

BONUS CONTENT 20 - Angels

Billy Graham said about Angels, "I am convinced that these heavenly beings exist and that they provide unseen aid on our behalf."

Review: We covered chapter 10 of Revelation this week with the Angel and the scroll.

It seems as we are studying this book, it brings up more questions and more study. Asking 'what the bible says' about these subjects has led us into **today's episode about Angels!**

Last week we covered spiritual warfare and how a third of the angels fell from heaven and followed satan (**Rev 12:4**) **BUT two thirds of the angels stayed to continue to serve God who is on the throne!**

Angels are mentioned all throughout the book of Revelation as living creatures worshipping God! (Revelation 4:6-5:14; 6:1-8; 7:11; 14:3, 9-11; 15:7; 19:4).

Angels are servants/ministers/spiritual beings created by God!

- The Word Angel literally means messenger.
- They are His servants to accomplish God's will.

"Of one thing we can be sure: angels never draw attention to themselves but ascribe glory to God and press His message upon the hearers as a delivering and sustaining word of the highest order."
Billy Graham

- Angels are ministering spirits sent out to minister (serve) or carry out God's purposes. (**Heb 1:14**) *Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?*

"The Bible clearly teaches that angels are real, and they constantly work in unseen ways on behalf of God's children." Billy Graham

One of their roles is to serve the children of God!

They protect us.

- **Psalm 91:11** *For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.* This is where some get the idea that there are guardian angels because angels definitely can help us, guard us and provide for our safety.
Ex 23:20 "Behold, I send an angel before you to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared.

"God's angels often protect his servants from potential enemies." Billy Graham

They serve in bringing God's messages to us.

- (**Daniel 9:21; Matt 1:20-26; Acts 8:26**) Angels speak on behalf of God many times in the Bible.

"Angels are God's messengers whose chief business is to carry out his orders in the world." Billy Graham

- Their message should never contradict God's word.
- It is important to note that there are fallen angels that may try to send false messages to us as well.

- Founder of Mormon religion claimed revelation received was given by an angel. (the revelation contradicted God's word)

1 John 4:1-3; Gal 1:8 *But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.*

- God's ministering angels will speak the truth of God's word on God's behalf.

They serve in ministering to us.

- In the book of Elijah, an angel provided food. (**1 Kings 19:5-7**)
- Jesus was ministered to by angels after His 40 day fast. (**Matt 4:11**)
- We see angels ministering to God's people throughout the book of Acts as well: **Acts 5:19; 8:26; 10:3; 12:7-23**)

Psalm 103:20-21 *Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word! 21 Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will!*

They are powerful beings who respond at the command of the Lord!

- In **Revelation 10:1** the angel is called MIGHTY! Also, in **Rev 5:2**, John identifies another mighty angel.
 - They aren't just fat babies in heaven doing nothing! (Renaissance Age paintings)
- They are powerful creatures that fight on our behalf and follow the orders of God!

Daniel's angel encounter:

(Daniel 10:10-15) *10 And behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. 11 And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly loved..."*

- God's perspective towards Daniel was that he was 'greatly loved'. God sends His angels because of His love and care for us!

"... understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you..."

- This angel was sent by God to give Daniel a message and Daniel's response was to tremble at the sight of this powerful creature.

"... And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. 12 Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words."

- God heard Daniel's prayer and He sent an angel to minister to him, but the angel was delayed because of warfare in the spiritual realm.
- The delay was because God's holy angel was battling against the fallen angels. (demons)

Eph 6:12 tell us: *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*

Cosmic battles still exist between demonic angels and God's servants.

- In this fight recorded in Daniel, there are many more angels than demons, and many times there is more going on in the heavenly realms than we realize.
- Another great example of this is recorded of Elisha and his servant in **2 Kings 6:15-17** *15 When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" 16 He said, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." 17 Then Elisha prayed and said, "O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see."*

So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

- We can ask God to open our eyes to the spiritual realm that we may put our confidence in the blood of Christ and His victory over satan.
- In the things unseen that seem strange to us, we can live by faith and not by sight (**2 Cor. 5:7**) and we can be comforted and encouraged knowing that God has his ministering Angels sent to serve us.
- We are not alone in our efforts in this cosmic battle and one of God's provisions for us are these mighty angels !

