

# When Demons Became Gods

## Cosmic Controversy Series: Part 7

### Study Guide

– Pastor Michael Oxentenکو

## I. THE AGE OF THE GODS

### Revelation 12:9

*And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.*

### Psalms 82:1-2, 6-7

<sup>1</sup> *A Psalm of Asaph. God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment:* <sup>2</sup> *“How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked?”* [Selah] <sup>6</sup> *I say, “You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you;* <sup>7</sup> *nevertheless, you shall die like men, and fall like any prince.”*

### Jeremiah 7:18

*The children gather wood, the fathers kindle fire, and the women knead dough, to make cakes for the queen of heaven. And they pour out drink offerings to other gods, to provoke me to anger.*

### Jude 1:6

*And the angels that did not keep their own position but left their proper dwelling have been kept by him in eternal chains in the nether gloom until the judgment of the great day.*

### **A. The Fallen Age**

1. Universal to the collective consciousness of the human race is a past history in which false gods ruled the earth. It is difficult to even speak of prehistory without recognizing the “age of the gods” (Revelation 12:9; Psalm 82:1-2, 6-7).
2. Before the “age of the gods,” the worship of a “mother deity” of the earth and nature dominated the ancient religious past. In time, the worship of

the great mother principle surrendered to a broader form of religion that swept the earth as civilization flowered and spread abroad (Jeremiah 7:18).

3. One cannot speak of the “age of the gods” without asking the question: How did it all begin and how does prehistory affect our present history? (Jude 1:6)
4. Revelation 12:9 tells us that Satan and his army of evil angels were thrown to the earth.

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Genesis 6:12, 17

*<sup>12</sup> And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth. <sup>17</sup> For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life from under heaven; everything that is on the earth shall die.*

Isaiah 64:6

*We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.*

Genesis 6:5

*The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

Genesis 7:17, 23-24

*<sup>17</sup> The flood continued forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. <sup>23</sup> He blotted out every living thing that was upon the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the air... Only Noah was left, and those that were with him in the ark. <sup>24</sup> And the waters prevailed upon the earth a hundred and fifty days.*

Genesis 9:20-21

*<sup>20</sup> Noah was the first tiller of the soil. He planted a vineyard; <sup>21</sup> and he drank of the wine, and became drunk, and lay uncovered in his tent.*

## **B. The Fall of Man**

1. After the fall of Adam and Eve, we do not see evil angels referred to at all until the tower of Babel. Instead, the Bible records the impact of moral corruption upon human flesh and culture (Genesis 6:12).

2. The sin principle that Satan injected into the human mind when he deceived Adam and Eve eventually corrupted all humans so that today our minds and flesh are naturally evil (Isaiah 64:6 ).
3. This human condition that affects both the mind and the flesh was a universal problem when God destroyed the earth with a flood (Genesis6:17).
4. God’s analysis of the human condition at the time of Noah – every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually – is the present human predicament, meaning humans are sinful inwardly without the necessity of help from demons (Genesis 6:5).
5. In Genesis 6:12, God does not blame evil angels for the mess of human perversion and personal violence. He clearly states that all flesh corrupted itself.
6. Prehistory before the flood is not namely the history of demonic control. It is the history of the human mind and human flesh out of control and corrupted by evil desires (Genesis 6:5. 12).
7. The human race became a willing agent of evil. And when evil was universal within, God destroyed the earth with a flood (Genesis 6:17).
8. When God saved Noah and his family, He swept away the evil of the pre-flood world and purged the planet so it could start all over again (Genesis 7:17, 23-24).
9. Noah was a second Adam of sorts, and like Adam, Noah sinned. Noah planted a vineyard that became the source of renewed sin. Noah drank wine from the fruit of the vine and became drunk and was naked in his tent (Genesis 9:20-21). Wine and nakedness matches the forbidden fruit and the nakedness of Adam and Eve.

