

ANGELS & DEMONS

HIDDEN IDOLATRY IN THE CHURCHES

by Paul Bunch

SUPERNATURAL ANGELIC warfare (good angels against bad angels) is a central part of the belief structure in church culture. It is considered, by many, to be a measure of one's good standing in the church. Nowadays, if you do not believe in a hierarchy of supernatural beings, both good and bad, you could be considered "an infidel." A good Judeo-Christian is one who fears a supernatural Satan, develops fond feelings toward good supernatural angels, and is conditioned to become pale with fright from the thought of bad supernatural angels (demons). However, the Bible classifies this kind of theology as superstition and idolatry.

This article will demonstrate that the typical church's view of angels and devils is NOT the Biblical view, and that most people learn anti-Christ idolatry first and then unwittingly read it into the Bible. The result is that many Christians are suffering from delusion due to their distorted view of some basic Bible principles.

Most Judeo-Christians already know that it is "idolatry" to worship "other gods." But they have not made the connection between "other gods" and Angelolatry (worship of angels).



**THE DOCTRINE OF
"THE TWO 'SELVES'"**

At the root of idolatry is the pagan doctrine which holds that men are comprised of a "spirit self" (ghost) and a "physical self" (body): allegedly two entities combined to make one person. In other words, two entities are actually one, and one entity is actually two – a rather

bizarre belief.

This doctrine stems from the pagan "immortal soul" doctrine. This is the belief that men don't really stop living when they "die." Allegedly, only their body (the mortal self) dies while their spirit, or ghost (the immortal self), lives on ... in some special location.

According to this delusion, death is not REALLY death. It is only another state of life. The word "death" becomes meaningless when one believes in "The Immortal Soul."

There are many variations on the doctrine of "The Two Selves." Those who believe in "astral projection," for instance, think that when man sleeps at night, his ghost leaves his body and travels long distances through the air, coming back before he awakens in the morning. Reincarnationists claim that when man's old body dies his ghost transfers into a baby that is being born and he simply takes up residence in that new body. Or, if he was not a good person his ghost (soul) might go into (incarnate) the body of an animal or an insect and he becomes that animal or insect!

This kind of thinking is where the pagan concept of the "Trinity" originated. The only difference is that the Trinity doctrine alleges that three are one and one is three (the Father, the Son, and the "Holy

Ghost”; all equal; all “God”; All one, and yet three.)

Pagan religion does tend to embrace the absurd.

An alternate doctrine evolved from this basic error is that God also has multiple “selves.” This view claims that Yahweh has a ghost part (spirit), and Jesus was the physical part. Here again we see the impossible, illogical concept of “three equals one,” and “one equals three.” Even though the Bible clearly makes a distinction between the Father and the Son, many Churchgoers believe that the Father IS the Son, and vice-versa. It all stems from man’s original delusion that one can be two (or three) selves simultaneously.

FALSE LOGIC = FALSEHOOD

This false doctrine (two things equal one thing, and vice versa) should be easy to detect and avoid because of the sheer absurdity and false logic in it. Truth is not unreasonable! Yahweh is a God of truth and reason, not of absurdity and falsehood. To claim that two things are the same – AND yet different at the same ‘time – is not only a falsehood ... it is insanity. For example, “one” cannot equal “two” or “three” while still being “one.” And just as ONE man cannot be TWO men simultaneously, ONE God cannot be TWO or THREE Gods simultaneously.

Now let’s see how the false doctrine of “The Two Selves” applies to angels and demons.

SUPERNATURAL SPIRITS

The pagan mind continually fears (worships) supernatural spirits, or ghosts. These ghosts are usually known as angels or demons: supernatural beings that live in another dimension. They are considered the prime cause of all events in the pagan’s life. The pagan’s world is based upon mysticism and superstition rather than upon reality and the natural laws

of Yahweh.

The false doctrine of “The Two Selves” evolved into a belief in “spirit possession,” where spirits (ghosts) can enter into, or “possess” physical bodies or leave them at will.

Heathens believe that these supposed invisible, intangible, supernatural beings, which they usually call “angels” and “demons,” can also reside in physical OBJECTS and GRAVEN IMAGES. Pagans like to use physical objects to represent their invisible spirit gods so that they can visualize them in their minds. Imaginary spirit-beings can seem almost real when incorporated with things that actually exist in the real world. The heathens’ ghost gods, as with men, are believed to also have “two selves.” Their second “selves” (or physical bodies) can be graven images, or they can be the men’s bodies that are being “possessed” at the time.

