

Sunday, March 28, 2010—The Truth About Angels: How to Fight an Angel

Introduction

- What have we seen so far?
 - Defined angels and studied their characteristics and classifications.
 - Fall of Lucifer and the marketing of his plan of evil.
 - Groups and activities of fallen angels.
 - The creation of the Lake of Fire and the end of the Angelic rebellion.
 - The heavenly sanctuary and the structure of the universe.
 - The location of fallen angels in the second heaven and the governmental structure of the heavenly places.
 - Angles as ministering spirits to Israel: Old Testament, earthly life and ministry of Jesus Christ, and ages to come.
 - The Body of Christ does not need angelic ministrations rather they need our two-fold ministry to them: teaching them the manifold wisdom of God, and judging the angelic world.

- Satan sits atop a hierarchy of minions and angels that are beneath him. Satan seeks to oppose all that God is trying to accomplish. As we have already studied he is king over all the children of pride.

- Ephesians 6:11-13—there is no doubt that we are looking at a struggle with the forces of darkness. Satan himself doesn't oppose you in his organization of angelic beings who we wrestle with.

- Satan himself doesn't need to come against you to get you to sin. Your flesh can take care of that on its own.

- Satan's name means adversary which means he is actively seeking to thwart or block what God is doing. Like playing chess.

- This morning I want to compare and contrast three different time periods of angelic warfare: earthly ministry of Christ, current dispensation of Grace, Ages to Come.

Demon Possession in the Gospels

- Luke 8:1—signs accompanied the preaching of the gospel of the kingdom to tangibly demonstrate to Israel that their Messiah was in their midst.

- Two signs demonstrated the presence of Messiah in their midst: 1) healing the sick, and 2) the casting out of devils.
 - Isaiah 35:3-5—physical healing
 - Zechariah 13:2—removal of unclean spirits from the land

- People today talk about these two miracles more than any others.

- Matthew 4:23-24

- Matthew 12:26-28—the casting out of devils was a sign to the nation of Israel that the Kingdom of God was at hand.
- Mark 5:10—Satan infested Israel with demonic activity during Christ’s earthly ministry.
- Luke 10:17-20
- This open conflict of time past is not occurring during the dispensation of grace.

Our Current Cold War

- When we get to Paul’s epistles the Bible is silent on the topic of demon possession and angels in general for that matter.
- Ephesians 6:11-13—we are locked in a struggle with the principality and powers who were put to open shame by Christ on the cross (Colossians 2:14-15). These are the same being who did not understand the wisdom of God in a mystery (I Corinthians 2:7-8).
- As we saw last week Satan and his minions will stop at nothing to obscure the truth of the mystery and as our teaching ministry in the heavenly places (Ephesians 3:10).
- II Corinthians 10:3-5—the battle we are fighting is in our thought life. It’s a battle over the mind and its being fought in the realm of doctrine.
- I Timothy 4:1-3—our warfare is spiritual in its nature, mental in its location, and doctrinal in its tactics.
- Satan is seeking to obscure the truth of the mystery by laying down competing doctrines to the truth of grace. Satan will not attack you by making your kids sick, giving your car a flat tire, or reversing your business fortunes.
- II Timothy 2:25-26—Satan has a will for your life and it’s not victory.
- Ephesians 6:11-12—wiles are the tricky schemes and strategies of the devil.
- Ephesians 4:14, 27—there are false doctrines just waiting for people to walk into them and become ensnared. We give place to the devil in our life when we allow the doctrines of devils to influence our life and conduct.
- II Corinthians 11:3—Satan will use any means at his disposal to corrupt our minds from the simplicity that is in Christ.
 - The battle is in our mind
 - Satan tries to complicate what is in reality a simple message.
- II Corinthians 11:13-15—if Satan came against anyone looking like Satan he would never deceive anyone.
- II Corinthians 2:10-11

- Ephesians 6:11-14—four times God through Paul tells that all he wants us to do is stand. To hold our ground to fortify our fixed position in the doctrines of grace (I Corinthians 15:58—steadfast unmovable).
- The way we resist angelic opposition today is to stand fast in the lord and in the power of his might.
- Satan’s attack on the message of grace is tree-fold:
 - Attack the message
 - Attack you as the messenger of the message
 - Discourage or discredit you in the minds of others.
- Romans 12:1-2—this is why we are instructed to renew our minds.
- Philippians 4:8

The Coming Hot War

- I Thessalonians 4:16—one of the only times angels minister to us in during our exit from planet earthy into the heavenly places.
- Revelation 12:7-9—Micheal and his angels will remove Satan and his angels from their current places in the heavens and cast them into the earth.
- The purification of the heavens leaves the heavenly places vacated for us to be given our eternal inheritance.
- Revelation 19—at the end of the tribulation, Christ will come back to earth himself leading the armies of heaven and defeat Satan’s forces as second time upon the earth.

Conclusion

- We need to fight the good fight of faith and hold the line against the doctrines of devils that come and try to ensnare us and hold our minds hostage.
- We need to not reverse the roles and look for angelic ministration when it’s the angles that need our ministry to them.
- We need to wait patiently for the voice of the archangel when our hope will be realized.