communication only occur in their own mind and are self-deceived; either way, it is not God nor is it from any dead human being.

*The teachings of demons*

**1 Timothy 4:1 (NASB)** But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,

**James 3:15 (NASB)** This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly; natural; demonic.

**1 John 4:1** (NASB) Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

**1 John 4:6 (NASB)** We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

**Demon Communication and Mormonism**

- Joseph claims to have received several visits from an angel of light called Moroni who directed him to some gold plates which gave him the heretical teachings of the Mormon church – the Book of Mormon. Moroni, if he existed, was a demon.

Two key false Mormon demonic doctrines:

- They believe that Jesus was a human being who has earned the right to become a god because of his good works here on earth. This statement does not mean that Jesus is our God, just that he is a god.
- They further believe that you too can become a god and rule your own planet.

Mormonism is a blatant works salvation that is the doctrine of demons (1 Timothy 4:1).

The following is from www.watchmanfellowship.org

1844: In April, Joseph Smith preaches perhaps his most famous sermon. "God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens!...I am going to tell you how God came to be God. We have imagined and
supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea, and take away the veil so that you may see...He was once a man like us; yea that God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth, the same as Jesus Christ himself did...Here, then is eternal life...you have got learn how to be Gods yourselves,...the same as all Gods have done before you” (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pp. 345-46).

The source for Mormonism is demonic.

Demon Communication and Islam

Mohammed claims to have received divine revelation from the angel Gabriel. Yet, Muhammad’s first impression of his divine encounter was that he had been possessed by demons. In reality, this “angel” was a demon.

ALL of the Islamic doctrines are contrary to the Bible and thus demonic.

Islam vs. grace from a chart by Ergun Caner at www.erguncaner.com. I have selected only three of many more false teachings of Islam.

Islam
• Salvation based on scales. (Surah 17:13-14)
• Conditional love based on obedience to Allah. (Surah 60:1)
• Allah only saves those whom he wants. (Surah 14:4)

Christianity
• Salvation based on the Cross and grace. (Ephesians 2:8-9)
• Unconditional love based on the blood of Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:8)
• God saves all those who will receive Jesus Christ as Savior. (2 Peter 3:9; 1 John 2:2; Luke 19:10)

Islam is demonic.

Demon communication and AA

The official A.A. biography of Wilson reveals that for years after A.A’s founding, regular séances were still being held in the Wilsons’ home, and other occult activities were being pursued.

A.A.’s 12 Steps were actually received verbatim from the demonic world. It is not surprising, then, that the effect of A.A. upon many of its members is to lead them into occult involvement.
A.A. with its false doctrine of a “higher-power-as-you-understand-it” opens the door to occultism.

In the same book [T]here are references to séances and other psychic events....

Bill would..."get" these things [from the spirit world]...long sentences, word by word would come through...."

As he started to write [the A.A. manual], he asked for guidance....The words began tumbling out with astonishing speed....

Wilson's "original mystical experience" was his alleged "conversion" --a classic occult encounter: "Suddenly the room lit up with a great white light. I was caught up into an ecstasy...it burst upon me that I was a free man...a wonderful feeling of Presence, and I thought to myself, 'So this is the God of the preachers! ' A great peace stole over me...."

This was not the "God of the preachers" but the one who transforms himself "into an angel of light" (2 Cor. 11:14)-a light that often transforms those involved in the occult. The experience was so profound that Wilson never touched alcohol again. Satan would be more than willing to deliver a man from alcoholism in this life if thereby he could ensnare him for eternity and inspire him to lead millions to the same destruction!

For more information see www.psychoheresy.aware.org. See the book 12 Steps to Destruction by Martin and Deidre Bobgan for an excellent study on AA and why believers should never participate in this organization or any of its various offshoots.

Demon Communication and Visions of Mary

For many years people have been claiming to have visions of a woman that claims to be the Virgin Mary. In recent days there has been an ever increasing occurrence of such "visitations" and in the Roman Catholic Church there is a large and growing “Marian Movement” that focuses

“The Marian Movement of Priests was founded by Father Stefano Gobbi in 1972, on the 55th anniversary of Our Lady of Fátima. According to the organization, its members now include over 400 Catholic cardinals and bishops, more than 100,000 Catholic priests, and several million lay Catholics worldwide.” www.wikipedia.org
Mary, the mother of Jesus, cannot come back any more than can anyone else. The messages that are being heard by many around the world from the visions of Mary are blasphemous and can be nothing but demonic.

The “Mary” in these apparitions is a demon. Notice the “light” coming from the hands of this “Virgin Mary”? That is to signify that all grace comes through Mary rather than directly from Jesus Christ.

The following messages supposedly given by this “Mary” are from Queen of All, Tetlow, Oakland, and Meyers. This biblically correct book is recommended reading to understand what is going on in the world today with these “visions” of Mary and her messages.

“I alone am able to save you from the calamities that approach. Those who place their confidence in me will be saved” God alone saves! 2 Samuel 22:2-4; Isaiah 43:11

“I boldly assert that His suffering became my suffering, because His heart was mine. And just as Adam and Eve sold the world for an apple, so in a certain sense My Son and I redeemed the world with one heart….Christ alone suffered for our sins – 1 Peter 3:18; Romans 5:5-9

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The following is from the website www.all-about-the-virgin-mary.com (a Catholic site)

This is the second jewel in the crown of Our Lady that is the proposed fifth Marian Dogma of Mary as Co-Redemptrix, Mediatrix and Advocate. Mary is Mediatrix of All Graces. It means that ALL GRACES of EVERY AGE bestowed by God to mankind pass through the hands of Mary.

But what exactly do we mean by “grace”? Leo Trese, in the book “The Faith Explained”, says that: “...grace is an interior supernatural gift of God bestowed on us through the merits of Jesus Christ for our salvation.”

Graces are interior gifts bestowed on us by God, THROUGH OUR LADY, to help us to be holy and thus attain eternal life. Graces are those divine impulses, those flashes of spiritual energy that oftentimes impel us to do good rather than bad. Without grace, we will be no match against the subtle snares of the devil.

The veneration of Mary is nothing more than pagan goddess worship and these teachings delude people by the millions. If this or the many other false teachings of the Catholic Church are believed and a person dies then they will spend eternity in the Lake of Fire for they rejected the truth of salvation by faith alone in Christ alone.
Demon Communication and psychiatrist Carl Jung

Carl Jung was a Swiss psychiatrist and founder of Analytical Psychology. Though partners with Freud for a time, was in many ways a contrast to Freud. Freud and Jung are considered to be the main founders of modern day psychotherapy. “He was the foremost pioneer of dream analysis, which is the process of assigning meaning to dreams” (Marsha West, www.theberancall.org)

Most of his psychological ideas came after his "deification" and inspiration came from his 'spirit guide', Philemon – direct demonic communication. He was involved in astrology, automatic writing, casting horoscopes, divination methods and other occult practices.

