

Sunday, February 21, 2010—The Truth About Angels: The Angelic Rebellion

Introduction/Review

- Last week we began a new series of studies titled The Truth About Angels. In the first message Basic Facts About the Angelic World we filled in the back of the angelic baseball card so to speak by giving you some basic information about angels.
- Angels are mention 278 times in the Bible. In 17 O.T. books and 17 N.T. books.
- As a divine messenger an angel is a “heavenly being charged by God with some commission.”
- Other Biblical terms used to describe angels include: Sons of God, Host, Holy Ones
- Characteristics of Angels:
 - Angels are created beings; they did not evolve some lower form of life.
 - Angels were created by Christ.
 - Angels were present at creation.
 - Angels are creatures not the creator. Therefore, they are a separate order creatures distinct from humanity.
 - Angels are not omnipotent or omniscient.
 - Angels are created beings and are subject to judgment.
 - Angels are innumerable in number.
 - Angels excel in strength, power, and might.
 - Angels are immortal and never die.
 - Angels don’t grow old or age.
 - Angels are always men.
 - Angels do not have wings.
 - Angels are fundamentally spirits that posses a spiritual body that is not limited by the confines of time and space like humans are.
- Classifications of Angels:
 - Cherubim—cherub is mentioned 27 times and cherubim 64 times in the Bible. Cherubim are of the highest order or class, created with indescribable powers and beauty. . .their main purpose and activity might be summarized in this way: they are proclaims and protectors of God’s glorious presence and holiness. They have wings and there are four of them surrounding each of the four corners of the throne of God.
 - Seraphim—these are only mentioned one time (Isaiah 6:2, 6), in connection with Isaiah vision of the Lord. They resemble cherubim in many respects and are likewise concerned with the holiness of God.

- The word *seraph* means burning and it is interesting to note that it is three times translated fiery serpent (Numbers 21:8; Isaiah 14:29, 30:6).
- Michael the Archangel—is designated as the archangel or highest ranking angel (Jude 9, I Thessalonians 4:16). Now where does the Bible speak of archangels plural. When Paul says that the voice of the archangel will be heard at the translation of the church, he does not seem to feel the need to name that archangel which supports the conclusion that there is only one.
- Chief Princes—is referring to a group of superior angels whose existence underscore the main point about ranking and organization (Daniel 10:13).
- Gabriel—is another high ranking angel although not on the same level as Michael. His name means “hero of God,” and his function is bring important message from God to several individuals.
 - Daniel—Daniel 8:16, 9:21
 - Zacharias—Luke 1:19
 - Mary—Luke 1:26
- The Angel of the Lord—this angel is a unique person. The Angel of the Lord is a Christophony, a preincarnate appearance of Christ. This angel speaks as God, identifies Himself with God, and exercises the prerogatives of God. Appearances of this angel cease after the incarnation of Christ which supports that he was the preincarnate Christ.
 - Genesis 16:7-12, 21:17-18, 22:11-18
 - Exodus 3:2
 - Judges 2:1-4, 5:23, 6:11-24, 13:3-22
 - II Samuel 24:16
 - Zechariah 1:12, 3:1, 12:8
- The Elect Angels—this expression is found only once in the Bible in I Timothy 5:21. The elect angels are not a special group of unfallen angels, but apparently all of the unfallen angels.

Lucifer the Anointed Cherub

- How is Satan depicted in popular culture? Red, Horns, Pitch Fork
- This mighty angel appears in the Bible with prominence, importance, and power second only to the Godhead. He is drawn into the story of human history from its first page to its last and always presented as a most vital factor in the ongoings of men, of angels, and of the universe itself. It is of great significance that the Scriptures trace with detail and care this archfiend from his creation, through all his career, and on to his final judgment. (Chafer)
- Isaiah 14:12—Lucifer was Satan’s God given name.
- Ezekiel 28:11-12—Lucifer was the pinnacle of divine creative power in terms of wisdom and beauty. This is a description of the greatest of the angels in his unfallen state.
 - Full of Wisdom
 - Perfect in Beauty

