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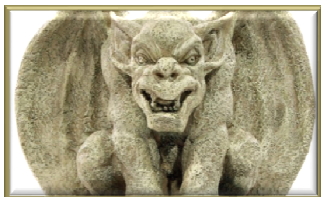
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Are Demons Real?

Ephesians 6:12: (KJV) *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*



Demons - what are they - who are they? Are they associated with Satan or are they figments of very fertile imaginations, brought to life through very real special effects and computer technology? Demons are real and are the minions of Satan. Believe it or not, we have become comfortable with demons being among us, because they are so often portrayed as misunderstood and even likeable beings. Are we in trouble? Yes!

Whose Mission Statement is this? The mission of _____ is to encourage benevolence and empathy among all people, reject tyrannical authority, advocate practical common sense and justice, and be directed by the human conscience to undertake noble pursuits guided by the individual will. Civic-minded, _____ has been involved in a number of good works including taking a stand against the controversial and extremist Westboro Baptist Church, working on behalf of children in public school who have been subject to corporal punishment and more. Here is an organization very involved in encouraging benevolence and empathy. Whose mission statement is this...?

The Mission Statement is from a group based in Michigan called The Satanic Temple, a recognized religious organization. Just as there are different brands of Christianity, there are different brands of Satanism. In researching for this program, we learned that Satanists do not actually believe in Satan.

(Source: thesatanictemple.com) There are seven fundamental tenets:

1. One should strive to act with compassion and empathy towards all creatures in accordance with reason.
2. The struggle for justice is an ongoing and necessary pursuit that should prevail over laws and institutions.
3. One's body is inviolable (an adjective meaning "never to be broken, infringed or dishonored"), subject to one's own will alone.
4. The freedoms of others should be respected, including the freedom to offend. To willfully and unjustly encroach upon the freedoms of another is to forgo your own.
5. Beliefs should conform to our best scientific understanding of the world. We should take care never to distort scientific facts to fit our beliefs.
6. People are fallible. If we make a mistake, we should do our best to rectify it and resolve any harm that may have been caused.
7. Every tenet is a guiding principle designed to inspire nobility in action and thought. The spirit of compassion, wisdom and justice should always prevail over the written or spoken word.



Moral progress, Five Things You Didn't Know About Satanists, CNN

- (Reporter) *When you hear that someone is a self-proclaimed Satanist it raises a lot of eyebrows - devil worshipers, people who sacrifice animals. But I found something really different in this group of people who call themselves Satanists. One of the reasons why the Satanic Temple chose Satan as their representative is they perceived Satan as being the ultimate rebel. Do they actually believe in the devil and believe in this deity called Satan? No. In what way is the Satanic Temple a religion?*
- (Michael, a Satanic follower) *Religion helps define who you are. As Satanists, we are fighting for moral progress. We see how much encroachment there is of religion in public affairs, and I think it's the only responsible thing to do to fight for your own deeply-held beliefs.*

Satan the ultimate rebel: Ezekiel 28:13-17: (RVIC) (These verses were prophetically spoken to the King of Tyre but were a prophecy about Satan.) Satan, then known as Lucifer, was a cherubim positioned on somewhat of a permanent basis to protect or cover. He was originally a magnificent, powerful and beautiful *morning star*. Lucifer was respected in the heavenly realm but then chose a different path.



Lucifer leads to knowledge, Five Things You Didn't Know About Satanists, CNN

- (Reporter) *As a skilled artist, Michael is now using his craft to stand with the Temple and their fight for religious freedom. When the Michigan state capitol put a nativity scene during Christmastime, the Satanic Temple placed their own symbol of faith on the state capitol lawn, and Michael helped design it.*



- (Michael) *The snake itself is to be representative of Lucifer when he chose to lead man to knowledge in the Garden of Eden. We support the idea of Lucifer as a metaphorical figure and his influence on man.*

This group took what they believe to be a fable of the Garden of Eden and made it the basis for their belief system. But *did* Lucifer bring man to knowledge? As with anything deceptive, a good deception has a lot of truth sprinkled into it.

We already know how Satan was bursting with ego as he was given charge as the "covering" in the Garden: Genesis 2:15-17: God gave Adam the knowledge necessary to perpetuate life. God gave Adam what he needed to know at the time he needed to know it. **Satan saw this as not enough - they should stretch themselves further - higher - like he did: Genesis 3:4-7:** Their eyes were immediately opened to things they had not seen before - things which they now knew prematurely. The Tree was there for a test of obedience but also for future use when the time was right. You would not give a small child all knowledge about everything; they are fed as they are helped to grow. Yet even after sinning, Adam and Eve were allowed to maintain their dominion over the earth.