Jung observed that

“Philemon and other figures of my fantasies brought home to me the crucial insight that there are things in the psyche which I do not produce, but which produce themselves and have their own life. Philemon represented a force that was not myself. In my fantasies I held conversations with him, and he said things which I had not consciously thought. [...] Psychologically, Philemon represented superior insight.” Memories, Dreams, Reflections

Jung felt that Philemon was alive, not a dead spirit, somehow "talking" directly to Jung’s mind. Philemon, if he existed, was a demon.

Jung thus felt he was not insane; he felt that Philemon was a source of information that was legitimate; somehow, Jung was able to receive information from a source of knowledge that was not existing in this physical reality.

Jung believed that psychoanalysis was a way to achieve both personal and cultural renewal and rebirth. He believed that we could become one with god by finding the god within.

Satan says in Genesis 3:5 (NASB) "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Jung’s influence on modern Christianity

“The overwhelming majority of Christians have probably never heard of C. G. Jung, but his influence in the church is vast and affects sermons, books, and activities, such as the prolific use of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) by seminaries and missionary organizations. A current, popular example of Jung’s legacy can be seen in Robert Hicks's book The Masculine Journey, which was given to each of the 50,000 men who attended the 1993 Promise Keepers conference. Christians need to learn enough about Jung and his teachings to be warned and wary." www.thebereancall.org
Bill Wilson (AA) and Carl Jung

He wrote a personal letter to Carl Jung thanking him for his influence:

...[A.A.] actually started long ago in your consulting room, and it was directly founded upon your own humility and deep perception....You will also be interested to learn that in addition to the “spiritual experience,” many A.A.s report a great variety of psychic phenomena, the cumulative weight of which is very considerable. Other members have—following their recovery in A.A.—been much helped by [Jungian analysts]. A few have been intrigued by the “I Ching” and your remarkable introduction to that work. www.bereancall.org

Demon Communications: Ghosts and poltergeists

We have covered much of the false ideas involved in ghosts when we studied divination / spiritism (see above).

Many teach that ghosts are nonmaterial manifestations of human beings (or sometimes animals) who have died and, for one reason or another, are still on this “plane of existence” (on earth) rather than advancing on to “the other side” (in heaven). This is a gross misunderstanding.

Existence after death is real, conscious, and final—Hebrews 9:27 – there is no second chance, no coming back, no reincarnation.

If the person is a believer (they have eternal life by faith alone in Christ alone) they are with the Lord in heaven – it is wonderful.

Acts 7:59 (NASB) They went on stoning Stephen as he called on the Lord and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!"

Ecclesiastes 12:7 (NASB) then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it. [this applies to a believer, the one with a new human spirit created at the reception of eternal life]
If the person is an unbeliever in Jesus alone for eternal life: **Luke 16:19-31**

2 Peter 2:9: the Lord knows how… to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment

Revelation 19:20; 20:14-15

**Matthew 25:41 (NASB)** "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;

**Matthew 13:42 (NASB)** and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

**2 Thessalonians 1:9 (NASB)** These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

**2 Peter 2:17 (NASB)** These are springs without water and mists driven by a storm, for whom the black darkness has been reserved.

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If they are not returning humans, what are they?

- Active imagination
- Just waking from sleep confusion
- Seeing something in the peripheral vision and then the mind trying to piece together an image – such things are often misinterpreted
- Lies for attention!

But there seem to be some real experiences. Their source is demons mimicking humans (or even animals) for the purpose of deception. Those who have such experiences have often been previously involved in some form of occultism.

The demons cannot appear in solid human form since Genesis 6, but there seems to be some ability to take vague shapes to those who have become open to such spirit activity although it may only exist in the mind of the person.

**Doctrines of demons**

- After death there it is not just heaven or hell as the Bible says
- Death is a wonderful experience for all
- Reincarnation is the true future – you get to try again
- Good works and kindness in life earn you a good reincarnation or an advancement into being a “white master” or some other idea of progress in the afterlife
Poltergeist

- Means “noisy ghost”
- Everything we have learned about ghosts applies.
- It seems that these demons can and do cause noises, the moving of objects, etc.
- Once again, the objective is deception

Exorcisms and “cleansing” a building or house

Satan would allow an “exorcism” by any false teacher – religious or “psychic” - in order to deceive and lead people into false doctrines.

UFO’s

If there is anything beyond a person’s imagination, which there seems to be on occasion, this also is a manifestation of demonic deception. Many people who have seen UFO’s and/or experienced “abductions” have already been involved in the occult.

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Many researchers have noted the striking parallels between methods of UFO contact and those characteristically found in the world of the occult” The Facts on UFO’s and Other Supernatural Phenomena, Ankerberg and Weldon, p. 26

Any “messages” received are virtually identical with those from other demonic sources. They all firmly deny the doctrines of Scripture:

- “According to scores of books by contactees that we have read, they teach 1) that biblical religion is false and outdated; 2) that man must develop his psychic ability; 3) that we are on the threshold of a New Age of occult enlightenment; 4) that God and man or the creation are part of the same divine essence (pantheism). and 5) that extradimensional entities are now present to assist mankind in leaving the “old ways” and adjusting to the New Age of spiritual advancement. Nor should we neglect the recurring theme that some form of drastic authoritarian social control may be necessary to assure the survival of this planet” (Ankerberg, p. 30)
Preparation for the coming antichrist?

UFO’s might even be used to explain the disappearance of the believers with the rapture of the church:

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (NASB)  
16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

Revelation 13:1-8

Turn for Truth only to the Bible!

John 17:17 (NASB) "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

Ephesians 4:14-15 (NASB) 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ.

McMahon, T.A. Published on The Berean Call www.bereancall.org

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." —1 Timothy:4:1

In my two previous TBC articles this year (Mar and Apr ’06), I addressed the destructive influence psychological counseling is having on the evangelical church. Simply put, the church has turned from God’s Word to man’s bankrupt theories in attempting to resolve mental, emotional, and behavioral problems. The greater part of the church no longer believes what the Scriptures proclaim: that God, in His Word, has given us “all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue” (2 Peter 1:3). The results, sadly, are what one might expect: there is often little statistical difference between those who profess to be Christians and those who do not, regarding the number of divorces, the reliance upon psychological counseling theories and methods, living together outside of marriage, illegitimate childbirths, pornography, sexual and physical abuse, and so forth.

