

Believers Judging Angels – Part 1

Introduction:

1. The Bible makes a very interesting statement in 1 Corinthians 6:2. It states that the saints will one day judge the world. Then, in verse 3, Paul gets even more specific and states that the church (the body of Christ) will one day judge angels.
 - The word “judge” is not used here in the sense of condemning.
 - This word “judge” means “to distinguish; to decide.”
 - **Example:** We may say to a person, “I trust your judgment.” In other words, “I trust your decision making.” Or we may say, “That was a good judgment call on your part.”
2. So, in eternity we will be making judgments or decisions about where the angelic creation goes and what angels will do. We will be giving to them their marching orders.
3. The church will rule and reign over the heavenly angelic creation. Remember, we will be given resurrected bodies like the Lord Jesus Christ (Philippians 3:20-21) which will be “*so much better than the angels.*” Hebrews 1:3-4
4. Can you imagine this? Once, we were pagan Gentiles, alienated from God and without hope (Ephesians 2:11-12). But in the ages to come, we will be reigning over God’s heavenly, angelic creation.
5. God is truly going to demonstrate the riches of His grace through us in the ages to come (Ephesians 2:7)! But how did all of this happen? In order to understand the true meaning and impact of this, there are several biblical principles we must grasp.

First, let’s examine God’s established government.

1. In Genesis 1:1, “*God created the heaven and the earth.*”
 - This is not just speaking of planets and solar systems.
2. God also created a governmental structure to fill up the heavens and the earth, to carry out the business of the universe, and to glorify Him. Our God is a God of order.
3. God created the angelic host to fill up the ranks of this government. Colossians 1:16 informs us that these angelic beings were created to glorify Jesus Christ.
4. We must understand that the overall theme of the Bible is not our salvation. The theme is the authority of God’s throne over the earth and universe, with all of it manifesting His glory and centering in His Son, Jesus Christ.
5. So, in Genesis 1:1, “*God created the heaven and the earth,*” and established a governmental structure to rule and reign over it.

Second, let’s examine Satan’s rebellion against God.

1. Of course, we know that some time after God’s perfect creation was complete, one of God’s created beings rebelled against God’s throne and authority. We know him as Satan.

2. Satan was called “*the anointed cherub that covereth.*” The Bible says that he was perfect in his ways, and walked upon the holy mountain of God. He was full of wisdom and beauty, and the other angels were placed under his authority.
3. But, through pride and rebellion Satan fell into sin. Satan had a carefully thought-out plan of rebellion. The five-point plan is given to us in Isaiah 14:13-14.
4. Satan had a big plan. He basically desired to usurp God’s position. He said, “*I will be like the most High.*” This is a title of God describing God as “*possessor of heaven and earth.*” Genesis 14:19, 22
5. What is there to possess? Satan wanted to possess God’s government that rules the heaven and earth. Satan wanted control and wanted the preeminence.
 - Satan said, “I’m going to replace God’s throne with my throne, and take over the government of the heaven and earth, and have it all center in me, and glorify me.”
6. Several things happened as a result of Satan’s willful rebellion:
 - Satan began to traffic and merchandise his plan of rebellion to the angelic host. Ezekiel 28:16, 18
 - Many of the angels followed Satan in his rebellion against God. Revelation 12:7
 - God stopped the rebellion by creating a terrible and gruesome judgment, called hell. Matthew 25:41
 - The Bible says that we should discipline our children thereby driving the foolishness and rebellion out of them. Why? Proverbs 23:14 says “*..to deliver their soul from hell.*” It is to keep them from ending up in this place of rebellion and self-will.
 - Satan was judged and excluded from the third heaven. Luke 10:18
7. Since the fall of Satan, there has been an intense spiritual warfare being fought by God and His angels against Satan and his angels. One day this will culminate in a great war being fought in heaven and in earth.
8. Why does this angelic war take place? How do we fit in? Why will we end up judging angels?
9. Next week we will finish this lesson and answer all of these questions.

In Conclusion:

1. In this lesson we learned that when God created the heaven and earth, He also created a government to rule them. Within this government, God had positions of rank and authority, and filled those positions in the universe by creating the angelic host, and setting His throne over it all.
2. One of the most powerful and wisest of God’s created beings rebelled against God’s throne and authority. He decided He would exalt his own throne above God’s throne. Since that day the battle has been over who will rule over the heaven and earth.
3. The bottom line issue is this – God’s throne or Satan’s throne? Satan thinks he can exalt his throne above God’s throne, but we know the end of the story!