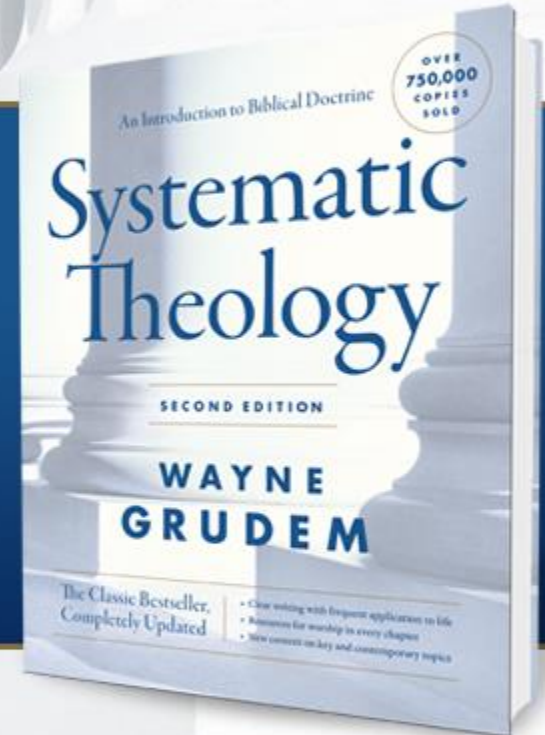


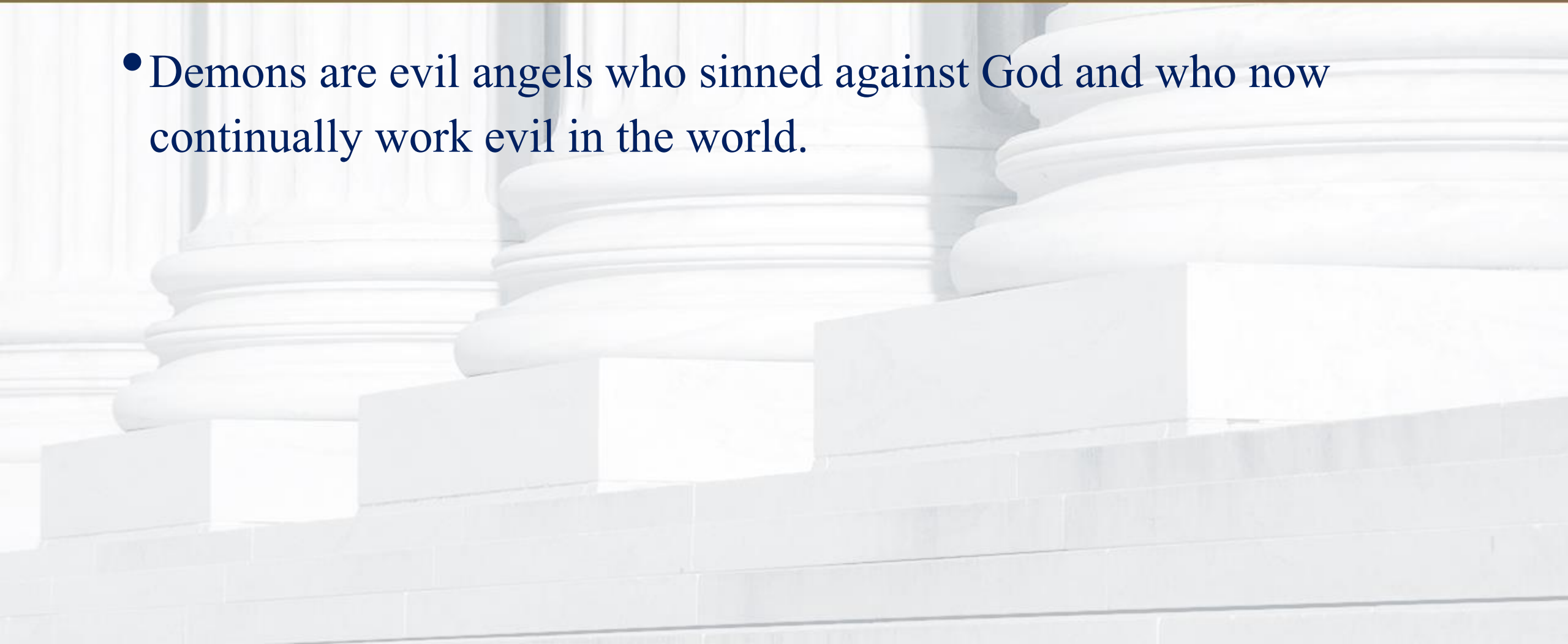
Satan and Demons

Chapter 20



Explanation and Scriptural Basis

- Demons are evil angels who sinned against God and who now continually work evil in the world.