Psychology and the Doctrines of Devils
Although such consequences are shocking, they shouldn’t be surprising to anyone who believes the Bible. Twice in the Book of Proverbs we are told, “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs:14:12; 16:25). Death throughout Scripture implies separation, whether of the soul and spirit from the body in physical death or, in another sense, the separation of light from darkness and truth from error—and ultimately, from God eternally. Just as the body without life corrupts, so do one’s life choices result in corruption when they are separated from God’s truth.

Psychology, with its psychotherapeutic counseling, has been embraced by evangelicals more than almost any other unbiblical endeavor that has entered the church in the last half-century. “Christian psychologists” are generally more popular and influential than preachers and teachers of the Word. What evangelical in America doesn’t know of psychologist Dr. James Dobson? The psychologically oriented American Association of Christian Counselors boasts 50,000 members. The evangelical church is one of the leading referral services for secular counselors (whether they claim to be Christians or not!). Like their secular counterparts, the second-most popular career choice for students at Christian colleges is psychology. What makes this information truly shocking is the fact that the roots, concepts, and many of the psychological counseling practices come from “seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.”

Doctrines of devils are designed to undermine what is taught in the Scriptures. They reflect the strategy that Satan instituted in the Garden of Eden when he seduced Eve into disobeying God. The chief of the seducing spirits began his direct communication with Eve by raising doubts in her mind as to what God had commanded: “Yea, hath God said...?” (Genesis:3:1). The serpent’s dialogue with her led her to believe that God had lied to her: “And the serpent said unto the woman, ye shall not surely die.” Although God instructed Adam and Eve that the punishment for disobeying Him by eating the fruit of a certain tree in the Garden would be death (Genesis:2:17), Satan twisted that around, making God not only a liar but also the one who was withholding what they needed for their self-improvement and for realizing a supposed higher potential.

Genesis:3:1-5 contains Satan’s basic strategy for the seduction and destruction of mankind. His deception began by questioning God’s Word, and offering tempting alternatives. Eve responded by believing Satan, rejecting God’s Word, and turning to her own self-interests. The enticements were so desirable to the flesh, including immortality, enlightenment, godhood, and knowledge (Genesis:3:5), that she eagerly embraced the lie. At that tragic moment in the history of mankind, self became a god, an autonomous rebel bent on doing its own thing. What Satan offered to Eve, he likewise has presented to all of her descendants, with similar success. His deadly allurements—immortality,
enlightenment, godhood, and knowledge—comprise the foundational teachings of “doctrines of devils.”

Even in a cursory review of psychotherapeutic concepts, Satan’s primary lies are clearly revealed. Teachings (i.e., doctrines) such as the following are found in nearly all psychotherapeutic theories. Immortality: There is no death in the sense that it should be feared. Materialist psychotherapists teach a judgment-free mortality; spiritually oriented counselors claim that we either evolve to a higher consciousness or reincarnate to improve our next temporal state of being. Enlightenment: Knowing the self, who we are, why we do what we do, and how we change, all open the critical gate to establishing our mental wellbeing. Some systems teach that our problems of living are determined by traumas related to our past (including past lives), our parental upbringing, our environment, or our having been oppressed by religious dogmas. Godhood: The solution to humanity’s problems is found within the self. Self is deified, whether directly or indirectly. For instance, psychology’s “self-actualization” is a process that leads to self-deification, which ultimately replaces any need for salvation outside humanity. Knowledge: The deification process for humanity involves methods of plumbing the depths of the unconscious, which is alleged to be the infinite reservoir that holds all mysteries of life.

Sadly, these doctrines of devils now permeate “Christian psychology.” Few evangelicals realize that these demonic teachings were introduced to the “founding fathers of psychological counseling” literally by “seducing spirits.” It was Sigmund Freud who declared that “religion is the universal obsessional neurosis of humanity.” Furthermore, there is evidence that Freud hated Christianity, which he erroneously regarded as anti-Semitic. How then would this atheistic rejecter of organized religion advance doctrines of devils? By founding the “religion” of psychoanalysis. None of Freud’s theories, whether psychic determinism or psychosexual development or belief in the unconscious, have any scientific validity; moreover, they are religious beliefs that are antithetical to the doctrines of the Bible. Research psychiatrist Thomas Szasz had Freud primarily in mind when he declared, “…modern psychotherapy...is not merely a religion that pretends to be a science, it is actually a fake religion that seeks to destroy true religion.”

Given the fact that psychoanalysis and its associated concepts are so diametrically opposed to biblical Christianity, there’s no doubt that Freud’s “fake religion” is the product of “doctrines of devils.” Furthermore, a strong case could be made that Freud’s theories came both directly and indirectly from “seducing spirits” through the techniques he employed in analyzing his patients. He put them into altered states of consciousness through hypnosis and the highly suggestible technique of “free association.” Early on, when he was formulating some of his theories, Freud was a regular user of the mind-altering drug cocaine for his bouts with depression. Calling it his magical drug, "he pressed it on his friends and colleagues, both for themselves and their patients." Psychiatrist and historian Henri F. Ellenberger’s classic work, The Discovery of the Unconscious, reveals, “Historically, modern dynamic psychotherapy derives from primitive medicine, and an uninterrupted continuity...through the exorcists, magnetists, and hypnotists that led to the fruition of dynamic psychiatry in the systems of Janet, Freud, Adler, and Jung.” Psychotherapy is a modern form of shamanism, which
explains why psychiatrist E. Fuller Torrey rightly observes, “The techniques used by Western psychiatrists are, with few exceptions, on exactly the same scientific plane as the techniques used by witchdoctors [medicine men and shamans].”5

Shamanism is all about contacting spirit entities to gain their help, wisdom, insights, and so forth. In an interview with a former Yanamamo shaman who resides in the Amazonian rain forest of Venezuela, I was told rather bluntly that his spirit guides were liars and deceivers, from his first contact with them through ingesting hallucinogenic drugs until they left him when he turned to Christ. Their lies reinforced what he wanted to hear. It seems the same for Freud, whose concepts were a reflection not of science but rather removing his own guilt and satisfying his flesh. Freud’s theories were based mainly upon his own personal problems, most of which were sexual perversions.

