

What About Angels Today? Do We Need Them?

Introduction:

1. You read about angels all throughout the Bible. Angels are spirit-beings that God created to glorify Him, and to assist Him in His work. They are mentioned over 250 times in the Bible.
2. They are not white, fluffy creatures that float on clouds and strum harps, nor are they glorified human beings. Angels are powerful, seasoned warriors that are seen bringing total destruction to cities, making war, and wiping out entire armies in a single night.
3. The word “angel” literally means “one who brings tidings; a messenger.” So, angels are literally messengers of God. But, who are God's messengers today? The Bible teaches that believers (the church) are God's messengers. We are called the ambassadors of Christ.
4. So what part do angels play in God's program for the church age today? Do we need angels?
5. As we have learned before, the apostle Paul gave us a threefold timeline in Ephesians chapter 2 that helps us to place Scripture in its proper context, and to understand different subjects and how they have changed over the course of history.
 - **“Time Past” (vs. 11)** – This was when God dealt with the world through the nation of Israel, and on the basis of His prophetic program with Israel. There was a middle wall of partition between Israel and the Gentiles, with Israel enjoying a favored status.
 - **“But Now” (vs. 13)** - Today, Israel's prophetic program has been temporarily suspended and God is forming something altogether new - the church, the body of Christ. We are not living under Israel's prophetic program, but in the mystery program revealed through Paul. There is no distinction between Jew and Gentile.
 - **“Ages to Come” (vs. 7)** - This deals with the events that will happen after this present dispensation of grace ends and we are occupying the heavens. God will resume His prophetic program with Israel and bring it to its ultimate fulfillment.
6. Here are some interesting facts:
 - In “time past” portions of Scripture, there are almost 200 references to angels.
 - In the “but now” books that Paul wrote, there are only about 13 references.
 - In the “ages to come” books, there are almost 100 references.
7. In Paul's 13 references writing to the church, angels are never said to be ministering to church age believers. Why is this? Let's begin to look at some of the main functions of angels in time past, and compare that to what God is doing today.

In time past, angels are seen giving instruction and understanding.

1. An angel instructed Gideon to deliver Israel from the Midianites. Judges 6
2. An angel instructed Hagar to return to Abraham and Sarah. Genesis 16:7-9
3. An angel instructed Elijah to confront the king's messengers, and gave him understanding as to what to say. 2 Kings 1:3-4
4. The book of Zechariah is a perfect example of an angel giving instruction and understanding. Zechariah 1:8-11, 14, 18-19; 4:1-7; 6:1-5
5. In Daniel 10, Daniel sought for understanding, and an angel appeared to give him understanding. Daniel 10:12-14
6. In Matthew 1:18-25, Joseph was perplexed and didn't know what to do. An angel came and instructed Joseph, and gave him understanding concerning Mary.

Today, angels are never said to give believers instruction and understanding.

1. Do we need instruction today? Do we need spiritual understanding? Absolutely! The question is, "How do we get it?" Do I wait on an angel to come and instruct me and enlighten me? What did Paul teach the church of today?
2. We have something better than an angel!
3. We have God's very Spirit living inside of us to teach and instruct us.
 - The Holy Spirit intercedes for us in prayer. Romans 8:26
 - The Holy Spirit enlightens us with spiritual wisdom. 1 Corinthians 2:9-14
4. We are one with Christ and complete in Him. Colossians 1:27; 2:10
 - In Christ are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, and we are in Christ! Therefore we can have a full assurance of understanding. Colossians 2:2
5. We have the completed Word of God. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - We have something they didn't have in time past. We have the final, complete, authoritative, Word of God. **And** we have God's Spirit within us to teach it to us. The One who wrote it lives inside of us!
 - Angels don't think up and create truth, they only deliver it. They are messenger boys, if you will. But we already have it all, right here, in God's Word.
6. This is why angels are not coming and giving us instruction today. We have everything we need in Christ and in God's Word. The way we got it is by simply placing our faith in what Christ did for us on the cross.
7. We simply don't need angelic instruction today. In fact Paul told the Galatians that if an angel were to come and preach to them any other gospel than what he had preached to them, "*let him be accursed.*" Galatians 1:8
 - If a person were to say, "An angel appeared to me and said..." - Not interested!
 - If a person were to say, "I was studying God's Word last night and the Holy Spirit revealed something to me I had never seen before..." - Now I'm interested!

8. I'm not interested in "Thus saith an angel," but I am interested in "Thus saith the Word of the Lord."

In Conclusion:

1. Many people today have gotten derailed by experience-based religion. This is very dangerous. Your experiences and feelings are not the test of truth. God's Word is.
2. It is so easy to be deceived when your faith is in mystical experiences. The Bible says that Satan transforms himself into an angel of light.
3. Remember, if you know Christ today as your Savior, you are indwelt by God's Spirit, you have been made one with Jesus Christ, and you have the complete revelation of God's Word in your hand. God has given you everything you need to obtain spiritual instruction and understanding. You are complete in Christ.
4. You don't need an angelic visitor to come and instruct you, but you do need to see the absolute sufficiency of who you are in Christ.
5. In fact, the Bible tells us that we, as believers, teach and instruct angels (Ephesians 3:9-10)! Do angels watch us? What do we teach them? Next week we will find out.

A Bible Description of Angels

Introduction:

1. The Bible teaches that the world system we live in is satanic in origin and, for the most part, not interested in the teachings of Scripture. Yet, there is one biblical subject that has gained a lot of attention. It is the subject of angels.
2. Many have become enamored with the subject of angels. It has even received prime time play in the past with the hit television series, "Touched by an Angel." It was on for nine seasons from 1994 until 2003, and millions of people tuned in each week.
3. Not only this, Hollywood has used the subject of angels many, many times in movies. Who hasn't seen Clarence the angel in the movie, "It's a Wonderful Life?"
4. Of course, as would be expected, Hollywood doesn't get it right. Their characterizations of angels are nothing but fantasy and make believe. They are the figments of somebody's imagination.
5. You say, "Pastor Dan, don't you believe in angels?" You better believe I do. Why? For the same reason I believe in God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the finished work of Christ on the cross, and the resurrection of Christ from the dead. The Bible says so!
6. But, I don't believe in the Hollywood version of angels. I believe what the Bible teaches about angels. They are mentioned over 250 times in the Bible.
7. In this lesson, we will put together a **Bible** description of angels. What do they look like? What are their character traits?