The Origin of Demons

- When God finished creating everything, it was “very good.” (Gen 1:31)
- Satan appears by Genesis 3, indicating that there must have been a rebellion in the angelic world sometime between these times. (2 Pet 2:4; Jude 6)
- Isa 14:12–15 might also refer to the fall of Satan
- Gen 6:2–4 likely does not refer to the fall of demons. (Matt 22:30)

Satan as Head of the Demons

- “Satan” is the personal name of the head of the demons. (Job 1:7–2:7; Zech 3:1)
- Hebrew *sātān* means “adversary”

The Activity of Satan and Demons

- **Satan Was the Originator of Sin** (Gen 3:1–6; Jn 8:44; 1 Jn 3:8)
- **Demons Oppose and Try to Destroy Every Work of God** (Gen 3:1–6; Jn 8:44; Rev 12:9; 2 Cor 4:4)
- **Yet Demons Are Limited by God's Control and Have Limited Power** (Job 1:12; 2:6; Jude 6)
 - They cannot know our thoughts. (Dan 2:27–28)
 - They do not know the future. (Isa 46:9–10)

The Activity of Satan and Demons

- **There Have Been Differing Stages of Demonic Activity in the History of Redemption**
 - **In the Old Testament:** Received worship as false gods (Deut 32:16–17; Ps 106:35–37)
 - **During the Ministry of Jesus:** Jesus came in triumph over demonic forces. (Mk 1:27; Matt 12:28–29)

The Activity of Satan and Demons

- **There Have Been Differing Stages of Demonic Activity in the History of Redemption**
 - **During the New Covenant Age:** The disciples had similar power. (Lk 10:17–18; Acts 16:18; Jas 4:7)
 - **During the Millennium:** Satan will be bound. (Rev 20:1–3)
 - **At the Final Judgment:** Satan will be defeated and cast into hell. (Rev 20:10)

Our Relationship to Demons

- **Are Demons Active in the World Today?**
 - We must take seriously Scripture's portrayal of intense demonic involvement in human society. (1 Pet 5:8)
 - There is no reason to think that there is any less demonic activity in the world today than at the time of the NT.

Our Relationship to Demons

- **Not All Evil and Sin Is From Satan and Demons, but Some Is**
 - Paul does not urge believers to cast out some “spirit of dissension” or a “spirit of incest.” He commands them to be united, and to punish incest. (1 Cor 1:10; 5:1–5)
 - The NT never records “strategic level spiritual warfare.”
 - The NT primarily focuses on choices and actions taken by people, and occasionally on demonic influence. (1 Cor 10:20; 2 Tim 2:24–26; Jn 8:44; 1 Jn 3:8)

Our Relationship to Demons

- **Can a Christian Be Demon Possessed?**
 - The NT never uses language that suggests a demon actually “possesses” someone.
 - *Daimonizomai* describes demonic influence, but “demon possessed” implies that a person has no choice but to submit to the demonic attack.
 - A Christian cannot be so completely dominated by a demon that they have no ability to choose to obey God. (Rom 6:14; Col 1:13)
 - A believer may come under severe demonic attack. (Lk 13:16; 2 Cor 12:7)

Our Relationship to Demons

- **How Can Demonic Influences Be Recognized?**
 - Opposition to the gospel (Mk 1:23–24)
 - Severe, violent behaviors (Mk 5:2–5; 9:17–18, 20, 22)
 - Blatantly false doctrinal statements (1 Cor 12:3)
 - A subjective sense of the presence of an evil spiritual influence (1 Cor 12:10)
- **Jesus Gives All Believers Authority to Rebuke Demons and Command Them to Leave (Lk 9:1; 10:17, 19; Acts 8:7; 2 Cor 10:3–4)**

Our Relationship to Demons

- **Appropriate Use of the Christian's Spiritual Authority in Ministry to Other People**
 - Do not frighten the person with glib talk.
 - Focus on the person being ministered to and on the truths of the Bible, not on the demon.
 - Avoid becoming overly curious in this area. (1 Cor 14:20)

Our Relationship to Demons

- **Appropriate Use of the Christian's Spiritual Authority in Ministry to Other People**
 - If the person is not a Christian, encourage them to come to Christ as Savior immediately. (Matt 12:43–45)
 - Effectiveness may be related to our own spiritual condition. (Matt 17:18–20)

Our Relationship to Demons

- **We Should Expect the Gospel to Come in Power to Triumph Over the Works of the Devil (Lk 4:41; Acts 26:18; 1 Jn 3:8)**

Special Terms

- demonized
- demon possession
- demons
- distinguishing between spirits
- exorcism
- Satan