In Freudian thought, the “unconscious” is a God-replacement realm without laws and judgment; morality is an oppressive neurosis-generating structure imposed by society and organized religion; sexual freedom (including adultery, homosexuality, incest, etc.) is paramount for normal mental health; dreams are symbolic messages from the unconscious and can be scientifically interpreted through psychoanalysis. These beliefs represent doctrines of devils. Although a materialist, Freud acknowledged the existence of spirit entities. He was influenced from that source, either indirectly, through his patients, or directly, through his own drug use, the ancient statuettes he used to help him write,6 and other techniques he used to explore the unconscious.

The life and works of psychiatrist Carl Gustav Jung clearly reveal that his psychological theories came directly from the “seducing spirits” Paul warns about in 1 Timothy:4:1. Jung is far more popular today among professing Christians than Freud (the atheist) because of his perceived affinity for religion and things spiritual. However, though his father was a Protestant pastor (who seriously doubted his professed faith!), Jung was anti-biblical and resentful of organized Christianity. His early symbolic visions revealed Jesus as a Dark Lord and God defecating on a cathedral. His mother’s side of the family was heavily involved in spiritualism. His grandfather, pastor Samuel Preiswerk, conducted ongoing séances to commune with his deceased first wife, with his second wife and daughter (Jung’s mother) participating. The latter, who had bouts of insanity, reserved two beds in the Jung home for visiting ghosts. Jung’s doctoral thesis (published in 1902) was based upon séances conducted by his 13-year-old cousin, whom he placed in an altered state of consciousness through hypnosis in order to contact his and her dead ancestors.

In 1916, Jung’s household experienced an assault by demonic beings who claimed to be dead Christian Crusaders from Jerusalem. They were seeking counsel on redemption and were greatly distressed that their Christianity had left them in a hopeless condition. They would not leave Jung’s home until he began writing advice to them, which he received from one of his many spirit guides, his mentor Philemon, the “old man with horns of a bull.”7

Richard Noll, a lecturer in the History of Science at Harvard University and a clinical psychologist (who declares that he “is not a Christian of any sort”), makes some stunning observations in his book on Jung titled The Jung Cult. He argues that Jung’s “psychological theories of the collective unconscious and archetypes are essentially masks, a pseudoscientific cover to hide the practices of what was essentially a new
religious movement in which Jung taught people to have trance visions and to contact the 'gods' directly."

Jung’s teachings are doctrines of demons, gleaned directly from seducing spirits: the unconscious and the collective unconscious represent an impersonal form of God; archetypes are viewed as psychological rationalizations for demons, the anima and animus are terms for the female and male entities within each person; psychological "types" are determined characteristics within our make up. Jung promoted all things occult, including astrology, alchemy, the I-Ching, mysticism, necromancy, visualization, dream interpretation, the active imagination, yoga, meditation, etc. Incredibly, his theories and recommended practices are endorsed in the teachings of some of the most influential people in evangelical Christianity. In many cases, ignorance is the principle reason, yet the demonic lies are nevertheless readily promoted and accepted among the sheep.

Rick Warren’s 30 million copies of The Purpose-Driven Life include Jungian concepts, such as psychological “types.” Saddleback Church’s “Celebrate Recovery” program (see TBC Oct ’05), which has been exported to 4,500 churches and Prison Fellowship Ministries, is based on A.A.’s 12 Step principles. A.A. co-founder Bill Wilson received the 12 Steps during the time he was in contact with spirit entities. He later wrote a personal letter to Carl Jung thanking him for his influence:

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Warren is not the only witting or unwitting promoter among evangelicals of what Jung learned from demons. He is just the most successful and the best known. Others include Christian psychologists, inner healers, and pastors. Jung’s occult methodologies, especially his demonically inspired techniques of visualization, guided imagery, meditation, and working with spiritual directors, are foundational to the Emerging Church interests of evangelical youth and the contemplative movement supported by Richard Foster, Eugene Peterson, and a multitude of others.

This astonishing development in the evangelical church is symptomatic of the abandonment of God’s Word. The result will be the advancement of the apostate “Christian” church. The antidote is found in Isaiah: 8:20: “To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”

Endnotes


Source URL: http://www.thebereancall.org/content/psychology-and-doctrines-devils

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The Angelic Conflict: The Coming End of the War

Introduction – this will be in overview fashion as the details will be in the Bible Prophecy: Revelation study: the Tribulation period is covered in Revelation chapters 6 – 19.

Review:
1. Beginning of the Angelic Conflict – Isaiah 14, Ezekiel 28 – the created cherub angel Lucifer lost his position as the highest angel because of his willful rebellion.

2. Highlights of the Angelic Conflict – we have reviewed Angelology, Demonology, and Satanology. We have learned that Lucifer was the highest of all God’s creation and that arrogance was the original sin of Satan. We have looked at the trial of Satan before the supreme court of heaven and the appeal trial of Satan. We have learned that man was created to resolve the Angelic Conflict by being created lower than angels and is an inferior creature compared to angels. We have seen that man was created to rule the universe and one day he will. We have studied the six abodes of Satan. We have discovered the purpose for the original creation of the Lake of Fire. We analyzed the “when” of the fall of Satan from Genesis 1 and other Scriptures. We looked at both the direct and indirect operations of Satan and the demons in human history. We have seen his activity in the Garden of Eden, the genetic attack against humanity in Genesis 6 and the resulting worldwide Flood. We have discussed the place of the dead today as well as the locations of the demons. We have talked about the Tower of Babel incident, the confusion of languages, and the diversity of human languages and races. We looked at ancient evidence for high level human abilities and their interest in the stars after the Flood. We have seen how drug use, Ouija boards, seances, and other occult activities open a person up to the world of the demons and may result in strong demonic influence or even possession. We have seen how Satan uses lies and deceit to have people reject the Truth of the Bible; we have learned that Satan tries to get the believer distracted from the Word of God as the number one priority in the believer’s life. We have even discussed ghosts and UFOs! We have learned that Satan has been fully defeated at the cross of Calvary but the execution of that final defeat lies yet in the future.

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The most intense phase of the Angelic Conflict is yet ahead and it will occur during the coming seven year Tribulation period on the earth. The Bible has more to say about the Tribulation than any other prophetic event and the reason is to warn people that it will be the worst time ever in all of human history.

