

BEHIND THE CURTAIN: SPIRITUAL AGENTS

Introduction: From angels, demons, to Satan and the person of God, there are many spiritual beings that appear throughout the narrative of scripture. However, it can be confusing to understand how these beings intersect with our lives today. They all have a purpose and a direct influence on our lives today...



Watch The *Bible Project* Video on Spiritual Beings:

<https://thebibleproject.com/explore/spiritual-beings/>

Q. What are your first thoughts about spiritual beings, and what do you see their role being in your daily Christian life?

Q. Look at the list of spiritual beings below and read through the passages that mention them:

- The Divine Council: *The divine beings that surround the throne of the LORD. They are shown to have a voice, yet have zero authority over God Himself. Occasionally, prophets are allowed access into the happenings of the Council.*
(Isaiah 6:8; 1 Kings 22:19-20; Jer 23:18,22; Rev 4:2-11)
- Cherubim: *Winged heavenly creatures that surround the throne of the LORD. Their purpose seems to be to praise God.*
(Gen 3:24; Numbers 7:89; Isa 37:16)
- Angels: *Messengers of the LORD. Occasionally they are depicted as those who enact God's justice and influence physical events for God.*
(Michael and Gabriel: Daniel 8:15-17; 10:13; Luke 1:26-28; Jude 9), (General Angels: Matt 4:11; Acts 12:6-11)
- Demons: *Dark spiritual forces who may have been corrupted by the Satan. They were once spiritual beings of the Heavenly Council. Their purpose seems to be to bring chaos and disorder to Creation. They affect physical things, even people. Yet their chief influence is over the ideas that shape human societal structures and systems.*
(Jude 6; Mark 1:21-28; Mark 5:1-13)
- The Angel of the Lord: *A physical representative of the LORD, who is simultaneously distinct but also the same as God himself. He is not present in the New Testament.*
(Genesis 18:1-2; Exodus 3:2; Joshua 5:13-15; Judges 6:11-16)
- The Satan: *A fallen spiritual being who is depicted in Genesis as a ground-dwelling serpent. In Hebrew his names means "adversary" and "slanderer". His purpose seems to be to directly oppose God's plan of redemption and renewal for humankind.*
(Gen 3:1-5; Gen 3:14-15; Job 1:6-7; Matt 4:3-11; Luke 10:18; John 8:43-45; 1 Peter 5:8-9; James 4:7-8)

Q. As you look at the obvious presence of spiritual beings throughout the biblical narrative, it can be important to know that many Christians in the majority world have regular experiences with spiritual agents today, sometimes in very tangible ways.



Watch Teacher Ivan's story on the CBC Leaders Resource Page.

Q. Why do you think people in the majority world have more *obvious* experiences with spiritual beings?

Q. In what ways do you think angels or demons may be involved in your own personal life?

Q. Silencing Satan's accusations through obedience and prayer is crucial. What are some ways that our obedience and prayer life can do that?

READ Colossians 2:13-15; Revelation 20:7-10

Q. It is vital that we know and believe that Jesus has already won ultimate victory over the Satan and the demons. Their fate is sealed, yet currently, they still seek to undermine God's renewal of creation. How must we respond to the reality of this battle with spiritual agencies, especially in light of Jesus' victory and Satan's coming destruction?