



*Angels,
Demons, and the
Spirit Realm*

***Pulling
Back
the Veil***



Lesson 1

**Culture,
Christians, and
Attitudes**

Cultural Phenomena

Can you guess
these film
adaptations of
angels and
demons?



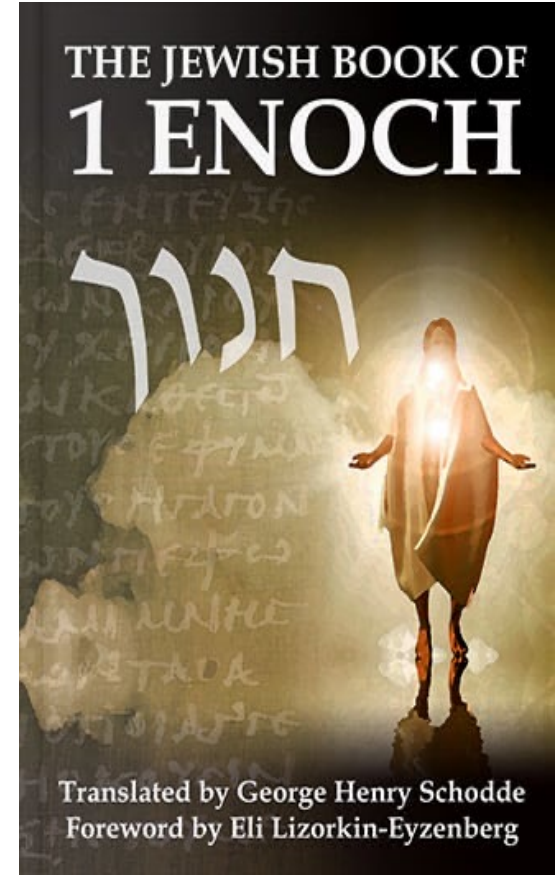
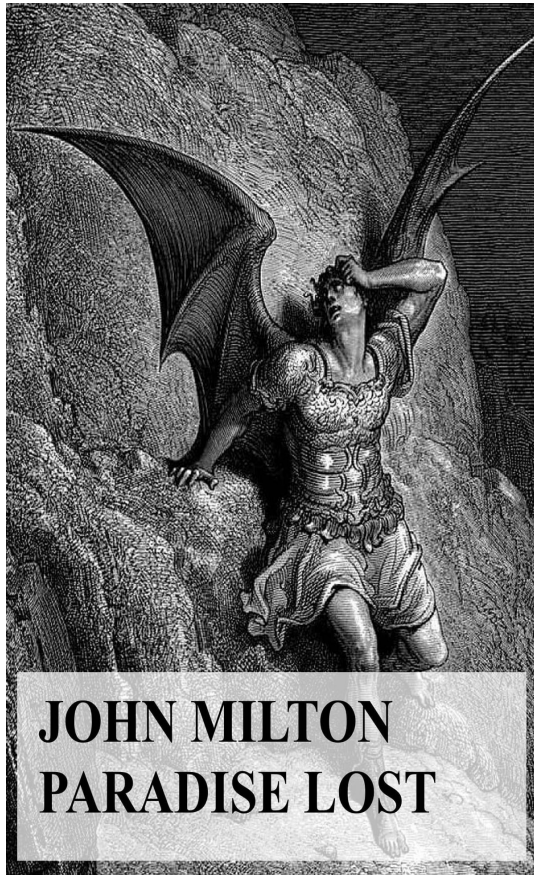
Cultural Phenomena

Angels and demons have been a timeless subject of depiction in artwork and pop culture references.

Do any of these cultural depictions influence how we see angels and demons?



Often Unrecognized Literary Influences



How Do Christians View the Subject?

- Usually with trepidation.
- “We can’t know anything definitively.”
- “The Bible just doesn’t say that much about angels and demons.”
- “We don’t want to look like/turn into _____. They are crazy and don’t know the Bible!”



Should We Feel & Think This Way?

- Angels are mentioned in 34 books of the Bible. The word “angel” appears in some form over 300x. Revelation mentions angels the most often.
- Demons are mentioned in at least 15 books of the Bible with 80+ references.
- Other references to sons of God, cherubim, seraphim, Satan, Serpent, etc. greatly increase these numbers.
- *“The Word of God clearly reveals the fact that there is a spiritual realm which lies beside and beyond our human realm. It is not necessary to speculate or wonder about angels and demons. The Bible contains solid information about both the bright and dark beings.” (Michael Hardin, Angels and Other Created Spiritual Beings, 4)*

***Beware of Extremes:** Angelic Worship*

- “Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.” (Colossians 2:18-19)
- “Then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, ‘Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.’” (Revelation 19:10; cf. 22:9)

Beware of Extremes: Demonic Worship

- “They shall no longer sacrifice their sacrifices to the goat demons with which they play the harlot. This shall be a permanent statute to them throughout their generations.” (Leviticus 17:7)
- “No, but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God; and I do not want you to become sharers in demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? We are not stronger than He, are we?” (1 Corinthians 10:20-22)
- “The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.” (Revelation 9:20-21)

Beware of Extremes: Apathy

- “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.” (Ephesians 6:10-13)
- “Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith” (1 Peter 5:8-9a)

Beware of Extremes: Denial/Disrespect

- “But perceiving that one group were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, Paul began crying out in the Council, ‘Brethren, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees; I am on trial for the hope and resurrection of the dead!’ As he said this, there occurred a dissension between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor an angel, nor a spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.” (Acts 23:6-8)
- “the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment, and especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires and despise authority. Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties, whereas angels who are greater in might and power do not bring a reviling judgment against them before the Lord.” (2 Peter 2:9-11; compare Jude 8-10)

Key Texts for Our Study:

- “The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them.” (Psalm 34:7)
- “For He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways.”
(Psalm 91:11)
- “Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?”
(Hebrews 1:14)