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1 Corinthians 10: 20-21

*<sup>20</sup> No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be partners with demons. <sup>21</sup> 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.*

Revelation 12:9

*And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.*

### Ephesians 6:12

*For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

### Jude 1:6

*And the angels that did not keep their own position but left their proper dwelling have been kept by him in eternal chains in the nether gloom until the judgment of the great day.*

### 2 Corinthians 6: 14-16

*<sup>14</sup> For what partnership have righteousness and iniquity? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? <sup>15</sup> What accord has Christ with Be'lial? Or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? <sup>16</sup> What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."*

### Exodus 20:3, 5-6

*<sup>3</sup> "You shall have no other gods before me." <sup>5</sup> "you shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God... <sup>6</sup> but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments."*

### Isaiah 42:8

*I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to graven images.*

### Deuteronomy 4:19

*And beware lest you raise your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, you be drawn away and bow down to them and serve them, things that the LORD your God has allotted to all the peoples under the whole heaven.*

### Isaiah 24:21-23

*<sup>21</sup> On that day the LORD will punish the host of heaven, in heaven, and the kings of the earth, on the earth. <sup>22</sup> They will be gathered together as prisoners in a pit; they will be shut up in a prison, and after many days they will be punished. <sup>23</sup> Then the moon will be confounded and the sun ashamed, for the LORD of hosts reigns on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and his glory will be before his elders.*

## **C. Demon Rulers**

1. The apostle Paul left no doubt in the minds of the early Christians that the diverse lists of deities in the world religions are, in fact, demons (1 Corinthians 10:20-21).
2. These demons are significant players in the Great Controversy between Christ and Satan, and they have taken their place in seats of spiritual

authority and political power as the gods of this world (Ephesians 6:12; Jude 1:6; Revelation 12:9).

3. Paul asserts with deliberate clarity that Christianity is incompatible with the other great world religions (1 Corinthians 10:20-21).
4. Christians cannot bow down to Christ in truth and bow down to the gods of other world religions (2 Corinthians 6:14-16; Exodus 20:3).
5. The worship of God in Christ is a jealous kind of religion because God will not share His glory with demons who falsely claim to be gods (Exodus 20:5-6; Isaiah 42:8).
6. At the tower of Babel, humanity chose unholy spirits to guide and keep them. They inaugurated the age of the gods and rejected the Holy Spirit in favor of demon spirits who, in turn, became the gods of the other great world religions (Deuteronomy 4:19; Isaiah 24:21-23).

## II. THE TOWER OF BABEL

### Genesis 11:1, 4, 9

*<sup>1</sup> Now the whole earth had one language and few words. <sup>4</sup> Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth."*

*<sup>9</sup> Therefore its name was called Ba'bel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.*

### Revelation 12:4

*His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven, and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bear a child, that he might devour her child when she brought it forth.*

### Deuteronomy 4:19

*And beware lest you lift up your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, you be drawn away and worship them and serve them, things which the LORD your God has allotted to all the peoples under the whole heaven.*

### Genesis 10:1, 32

*<sup>1</sup> These are the generations of the sons of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth; sons were born to them after the flood. <sup>32</sup> These are the families of the sons of Noah, according to their genealogies, in their nations; and from these the nations spread abroad on the earth after the flood.*

### Deuteronomy 32:8

*When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of men, he fixed the bounds of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God.*

Job 38:4, 7

<sup>4</sup> “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. <sup>7</sup> when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?”

Daniel 10:13, 21

<sup>13</sup> “The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, so I left him there with the prince of the kingdom of Persia.” <sup>21</sup> But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth: there is none who contends by my side against these except Michael, your prince.”

Daniel 12:1

“At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.”

### **A. Demons Unleashed**

1. The name Babel comes from the ancient Akkadian, and it means “gateway to the gods” (Genesis 11:9).
2. At the tower of Babel, mankind built a tower that was a gateway to the gods. That means they invoked the aid of evil angels and opened up the world to demonic control. **This is the point in history when the demons became gods.**
3. The tower of Babel became the place in ancient history where the collective human will opened the forbidden spiritual gateway that unleashed demons upon the earth (Genesis 11:1, 4).
4. Consequently, fallen angels were assigned to every nation that formed after the tower of Babel. In the book of *Daniel*, the nations are divided up with evil angels as their spiritual overlords (Daniel 10:13, 20-21; Isaiah 24:21-23).
5. In Daniel 10, Michael the Archangel, Chief of Princes, is introduced as the guardian protector of Israel who contends for His people against the evil angels (Daniel 10:13, 21; 12:1). [Reference: In Part 1 of this series, we discussed the identity of Michael the Archangel.]
6. At the tower of Babel, mankind sought the power of demons (fallen angels or fallen stars) to rule the earth instead of the true, omnipotent God of Creation (Genesis 11:4). [In Part 2 of this series, we discussed Bible symbols including *stars* that can represent angels, reference Revelation 12:4.]
7. The tower of Babel represents humanity’s search for supernatural power to sustain a one-world civilization. That means they were attempting to contact fallen angels (demons of the abyss) to make a name for themselves and propel human society forward, at which point God gave the nations over to worship the host of heaven (Deuteronomy 4:19).