Angels are created, spirit-beings.

1. Angels were created by God (Psalm 148:2-5), probably on day two of creation when God created the heavens. Nehemiah 9:6
2. Why were the angels created? Ultimately, they were created to glorify Jesus Christ, their Creator. Colossians 1:16
 - God is a God of order, and when He created heaven, He created a governmental, orderly system by which it would function. The angels were created to fill various heavenly ranks of position and authority.
3. It is important to understand, angels are not glorified human beings.
 - When somebody dies, another person may say, "God just needed another angel in His choir." This is a warm and fuzzy thought, but it is not accurate.
 - Man was made a little lower than the angels. Psalm 8:4-5
 - Christ came and took this lower place that He might lift the believer unto His own glory above the angels. Hebrews 2:9-10
4. Man and angels have a completely different nature and substance. Hebrews 2:16
5. Angels are invisible, spirit-beings. Hebrews 1:14; cf. Ephesians 6:12
 - In the Bible, angels occasionally revealed themselves in a bodily form for a specific purpose and reason.

- But this is not typical, and certainly angels do not need a human body in order to exist.
6. They are spirit-beings, working invisibly beyond the reach of man's mortal eyes. They are not composed of flesh and blood like human beings. Hebrews 2:14

Angels are innumerable.

1. Hebrews 12:22 speaks of "*an innumerable company of angels.*"
2. When Christ was born, a **multitude** of angels praised God. Luke 2:13-15
3. At the cross, Jesus could have called twelve legions of angels to assist Him (Matthew 26:53). A Roman legion at that time could be up to 6,000 men.
4. In Revelation 5:11, John saw "*ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands*" of angels.
5. What a heavenly army! Imagine tens of thousands of angels ready to act immediately upon the Lord's command! One day Christ will return to earth with His angelic host and usher in worldwide peace, and bind Satan in the bottomless pit. Revelation 20:1-3

Angels possess great knowledge and wisdom. 2 Samuel 14:20

1. This only makes sense. They've existed for thousands of years (since day two of creation). They have much more experience than a human being could ever have. But, they are not omniscient (all-knowing) like God.
2. Yet, did you know that we are able to teach and instruct angels? These powerful and intelligent creatures can sit at the feet of the humblest child of God and learn something.
3. We have a wisdom they know nothing about – the imputed wisdom of Jesus Christ dwelling within. 1 Corinthians 1:30

Angels have great power and might.

1. Psalm 103:20 tells us that angels "*excel in strength.*"
2. Angels are said to be greater in power and might than human beings. 2 Peter 2:11
 - Illustration: In Isaiah 37:36, an angel smote 185,000 Assyrians in one night.
 - Illustration: Matthew 28:2 – Typically, these stones were made of granite, 8 feet in diameter, and one foot thick. They weighed more than four tons (3 or 4 cars).
3. When an angel gets worked up to do something, you'd better look out!

Angels never grow old.

1. Angels never change, or age, or get wrinkles, or need vitamins. They do not go through the degenerative process. They have no concept of death.

2. In Mark 16:4-5, the ladies at the sepulcher of Jesus see a young man. When you cross reference with Matthew 28:5-7, you realize that this young man is an angel. This angel is at least 6,000 years old, yet looks like a young man.
cf. Luke 24:4
 - You say, “I wish I were an angel and never age!” Not really – because we grow old and die, one day we will be changed and given new, glorified bodies like Jesus. You will be made higher than the angels. Angels will never experience this.
3. Did you notice that it said “*young man*”? When angels do make a physical appearance in the Bible, they always appear in the masculine gender, and appear as **young** men. Acts 1:10; Revelation 21:17
4. When you see pictures of angels, they usually appear as long-haired women, or children with long flowing robes and wings. These are not angels. This is not what an angel looks like. Angels do not look like women, nor do they have wings.
 - In Revelation 9, some type of degenerative, demonic creatures come out of the bottomless pit and they are pictured as having long hair like a woman and wings – but not the angels of God.

Angels are joyful creatures.

1. When God was creating the world, the angels were said to be singing and shouting. Job 38:5-7
2. Luke 15:10 says that when a sinner repents, the angels rejoice.
3. In Revelation 5:12, the angels are seen praising Jesus with a loud voice.

In Conclusion:

1. Now we have a better grasp of the nature of angels and the character of angels.
2. But what do angels do? Next week we will examine “An Angelic Job Description.”

Believers Teaching Angels

Introduction:

1. Angels are fascinating creatures of God. They are God's heavenly warriors that carry on the business of heaven.
2. We learned last week that, in time past, angels were very involved in the affairs of God's people, Israel. They are mentioned almost 200 times.
3. One of their functions in time past was to give instruction to people. For example, an angel gave Joseph instruction and understanding when Mary conceived Christ.
4. Angels are only mentioned 13 times by Paul when writing to us, the church. Never are angels said to be instructing us or teaching us today. We learned last week that we do not need angelic instruction because we have God's completed Word and God's very Spirit indwelling us today.
5. But this may shock some of you – we, as members of the body of Christ, teach angels today! Angels can learn from us. How can this be? We will learn how from God's Word.
6. There are two simple truths that we must grasp.

First, we must understand that angels are watching us.

1. God makes it very clear that we do not see angels today, but angels **do** observe us. Colossians 2:18 speaks of those who had become fascinated with angels and the spirit world.
 - Paul makes it clear that they were intruding into things that they had not seen, but rather were vainly puffed up in their fleshly minds and had been beguiled (this word means “trickery”).
2. There is absolutely no need to see an angel today. God has equipped us thoroughly (2 Timothy 3:16-17; cf. Colossians 2:10) and we walk by faith, not by sight.
3. But God's Word is equally clear that angels are, indeed, watching us.
 - In 1 Timothy 5:21, Paul encouraged Timothy to observe the things he had taught him because God, Jesus, and the angels were watching.
 - In 1 Corinthians 4:9, Paul stated, “...for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.”
 - The word “*spectacle*” literally means “a place for public show.” It is the Greek word *theatron* and is translated “theatre” in Acts 19:29.
 - **Illustration:** At a football game there are 60,000 people in the stands looking down on the field watching and observing the players - watching, reviewing, and analyzing them.
4. This is what angels are doing to us. They are curious creatures. Angels are carefully scrutinizing our lives. They are observing and paying close attention to us.

