

LESSON ONE

THE ANGELS

A. THERE IS AN INNUMERABLE COMPANY OF ANGELS.

1. ANGELS ARE CREATED BEINGS.

Scriptural Reference:

"For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him" (Colossians 1:16).

The Bible clearly teaches the existence of angels. They are the ambassadors of God and belong to His heavenly court and service. They are multiple in number and their will is to give God perfect service. They have the advantage over man in that they are the heavenly hosts and are God's ambassadors. However, when man is born again he is raised above them, enjoys their ministry, and will finally judge them.

It must be noted that angels are created beings. They are not the spirits of the departed, nor are they glorified human beings.

2. ANGELS ARE SPIRITUAL BEINGS.

Scriptural References:

"Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" (Hebrews 1:14).

"Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire" (Psalm 104:4).

Angels are said to be ministering spirits. Although they have been known to appear in visible forms yet they are spirits. Angels do not have wings with feathers in them as depicted by many artists. This is of Roman Catholic origin. Evidently there is no sex among the angels although when referred to in Scripture it is in the masculine gender. Study the following references: Matthew 1:20; Luke 1:26; John 20:12.

"For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in Heaven" (Matthew 22:30).

"...Neither marry, nor are given in marriage: Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels" (Luke 20:35-36).

These Scriptures state very clearly that angels neither marry nor die.

3. THERE IS AN INNUMERABLE NUMBER OF ANGELS.

Scriptural Reference:

"But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels" (Hebrew 12:22).

The multitude of angels is beyond number. In II Kings 6:17 the mountain around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire. Jesus said that He could have called twelve legions of angels (Matthew 26:53).

B. ANGELS HAVE GREAT POWER AND ARE OF VARIOUS ORDERS.

1. THERE ARE VARIOUS ORDERS OF POWER AND AUTHORITY AMONG THE ANGELS.

Not all angels have the same power and authority but there seems to be various orders and rank among them. We see this as we study the following:

- (a) Archangels: Michael - Daniel 10:13; Jude 9.
Gabriel - Daniel 8:16.
- (b) Cherubim: - Genesis 3:24.
- (c) Seraphim: - Isaiah 6:1.

2. ANGELS HAVE GREAT POWER.

Scriptural References:

"Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord" (II Peter 2:11).

"Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word" (Psalm 103:20).

One angel smote the entire first born in Egypt. One angel rolled back the stone from the sepulchre. One angel smote 185,000 Assyrians (Isaiah 37:36). One angel has power to lay hold of Satan and bind him for one thousand years (Revelation 20:2-10).

Although angels are mighty, they are not almighty. Their power is delegated. They are the angels of "POWER" (II Thessalonians 1:7).

C. ANGELS HAVE AN IMPORTANT MINISTRY.

1. ANGELS HAD A PLACE IN THE MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST.

The coming of the Christ child was announced to both the virgin Mary and Joseph by angels (Matthew 1:20; Luke 1:26-27). Angels were present at His birth, His resurrection, and His ascension, and will accompany Him at His return in glory (Matthew 24:31). There were also angelic appearances at the temptation in the wilderness and in Gethsemane.

2. ANGELS HAVE A PLACE IN THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH.

Scriptural References:

"The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them" (Psalm 34:7).

"For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all they ways" (Psalm 91:11).

"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth" (Luke 15:10).

"Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" (Hebrews 1:14).

Note their ministry stated in these Scriptures:

- (a) Encampeth around about them who fear the Lord;
- (b) Charge over them to bear them up;
- (c) Rejoice when a sinner repents;
- (d) Minister to the heirs of salvation.

3. ANGELS DO NOT PREACH THE GOSPEL.

An angel instructed Cornelius where to go to find a preacher who would speak to him (Acts 10:30-32). The angel gave instructions where he could find a preacher, but the angel did not preach the Gospel to Cornelius. This was left for Peter to do.

Angels have never been commissioned to preach the gospel. They are not sinners saved by grace; they have never been washed in the blood of Jesus, baptized in His Name, nor filled with His Spirit. Only those who have been partakers of the redemption brought to fallen man by the Cross of Calvary may tell of His love revealed there. Angels are keenly interested, they watch over our dealing with the unsaved, but they can never have the privilege of preaching the gospel.

D. THERE ARE FALLEN ANGELS FOR WHICH HELL HAS BEEN PREPARED.

Scriptural References:

"For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment" (II Peter 2:4).

"And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains unto darkness unto the judgment of the great day" (Jude 6).

"Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matthew 25:41).

The Bible clearly states that there are a large number of angles that at one time fell and sinned. However, the Bible does not give us much information concerning the nature of their transgression. Actually the message of the Bible concerns God's dealings with man. It does not reveal much that transpired before the first verse of Genesis.

It is the writer's opinion that the fallen angels fell with the devil. It should be noted that they share the same judgment with the devil. Hell was prepared for the devil and his angels. In their sin they kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation. This would give the information that they had been assigned definite powers and a certain glory and dignity which they were not satisfied with. They allowed the devil to lead them into the sin of pride and willful disobedience. They became exalted and rose up in revolt against God Himself.

Their work is to oppose God, do Satan's work, afflict God's people, try to deceive God's people, etc.

Their eternal doom is the eternal fire. There is no hope of redemption for them. It would seem that the saints will have some part in their judgement (I Corinthians 6:3).

LESSON TWELVE

SELF HELP TEST

A. Explain clearly what is meant by the double cure.

B. Answer properly the following objection to divine healing: "The age of miracles is past."

C. How does Hebrews 13:8 prove that Jesus heals the body.

D. State the THREE secondary causes of sickness:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____