

9-6-24

River of Life Family,

Here is some information related to some questions that came up after the sermon Sunday regarding the angels. I thought it would be helpful to answer them with an email. One question related to clarifying which bad angels were locked up in the abyss that Jude was talking about. So here is some more information on that.

According to Revelation 5:11-12, the angels in Heaven who worship God are numbered as “myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands,” meaning 10,000's of 10,000's and 1,000's of 1,000's. Basically, they are innumerable.

1/3 of that group of angels were influenced by Satan and were cast out of Heaven (Revelation 12:1-6). This passage is prophetic and allegorical in describing the birth of Christ, the true Israel, the fall of Satan, and Satan's oppression of Christ and God's people. This group of fallen angels is what we believe are the demons that war against us in the spiritual realm, the demons that Jesus cast out and told us to cast out, and the principalities and powers in Ephesians 6. “Principalities and powers” in the demonic realm indicate, with other passages, that there is a hierarchy among the angels, both holy and demonic.

A small subset of the angels who were cast down from Heaven are the ones that Jude talks about. These are confined in the abyss (deepest hell) in chains because they left the heavenly realm and defiled the flesh of mankind before the flood in Genesis 6. The book of 1 Enoch says that there were just 200 angels in this group.

1 Enoch is a book written probably about 200-300 BC that claims to be to the oral history and prophecies of Enoch, who lived before the flood according to Genesis. This book was probably widely known in Jewish circles around the time of Christ. At a minimum, it contains a genuine prophecy handed down orally from Enoch that Jude quotes in his letter. The prophecy foretells the condemnation of all ungodly people who work against God and His Kingdom.

I will be talking more about the angels and the demonic realm this weekend and why this is an important narrative that Jude felt so compelled to write about.

Please let me know of any other questions you have, thank you!

In Him,

Dave Benefield

