

Russell Kelfer

What Do Demons Do All Day?

(Part 2)

1341-B
Series: Angels

dtm DISCIPLESHIP TAPE MINISTRIES, INC.
INTO HIS LIKENESS RADIO

10602 Mossbank, San Antonio, TX 78230 • (210) 226-0000 / 1-800-375-7778 • www.dtm.org • dtm@dtm.org

What Do Demons Do All Day?

(Part 2)

Just what do demons do all day? That's the question we have been addressing as we wind our way through a study of that mysterious part of God's creation we call angels.

They are, indeed, a mystery. But mysteries, in God's Word, are revealed secrets waiting to be discovered. Our job is to search the pages of that incredible revelation called the Bible, and by comparing Scripture with Scripture, find out just who these incredible creatures are; where they came from; why some of them who were destined to be God's missionaries became God's enemies, and just what in the world they do all day.

We found out in our last two studies that there was an angel who was beautiful and more powerful than any other. He was allowed a hallowed position. He was the "anointed cherub that covereth". He was upon the "holy mountain of God", according to Ezekiel. He was special. But he began to look in the mirror, and he liked what he saw. Instead of seeing himself as a slave of the Most High God, who was honored to be able to serve, he began to see a reflection, not of one who was created to be a servant, but of one who was created to be a god.

So he began what he thought was his mystical ascent to the holy place. He began to focus on who he was instead of who God was, and in the process, actually sealed his descent into the very pits of hell itself. "He who humbles himself will be exalted" (even then, that principle was in concrete) "but he who exalts himself will be brought low." This self-centered, self-serving angel of angels began to think in his heart... "I will..." and his will became dominant over God's will. At that moment, it was over. He could no longer be a bondsman of the Most High.

He began with, "I will ascend into heaven". He decided that being a servant was not his calling. That led to the second step, "I will exalt my throne above the stars of God". That meant he saw himself, not as favored by God among the angels, but rather as

What Do Demons Do All Day? (Part 2)

better than the other angels, *just because God had favored him with grace*. But angels don't understand grace. And Satan used that platform to climb yet another rung of the ladder to destruction. He said, "I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation". Based on his newfound self-worth, he wanted to share God's authority. He then uttered in his spirit, "I will ascend above the heights of the clouds," indicating that he now saw himself as God's equal. The next step was a given. It was, "I will be like the most high". At last, he thought he was God. At that point, God condemned him to one day suffer for eternity in hell, along with all of the host of heaven who joined him in rebellion, declaring their independence from the very one who had created them to be dependent, giving up in the process, the joy that only a servant of God can have.

And thus began the only war in history which started before time and will endure until time exists no more. This war will not be over until a loving God folds the final ticks of the clock of time into a blanket of eternity, when those who trust Him, man and angel alike, will never again suffer pain, death, grief or sorrow, but will sit at His feet in glorious splendor, and worship and praise Him forever. It will also be a time when those who said, "No", both man and angel, will spend forever, separated from the only one who ever loved them, where they will suffer in pain and agony without end.

The war began that fateful day when one anointed cherub said in defiance, "I will", and it will not end until King Jesus has put all of those who rebelled into a furnace that will never cool down. He did not choose such a fate for them, but they did.

You and I are participants in that war. And so deceitful is the commander of the opposing forces, that, by and large, we don't even realize much of the time that we are the enemy of Satan, and that every circumstance that comes into our lives has implications where the battle is concerned. The bullets are flying, the bombs are falling, and we are meandering down the street as though explosives meant to destroy our lives were firecrackers at a celebration. We forget so easily that we wrestle not against flesh and blood, that the conflict in the heavenlies is right at our doorstep, and that every choice we make figures into the daily casualty list.

Thus we began a look at just what these demons do all day. How do these fallen angels spend their time? In our last study, we drew some conclusions, based on Scriptural promises and

principles. They were:

1- Satan is powerful, but he cannot keep someone from coming to Christ, as long as God is drawing them, and that person chooses to say yes. Those God calls, He justifies; and those God justifies, He sanctifies. Jesus said,

Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:

As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

Strangely enough, however, Satan doesn't understand that, because he doesn't understand grace. Neither does he understand that he cannot steal away our salvation. Though he has to have God's permission to touch us, he still thinks he can outsmart God, and by testing us, destroy us. The truth is that God only allows him to test us in order to purify us. The devil means it all for evil; God means it for good.

