

ANGELS

Sunday Morning: March 11, 2001

Text: Hebrews 1:4-8 "Being made so much better than the **angels**, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. 5. For unto which of the **angels** said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? 6. And again, when he bringeth in the first begotten into the world, he saith, And let all the **angels** of God worship him. 7. And of the **angels** he saith, Who maketh his **angels** spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. 8. But unto the Son *he saith*, Thy throne, O God, *is* for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness *is* the sceptre of thy kingdom."

Hebrews 1:13-14 "But to which of the **angels** said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? 14. Are they not all **ministering spirits**, sent forth to minister for them who shall be **heirs of salvation**?"

I want to reflect on angels a little bit this morning. There is a lot said about angels in Hebrews 1. I think that it would be good for us to reflect a bit. So that we can understand the significance of angels in our lives. Angels are significant! I did not include in the notes the fact that Satan was the head angels, the Anointed Cherub, the Messianic angel which is the same as the Anointed Angel. Satan had aspirations to be like God and to set his throne above the throne of God. Because of this sin God had to and did judge Satan for sin. Satan took a third of the angels with him. We refer to them as the fallen angels. By way of review this is where our spiritual warfare is conducted. Our enemies are the fallen angels that are under Satan. The other angels are messengers of God, doing God's bidding. God used angels in the life of Daniel. God used angels more than in just the life of Daniel, but I want to focus our thoughts on Daniel and his experience with angels.

ANGELS

Daniel 10:5-6 "Then I lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a certain man clothed in **linen**, whose loins *were* girded with fine gold of Uphaz: 6. His **body** also *was* like the **beryl**, and his **face** as the appearance of **lightning**, and his **eyes** as **lamps of fire**, and his **arms** and his **feet** like in colour to polished **brass**, and the voice of his words like the **voice** of a **multitude**."

This a description of an angel. This description is similar to the description of Jesus Christ is Revelation 1. If this was the Jesus Christ, he would not have been detained by the Prince of the kingdom of Persia in verses 12, 13.

PRINCE MICHAEL INTERVENED

Daniel 10:12-13 "Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and **I am come for thy words**. 13. But the **prince** of the kingdom of **Persia withstood me one and twenty days**: but, lo, **Michael**, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I **remained (detained)** there with the **kings of Persia**."

This angel was detained by the prince of the kingdom of Persia. A more powerful angel than the angel that was sent by God. The thought "I remained there" is clearer when we understand that he was detained, the being released by Michael's intervention, continued his journey to Daniel.

This angel had been detained 21 days. This show us a little bit of the protocol that is going on in heaven. We may set our hearts to seek the Lord, like Daniel, in prayer. We may fast and disciplining our bodies before the Lord. It may take several days for a response to come as in the case of Daniel. One of God's angels was intercepted by a more powerful angel of Satan. This angel from God was in combat for twenty one days. God was aware that this angel was in trouble so he dispatched Michael the archangel to release the detained angel to continue his mission.

BATTLES IN HEAVEN

Daniel 10:20 "Then said he, Knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? and now will I **return to fight** with the **prince of Persia**: and when I am gone forth, lo, the **prince of Grecia shall come.**"

After this angel accomplished his task, he told Daniel that was going to return to help Michael fight the prince of Persia. I think he warned Daniel that there would be another angel come to him that was the prince of Grecia, or Greece. This tells us that there are angels over different nations. They are influencing these nations, and in particular, since Satan is the God of this age, his angels are influencing the nations to rebel against God. Michael is the archangel and over the nation of Israel. We have a positive influence over the nation of Israel but Michael. What is Satan doing today? He is ganging up all of his nations against the Nation of Israel. I assure you the God is for the nation of Israel. All that is going on in the land of Israel today will not prosper. We can't say that Israel has not any bad things, because they have. Rest assured, God is for the nation of Israel despite their evil deeds. No weapon formed against the nation of Israel will prosper. Isaiah 54:17 "No **weapon** that is formed against thee shall **prosper**; and every **tongue** that shall rise against thee in judgment **thou shalt condemn**. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD." The rebellion of the Palestinians against Israel will not prosper and neither will any of the Arab nations.

RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY

Jude 1:9 "Yet **Michael** the **archangel**, when contending with the **devil** (Satan had more rank) he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not **bring against him a railing accusation**, but said, **The Lord rebuke thee.**"

This verse of scripture tells us there is rank and order among the angels of heaven. Satan has more rank than Michael. Because Michael was out ranked by Satan, he did not rebuke Satan, because he respected Satan's position. Satan was the head angel over all of the angels before he and the other angels that followed him fell. At one time Michael was under Satan. One significant point in this verse is there is rank and respect for authority among the angels in heaven. This is confirmed in 2 Peter 2:11 "Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord."

