

A Study of Angels edited by D.L. Burris @ Abbreviated Outline **by Bob Garrison**

Lesson 1: The Dispelling of Myths About Angels

Forward by Bob Garrison:

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it." Heb 13:2

"Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?" Heb 1:14

With appreciation for materials and format from:

A tract on Angels by Charles B. Hodge, Churches of Christ

The New Bible Dictionary, Great Britain, J.D. Douglas, editor; Commentaries by Charles Ellicott, F.C. Cook, and Matthew Henry; **Studies of Angels by Alexander Campbell in the Millennial Harbinger.**

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Introduction:

1 Timothy 4:7- 8

1. A proper approach
 - A. Objectivity is required (fair, detached, impersonal, unbiased & unprejudiced)
 - B. Exercise is essential (mind, spirit, prayer and Biblical/secular writer study)
 - C. Romans 10:17 (exercise of these functions develops faith)
 - D. Luke 17:5 (Jesus taught lessons for the mind and spirit --- thus increasing faith)
 - E. Now let's explode some myths and examine what angels are not.
2. Myth. "Nothing can be known"
 - A. Nothing possible? --- or ----

- B. Nothing desired? (Until 1960/1970, most secular books on angels were written before 1900's)
 - C. Told more about angels in Bible than about demons
 - D. Angels mentioned in 34 of 66 books (51%)
 - E. Mentioned mostly in OT??? --- No ---- Mentioned in 17 books of each Testament. (46% of OT books) (63% of NT books)
 - F. Can we understand the role of angels? (we accept baptism w/o fully understanding it. Why not angels when more is explained?)
 - G. Is it important to study angels for our spiritual well-being?
 - H. "Heaven's mailmen (God's personal delivery service - often overnight service)
3. Myth. "Angels are for OT study, but have no role in our lives since we have the NT".
- A. Many Christians unsure what to do with the OT
 - B. Gal 3:24-25 (OT Law was a tutor or schoolmaster to bring us to Christ through faith by exercising those functions of unbiased study)
 - C. Col 2:14 (many conclude when OT was nailed to cross, God fired the angels, boxed the Holy Spirit up in a book and changed his messenger service only through men)
 - D. 2 Peter 1:20-21 Essentially this verse and Gal 3:24 imply numerous references to OT in NT
 - a. Background
 - b. Comparison
 - c. As a testimony
 - d. As a golden thread to weave the whole picture of salvation together
 - E. Angels are specifically mentioned 108 times in the OT (37% of the times mentioned)
 - F. Angels are specifically mentioned 186 times in the NT (63% of the times mentioned)
4. Myth. "Angels ceased their activities when the Word was finally delivered"
- 2 Tim 3:16-17 is their proof text (if we're adequate for everything, why do we need angels?)
- A. The first question is what is missing from this position? The answer is God may need angels.
 - B. Acts 23:6-9 Be on guard not to deny Spiritual powers too hastily
 - C. Matt 18:10 and Heb 1:14
 - D. These verses demand that a profound belief in angels is an indispensable ingredient to our faith in God and His Son.

5. Myth. "Some angels are female"
 - A. This theory makes great fiction and sells a lot of curios and trinkets, but it is false.
 - B. Only names associated with angels are:
 - a. Gabriel
 - b. Michael
 - C. Angels only appear as men Gen 18:2 and Mark 16:5 as examples Scripture never depicts angels as females.
 - D. Angels are sexless. Matt 22:29-32 & Luke 20:35-37
6. Myth. Didn't angels marry women in Gen 6?
 - A. Marriage implies procreation.
 - B. Procreation implies survival.
 - C. No half-breed children.
 - D. Heb 1:5 strongly implies God does not call "angels" sons of God.
7. Myth. Do angels have wings, harps and halos? Ex 25:20
 - A. Seraphim have 6 wings. Isa 6:1-6
 - a. (The responsibility of seraphim --- to show reverence to God)
 - b. Also note they were participants in the worship
 - B. As indicated in Ex 25:20 Cherubim have wings (also see Ezek esp. chap 1 & 10)
 - a. Gen 3:24 (The responsibility of cherubim in Eden--- to prevent eternal life.)
 - b. 2 Sam 22:11 & Psa 18:10 (Implied --- cherubim were a celestial vehicle.)
 - c. Egyptian/Mesopotamian writers made prolific references to Cherubim
 - C. Contrary to popular belief, Angels are not depicted with wings or harps.
 - a. no angelic choir nor singing.
 - b. 1Cor:13 Speak with the tongues of angels, but no angelic musical ensemble)
 - c. While halos are never mentioned, angels do seem to emit a glowing radiance described as white, snow or bright in their association with their surroundings.
8. Myth. "Angels are without bodies".
 - A. Angels are spirit in nature. But without bodies cannot be concluded.
 - B. God and Christ are said to have "form". Phil 2:5-7, 3:20-21; Heb 1:1-3; Col 2:8-9
 - C. 1 Cor 15:40-42 speaks of Terrestrial and Celestial bodies in the resurrection. (If we are to be like the angels in Heaven, we must conclude angels have bodies)

- D. Angels are not fog
- 9. Myth. "Angels are dead saints in heaven".
 - A. Sometimes said at funerals.
 - B. Saints can and do die.
 - C. Lazarus was still Lazarus after being raised from the dead. (Jn 11:12)
 - D. 1 Cor 15:49-53 and 1 Thess 5 teach Christ's return and bodily resurrection of saints.
 - E. The Bible teaches that in the "resurrection" "we will be changed" --- BUT NOT REINCARNATED..
- 10. Myth. "Angels are to be worshipped"
 - A. Some religions teach worship of patron saints.
 - B. Bible condemns worship of angels. Col 2:18
 - C. Bible teaches men will EXCHANGE the truth of God and SERVE one who is created. Rom 1:24-25 (God created all things, through Christ ... Col 1:16)
 - D. 10 commandments condemned worship of angels specifically and by the rule of exception. Ex 20:3-5 "God alone is to be worshipped".
 - E. Peter condemned it. Acts 10:25-26
 - F. The angels themselves condemned it. Rev 19:10, 22:8-9
- 11. Myth. "Angels are without personal feelings".
 - A. Not robots
 - B. They are curious 1Pet 1:10-12
 - C. They rejoice Lk 15:10
 - D. And we must ask ourselves, "have we ever once worried about, cried over or prayed for an angel"? YET THEY HAVE THIS MUCH CARE FOR MAN.
 - E. Even more impressively, since Biblically, they do not have a savior when some of them fall, they could resent our having one!!!