8. In Genesis 10, after the flood there were seventy nations recorded that emerged out of the sons of Noah (Genesis 10:1-32). It has been called the table of the nations.
9. Genesis 10 is a record of how God divided the earth and gave to each nation its specific boundary and inheritance after the flood. It is the story of a prodigal planet that demanded its inheritance from God, and then left God to go into a far off country to squander the divine gift by worshipping other gods. [Compare Luke 15:11-32.]
10. Deuteronomy 32:8 describes God fixing the boundaries of the peoples when He gave to the nations their inheritance in Genesis 10. That is, the seventy nations after the flood corresponded to the number of the sons of God.
11. In the Bible, the first sons of God are angels. As the morning stars they were present at the creation of the world (Job 38:4, 7). In the context of Deuteronomy 32:8, the hosts of heaven here referred to as sons of God are evil angels.
12. The Bible describes fallen angels as fallen stars who corrupted themselves and lost their heavenly dwelling forever. They are that part of the host of heaven that fell and gained dominion over the seventy nations of the earth (Revelation 12:4; Deuteronomy 32:8; Genesis 10:1-32).

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#### Revelation 17:3-5

*<sup>3</sup> And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns. <sup>4</sup> The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and bedecked with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her fornication; <sup>5</sup> and on her forehead was written a name of mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of harlots and of earth's abominations."*

#### Revelation 18:1-5

*<sup>1</sup> After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority; and the earth was made bright with his splendor. <sup>2</sup> And he called out with a mighty voice, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! It has become a dwelling place of demons, a haunt of every foul spirit, a haunt of every foul and hateful bird; <sup>3</sup> for all nations have drunk the wine of her impure passion, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich with the wealth of her wantonness." <sup>4</sup> Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues; <sup>5</sup> for her sins are heaped high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities..."*

Acts 2:4, 7-8

<sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. <sup>7</sup> And they were amazed and wondered, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?” <sup>8</sup> And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?”

## **B. Church-State Union**

1. The book of Revelation predicts that at the end of time there will be a church-state union, representing another tower of Babel.
2. A church-state system will be created to unify the world. It is symbolized in Revelation 17 as a harlot riding the beast, which is the world kingdom system (Revelation 17:3-5).
3. This apostate church will seduce the kings of the earth and deceive many. She will be the last Babel, and she will open the gateway to demons for the last time (Revelation 18:3).
4. At the tower of Babel, the nations opened up the gateway that unleashed demons from the pit of Tartarus upon the earth. God confused their tongues so they could not understand each other (Genesis 11:9).
5. At Pentecost, the resurrected Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to His church to heal the world from the curse of the tower builders. God gave them gifts of clear and distinct languages for the Gospel to be heard (Acts 2: 4, 7-8).
6. Pentecost is the reversal of the tower of Babel. And the Holy Spirit is the gift from Jesus that takes the place of demons in the world and in one’s life.
7. The last call to this world will be the call of God to come out of Babylon and to forsake her sins (Revelation 18:4-5).

## **III. THE ANGEL OF THE LORD**

**KEY NOTE: Jesus is the preexistent, non-created, eternal God, and Lord and King.**

Exodus 23:20-21

<sup>20</sup> “Behold, I send an angel before you to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared. <sup>21</sup> Pay careful attention to him and obey his voice; do not rebel against him, for he will not pardon your transgression, for my name is in him.