"The Bible teaches that angels intervene in the affairs of nations. God often uses them to execute judgment on nations. They guide, comfort, and provide for the people of God in the midst of suffering and persecution." Billy Graham

Though the warfare is in the spiritual realm, the affects extend into the physical realm as well.

Dan 10:13 *The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia, 14 and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come."*

- This angel who was sent to help Daniel was delayed because of opposition until Michael the arch-angel came to help him fight.
- Spiritual warfare can delay the answer to our prayers.

Michael and Gabriel are the only two angels that I believe are mentioned in scripture with specific names.

Michael:

- Michael is one of the chief princes, and according to **Daniel 12:1** he is the Angel who was given to protect Israel.
- Michael had power and authority to defeat the kings of Persia (**Dan 10:13**)
- Many believe he is the head of all the angels because you see Him lead the fight against satan in **Rev 12:7-9**: *Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, 8 but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world-he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.*
- This angel Michael is a mighty warrior who can fight victoriously over satan.
- He isn't arrogant or acting on his own strength, but he knows the power of God and is able to rebuke demonic activity in the name of Jesus. (see **Jude 9**- Michael disputing with satan again)
 - In our own fight against spiritual warfare look to the name of Jesus, not our strength but by the blood of Jesus we overcome (**Rev 12:11**) and have victory. All spiritual blessing are found in Him. **Eph 1:3**

Gabriel:

- Gabriel stands before God as God delivers important messages through him. (**Daniel 8:16-19; 9:20-23; 10:8-11:1**;-unnamed but assumed to be Gabriel) **Luke 1:19, 26**)
- Gabriel's sent by God to bring the message of good news in the Christmas story. **Luke 1:19** *And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news."*

(Continuing in Daniel)...

Dan 10:15 *When he had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face toward the ground and was mute.*

- Daniel response was to fall down as he was overwhelmed by this angelic visit.

Often times when angels appear in their glory, man can be overwhelmed and respond with worship towards the angel.

- Angels seen in their might and glory, may be misidentified as Jesus since they reflect some of the same attributes as Jesus.

“After God used an angel to reveal to the apostle John what was going to happen in the future, John's first reaction was to fall down and worship the angel. The angel, however, immediately rebuked him: *"But he said to me, 'Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers the prophets... Worship God!'"* (**Rev22:9**). Billy Graham

- Though the bible teaches that we shouldn't worship angels, (**Col 2:17-18**) we can see in scripture that they that are powerful, mighty and important in God's Kingdom.

“While we do not place our faith directly in angels, we should place it in the God who rules the angels; then we can have peace.” Billy Graham

- God as the Almighty creator has created and rules over the angels.
- Our natural response is to ‘fall down’ before these powerful and mighty angels as they reflect the spiritual glory from dwelling in God's presence.
 - Moses face ‘shone’ after being with God in **Ex 34:29**.
 - **2 Cor 3:18** tells us that we become more like God and reflect His glory as we dwell in His Presence!
- **Luke 2:9** *And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.*
- Angels surround God's throne and have direct access to God thus they will emulate and reflect the glory of God.

Rev 4:8 *And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!”*

Angels are strange and powerful, and additional biblical descriptions give us images that are different and unfamiliar to humanity. (Ezek 1, Isa 6)

Ezekiel 1 describing the Cherubim: *13 As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, like the appearance of torches moving to and fro among the living creatures. And the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning. 14 And the living creatures darted to and fro, like the appearance of a flash of lightning....*

22 Over the heads of the living creatures there was the likeness of an expanse, shining like awe-inspiring crystal, spread out above their heads. 23 And under the expanse their wings were stretched out straight, one toward another. And each creature had two wings covering its body. 24 And when they went, I heard the sound of their wings like the sound of many waters, like the sound of the Almighty, a sound of tumult like the sound of an army. When they stood still, they let down their wings.

“Angels belong to a uniquely different dimension of creation that we, limited to the natural order, can scarcely comprehend.” Billy Graham

Psalm 8:5 teaches us that angels seem to have a higher rank than us right now in this glory from the Lord. (but again we don't worship them...)(Heb 2:9)

- In fact, the Bible tells us that one day we will judge the angels in our glory. **1 Cor 6:3** (in our resurrected body- **1 Cor 15**).

