
Spirit Beings in Messianic Theology

A Study Guide from MessianicLearning.org

Overview

This guide explores the biblical and extra-biblical understanding of spirit beings from a Messianic Jewish perspective. It affirms a supernatural worldview rooted in Hebrew Scripture, emphasizing divine hierarchy, rebellion, and redemption. The material draws from Scripture, Second Temple literature, and modern scholarship (e.g., Michael Heiser, Jonathan Cahn).

Section I: Taxonomy of Spirit Beings

Category	Hebrew Term(s)	Description
God	יהוה (YHVH), Elohim	The uncreated, eternal Creator; supreme authority over all realms
Sons of God	בְּנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים	Divine beings in the unseen realm; members of the Divine Council
Angels	מַלְאָכִים (malakim)	Messengers; carry out divine missions; not all spirit beings are angels
Cherubim	כְּרוּבִים	Guardians of sacred space (e.g., Eden, Ark of the Covenant)
Seraphim	שֶׁרָפִים	Fiery beings associated with worship and purification
Watchers	עִרְיִן (Dan. 4:13)	Possibly a class of divine beings; linked to rebellion in Enochian texts
Demons	שְׁדִים (shedim)	Disembodied spirits of Nephilim; deceptive and destructive
Nephilim	נְפִילִים	Hybrid offspring of <i>benéi Elohim</i> and human women (Gen. 6:1–4)

 Section II: Key Theological Themes

1. The Divine Council

- God presides over a heavenly assembly of divine beings (*Psalm 82, Job 1, 1 Kings 22*).
- These beings are not equal to God but serve roles in cosmic governance.
- Some rebelled (Gen. 6, Isa. 14, Ezek. 28).

2. Three Great Rebellions

Rebellion	Description	Result
Eden	A <i>ben Elohim</i> (HaSatan) tempts humanity	Fall of man; dominion lost
Flood	<i>Benéi Elohim</i> take human wives	Birth of Nephilim; global judgment
Babel	Humanity unites in defiance	Nations divided; spiritual oversight reassigned

3. The Angel of Adonai

- Appears as divine yet distinct from created angels.
- Accepts worship, speaks as YHVH.
- Interpreted as the pre-incarnate Messiah.

4. Nephilim and Post-Flood Giants

- Nephilim reappear after the flood (Num. 13:33).
- Their descendants include Rephaim, Anakim, Emim.
- Seen as spiritual and physical threats to Israel.

5. Demons and Modern Deception

- Demons are spirits of dead Nephilim (per Enoch, Jubilees).
 - Possibly linked to ancient gods and modern UFO phenomena.
 - Jonathan Cahn: “Return of the Gods” theory—pagan spirits returning as society rejects God.
-

Section III: Page-by-Page Highlights

Page Title	Key Focus
Spirit Beings	Framework for understanding divine beings in Scripture
Holy Angels	Roles, hierarchy, and nature of angels
Angelic Appearances	Catalog of angelic visitations in Scripture
Angel of Adonai	Theophanies of YHVH; pre-incarnate Messiah
14 Facts About Angels	Systematic theology of angelic beings
Giants/Nephilim	Geography, clans, and biblical references to giants
B'nei Elohim	Divine Council worldview; three rebellions; cosmic governance
Mount Hermon	Site of Genesis 6 rebellion; Watchers' descent
About HaSatan	Satan's origin, role, and rebellion
About Demons	Nature and origin of demons; spiritual warfare
N'philim	Simplified overview of Nephilim and their legacy
Nephilim? Demons? UFOs?	Paranormal phenomena as spiritual deception; ancient astronaut theory

Section IV: Rabbinic Cross-Reference Chart

Topic	Messianic Learning View	Rabbinic Interpretation
B'nei Elohim (Gen 6)	Divine beings who fathered Nephilim; part of Divine Council	Angels who sinned (Midrash); or corrupt rulers/judges (Rashi, Ibn Ezra, Ramban)
Nephilim & Giants	Hybrid offspring; enemies of the messianic seed	Fallen ones or ancient tribes; metaphorical or literal depending on source
Angels	Hierarchical spirit beings with roles in worship, judgment, and revelation	Ten ranks (Maimonides); defined by function; no free will; not anthropomorphic
Angel of Adonai	Pre-incarnate Messiah; accepts worship; speaks as YHVH	High-ranking messenger; not divine; avoids identification with God
Satan	Rebellious <i>ben Elohim</i> opposing God's plan	Loyal servant of God; tests humans (Job); not a rebel (Talmud, Bava Batra 16a)
Demons (Shedim)	Spirits of dead Nephilim; deceptive and destructive	Mentioned in Psalms and Talmud; debated reality (Ramban affirms, Maimonides denies)
Psalm 82 "gods"	Divine Council of <i>elohim</i> under YHVH's authority	Human judges (Rashi); mystical views allow heavenly assembly under strict monotheism
Divine Council	Real assembly of divine beings (<i>benéi Elohim</i>) with delegated authority	Rarely affirmed; Kabbalistic texts hint at celestial hierarchies but avoid polytheism
UFOs & Pagan Gods	Return of ancient gods as modern deception; linked to <i>benéi Elohim</i> rebellion	Not addressed directly; some mystical texts discuss <i>shedim</i> and spiritual deception

Suggested Reading & Resources

- Michael Heiser, *The Unseen Realm*
- Jonathan Cahn, *The Return of the Gods*
- Tim Chaffey, *Fallen: The Sons of God and the Nephilim*
- Midrash Bereshit Rabbah, Talmud Bavli (Sanhedrin, Bava Batra)
- Rambam (Maimonides), *Guide for the Perplexed*
- Ramban (Nachmanides), *Commentary on the Torah*