5. I'm sure they are watching our meeting right now. One may follow you home and observe what is going on in your life. They are fascinated by the church, by members of the body of Christ.
6. How important is every detail of your life? When you think that no one is watching, there are unseen observers being instructed *by you* for good or bad, which brings me to my next point.

Second, angels can understand God's wisdom by observing us.

1. Angels are not omniscient (all-knowing). There are many things that they have not experienced and do not understand.
2. In 1 Peter 1:10-12, we see an example of this.
 - In the Old Testament, the prophets wrote about Christ's sufferings and about His future glory when He would rule and reign on this earth.
 - Although God revealed the facts about Christ, He did not reveal the full meaning or the impact of them. The prophets themselves did not understand what they were writing.
 - In verse 12, we see that the angels did not comprehend it either, but they desired to understand. They couldn't put all the pieces together because it wasn't time for God to reveal the big picture.
 - The prophets would write something, and then scratch their heads and think, "How is this going to work?" Can't you just see the angels urging the prophets, "Come on, man! Get it! Figure it out!"
3. In Ephesians 3:9-10 we see another example.
 - There was a great mystery hidden in God from the beginning of the world (vs. 9). This is the wonderful truth of the body of Christ that God is calling out today. Jewish and Gentile believers are baptized into one body (Christ) by the Holy Spirit. Galatians 3:27-28
 - God is taking unclean, pagan Gentiles, saving them by His grace (through Christ's work on the cross) and placing them into Christ along with Jewish believers. This is a great mystery time period that was hidden in the mind and wisdom of God.
 - But, now it is possible for the angelic creation (principalities and powers in heavenly places) to learn and understand this great wisdom and mystery of God. It has now been made known, and they can learn it.
 - How will they learn? Verse 10 tells us, "... *by the church.*" That is us!
4. As believers in Christ, we demonstrate to the angels the manifold wisdom of God and grace of God in our daily lives.
 - We don't demonstrate the power of God. The angels saw that when God laid the foundation of the earth on nothing.
5. Angels know nothing of God's grace and redemption, and if they are to know anything about them, it will be by watching us. They learn as they see God's grace and wisdom working in us.
6. Notice the phrase "*fellowship of the mystery*" in Ephesians 3:9.
7. Galatians 3:27 teaches that the believer has put on Christ. This means, when God sees the believer, He sees His Son, Jesus Christ.

8. The believer stands before God in the identity and accomplishments of Jesus Christ. God sees Christ when He looks at us, and the angels see us. They are instructed about the wisdom of God.
9. God makes us one of His children. We are members of the immediate family of God and can cry, "*Abba, Father.*" Only Jesus addressed God this way in the Bible (Romans 8:14-17). This is the fellowship of the mystery.
10. We now have an intimate family relationship with God, the Father. The angels have never enjoyed this. They know nothing of being part of the immediate family of God, sitting at His table, and calling him Father.
11. When the angels see us standing as who we are in Christ (heirs and part of the family of God), and when they see us entering into the very presence of God in prayer, they are instructed about the wisdom of God that made it so.

In Conclusion:

1. How are we doing in our instruction of the angels? Do they see us standing as who we are in Christ, and living a life of victory?
2. Or, do they see us walking according to the old man, in the fleshly lusts of our minds?
3. When believers live according to their marvelous position in Christ, the angels see and learn about the grace and wisdom of God, and our lives have an impact on earth, *and* throughout the heavenly realm.

An Angelic Job Description

Introduction:

1. Specifically, what do angels do? What is their purpose? What events take place in the daily life of an angel?
2. When you contemplate the life of angels, what do you envision them doing? Some picture angels as floating around on white clouds, playing harps all day, and making spooky sounds. But this is not true. This isn't what we see in the Bible.
3. As mentioned previously, angels are mentioned over 250 times in God's Word. In this lesson, we will examine God's Word, and from it create an angelic job description.

First, angels are seen offering worship and praise to God.

1. Psalm 148:2 declares, "*Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts.*"
2. Isaiah mentions some type of heavenly creatures in Isaiah 6:1-3, called seraphim, who are above God's throne, singing His praises as they called special attention to God's glory and majesty.
3. In Revelation 5:11-12 and 7:11, the angels are worshiping Jesus with a loud voice. I can't prove it beyond doubt, but I would guess that each angel spends an ample amount of time each day just worshiping Jesus Christ, praising Him, and enjoying Him.
4. How much time do you spend worshiping and praising your Father and your Savior, Jesus Christ? Just like the angels, you were created to worship God.
John 4:23-24

Second, angels are seen bringing judgment upon the enemies of God.

1. Hebrews 1:7 refers to God's angels as "*a flame of fire.*" In the Bible, fire often speaks of judgment.
2. Let's look at two Old Testament examples:
 - Genesis 19:1, 12-13 – Two angels are sent by God to totally annihilate the perverse cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.
 - 2 Kings 19:35; 2 Chronicles 32:21 – An angel kills 185,000 leaders in the Assyrian army.
3. God is full of love, but He is also a righteous God of judgment. He cannot allow sin to go unpunished. Throughout history, God has used angels to administer His judgment upon the ungodly and unbelieving.
4. A New Testament example is found in Acts 12:20-23.
5. Angels will also be used by God to bring judgment to the world in the future.
 - Judgment to the earth – Revelation 7:2, 8:5-7
 - Judgment to unbelievers – Revelation 9:15, 14:19, 15:1; cf. Matthew 13:40-42; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9
 - Judgment to Satan – Revelation 20:1

6. While angels have been and will be used by God to bring judgment, the Bible teaches that one day, we (the body of Christ) will judge angels (1 Corinthians 6:3). What an exalted position we have in Christ!

Third, angels are seen ministering to Jesus during His earthly life.