MAN UNDER ANGELS

Hebrews 2:6-8 "But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? 7. Thou madest him a little **lower than the angels**; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: 8. . . . **But now we see not yet all things put under him.**"

We are not equal with angels. Angels have more rank than we do. We were made a little lower than the angels and so therefore we should not be making railing accusation against the devil like many do today. That is being disrespectful to those in authority. Another interesting thought is that Adam and Eve ruled over the earth before they were cast out. It was God's purpose for man to rule and reign over the earth. They were to replace Satan's rule over the earth. The deceitful craft of Satan caused them to sin and be disqualified to rule over the earth. Because of Adam's fall we do not see the world in subjection to man. For example, I can not put a thorn in the jaw of a sperm whale and make him do what I want. There are animals that we can subdue or train. That is what the phrase 'Now we see not yet all things put under him.'

JESUS UNDER ANGELS

Hebrews 2:9 "But we see **Jesus**, who was **made a little lower than the angels** (as a man, Heb. 2:16) for the **suffering of death**, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man."

Hebrews 2:9 is telling us that Jesus Christ reduced his rank. This was a voluntary act on his own. It

did not get busted, as in the military, for doing something wrong. Jesus reduced his rank as far as the angel population was concerned. Jesus came down to the level of man so that he could die for our sins. We do not have rank over the angels and there was a time when Jesus Christ did not have rank over the angels. Notice in Matthew 4 when Satan was tempting Jesus Christ.

REDUCED RANK

Matthew 4:10-11 "Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for **it is written** (The Word was his authority and ours, not rank), Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. *11*. Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, **angels** came and ministered unto him."

Jesus did not command Satan to leave as one who had rank. What Jesus did was to use the authority of the Word of God to resist the Devil. That is the authority that we have. That is the only authority that you and I have. There are people today that are trying to bind the Devil. Have you ever heard of that practice in futility? That is a myth. I heard one of them say, 'We bind the Devil, but I am discovering that he has a long chain.' We do not have any authority to bind the Devil. Jesus did not bind the Devil. If anyone had any authority to do that He would. Jesus did not have the rank, as a man, to do that here on the earth.

In Matthew 26:53 Jesus is in the garden and the disciples are getting all excited about Jesus being taken to be crucified and Jesus says to them in verse 26.

ASK THE FATHER

Matthew 26:53 "Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve **legions of angels?**" (from 36,000 to 72,000)

This anywhere from 36,000 to 72,000 angels. Can you imagine that many angels in the garden of Gethsemane. That would be quite a crowd. To get these angels come, He had to ask the Father to send them. He did not have authority to bring those angels in on His own. Why?, because he became a little lower than the angels, thus reducing his rank over them. He was above the angels in this point in his ministry. Again, He could not command the angels to come to his rescue. He had to ask the Father to send the angels and he was not going to do that because he knew the Father will concern himself.

One thing to take note of in Matthew 4:11 is that Jesus did not have to ask the Father to send him angels to minister to Him, the Father knew he needed them, therefore he sent them. There are times when we do not need to ask the Father for assistance from angels and then there may be times when we do.

HE HAD RANK OVER THE EARTH

Luke 8:24 "And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he arose, and **rebuked the wind** and the **raging of the water**: and they ceased, and there was a **calm.**"

The apostles in a boat on the Sea of Galilee and they were sinking. They thought they were going to drown. It must have been a very fierce storm, because some of the apostles had been fishermen and they had experienced some bad storms in their day. This storm must have been very, very severe. They exclaimed to the Master, 'we are going to perish or drown.' One power that Jesus Christ did not relinquish was his authority over this earth. He had not sinned like Adam who lost his authority over the earth. Because he did not have the sin of Adam, he had the authority given to Adam by God to control the earth. He could control the Sun, he could make the Sun stand still if he wanted to. He could calm the sea as he did in this instance. Jesus did not lose his authority to have dominion over the earth as had been given Adam.

To day we have not been given authority over the earth in the same way that the Lord had when He calmed the sea. Jesus had the authority to calm the sea, but Paul did not have the authority to calm

the Mediterranean in Acts 27. The sea could have been calmed in answer to prayer but not by Pau's command.

Jesus had authority over the fish of the sea. He demonstrated this in John 21:6 "And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes." Jesus was a fish herder. Jesus was able to sit on a colt, the fold of a donkey and ride into Jerusalem with having to break that colt first. Jesus could take cooked loaves of bread and fish and multiply them without having to continue to prepare them for distribution. John 6:11 "And Jesus took the **loaves**; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the **fishes** as much as they would."

