

WHY ANGELS CANNOT GET SAVED 2

Message 2

1 Peter 1:1-12

INTRO: I began a message that I could not finish because I ran out of time the Sunday before we went to the Philippines. I want to complete that message this morning. The subject was, "Why Angels Cannot Get Saved." I started out with three points: The creation of angels; the creation of the universe, and the creation of man. We had arrived at point three: the creation of man.

Before the prophecy conference, which we missed due to our trip to the Philippines, I had opportunity to discuss the fall of Satan with the speakers over supper the first night of the meetings. The speakers were not agreed as to the time of the fall of Satan, but they gave me a wonderful opportunity to sharpen my own theological pencil, for which I am very grateful.

Before we go on to the message, let me answer a question I was asked after the first message. The question is this: can or do some of the angels still fall today? Are they still able to fall? Well, if they are free moral agents, and some fell as free moral agents, it would only stand to reason that they can still fall today. But, it is my personal view that no angels have fallen since the original fall, when Satan took 1/3 of the angels with him. Our view that he took 1/3 of the angels with him comes from Revelation 12:4. That seems to be a reference to his original fall. The book of Revelation was written over 4,000 years after the fall of Lucifer, and there is no indication that any others ever fell after that, or that that number is increasing.

I believe that it was after the fall of Satan that God created the universe, and that one of the purposes for which He created man in this material universe was so that He ultimately, through man, would be able to destroy Satan in hell. In this way He would leave all mankind and all the angels that did not fall with Satan in such a way that they will forever know that their service is truly rendered by free will alone. In my view, only worship and service rendered of a personal being's free will is of any value to God. And so I believe that when God created the universe and man, angels were awed by this incredible creation as we saw last message in the book of Job. And when God created man, and man was led into sin by Satan, there in the Garden of Eden God provided a way of salvation for man. And as I see it, all the angels now began to wait and see how things would work

out. If God through man could completely prove that worship is by free will alone, then no doubt they will forever stay with God. Now, admittedly, that is speculation and we cannot be dogmatic. But I believe that view does justice to the righteous character of God.

And when God created the material universe and created man of material substance as well, He had created man in a dimension totally different from the one He and the angels were in. God and angels exist in the spiritual realm and man exists in a material realm. The spiritual dimension is invisible. We cannot see it, therefore we cannot see God or angels. No human being can ever see God until after man receives a resurrected or changed body. However, man can sometimes see angels. This can only happen when the angels take on a form that appears to be physical. I cannot take time to show you this but you could jot down Hebrews 13:2 to check this. The second way man is sometimes allowed to see the angelic realm is when God gives man spiritual sight. Here you could check 2 Kings 6.

And so, here is where we are at this point in these messages. God, the good angels and demons live in a dimension that is totally foreign to us, the spiritual dimension. We cannot see them. They are not in our realm. We, on the other hand are in a material realm. It is this realm that is visible to us. What we believe about the spiritual realm becomes our faith. And so, to show why angels cannot get saved, we will look at man and see how God chose that man would be saved. This will help us to see why angels cannot get saved, and I trust, help us to see how great is God's way of salvation, and how great is the opportunity God has granted us to be saved.

III. THE CREATION OF MAN

A. Man made as a person

So we begin our third point, the creation of man. I want us first to briefly note that when God created the man and the woman, He made them personal beings. Look at Genesis 1:26a (read). I believe that personhood is the image of God in man. That man is a person is everywhere apparent. This is the sameness between God and man. This is why God and man can communicate together.

B. Man made as a material being

Second, we note that when God made man He made him of material substance. When God did that, He had put man in another dimension than He, God was in. This material

dimension God placed man in was a dimension in which man could not see God. And because man cannot see God, he must exercise faith in Him to obey Him. And because man cannot see God, and must exercise faith in Him in order to obey Him, that is also why man can be saved. And this is also why angels cannot be saved. They see God. They cannot exercise faith. Our subject is why angels cannot be saved, and here we also learn why man can be saved.