Remember that the rapture of the church proceeds the Tribulation and that the start of the Tribulation is the signing of a peace treaty between the antichrist and Israel (Daniel 9:27) after the church is gone.
There are many differences in the Angelic Conflict during the Tribulation from today:

1. Angels will be seen and they will be preaching
2. Demons will be seen, they will harass and kill human beings
3. The Abyss will be opened up
4. Satan and the demons will be confined to the earth after the mid-point
5. Satan will directly control and possess the political leader of the world, the antichrist

The order of judgments in the seven year Tribulation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seven Seals</th>
<th>Seven Trumpets</th>
<th>Seven Bowls (vials)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rev. 6:1 – 8:5</td>
<td>Rev. 8:7 – 11:19</td>
<td>Rev. 15:1 – 16:21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Quarter</td>
<td>2nd Quarter</td>
<td>Last half</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 months</td>
<td>21 months</td>
<td>42 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Chart from www.deanbible.com
The various judgments of the Tribulation will bring discipline on humanity for its long rejection of their Creator-God and they will demonstrate just how hard the heart of man is in rejecting the Creator-God of the universe. They will demonstrate the justice and righteousness of God as well as the grace of God.

The last three Trumpet Judgments are upon humanity whereas the first four impact the physical earth. Revelation 8:13: These last three are called “woes” because of their strong intensity. Great grief is coming. Barnes notes on the New Testament says: “The repetition of the word is intensive, and the idea is, that the sounding of the three remaining trumpets would indicate great and fearful calamities.”

Three demon assault armies – Revelation 9 – trumpet Judgments

1. Revelation 9:1-12 – The “star” is an elect angel (not Satan) who receives the key from the Lord Jesus Christ (1:18). This first army is led by one demon that is called Abaddon (Hebrew) or Apollyon (Greek) a leading “general” among the demons in the Abyss. His name means “Destroyer.” These demons are currently held in the Abyss awaiting their release for this Tribulation event.

They will the power to hurt human beings, but not to kill them. The description of these demonic beings resembles that of locusts. In Exodus 10:12-15, Joel 1, and other places locusts are associated with divine judgment. However, unlike the bug locusts of human history that attack vegetation, these demon locusts are commanded not to hurt the grass, green things, or trees: their purpose will be to hurt men for a five month period.

9:2 – literal smoke from a literal opening in the earth which is the shaft of the Abyss; it is not referring to a volcano but there are some similarities. The smoke that pours out of this subterranean pit will spread around the world and cause a world-wide lessoning of light getting through from the sun.

9:6 – their misery will be so intense that they want to die but they will be supernaturally prevented.
Why do the demons want to harm mankind if indeed they long with Satan to be able prove to God that they can rule this planet better than God can? My opinion is that they are now frustrated and angry beyond angry that man has not cooperated with them. Mankind indeed rebelled against God but mankind has messed up the planet and thus demonstrated that independent of God no one can find satisfaction and success. Satan now realizes that in spite of all his efforts God’s plan is coming to pass and his time is now very limited – Revelation 12:12

It may also be that in this final, desperate attempt to get humanity to follow Satan’s ideas for how to live and to worship him, they use the typical approach of all human dictators through time: fear, intimidation, and violence. Like all authoritarian and totalitarian rule the demons and Satan are attempting to drive and organize human beings into complying with their goals and agenda. Since the demons, as we have discovered, are ordered and ranked like a military army, so the would-be dictator Satan is allowed to use his military power to attempt to force compliance. It certainly seems that to a certain extent he is successful – Revelation 9:20.

Revelation 9:20 shows us that God allows this to encourage people to turn to Him – to “repent” or change their mind – about their thinking on these critical life-and-death issues. Although many will receive eternal life during the Tribulation, the vast majority will do so only after they face the judgments, hate of their world’s main tormentors.

Henry Morris writes in his work The Revelation Record, p.161:

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Remember that we learned these principles: The greatest purpose of God in human history is to demonstrate to both men and angels that there is nothing worth living for except Him. God wants men and angels to learn that we are helpless and hopeless without Him. This is always for our good and His glory.

2. Revelation 9:12-21 – This army of 200 million demons is led by four demons – four demonic generals. These demons have the mandate and power to kill one third of mankind. A common interpretive mistake is to associate this army with that of the attacking army in Revelation 16. However, this does not tie to chapter 16 which is under the bowl judgments. These are not Chinese! Babylon will be the headquarters for the antichrist’s rule. The “kings of the east” refers to Mesopotamian kings (Assyria and Babylonia – the seven kings under the authority of the antichrist since the middle of the Tribulation) and occurs in preparation for the Campaign of Armageddon at the end of the Tribulation (see map below). This is during the first half of the Tribulation.
Charles Ryrie also identifies this army is made up of demons. He says, “The weapons of this army are fire, smoke, and brimstone (vs. 17) which are weapons of hell and may further indicate that the army is made up of the inhabitants of hell—demons (Ryrie, Revelation, p.64) (hell = the abyss - is this coming out of the Euphrates make this another entrance into the abyss?)

On the “200 million”: the Greek word is dismuriás meaning two myriads of myriads simply meaning “a countless number.” To translate it 200 million is common but not the real meaning of the term (ref. Robert Dean). Even if one accepts the translation of 200 million, it does not mean 200 million of any human army including the Chinese.

9:14 – bound: deo = to bind, to put in prison, to incarcerate or imprison - “who have been incarcerated or imprisoned.” They have been incarcerated it seems for some specific violation of the rules of the Angelic Conflict (but not the Genesis 6 attack as those are in Tartarus until the Great White Throne Judgment). My personal guess is that these four and the host of demons with them were in some way involved in the original Babylonian rebellion which, perhaps, helps explain their prison location.

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The Euphrates River is 1780 miles long. It was the boundary between Israel (the Land Covenant) and Gentile nations, Genesis 15:18; Joshua 1:4.
As we will study in our survey of Revelation 16:12-16, the sending out of demons and the drying up of the Euphrates is related to the assembling of the armies of the antichrist for the Campaign of Armageddon and is not part of this section of the judgments from the first half of the Tribulation.

The two demonic army attacks are described in Joel 1:15 – 2:13.

2:1 – the warning of the approaching demon army

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Luke 10:18 (NASB) And He said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.

3. The third demon army and (probably) human army in an all-out attack against Jews – Revelation 12:12-17 – The woman is a reference to Israel. The "flood" of v.15 is a reference to a military invasion as is seen in Old Testament usage. This third demon assault army will be led by Satan himself; it will be the worst and most intense wave of anti-Semitism the world had ever known: it will be worldwide persecution of the Jews. This occurs in the middle of the Tribulation and it is in conjunction with the breaking of the seven year covenant with Israel. Also at this mid-Tribulation point is the setting up of the "abomination that causes desolation" which is the setting up of the image of the antichrist for worship in the Jewish temple (see Matthew 24:15-28). The majority of the Jews will have to flee for their lives out of the land of Israel. See also Zechariah 13:8-9.

