

Sunday, July 10, 2016—I Corinthians 6:1-3: We Shall Judge Angles, Part II

### **Introduction/Review**

- Last Sunday we began our consideration of chapter 6 by looking at verses 1 through 3. Our primary goal last Sunday was just to understand the structure and sense of these verses. In doing so we observed the following points:
  - All three verses are comprised of questions. This is emblematic of Paul’s often used teaching device of leading his readers through a series of questions. One does not encounter a statement until verse 4.
  - The Corinthians were going to law with one another before the unjust and not before the saints. Paul rebukes them sharply for this in verse 5.
  - The following statements in verses 2 and 3 are in the future tense.
    - “Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world?”
    - “Know ye not that we shall judge angels?”
  - In contrast, the following expressions from verses 2 and 3 speak to something the Corinthians should have been doing now in the present i.e., judging the small matters of the things that pertain to this life.
    - “are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?”
    - “how much more things that pertain to this life?”
  - The issue here is not just that it is embarrassing for believers to sue one another in a court of law. It’s more fundamentally basic than that. It’s that behaving in this manner is out of step with why God formed the body of Christ in the first place. The Corinthians are demonstrating their complete lack of spiritual discernment.
  - In the future the Corinthians are going to do this big important thing i.e., they are going to be judging angels. Yet, in the present they are not even properly handling their own petty disputes properly.
- I Corinthians 6:3—the notion that believers are going to judge angles in the future needs further explanation. Throughout his epistles Paul depicts the body of Christ as having a ministry to angles rather than angles having a ministry to us.
- Hebrews 1:13-14—many believe in the notion of guardian angles. While this belief is prominent in Roman Catholic circles many Protestants believe in guardian angels as well. Many believe that

angels do everything from watch over their children while they sleep to keep their cars on the road while they drive.

- Where do these ideas come from? Why do people hold these beliefs? They get these ideas from the Bible.
- I Corinthians 6:3—in order to properly understand what is going on in this verse as it relates to the body of Christ we need to first understand the relationship that angels had with Israel in time past and will do in the Ages to Come.
- Understanding that relationship will be the primary focus of this message. Next week, we will study how angels related to the church the body Christ.

### **Angels: Israel's Ministering Spirits**

- Hebrews 1:13-14—these are the verses that are used to teach that people have guardian angels.
- What salvation is this verse speaking about? Hebrews 2:1-4 is talking about the gospel of the kingdom which was spoken by the Lord and confirmed during the earthly ministry of Christ with signs and wonders. This is Israel's kingdom salvation.
- Hebrews 1:14—it is important to note that the people in Hebrews 1:14 have not yet received their salvation. Israel as a nation does not receive salvation and the forgiveness of sins until the kingdom.
  - Romans 11:26
  - Acts 3:18-19
- Psalm 91:10-12—ministering angels is how God chose to take care of the nation of Israel.
- Psalm 34:7—all through the life of the nation of Israel angels ministered to God's chosen people.
- This morning we are going to consider Israel's relationship with/to angels by looking at the following the time frames:
  - Old Testament
  - The life of Jesus Christ
  - The Ages to Come.

## Old Testament

- Genesis 24:7, 40—an angel is going to guide Isaac to the right girl. From the earliest days of God’s dealing with Israel before they were even a nation we find angelic activity associated with Israel.
- Exodus 23:20-23
- Angels were involved in the giving of the Law to the nation of Israel (Galatians 3:19, Hebrews 2:2, Acts 7:53).
- Angels provided physical provision and protection (I Kings 19:5-7, Daniel 6:22).
- Angels were involved in the answering of prayers (Daniel 9:20-27, 10:5-21).

## Earthly Ministry of Christ

- Angels are active throughout the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ.
- At His Birth:
  - *Prediction:* Gabriel predicted His birth (Matthew 1:20, Luke 1:26-28).
  - *Announcement:* An angel announced His birth to the shepherds and was then accompanied in praise by a multitude of angels (Luke 2:8-15).
- During His Life:
  - *Warning:* Angel warned Joseph and Mary to flee to Egypt to escape Herod’s wrath (Matthew 2:13-15).
  - *Direction:* An angel directed the family to return to Israel after Herod died (Matthew 2:19-21).
  - *Ministration:* Angels ministered to Him after His temptation (Matthew 4:11) and in His stress in Gethsemane (Luke 22:43).
  - *Defense:* He said that a legion of angels stood ready to come to His defense if called upon (Matthew 26:53).
- After His Resurrection:
  - *Stone:* An angel rolled away the stone from the tomb (Matthew 28:1-2).
  - *Announcement:* Angels announced His resurrection to the women on Easter morning (Matthew 28:5-6, Luke 24:5-7).

- *Ascension*: Angels were present at His ascension (Acts 1:10-11).

### **Ages to Come**

- Angels are also very active in the Ages to Come.
- Angels will protect the 144,000 during the tribulation period (Revelation 7:1-14).
- Angels will announce the destruction of Babylon along with those who worshiped the Beast (Revelation 14:4-9).
- Angels sound the trumpet judgment during the tribulation (Revelation 8:2-12, 9:1, 11:35).
- Angels pour out the vial judgments upon the earth (Revelation 16:2-17).
- Angels will cast unbelievers into the furnace of fire at the end of the tribulation (Matthew 13:39-42).
- Angels will re-gather Israel for entrance into the millennial kingdom (Matthew 24:29-31).
- Angels will accompany Christ when He sits upon the throne of his glory (Matthew 25:31).

### **Final Thoughts**

- Angels appear to be particularly active when God institutes a new epoch or sweep in his dispensational dealings with the nation of Israel.
  - They joined in praise when the earth was created (Job 38:6-7).
  - They were involved in the giving of the Mosaic Law (see above).
  - They were active during the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ (see above).
  - They will be involved in events surrounding the time of Jacob's trouble (tribulation) and the establishment of Christ's kingdom on earth (see above).
- I Corinthians 6:3—notice that we have not said anything this morning about our relationship with Angels during the present dispensation of grace. Next week we will talk about the great religious role reversal and the Body of Christ's relationship with the Angelic world.