

Angels are Incidental

October 14, 2012 ~ “Christian Materialism #2” ~ Heb 2.10-16

Recap of Last Week

- ❖ Attributes of God ~ emphasis upon 3 omni’s and spiritual existence
- ❖ But material is central to our existence ~ “**Matter Matters**” (Wendy B)
 - ✧ Unbelievers can deify creation ~ and now do so . . .
 - ✧ Believers must not denigrate creation ~ we still have “**cultural mandate**”
- ❖ Ended with thoughts on “**seeing God**” and Jesus being God incarnate
- ❖ Last week’s message was entitled “**God is Immaterial**” ~ no disrespect intended

Today’s Message Concerns More of the Immaterial ~ Angels

- ❖ Difficult to choose text ~ angels referred to – but only in regards to God or man
- ❖ God is central character of Scripture ~ but as He operates upon mankind
 - ✧ So in order of character importance is 1) God, 2) man, then 3) angels
 - ✧ In researching angels two writers called them “**incidental**” (*i.e., not central*)
 - ◆ I mean no disrespect ~ on the contrary my study has humbled me
- ❖ My original title was “**Men and Angels**” and it will be about both . . .
 - ✧ Men and angels have much in common ~ but many differences as well
 - ✧ We’ll review the similarities & differences between men & angels
 - ✧ In regards to 1) creation & fall, 2) the present age, and 3) in the age to come

Let’s 1st Look at the Creation of Men & Angels

- ❖ We know mankind was created on Day 6 (**Gen 1 & 2**) ~ right after the animals
 - ✧ But when does the Bible say that angels were created ~ or were they?
 - ✧ Did heaven and the angels already exist prior to **Gen 1.1**?
- ❖ Let’s first address “**if**” they were created
 - ✧ **Read Ps 148.1-6** ~ **v2, 5** ~ God created angels & hosts / **v6** ~ they’re eternal
- ❖ But “**when**” were angels created?
 - ✧ We’re not sure . . . But we do know “**by when**” they were created
 - ✧ God asks **Job** in **38.4,7** “**Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? . . . when all the sons of God shouted for joy?**” ~ Created by **Gen 1.9**
 - ✧ Angels created in **Gen 1.1** at “**heavens**” or **Gen 1.8** (2nd day) at “**Heaven**”

Xition: Similarities and differences in creation of men and angels . . .

What are the S & D of Men and Angels in Creation ?

❖ Similarities

- ✧ Men and angels are creatures ~ both were created by God (*Jesus*)
 - ◇ Higher order than the animals ~ created as persons
 - ◇ Upright / holy and pure ~ “*very good*” on day 6
 - ◇ Obligated to worship & serve the Creator in assigned roles / spheres
 - ◇ Servants ~ “*man - dominion*” / Angels “*ministering spirits*” ~ **Heb 1.14**
 - ◇ With immortal spirits ~ **Lk 20:35-36** (“*men & marriage & angels*”)

❖ Differences

- ✧ Angels are spirit only ~ Men are both material and spirit (**Ecc 12.7**)
- ✧ Angels are immortal ~ Men are mortal & immortal (**Lk 20** ~ men & angels)
 - ◇ Man as created was not guaranteed eternal life (thus Tree of Life)
- ✧ Angels are unrelated individuals ~ men are all related (*federal head – Adam*)
 - ◇ Only 2 people created ~ **Read Dan 7.1, 9-10** ~ 1M minister / 100M stand
 - ◇ This is a most significant difference between men and angels

Let's Consider the Fall of Men & Angels

- ❖ Mankind fell in **Gen 3.6** ~ ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil
 - ✧ We know Satan fell earlier because he was the serpent (**Rev 12.9, 20.2**)
 - ✧ Without John's comments in **Revelation** we connect Satan to fall implicitly
- ❖ “*What do we know about the fall of Satan and his angels?*”
 - ✧ **Is 14.12-14** is commonly believed to refer to the fall of Satan
 - ◇ “*How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! . . .*”
 - ✧ **Eze 28.12b-15** is also believed to be said of Satan
 - ◇ “*You were in Eden, the garden of God . . . You were the anointed cherub*”
 - ✧ We know Satan hadn't fallen by end of day 6 “*very good*” (**Gen 1.31, 2.25**)
 - ◇ We don't know how much time elapsed between **Gen 2** and **Gen 3**
 - ◇ We don't know what act defines the fall of the angels . . . (*pride*)
 - ◇ “*Was it lying to Eve?*” If so, perhaps this was Satan's first sin as well . . .
 - ✧ “*Satan . . . and his angels were cast out*” (**Rev 12.3-5, 7-9**)
 - ◇ Premillennialists may consider this a future event . . .
 - ◇ But Jesus said this in **Luke 10.17-18** ~ “*I saw Satan fall like lightning . . .*”

Xition: Similarities and differences in fall of men and angels . . . ?