Remember: if Satan could destroy every Jew on the planet, then he could declare victory in the Angelic Conflict because God could not fulfill His promises to the Jewish patriarchs and He would be breaking His covenants with Israel.
Revelation 16:12-16: Toward the end of the Tribulation, three chief demons go out to assemble armies to participate in the Campaign of Armageddon (which consists of several battles), the final campaign against the Jews — this is the sixth bowl judgment and is referred to, in v.14, as “the war of the great day of God, the Almighty”

Revelation 20:1-3: The Second Coming and the binding of Satan and all his demons — This is done just before the start of the Messianic Millennial Kingdom.

Revelation 18:1-2: Babylon will become one of two prisons for demons during the entire Messianic Millennial Kingdom. It will be a desolate spot in the earth and a place of continual burning (see also Isaiah 13:20-22; Jeremiah 50:39-40, 51:41-43 the creatures listed are a reference to demons as no real animal could live under these conditions). Edom, in southern Jordan, will be the other spot of burning, desolation, and a prison for demons: Isaiah 34:8-15; Jeremiah 49:10-18; Joel 3:19; see also Ezekiel 35:10-15)

Revelation 20:7-10: The end of the Messianic Kingdom – the final rebellion.

Ezekiel 28:17-19 – ties to both the previous two Scriptures

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4. V.17 “put you before kings” – in the abyss (Rev. 20:1-3) and lake of fire (Rev. 20:7-10) – refers to the leadership of the world during Tribulation.

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Revelation 20:10 – the end of the Angelic Conflict – the war is eternally over!

Revelation 19:11-21 – the Second Coming and the Campaign of Armageddon where all the forces of evil – human and demonic – are defeated

Revelation 21-22 – The New Heavens and the New Earth

No more consequences of sin – Rev. 21:4-5 = Part of the former things is the Angelic Conflict and in the New Creation there will be no sin or evil to bring any hurt upon all of the angelic creation, the human creation, or the material universe.

Revelation 22:3

Revelation 22:17-21 (NASB) 17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost. 18 I testify to everyone who hears the words of the
prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book. 20 He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. 21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

A person note to you

If the rapture of the church was to be today and you are left behind, then you would soon find yourself in the terrible Tribulation period, the most intensive and deadly phase of the Angelic Conflict. If you have never yet believed in Jesus Christ alone for eternal life, what is preventing you? Only by believing in Jesus alone for eternal life, believing His promise to give you eternal life, can you receive that life. Jesus, who is the eternal Creator God, paid your full sin debt on the cross, dying as your substitute, and rose again from the dead so that He could offer you eternal life as an absolutely free gift. Have you believed Him for that gift of eternal life?

John 3:16-18 (NASB) 16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. 17 "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. 18 "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

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Ephesians 2:8-9 (NASB) 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Romans 4:4-5 (NASB) 4 Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. 5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness.

Romans 11:6 (NASB) But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.

Acts 16:31 (NASB) They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

The pages to follow are some of the supplemental materials referred to in the teaching sessions.
Angelic Conflict supplement: Ephesians 3:10 expansion – about p.18

Most believers simply do not recognize the reality of the massive cosmic war that is going on currently and has been going on since the rebellion of Satan. It is a war that is being fought both in the spiritual and physical realm.

Rebellious angels and rebellious human beings are the cause of the war. But the winner is already guaranteed! God will not give in for even a moment! God allows the war to continue because He has an over-riding purpose in it all.

The greater purpose of God in human history is to demonstrate to both men and angels that there is nothing worth living for except Him. All men and angels and men will eventually acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus Christ (Phil. 2:9-11). They will all eventually admit that we can do nothing apart from the Lord Jesus Christ.

When this is finally demonstrated completely, in every possible way, God will then bring human history to an end. Until then the war goes on.

God wants men and angels to learn that we are helpless and hopeless without Him. Without a proper authority-oriented attitude of submission to God we cannot make it in life. There is no stability or security in life apart from God's plan for life.

In Ephesians 3:10 we learn that angels are watching us in this age – the church age – and from this they learn about God.

In order for angels to learn about the magnificent grace of God they have to study the objects of the grace of God – us, the church: fallen, rebellious, depraved, unworthy, wicked members of the human race. Yet, we receive His maximum grace! (Not the angels)

“none righteous,” 12 “none who does good,” 23 “all have sinned and fallen short). Yet God took on human flesh and in His humanity He died to pay the sin debt for us – just so that He could give us the opposite of what we deserve and that is grace!

And then He creates us into a new spiritual species – the born again person who is a new creation – the "new man" – and then He gives you the Holy Spirit so that by grace you can live out the Christian life. He doesn’t want you to become a “good person” – He wants the new man (His creation) to shine out through you and that only comes about when you learn, believe and apply Bible doctrine.

When you and I let this happen the angels are learning about the manifold wisdom of God!

Isn’t amazing that God has taken a creature like us and not only saves us but makes this new spiritual species to be a part of the royal family of God and places us higher than the angels!
The worst Christian you know has been positionally elevated higher than Michael the Archangel or Gabriel who Luke reveals “stands in the presence of God” (Luke 1:19). That is G-R-A-C-E!

Hebrews 1:3

3 – A = The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ
3-B = the humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ
4 = “became as much better than the angels” = certainly not in His deity – but in His glorified humanity with His ascension and session.

Our Lord became the victor in the Angelic conflict as a member of the inferior human race. As a member of that race He defeated Satan and the fallen angels and demonstrated that every false accusation the Devil (slanderer) has made against God is false.

Ephesians 2:1-7

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What are they learning about God by watching you and me? Have we yet learned that we can do nothing without Him? Have we yet learned His way is the only way? Or are we following the plan of Satan and operating independent of God and His Word? Have we learned that all meaning in life is found in Him and His Word alone?

You and I have the opportunity to be a positive witness for God in the Angelic conflict. When we make God’s Word our priority and God’s thoughts our thoughts, we have obtained a victory in the conflict. We are letting the watching angles know that we are living out the magnificent grace of God – we are living out our new life in Christ. We are letting the angels know that God’s grace is real and it works. When the angels see God’s grace at work in you they will rejoice just like they rejoice when an unbeliever recognizes their need for grace and believes (Luke 15:10)

Angels are watching to see if we submit to the authority of God or if, like Satan, we lift up our own selves in arrogance and operate independent of the Word of God.

Angelic Conflict and Spiritual Warfare
The angels are watching when you stay home instead of being in Bible class. The angels are watching when you fail to study the Word. The angels are watching when you refuse to witness to the one deceived by false religion. The angels are watching when you fail to give out the Message of Life. The angels are watching when you sin and then will not confess it.