Lesson 2: General Overview of Angels

1. In the Introduction, we tried to eliminate some general misconceptions and negative ideas about angels. Let's now look at some positive evidence where they play a vital role in our lives.
2. Angel means Malachi (MALAKH)
 - a. Last book of the O.T. (this positioning is significant)
 - b. Means "messenger" or "one sent from God".
 - c. i.e. "Heaven's Personal Delivery Service" to the New Testament.
3. Angels were created by God.

- a. Psa 148:1-6; Neh 9:6; Col 1:15-16 God created angels through Christ.
 - b. Job 38:4 & 7 imply angels were created before the world and man.
 - c. Since God cannot create evil, angels were created good.
4. Angels are innumerable.
- a. Matt 26:53 (120,000); Heb 12:22 (myriads); Rev 5:11 (10,000 X 10,000 = 100 million)
 - b. Spirits are ranked in orders: i.e. Seraphim, Cherubim, thrones, dominions, mights, powers, principalities, archangels and angels. Col 1:16; Rom 8:38
 - c. All are assigned responsibilities without any confusion. 1 Cor 14:33, 40
5. Angels are a distinct creation.
- a. Psa 8:4-5 Son of Man < Angels (KJV) and God (NAS)
 - b. Heb 1:3-4 Christ > Angels
 - c. Heb 2:9-10 Christ < Angels
 - d. We might ask why angels do not have a Savior? A cross? Mercy?
 - i. Jude 6 and 2 Peter 2:4 indicate that angels are without propitiation (i.e. the removal of wrath by an offer of a gift)
 - ii. And so why does man have a propitiation and angels do not?
 - e. Granted, some questions cannot be fully answered, but some things can be concluded from what is written:
 - i. Angels are NOT God's great experiment with external freedom.
 - ii. Man's privileges involve rights, responsibilities, representation, exhortation, and choice. He lacks privilege with power.
 - iii. Angels were created --- not independently reproduced.
 - iv. Angels are immortal Luke 20:36
 - v. Jesus could be born into the human family
 - vi. He would have ceased to have been God in the flesh and created as an angel, to be an angel.
 - vii. Therefore, the magnificent dimension of the virgin birth.
 - viii. Jesus was God in man --- not God in an angel.

- f. Man is now "inferior" to become "equal" (KJV) with angels in heaven. Fantastic thoughts --- to be equal to the powers and work of angels. Not Sun City, but to have occasion to use powers --- creates a vast catalog of intrigue. Luke 20:34-36
- g. Man to be "fellow heirs" with Christ. Rom 8:16-17
- 6. Satan has angels too.
 - a. Hell is prepared for Satan/angels. Matt 25:41, Rev 12:7-9
 - b. No changing sides.
 - c. Fallen angels are said to be "chained awaiting judgment". 2 Pet 2:4 & Jude 6
 - d. How Satan's hosts, angels or demons are created, we are not told specifically.
 - i. Improbable that God purposely created evil spiritual beings.
- 7. Angels must not be worshipped.
 - a. Condemned by the 10 commandments
 - b. Romans worshipped man rather than God. Rom 1:25
 - c. Gentiles of Colossae did likewise. Col 2:18
 - d. Not to pray to, through or by the name of men/angels
- 8. Some personal characteristics of angels.
 - a. Angels are w/o sex. Matt 22:30, Mk 12:25, Lk 20:36
 - b. Angels are created, NOT REPRODUCED. Do not die.
 - c. Angels have great strength, but are not omnipotent (i.e. unlimited power/authority)
 - i. Stronger than man, not as strong as God. 2 Pet 2:11; Psa 91:11, 103:20; Dan 6:22; 2 Thess 1:7; Heb 12:21-22; Gen 32:22-32; Hos 12:4
 - ii. Angels are known for their power than any other trait.
 - iii. Angels rolled stone from Jesus' tomb.
 - d. Angels are brilliant, but not omniscient (i.e. infinite knowledge)
 - i. Super intelligent, yet limited. Psa 148:2 (angels do praise God)
 - ii. Man's wisdom is likened to angel of God. 2 Sam 14:20
 - e. Angels are curious 1Pet 1:12
 - f. Angels' knowledge of heaven is limited. Matt 24:36
 - g. Angels are beautiful and usually in white apparel. Matt 28:3; Lk 2:9; Rev 10:1
 - h. Angels can take on human appearance. Heb 13:2
 - i. Angels have thunderous voices. Jn 12:29
 - j. Angels have excellent language. 1 Cor 13:1

