

Sunday, March 21, 2010—The Truth About Angels: The Great Religious Role Reversal

Review

- Hebrews 1:13-14—angels were ministering spirits to those who shall be heirs of salvation.
- From the earliest days of God’s dealing with Israel Angels were involved. Last week we looked that their ministry in the Old Testament, earthly life and ministry of Christ, and the Ages to Come.

Religious Role Reversal

- Rather than allowing angelic ministrations its proper place in Israel’s program, religion tries to reverse the roles and have angels helping and protecting us.
- Angels are fascinating creatures but we should not worship them.
- Colossians 2:18
 - *Beguile*—defraud, take something away from you.
 - Colossians 2:4—parallel thinking words that sound good but in reality teach something radically different.
 - What are they trying to defraud you of? Colossians 2:10 your standing of completeness in Christ. Satan’s goal is to put something between you and Christ. Satan doesn’t want you to understand your complete standing in Christ.
 - How does Satan attempt to beguile you?
 - *Voluntary Humility*—humility is good but not in this verse. Religion tried to produce a false humility which says you really not good enough to approach God on your own. They want you to look for mediators between you and God.
 - I Timothy 2
 - Ephesians 4:30, 1:13—we have been placed into an intimate union with Christ as the Head of the Body of Christ.
 - *Worshipping of Angels*—religious system tries to make you think you need angels. Paul says that anyone who is involved with this type of activity is intruding into things they have not seen.
 - *Intruding*—crashing the party
 - *Vainly*—empty, useless, or of no value.
 - The end of this type of thinking is that you and what you have seen become your authority rather than God’s written word.

Our Angelic Teaching Ministry

- While we don't see angels they certainly see us. Not only do they see us but they also watch and scrutinize every detail of our lives (family, work, church, ect.).
- I Corinthians 4:9—we are made a spectacle unto the angels.
- Daniel 4:17
- I Corinthians 11:6-10—angels are watching to see the impact of God's word on your life.
- While angels don't minister to use because we don't need them. We do have a ministry to them. The angels need us.
- I Peter 1:10-12—God made known the events but kept a secret about their timing (Isaiah 53). It was this timing the prophets wanted to know about. Angel's wanted to know the same thing.
- Remember that one of characteristics of angels is that they are not all knowing.
- Ephesians 3:9-10—Paul wants all men to see the fellowship of the mystery in verse 9 so that in verse 10 the angelic creation might understand the manifold wisdom of God.
- The very thing the angels desired to look into in I Peter 1:12 the timing of how the suffering and glory fit together has been made know through the revelation of the mystery.
- Who teaches the angels the angelic world about the manifold wisdom of God? You and I do. The church the body of Christ.
- We have a teaching ministry that extends out through the heavenly places. That is why the angels watch us. They need us we don't need them.
- What do we teach the angels about? The manifold wisdom of God.
- The issue is God's wisdom not his power. The angels learn about the wisdom of God by watching the working of the Word of God in the details of your life. As we take our understanding of mystery truth and who God has made us in Christ and live like who we are.

The Embarrassment of Satan

- I Corinthians 2:7-8—notice how the mystery is synonymous with the wisdom of God.
- God kept it hid so that Satan and his princes would know it. God made know the facts—he just kept a secret about their meaning.
- Ezekiel 28:11-12—remember that 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 28:17—his beauty caused him to be lifted up in pride and corrupted the wisdom he possessed in verse 12.
- Ezekiel 28:3—Lucifer’s original boost was that there was not secret that could kept from him.
- I Corinthians 3:19—God takes the wise in their own craftiness.
- Colossians 2:14-15—the cross puts Satan to open shame. That is why Satan hates what we preach so much.
- The cross is the focal point of the wisdom of God. All God had to do was keep a secret. Satan was so deceived that he did the very thing that sealed his own destruction.
- Ephesians 3:11—the manifold wisdom of God is to center all things in the person of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:10).
- Your life and ministry has impact in the heavenly places right now. We have a daily ministry teaching the angels about the manifold wisdom of God.
- If you don’t know it you can’t teach it.

Believers Will Judge Angels

- Our angelic teaching ministry is only one aspect of our two-fold ministry to angels.
- I Corinthians 6:1-5
- The Corinthians were having a real problem getting along. Paul says that there is no reason to go to law with another brother before the unjust.
- Problems with the brethren need to be settled amongst the brethren. The only reason why one would go elsewhere is because they desire to be in the flesh.
- Verse 5—Paul really rebukes them. Is there no one among you with any sense?
- Verse 2—Paul uses the fact the we will judge the world to rebuke them for not dealing with their own problems.
- Verse 3—the world we will judge is verse 2 is the angelic world in verse 3. As members of the body of Christ we are going to judge angels.

- We are not going to sit around in heaven all day doing nothing. God has made us part of his plan. It will be responsibility to carry on the business of God throughout the heavenly places.
- We will judge over the affairs of heaven. We rule over them, they are not given charge over us.
- II Timothy 4:18—the body of Christ is part of the heavenly kingdom of God.
- II Timothy 2:12—if we suffer we shall also reign with him.
- Ephesians 1:20-23, 2:6

Conclusion

- Let's not allow religion to reverse the roles. We minister the angels not they to us.
- We have two-fold angelic ministry:
 - Teaching them about the manifold wisdom of God
 - Judging and ruling over them in the Ages to Come
- Remember what you do in life echoes in eternity.