So once he realizes we are in God's fold, Satan, now angry that one of his own has defected into the enemy camp, begins to create scenarios designed to destroy our relationship with God. Once again, devoid of an understanding of grace, he thinks he can sever our sonship. God, however, made a permanent pact with us. "We shall never perish," He promised. "No one can take us out of the Father's hand," He assured us. Satan does not grasp that, and he now focuses all of his artillery on causing us to do what he did: to say in our hearts, "I will...", when God purposed us to say in our hearts, "Thy will be done."

Satan has put all he owns on the line. God has put everything He owns on the line, as well. So the stakes are high, and the battle is fierce, and we are the prize. To God, we are worth every drop of blood His precious Son had to shed to set us free; and so concerned is He that we be "kept by the power of God unto salvation", that even this very moment, His precious Son is seated in Heaven, ever living to make intercession for us. To Satan, on the other hand, it is worth anything in order to do harm to the reputation of God or the children of God. So he "walks to and fro throughout the whole earth, seeking whom he may devour". Look up that word devour in the dictionary. It says, "to swallow up, to take in greedily". It means to destroy by consumption. He wants you for lunch.

What Do Demons Do All Day? (Part 2)

To accomplish that, he will harass you, tempt you, deceive you, divert you, and persecute you. He will come at you as the devil he is, trying to make you believe that sin is fun and God doesn't want you to have fun. Or he will disguise himself as an angel of light, trying to deceive you into thinking that you can justify yourself before God by being good, rather than by trusting God. He wants you to believe that you can justify yourself by your life, rather than by Jesus' death. He is the Father of lies. There is no truth in him, and he has a place in his bag of tricks for whatever it takes to catch you off guard and make you stumble.

He wants you to miss God's best. He wants to keep you from praying, keep you from God's Word, keep you from fellowship with God's people. If he can't keep you from those things, he'll try to make them legalistic, impersonal, non-effective in changing your life. He doesn't mind what you do, as long as it does not deepen your walk with God. Activities don't scare him. In fact, he often encourages activity if it becomes a substitute for relationship.

He will help build churches, as long as those churches don't change lives. He will encourage anything that deceives us into thinking that we are more spiritual for having done something. Anything he does to promote works defies the very concept of grace, and he cannot grasp grace or accept it. That's what Satan and his cohorts do all day; they harass us, and they enjoy it.

Let's see what else demons do all day:

2- They try to interfere with the work of God's angels. If you read passages such as Daniel, chapters 10,11, and 12, you will see how the conflict between the angels of God and their satanic counterparts plays out on the screen of history. Satan has demons who are assigned to nations; God has angels that do the same. The warfare that takes place between nations and kingdoms is not simply a military matter. It may appear that way to the untrained and unsaved eye; but in reality, God has a stake in every struggle between nations, and in every revolution or rebellion that takes place in the world. These two groups of spirit beings do battle whenever the nations vie over God's will (Daniel 10:11-21, 11:1, Jude 9, Revelation 12). Satan has assigned his elite troops in key places and in strategic nations, in order to create havoc where the kingdom's growth is concerned, and in every place that would or might affect Israel. He has two goals, remember:

What Do Demons Do All Day? (Part 2)

- 1) To keep the word of God from changing lives
- 2) To defeat Israel so that God will be embarrassed or deterred from His ultimate objective of setting up His kingdom there.

To accomplish this, Satan will create chaos, confusion, and conflict. He will promote leaders who defy and defile God's laws. He will attempt to place in positions of authority men who will govern or rule as despots or dictators. He loves to promote kingdoms where Muslim, Islamic or Communist leaders rule and reign, where Christianity has no room to blossom or grow. And he loves to create scenarios to persecute the Jew.

God's angels, meanwhile, are assigned to nations for the very opposite reasons: to infiltrate the leadership with Biblical principles, to give the gospel free reign, to support and encourage Israel, and to keep heresy from the thrones of society. As we near the last days, those battles will intensify. God will remove His hand from certain powers, release His angels from guard duty, and allow Satan to gather his forces in preparation for what he thinks will be the final battle. Final it will be. But, Beloved it will be short and sweet. For once the time is right, God Himself will fight, and this self-serving, once-beautiful angel will be no match for the One who spoke the worlds into being. It will be over in the twinkling of an eye.

