

“Angels: Good vs. Evil”

07-26-15

In the past weeks, we spend quite a bit of time and focus to talk about who angels are and what qualities they have. Angels are incredible beings! They're invisible unless they take on a human body and their primary focus is to praise God and serve Him!

One point we've mentioned before but it bears repeating is that **all angels were created perfect!** That should come as no big surprise because on the 7th day, God looked at all He created and saw that everything was very good! And that included man and woman! God made mankind perfect and gave them a free will and angels could choose too!

As we look at it, why would angels who were in the presence of God in heaven give all that up? But wait a minute, why would perfect man do that too? Lucifer was an archangel, perhaps the top one. Listen to Ezekiel 28:13-15, *“On the day that you were created they were prepared. You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you.”*

Lucifer had an extra measure of wisdom and beauty. But he wanted to be like God, in fact he felt he was better than God. Isaiah tells us what Lucifer was thinking about in Isaiah 14:13-14, *“You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’”*

So that raises the question, “When did Lucifer change?” God doesn't tell us, but we do know it was **sometime between creation and the fall of Adam and Eve.** One thing we also know is that when Lucifer left the presence of God he took 1/3 of the angels with him!

So now we have Good Angels and Evil Angels. Let's turn our focus on the positive before the negative. Besides praising God, Good Angels have duties to perform for us as believers.

They Guide Us. Listen to these words to Abraham about a wife for Isaac in Genesis 24:7, *“The LORD, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my kindred, and who spoke to me and swore to me, ‘To your offspring I will give this land,’ he will send his angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there.”*

They Provide for Us. 1 Kings tells us of an Angel that came to feed Elijah as he was running for his life. 1 Kings 19:5-8, *“And he lay down and slept under a broom tree. And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, ‘Arise and eat.’ And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again.”*

They Protect Us. An angel protected Daniel while in the lions' den. Daniel 6:21-22, *“Then Daniel said to the king, ‘O king, live forever! My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm.’”*

They Deliver Us. Psalm 34:7, *“The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.”*

They Comfort Us. When Paul was in a ship in rough seas, an Angel tells Paul that no one will perish during the difficult voyage.

Evil Angels are just the opposite. Their goal isn't to bring us closer to God, but to drive us away from Him. They know our own nature causes us to see ourselves as more powerful than we are. That's what caused them to lose heaven and if we follow them and listen to them, we will lose too! So what do they do to us?

They Deceive Us. Satan himself set the example of what to do with Adam and Eve. The temptation was to be just like God and have His wisdom. Genesis 3:4-5, *"But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."* And Eve rally wanted that!

They Tempt Us. Jesus Himself was tempted just after He was baptized. The Holy Spirit led Him to the desert so He would face Satan directly and be tempted and follow Him instead of the Father. Look what He uses to refute even the first temptation. Matthew 4:3-4, *"And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.""* It's God's Word!

They Torment Us. Satan and His angels are always looking for those they can tempt and cause trouble for. They may torment with the loss of possessions or loved ones, or with sickness or loneliness. Satan afflicted Job so fiercely that Job became dejected and cursed the day he was born!

They Know Us. They know the weaknesses of each Christian. They use those weaknesses to their advantage. Judas selling Jesus and David committing adultery are two wonderful examples. So what are yours?

They Attack Us. Satan and his angels have no honor or sense of fair play. They delight in attacking us and causing us to question everything about God's presence. They want us to go our own way and do it the way we want not God's!

We're In A Battle. We might think that winning the battle against them is dim at best. But the situation is far from hopeless. In fact, the battle against the hosts of hell has already been won! Although Satan has been defeated, he's still alive! The Holy Spirit has brought us to faith and now with His help we're to *"fight the good fight of the faith."*

We Need To Stand Firm In The Word. We need to be watchful for Satan's snares with our spiritual vision made sensitive and clear by the power of God's Word. When we use the weaponry of God's Word, we know this armament is more powerful than anything the hosts of hell can muster! James 4:7 reminds you, *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."*

Look at Ephesians 6, page 979. God wants us to realize that in this battle against Satan, we might think we are alone, but He's provided everything we need. Verses 10-18, *"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 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. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and,*

as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints”

Life might be difficult now, but there will be a time when the hosts of hell will be permanently driven off, never again to be able to attack. That day will come when you and I by faith in Jesus Christ will enter heaven! Then our victory will be complete as we join the church triumphant! What a glorious day that will be!