

EPIC *The Story*

III. Chapter Two - Angels, Demons and the Entrance of Evil

We are not alone

Before *our* time, before our part of the Story began (*Job 38:4-7*), God created (*Colossians 1:16*) an innumerable number (*Hebrews 12:22, Revelation 5:11*) of spirit beings (*Hebrews 1:14, Mark 9:25*) called angels.

The universe is inhabited by other beings – spirit beings. Powerful ones.

Angels are not cute, little cherub-like creatures. People that think so have probably never encountered one. *Daniel 10:4-8, 2 Chronicles 32:21, 2 Samuel 24:15-16, Revelation 9:14-15*

Why would God populate the heavens and the universe with millions (*Daniel 7:10*) of such powerful creatures? Perhaps this Story isn't as safe as we'd like to think. The Bible has warned us that we live in two worlds or, better yet, a world with two halves – seen and unseen. And the unseen world should be given as much, if not more, credibility and weight as the seen.

Betrayal and Mutiny

How many famous stories contain a betrayal? In this Story, there was a betrayal and a mutiny. *Ezekiel 28:12 - 19*. Satan was an angel - a cherubim, one of the elect angels chosen as guardians of God's holiness. He had a position of honor and authority among the angels. Some believe that he may have also been the first archangel, the position that is now held by Michael (*Jude 1:9*). But pride took over. Satan no longer wanted to be a *part* of the Story, he wanted the Story to be all about *him*.

There was a war in heaven and Satan was cast out (*Revelation 12:7-9*). It is commonly believed that Satan took one-third of the angels with him when he fell. (*Revelation 12:4*). And now, there is a battle going on for mankind. And it's not being fought in the seen world. *Ephesians 6:10-12*

The Villian (Satan)

Why does every story have a villain? It's hard to think of a story without one. The Big Bad Wolf, the Wicked Witch, Darth Vader. Our Story has a Villian, too. But many people live as if there isn't one or they do not take it seriously. It is staggering to think about the level of naïveté that most people live with regarding evil.

Life, and the Story, will not make sense if we do not take into account that there is a villain, an Enemy. An enemy whose sole purpose is to destroy us and distort and counterfeit God's plan. *1 Peter 5:8, Mark 4:15, Acts 26:17-18, Matthew 4:8-11*

Intermission

What has happened so far?

- God, the Trinity, the perfect fellowship, who has always existed, invited us into the Story – one based on love - which had already been going on
- Long before our entrance, God created powerful spirit beings – angels – to serve Him
- Because of pride and jealousy, there was a mutiny – and a Villian entered the Story

And now, our entrance, the second 'in the beginning'... *Genesis 1:1-2...the earth was void and formless, there was darkness...*