

Sunday, July 17, 2016—I Corinthians 6:1-3: We Shall Judge Angels, Part III

Introduction

- Two weeks ago we began studying chapter 6 by looking at verses 1-3. In our first study, we focused on understanding the structure and sense of these verses. Last week during our second study, I began trying to make sense of Paul's statement in verse 3 that "we shall judge angels" by beginning to compare Israel's relationship with angels with the statements Paul makes regarding them in his epistles.
- In seeking to understand Israel's interactions with angels we looked at the following three time periods: 1) Old Testament, 2) the Earthly Ministry of Christ, and 3) the Ages to Come. In summation, we learned that angels perform the following tasks:
 - Angels assist in the finding of Isaac's wife (Gen. 24:7, 40)
 - Angels offer believing Israel general protection and guidance (Ex. 23:20-23)
 - Angels were involved in the giving of the Law to the nation of Israel (Gal. 3:19, Heb. 2:2, Acts 7:53).
 - Angels provided physical provision and protection (I Kings 19:5-7, Dan. 6:22).
 - Angels were involved in the answering of prayers (Dan. 9:20-27, 10:5-21).
 - Angels will protect the 144,000 during the tribulation period (Rev. 7:1-14).
 - Angels will announce the destruction of Babylon along with those who worshiped the Beast (Rev. 14:4-9).
 - Angels sound the trumpet judgment during the tribulation (Rev. 8:2-12, 9:1, 11:35).
 - Angels pour out the vial judgments upon the earth (Rev. 16:2-17).
 - Angels will cast unbelievers into the furnace of fire at the end of the tribulation (Matt. 13:39-42).
 - Angels will re-gather Israel for entrance into the millennial kingdom (Matt. 24:29-31).
 - Angels will accompany Christ when He sits upon the throne of his glory (Matt. 25:31).
- In short, all through God's prophetic dealing with the nation of Israel, angels are active in their ministry to Israel, God's earthly agency. Israel needs angelic ministry and assistance to accomplish her purpose in the earth.
- When we come to Paul's epistles we learn that a great reversal has occurred in how angels relate to the new agency God in the process of forming during the dispensation of grace i.e., the church the body of Christ.
- This morning my purpose is explain the nature of our relationship with the angelic world according to the Pauline scriptures.

I Corinthians 6:3

- First, recall from previous studies that Paul’s statement “we shall judge angles” is a future active indicative statement.
 - Tense—future, the action will take place in the future.
 - Voice—active, the Corinthians will perform the action.
 - Mood—indicative, there is no doubt as to whether or not the action will take place in the future.
- In the future, the Corinthians, and by extension the entire body of Christ is going to judge angles. In other words, there is no question as to whether or not this will occur.
- Second, notice that Paul has the body of Christ serving/ministering to the angles not the other way around as we saw when we looked at Israel’s program.
- The body of Christ has a two-fold angelic ministry:
 - *In the Present*—teaching them about the manifold wisdom of God
 - *In the Future*—judging or ruling over them in the Ages to Come.

The Great 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.
- Colossians 2:18—angles are fascinating creatures but we should not worship them.
 - *Beguile*—defraud, take something away from you.
 - Colossians 2:4—parallel thinking in the form of 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 tries to produce a false humility which says, “You are really not good enough to approach God on your own.” They want you to look for mediators between you and God.

- I Timothy 2:5
- 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**.

KJB	NASB	ESV
Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen , vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,	Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on <i>visions</i> he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,	Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind,

- Here we have a situation where the *TR* and the Critical Text are directly contradictory. This is not just a situation where one text leaves something out that the other one includes. One text, the Critical Text, says that you **have seen** the angels and visions while the other one (the *TR*) says that you **have not**. The reason they contradict in English is because they contradict in Greek.
- Here the principles of *Noncontradiction* and *Excluded Middle* absolutely apply because the two readings are directly contradictory and teach opposites. One reading says you have seen a thing while the other one says that you have not.
- Both of these readings cannot be correct because they possess substantive differences in meaning. One of them has to be right and one of them has to be wrong or they are both wrong. We cannot even entertain the notion that they are both wrong on account of the doctrine of preservation.
- This passage is dealing with the doctrine of *Angelology* during the dispensation of grace. How many believers in our day claim to have guardian angels, seen angels, or heard messages from angels or received visions and revelations based upon their personal experience? Colossians 2:18 is the clearest verse in the Pauline epistles telling you that anyone making such claims does not know what they are talking about and is not to be trusted. More importantly, anyone into such funny business is not holding Christ as the head in the next verse (Colossians 2:19).
- Furthermore, the readings found in the NASB and ESV for Colossians 2:18, create an internal contradiction within the book of Colossians. Colossians 1:16 teaches that the principalities and powers in heavenly places and those beings occupying them are “invisible” i.e., you cannot see them. Now, one chapter later in chapter 2, modern versions have people seeing things that chapter 1 said were invisible.

- I fail to see how this difference does not affect doctrine as it relates to the body of Christ. I have dealt with many Pentecostals who have claimed to have had angelic visitations and have seen into the spirit world based upon the authority of Colossians 2:18 in their modern version.
 - *Intruding*—crashing the party
 - *Vainly*—empty, useless, or of no value.
- The end of this type of thinking is that one becomes their own authority rather than their authority being God’s written word.
- Colossians 2:19—not only does this type of thinking make people become their own authority it also does not hold Christ as the head.

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 us, 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 i.e., the timing of how the suffering and glory fit together has been made know through the revelation of the mystery.
- Who teaches the angelic world about the manifold wisdom of God? You and I do, i.e, the church the body of Christ and its members.
- 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 our lives. As we take our understanding of mystery truth and who God has made us in Christ and live it out in the details of life.
- I Corinthians 2:7-8—notice how the mystery is synonymous with the wisdom of God.
- 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 the ruination of this entire wise plan.
- Ephesians 3:11—the manifold wisdom of God is to center all things in the person of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:10).
- Our lives and this 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.