C. Man made with a free will

Then, third, when God created man as a personal being, he created him with one of the most incredible attributes possible; the capacity to exercise free will. That is part of the image of God in man. Man can choose. So look at Genesis 2 15-17 (read). God commanded man to do things which man could obey or disobey. That is free will. And in my estimation, the only way God can be glorified is by a personal being who possesses a free will, and God's chief purpose in making man was to glorify Him.

Now, being a personal being with a free will, man also had the capacity to sin. No doubt you will agree with me that before God created man, He knew that man would sin. He also knew what He would do about that. 1 Peter 1:20 says of Jesus Christ, "He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world..." God knew before He laid the foundations of the world what would transpire if He made man as a free moral agent, and He also knew what He would do about that. So Revelation 13:8 speaks of Jesus Christ as the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. I also believe that there, before the creation of man, since God knew man would sin, God chose a method of salvation that would be totally without any potential for pride. If He made a way of salvation by works, it would only be as good as the doctrine of evolution; the survival of the fittest. But if He could provide a means of salvation that did not allow for boasting, a means that did not allow for pride, then He could achieve His objective.

So look at Romans 4:16 (read). God chose to make man in such a way that he could choose to live by faith. That is why He had to make man in such a way that man did not exist in the same realm as God does. And if He could do all this, then He could save man by grace. That means then that salvation is entirely apart from works. So Ephesians 2:8-9 says we are saved by grace through faith, and that salvation is not of ourselves, it is the gift of God, not

of works lest any man should boast. So works and boasting go hand in hand. If salvation from sin could be earned in any sense of the word, man would fall into the same condemnation as the devil; pride.

Now I must stop here for a moment to explain what the Bible means when it speaks of works in relation to salvation. It does not mean that you do not have to do anything. To be saved we must do some things. But we cannot do anything meritorious. Let me explain. When you work for someone for wages and you are getting paid by the hour, then for every hour of work you merit the price that was agreed on. Let us say the price is \$15.00 per hour. Then after one hour you have merited \$15.00. If someone offers you \$15.00 as a gift, it will do you no good unless you take it. So you still have to do something. But taking a gift does not merit anything; it does not earn anything.

Let me tell you why I point that out. Most of us agree that we have to believe in Jesus Christ to be saved. And we would also agree that believing does not merit anything. But numerous Christians have the view that if you have to repent to be saved, that is works. It seems to me that such a view is so ludicrous as to not need any refutation, but that is what some believe. Repentance and faith both do not merit any thing. Both are just like taking a gift. They do not merit anything. They are prerequisites to salvation.

D. God made man with senses

So God chose that man would be saved by grace, and to do that, the only way He could make salvation available to man was by faith. To accomplish that, God created man in a material universe. It was a dimension totally different from the one in which God and angels existed. And in this material universe God had to establish a means of communicating with man, since man was in a totally different dimension than He was, a dimension in which man could not see God. So God created man with physical senses. Through these senses God would make a way to communicate with man though man could not see Him. And the method of communication God chose was words. These words would be communicated in a system of sounds. So the sense of hearing becomes very important, since hearing would be the primary sense for God to communicate with man. Through words, conveyed by sound waves to the ear, God would communicate to man what He wanted man to do and to

believe. You see, hearing is the best sense for communicating words. You cannot communicate words by smell. You cannot communicate words through taste. You cannot communicate words well by touch, though it can be done. We communicate words best by sound. So look at Genesis 1:28 (read first few words). God communicated by speaking.

Now, you might say, "Well, what about reading?" Is that not believing by seeing? Well, man has learned some wonderful things. We have learned to record sounds on paper. We can look at the paper and make the sounds the symbols dictate. We have two music teachers in our family. They teach students how to read sounds from a page and make them on a musical instrument. Long, long ago, man learned to write sounds by using various symbols. Those who know how to read those symbols can make the right sounds and get the words from the symbols. And in this way, it is hearing from paper or whatever else we might record those symbols on. When we read words about God we do not see God by reading about Him, but we get the same message as when we hear the words.

Look at Revelation 1 at an interesting verse (read v. 3). This book was to be read in the seven churches in Asia. And both those who read and those who heard got the same message. So faith comes by hearing, which can be reading as well, and both are communicated through words.