1. If a person studies the life of Christ, he will see angels involved from beginning to end.
 - Angels followed Jesus wherever He went. They were constantly there to help and assist Jesus.
 - An angel announced the birth of Jesus. Luke 1:26-28
 - An angel gave Joseph assurance. Matthew 1:20
 - An angel warned Mary and Joseph to flee into Egypt (Matthew 2:13), and then told them when it was safe to return. Matthew 2:19
 - Angels announced to the shepherds Christ's birth. Luke 2:8-15
 - Angels ministered to Jesus after His temptation in the wilderness. Matthew 4:11
 - Angels strengthened Jesus while in the Garden of Gethsemane. Luke 22:43
 - Angels were ready to assist Jesus while on the cross. Matthew 26:53
 - An angel rolled away the stone in front of the tomb of Jesus. Matthew 28:2
 - Angels accompanied Christ as He ascended into heaven. Acts 1:10
 - Angels will accompany Christ when He returns to the earth the second time. Matthew 16:27, 24:30-31, 25:31; Revelation 19:14
2. Angels constantly kept their eyes focused on Jesus. No matter where He led (the wilderness, the garden, the cross), they followed. No matter who betrayed Him or fell into sin, they stood true.
3. What a lesson for us. We, too, should keep our eyes on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2), and be willing to follow Him, wherever He leads and regardless of who else follows. 1 Peter 2:21

Fourth, angels are seen ministering to the nation of Israel.

1. The nation of Israel was God's chosen people. They began with Abraham and, from their earliest existence, angels are seen superintending the affairs of this chosen nation.
2. Over and over again, the nation of Israel enjoyed angelic instruction and intervention in many different ways.
 - It was an angel that confirmed God's covenant promise to Abraham. Genesis 22:15-18
 - It was an angel that prevented Abraham from killing the child of promise (Isaac). Genesis 22:10-13
 - It was an angel that gave Israel guidance (Exodus 14:19) and led them from the bondage of Egypt to their promised land. Exodus 23:20, 23; Judges 2:1; Numbers 20:16

- It was an angel that would help Israel drive out the enemy nations. Exodus 33:2
 - It was through angels they received God's law. Galatians 3:19
 - Angels gave encouragement (Judges 6:11-22) and comfort (1 Kings 19:5-7) to Israel's leaders and prophets.
 - Angels brought judgment and chastisement to Israel when needed. 2 Samuel 24:15-17
 - Angels brought miraculous deliverance when needed. Daniel 3:28, 6:22
 - When Jesus returns to earth to give Israel their promised kingdom, He will send His angels to gather them together from the ends of the earth. Matthew 24:31
3. It is very clear that Israel has had an angelic ministry throughout their history. Angels have delivered, protected, and encamped around the nation of Israel.
 4. All prophecy in the Bible points to the day when God will give to Israel its long-awaited earthly kingdom. But the god of this world (Satan) wants to see to it that it never happens. So, the battle rages between God's angels and Satan's angels until the day when Christ rules and reigns on this earth from His throne in Jerusalem.

In Conclusion:

1. Angels aren't floating around on clouds playing harps. They are busy creatures that are carrying on the business of heaven.
2. In today's lesson, we learned several things that angels do in the Bible:
 - They offer worship and praise to God and the Lamb.
 - They bring judgment upon God's enemies.
 - They minister to and serve the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - They protect and oversee the affairs of the nation of Israel.
3. You may be asking, "What about us - the church, the body of Christ? What role do angels play in our lives?"
4. We will answer that question in the coming weeks.

What about Angels Today? Do We Need Them? - Part 2

Introduction:

1. You read about angels all throughout the Bible. Angels are spirit beings that God created to glorify Him, and to assist Him in His work. They are mentioned over 250 times in the Bible.
2. But in writing directly to the church, the body of Christ, the apostle Paul only refers to angels about 13-15 times. In none of those references are angels said to be ministering unto us. Why is this?
 - What part do angels play in God's program for the church age today? Do we need angels? The world today is quite enamored with the subject of angels. Even Hollywood has capitalized on this.
 - You can go online and quickly find all kinds of sensational stories about people and their supposed interactions with angels.
 - But, people's experiences are not what we base our beliefs on. We base our beliefs on the truth of God's Word. What does God's Word say about angels?
3. As we learned last week, the apostle Paul gave us a three-fold timeline, in Ephesians chapter 2, which helps us to place Scripture in its proper context, and to understand different subjects and how they have changed over the course of history.
 - **"Time Past" (vs. 11)** – This was when God dealt with the world through the nation of Israel, and on the basis of His prophetic program with Israel. There was a middle wall of partition between Israel and the Gentiles, with Israel enjoying a favored status.
 - **"But Now" (vs. 13)** - Today, Israel's prophetic program has been temporarily suspended and God is forming something altogether new - the church, the body of Christ. We are not living under Israel's prophetic program, but in the mystery program revealed through Paul. There is no distinction between Jew and Gentile.
 - **"Ages to Come" (vs. 7)** - This deals with the events that will happen after this present dispensation of grace ends and we are occupying the heavens. God will resume His prophetic program with Israel and bring it to its ultimate fulfillment.
4. We learned that one of the ministries of angels in the Bible was to give instruction and understanding. But we also learned that, in this age, we don't need angels to instruct us because we have the completed Word of God, and God the Holy Spirit living inside of us to instruct and teach us from God's Word.
5. Today, let's examine some more ministries that angels have performed in time past and then compare that to how God has equipped us today ("but now" period).

In time past, angels are seen giving comfort to those in need.

1. An angel comforted Hagar when it looked as if her son would die. Genesis 21:9-20
2. Angels comforted Jesus after He fasted for 40 days in the wilderness and was tempted by Satan. Matthew 4:1-11
3. What about us living in this present church age? Are we promised that angels will comfort us in times of sorrow and discouragement? We all go through these times. I personally have never had an angel comfort me.
4. But I have great news. We have something far better than an angel to comfort us. We have the Comforter Himself – God the Holy Spirit! John 14:16-18, 26, 15:26, 16:7
5. Paul calls Him the “*God of all comfort*” in 2 Corinthians 1:3-5.
6. When we are going through trials, sorrow, and despondency, God doesn’t dispatch an angel to come and comfort us. God Himself brings comfort to our hearts.
7. Our comfort doesn’t come outwardly from an angel, but inwardly from the Holy Spirit. Acts 9:31
8. In Romans 15:4, it speaks of the “*comfort of the Scriptures.*” The Christian in this age can experience comfort 24 hours a day as we read God’s Word, and the Holy Spirit applies its truth to our hearts and brings comfort.

