

Believers Judging Angels – Part 2

Introduction:

1. In 1 Corinthians 6:3, the Bible declares that the church (the body of Christ) will one day judge angels. In our resurrected bodies, we will rule and reign over the heavenly angelic creation.
2. Ephesians 2:7 states that God will demonstrate the riches of His grace through us in the ages to come! But how did all of this happen? Why will we one day judge angels?
3. Last week we began to explore the Scriptures and answer these questions. In today's lesson, we will review last week's lesson, and then continue in our study on "Believers Judging Angels."
4. We have to lay some important groundwork before we can understand why we are ruling over angels in the eternal ages to come.

First, we saw God's government established.

1. In Genesis 1:1, God created the heaven and the earth, and according to Colossians 1:16, He also created a great angelic host to fill up the ranks of His government in the heaven and the earth.
2. God established a governmental structure to rule and reign over His creation.

Second, we saw Satan's rebellion against God.

1. Satan, one of God's created beings, devised a plan of rebellion (Isaiah 14:13-14). Satan desired to usurp God's position.
2. Satan longed to replace God's throne with his throne and take over the government of the heaven and the earth.
3. He needed help, so Satan recruited many of the angels to help him in his rebellion. Since the fall of Satan, there has been an intense spiritual warfare being fought by God and His angels against Satan and his angels. What are they fighting about?
4. The war is about who will establish their throne over the heavens and the earth.

Third, let's see God's plan to establish His government on the earth.

1. From Genesis 1:2 until the apostle Paul, the main theme of God's Word is the earth.
 - God creates the earth, and everything in it is good. Genesis 1-2
 - God places man on the earth. Genesis 1:27
 - God gives man dominion over the earth and commands him to replenish and subdue the earth. Genesis 1:27-29

- Satan meets with Adam and Eve, and mankind joins Satan in his rebellion against God. Satan wanted control and supremacy on the earth. Through sin and rebellion, mankind lost the kingdom on earth that God had graciously provided.
2. From the time of man's fall until the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to earth, God's purpose has been to restore this kingdom on earth under Christ's authority.
 3. This is why God called Abraham to be the father of the nation of Israel. God would call out a people that would be a living testimony of God's glory to all the other nations in the world.
 - God told Abraham, "...in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed." Genesis 12:3; cf. Exodus 19:5-6
 4. Of course, Israel failed to be a testimony to God's glory. But, one day they will fulfill the purpose for which God created them. One day Christ will return and will be "*king over all the earth*" (Zechariah 14:9). When this happens:
 - Israel's rebuke will be taken away from all the earth. Isaiah 25:8-9
 - Israel will be re-gathered, and the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord. Isaiah 11:9-12
 - Israel will be a light to the Gentile nations on earth, as originally intended. Isaiah 60:1-5
 - Christ will execute judgment and justice in the earth. Jeremiah 23:5-6
 - The earth will once again be a glorious place. Isaiah 35
 - The government of the earth will be "established" once again through Israel's King (Jesus Christ) and kingdom. Isaiah 49:1-8 (read vs. 3, 6, 7, 8)
 5. Christ will one day return, smiting the nations of the earth, and ushering in His glorious kingdom on earth. Revelation 11:15-19, 19:11-20:6
 6. Isaiah 9:6-7 tells us that "*the government shall be upon his shoulder...of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David and upon his kingdom to order it and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever.*" Praise God!!
 7. Through the nation of Israel, God will establish His government on earth eternally. Israel is God's earthly people, and will help preside over God's government on earth.

Fourth, let's see God's plan to establish His government in the heavens.

1. According to Colossians 1:18, Christ must have the preeminence in **all** things. We have seen God's program, vested in the nation of Israel, for establishing God's government and authority in the earth. But what about the heavens?
2. Satan does not have access to the third heaven in the New Jerusalem, but he does have access to the first and second heavens. This is where he accuses the saints before God (Revelation 12:10), and this is why the Bible speaks of spiritual wickedness in high places (heavenlies). He's called "*the prince of the power of the air.*"
3. How will Christ's authority and government be extended into the heavens? It will be through the channel of the church, the body of Christ. Colossians 1:18; cf. 1:4-5

4. Through the nation of Israel, He will regain preeminence and authority in the earth, and through us (the body of Christ) Christ will extend His preeminence throughout the heavenlies.
 - Our blessings and eternal purpose are in geographic locations in the heavenlies. This is our destiny. Ephesians 1:3, 2:6, 3:10-11
 - We are part of Christ's heavenly kingdom. 2 Timothy 2:8
 - We have a heavenly hope. Colossians 1:5
 - We have a heavenly house. 2 Corinthians 5:1-2
 - We are waiting for a heavenly call. Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 1:10
5. We are Christ's body. We are the fullness whereby He will fill up all those positions in the heavenlies. Ephesians 1:22-23
6. Here is what will happen in the future:
 - Christ will return for His heavenly body, the church. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
 - Soon after this, there will be war in heaven (first and second heavens). God and His angels will prevail, and Satan and his angels will be cast to the earth. The heavens will be cleansed and purified. Revelation 12:7-10
 - Members of the body of Christ will fill those heavenly positions of rank and authority, administering the affairs of angels and the heavens. 1 Corinthians 6:2-3
 - Being one with Christ, we will share in the authority, power, and glory of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in heavenly places. Ephesians 1:20-23; Colossians 3:1-4
7. What a wonderful day! We will have a part in extending Christ's preeminence and authority into the heavenly places.
8. What will we be doing throughout eternity? We won't be floating around on clouds and playing harps. We will be carrying on the business of heaven, displaying the grace and glory of Jesus Christ throughout eternity.

In Conclusion:

1. What is God's ultimate plan? It is to extend the government and authority of His Son, Jesus Christ, throughout the earth (through the nation of Israel) and throughout the heavenlies (through the body of Christ).
2. But that heavenly war hasn't started yet. Reconciliation is still being offered so others can be a part of His wonderful plan.
3. We are wrestling with the demons of hell right now because they do not want people to know this glorious truth.
4. Let's be faithful ambassadors for Jesus Christ and spread the gospel message everywhere we go! Right now we are His ambassadors on earth (Israel has been set aside), but ultimately our destiny is to rule and reign as Christ's body over the heavens and over angels!