Lesson 3: Angels in the Old Testament

1. As mentioned earlier, eternity, heaven and the dead were not overly clear in the O.T.
 - a. The great doctrines are found in Christ.
 - b. However, angels are awesome in the O.T.
 - c. O.T. is clear on their existence, work and value in the eternal scheme of things.
2. Angels carry out Providence (i.e. "the care and guidance of natural events to an appointed spiritual goal" and will of God).
 - a. Prayer is effected.
 - b. Providence is made to appear like coincidence.
 - c. Understanding angels UNDERSCORES the Majesty of God:
 1. Enlightens doubts
 2. Confirms beliefs
 3. Comforts sorrows
 4. Strengthens faith
3. First mention of spiritual beings, Gen 3:24. Cherubim prevented re-entry to the Garden.
 - a. First usage of word angel, comes from Hagar in Gen 16:7. Angels first duty "service and protection". As a messenger, "return back to Sarah".
 - b. Angels "provide, protect, and reveal".
 - c. Notice the advice:
 1. Gen 2:24 God provided for one wife for one man
 2. Sarai, Abram and Hagar all conspired to violate that law.
 3. Yet, the angel COMMANDS that Hagar return.
4. Gen 18 Abraham is hospitable to angels disguised as men.
5. Gen 19:1, 15-16 & 13 Angels, as men, literally take the hand of Lot and his family and PULL them from Sodom. Here the angels are used in the judgment of God and execution of men.
6. In Gen 22, an angel speaking for God intervenes in the sacrifice of Isaac. While God does not tempt us, He does test us through circumstances. Deut 13:3
7. In Gen 28, Jacob fleeing from Esau, has a dream. (Jacob's ladder)
 - a. Angels are ascending/descending from heaven
 - b. The man with whom Jacob wrestles is an angel.
 - c. It is here Jacob's name is changed to Israel.
 - d. Apparently crippled permanently, his personality is changed from a "man of cunning" to a "man of peace".
Note: God uses an angel to alter the personality of a man.

8. Ex 33. Moses is privileged to have a very friendly relationship personally with God (vs11). He was:
 - a. With God.
 - b. Talked with God
 - c. Worked with God
 - d. Saw God's back
 - e. Elsewhere, the Bible says this was done via the utility of an angel representing God. (Read Ex 33:10-11 coupled with 13:21-22 and 14: 19)
9. In Ex 3:4-6 the Lord God talks to Moses from the burning bush. In vs 2 and Acts 7:30 it says an angel of the Lord did so.
10. A "death angel" in Ex 12 is not scriptural. In Ex 11:4 and 12:12-13 the Lord says He will pass through the land. Vs 23 says a "Destroyer" will. Angels may have been used in that night of death, but an "angel of death" isn't true to the Biblical account. Psa 78:49-51 depicts not "death angels", but "evil angels". The NNAS reads "A band of destroying angels" (literally "a deputation of angels of evil".)
11. It can be concluded from Ex 14:19 that God used an angel to part the Red Sea.
12. In Acts 7, Stephen's only sermon confides how an angel spoke to Moses (vs38) and that the Law was given "through angels" (vs53). Paul confirms this in Gal 3:19.... Heb 2:2 re-enforces.
13. In Ex 33, Moses boldly demanded to see God. However, Jn 1:18, 6:46 and 1 Jn 4:12 contend that "no man can see God and live". The most reasonable conclusion is that God used angels to oblige a rear view. ---- Note: Gideon saw God face to face --- via an angel. Judges 6:22
14. In Ex 16:4 the Lord provided Manna for the Israelites. Psa 78:24-25 says Manna was Angel food. God assigns ... angels fulfill.
15. Num 22:21 is a Biblical comedy. An angel is visible and speaks through a donkey, but Balaam cannot see him... nor does he register amazement over this talking animal.
16. Angels are used in the stories of Gideon, Daniel, David, Elijah, etc.
 - a. They are awesome.
 - b. They are obvious.
 - c. They are a vital force.
 - d. They carry out God's Providence.
17. One O.T. angel is surrounded with mystery, i.e. the "angel of the Lord" or "angel of Jehovah". He is w/Hagar, Gen 16; Abraham, Gen 31; Moses, Ex 3; Balaam, Num 22:21-35;

Gideon, Judges 6:11-13; David 1 Chron 21:15-17 (also 2 Sam 24); Elijah, 1 Kings 19:5-7 & the slaying of the Assyrians, 2 Kings 19:35.

- a. Several options for speculation:
 - 1. "a special angel who uniquely represents God".
 - 2. "Christ" or "Jehovah"
 - 3. "Elohim"
 - o In any event he is in an exalted position
- Heb 1:14 Angels minister to the "heirs of salvation" .

Lesson 4: Angels in the New Testament

1. The New Testament teaches about angels.
2. If we believe the Bible, we must believe in angels. It is that simple.
3. Charismatic movements and flights of fantasy have caused many in the church to treat angels with some of the same reservations connected with present day miracles, tongues, an active Holy Spirit, and any other spiritual phenomenon.
4. The pitfalls connected with a doctrine of all eternal operations working through the "Word only" can create a "God in chains" ... an "Impotent God" ... and eventually "No God".
5. We must know the angels of the New Testament, as well as the Old Testament. Contrary to some popular beliefs, Angels were not nailed to the Cross.
6. Jesus not only had the Holy Spirit without measure, (Jn 3:34), but the total attention of the angels. They attended to:
 - a. His birth
 - b. His temptations
 - c. His crucifixion
 - d. His resurrection
 - e. His ascension and will attend
 - f. His Second Coming
 - g. They will be reapers at the second coming
7. Revelation is filled with angels. Mentioned more than 50 times in that book. In fact, there are more references to them in Revelation than any other book of the Bible.
 - a. Why is Revelation the leader? --- Because in Revelation Christians are depicted as the winners over Satan.
 - b. John emphasizes the angel value in that conquest.
 - c. Angels are involved with nearly every type of Bible person and thing pertaining to Providence in Revelation. (i.e. they represent good and evil; God and man; civil and spiritual

governments; Christ and the church ; and of course Satan and his work force.