From this, it is obvious that the heathen do not worship just the physical graven image by itself, but also an invisible supernatural ghost or spirit thought to be inside it.

ANGELS, DEVILS, IDOLS & GODS

Most Churchgoers do not realize their idea of angels and devils makes them idols or gods. They just think of them as “supernatural beings.” “After all,” they argue, “they are not worshipping the angels and demons.” But in order to define idolatry, with respect to worship, we need to see the connection between the terms “idol,” “god,” “angels” and “demons” (“devils”), even if you DON’T think you are worshipping them.

You may already see the connection between supernatural demons and idols to the extent that they are thought to inhabit graven images. The first commandment found in Exodus 20:3 states: “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.” The very next two verses go on to discuss graven im-

ages, establishing a connection between gods and graven images:

4. *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:*

5. *Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them:...*

Exodus 20:4,5

5. *For all the gods of the nations are idols: but Yahweh made the heavens.”*

Psalms 96:5

From reading these verses we see that other gods are synonymous with idols and graven images. But, let’s see how this connection continues.

DEVILS (DEMONS) ARE IDOLS

The Bible uses the terms “devils” and “idols” interchangeably:

34. *They did not destroy the nations, concerning whom the Lord commanded them:*

35. *But were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works.*

36. *AND THEY SERVED THEIR IDOLS: which were a snare unto them.*

37. *Yea, THEY SACRIFICED THEIR SONS AND THEIR DAUGHTERS UNTO DEVILS,*

38. *And shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto THE IDOLS of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood.*

39. *Thus were they defiled with their own words, and went a whoring with THEIR OWN INVENTIONS (“spirit beings”).*

Psalms 106:34-39

DEVILS ARE GODS

The Bible also uses the terms “devils” and “gods” interchangeably:

17. *They (the Israelites in idolatry) sacrificed to DEVILS, not to God (Yahweh); to GODS whom they knew not, to NEW GODS that came newly up, whom your fathers*

ANGELS ARE GODS

The invisible gods of the pagans are alleged to be supernatural, intangible “spirits.” In fact churches believe the Greek word “demon” designates a race of supernatural beings who possess powers mortal men do not have. Also, the pagans believe there is a hierarchy of GOOD demons that help man and a hierarchy of EVIL demons that work against man. They view these good demons as “lesser gods” who work for a good god, and the evil demons as “lesser gods” who work for an evil god. This belief is known as Demonism. It is more accurately known as “POLYTHEISM,” or the belief in many supernatural gods.

Notice the similarity between classical “Demonism” and the Judeo-Christian view of “angels and demons.”

Judeo-Christians believe in a race of supernatural beings just as pagans do, except they label them “angels” rather than “gods”. They also believe this race is composed of good gods (angels) and evil gods (demons). In this supernatural hierarchy, Satan is supposedly the chief evil god. He is traditionally pictured as a “FALLEN angel” along with his angels that were supposedly cast out of heaven along with him.

If **a = b**, and **b = c**, then **a = c** (things equal to the same thing are equal to each other).

In other words, if:

- a.** Angels can be demons, and
- b.** Demons can be idols, and
- c.** Idols are gods, then . . .
- d.** Angels, devils, demons and idols, according to definition, are gods.

Therefore, churches use the term “angel” interchangeably with “devil” and “demon” to refer to a race of supernatural beings – both good AND evil. Even though the

specific details vary, pagans and churches agree on this basic doctrine. That makes Judeo-Christianity just one more pagan religion among the many anti-Christ world religions.

FIGMENTS OF THE IMAGINATION

It is crucial to understand that the Judeo-Christian view of supernatural angels and demons is patterned after the pagan’s view of idols and gods. The Biblical definition of “angel” and “demon” is much different from the definition given them by pagans and churches. We’ll discuss their true definition later.

Also, you must understand that **GOD’S WORD DECLARES OVER AND OVER THAT IDOLS AND PAGAN GODS ARE NOT ALIVE, AND ARE NOT SUPERNATURAL!** For instance:

26. *All the GODS of the people are IDOLS: but Yahweh made the heavens.*

1 Chronicles 16:26

Here, the word “idols” is translated from the Hebrew word “eliyl” (#457 in Strong’s Concordance) which means: **GOOD FOR NOTHING**. The word has also been translated in other places as **A THING OF NOUGHT**. If you use these phrases in the verse, it has more meaning:

26. *All the gods of the people are GOOD FOR NOTHING or THINGS OF NOUGHT: but Yahweh made the heavens.*

It is also interesting to note that the Random House College Dictionary includes, as one of its definitions of the word “idol:” “*a figment of the mind; fantasy... a false conception or notion; fallacy.*”

This idea coincides with the invented angels/devils/gods we read about, earlier, in Psalms 106:39. In other words, their idols (pagan angels and devils) were fan-

tasies or inventions of men’s minds. They weren’t the true angels and true demons/devils of the scriptures.