In time past, angels are seen strengthening and empowering others.

1. An angel strengthened the prophet Elijah when he was weak and didn’t feel that he could go on any longer. 1 Kings 19:1-8
2. When Jesus was in agony, praying earnestly in the Garden right before the cross, an angel appeared, strengthening Him. Luke 22:43
3. What should we do today when we need strength and power? Should we pray for God to send an angel?
4. Again, we have something better than an angel. We have the greatest power source on the earth dwelling within us – the Holy Spirit of God.
5. Jesus told the disciples that He would send His Spirit back to give them power. Jesus did this. Today, the moment we believe on Christ, Christ’s Spirit comes to dwell within us.
6. Do you know how God strengthens us today? He strengthens us with might by His Spirit in our inner man (our spirit). Ephesians 3:16
 - Believers today have a power working inside of them that is indescribable and incomprehensible. Ephesians 3:20
7. Have you ever heard a Christian pray, “Lord, give me power.” As believers, we have the greatest power source already living inside of us.
 - **Illustration:** A baby has everything it needs – it is complete. It simply needs to grow.
8. The Bible teaches that we are renewed (empowered, strengthened) daily in the inner man. Outwardly we may be exhausted and feel like we can’t go on, but inwardly the Holy Spirit is there to strengthen, empower, and sustain us. Romans 5:3-5

9. This is why Paul said he had learned to take pleasure in infirmities, reproaches, necessities, persecutions, and distresses. When he was weak (outwardly) the strength of Christ and the Holy Spirit could be manifested with greater power in his life. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

In Conclusion:

1. Most believers today do not realize what they possess in Christ. We have such a wonderful, unique blessing today of being "*in Christ.*" We are complete in Christ. We lack nothing in Him.
2. Angels are wonderful creatures of God that have ministered comfort and strength to people in time past.
3. But, we clearly see that today we have something better than an angel. We see the complete sufficiency of our salvation. We are in Christ and sealed with the Holy Spirit.
4. We also have God's completed Word that God's Spirit uses to minister comfort and strength any time we need it.

Angels: God's Heavenly Warriors

Introduction:

1. When most people think of angels, they think of cute, little, white, feminine beings that sit on top of Christmas trees, or float around, singing.
2. People assume that angels always come in peace, bringing tranquility and rest.
3. As we study the Scriptures, we discover that this is not true at all. Angels are seasoned warriors that are seen fighting, making war, bringing destruction to God's enemies, ushering in plagues, disease, and judgment.
4. Angels are God's warriors that are carrying on the business of heaven, both in the universe and on earth.
5. But, why must angels fight and make war?

There are angels that aligned themselves with Satan.

1. Isaiah 14:12-15 and Ezekiel 28:13-19 describe the fall of Satan. As we study, there are a few conclusions that we can reach:
 - Satan was once the most brilliant, beautiful, and powerful of all the created beings in heaven.
 - Satan was not satisfied with his exalted position, but desired something that did not belong to him – the throne of God.
 - Iniquity was found **in Satan**. It was the sin of prideful rebellion. This was the origination of sin and evil, and Satan fell from his heavenly position.
2. When Satan fell from his position, he began to market his plan of rebellion to the angelic host. Many of God's angels followed Satan in his rebellion against God. The Bible clearly speaks of Satan's angels. Matthew 25:41; Revelation 12:7
 - They are sometimes referred to as "devils," or we call them "demons."
3. How many of the angels followed Satan? We do not know for sure, but some have surmised that one third of the angelic host followed him. Revelation 12:4; cf. Revelation 1:20
4. Why would these angels follow Satan? For the same reasons that people do today: self-will, selfishness, discontentment with what they have, and the craving to get what rightfully belongs to someone else. They are sins of the heart. They are deadly.
5. Here are a few summary thoughts about Satan's angels:
 - They are spirit-beings, just like the angels of God. Matthew 8:16
 - They are real. Demons are not fictitious creatures on the late-night horror show. Mark 5:1-13
 - They are set in number. People fear someone who died coming back to demonize them, or haunt them. This cannot happen. There are no new demons being created. Just as deceased people don't become angels, they also don't become demons.
 - They work deceptively. They usually appear as angels of light and ministers of righteousness. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

- People think of demons as hideous-looking monsters, or aliens. They have watched too many late-night horror flicks. If a demon **could** appear, it wouldn't be as a monster. He would be clean-shaven, neatly dressed, have a big smile, and a carrying a Bible under his arm while talking about Jesus.

There is a great angelic conflict being fought.

1. Angels are God's warriors, and demons are Satan's warriors. While angels are carrying on God's business, demons are doing everything they can to promote the cause of Satan and thwart God's purposes. 1 Thessalonians 2:18
2. There is an all-out invisible war being fought. Satan desires total control of this earth and will stop at nothing to obtain it. Revelation 12:7-9 pictures this angelic conflict.
 - Example: In Daniel 10:1-13, Daniel prayed and fasted for three weeks while an angel of God was trying to get to him, but the angel said that the prince of Persia withstood him. A human leader on earth would not have been able to do this. It had to be a prince within Satan's army of angels. Michael, one of the chief princes of God's angels came and assisted this angel.
3. The Christian's enemy is not someone visible. Our enemies are the demonic forces of evil. Ephesians 6:11-12
4. They oppose the children of God. They endeavor to separate the believer from Christ's love (Romans 8:38-39), bring fear (1 John 4:18), create an unforgiving spirit (2 Corinthians 2:10-11), undermine our faith (1 Thessalonians 3:5), corrupt sound doctrine (1 Timothy 4:1-3), destroy the believer (1 Peter 5:8), and a host of other things.
5. But praise God, He has given us the spiritual provisions needed to stand against the attacks of Satan and his armies. We are more than conquerors through Christ, and we can stand against Satan. Ephesians 6:10-17

The angels are organized into an intricate system of rank, position, and authority.