Satan's demonic hosts are assigned tasks to block the work of God's angelic host whenever possible. In our personal lives, the same pattern is true. What takes place among the nations is only a pattern of what takes place among the saints (Matthew 18:10, II Corinthians 10:4-6, Ephesians 2:2, Ephesians 6:10-18, Hebrews 1:14, Jude 9). We will see more of that later. Suffice it to say, one thing demons do all day is try to thwart the work of God's angelic host. As we begin to look at their organization and duties in a later lesson, you will see more in detail just how important that battle really is.

3- They can cause and exaggerate physical and mental illness to create inroads into lives to try to thwart the plan of God. One of the great areas where Satan thinks he has power is over the human body. He believes that anytime he can cause a physical or mental illness, he has thwarted the work of God by allowing illness to be a springboard for bitterness. Job was our best example of what he

What Do Demons Do All Day? (Part 2)

tries to do; Paul was our best example of what God has in mind. If you study the two together, you will be amazed at the creativity of God's plan. Satan's master plan in Job's life included taking away (with God's permission) the things of this world that made Job comfortable and happy. We will look at the rest of them at a later time, but the final blow was to be to give to Job a seemingly incurable illness that was debilitating, humiliating and, though interminable, not terminal. We read about in Job, chapter 1.

And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth [shuns or avoids] evil?

Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?

Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.

And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

(Job 1:7-12)

Notice several things as a point of review:

1) God approached Satan first. He had a jewel of man, and He needed to polish that jewel to bring it to perfection.

2) Satan had been allowed access to God for this very purpose.

3) God brought up Job's name, and suggested that he was a good target.

4) Satan's accusation was that the reason Job was so faithful to God was that he lived a charmed life. He was blessed, his family was blessed, his work was blessed, and his health was good.

5) Satan dared God (which is what God wanted) to let him

What Do Demons Do All Day? (Part 2)

take away the things that made him so comfortable, to see just how faithful he would be then.

6- That is what God wanted. He gave him permission to take anything he had, but not to touch his body. There was something special about bodily illness that God wanted to save for later.

So Satan, you remember, turned on the heavy artillery. He took away Job's wealth, his children, his servants, and his animals. Job had nothing left but his wife and his health. At that point, we read that beautiful response which would later be tested:

Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head,
and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped,

And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked
shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath
taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.

In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.
(Job 1:20-22)

Here we have the perfect response to testing.

- Humble yourself before God.
- Worship.
- Acknowledge that you have ownership over nothing. Everything is a gift. God has the right to give; God has the right to take.
- Whether He is giving or taking, He is to be blessed and praised.

We know that this is the perfect response, because the Scripture records that "in all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly."

Having passed tests you and I would have failed miserably, Job was now open to the test of tests. Satan wanted at his body. We read on:

Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD.

And the LORD said unto Satan, From whence comest thou?
And Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my

What Do Demons Do All Day? (Part 2)

servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.

And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life.

But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.

And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life.

So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.

And he took him a potsherd to scrape himself withal; and he sat down among the ashes.

Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die. (Job 2:1-9)

What a portrait of the purposes of God in suffering, and of how the deceiver himself is deceived. Look at the issues this passage surfaces:

1- God brings up Job again. He is the initiator. He has a plan.

2- God's reason for allowing such fierce testing is the level of Job's integrity. Because there was "none like him in all the earth", God allowed Satan access to the most difficult area of all, his body.

3- God gave Satan freedom to attack his body, but not take his life. No one can ever take a life without God's permission. He is the giver of all life, and no one can take it away without His consent.

4- Satan didn't waste time giving Job a disease that would intensify with time. He took him from being completely well and whole to the most humiliating, painful bodily illness anyone could have. His body was covered from head to toe with painful boils. He had to sit among the ashes and scrape the boils. He had no antibiotics or antihistamines. He had no painkillers. There was no battle between Tylenol and Excedrin for a testimony. All he had was pain, his wife, and God, and as verse 9 records, his wife became

just another pain herself. She encouraged him to curse God and die. Before you are too hard on her, however, remember that she had just lost all of her wealth, her animals, and her children, too, and she did not quite have the spiritual maturity her husband had. The whole thing was an exercise in futility to her.