The holy angels are amazed at us, at our lack of gratitude for grace and our disregard for the authority of God – and the demons rejoice!

Which angels did you make rejoice last week? Everything you and I do matters!

Angelic Conflict: LESSONS FROM DAVID IN 1 CHRON. 21 AND 2 SAM. 24

1. EVERYONE IS SUBJECT TO SIN AND FAILURE

2. SATAN AND HIS DEMONIC ARMY WILL ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE US – WE MUST KEEP ON OUR SPIRITUAL ARMOR!

3. GOD WILL ALWAYS PROVIDE A WAY NOT TO SIN IN EVERY TEMPTATION – 1 COR. 10:13 (WE DO NOT HAVE TO SIN – CHOICE)

4. DEMONIC INFLUENCE WILL APPEAL TO OUR SIN NATURE WITH ALL ITS STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES AND TRENDS

5. SOMETIMES GOD MAY ALLOW THE DEMONIC TO ATTACK US FOR (1) DISCIPLINE OR (2) TO HELP MAKES US A BETTER SERVANT (PAUL) OR (3) TO DEMONSTRATE SOMETHING IN THE ANGELIC CONFLICT (JOB)

6. WRONG MOTIVATION CAN MAKE EVEN A RIGHT THING WRONG

7. WHEN WE SIN CONFESSION AND TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SIN – NO EXCUSES!

8. TRUST IN GOD IS ALWAYS RIGHT AND TRUST IN SELF IS ALWAYS WRONG – TRUST IN SELF ALWAYS LEADS TO FAILURE

9. SOMETIMES DISCIPLINE STILL FOLLOWS CONFESSION

10. DISCIPLINE FOR PUNISHMENT CAN BECOME DISCIPLINE FOR BLESSING WITH CONFESSION AND SUBMISSION

HEBREWS 12:9-11

PSALM 30:5

11. EVEN IN DISCIPLINE GOD’S MERCY IS GREAT – TRUST HIM

12. OTHERS ARE OFTEN IMPACTED BY OUR DECISIONS – ESPECIALLY WHEN WE ARE IN LEADERSHIP

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4. Wrong motivation can make even a right thing wrong

7. WHEN WE SIN CONFESSION AND TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SIN – NO EXCUSES!
13. WHERE THERE IS NO REAL COST (TIME, MONEY, SELF) THERE IS NO REAL SACRIFICE

14. GOD CAN USE EVEN OUR MISTAKES AND SINS TO ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSES – BRING GOOD FROM A BAD SITUATION (GRACE)

**Angelic Conflict: Supplemental notes on** “What happened when Adam and Eve sinned?” (about p.164 of notes)

At least nine things happened

Ephesians 2:1-5

1. Spiritually dead – Ephesians 2:1

2. ( -R = negative righteousness or minus righteousness) – became a sinner – sin nature - morally corrupt – Ephesians 2:3

John 3:6 (NASB) "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

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4. They know mental and emotional shame
5. They developed human viewpoint
6. Lost the ruling authority – Satan had taken it
7. They became “children of wrath” – Ephesians 2:3 – deserving of the judgment of God against sin
8. They entered the kingdom of Satan

Before the fall = independence was a choice

After the fall = independence was of their essence – independence is the essence of the sin nature = also called arrogance

Until a person is born again and receives a new nature they can do nothing but operate independent of God – nothing but sin – Ephesians 2:2
Angelic Conflict: Supplemental notes on Genesis 9:20-27 – the curse of Canaan

There are issues that need additional clarification due to misunderstandings of “curses” and the Scriptures. These notes are in addition to those found on pages 233-235 of the main notes.

1. **Generational curses** – There is a group of people claiming to be Christians and “Bible teachers” who make claims that people can suffer under a “curse” because of the statements of ill will made by others. They further claim you can suffer because of these statements made toward your ancestors; then there is a whole business of helping people “break” these generational curses. They even claim this comes from “a biblical perspective.” Beloved, just because someone says something is “from a biblical perspective” does not make it “from a biblical perspective.” Such ideas are much more closely related to witchcraft and shamanism (both are demonism) than anything biblical! It is a twisting and mishandling of Scripture.

Canaan and his descendants suffered because they followed and amplified the sinful traits of Ham, Cush, and Canaan; they did not suffer because they were basically good people who just had this “generation curse” on them that made them suffer – and neither do you! The Canaanites behaved like their ancestors only far, far worse. The result was their individual deaths, their enslavement, and the eventual total destruction of them as a people group at the Battle of Carthage in 146 B.C.

2. **The “curse” on Canaan given by Noah:**

   Leviticus 18:3-4 (NASB)
   
   3 ‘You shall not do what is done in the land of Egypt where you lived, nor are you to do what is done in the land of Canaan where I am bringing you; you shall not walk in their statutes.
   
   4 ‘You are to perform My judgments and keep My statutes, to live in accord with them; I am the Lord your God.

   Alan P. Ross writes in *Creation and Blessing*, p.217:

   “…Noah anticipated in him the evil traits that marked his father Ham…The Torah warned the people of the Exodus generation about the wickedness of the Canaanites in terms which called to mind the violation of Ham…the constant references to “nakedness” and “uncovering” in this passage in Leviticus [18] designating the people of Canaan as a people enslaved to sexuality, clearly reminds the reader of the action of ham, the father of Canaan. No Israelite who knew the culture of the Canaanites could read the story of their ancestor without making the connection.

   Yet, God gave the people many years to change their mind about their wickedness, believe the truth, and have a different outcome. Speaking to Abraham many years before the entrance of the Israelites into the Land of Canaan, the Lord said to him:

   **Genesis 15:16 (NASB)** "Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete."
The “fourth generation” is speaking of the Jews who came out of the Egyptian bondage under Moses. But note what God says about the Amorites. The Amorites lived in the Land of Canaan; they were one of the seven nations of Canaanites that lived in the Land promised to Israel modern day Israel and Jordan). God was giving them ample time to correct their beliefs and behavior. Even Melchizedek lived at the time of Abraham and ministered to the truth of God in the land of the Canaanites (see Genesis 14:18-20). They never did respond to the truth. Eventually, they reached the place of judgment – the consequences of their choices.