The apostle Paul, in the New Testament, understood this basic concept:

4. *As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, WE KNOW THAT AN IDOL IS NOTHING IN THE WORLD, and that there is none other (true) God but one.*

1 Corinthians 8:4

The following verses show that the “second self” (the alleged physical body) of an imaginary god is likewise invented BY MAN, and likewise is “good for nothing”:

- 2. *Thus saith Yahweh, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; ...*
- 3. *For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe.*
- 4. *They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.*
- 5. *They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must be carried, because they cannot move. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good.*
- 8. *But they are altogether brutish and foolish: the stock (idol) is a doctrine of vanities (worthlessness).*

Jeremiah 10:2-5,

Also, in Isaiah 44:

- 10. *Who hath formed A GOD, or molten A GRAVEN IMAGE that is profitable for nothing?*
- 11. *Behold all his fellows shall be ashamed: and the workmen, they of men: let them all be gathered together, let them stand up; yet they shall fear, and they shall be ashamed together.*
- 12. *The smith with the tongs both worketh in the coals, and fashioneth it with hammers, and worketh it with the strength of his arms: yea, he is hungry, and his strength faileth: he drinketh no water, and is faint.*
- 13. *The carpenter stretcheth out his*

rule; he marketh it out with a line; he fitteth it with planes, and he marketh it out with the compass, and maketh it after the figure of a man, according to the beauty of a man; that it may remain in the house.

20. He feedeth on ashes: a deceived heart hath turned him aside, that he cannot deliver his soul, nor say, IS THERE NOT A LIE IN MY RIGHT HAND?

Isaiah 44:10-13, 20

He ends up deceiving himself by convincing himself that the lie he created is a real god.

Ezekiel, also, explains that an idol is something imagined in man's mind:

7. For every one of the house of Israel, or of the stranger that sojourneth in Israel, which separateth himself from me, AND SETTETH UP HIS IDOLS IN HIS HEART (imagination), and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, ...
8. I (Yahweh) will set my face against that man, and will make him a sign and a proverb, and I will cut him off from the midst of my people; and ye shall know that I am Yahweh.

Ezekiel 14:7, 8

Churches apparently teach that angels and demons invented by the heathen are nothing, but their invented angels and demons are real.

No! Angelolatry and Demonolatry are pagan beliefs no matter which religion invents them!

Today, with advanced and modern technology, society has retained this angel/idol worship, but they have replaced the more primitive graven images of centuries past with modern graven images. MOVIES depicting supernatural pagan gods are "graven celluloid and digital images." These graven images are even more realistic and convincing depictions than were the stone and wood images of the past (the "idols of their hearts"). We live in the "golden age" of fantasy, science fiction, and horror films, rife with invented pagan creatures.

WHAT IS A "GOD?"

Understanding the word "god" also has a direct bearing on grasping just what idolatry is. Even though the pagan mentality predominantly thinks of "gods" as supernatural beings that can reside in graven images or can possess men's bodies, there are other types of gods. In fact, there are some gods approved by Yahweh!

English Bible translators used the term, "god," when rendering the Hebrew word "ELOHIM" (mighty one/s) and the Greek word "THEOS." Both words are used, at times, to refer to Yahweh, as well as to imaginary beings that are worshipped by pagans, such as angels and demons. Also, the pagans often called their kings and emperors "gods."

But "ELOHIM" (Strong's #430) and "THEOS" (Strong's #2316), in scripture, were used also to refer to mortal MEN.

"ELOHIM" (god/s) was used in Exodus 22 in discussing Bible laws concerning theft:

8. If the thief be not found, then the master of the house shall be brought unto the JUDGES (Heb. "elohim"), to see whether he have put his hand unto his neighbour's goods.
9. For all manner of trespass, whether it be for ox, for ass, for sheep, for raiment, or for any manner of lost thing, which another challengeth to be his, the cause of both parties shall come before the JUDGES (elohim); and whom the JUDGES (elohim) shall condemn, he shall pay double unto his neighbor.