- d. The fact that they are used in a figurative sense re-enforces our belief that they are real. (God never tells a lie to teach a truth)
8. When Pompey conquered Jerusalem for Rome, he refused to plunder the Temple? Why? Perhaps he was afraid of the God of Israel having heard many stories!? But historians tell us that it was because "no idols were there".
- a. The concept of an invisible God is without understanding to most heathens.
 - b. Christians believe that God IS INVISIBLE, --- BUT NOT INACTIVE.
 - c. Why not view angels in the same way?
 - d. Few say God does not act outside of the Bible. But if not, "How can God answer prayers"?
 - e. If God is not chained, why should His Personal Delivery Service be confined?
 - f. The only chains in the N.T., (beside those holding the apostles in prison), are those associated with angels who "lost their estate".
9. Gabriel appears to Zacharias in Luke 1. Several interesting pieces of information in connection with this visitation of an angel.
- a. First, an angel is named.
 - b. Only Gabriel and Michael are named in the Bible.
 - c. Secondly, such miracles seem to have had little impact upon mankind as a whole.
 1. They were few and far between.
 2. They had little power in producing repentance. (Sodom a classic example)
 3. Even though Zacharias spoke with Gabriel, he still doubted, bringing about the loss of his hearing and his speech for 9 months.(Lk 1:62-63)
 - i. Was this punishment necessary in this case? (Lk 1:8-23)
 - v 12 Fear gripped Zacharias
 - v 18 He needed to know for certain.
 - v 19 He required Gabriel to identify himself.
 - v 20 Gabriel was irritated because Zacharias did not believe him.

- ii. Ques. Did Gabriel go too far?
Ans. Apparently not. As a spokesman of God, he was given responsibility and the authority to act. (very important to grasp this)
- 4. What was the difference between Zacharias' doubt and that of Mary? (v18 v v34) Ans:
 - i. Zacharias was more learned - He was a priest (vv8&9)
 - ii. Secondly, having children at a ripe old age was not w/o precedent.
 - iii. On the other hand, Mary was young, innocent and unlearned
 - iv. And above all, no one had ever been impregnated by the Holy Spirit
- d. Many today would say "if I had seen the Lord or His angel, I would have believed". Would we? Would you?
- e. So why didn't Zacharias believe?
- 10. Gabriel visited Mary, Lk 1:26-38, the mother of Jesus. She believed (v38) and did not ask for more signs. Notice her response (she believed and responded).
- 11. Angels were involved in the conversion of sinners. They arranged and gave instructions. They could not, nor did they, preach the gospel. WHY NOT?
 - a. Because the great commission was given to men 2 Cor 4:7
 - b. Acts 8 and 10, Angels were used to bring preacher and sinner together.
 - c. Angels did not preach to save sinners. Acts 11:13-14
 - d. Today's faith healers use every opportunity to associate visions/healings with salvation.
 - 1. Testimonials are elevated
 - 2. Feelings expressed
 - 3. Witnessing is the business of the day
 - 4. Angels cannot provide salvation to sinners. (they Providentially arrange)
 - 5. Rom 1:16
 - 6. This is man's task. Just as Angels have specific assignments, so does man.
 - 7. If "angels lost their first estate" for failing to stay on the assigned job, we must ask ourselves "will man be any less lost for failing to do our work?". For after all, Jesus said "I go to prepare (an estate) for you.". And... In my Father's House are many estates".

12. Angels are used extensively in the N.T. to carry out Providence.
 - a. Angels released imprisoned apostles (Acts 5:19)
 - b. Angels released Peter (Acts 12:6-11)
 - c. Angels protected Paul from the sea (Acts 27:18-26) esp v23
 - d. For thereby, some have entertained angels. (Heb 13:1)
..... What does this mean?
 1. Does it differ to those entertained by Abraham? Gen 18?
 2. Does this verse in Hebrews apply to today?
 3. Notice the assignment given by the Hebrew writer "Hospitality".
 4. The hallmark virtues of Christians are compassion, thoughtfulness, generosity, mercy and ministry. (These are all various forms of hospitality).
13. Hebrews teaches more about the "position of angels" than anywhere else in the Bible. (i.e. the relationship between God-man-angels to each other. The great argument of Hebrews, i.e. as to whether Jesus was the son of God, is built upon angels. From vss. 1:1 to 2:9 and 16, notice the attention paid to angels as a comparison.
14. Acts 12 tells of Haughty Herod who had James frivolously beheaded and Peter imprisoned.
 - a. The crowd cries to Herod "it is the voice of God not man".
 - b. Herod accepts this proclamation.
 - c. Immediately, an angel smites Herod with worms and he dies. (see v23 for the reason)
15. Angels do "minister to the heirs of salvation". Heb 1:14
 - a. This is not an idle page filler, but a bold promise.
 - b. Sarah and Abraham doubted a promise by God.
 - c. Angels minister NOW and will in the judgment.
 - d. Angels will collect the sinful (Matt 13:39-43 & 2 Thess 1:7-9)
 1. This is an extremely important task.
 2. Why do you think angels are required to collect the sinful and not the just?
 - i. Every sinful person in the Bible resisted his condition.
 - ii. Every just person looked forward to the new life.

Lesson 5: Jesus and Angels

1. Ps 91:11-12 and 1Tim 3:16 introduces our lesson of association between Jesus and Angels.
2. Jesus had the "Spirit without measure" Jn 3:34
 - a. The Spirit was Jesus' spiritual source of wisdom and power while in the flesh.
 - b. Yet, Jesus was led, protected and provided for by angels ... interesting!
 - c. His entire mortal life was touched by angels. Some of His greatest teachings and promises involved angels. (Showing the relationship of angels with Providence)
3. As mentioned, Luke 1 tells of an angel announcing John's birth and Zacharias' dubious faith.
 - a. He had both seen and heard an angel. How much more was needed?
 - b. It would seem as if it took one miracle to uphold another miracle?
4. Luke (a doctor) tells of the virgin birth, obviously Mary could not comprehend the HOW she simply believed an angel who announced the coming Christ.
5. Matthew 1 tells us:
 - a. Joseph is betrothed (engaged) to Mary. She becomes pregnant.
 - b. Such circumstances in an engagement required divorce. (providing the groom was not the father)
 - c. What could Mary tell her parents/family? Or Joseph his family?
 1. That Mary talked to an angel?
 2. That the Holy Spirit of God had conceived a child within her?
 3. Imagine the reaction of the small town or neighbors?
 - d. Poor Joseph! His destiny/dreams end before they begin.
 1. Obviously, he was a kind man.
 2. He was faced with a miracle-conceived child of God? ... or an illegitimate child?
 3. Which?
 4. Could he believe Mary?
 5. If you were Joseph, would you believe her?
 - e. God knew his dilemma, so he used an angel to tell Joseph. He believed the angel.
 - f. Both he and Mary accepted the news and any stigma of illegitimacy attached to it. (if there was any).
 - g. Can you imagine the advice they might have received?

