

B. Creation of the Unseen Spirit World

1. Statements of the Doctrine

The French Confession of Faith, Article 7, states:

We believe that God, in three co-working persons, by his power, wisdom, and incomprehensible goodness, created all things, not only the heavens and the earth and all that in them is, but also invisible spirits, some of whom have fallen away and gone into perdition, while others have continued in obedience. That the first, being corrupted by evil, are enemies of all good, consequently of the whole Church. The second, having been preserved by the grace of God, are ministers to glorify God's name, and to promote the salvation of His elect.

The Belgic Confession, Article 12, states:

He also created the angels good, to be his messengers and to serve his elect: some of whom are fallen from the excellency, in which God created them, into everlasting perdition; and the others have, by the grace of God, remained steadfast, and continued in their primitive state. The devils and evil spirits are so depraved that they are enemies of God and every good thing to the utmost of their power, as murderers watching to ruin the Church and every member thereof, and by their wicked stratagems to destroy all; and are therefore, by their own wickedness, adjudged to eternal damnation, daily expecting their horrible torments. Therefore, we reject and abhor the error of the Sadducees, who deny the existence of spirits and angels; and also that of the Manichees, who assert that the devils have their origin of themselves, and that they are wicked of their own nature, without having been corrupted.

The Second Helvetic Confession, Chapter 7, states:

Among all the creatures, the angels and men are most excellent. Touching angels, the Holy Scripture says, "Who maketh his angels spirits, his ministers a flaming fire" (Psa. 104:4); also, "Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" (Heb. 1:14).

And the Lord Jesus himself testifies of the devil, saying, "He that hath been a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44).

We teach, therefore, that some angels persisted in obedience, and were appointed unto the faithful service of God and men; and that others fell of their own accord, and ran headlong into destruction, and so became enemies to all good, and to all the faithful, etc.

2. Scriptural background to the doctrine

a. The unseen spirit world includes all angelic beings, who are created by God