The Hebrew word translated “iniquity” (Strong’s #5771) in this verse is interesting for what it reveals about the Canaanites. It means a sin that is particularly evil and it conveys the idea of a deliberate twisting or perverting. It carries with the idea of conscious wrongdoing (source: The Complete Word Study Dictionary Old Testament). This perfectly accords with what Paul writes:

Romans 1:21 (NASB) For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

These people started out knowing the truth about God from Noah but this was rejected with the result that the longer they went the more their wickedness increased until God eventually brought judgment – the consequences of their own deliberate perverting of the truth and conscious choice of wrongdoing.

Consequences can come from (1) the natural result of sinful choices – I break the law and go to jail, I fire the pistol at my foot and blow my toe off; and (2) divinely mandated consequences – like God’s cursings given in Genesis 3:14-19 and the curse rendered here by Noah which came from God prophetically.

3. The phrase: “servant of servants” (v.25 – see also Vv. 26-27):

Arnold Fruchtenbaum, in his Genesis commentary (pp.199-200) deals with another misunderstanding of the text;

The term “servant of servants” is a superlative genitive and therefore means the most abject of slavery. Canaan, and by inference ham, is going to be that to Ham’s brothers, Shem and Japheth (1 kings 9:20-21). The Canaanites became servants to the Jews, who were of Shem. The Phoenicians [Canaanites] became servants to the Persians, the Greeks, and the Romans all of whom were of Japheth. The Roman destruction of Carthage brought the Canaanite history to an end in 146 B.C....

The curse of Canaan is to become enslaved to the two brothers of Ham. In some circles in the preceding times, it was taught that the curse of Canaan was upon the Negro or the black race, which is simply not true to the text. While it is true that the blacks are descendants of Ham, not all descendants of Ham were black-skinned people. Only one of Ham’s sons was cursed, and that was Canaan. As is known from the Egyptian portrayals of the Canaanites, the Canaanites were not
black-skinned; they were white; or it would be more correct to say, olive-skinned. Therefore, black skin has nothing to do with the curse, and the curse of Canaan is not biblical grounds for the enslavement of Blacks.”

The curse on Ham’s descendants through Canaan ended with the total destruction of them as a people group. What harm has been done in the past – in including England and America – because people justified racism and slavery based on an incorrect handling of the Word of God!

The standards that the Angels violated:
The basis for the God’s judgment in the trial of Satan.

God’s righteousness is His standard of right and wrong: this is absolute truth. Absolute truth is defined as that which is true irrespective of any creature’s opinion or perceptions (angelic or human). Absolute truth is independent of and above the creation. Absolute truth defines reality. God’s Word is absolute truth. John 17:17 (NASB) “Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

To those who say, “There is no absolute truth,” I would ask, “Are you absolutely sure of that?” One cannot even say, “Everything is relative” without making a statement of absolute truth!

This standard of righteousness (laws) is the pattern for all His creation to follow. It defines what is right and wrong: in other words, that which is right or wrong is determined by how it measures up to the absolute standards of God. A world without absolutes would only be terrible dissatisfaction and disorder while living according to the standard results in satisfaction and order. God is a God of order and therefore must judge that which causes disorder.

God not only establishes His standard but He communicates this to His creatures: for example, Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and the standard of eating from any tree in the Garden except the Tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil.

Therefore: God would have established and communicated His standards for all the angels. It was these standards that Satan violated along with those rebellious angels who followed him. They attempted to define reality and morality (right and wrong), on their own terms with the result being that of chaos and disorder.

This standard of absolute truth requires accountability to the One who gave the standards: our Creator God. Accountability to God is what both the fallen angels and men reject when they reject absolute truth.

While we cannot be sure of the sum total of the standards God established for His angels, these ten certainly seem obvious and reasonable in light of the Scriptures:

1. The Creator / creature distinction: Isaiah 40:18, 25
2. There is only one God: Isaiah 43:10; 44:6; 45:18
3. There is only one God to be worshipped: Exodus 20:3
4. Only God’s Word is absolute truth: John 17:17
5. The Word of God is to be handle correctly and accurately: 2 Timothy 2:15
6. Free will is to be used to choose to obey God: Joshua 24:14-15
7. The Creator-God is the supreme authority: Psalm 24:1; Psalm 89:11

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8. God alone is to be glorified: Isaiah 42:8
9. The creature is to accept God-given limitations: Genesis 2:16-17; Job 42:1-3
10. We are to use what we have been given to serve others: 1 Corinthians 12:7;
    2 Samuel 5:2

Satan violated every one of these – as do most people today.
How Satan is Deceiving the Christian Church

Biblical Christianity

John 17:17 “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.” Divine Viewpoint
Source: GOD

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“ism” is a distinctive teaching, system, theory; a belief system

Human Viewpoint

Ritualism
Mysticism
Legalism
Rationalism
Tolerancism

Source: SATAN

Angelic Conflict and Spiritual Warfare
HOW SATAN IS DECEIVING THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The World is Filled With Millions of People, Most Of Whom Are Dangerously Wrong About Spiritual Matters.

1. **Ritualism** = performing certain rituals: ceremonies, actions, or words.
   
   Baptism, prayer beads, confession to priests, burning incense or candles, chanting, dancing, fasting, repetitious prayers, wearing certain clothes, meditation, pilgrimages, and on and on.

2. **Mysticism** = this quote from John MacArthur,
   
   “The mystic disdains rational understanding and seeks truth instead through the feelings, the imagination, personal visions, inner voices, private illumination, or other purely subjective means.” (intuition)

   Mysticism is the search for a personal union with God

3. **Legalism** = just keep the rules, keep the Ten Commandments, live a good life, be a good church-going person, don’t do the filthy five or the nasty nine, – earn the approval of God based on actions.

   **The Back Pew - Jeff Larson**

   Go ahead.. break the rules, MAKE MY DAY!!

   Legalism – It’s not just a job, it’s a way of life.
4. **Rationalism** = that by his thinking alone independent of God’s Word man can solve the problems of life.

5. **Tolerancism** = Just Be Nice - Unity

**Pluralism and Relativism**

Tolerance in today’s world = let’s all get along, do not let doctrine divide – not only among various Christian denominations (Christian pluralism) but also among various religions.

**Religious Pluralism**

This is the belief that every religion is true. Each provides a genuine encounter with the Ultimate. One may be better than the others, but all are adequate. When examining the claims of religious traditions we must be careful not to confuse tolerance and truthfulness. Claiming that it is intolerant to say that “all paths do not lead to the same destination” misses the point. The important issue is the truth or falsity of this assertion.

When choosing ice cream, you choose what you like. When choosing medicine, you have to choose what heals.

When it comes to eternal salvation (eternal life) and then living out that life as God intends, you had better be sure you believe THE TRUTH.