Joshua 5:13-15

<sup>13</sup> When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man stood before him with his drawn sword in his hand; and Joshua went to him and said to him, “Are you for us, or for our adversaries?” <sup>14</sup> And he said, “No; but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.” And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and worshiped, and said to him, “What does my lord bid his servant?” <sup>15</sup> And the

commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "Put off your shoes from your feet; for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so.

#### Exodus 3:2, 4-5

<sup>2</sup> And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush; and he looked, and lo, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. <sup>4</sup> When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here am I." <sup>5</sup> Then he said, "Do not come near; put off your shoes from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground"

### **A. Guardian Protector of Israel**

1. The guardian protector of Israel was not an ordinary angel. God said, "My name is in him." If God's name is in him, then he, too, is God. That means "the Angel of the LORD" was the LORD" (Exodus 23:20-21).
2. God was with Israel when the Angel was with them. Meaning, they could bow down and worship this Angel instead of the evil demonic angels worshiped by other nations. Why? Because **Israel's guardian protector was God in the form of an angel.** He was the Captain of the Lord's Host, and the people of Israel could rely on this angel to defeat the evil angels who were stronger than they (Exodus 23:20; Joshua 5:13-14).
3. **Important Note:** When Joshua bowed down to worship the Angel with a drawn sword, the Commander of the Lord's Army, he was NOT forbidden to worship this angel. Instead, he was instructed to take off his shoes because the place where he stood in the presence of this angel was holy ground (Joshua 5:13-15). Note the parallel between this encounter and Moses' encounter with the Lord God at the burning bush on Mount Horeb (Exodus 3:2, 4).

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#### Isaiah 44:6

*Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god."*

#### Isaiah 63:9-10

<sup>9</sup> In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. <sup>10</sup> But they rebelled and grieved his holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them.

#### John 1:10-11

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own home, and his own people received him not.

## B. King of Israel

1. In Isaiah 44:6, the King of Israel is the LORD and His Redeemer is also the LORD.
2. God with us in the Old Testament was the guardian protector of the Jewish nation, the prince of Israel, who carried and protected His people all the days of old (Isaiah 63:9).
3. Ultimately, the King of Israel was rejected by His own people, and He could no longer protect and save them in angelic form (John 1:10-11).
4. The Angel of God's presence provides the gift of the Holy Spirit, and He is the one who judges God's people because He is God (Isaiah 63:9-10). He is called the Redeemer of Israel (Isaiah 44:6).
5. It is no accident that God the Father calls Himself "the Alpha and the Omega" in Revelation 1:8.
6. In Revelation 1:17, Jesus calls Himself "the First and the Last," and "the Alpha and the Omega" in Revelation 22:13.
7. God the Father and God the Son, Jesus, claim to be "the Alpha and the Omega" because they are one God and are the First and the Last together. They have always been and always will be the One and Only, True and Living, Lord God forever and ever. Amen!

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### Luke 10:1, 17-19

<sup>1</sup> After this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to come. <sup>17</sup> The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" <sup>18</sup> And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. <sup>19</sup> Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall hurt you."

### Galatians 3:28-29

<sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

### Matthew 28:18-19

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

### Philippians 2:9-11

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on

*earth and under the earth,<sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

### **C. Earth Reclaimed**

1. In the New Testament, Jesus chose 70 disciples as the basis for a new world invasion to take the nations of the earth back for God (Luke 10:17-19, Matthew 29:19).
2. In the New Testament, the Church is the new Israel that is commanded to overtake the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:28-29).
3. The Angel of the LORD at last was a man, and all authority in heaven and earth belongs to Jesus (Matthew 28:18).
4. The “age of the gods” ended with the coming of Jesus. The era of demons must surrender to the authority of God’s Messiah, Jesus Christ (Philippians 2:9-11).
5. Jesus is coming again to restore His Kingdom. At the cross, He already won the right to claim every dark corner of this planet for God.
6. Demons have no legal right to any nation anymore. No community has spiritual authority to keep the truth out. That means your neighborhood is fertile ground for the gospel of Jesus Christ.
7. Jesus is the Desire of Nations and hope of the world and Jesus is the better promise for the broken life.
8. In the gift of Jesus, God is with us and there is no longer any need to fear evil in the world. In the gift of Jesus, there is freedom from the ancient days when demons became gods.