1. Separate! ... Put her away! Who is she trying to fool?
2. What trauma and drama!
3. We might even conclude that Joseph welcomed the Roman requirement to register for the Census! It required leaving town to do so. OR,
4. Was this Providence and irony by providing a vehicle for the couple to escape?
5. Years ago, prominent families whose daughter became pregnant sent her away to "visit relatives" or to "go to school" so she could have the baby, then adopt it out.
6. This was fornication with an anchor attached. In 8:31-47. Listen to the gist of these verses in John 8. They graphically display the hard-line religious climate of the day and give us an idea of what Joseph and Mary might have expected had not an angel revealed the truth to both of them.
 - v 33 The Jews told Jesus "We are Abraham's descendants
 - v 37 He acknowledged "I know that you are Abraham's descendants; yet you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place (meaning it makes no progress) in you.
 - v38 "I speak the things which I have seen with My Father; therefore, you also do the things which you heard from your father."
 - v39 They answer "Abraham is our father."... Jesus says If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham.
 - v40 "But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me.... I heard from God; Abraham did not want to kill. (Abraham was famous for his humanity, they were unlike Abraham)
 - v41 "You are doing the deeds of your father (Satan)." (Now the Jews see where Jesus is going with His argument and they try and shift their allegiance to God as they say) "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God."
 - v42 But Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I haven't even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me. (therefore Mary and Joseph grasped that this type of fornication was not only viewed as gross fornication, but gross idolatry --- so if either had to publicly claim her pregnancy was of the Holy Spirit, she would certainly be considered gross in her fornication).

- h. But alas! Lk 2:39 implies that if others knew and didn't approve, they didn't criticize Joseph and Mary publicly. (they obeyed the law and returned home--- interesting note is they had the Lord who gave the Law, as their son, while obeying the Law!)
- 6. Angels confirmed the Providence of God to everyone by their attendance during the nativity. Lk 2:9
 - a. An angel announced this same fact even to the country shepherds. v9
 - b. Note. They "said", not "sang", "glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men" but often omitted in season "with whom He (God) is pleased". vss13-14
 - c. Jesus was named "Jesus" because an angel commanded it. Lk 1:31 & 2:21
- 7. Interesting to note that when God spoke to Jesus' parents, he addressed the head of the house, via an angel ...
 - a. And told Joseph, and not Mary, to take Jesus to the safety of Egypt. (the only time when Jesus was more than 100 miles from His birth place.)
 - b. And later told Joseph to return when it was safe.
- 8. Satan can quote scripture. This teaches us that scripture can be mis-used or mis-applied irresponsibly. It also means that if mis-applied, one scripture can overrule another scripture.
 - a. For instance, Satan mis-applied Ps 91:11-12 to question Jesus' authority and to tempt Him.
 - b. Jesus corrected this mis-application of Satan's temptation by reciting in Mt 4:6-7 & Lk 4:10-12 that one "should not put God to the test" to prove a point.
 - c. Afterward, angels ministered to Jesus. Mt 4:11 and Mk 1:13
- 9. Angels are near Jesus at the cross. Mt 26:53
 - a. What were they expecting? Wanting?
 - b. A speculative question might be --- what if Jesus had prayed? If angels came, man would have been lost.
- 10. The telling of the story of Gethsemane always calls our attention to:
 - a. Peter sleeping.
 - b. Judas selling out ... his kiss of death.
 - c. An ear whacked off and replaced.
 - d. Who notices an angel? Lk 22:43
- 11. Angels outlined the resurrection. Mt 28:5, Mk 16:5, Lk 24:4, Jn 20:12

- a. Angels "rolled aside the stone". ques. Was it to let Jesus out? ans. It was done so the witnesses could see in!
 - b. Angels tell the women Jesus has risen.
 - c. Soldiers become as dead men (undoubtedly the work of angels)
 - d. As Jesus ascends to Heaven (Acts 1), a safe conclusion is that the two men were angels. (vs 10-11). Note the apostles were not afraid of these angels. They did not cry, fear, fail or run. (They optimistically returned to Jerusalem.)
12. Angels will appear at His second coming.
- a. 1 Thess 4:16, 2 Thess 1:7, Mt 24:31
 - b. Angels will purge the church. Mt 13:39-41
 - c. Angels will be involved in the judgment. Mt 16:27, Mt 25:31 (31-46)
13. Jesus referred to angels in 22 specific verses. A few of the more notable ones.
- a. Mt 18:10 The angels (plural) looking after "little ones"...
 - b. We all remember that "if men confess Christ on earth before other men, they will be confessed in heaven before God.... right? Mt 10:32-33
 - c. Luke's version is slightly different. Lk 12:8-9 (Rev 3:5 reinforces)
14. Jesus promised Nathanael in Jn 1:51 a scene similar to Jacob's ladder (Gen 28:12-13) to prepare him for future work involving the use of angels. (possibly in Lk 22:43 we just read in 10 above)
- a. This is the Biblical explanation of Providence in the Genesis and John accounts. They are nearly the same:
 - 1. The ladders from earth to heaven represent "The Word was to be made flesh".
 - 2. Heaven's doors remain opened
 - 3. From then and onward messengers (angels) have gone back and forth between God and humanity.
 - 4. Every response for relief descends like the angels.
 - 5. The Lord Himself stands above the ladder to intervene and secure relief.
15. Jesus relied upon Heaven's Personal Delivery Service. Dare we disallow them? Heb 1:14 & 13:2???

