

BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS www.bibleradio.org.au

A1742 <u>BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT</u>: **The Young Fortune-Teller.**

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

When God created the heavens and the universe, He created a countless number of angels as spiritual beings to serve Him. We don't know when God created the angels but He mentioned in the Bible that He established them into different ranks of authority and influence but without marriage or any known children. Similar to humans, angels were given personalities that display intelligence, emotion and freewill. Yet God hid His plan of salvation for people from them until He sent Jesus to come to earth.

Angels were given freewill to either choose to follow God or rebel against Him. And a rebel is just what the top angel named Lucifer became. Lucifer was created the most beautiful angel in heaven. Yet he became proud and desired a throne that was even greater than God's. Lucifer became God's great adversary within all the heavenly and earthly realms God had made. Lucifer was renamed Satan or the Devil, which means 'accuser of the brethren'. His angel followers were also cast out of heaven and serve him as demons and evil powers.

Satan determined to war against God and all of God's good creation. The first people, Adam and Eve, belonged to God. Satan tempted them to sin against God and in doing so, separated them from God. Satan became their spiritual master, which has led them and all their descendants into being spiritually separated from God. God responded to this attack by promising to send a Person who would restore human relationships with Him and crush Satan. Jesus Christ, God's Son, was that Person and at His death on the cross, He defeated Satan completely. People's relationships were restored with God if they wanted to be reconciled with Him, and a countdown to Satan's final judgment and punishment began.

As Satan's time runs short on the earth, he and his demons increase their deceptive and evil activities. They oppose God's plans and lead people away from Christ. They seduce many with wicked doctrine and they draw them to a form of godliness that has no power to save. Yet Satan's war against God was lost before it even began. God is sovereign, knows everything and has unlimited power. No one can oppose Him and Satan, still a created being, must submit to God's ultimate authority.

Demons can sometimes afflict people with various physical conditions. When Jesus was here on earth, He cast out demons from adults and children alike because He had the power and authority to do so. Demon possession causes a great deal of suffering for the person possessed and if the demon isn't cast out will lead to spiritual death.

In today's *Bible Adventure*, a young slave girl was demon-possessed and her masters were making a lot of money from her telling people their fortunes.

DRAMA - The Bible In Living Sound.

When Paul and Silas encountered this demon-possessed slave girl, people were paying her owners good money to hear her tell their fortune. But it wasn't the slave girl who was speaking to them; it was actually an evil spirit within her. The evil spirit within the girl immediately recognised that Paul had been sent by God to show men the way of salvation. Demon possession is not a mental illness but a demon controlling a person makes them a prisoner or slave of Satan.

The demon-possessed slave girl started following Paul and his team around for many days, loudly crying out the truth that they were servants of the Most High God. Although the girl spoke the truth, her association with the Christians meant that the local people would have started thinking the Christians' power to do miracles was coming from Satan and not from God. Paul knew that this confusion would stop people from listening to Paul's words about the One True God.

Paul became distressed by this and one day, he commanded in Jesus Christ's name that the evil spirit to come out of the girl. And the evil spirit left her completely. But the girl couldn't tell people anymore about future events. When her masters realised that they had lost their income from her fortune-telling, they were furious with Paul.

In Matthew, Chapter 12, the Lord Jesus gives an account of an evil spirit being cast out of a man. The demon travelled through dry places looking for rest but found none. So it decided to return to the man that it had been driven from. The demon found the man's spirit unoccupied, so it invited 7 more demons to live with the man. This made the condition of the man much worse than before the demon had been cast of him.

These warnings in the Bible are given so that no one, whether believer in Christ or not, will have anything to do with the occult or evil practices, however harmless they seem. Most newspapers carry a section called a horoscope, which is supposed to tell people in general terms what will happen to them during the next week. This is evil and should never be read. The source of this information is not from God. Our merciful God only reveals the future to us through His Holy Spirit and consistently with His Word the Bible, so that we do not fear. Imagine how you'd feel if you were told on good authority that you'll be involved in an accident today. You wouldn't get out of bed at all!

The Bible is nearly one-third full of prophecies which foretell the future. A good number have already been fulfilled but there are many more still to be completed. Everything God has promised He will deliver. This is how we know He is the One True God. No other god or demon has ever truthfully told what will happen to the future of the world. Satan knows that he will be punished for his rebellion but he hadn't known Jesus would rise from the dead. If he'd known, he would never have incited the people to kill Jesus in the 1st place.

For both angels and humans, it isn't enough to simply have knowledge of who God is. We must be willing to come to Him on His terms and call Him 'Lord.' In James, Chapter 2, it says: "You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe – and tremble!"

We tend to think that people reject God because they don't know Him as we know Him. If only they could experience the love and fulfilment that we have experienced, then they would embrace Him too. But such thoughts aren't always true. Lucifer and his followers lived every moment before God before they made their choice to reject God's authority over them.

Satan and his demons attempt to snare believers of Jesus into sin. If they do sin, Satan then becomes their accuser. But when Satan accuses, Christ steps in and serves as a believer's advocate against Satan's accusations. Demons try to draw people away from Christ, yet God's holy angels rejoice whenever a sinner on earth repents. As mere servants of God, the holy angels must never be prayed to or even worshipped. To do so would be a terrible thing. God's glory belongs to Him; not even His obedient angels.

In times past, angels have appeared to people in the glory of the Lord, sometimes looking like men and sometimes looking quite different, like the angel in Isaiah, Chapter 6, which had 6 wings. God sends His angels out as ministering spirits to help those who will inherit salvation.

We believers in Christ know that just beyond our sight, angels constantly circulate among us as guardians and watchmen. And there is much work for the godly angels still to do. During the Tribulation period expected in the next decade, angels will not only be involved in the punishment of a world of sin, but also in rescuing any person who will call out to the Lord for salvation.

When Satan or one of his demons tempts us to do wrong and we fall into sin, what should we do? We mustn't accept our sin as though it doesn't matter. Instead, confess it humbly to God as soon as possible to keep the communication pathway between Him and yourself clear. Otherwise, unconfessed wrongdoing will give Satan a foothold into our lives and will cause trouble. We must give Satan no such opportunities.

God has promised to make a way to escape temptation. If you'll look for God's escape path, then you can flee the temptation. Many times this way of escape is to literally walk or run away. Temptation often comes when you find yourself in certain situations or places. When you recognize one of those situations, it's time to move out of there.

Work on memorizing a list of Bible verses that'll help you avoid temptation. You cannot rely on finding a Bible at the moment of temptation. These verses need to become second nature to you and God's Spirit will bring them to mind at the right moment. Set aside time to often spend with the Lord in prayer and Bible reading.

In Romans, Chapter 13, verses 13 and 14, it says: "Let us conduct ourselves properly, as people who live in the light of day – no orgies or drunkenness, no immorality or indecency, no fighting or jealousy. But take up the weapons of the Lord Jesus Christ, and stop paying attention to your sinful nature and satisfying its desires."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

< END OF SCRIPT >