The protections of perfection would be removed: Genesis 3:16-19:(NASB) ¹⁶*To the woman He said, I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth, in pain you will bring forth children; The equality of perfection was skewed: Yet your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.* Satan also was subject to the loss of perfection's protection and his high rank. **The earth itself would now be a part of the suffering of death, just as it had been a part of the perpetuation and blessing of life:** ¹⁷*Then to Adam He said, because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, you shall not eat from it; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. Effort would now become toil as the cursed earth would no longer produce to its formerly blessed capacity: ¹⁸Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field; ¹⁹By the sweat of your face you will eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; For you are dust, and to dust you shall return.* Here God reminds them about dying. Satan lied and covered his lie with truth. That is not the way to get to knowledge. Satan also was relegated to life in the context of a God-forsaken sinful earth. His pursuit of personal glory and his giving "knowledge" resulted in a wholesale destruction of unity, perfection and peace.

Once the example was set and the precedent made, it was only a matter of opportunity for others to fall, for Satan was glorious, powerful and lofty. He was a respected example and an influence that would have been hard to avoid. **Satan influenced other sons of God towards rebellion: Genesis 6:1-5:** Notice, the *sons of God* (not *angels*) were dabbling in the lives of mankind of their own accord and following their own desires, as Satan did, and were *not* acting as *angels* or messengers of God. **For more on this subject, please refer to the program from December 6, 2015, "Do Angels Protect You?"** These spiritual *sons of God* acted against the will of God and the design of God, mixing spirit with flesh. They bore a hybrid race that did not belong. Satan also acted against the will and design of God, essentially developing a race of spirit beings to follow *him*. **There is a pattern evident: Evil gets a hold and ego takes over. This skews what one sees as true and valuable.**

The result of rebellion: The bringing of knowledge and the exalting of a being who was not God: ⁵*And Jehovah saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.* This action brought the permeation of evil throughout humankind - an evil founded in not only disobedience but also in defiance of the God-ordained order of creation, bringing their dismissal. The Flood was the result of that judgment.

In the Garden, Satan created the suggestion to sin by lying. Adam and Eve followed that suggestion. Satan was cast out of heaven down to a prison (more on this later) and mankind is cast out of the Garden to the unfinished earth. A new dimension of sin occurred when the *sons of God* who followed Satan mated with humans to create an unauthorized hybrid race who were destroyed in the Flood. It is interesting to note the lifespan of humankind was drastically reduced after that time.

The consequence to the spirit beings that followed in rebellion: 2 Peter 2:4: (RVIC) *For if God spared not angels when they sinned, but cast them down to tartaroo <5020>, and*



committed them to chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; This word *tartaroo* is used once in the Bible, in the text above. More on this shortly.

Those who sinned were cast down and out of the light. They were limited in both power and freedom. Why weren't they just destroyed? The rebellion of Satan and his followers, with all the darkness and evil, was allowed by God to perpetuate for a limited time as an eternal example to both mankind and the spirit realm.

Our theme Scripture: Ephesians 6:12: (KJV) *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

How can we possibly win against beings so much more powerful than us? We have to be fighting on the correct side, be fighting with the right armor and have the right general in front of us. We cannot win on our own. But the army of God and protection of Jesus can. That is the key to overcoming evil. We as a society have gone dangerously close to (and in many cases over) the line of welcoming and accepting satanic influence. Look at our movies, television programs, music and more. We have made damaging darkness all very commonplace and "user friendly." That is dangerous! *Tartaroo* is often translated *hell*. The Scriptures describe what it is. The word is a verb; therefore it is NOT a place, but rather an action.

--2 Peter 2:4 - This was for sinful angels involving *chains of darkness* and they are to be *reserved for judgment*.

--Jude 1:6-7 - Sinful angels forsook their proper rank and are now in *perpetual bonds of darkness*.

Tartaroo is the action of God removing the sinful spirit beings from heaven and bringing them to a captive darkness - out of the realm of God. The consequence of spirit beings sinning was casting of them out of God's light and God's heavenly abode into a condition of darkness and limitation.

1 Peter 3:18-20: When we think of prison, we think of thick gates of confinement, but it actually means "being guarded." These fallen angels have movement but are apparently no longer allowed to do what they previously were able to do. What is their prison? Unfortunately it is around this earth. They have limitations but also have great influence. Satan is referred to as *the prince of the power of the air* in Ephesians 2:2 and *the god of this world* in

2 Corinthians 4:4. Just as Adam and Eve were allowed to retain their dominion over the earth, so was Satan allowed (temporary) dominion over the earth as well, but subject to certain limitations. With great sin we see God allows the experience to develop to its full fruition for the purpose of using it for eternal lessons.