Lesson 6: Christ, Angels, Arch Angels, Providence and Miracles

1. Christ is greater in authority and in rule over angels.
 - a. Eph 1:20-21 --- (4 separate distinctions of spirits noted)
 - b. 1 Peter 3:22 --- (3 separate distinctions of spirits noted)
 - c. Matt 28:18-20
2. The book of Hebrews and angels.
 - a. Hebrews 1 (recommend reading entire chapter)
 - b. Note that angels are used to Glorify Christ, never vice versa.
 - c. Christ is endowed with:
 1. dignity as the Son of God
 2. dignity as the Eternal Son
 3. power as the reigning Son
 4. being superior to angels in all respects
 5. possessing eternal Deity as Messiah
 - d. Heb 1 concludes with a statement that angels are ministering servants not Messiahs, to the heirs of salvation (vs14). Note the future tense, "they will render service to those who will inherit salvation".
3. Hebrews 2.
 - a. Vss. 1-3 Angels are trustworthy and God sent.
 - b. Vss. 5-8 Heaven is for man, not angels. Angels will be there to serve, but they will not be heirs nor receive the glorification promised to man.
 - c. The book of Romans teaches that man is to be glorified in heaven.
 - d. Salvation is more than forgiveness of sins and a Christian life.
 - e. Man awaits glorification.
 - f. GLORIFICATION implies freedom from sin in all aspects ... body, soul and spirit.
 - g. This is for man ... not angels. (In lesson 2, we said in Luke 20:34-36, man will become "EQUAL" to angels, (i.e. equal in spiritual body). Man's glorification in heaven will make him superior in some respects to angels, --- perhaps elevated in standing, knowledge/wisdom, or perhaps in authorities and responsibilities assigned.
 - h. Jesus became a man to produce a glorified condition for man to emulate because man fell short of his destiny (Rom 3:23). ... Jesus could join man for this purpose. He did not join angels for it.

- i. Ps 8:4-5 (this is the "somewhere" referred to in Heb 2:6 above) Literally, "You have made him want, but a little from God" (i.e. has made man a little less than divine) --- some versions use angels in lieu of God to tone down the Deity in connection with man. However, the word Elohim is used here to express a class of supernatural beings, including angels.
4. Arch angels.
- a. Only Michael is named an arch angel in scripture. Jude 9, Rev 12:7-10, Dan 10:13 & 21, 12:1 --- Note his function to GUARD. He is called "one of the Chief Princes" in Dan 10:13.
 - b. The Jews taught there were four arch angels. Michael, Gabriel, Raphael (the angel who receives the dead) and Uriel (the angel who summons the judgment). Uriel is also called Phanual. Contemporary Bible students usually list Gabriel as an arch angel.
 - c. Michael in Jude 9 is without satisfactory explanation.
 1. Perhaps Satan wanted to give Moses' body to the Israelites knowing they would revere it in idolatry? --
- or ---
 2. Perhaps since Moses did murder an Egyptian, Satan felt entitled to it? Satan and other unclean spirits seem preoccupied with possession of bodies. Lk 4:33 & Mt 8:28
 3. Some even speculate that perhaps the body of Moses might have been to the Israelites as the body of Christ is to Christians. (An interesting side note is if Raphael receives the dead as the Jews allege, apparently he needed help from Michael to argue against Satan for the body of Moses).
 - d. Michael differs from Gabriel in he never had any direct messages for humans. Even in Jude, he tells Satan that God will rebuke him, but he never assumes that responsibility. He is careful not to lose his "estate" or position of authority.
 - e. Gabriel stands out in the OT and the NT. Like Michael he is named in Daniel.
 1. In 8:16-27 Gabriel instructs and explains the end of the Mosaic age.
 2. In 9:22-27 He explains the relationship of the Messiah to that end.

- f. Gabriel means "the hero of God" and/or "the man of God". He is always announcing something. In Dan 9:21, he interrupts Daniel's prayer with a message. He came to Zacharias, Joseph and to Mary.
 - g. Gabriel, contrary to popular notion, is NOT A TRUMPET PLAYER.
5. Providence - Miracles.
- a. There is a problem for some Christians understanding Providence involving angels.
 - 1. For many, to believe in an active participation of angels today means giving in to present day miracles.
 - 2. Consequently, any spiritual phenomena or mystery has to be rejected.
 - 3. That may even mean rejecting some clearly stated scriptures.
 - b. The other extreme is to ascribe being delivered from all human tragedy as a miracle.
 - c. The positions in a. and b. above place God in one of two categories:
 - 1. He is helpless (out of it) --- or ---
 - 2. He resorts to Miracles.
 - d. Actually, both of these extremes miss the mark of God's Will, as do most extremes of scriptural interpretation.
 - e. Examining the following two definitions should help us approach spiritual intervention more rationally:
 - 1. Providence = employs a super-natural source via a natural means. WHEREAS --
 - 2. Miracles = employ both a super natural source and a super-natural means.
 - f. Since "super-natural means" have for all intents and purposes ceased, and the verbal and visual work of angels, (even when employed was few and far between), never do the scriptures state or imply that this was ALL THEY DID or was it the only way they ever worked.
 - g. To the contrary, Hebrews 1:14 indicates that angels work around the clock, doing His Will for the heirs of salvation... therefore ... it is rather natural to understand that they work "Providentially" (that is, in a super-natural via a natural way) to bring Christians in contact with non-Christians to preach the Word and to deliver Christians from some of the traumatic situations of life.
 - h. **By this, some here today, by your hospitality might "have entertained angels unawares".** Heb13:1

Lesson 7: The Playing Field

1. In 2 Peter 1:4... Peter declares through "these" God grants us "His precious and magnificent promises".
 - a. Through what?
 - b. Divine power ... True knowledge ... God's Glory ... and God's Excellence.
2. If angels are promised in Heb 1:14, then angels minister to us according to God's promises.
3. If angels minister and supernatural means are not used, then angels work through Providence. To believe in angels is to understand Providence and vice versa.