1. Ephesians 6:12 refers to the demons as principalities, powers, and rulers of the darkness. These are designated positions of rank and authority.
2. Satan imitated God, because the holy angelic creation follows the same pattern. Colossians 1:16, 2:10, 15; Ephesians 1:19-21, 3:10
 - Michael is designated as the "*archangel*." The prefix "arch" suggests that he is the chief angel above all other angels (Jude 9). But he is also called one of the chief princes in Daniel 10.
 - Gabriel appears to be God's messenger of mercy and promise. Daniel 8:16, 9:21; Luke 1:9, 26
 - The "*seraphim*" are mentioned in Isaiah 6:1-6. They are six-winged creatures that hover above the throne of God and render unceasing worship to God.

- The “*cherubim*” are mentioned in Ezekiel 10. They always seem to be protecting God’s glory and holiness as they surround His throne.
3. It is clear that God has established positions of rank and authority among the angelic host, similar to a political or military organization (ie: general, colonel, major, captain, all the way down to private).
 4. Angels are not running around crazily, bumping into each other, doing somersaults, and wondering what to do with their time. Our God is a God of order, not chaos.
 5. Angels have structured activity and direction. They have clearly-defined positions and jobs to do. Angels are literally carrying on God’s business on earth and in the heavenlies.
 6. The Bible indicates that there are even boundaries, territories, and routes that angels follow as the heavenly army fights against Satan’s army.

Colossians - Chapter 2
“Getting Wrapped Up in Angels”
Colossians 2:18-19

Verses 18-19

1. Now we come to another problem that was threatening this church - the issue of religious mysticism. This is a belief that a person can tap into the invisible spirit world and have contact with spirit-beings.
2. Obviously, there were people at Colosse that were claiming to have had contact and experiences with angels.
3. How relevant this is for today's world! You don't have to look far to see that people are enamored with this subject of mysticism and the supernatural. Angels have even become a big money business with Hollywood, capitalizing on it through television and movies.
4. Paul addresses this subject in a very straightforward manner. Believers had better take heed to Paul's instruction, lest you be deceived by Satan.
5. Paul basically gives three reasons why these false teachers had become engrossed in religious mysticism and angels.

A. First reason - they had been beguiled. vs. 18

- The word “*beguile*” means “to defraud.” It carries the idea of taking something away from someone on false pretences, or by deceiving them.
- Paul used this word “*beguile*” in verse 4, and taught that others were attempting to beguile them with “*enticing words.*”
- What these false teachers were saying sounded good. It appealed to the emotions, senses, mind, and feelings.
- As these false teachers tell of their mystical experiences, it sends chills down your spine, raises the hair on your arms, and gives you a tingling sensation. People say, “It had to be of God. I tingled all over and my hair stood on end.”
- Paul says, “It is all a deceptive sham, and they are threatening to cause you to lose your reward.” When Paul speaks of our “*reward,*” he isn't talking about believers getting material and monetary benefits in heaven.
- In heaven, our reward will be to shine forth the glory of Christ in the heavenlies for all to see and behold. But, there will be degrees of glory in heaven. Our glory will depend on what we have done to build up our inner man through Christ and His Word.
- Satan loves nothing more than when believers get caught up in mystical experiences, rather than focusing on God's Word and their completeness in Christ.

- We stand complete in Christ, but the goal of the enemy is to keep you from understanding your position and standing in Christ. He would love for you to look to angels rather than to look to God's Word and your riches that you possess in Christ.
- When we get caught up into religious mysticism, we have been beguiled.
- But, there is a second reason why they had become engrossed in angels and mysticism:

B. Second reason - they possessed a false humility.

- Paul speaks of their “*voluntary humility and worshipping of angels.*”
- Humility is a good attribute, but here it is bad. It was a **false** humility. It is the idea of “I'm the most humble person I know, and I'm proud of it!”
- Religion says, “You're not good enough to approach God in worship. You must perform our mystical rites and rituals. You must go through our religious leaders, or through dead saints, or through angels to approach God.”
- This is a false humility, and leads people to get wrapped up in seeking angelic experiences, and mystical, supernatural experiences. **Illustration:** You hear of people praying to dead saints, or bowing before statues and a dead saint or angel appears. This leads to what Paul said, “...*vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind.*”
- True humility is confidence properly placed. True humility says, “I am in Christ, and through Him alone I can boldly and confidently enter into the presence of God, and commune with my heavenly Father.” Ephesians 2:18, 3:12; Hebrews 4:16, 10:19
- True humility causes you to stand in the completeness you have in Christ, and not chase after angelic mediation or other mystical visions. In the Bible, we are told to worship only God, not angels or dead saints.
- False humility says, “I'm not good enough to approach God, so I'll start with one of His angels.” We certainly don't need any type of angelic mediation. There is one mediator between God and men - Jesus Christ. 1 Timothy 2:5
- Trying to approach God any other way than through His Son is idolatry.

C. Third reason - they were intruding into areas that were counterfeit.

- What does it mean to intrude?
 - If you invite someone to your house, they are a guest.
 - If someone that doesn't belong there enters your house uninvited, he is an intruder.
- These believers that had become engrossed with angels were intruding into areas where they didn't belong, and were obviously claiming to have seen angels.

- But, God's Word says that they **didn't** see them. Whatever they claimed to see was not from God, and was not one of God's angels. It was counterfeit. Satan loves to give people counterfeit experiences that they think are from God. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15
- God's Word condemns any type of attempt to communicate with spirit-beings or the departed spirits of people. Deuteronomy 18:9-14
- In this dispensation, there is no need for a believer to see or communicate with an angel. We walk by faith in Christ and His Word, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7
- These people had become involved in experience-based religion, resulting in an infatuation with angels, and they delved into areas that were counterfeit.

