

2 WHERE EVIL SPIRITS COME FROM

SAMBA AND HIS DREAM

Samba dreamed that his neighbor, who he knew hated him, approached him with a machete that was covered with blood and feathers. Samba knew his neighbor was making sorcery against him, so he feared for his life. But at that moment Samba's deceased father appeared in the dream and said to the neighbor, "Stop your sorcery against my son!" Samba woke up frightened. When he went out that morning into his compound, he saw something sticking in the ground in front of his house. It was the machete he had seen in his dream, and it was covered with blood and feathers. He knew then that his enemy had come the night before to do him harm. Scared about what would happen to him, Samba prayed to his father's departed spirit to protect him from the evil plan of his enemy.

IN THIS LESSON YOU WILL STUDY:

- The great rebellion
 - The deception of humans
 - Satan is our enemy
 - The Savior and Deliverer
-

God's Word tells us that the world is filled with evil spirits. These spirits work against us—seeking to harm us. God's Word, the Holy Bible, says that evil spirits have power to deceive and that they work to keep us from knowing the truth. It also tells us where these spirits came from and how we can overcome them.

THE GREAT REBELLION

God created spirits called angels who live in His presence. They were created to serve and worship God. Some of the angels He created rebelled in heaven against His rule. This rebellion was led by Satan who was a powerful angel. The result was that Satan and millions of angels were thrown out of heaven.

The Word of God tells us about Satan and his rebellion against God. He was created as a powerful angel known as a guardian cherub. The Holy Bible describes him.

You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you.

You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. (Ezekiel 28:14–15)

God had created Satan as a beautiful and powerful angel. His purpose was for Satan to be holy and blameless and to live in the presence of God. But wickedness entered Satan's heart. He began to look at his own beauty and power and became filled with pride, so he rebelled against God.

***Pride caused
Satan to rebel
against God.***

A large number of angels joined in Satan's rebellion and forsook their allegiance to God their creator. These rebellious angels became evil spirits. They rebelled against God's authority to rule and chose to serve Satan.

THE DECEPTION OF HUMANS

God also created the world and the first man and woman, Adam and Eve. He created them to rule over the world. God had placed Adam and Eve in a beautiful garden and told them that they could eat from any tree in the garden except one. The forbidden tree was "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil" (Genesis 2:17). God had planted it in the middle of the garden. But Satan, who had rebelled against God, also wanted to rule over God's creation. He came in the form of a serpent to deceive Adam and Eve. The following story in God's Word, the Holy Bible, explains how Satan deceived them.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’” “You will not surely die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. (Genesis 3:1–6)

Satan blinds the minds of people to keep them from understanding the gospel.

Satan tricked Adam and Eve into believing that God did not really care for them and that He was denying them good things. Adam and Eve believed the lies of Satan and joined in with his rebellion against God. Through their disobedience the whole world fell into spiritual darkness. Satan,

with his fallen angels, now rules the world and humankind has become his slave. The Holy Bible calls Satan the god of this world who blinds people’s minds to the gospel. “The god of this age [Satan] has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:4).

The gospel of Jesus Christ is the good news of how we can be set free from Satan’s power. Through the Lord Jesus Christ, there is freedom from evil spirits.

SATAN IS OUR ENEMY

The Word of God warns us that Satan is always seeking to destroy us: “Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8).

Satan, also called the devil, does everything in his power to blind people to the truth. He seeks our allegiance and worship. He has filled the world with lies to keep us in darkness. He sends his evil spirits to blind the minds of people to keep them from the knowledge of God. But God loves

everyone and wants to set every person free from the fear and deception of Satan who causes sicknesses, despair, and destruction in the world.

THE SAVIOR AND DELIVERER

There is good news! God promised Adam and Eve that He would send a Savior to crush the serpent's head. The Savior would set us free from Satan's power. So the Lord Jesus came to earth to be the Savior of the world. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

The Lord Jesus defeated Satan by His sacrificial death for our sins.

The Lord Jesus crushed the head of the serpent who is Satan. The Word of God assures us that Satan has been defeated through the victorious sacrificial death of Jesus, God's eternal Son. Now Satan has no power over those who believe in Jesus Christ. "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household" (Acts 16:31).

God sent His Son Jesus to set us free from Satan and deliver us from fear. It is by the name of God's eternal Son, Jesus Christ, that we can be delivered from the attacks of Satan and evil spirits. The Holy Bible promises believers that they will cast out evil spirits in Jesus' name. All over the world people are being set free from Satan by the power of Jesus name. "And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons" (Mark 16:17).

The name of the Lord Jesus Christ can set anyone free from the power of evil spirits.

FREEDOM FOR BOUKARÉ

Boukaré was a young man whose father was serving Satan and evil spirits. His father was a sorcerer, who was possessed by evil spirits and empowered to perform magical works. He often made sacrifices to protect himself and his family from the attack of evil spirits. As a result, Boukaré lived in fear throughout his life.

Boukaré's father had selected him to inherit the power of the evil spirits according to the custom of his people, and to continue his work. This was not something Boukaré wanted. His dream was to continue to

go to school and have a better life. However, his father told him that he had no choice because the spirits had chosen him. He was in despair and did not know what to do. He could not refuse his father because he knew of no other protection from the revenge of the spirits.

The day approached when he was to be dedicated to the spirits. On the Saturday before the dedication, he decided to make a visit to the city. As he passed through a certain area of the city, he saw a lot of people entering a meeting hall. He read the sign which invited all who passed by to enter and hear the Word of God. Boukaré had never attended a meeting like this before. He was curious about what was going on inside, so he entered and listened to the speaker. The Word of God as found in the Holy Bible was being proclaimed. The preacher told about the Creator of the universe who sent His only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, into the world to be the sacrifice for our sins. He told about the great power that is in Jesus' name to defeat Satan and his demons.

The truth Boukaré heard about Jesus the Savior touched his heart. He responded to the preacher's invitation to come forward for prayer. Immediately the demon that had possessed him started screaming out of Boukaré's own mouth. The spirit cried out and reminded him that he was to be dedicated to the spirits of sorcery. Then the believers in Jesus commanded the demon to leave and in Jesus' name Boukaré was set free.

If you believe in Jesus Christ, you too will have power in Jesus' name and evil spirits will not have any control over your life—you will be completely free. This is what the Holy Bible says, "So if the Son [Jesus] sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36).

*If you want to be free from the fear of evil spirits,
please pray this prayer:*

Prayer

Lord Jesus, I now know that You are the Savior of the world. I know that there is power in Your name over every evil spirit. I ask You to come into my life to be my Savior and Lord. Please set me free now from every evil spirit that would torment me. Forgive me of my sins. Thank You for answering my prayer, in Jesus' name, Amen.

TO HELP YOU LEARN

Please answer these questions.

1. What did pride cause Satan to do?

2. Why does Satan try to blind people's minds?

3. Who defeated Satan, and how did He do it?

4. How can a person be delivered from the attacks of evil spirits?

WHERE EVIL SPIRITS COME FROM