We can give thanks today because of what we learn in Ephesians 1:19-21:

NOW JESUS RANKS OVER ANGELS

Ephesians 1:19-21 "And what *is* the **exceeding greatness** of his **power** to us-ward who **believe** [present tense], according to the working of his mighty power, *20*. Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*, *21*. **Far above** all **principality**, and **power**, and **might**, and **dominion**, and every **name** that is named, not only in this **world** [age], but also in that which is **to come** [the coming age, the millennial kingdom]."

Today Jesus Christ has the authority that he had before he came to earth to die for our sins. He is over all principalities. He is over Satan today. He has not usurped His authority over Satan as far as Satan's office is concerned, but that is coming and Satan knows that. Satan knows that his time is coming when he will lose his authority over the earth because he has read the Bible. I assure you that Satan knows the Bible better than any theologian in the world.

Today Jesus is in charge and he is using angels to accomplish is will here on earth. We see that is was during the period of the book of Acts that angels were used more than after the book of Acts. Later, we find that the use of angels picks up in the book of Revelations from chapter 4 to the end of the book. In Hebrews 13:2 "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." Angels can make themselves unknown to us and not be so obvious as in the cases we see in the book of Acts.

ANGELS USED BY GOD

Acts 5:19-20 "But the **angel** of the Lord by night **opened** the **prison doors**, and **brought them** (Apostles) **forth**, and said, *20*. Go, stand and speak in the temple . . ."

Because of the phrase 'the angel of the Lord' many think this was Jesus Christ himself, but I am persuaded that was an angel, because we know that Jesus is at the right hand of the Father's throne. If it had been Jesus Christ, the apostle would have recognized him.

LEAD BY AN ANGEL

Acts 8:26 "And the **angel** of the Lord spake unto Philip (full of faith, and the Holy Spirit), saying, Arise, and **go** toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert."

I thought it was interesting that used an angel to help Philip to know where to go, and Philip was one men that was full of faith, and full of the Holy Spirit in Acts 6. Why didn't the Holy Spirit lead him down to Gaza? I do not have the answer to that question.

The Holy Spirit did lead him to join himself to a particular chariot when he did get to Gaza in Acts 8:29.

WARNED BY AN ANGEL

Acts 10:22 "And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, **was warned from God** by an holy **angel** to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee."

God used an angel in the life of Cornelius in Acts chapter ten. An angel warned Cornelius and had him send for Peter to come to his house.

The Lord use an angel to deliver Peter from prison in Acts 12. Herod had just killed James and his rating among the Jews went up, so he thought that if he killed Peter, that he would be even more popular with the nation of Israel.

FALLEN ANGELS ARE ENEMIES

Ephesians 6:12-13 "For we wrestle **not** against **flesh** and **blood**, but against **principalities**, against **powers**, against the **rulers** of the darkness of this world, against **spiritual wickedness in high [heavenly] places**. 13. Wherefore take unto you the **whole armour** of God, that ye may be **able to withstand** in the evil day, and having done all, to **stand**."

We have a reference to fallen angels in Ephesians 6:12-13. Our warfare is in the heavenlies. Our warfare is not here, but in heaven. Now Satan may influence people here on the earth to cause us grief, but our real warfare is in heaven. We are encouraged to take unto ourselves the whole armor of God that we "may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." Our enemies are fallen angels and they are under the authority of Satan.

SECURE AGAINST OUR ENEMIES

Romans 8:37-39 "Nay, in all these things we are **more than conquerors** through him that **loved us**. 38. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor **angels**, nor **principalities**, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39. Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, **shall be able to separate us from the love of God**, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

We do not have to be afraid of our enemies, even though we must respect them. Remember that we are lower than they are as far as rank is concerned. We can not order them in any way, we can resist them according to the Word of God and they will flee from us.

When I read about the 'love of God' toward us, I look at from the prospect of his ministry to us. The word 'love' some times becomes very fuzzy. It can be abstract. It is like electricity. We know when we experience it when we put our fingers into a live socket. We can explain it but we do not know what it is. The love of God for us is demonstrated in his ministry to us in care and supplying of our needs. When I think about being secure from our enemies because God loves us, it means that he will minister to us what we need to stand in the evil day.

ANGELS ARE MINISTERING SPIRITS

Hebrews 1:14 "Are they not all **ministering spirits**, sent forth to minister for them who shall be **heirs of salvation**?"

Those who have been called unto His kingdom and glory have been given a guardian angel. These angels are ministering spirits to those who are heirs of this salvation. What salvation is being referred to here? One key to the answer to this question is the word 'heir.' Because of this word we know that this is a family matter and it is defined in Hebrews 2 that we will come to in just a moment. Let us read Matthew 18:10 first.

THEIR ANGELS ARE WATCHING

Matthew 18:10 "Take heed that ye despise not one of these **little ones**; for I say unto you, That in heaven their **angels** do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven."