6. There are two responses that believers can have to Paul's teaching:

- First, they can become vainly puffed up in their fleshly mind. vs. 18
 - People say, "I don't care what the Bible or preacher says, I know what I've seen and experienced."
 - People can know that they are vainly puffed up when their experiences become the basis of truth. You become the center of things - what you see, and what you experience, and what you think.
 - The words "*puffed up*" carry the idea of being "inflated." This is what experience-based religion does. It inflates your ego, but leaves you spiritually empty. Anything that doesn't root and build you up in Christ will leave you empty.
- Second, believers can choose to hold the Head (Jesus Christ). vs. 19
 - These false teachers were holding to their religious experiences, but were not holding the Head (Christ).
 - The word "holding" carries the idea of grabbing onto something and not letting go. **Illustration:** Matthew 28:9 (They held Christ by the feet and worshipped Him. Same word is used here.)
 - Believers can trust God's Word, stand complete in Christ, and grow in His grace.
 - What a shame when people cling to everything **but** Christ.
 - Remember, we are in Christ. Everything we need to be strengthened and nourished and to grow is found in Him (vs. 19). This is how true spiritual progress is made. Ephesians 4:14-16
 - This is what Paul is saying in verse 19. Everything that we as members of the body of Christ need is found in Christ.
 - Through Christ we are nourished spiritually in our inner man.
 - Through Christ we are able to minister and serve.
 - Through Christ we are able to function as one body, knit together.
 - Through Christ we are able to grow spiritually (increase).

- If a people don't draw from the spiritual wellspring of Christ, they become malnourished. There is no real spiritual growth. Yet these false teachers thought they were hyperspiritual because of their experiences.
 - **Illustration:** The little dogs next door to us they think they can whip me, my Golden Retriever, or any other big dog that comes along. Reality – they're just little runts!
 - There is nothing more obnoxious or cancerous to a church than a person who thinks he is spiritually elite, and in reality, he is a spiritual runt. This kind of person are trouble!
- Don't fall for Satan's lies, and allow him to beguile and defraud you by getting you to chase after experiences. Hold the Head, cling to Christ, study God's Word, and discover all that God has made you in Christ. This is how you grow up spiritually!

What about Angels Today? Do We Need Them? - Part 3

Introduction:

1. Angels are seen all throughout the Word of God. Angels are seen from Genesis to Revelation doing a variety of different activities.
2. Angels are God's heavenly warriors carrying on the business of heaven.
3. But, how much of a role do they play in today's church age? What are they doing? How do they function?
4. Angels are only referred to about 15 times in the apostle Paul's letters to the church. In those references, angels are **never** said to be ministering unto us.
5. Yet, we have learned that in time past, angels gave instruction to people, and also comforted and strengthened God's people.
6. We learned that God has given to us (in this dispensation of grace) something far better than an angel. We have God the Holy Spirit dwelling within us to accomplish those ministries.
7. Today we will discover some more ministries that angels have performed and then compare them to the provisions God has made for us in this time period.

Angels are seen leading and guiding people.

1. Here are three examples of angels giving guidance:
 - Genesis 24 – An angel guided Abraham's servant to the right wife for Isaac. vs. 7, 40
 - Numbers 20:16 – An angel led the children of Israel out of Egypt to their own promised land. cf. Exodus 32:34
 - 2 Kings 1:15 – An angel led Elijah to go with the king's servants and stand before the king.
2. If I need guidance today from the Lord, where can I expect to find it? Do I ask God to send me an angel to show me God's way? No, I have a much more objective standard by which to make decisions.
3. Today, God has given us the completed Word of God. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 reveals that God's Word is able to "*thoroughly furnish*" the believer unto all good works.
 - The phrase "*thoroughly furnish*" means "to fully equip."
4. At one time, God's will was a mystery. God revealed bits and parts of His plan throughout history, but when God saved Paul, He revealed to him all the truths we know today. Paul said that God has now **made known** unto us the mystery of His will. Ephesians 1:9
5. Not only this, we have God's Holy Spirit living inside of us to reveal God's Word to us, and to lead us according to its principles. Romans 8:14; Galatians 5:18
 - As we yield to God's Spirit within us, the Holy Spirit fills us with wisdom to understand God's Word and how it relates to the everyday decisions of life.
6. As Spirit-indwelt believers, we are never encouraged to walk after an angel; but rather we are encouraged to walk after the Spirit. Romans 8:1

Angels are seen giving promises.

1. Here are three examples of angels giving promises:
 - Judges 13:3 - The angel's promise to Samson's parents
 - Luke 1:11-17 - An angel gave the promise of a son to Zacharias.
 - Luke 1:26-37 - An angel gave the promise to Mary that she would bear the Messiah, Jesus Christ.
2. Of course, today we have been given many promises. Our promises are not from angels, but our promises are found in the completed Word of God, rightly divided.
3. Paul tells us that the promises of God are in Christ, and that we are in Christ (2 Corinthians 1:20-21). This should give the believer confidence to stand upon God's promises.
4. Our promises are in God's Word, not in an angel. Our greatest need is to get into God's Word, learn how to rightly divide it, and then stand upon it with confidence.
 - Example of prayer promise: Philippians 4:6-7
 - Example of promise of justification: Romans 5:1 (I don't have to fret over being condemned by God, or not being accepted by Him.)
 - Example of promise of life: 2 Timothy 1:1

Angels are seen interceding for God's people

1. Here are a few examples:
 - Genesis 19 - Angels interceded for Lot when Sodom was destroyed by fire.
 - Genesis 22 - An angel interceded for Abraham when he was about to kill Isaac.
 - Numbers 22 - An angel interceded when Balaam rebelled against the Lord.
 - An angel interceded for Daniel when he prayed (Daniel 10) and when he was in the lion's den. Daniel 6:22
2. Praise God, in this age, we do not need the intercession of an angel. We have something far better! We have the Lord Jesus Christ himself, who acts as our mediator and intercessor before the Father in heaven. Romans 8:34; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 7:25
3. I would say we are in good hands, wouldn't you? Christ "*ever liveth to make intercession*" for His children.

In Conclusion:

1. So, what are angels doing today? Do they have any jobs to do in this day and age?
2. Rest assured, angels are still very busy. While we, as believers, are complete in Christ and have no need for the angelic ministries mentioned, angels are the servants of God and are at His disposal to be used however God deems best.
3. Most certainly, angels have a part in the affairs of this world. While their interaction with believers is much more limited today (because of our unique privileges), angels are watching and observing us, as we learned a few weeks ago.