E. God made man with a capacity to believe

So God created man a personal being with a free will. And He created man a material being in a different realm than in which He, God, existed. In this material realm man was created in such a way that he could not see God, as the angels did. But He created man in such a way that He could communicate with man by hearing. And thus God had made it possible for man to live by faith. Our Calvinist friends say man has to have the gift of faith before he can believe. I say man has been made with the capacity to believe, and the evidence of that is everywhere present.

So, let me point out that Adam and Eve learned to live by faith even before they sinned. Before they sinned they did not need to be saved. But they learned to live by faith before they sinned. We find this in the Garden of Eden. You see, God had created man, and God spoke to man, but man was not able to see Him (read Gen. 1:28-29).

God had also told Adam that they could eat of all the trees of the garden, but they were not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Now let me point out once more that Adam and Eve were not able to see God. How did they know that He was even real or that He had the authority to command them? They could not see Him any more than we can. They could only hear Him. And as I see it, when they obeyed Him without being able to see Him, they were living by faith. So as long as they obeyed God, they were living by faith. We do not know what all God told Adam and Eve, but we do know that they believed Him for some time at least. So they were living by faith.

Now, let me stop for a moment to consider man's senses. Of man's five senses, it is sight and sound that are most crucial with regard to living by faith. Listen to Paul in 2 Corinthians 5:6-9, "So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by...? Sight!" As long as we are in this physical body, we are absent from the Lord. We cannot see God. So, we walk by faith, because we cannot see Him. Then Paul goes on like this in verses 8-9, "We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him." That is living by faith.

So to live by faith, it is crucial that we are not able to see God. But there is a sense by which we can communicate with God that does not obstruct faith, but rather produces it. It is the sense of hearing. So the sense God can use to produce faith is...? Hearing! Now I will read some verses for you from Romans 10, and I will ask you to please, fill in the blanks for me. "For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For 'whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.' How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!' But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, 'Lord, who has believed our report?' So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (12-17).

F. God made man with the capacity to disobey

But alas, when God made man with the capacity to believe, that also made him capable of being miss-led and to stop believing. And so, we go to Genesis chapter 3 (read 1-7). Here man failed to live by faith. Man did that which God had commanded him not to do. As long as man did what God instructed him to do, he was living by faith because man could not actually see God. He could only hear what God said. If Adam had physically been able to see God, faith would no longer have been possible. But because God is a spirit being, and Adam was a physical being, and thus in another dimension, he had to exercise faith to obey God.

Is it any wonder then that the Apostle John describes Jesus in eternity past as the Word (John 1:1-3)? You see, when God instructed Adam in Genesis 1, He spoke to him. Adam could not see God, but he could hear Him. So look now at Genesis 3:8 (read). Adam and Eve heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the Garden in the cool of the day. They did not see Him. They heard Him. Now the word translated *walking*, could be translated 'going'. They heard the voice going or moving in the Garden. They could not see Him, they only heard His voice. Now you see, all of this is not true of angels. They see Him. They are in His presence, therefore they cannot be saved.

G. God made man in such a way that he can be saved

But God had made man in such a way that if he sinned, he could still be saved. This was not true of the angels. But because man was made in a material universe, man can be saved. So, let us go on now to verses 9-13 (read). You see, God spoke to them. The very first thing God does is to point out sin to Adam and Eve. This is man's dilemma. So having pointed out to Adam and Eve their sin, look at verse 21 (read). God slaughtered an animal to make coats of skin for Adam and Eve. They had covered themselves with leaves, which indicates a works salvation. There is man's way of salvation, a way that Ephesians 2:8-9 indicates wants to bring boasting.

Adam and Eve also recognized that though they could not see God, He could see them. So they tried to make themselves presentable by covering themselves. Here was the way of pride. Pride is always the problem with free moral agents. And so God had to provide a way of salvation that would reduce pride. So He made clothes for them that required the shedding of blood. Here is the first atonement blood. And now Adam and Eve had an option; put

on the clothes God provided by faith, or keep making their own. And from all appearance, they accepted the clothing God made for them. No doubt from there on they learned to sacrifice and make clothes from that which pleased God. This is living by faith. So faith comes by hearing. When we trust God enough to obey Him, that is living by faith. So when we sin, we are not living by faith.

