

Angels and Demons

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In the thirty years since writing *On The Edge*, I've continued to read and to pray about the qualities of angels and demons as described in the Bible.

Following is a list of foundational characteristics of Satan, angels and demons as I believe they should be correctly portrayed, whether in a novel, movie, or TV series.

To prepare, I've read all the Biblical passages on the subject, as well as several excellent books. The best and most relevant books are [Conquer](#) by Dr. Michael Youssef and [Sense & Nonsense About Angels & Demons](#) by Ken Boa and Robert Bowman, Jr. I strongly recommend both books.

Starting with written depictions in novels, my hope is one day to create the **first visual medium to portray these beings Biblically**, not as imagined in Medieval art, cartoons, or popular fiction. By honoring the truth in God's Word, we hope that His Word will then resonate with viewers in the same transformational way that it does when His Word is read or spoken. We want to portray His Word accurately so that He can then use it to touch many more hearts and minds than we ever could on our own.

Of course some aspects of these beings in our modern world will of necessity be speculation or extrapolation. But I want to be able to point any reader or viewer—believer or sceptic—to one or more Bible verses which support the way we have chosen to show them.

1. Since demons are fallen angels, I assume that the general attributes of angels will apply equally to demons.
2. The Bible gives few physical details about these spiritual beings. There are allegorical descriptions of Satan himself as beautiful, shiny and attractive (Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28), but none at all of demons.
3. **Satan and his demons inhabit the earth.** When Christ was being tempted, he did not refute Satan when he said the world was given to him (Luke 4:6).
4. Since Satan is for now the spiritual Ruler of this world, believers and angels are the "extraterrestrials" here. **His ways are the norm, not ours.** We should therefore expect a fierce battle whenever we speak up or reach out to those whom he has deceived. We are invading his space, and he angers quickly.
5. **Angels are primarily messengers.** They are sent by God from Heaven, where they reside, to earth, to deliver a specific message or to take some particular God-directed action, but then they return. God can send an angel any time He wants, on His own or in answer to prayer, to protect someone. But there is **no basis for the concept of a good guardian angel being assigned indefinitely to a person or a place.**
6. They are spirits, with no intrinsic bodies. Demons can possess human bodies. **Angels and demons can appear as humans on a temporary basis** (Hebrews 13:2).
7. They are not male or female and do not reproduce. They are referred to as "he" or "it" and generally appear to have male characteristics, but again, not actual gender.

8. There is no description of a detailed order, or hierarchy of angels in the Bible, though one probably exists based on the four general categories of thrones, dominions, principalities and powers in Colossians 1. “All we really know is that Jesus Christ is the Creator and Lord of the angels, that Michael is the captain of some or all of the good angels, and that angels perform different functions as God wills.” (Boa, p. 72)
9. **Satan is real. He wants to destroy us eternally.** While he is powerful and intelligent, he is not God. He cannot know our hearts (though he can observe us and reach conclusions). **He is not omniscient or omnipresent.** He must rely on his horde to see for him and to do things, as well as to learn from us (Ephesians 3:10).
10. “The forces of evil are single-minded in their opposition to God. They are determined to pervert everything that is good, to corrupt everything that is noble, and to debase everything that is holy. Satan and his demons are out to cause as much damage to God’s people and to God’s reputation as they can inflict, regardless of the consequences. They are the ultimate terrorist network.” (Boa, p.124)
11. **Since all angels were designed by their Creator to be messengers, they presumably are very good communicators.** They also must be able to adapt to the language and the culture to which they are communicating. Given their defined purpose, we should not necessarily impute any exceptional knowledge or wisdom to them. **The fallen angels wound up on Earth as defeated messengers, and they had to adapt to their new world. They have been doing so for millennia.** In that sense they were the first to use Artificial Intelligence algorithms, watching our traits, habits and weaknesses, learning over time what works well to destroy each of us, and what doesn’t. For example, since they don’t reproduce, they don’t experience a sexual drive. Yet they quickly learned that this human trait has incredible power to destroy relationships outside of marriage, and so they use it constantly and well with each new human generation. Their learning algorithms always have one single purpose—to take us with them; but their specific methods change with the times. Demons are experienced early adapters of change, which can give them an added advantage as they pile on to whatever the World is telling us.
12. Since angels like to “look into these things” (1 Peter 1:12), I assume that **demons study us and use improvements in technology to their advantage whenever they can.** Given that their number has been fixed from the beginning but our numbers have exponentially increased, they may have some sense of being stretched thin, and therefore of welcoming the tools of movies, the internet, false religions, etc. to accomplish more deceit with fewer demons. “The Enemy now dominates the secular media. He wants to make his followers believe the lie that they can be perfect without having a relationship with Jesus Christ. In doing so he readily makes use of Christian values—compassion, care, understanding—because they provide him with an ideal cover. After all, who would join his side if he was known to be planning the total ruin of those who serve him?” (Youssef, p. 47)
13. At night when we sleep, I assume that they gather in friendly spaces to compare notes, plot strategies, jockey with each other for notice, and practice their lies.
14. **Since demons live on earth and angels are sent here from Heaven on specific missions, it would seem that they rarely run into each other.** When they do, the light has already

- overcome the dark, and the demon will, perhaps after putting up a momentary verbal defense, flee.
15. **There is therefore not any angel vs. demon combat in Spiritual Warfare today. That war has already been won by God, Michael and the angels. The demons are here because they lost (Luke 10:18). The combat now is over the souls of the lost, between the lies of the demons and the Truth of God's Word, as we, human believers, are called to share His Word with non-believers.** It is *our* actions, speaking, writing and prayers that carry the battle to the enemy. And therefore his hate and his attacks are directed against us, and against those whom we hope to save.
 16. Besides jockeying for favored roles and positions, there is room for constant conflict between the demons. For example:
 - a. Is it preferable to "harvest" an unbelieving soul now, or allow her or him to remain alive and to influence others against God? What if this person is allowed to live, but later becomes a believer? Who is to blame for the loss?
 - b. Could there be dissension and grumbling over God and Jesus outwitting Satan at the cross? The average demon may have thought for millennia that all humans would join them in their eternal fate, for both creatures rebelled. But then God suddenly opened a path for humans alone to join Him in Heaven. How could Satan let that happen? Is there a chance for a second rebellion, this time against Satan? Who would lead it? And then what?
 17. **The World (exterior stimuli), the Flesh (our internal fallen state) and the Devil constantly war against God.** The non-believer has no strong defense, other than what he or she believes to be "moral and good" from the World's teachings. When someone becomes a believer, the Holy Spirit resides in her or him, and the voice of the Holy Spirit can refute stimuli from the World and the Flesh. And when believers "lock the doors to their hearts" on a daily basis (Youssef, Chapter 5), the voices and lies of the demons, which enhance and weaponize those stimuli, cannot get through to harm us. But until someone is drawn by the Father through the teaching of believers and also becomes a believer, he does not have that voice in him, and so he is much more open to the demons' lies. Without the Holy Spirit's internal presence, his or her only defenses are the prayers, teachings, and examples of believers.
 18. If a believer persists in sin, he can quench the Holy Spirit's voice and also succumb to even greater temptation.
 19. **So we are not passive observers of a spiritual battle between demons and angels. Nor are we the passive victims of all-powerful demonic forces. We are the actual combatants—the war is waged by believers against the lies of the demons for the souls of our families and friends.** For their eternities. God gave all of us free will. We are to choose. As believers, it is our incredibly important role to do all that we can to ensure that those whom we know and love choose God's Truth.