What are the S & D of Men and Angels in the Fall ?

❖ Similarities

- ✧ Men and angels able to choose disobedience ~ “and did so”
- ✧ Neither seemed to realize the eternal consequence of disobedience
- ✧ Satan led his followers into rebellion against God
 - ◇ They knew so little then ~ yet so much by now (*6,000 years later*)
 - ◇ They chose to worship a creature rather than their Creator
- ✧ Adam and Eve’s posterity were tainted with sin through their parents
 - ◇ Man made the biggest error in human history in believing slander of God
- ✧ They were each ejected from their given domains (*Garden & Heaven*)

❖ Differences

- ✧ Angels eternal states (saved/unsaved) now confirmed ~ men’s playing out
 - ◇ For angels no redemption was possible after the rebellion (**2 Pet 2.4-4**)

Let’s Look at Men & Angels in the Present Age

❖ Similarities

- ✧ Men are always seen ~ Angels seen as men in prime of life (*elves a type*)
 - ◇ Angels in only a couple of instances referred to as flying
- ✧ Each separated into godly and ungodly divisions (**elect** and **non-elect**)
- ✧ Both engage in warfare ~ spiritual and earthly battle
- ✧ Both learn more about God through plan of redemption (**Eph 3.10**)
- ✧ Both have personalities: intellect – will – knowledge – curiosity – emotions

❖ Differences

- ✧ Men are visible ~ angels are normally invisible
- ✧ Men can switch sides ~ from Satan’s kingdom to God’s (*not reverse*)
- ✧ Satan’s angels can only “*appear*” to be good angels (*deceivers*)
- ✧ Angels can violate our physical laws (**Acts 12.7** “*chains fell off his hands*”)
- ✧ Demons can indwell animals and people / possession during Christ’s day
- ✧ Angels more powerful than humans ~ supernatural powers
 - ◇ **2 Pet 2.11** “*angels, who are greater in power and might*”
 - ◇ **2 Thes 1.7** “*Lord Jesus is revealed . . with His mighty angels*”
 - ◇ **Gen 19.11** Two angels “*struck the men at Lot’s house with blindness*”
 - ◇ **Acts 12.23** Herod executed ~ “*an angel of the Lord struck him . . and died*”

Xition: Similarities and differences of men and angels in future age . . . ?

Let's Look at Men & Angels in the Age to Come

❖ Similarities

- ✧ Both are immortal ~ saved with God (**Rev 21**) / unsaved in lake of fire (**Rev 20**)
- ✧ Neither will marry ~ “men will be like angels in heaven”
- ✧ Both will live with God in the new heaven / both mentioned
- ✧ Both will worship and serve God
- ✧ Men and angels will be of comparable size (**Read Rev 21.17**)

❖ Differences

- ✧ Saints will judge the world and angels (**Read 1 Cor 6.1-3**)
- ✧ Mankind has a special place in new heavens as bride of Christ (**Rev 19.7**)
- ✧ The New Jerusalem is filled with redeemed humanity (**Rev 21.3,9**)
- ✧ **Read Heb 2.14-16** ~ “.. He does not give aid to angels but He does ..”
- ✧ Angels are honored guests at the wedding ~ but humanity is the bride

Simon Kistemaker comment on **Rev 19.7** c/wedding of the Lamb being patterned after a Hebrew wedding ceremony . . .

“In Christ the bride was chosen from eternity. Throughout the entire Old Testament era the wedding was announced. Next, the Son of God assumed our flesh and blood: the betrothal took place. The price – the dowry – was paid on Calvary. And now, after an interval which in the eyes of God is but a little while, the Bridegroom returns and ““It has come, the wedding of the Lamb.”” The Church on earth yearns for this moment, so does the Church in heaven.”

Next week we'll explore man as created in God's image . . .

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,
And to present you faultless
Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,
To God our Savior, who alone is wise,
Be Glory and Majesty,
Dominion and Power,
Both now and forever.

Amen.