Remember the explanation of Providence in the last lesson"

- a. Providence = employs a super-natural source via a natural means.
 - b. Miracles = employ both a super natural source and a super-natural means.
4. To deny angels and Providence is a disaster. Some people with the best of intentions teach that "angels worked with Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Paul ... but "NOT TODAY". If Paul instructed the Hebrews (13:1-2) to be hospitable to strangers 30 years after the establishment of the church, and we never see those strangers again, is it safe to conclude that angels "do not work today"????
5. Believing angels are totally inactive leads to a form of advanced humanism, (a bootstrap religion) which says:
 - a. God has been inactive since Pentecost.
 - b. Angels ended their work at the cross, or the resurrection, or when the last person who received the gift of miracles from the apostles died.
6. Unfortunately, this would make God impotent inadequate a disappointment?
7. Christianity is "Blessed Assurance" ... It is not "Dying with our fingers crossed". Not believing in an active God who works His Providence through angels causes the weak to remain weak and in some cases to question their own salvation when adversity comes.

8. To deny angels and Providence, as the Sadducees did, is to make Christianity altogether intellectual. It virtually robs us of the beautiful compassion and care of Heaven over our souls.
9. But God is "not too small". He is able and does use angels --- TODAY. God is the SUPREME MANAGER of the universe. In this life, we know that no manager is worth his salt who does everything himself. God uses the instrumentality of angels as a huge work force. He delegates responsibility and assigns authority, but God maintains over-all control.
10. TODAY, angels work Providentially for the destiny of nations. Throughout history nations rise and fall under the watchful eyes of angels. This is a "PRECIOUS PROMISE" of 2 Peter 1:4.
 - a. 2 Kings 6:16-18 ("those with us are more"). --- Note that prayer opened their eyes ---
 - b. Rom 8:31 ... If God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, and "they" (i.e. angels) protected God's people in 2 Kings, we should ask ourselves when did God change His method of operation --- as far as Providence is concerned?
11. 1 Cor 10:13 (the million dollar verse) helps us understand more fully that God uses angels to keep His promises to provide that "way of escape" from temptation. (Also see para 13.d.(3) below)
 - a. The question is how does he make that escape possible?
 - b. Is it by "chance" or "luck"?
 - c. If it is left to chance, it is a gamble. (We would have as much success at a casino)
 - d. If we rely 100% on God, the words "luck", "fate", "fortune", and "chance" would be wiped from our vocabulary.
 - e. "Luck" is never used in the Bible. "Chance" is used but once in the NT. In Luke 10:31 Jesus used it to describe a certain priest who was traveling a road by chance where an injured man lay half dead. It seemed so casual, as opportunities always do to men who neglect them, and yet it was in the purpose of God, it was the test moment of this man's character.
 - f. Rather than use such terms, we should consider our circumstances as "blessed" or "the will of God", or better, an "opportunity" to serve in some noble capacity.
12. Since God provides His Holy Spirit, a force of angels to minister to us, and a way of escape from our temptations, how does He answer our prayers to serve?

- a. We can rule out the "roll of the dice" and the like.
 - b. Christians are totally weak and powerless UNTIL they believe God HEARS and ANSWERS prayers by "making ways".
 - c. If a church is not growing, it is probably because Christians are not praying to come into contact with unbelievers to teach them. Once prayed, angels go to work and arrange a meeting.
 - d. At first we think it is coincidence, but the book of Acts relates a few stories of angels working in miraculous ways to bring about seemingly natural circumstances.
 1. The Ethiopian Eunuch (see Acts 8:26 angel comes to preacher to go to sinner)
 2. Cornelius (see Acts 10:13 angel comes to sinner to send for preacher)
 3. Jail doors opened (see Acts 12:7,12 angel rescues Peter, providing a way of escape)
13. Angels are organized and efficient.
- a. Angels evaluate us. 1 Tim 5:21
 - b. Angels are sensitive to a structure of authority. 1 Cor 11:10
 1. Michael argued with Satan over the body of Moses, but stopped short of violence.
 2. Paul cautioned that a woman's hair defined the symbol of authority of a man and a woman in the place of worship and to allow a shorn head would shock the angels.
 3. It is significant that Paul is concerned for those very angels.
 - c. Angels care. Lk 15:10 (also vs 7)
 - d. Angels carryout justice, discipline and the wisdom of God. Heb 12:5-11
14. What do angels do for me today? Are there Guardian Angels?
- a. Muslims believe there are two angels for everyone. One to record the good, and one to record the bad. Their system of religion is one of balance between both.
 - b. Some Christians believe an angel is assigned to each believer.
 - c. Some Jews felt one angel was assigned to each congregation.

- d. Regardless, we have already read in Ps 91:11 and Mt 18:10 that angels do guard little children.
- 15. Do we have access to angels today as Jesus promised?
 - a. The Lord is a Provider and Deliverer to those who fear Him. Ps 34:7 (way of escape)
 - b. Upon his death, Lazarus, not the rich man, was transported to Paradise. (note who was driving the hearse in Lk 16:22)
 - c. The writer later declared "angels minister to those who will inherit salvation". Heb 1:14
 - d. Our only conclusion is Jesus is with us, the Holy Spirit lives within us, and God is everywhere, why not angels surrounding us as "Precious Promises"?
- 16. Does belief in angels "opens doors of miracles" or simply "widen the door of faith"?
 - a. True we must be aware of false prophets.
 - b. But we should remember that Providence is never a "present ", but a "backward look". Therefore, we should not look for or expect a daily "nudge", but when it happens, against incalculable odds, we should give God the credit.
 - c. God's Providence was with Joseph --- but he did not see the results until years after his betrayal by his brothers who sold him into bondage.
 - d. Providence is not always seen as good and happy. To the contrary, it might involve betrayal, servitude, slavery, jail, and suffering preceding "Eternal Glory" (death). Heb 5:8
 - e. Joseph was maligned. Job sorely treated. Jesus killed. Yet this was all Providence in God's scheme of events.
 - f. God even hardened hearts to make things happen that way sometimes.

