

the throne of God. Led by Lucifer a third part of the angels (Rev. 12:4) revolted against Almighty God, and were cast out of heaven.

Jesus said, **"I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven."** Luke 10:18. Lucifer, the son of the morning, then became the devil, and the third part of the angels who followed him in his rebellion against God became the demons, who, under the direction of the devil, possess, oppress, vex, deceive, and seek to destroy, mankind. Satan has set up his headquarters somewhere between heaven and earth. The scripture calls him **"Prince of the powers of the air."** Eph. 2:2. Thus our battle today is not alone against Satan (the devil, but against Satan and all the fallen angels (demons). **"We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against PRINCIPALITIES, AGAINST POWERS, AGAINST THE RULERS OF THE DARKNESS OF THIS WORLD, AGAINST SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS (wicked spirits) IN HIGH PLACES (the heavenlies)."** Eph. 6:12. Note that the scripture says our battle is with RULERS. Not with one ruler, Satan. It is against POWERS AND PRINCIPALITIES (plural). Hence our battle today is against the devil and all his evil forces, literally, DEMONS. These demon powers control the darkness, and live in the first heaven, which is the earth's atmosphere. They do not live in heaven, the home of God, the angels, and the righteous. It was from there they were ejected. The apostle Paul shows what sort of armour we need to resist and fight them (Eph. 6:13-18). If we do not follow his advice, we are exposed to demon powers, and we cannot blame God when we are taken of them, for we have been duly warned! A back-slidden Christian is in a most vulnerable position. Inas-

much as Satan is not, like God, omnipresent nor omniscient, his powers are limited, and for his diabolical work of destruction, or maintaining the condition of curse upon the world, he uses a company of wicked spirits, or fallen angels. These operate as well disciplined bands, under "rulers," or demonic captains and generals. The only way we can keep safe from these powers is to constantly keep filled with the Holy Spirit and covered by the blood, which alone speaks defeat to these demon powers. There is absolutely no other sure protection against demon possession.

The number of these wicked spirits is not known. There seems little doubt that they are more numerous than the people of the earth. The maniac of Gadara (Luke 8:26) had in himself alone a legion, defined as an army of from three thousand to six thousand, and used in scripture to denote "a great number." This legion was at least sufficient in number to drive two thousand swine to their destruction.

"And there came forth a spirit — and he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets." 1 Kings 22:21, 22. Note that this spirit spoke and said, **"I WILL BE a lying spirit."** Apparently, this spirit had in the past been discharging his duties in a different capacity. Thus it becomes apparent that one demon may at one time act as a lying spirit, causing the individual to either tell or believe a lie, while at another time the same demon may act as a demon of lust, of fear, or jealousy or in some other manner.

A demon can take hold of one physically (causing sickness or even deformity) without being able to possess or take hold of the soul.