These little children are those who will enter the kingdom of the heavens as in Matthew 18:3 "And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as **little children**, ye shall not **enter** into the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:10 tells us that the little children have guardian angels who are looking at the Father so they know what and when to act on our behalf. Those who are heirs of salvation are the little children who are endeavoring to enter into the kingdom of the heavens and to rule and reign with Christ.

INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Hebrews 2:3 "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great **salvation**; which **at the first** began to be **spoken** by the **Lord**, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard *him*;"

The salvation of Hebrews 1:14 is in the context of the so great salvation of Hebrews 2:3. This salvation was first spoken by the Lord at the beginning of His ministry. What was the message preached at the first? He was talking about repenting and being baptized for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. The rule of the heavens over the earth was at hand. Prepare to enter that kingdom. That is what Jesus was preaching at the first. That message was confirmed unto us by the Apostle and those who heard him. The Apostle and disciples confirmed it unto us. They wrote about and we read about in the New Testament. The 'salvation' of Hebrews 1:14 is the 'so great salvation' in Hebrews 2:3 and that salvation is to be associated with entrance into the kingdom of the heavens. This 'so great salvation' is in contrast the 'common salvation' referred to in Jude 3. The common salvation is the salvation that all in the family enjoy. That puts us into the family of God. The so great salvation puts us into an inheritance of the kingdom of the heavens.

In Luke 20 it talks about the time when we will be equal with angels. Right now we are lower than angels. Jesus Christ is now over the angels having been under them. There will come a time that we will be equal to angels having been under them all of our live.

EQUAL UNTO ANGELS

Luke 20:35-36 "But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that **world** [age, millennial kingdom], and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: 36. Neither can they die any more: **for they are equal unto the angels**; and are the **children** [sons] of God, being the **children** [sons] of the resurrection."

The resurrection being referred to in this verse is the out resurrection of Philippians 3:11 "If by any means I might attain unto the [out] resurrection of [from among] the dead." This out resurrection is to be associated with the prize of Philippians 3:14 "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." This resurrection is referred to in Revelation 20:6 which we will get to in a moment. He says in verse 36 that ye are the sons of God. What will the sons of God do in the millennium? They will rule and reign with Christ. Revelation 21:7 "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son." Luke 20:35,36 is telling us that one day we will be promoted to be equal to angels. At the level that we are now, we can die, but when we become as the angels of heaven, we will not be able to die.

SATAN CAST OUT OF HEAVEN

Revelation 12:7-8, 10 "And there was war in heaven: **Michael** and **his angels** fought against the dragon; and the **dragon** fought and **his angels**, 8. And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. . . . 10. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come [the] **salvation** (so great salvation), and strength, and the **kingdom of our God**, and the **power** [authority] of his Christ: . . ."

After Satan and his followers are removed from heaven by Michael then comes the announcement: 'Now is come the salvation,' which has the definite article before it. I believe that this salvation is the so great salvation of Hebrew 2:3. The coming of this salvation is in the middle of the tribulation period, therefore I believe it should be associated with the 'So great salvation' of Hebrews 2:3. This salvation

is not the common salvation that is associated with being born from above. This is the time according to Revelation 11:15 "And the seventh angel sounded; . . ., saying, The kingdoms of this world are become *the kingdoms* of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever." Christ's kingdom is being established because the principalities and powers that were in place will be removed and then occupied by the saints and faithful qualified to rule and reign. Being promoted to the rank of an angels will allow those who "shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world [age]" to reign as a king or as a lord.

Mentioned along with the coming of 'the salvation' is 'strength' which can be translated 'a mighty work' which would describes the kingdom of our God. 'Now is come... the kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Christ.' Now is come the authority of God's anointed, Jesus Christ, as King of kings and Lord of lords.

BEST RESURRECTION

Revelation 20:6 "Blessed and holy *is* he that hath **part** in the **first** [best] **resurrection**: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and **shall reign with him a thousand years.**"

The word 'first' can be translated 'best' and in this context, being translated first, gives us a better understanding of who will reign with Christ a thousand years. This resurrection is the preferred resurrection. It carries the same thought as found in Hebrews 11:35 "Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:" where a better resurrection was desired.

Paul had that desire as expressed in Philippians 3:11 "If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead." and in Philippians 3:14 "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." This resurrection is know as the 'out resurrection' and as the 'prize of the high calling.'

Those who have part in the best resurrection will not be hurt by the second death, which is the lake of fire, that will try men's works. The gold, silver, and precious stones will pass through this fire, but the dead works will burn and will suffer loss.

The best resurrection is for the faithful. The ones who will hear, as in Matthew 25:21 ". . . Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."