And so, because God made salvation available through faith alone, it is now entirely by grace. This rules out all potential for pride. Salvation is a very humbling thing for us as humans. So let me say a word about the potential of pride. Pride, and the potential for pride are two different things. If we did not have the potential for pride or disobedience, we could not glorify God. With the potential for pride, we must now choose between going our way or God's way. Our way is pride; God's way is humility. Let me put it another way. Let us say we could not be tempted, of what glory could we be to God? But when we are tempted and we want something ever so badly and we decide to rather obey God, this has great value. This glorifies God. Let me put it another way. Let us say we are playing a game with someone and they do not care if they win or lose; does that make for an enjoyable game? But let us say you are both closely matched, and both trying hard, now that becomes a game worth playing. But now comes the danger of anger or pride! So, when we choose God over wrong desires, that brings tremendous glory to God. So He says that the genuineness of our faith is much more precious to God than gold that perishes is to us. May I ask you, do you have some great temptation? Do you ask God to remove it? Why not rather overcome it by faith. This is what glorifies God.

Go now to John 14 for a final Scripture (read 1-7). The only glimpse we get of God the Father visibly, is through the life of the Lord Jesus. Look at what Philip said in verse 8 (read). I know what it is like to be a Philip. We Philips, we want to see God. What we are not aware of is that we thus unknowingly would destroy the only hope we have of salvation. But look at Jesus' answer in verses 9-11 (read). We cannot see God now, but we have this promise that some day we will see God. It will be when faith is no longer necessary. Matthew 5:8 says, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." You see, the saved will see God some day. Then they will no longer live by faith, because He will be in sight. So listen once more to Revelation 22:3-4, which speaks of when we are all with

God on the new earth, "And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it (the new earth); and His servants shall serve him: and they shall see his face; and His name *shall* be in their foreheads." Why will we be able to see Him and live once we are in heaven? Because we have been finally and ultimately saved. Faith is obsolete from here on. Hope is obsolete from here on. But love will always endure. So Paul says, "And now abide faith, hope and love, but the greatest of these is love.

Now I have long pondered why Jesus is called, "The Word" in John 1:1-3. I probably only understand a small part of it. But, you see, no man can see God and live. That destroys the possibility of faith. But God could have His Word written down on paper, and thus give us all the evidence we need to live by faith. That is the written Word of God, the Bible. But God did more than give us the written Word. He sent the second Person of the Triune God, veiled His God-hood in flesh, and placed Him among man. That is the living Word. When people in the time of Christ observed the life of Christ, or when we read the Gospels, we get the strongest possible evidence we can of God the Father, without actually seeing Him. God did the greatest thing for man He could, when He sent Jesus into this world. You see, He is the Word. He said, "He who has seen Me has seen the Father."

I have not time to explain, but true faith requires evidence. To believe in some teaching about the future that has no evidence is blind faith. It is a leap in the dark. For example, the Mormon faith is based on the writings of Joseph Smith. But Joseph Smith's writings do not stand the scrutiny of history. His view that the North American Indians are the lost tribes of Israel have been disproven by DNA testing. His recording of historical sites have never been found. I would dare say this is true of all religions except that Christianity that takes the Bible literally.

Let me recommend here a message available on sermon audio from this church called, "Ten Proofs That The Bible Is The Word Of God." You will find irrefutable evidence that the Bible is the Word of God. And when we trust the Bible and obey it, we are living by faith. All of this is not possible for angels because they live in the realm in which God exists, the spiritual realm. We can be saved because we can only trust God, we cannot see Him.

CONCL: And so, we bring these two messages on why cannot angels get saved to a close. There are only two potential ways to get saved. It is either by grace or by works. If it is by works, one must be able to do enough to pay for all one's sins, and not one angel that sinned nor any of us can do that. When one understands the magnitude of sin in the eyes of God that is not possible. So we sing, "Not the labor of my hands can fulfill thy laws demands; could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow, all for sin could not atone; Thou must save and Thou alone."