This can be confusing and sometimes unclear, but this commentary may be helpful: “The nature of the judgment will be one of rulership, not of condemnation. Redeemed believers will exercise authority over the angels in the ages to come.” Don Steward

- Remember in our glorified body we will rule and reign with Christ (**Matt 25:23**) which may include ruling and judging angels.
- The good angels will not be condemned. Just as God rules over them, He could give us the authority to rule over them. (**Eph 1:22-23**)

Angels are actually learning from us as they are in awe of God's Mercy in our lives.

- Remember that for an angel there is no redemption (**Heb 2:16**) as the fallen angels are condemned to the lake of fire for eternity. (**Jude 6 and 2 Peter 2:4**)
2 Peter 2:4 *For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment.*
- The angels marvel at the grace of God, who would love us so much to redeem us! Angels rejoiced at the birth of Christ. (**Luke 2:13-14**)
(**1 Peter 1:12; Eph 3:10; 1 Cor 4:9**)

“Our certainty that angels right now witness how we are walking through life should mightily influence the decisions we make. God is watching, and His angels are interested spectators too.” Billy Graham

Angels don't always appear in their glorified form.

- Angels appeared in human form to Abraham. (**Gen 18**)
- Throughout scripture we see angels appear as men. (**John 20:11-14; Luke 24:4 Acts 1:9-11;**)
- We can even minister to them 'unaware' like **Hebrews 13:2** mentions: *Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.*

“Angels are spirit-beings whose exact form is never described for us. They have no physical form like humans. When they do appear to humans they appear as men, not women. The concept that they have white skin and play a harp, is not found in the Bible.” Don Steward

“While Angels may become visible by choice, our eyes are not constructed to see them ordinarily any more than we can see the dimensions of a nuclear field, the structure of atoms, or the electricity that flows through copper wiring.” Billy Graham

- Angels only become visible for the purpose of glorifying God and according to God's will.

Commentary on Different types of Angels:

- **Cherubim** are known for their power and beauty. (**Genesis 3:24; Ezekiel 1:5-28; 28:12, 13, 17; 8:1-4; 10:1-22**).
- **Seraphim** perform priestly duties. (**Isaiah 6:1-7**).
- **Living creatures** are mentioned in Revelation, worshipping God. (**Revelation 4:6-5:14; 6:1-8; 7:11; 14:3, 9-11; 15:7; 19:4**).

- **Archangels or chief angels** rule kingdoms and planets (**Colossians 1:15-18; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Jude 9**).
- Michael is one of the chief princes, the prince of Israel (**Daniel 10:13, 21; 11:1; Jude 9; Revelation 12:7-9**).
- Gabriel stands before God and delivers important messages (**Daniel 8:16-19; 9:20-23; 10:8-11:1; Luke 1:19, 26**).
- **Common angels** are heavenly spirit beings (**Matthew 1:20-29; 2:13-19; 28:2-5; Acts 5:19; 8:26; 10:3; 12:7-23**).
- **Ministering angels** are like the one who cooked a hot meal for Elijah when he was running away from an angry Jezebel (**1 Kings 19:5-7**).
- **Avenging angels** are the ones that carry out God's judgment upon mankind for their wicked deeds (**Genesis 19:1-29**).
- **Death angels** bring a type of judgment upon a people who persecute innocent groups (**Exodus 12:23; Revelation 6:8**).

There are certainly many multitudes and types of angels at God's command!

"Millions of angels are at God's command." Billy Graham

- We see in scripture that there are many angels at God's command to protect and minister to us and bring glory to God. (**Heb 12:22 and Luke 2:13** says '*a great company of the heavenly host appeared ... praising God*'

So again we don't worship these angels but I did want us to know what the bible says about them because when talking about Spiritual Warfare I wanted to remind you we are not alone in this fight!

We have God, The blood of Jesus, His Spirit, His Word, and His Angels all a part of this fight!

"We don't worship angels but we can thank God for them and some day in heaven we'll realize just how much they've done for us, at God's command." Billy Graham

Let us take comfort in knowing that we will have the final victory and God has angels fighting on his behalf right now!

"Even when we are unaware of them, they are still part of our lives. They also are part of a great unseen army that constantly fights against Satan and his servants of evil." Billy Graham