Exodus 22:8,9

"Elohim" is the Hebrew word for "god" ... used for Yahweh as well as for heathen gods. Therefore if ELOHIM was translated "judges" sometimes, and "gods" other times, then it is evident that judges were "gods" too.

The Bible also refers to Moses as a "god":

1. And the Lord said unto Moses,

See, I have made thee a god (elohim) to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet.

Exodus 7:1

Similarly, in the New Testament, "THEOS" is used to refer to magistrates (men). While confronting some Jews who wanted to stone him, Jesus referred back to Psalms 82:6 where Yahweh referred to **men** as gods (elohim):

34. Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, "I said, Ye (judges) are GODS? (theos)
35. If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;
36. Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?"

John 10:34-36

The term "god" is also used to refer to objects and things:

18. (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:
19. Whose end is destruction, whose God (theos) is their BELLY, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

Philippians 3:18,19

Thus, a "belly" can be a god. Obviously, "god" is a term that can mean people or things. It is a **TITLE** and NOT a PROPER NAME. A god is a "mighty one," or someone or something, – supernatural or natural – that wields power; anything – supernatural or natural – esteemed and held high above the common people. Gods and deities can consist of images, statues or idols, pictures, etc.; the sun, moon, stars, or any other heavenly body; or supposed supernatural beings such as demons and angels; or men and animals. In modern times, things such as money or material possessions are gods, and even abstract things such as "success," "beauty" or "pleasure." When any of these things

become objects of worship in a man's life, before Yahweh and His Law, that man is practicing idolatry.

But notice that when the Bible referred to Moses and the judges as "gods," it was in a favorable light. Therefore, knowing that Yahweh has commanded, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me," (Exodus 20:3) it is obvious that there are some gods (mighty ones) that He approves ... that are not "before" (prededing) Him. Moses and the judges were "mighty ones" among the people. They were not "before" Yahweh and His Laws like the invented gods of the heathen. Neither were they worshipped by men like heathen gods.

Another "mighty one" approved of by Yahweh is Jesus. In fact, the Bible refers to Jesus as a "mighty one" in this well-known prophecy:

6. *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, THE MIGHTY GOD, Father of the age, The Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6

Here again, Jesus does not run competition with Yahweh, but He is a Prince – a Son – who communicates Yahweh's Word to man and is in accord with it. Also, Jesus is not a fictitious invention of some man's mind, but rather He is authorized by Yahweh, Himself, to fulfill Yahweh's will. Therefore, as the Bible clearly states, Jesus was approved by Yahweh, His Father:

17. *For he (Jesus) received from God the Father (Yahweh) honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

2 Peter 1:17

However, because of "Two Selves" doctrine of the churches, and the inaccurate notion that "god" with a capital "G" is

Yahweh's proper name rather than a title, Isaiah 9:6 is sometimes misconstrued to say that Jesus is Yahweh.

YAHWEH'S NAME IS NOT "GOD"

When the Bible translators used the word "god" to refer to Yahweh, the Creator, they elected to capitalize the "g" to show respect. But this led to the problem of reading "God" as a PROPER NAME instead of just a TITLE. Millions of Christians have had this drilled into their minds so that they think "God" is Yahweh's name. They presume that "god" with a little "g" is reserved strictly for the other "gods" worshipped by pagans.

The word "god" is also an old Saxon word meaning "good" or "good one."

Even though the Bible refers to Jesus Christ as a "god," a "King," a "Lord," he was still in a subordinate position to Yahweh. He sits at the right hand of Yahweh, and He is the Son (not his own father). Yahweh remains the Creator and source of all things. Jesus has been GIVEN AUTHORITY by Yahweh, and Jesus' power is that which comes from His father.

28. *And when all things shall be subdued unto him (Jesus) then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him (Yahweh) that put all things under him (Jesus), that God (Yahweh) may be all in all (recognized as Father of all).*

1 Corinthians 15:28

Clearly, we must distinguish between the gods approved by Yahweh and those not approved by Him. The unapproved gods are idols. They are purported to have supernatural powers like Yahweh, yet they are invented creatures of men's imaginations.

The angels and demons of the churches fit this description. Also, any human that men worship as a god is an invented product of men's

minds created through the trickery of advertising a FALSE IMAGE.

THE BIBLE CONDEMNS MAN'S INVENTED SUPERNATURAL BEINGS

In the Old Testament, before the time of Christ, Yahweh repeats over and over that He was the only REAL immortal being. Jesus later became the exception after He was raised immortal. He was elevated, by Yahweh Himself, to the status of supernatural.