So, if it is not by works but by grace, then there also is only one way, and that is by faith. So Romans 4:16 says, "Therefore *it (i.e. salvation)* is of faith that *it might be* according to grace..." If salvation comes as a gift, then it requires that man exercise faith. And so we conclude that the only way salvation can be provided is by grace through faith. And since angels are in the presence of God and see Him, therefore they cannot exercise faith. But here is a great and marvelous truth: Man has been created in such a way that he can be saved even after he has horribly sinned!

And here is another marvel. God sent Jesus into the world in human form. And once again we see the incredible wisdom of God. There, in Jesus Christ was God, but His glory was veiled in the flesh. In this way we could not see God in all His glory. So we sing,

Christ, by highest heaven adored;

Christ, the everlasting Lord!

Late in time behold Him come,

Off spring of the Virgin's womb:

Veiled in flesh the God-head see;

Hail the incarnate Deity,

Pleased as man with men to dwell,

Jesus our Emmanuel.

Hark the herald angels sing,

"Glory to the new-born king."

God came to dwell with man in such a way that He did not ruin man's chance for salvation because He veiled the divinity of

Christ in a human body. Man would see God in human form, but not in His divine essence. Such is the wisdom of God.

And then yet one more marvel. You and I, as sinners, horrible wretches in the eyes of God, can be saved by being washed in the blood of Jesus! When we truly repent of our sins and receive Christ as our Savior, we are gloriously cleansed and made presentable to God in Jesus Christ! One cannot but break out with Paul in these words, "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!" (Rom. 11:33).

[[So let me try to explain what faith is. Let me give you a little illustration of faith or of believing. Let us say you met a man in Grande Prairie, Alberta, Henry Jacobs by name, and you get into talking about moose hunting. He has some real whoppers and he tells you that he once shot a moose with a 75 inch spread. Let us say Henry Jacobs is from Fort St. James, British Columbia and he says he shot that big moose there. Well, you have a hard time believing him, but he tells the story with the details. You ask if he has any pictures and he has none. You try to check out any evidence but that is about all you get. Right now you are in considerable unbelief about that story.

Then, let us say, you are visiting someone in Vanderhoof, my home town, which is not far from Fort St. James. And there you are sitting in a restaurant with a friend who has his friend there. And you get to discussing moose hunting stories and the friend of the friend says, "You know, I went hunting with a guy one time and he shot a moose with a 75 inch spread. And so you ask where that was and he says, "Fort St. James." Now your ears are up. And you say, "What was the guy's name?" And he says, "Henry." So you say, "What was his last name?" and he says, "Jacobs."

Well, the data is coming in and it is starting to wear down your unbelief. Then you say, "Do you have any pictures?" And he says that he doesn't but his friend in Fort St. James has a picture. Well, the evidence is mounting and starting to tear down your unbelief. And then you go to Fort St. James and you find the man with the picture. This man tells you the very same story Henry told you and sure enough, there is a picture with Henry and the moose. Your faith in the story is going up. You can't measure the rack, but it looks like it could be 75 inches. You now have almost enough evidence to persuade you the story is true. But this man says, "You know, that rack went to a restaurant in Williams lake and it is on the wall there. By now you are beginning to believe the story, but you do not know 100% for certain that the rack was 75 inches and that Henry actually shot it.

Well, you are traveling through Williams Lake, and sure enough, there in the restaurant is this huge moose rack. And so you say to the waiter, "Wow. Look at that. Where did you get that rack from?" And he says, "We got it from

a guy in Fort St. James." And you say, "Do you know his name by any chance?" And he says it was Henry Jacobs from Fort Saint James. Well, the rack is 75 inches all right. By now you fully believe the story. All the data says its true. No data exists to the contrary. You were not there when he shot the moose, but it seems it must be true. You have not got first hand proof it was Henry that shot the moose, but all the data says the story is true. You believe the story.

Now most of that evidence was communicated to you through words. And if you believe the story, that belief was caused by words. It was communication person to person, and faith came by hearing. We do not know what all God told Adam and Eve, but we do know that they believed him for some time at least. So they were living by faith.

-----Reading is hearing?