These once bright and shining sons of God are now followers of Satan, relegated to the shadows of earth but are still powerful and influential. What do they want with us? What do we have that they want?

We know that Satan is the *god of this world*: Matthew 4:8-10: Why would God allow Satan to be *the god of this world*? Perhaps it is for the same reason that God allowed man to maintain dominion over the earth after sinning - both of these experiences will have eternal impact and eternal consequences. The best way for children to learn from their mistakes is both by making mistakes and observing others. How much more wisdom does our Heavenly Father have than an earthly parent?

Being the ruler of this world, Satan poses as something he is not: 2 Corinthians 11:14: (NASB) *No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. He has to "put on a show," because he knows people are drawn to light. We also know that all who serve him (both human and spirit) will also pose as angels of light:* 2 Corinthians 11:15: (NASB) *Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.* Even Christianity is not immune to this influence; they can assume certain satanic principles.

We see the first three things Satan and his demons want are 1) to look good, 2) the power to rule and 3) obedience from those they have authority over. The bottom line is they want to mimic God!



We know God bestows His Spirit (His power and influence) upon His chosen followers:

1 John 4:12-13: The gift of God's Spirit working in the lives of God's chosen was evident throughout Old and New Testament times. The gift of begetting Jesus' true followers with God's Spirit was evident and is still evident in this age of the Gospel. Satan and his demons seek to mimic this. They possess - they mimic -the workings of God in our lives. **Luke 22:3-4:** We do not believe that Judas was possessed, but rather he allowed himself to be under the influence of Satan. The lesson? Satan's mere influence can lead to our betraying our Lord! Beware!

Demons Posses/Control: This is something that they seem to crave and do well at:

Matthew 4:24 Matthew 15:22: We do not believe the actual demon is in the individual, but their power and influence is, and they use that power to manipulate the individual. We can liken this to when you see a small boy and notice his mannerisms are mirror images of his dad. We say, "That's his father in him," meaning his father's influence is guiding him.

Demons are not satisfied unless they are able to control: **Matthew 12:43-45:** Jesus describes something very unsettling. When the influence of a demon leaves a person, it continues to seek to do damage. It finds its *house*, (the person it just controlled) but finds it *unoccupied, swept and put in order*. In other words, nothing new took its place. When the demonic evil influence is not replaced with a God-centered influence, we leave an open door to bring it back. "Permission to enter" is possible when we do not have godly righteousness occupying our minds. Satan and his demons are looking for places to plant and flourish their influence. This is a war! What do you allow to influence your mind?

The fact that these demons are *restrained in chains of darkness* and their power and influence are under constant guard indicates that they have absolutely no power for good, for they are locked out of the source of all good - God Himself! If you find your influences and time are being spent driven by a glorification of demonic influence and actions, darkness, the "undead" and more, then more and more darkness comes in. Your mind becomes skewed towards the darkness and not the light.

Ephesians 6:12: How can one escape all of this? Subscribe to [Spiritual Identity Protection!](#) Go ahead - take a SIP! Use the acronym to remind yourself. Realize the source of what we pay attention to: My thoughts, my feelings, the experiences of others - vs - The Holy Bible - a book of history, science, prophecy, direction and God's will.

What are the drivers in your life? **1 John 4:1:** (NASB) *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits (influences) to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.* Take a "SIP" and see if you are adequately protecting yourself. Just because something LOOKS good does not mean it IS good.

Realize the demons know the power and might of God the Creator: **James 2:19:** (NASB) *You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.* Apparently they do not like to be near the true source of light and righteousness. They do not want to be a part of that. So, they cannot or will not follow you if you are truly full of light and truth. You are in a safe place! Take a "SIP" - know they know and they are afraid. They are vulnerable under the protection of the hand of God.

Accept the power and might that God has given to the name of Jesus! **Philippians 2:9-11:** Jesus' name has great power in the spirit realm as well. If you want to find protection, find it in the right name and in the right place. This is great "SIP."

Remember that prayer brings peace and protection! **Philippians 4:6-7:** Living a protected life gives us strength. **Know that Satan's reign of terror is temporary!** **Hebrews 2:14** **Be inspired by the fact that evil can't win.** We are told Satan will be bound during the 1,000 years of Christ's reign... **Revelation 20:1-3** ... and then destroyed: **Revelation 20:10:** This is a symbol of utter, complete destruction. This is the destiny of Satan and his demons, as well as any who will not comply with living a righteous, godly way of life. Find the light through Scripture and do not be afraid.

*So, are demons real?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*