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!

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!

Questions About Angels

Introduction:

1. Psalm 103:20-22 tells us that angels do God's commandments, hearken unto the voice of His Word, and do His pleasure.
2. Angels are God's ministers that carry on God's business throughout the heavens and the universe.
3. During our study on angels, we have learned many fascinating things about these creatures of God.
4. During this final lesson on angels, we will seek to answer some commonly asked questions about angels.

Do all angels have names?

1. It would appear from Scripture that they do. Two of the angels' names are given to us in God's Word:
 - Michael – Jude 9; Revelation 12:7
 - Gabriel – Luke 1:19, 26
2. Jesus asked the demon in Mark 5:9, "*What is thy name?*" The demon answered, "*My name is legion: for we are many.*"
3. Satan was a cherubim of God before he fell into sin and rebellion. According to Isaiah 14:12, his name was Lucifer.

Can angels appear in different forms?

1. Angels are spirit beings (Hebrews 1:14). Angels have a completely different nature than human beings. They are not composed of flesh and blood. Hebrews 2:14-16; Ephesians 6:12
2. Because angels are spirit beings, they usually work invisibly beyond the sight of man's mortal eye. **Example:** 2 Kings 6:15-17
3. In Scripture, only in unique situations did angels appear to men and women. When they did appear, they always appeared in human form as young men. Mark 16:4; Luke 24:4; Acts 1:10; Revelation 21:17
4. Also, whenever angels appeared, it was always for the purpose of communicating a message. Mark 16:4-7; Luke 1:26-38; Acts 1:10-11
5. Do angels appear to church age saints today in visible form? According to Colossians 2:18, they do not. Why is this? It is because we have the completed Word of God, and there is no need for angels to communicate with us. Everything we need to know is found in God's written Word. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - Angels are not sideshow acts that God uses to entertain us, or give us cool stories to tell people. Angels are God's heavenly warriors that He uses for very specific purposes. If an angel ever appears, it is for a very special and unique purpose involving some type of message from God.

6. What about in the book of Acts when angels appeared to believers?
 - Acts is a transitional book that shows us the falling away of Israel and the bringing in of the church, the body of Christ. Israel is still in the picture, and apostles are still present with miraculous sign gifts, etc.
 - We are not living during the age of the Acts of the Apostles. During the Acts of the Apostles, many strange phenomena occurred, but there are no apostles today.
 - They did not possess the completed Word of God during the Acts time period. God's revelation was still very incomplete and in the process of being dispensed.
 - The full revelation of our completeness in Christ had not yet been given. This came to us primarily through Paul's prison epistles which were written after the book of Acts.
7. Can angels appear in different forms? Yes, they can. Do they appear in visible forms to believers today? There is no evidence in the Bible, or otherwise, that would indicate the necessity of this.

Is the New Age movement using angels?

1. The New Age movement teaches people to look within themselves to find the answers to life's problems. It teaches people that they are gods.
2. The New Age movement also encourages people to look within and communicate with their "spirit guides." Many times they will call these spirit guides by other names, such as: inner guide, imaginary doctor, higher self, or guardian angel.
3. We, as Christians, know that these are nothing but names for one thing: devils!
 - Satan's spirit is said to be at work **in** unbelievers. Ephesians 2:2
 - Satan definitely desires to misconstrue people's ideas of what angels really are. Satan himself deceives people by appearing as an "*angel of light*." 2 Corinthians 11:14
4. People today are enamored by the subject of angels. Satan realizes this and is encouraging this. He desires to persuade people to chase angelic experiences rather than seeking Jesus Christ. **Illustration:** Play-action fake in football. They want you to chase the guy without the football.

Do believers have guardian angels today?

1. Granted – it is a warm and fuzzy thought! But, unfortunately there is no solid biblical evidence that suggests that each believer has a guardian angel by his or her side, 24 hours a day.
2. You may ask, "What about Hebrews 1:14?"
 - First, we must remember who this book was written to – Hebrews in the last days (1:2), not Gentiles in the church age.
 - Second, these angels are helping Hebrews who "*shall be* (future tense) *heirs of salvation*." These angels are ministering to people who don't yet have salvation, and they are protecting and providing for them until they get it.

- Third, the salvation in the context (2:1-4) is the deliverance of Israel (Hebrews) and the ushering in of their kingdom rest. This is the salvation Christ spoke of while on earth. Matthew 4:23
 - This cross-references perfectly with Revelation 7:1-3. Angels will seal and protect the 144,000 Hebrews in the last days until the time of their salvation (deliverance). cf. In Romans 11:26, “*shall be saved*” is same terminology as Hebrews 1:14.
3. Today, we have individual salvation. But at Christ’s Second Coming to earth, there is a nation that will be delivered and saved. Angels will guard and protect the nation of Israel from the furor of the antichrist until the day of their salvation.
 4. While the Bible doesn’t promise us 24-hour angelic protection, it does promise us the 24-hour presence and protection of God, the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 4:30
 - The Jews in the last days are sealed and protected by angels.
 - We, in this church age, have an even greater blessing. We are sealed and protected by the Holy Spirit Himself.
 5. Two Bible illustrations make this point perfectly clear:
 - Daniel in the lion’s den – An angel protected and preserved him. Daniel 6:22
 - Paul in the lion’s den – The Lord Himself stood with Paul and strengthened and delivered him. At the end of Paul’s ministry, he said, “*And the Lord shall deliver me...*” **2 Timothy 4:17-18**
 6. In this wonderful age of grace that we live in today, it is the Lord Himself who is there for us in our time of need. What a privilege we have today!

Should a Christian have pictures and arrangements of angels in their houses?

1. Remember, angels are seldom pictured as they are really described in God’s Word. Anything associated with error and false representation of the Bible should be avoided.
2. I certainly do not desire to lord over your life in any way, but my advice would be to glorify Christ in whatever you do. 1 Corinthians 10:31
3. We are to seek to magnify Christ in everything we do and in all that we possess. Philippians 1:20
4. Our homes, our offices, and our lives should magnify Christ and point people to Him, not angels. Remember, Satan desires to take the attention and focus off of Christ and on to anything else he can. He will even use “good” things to accomplish this.