There then ensued a progression of experiences in Job's life that led him to the end of himself until he saw and knew God in a way few men and women have ever known him. But that process did not end with his illness. It was really only the beginning. For when Satan was allowed to touch his body, it started a process by which, through experiencing day-to-day futility and humiliation, Job began to question the reason for it all, and began justifying himself before God. The day finally came when God spoke to him and said, "That's enough, Job, now just look at me for a while, and get your perspective back. I allowed all this; yea, I initiated all this to get you to a level of fellowship few men ever experience". Only then, did Job get the picture.

So Satan and his demonic host can cause physical and mental disorders. This is an established fact in Scripture. But this passage indicates that they can only do that when God either initiates it or allows it. They must have divine permission to touch your body. When God allows it, it is for a reason, usually because He has so much respect for your integrity that He wants to take you to a new level of fellowship. And He knows that only physical or mental anguish will bring you to the level of dependence necessary for that fellowship to develop.

Scripture is clear that physical illnesses can either be caused or affected by demonic influence:

As they went out, behold, they brought to him a dumb man possessed with a devil.

And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake: and the multitudes marvelled, saying, It was never so seen in Israel.

But the Pharisees said, He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils. (Matthew 9:32-34)

Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. (Matthew 12:22)

It is equally clear that mental anguish and disease can be

What Do Demons Do All Day? (Part 2)

influenced by demonic involvement. Mark 5 tells that often repeated story:

And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes.

And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,

Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains:

Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him.

And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones.

But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him,

And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not.

For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit. (Mark 5:1-8)

You probably remember the rest of that story. It affected the price of bacon at the Gadarene Hilton for years to come. But the real truth in each of those instances often escapes us. It is this:

When someone gets sick or is mentally in anguish, it does not mean Satan has won a spiritual victory and demons must be exorcised to implement healing. Nor does it mean that there is some sin that caused it.

Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

(It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.)

Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.

When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby. (John 11:1-4)

What Do Demons Do All Day? (Part 2)

It is more likely to mean that in the midst of the great spiritual warfare going on for control of your life, that God approached Satan one day and said, "Have you considered my servant, Joe. There are few like him in all the earth. I love Joe. He is a man after my own heart." And it is equally likely that Satan responded, "Old, Joe. I know him. He just loves you because he has so much going for him. I know, you let me take away his job, and I remember that you let his child have that problem; but if you just let me give him an emotional problem or a physical ailment, he'll give up on this spiritual stuff."

And you can all but hear God answer, "You can touch Joe's body this far. But you cannot go any further. And you cannot take his life. That is my domain. It is equally likely that Satan was given the freedom to attack you in ways that not only debilitate you, but humiliate you, as well. Beloved, it is because God loves you so much and because He trusts the integrity of your heart, and because He has a plan for your life so rich, so deep, so fruitful, that He would rather see you suffer than see you miss His best.

So once again, Satan thinks he has played a trick on God, when in reality, he has played right into God's hand. He has brought something into your life that the world considers grievous, thinking you will give up on God and walk away. God knows, however, that if you rightly respond, you will rather crawl up into God and cry your eyes out for grace; and as you do, a whole new level of spiritual power will become available to you, a kind of power you could not experience were your body and mind as healthy as before.

Paul understood that as few men before or since have understood. It is why he said what he did in II Corinthians 12:

And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

What Do Demons Do All Day? (Part 2)

Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

(II Corinthians 12:7-10)

Paul was given a “thorn in the flesh”, an incurable illness that seemed to be both limiting and humiliating. It was called “a messenger of Satan to buffet me”. It was a message from Satan to distract him and discourage him. The reason was that he was being tempted to pride because of all of the spiritual victories he had experienced. So God must have said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant, Paul? There is none like him in all the earth.” And Satan no doubt responded with glee and touched Paul's body. Now listen to Paul's response:

"I asked God three times to take it away, but He didn't."

He said, “No, Paul, this is good for you. The less you can rely on yourself, the more you will have to rely on Me.”

“Now”, Paul says, “every time that illness becomes a problem, I stop and praise God, because the weaker I am, the more wonderful His power becomes.”

“I take pleasure in infirmities”, Paul said. Was that some kind of morbid self-centered pity party? No, it was a God-sent reminder that every time he could not do what he would have been able to do were he not sick, God was free to perform a miracle. And every limitation that sickness placed on Paul, had the potential to become a spiritual victory, because while his activities may have been limited, his time with God was only deepened. So as Paul did less, God did more; and the more God did, the more God got glorified. Therefore, Paul gloried in those infirmities, because the power of Christ rested on him through them.