We should covet the Hebrew writer's rhetorical question: "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?" Heb 1:14

Lesson 8: Spectacles to the Angels

1. Paul says he and his missionary team were made spectacles both to angels and men. 1 Cor 4:9 How?
 - a. He discovered that some members of the church at Corinth had rejected him and his apostleship because his teachings were not in more persuasive words of wisdom. ch 2:4
2. His remarks are exaggerated to get them to see their self-righteous attitudes contrasted with Paul's humble means. This soft loving and peaceful language precedes some righteous indignation in ch 4:14 & 21 Consider these circumstances:
 - a. Before men and angels, apostles serve.
 - b. If apostles serve under the watchful eye of angels, this should be a constant reminder that every human action is heavenly scrutinized.
 - c. There is some interesting wording in vs 9. Paul says "to the world, both to angels and men" implying angels are in the world.
3. All of this "foolishness for Christ" is done before angels. Biblical writers like to use spectators to motivate workers.
 - a. Heb 12:1 "...we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us".
 - b. 1 Tim 5:21 "in the presence of ...angels".
 - c. The thief steals at night so as not to be seen. Mt 24:43
 - d. Angels do their work so that the results are seen. Heb 1:14
4. We Will Judge Angels? How? When? Where? 1 Cor 6:3
 - a. 1 Cor 6:1-7 is usually our text to conclude "it is wrong to go to court against a brother".
 - b. The Jews had elders to resolve their grievances. They resented having to turn to pagan courts.
 - c. Paul says Corinthian Christians should have godly men to handle such trivia.
 - d. He exaggerates this by saying "saints will judge the world and angels".
 - e. If a Christian can judge the world, judging angels will be a snap. Mt 19:28 & Lk 22:30
5. How will saints judge angels?
 - a. There is probably no greater mystery than HOW will we judge angels?
 - b. To best understand this phenomenon, we know that baptism is a mystery to the world. But to Christians it is more easily understood when put in its proper context with the death of Christ. And it is exceptionally practical.

- c. However, because we can't understand the full significance of baptism, it doesn't invalidate the requirement for baptism, nor its covenant relationship for sin forgiveness.
- d. Biblical truth often requires belief and obedience --- not necessarily full understanding.
 - 1. For instance, does God answer prayer? Of course, He does!
 - 2. James 5:13-16 emphatically states He does.
 - 3. How does God answer prayer?
 - 4. One method is God uses angels to answer prayer. (Judges 13:8-23; 2 Chron 32:20-21 Dan 9:20-23; and Acts 12:5-11
 - 5. To show the power and might of even one angel, 2 Kings 19:35 gives the same account as 2 Chron 32:21, except those killed by one angel are numbered at 185,000.
- 6. If we can understand how saints will judge the world, we should be able to conclude how we will judge angels.
 - a. Notice first that the "world" has never been under the subjection of angels.
 - b. The world is under subjection to Christians.
 - c. Angels are subject to Christ. 1 Peter 3:22
 - d. Since ONLY Christians can comprehend Godly Justice, it is our example which makes us suitable to judge the world by contrast. And this is whether it is Christ or God who is the ultimate Judge.
 - e. Remember that evil exists to contrast good.
 - f. Therefore, if Christians believe and are obedient through blind faith, how much more by contrast will angels stand condemned because they stand in God's presence and are His emissaries to carry out the Providence of God. John 20:29
 - g. In the same sense saints judge the world, they will judge angels.
 - h. The real issue of these verses in Matthew and Luke is "why should GODLY men turn to UNGODLY men to resolve brotherly differences"?.
 - i. Our doubts come when we lose sight of the Lord helping us resolve our dilemmas through an elaborate spiritual system with a supernatural workforce.

Lesson 9: The Finale

1. Blessed Assurance! One cannot study angelology without coming away with an understanding that angels of the Bible carried out the Providence of God. We have not exhausted all references to angels in the Word, but we have added to our knowledge that:
 - a. God cares in the affairs of men. From the beginning, He has been attentive, personal, sensitive, strong, and loving.
 - b. Psalms 34:7-8 tells of God's protection of man.
 - c. Hebrews 1:14 is proof God uses angels to help in the lives of men as He always has, even if His miracles are not obviously seen.
2. We should never underestimate the powers of Satan to disrupt our lives and cause us to fall short of our goal of eternal life.
3. In 2 Kings 6 there is a compelling story of the city of Elisha. He is surrounded by a powerful army. It is their Doom's Day. All are about to die
 - a. Elisha's servant can only see the horses and soldiers of those about to kill him and he turns to Elisha, God's prophet, for help.
 - b. Vss. 16-18 "So Elisha answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." And the LORD opened the servant's eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. When they came down to him, Elisha prayed to the LORD and said, "Strike this people with blindness, I pray." So He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha."

4. "Those who are with us this day are the same angels of God. They are still more than those who are with the enemies of God, even if we cannot see them with the naked eye. Remember the power of a single angel is greater than the power of 185,000 men.
5. But power in the spiritual world is not measured by force; rather it is measured by love which always prevails. The day of defeat never came to Elisha.
 - a. 1 John 5:2-5 "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith. Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?"
6. John's final vision in Rev 22:6-9 tells us that angels are not only God's emissaries, but also "fellow servants" sent to minister to those of us who will inherit eternal life.

... "And he said to me, "These words are faithful and true"; and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show to His bond-servants the things which must soon take place. "And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book." I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. But he said to me, "Do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God."