- Ezekiel 28:13—describes the resplendent beauty and purpose of this creature.
 - Breast plate of the High Priest (Exodus 28:15-21)
 - The New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:9-21)
 - The Covering of this angelic being
 - Tabrets and Pipes--Similarly, this imagery presents this angel as created to have been a diadem of praise to his creator. “Tabrets and pipes” were prepared in him. He did not need an instrument of praise to glorify his Creator, he was an instrument of praise.
- Ezekiel 28:14—Lucifer was the 5th cherub that covered the throne of God and lead the heavenly hosts in their praise of God.

Iniquity Was Found in Him

- Ezekiel 28:15—eventually sin was found in this marvelous creature.
- The evil character of Lucifer will be found in the two-fold wickedness of pride and untruth.
- I Timothy 3:6—pride was the fundamental cause of Lucifer’s sin.
- Ezekiel 28:17—his beauty caused him to be lifted up in pride and corrupted the wisdom he possessed in verse 12.
- Job 41:34—the all important fruit of Satan’s pride is the fact that he abode not in truth.
- John 8:44—engendered by pride Satan became the father of the lie program.
- Romans 1:21-32—rather than leading the heavenly hosts in their worship of God, Lucifer desired to be the one that was worshiped.
- Revelation 13:4—the culmination of the lie program is the worship of Satan himself.
- Isaiah 14:12-14—Lucifer sought to dethrone God and enthrone himself.
 - Notice Lucifer’s five “I will” statements. What is the middle letter of the word pride? I
 - “I will be like the most high”—Genesis 14:18-19, 21—Lucifer wanted to be the one that possessed heaven and earth for himself.

The Marketing of Evil

- Ezekiel 28:16, 18—Lucifer took his wise plan to possess heaven and earth and merchandized and trafficked it amongst the heavenly hosts.
 - Merchandise—1) The objects of commerce; wares, goods, commodities, whatever is usually bought or sold in trade. But provisions daily sold in market, horses, cattle, and fuel are not usually included in the term, and real estate never. 2) Trade; traffick; commerce.

- Traffick-- Trade; commerce, either by barter or by buying and selling. This word, like trade, comprehends every species of dealing in the exchange or passing of goods or merchandise from hand to hand for an equivalent, unless the business of retailing may be excepted. It signifies appropriately foreign trade, but is not limited to that.
- Ezekiel 26:12, 28:5
- Satan marketed his plan of evil amongst the heavenly hosts and led a mutiny against God Almighty.
- Revelation 12:3-4, 7-9—one third of the angelic world followed Lucifer in his rebellion against God.
- Matthew 12:24-28—Beelzebub in another name for Satan. Satan is the ruler over those angels who followed him who are considered demons in their fallen state.

Groups of Fallen Angels

- Free and active in the world
- Confined to Hell
 - Jude 6—left their own habitation
 - II Peter 2:4-5—the sin of these angels in verse 4 is tied to the days of Noah in verse 5
 - Genesis 6:1-2, 4—fallen angles leave their own habitation mate with the daughters of men in an attempt to corrupt the seed line and prevent the seed of the women from coming. For which God confined these fallen angels in Hell.
 - Genesis 6:8-9—not only did Noah walk with God but he was also uncorrupted in his generations.
- Confined to the Bottomless Pit
 - Revelation 9:2-11—these demons will be released from the bottomless pit and torment those on the earth who do not have the seal of God during the tribulation.
 - Notice who has long hair? Demons of the worst kind.

What Stopped the Angelic Rebellion?

- Matthew 25:41—God created the Lake of Fire to stop the angelic mutiny in its tracts.

Conclusion

- The misinformation that exists about angels in our culture is part of Satan's ongoing marketing of evil which will result in the worship of the wrong guy.
- The next time you see an angel depicted as having long hair and wings you need to remember what you looking at. The enemy of God.