So, what do demons do all day? One thing they do is pick fights with godly angels over nations and over you. Another thing they do all day is try to get God to let them touch your body, or to use a sickness or physical disability as a wedge to get into your life and discourage you, spiritually. It may be a simple nuisance, like hay fever. It may be a more serious problem like the flu. It may be a heart problem or even cancer. These fallen angels, through their misguided leader, Satan, argue with God, that by touching you, they reveal your lack of faith. God, however, only allows it when He knows that given enough time, that very sickness or anguish

What Do Demons Do All Day? (Part 2)

or emotional trauma will work for His glory.

He may heal you. He may not. But either way, as you suffer, He will strengthen you, encourage you, build you up, and personally wrap His arms about you, as the very sickness you deplore, He uses to glorify His name in you.

That's what demons do all day. They try to make your life spiritually unproductive. And what God has in mind by letting them is He wants to turn your heart towards heaven. Isn't He wonderful? He loves us so much it breaks His heart to see us suffer. But He also loves us so much that He will weep with us if it ultimately means that He can rejoice with us at our newfound spiritual walk. For He is Spirit, and His goals for us are spiritual.

And what does God do all day? He loves us. Even while we complain about the very things He is allowing for our good, He loves us. And when we rail at Him for not loving us, what does He do? He only loves us more. That's what God does all day...and all night. And aren't you glad He does?

WHAT DO DEMONS DO ALL DAY?

So what do demons do all day?
A question well worth pondering,
They do not idly sit around,
Just in case you're wondering.

They have a stated purpose,
They have a focused goal,
They want to take your eyes off God,
They want your very soul.

They'll haunt you, tease you, tempt you,
Remind you where you've been,
They'll try to lead your heart to think
You've ne'er been cleansed of sin.

They fight God's holy angels
In nations near and far,
They target lowly Israel
In peacetime or in war;

And oh, they long to use disease,
As weapons in the fray,
They want to so discourage you
Your heart will turn away.

What Do Demons Do All Day? (Part 2)

The secret though is simple,
While all the battle's brewing,
Stop and just remember
What your great God is doing.

The enemy may flail at you,
But one thing still is true,
What God is doing all day long
Is simply loving you.

For Focus and Application

1- Review the five steps Satan took to destruction. How can someone be so deceived that the very path they think they are taking to greatness is the pathway downward to defeat? What modern illustration can you give? How does this principle affect you personally?

2- Do you think that the wars going on now in the world are being fought in reality by the angelic hosts? Pick any skirmish or conflict you know about and see if you can grasp what issues the angels are battling over? What issues do you think were going on in the heavenlies during World War II?

3- Satan's demonic host love to attack the body or use weaknesses in the body as a springboard for warfare. What does our physical body represent to God? Give two reasons that make our bodies so important as a battlefield?

4- Read and reread Job, chapters one and two. Who initiated the conversation? Who mentioned Job? What assessment did God give of Job's character? Was his sickness punishment? Why do you think God did this? How did Satan respond?

5- First, God allowed Satan to take away Job's animals, his children, and all of his wealth. What was his response? Memorize Job 1:20-22. How do we know that this was a perfect response? What four truths did he proclaim in those verses?

6- After everything else was gone, God goaded Satan into attacking Job's body. It was the last and most difficult of all the tests. What provision or limit did He place on Satan? What does that mean to us?

7- What was the nature of Job's illness? Have you ever known anyone with a sickness that debilitating and humiliating? How

What Do Demons Do All Day? (Part 2)

would you have responded?

8- Both physical and mental illness are recorded in Scripture as being used in demonic warfare. What do you think this means? How has Satan tried to corrupt our understanding of sickness and demonic activity? Why is this so important to him?

9- When God allows or teases Satan into attacking your body, what does it usually mean? Is this an indictment or an honor? What is God's goal? What is Satan's goal? What is your role?

10- Job was our example of how it works. Paul is our example of how we are to respond. Memorize II Corinthians 12:7-10. Write it out in modern terms and personalize it back to God when any kind of sickness or defeat comes your way.

dtm DISCIPLESHIP TAPE MINISTRIES, INC.

10602 Mossbank, San Antonio, TX 78230-3422

210-226-0000 or 1-800-375-7778

www.dtm.org • dtm@dtm.org • © Russell Kelfer

(08.14.18)