The following examples show how the scriptures describe Yahweh as the one true supernatural Power in Old Testament times:

22. *Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.*

Isaiah 45:22

6. *Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his (Jacob's) Redeemer the Lord of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and besides me there is no God.*

Isaiah 44:6

There may be many invented gods, but there is only one Creator Yahweh. The New Testament agrees with the old:

29. *And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord (Yahweh) our God is one Lord:*

Mark 12:29

Jesus is here citing from Deuteronomy 6:4.

In Isaiah 37:17, God is called "the living God." This implies that any other god is "non-living" or an illusion.

Furthermore, verse 19 of Isaiah 37 calls these gods of the people "no gods," which is simply another way of saying they are frauds.

At the time of Moses, God gave further proof that He was the one true supernatural power:

13. *And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say*

unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? What shall I say unto them?

14. And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

Exodus 3:13,14

The Hebrew word translated "I AM THAT I AM" in the KJV is "hayah" (Strong's #1961) and it means "to exist." So when God told Moses that His name was "I AM," He was telling Moses that the only real god in existence had sent him. By implication all other gods are illusions.

CONCLUSION

Yahweh commanded Israel to not invent angels and demons or any "mighty ones":

1. *Ye shall make you no Idols nor graven image ...*

Leviticus 26:1

The punishment for breaking this commandment was death:

2. *If there be found among you, within any of thy gates which the Lord thy God giveth thee, man or woman, that hath wrought wickedness in the sight of the Lord thy God, in transgressing his covenant,*
3. *And hath gone and served other gods, and worshipped them, either the sun, or moon, or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded; ...*
5. *Then shalt thou bring forth that man or that woman, which have committed that wicked thing, unto thy gates, even that man or that woman, and shalt stone them with stones, till they die.*

Deuteronomy 17:2,3,5

By commanding the death penalty, Yahweh is actually punishing His people for BELIEVING IN THE EXISTENCE OF ANY RACE OF AUTONOMOUS SUPERNATURAL BEINGS, INCLUDING ANGELS OR DEMONS.

Idolatry is the way the heathen

think about angels, demons and Satan. It is the worship of falsehood and unreality. But, as we have shown, Churchgoers are taught to be idolators with differences only in the minor details of the doctrine. Does it not strike you as odd that what is called a "Christian doctrine" of angels and demons corresponds exactly with pagan doctrine? Does God condemn this idolatry only when the heathen practice it? Would it be acceptable to Him when Christians practice it?

If there are no races of supernatural beings in permanent existence, then the angels, demons, and satans of the Bible have to be defined in other terms – non-pagan terms – accurate terms!

Now that you understand what the words "idol," "death," "god," "angel," and "demon" really mean, then you can see why Yahweh condemns Angelolatry (angel worship).

ANGELS

The word "angel" in the Bible means, literally, a "messenger" – any messenger. Angels in the Bible are often mortal men. Or sometimes they are supernatural manifestations created on the spot to represent and speak for God. Once, in scripture, it was a donkey (Nu. 22). In any case, they are MESSENGERS.

Messengers, whether natural or supernatural, carry messages from God to men. They are sometimes voices; they are sometimes visions; they are sometimes visible and tangible. The supernatural messengers are NOT a race of beings. Rather, they are temporary manifestations/creations through whom God Himself speaks or sends messages. They are temporary communications.

DEMONS

Demons are "demigods." In pagan theology, "demons" are lesser gods ... the small ones who do the running for the big gods. The term

itself is based on pagan beliefs, and is used in the Bible to refer to pagan deities, or to health and spiritual problems that were, in that vernacular, personified as "demons." It was an idiomatic expression ... not intended to be taken literally.

For example, we use the term "pandemonium" to mean chaos. The word itself - "pan" (everywhere) "demonium" (demons) – means literally, "demons everywhere." We don't intend the literal meaning when we use the word, but that IS what the word literally means. It is an idiomatic expression, the same as when an illness was called a "demon" in Bible times.

Also, at times the King James translators substituted "demon" where the actual word was "devil." "Devil" (Gk: diabolos) is a different word altogether, and means literally, "**one who thrusts through**" (dia="through") (bolos="to thrust") as with a sword. Thus, a "devil" is anyone, or anything, that threatens or tries to hurt you.

Translators and churches have perverted and manipulated the words of the Bible to support pagan, non-biblical religions and doctrines. The churches have changed the words, and have changed truth into lies.

5. *Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.*

1 John 5:21



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