

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ANGELS?

Deuteronomy 29:29 says, "The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law."

There are some things we do not need to know in order to do all the things God wants us to do. God has revealed everything we need. Second Timothy 3:16-17 says, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

The subject of angels has intrigued the minds of men, and even of little children, for generations. This subject is one of those concerning which a number of questions must remain unanswered. But the Bible does teach a great deal about angels, and we will notice some of those things. We do know:

DISCUSSION

I. ANGELS ARE CREATED BEINGS

A. Hebrews 1:7: "And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire." (*Maketh* is from the same Greek word translated "made" twice in Matthew 19:4: "And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which *made* them at the beginning *made* them male and female.")

B. In this respect they are put in contrast with the Son of God. Verse 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."

II. ANGELS WERE CREATED BEFORE THE CREATION OF THE WORLD

A. Job 38:6-7: "Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?"

B. "Sons of God" here must refer to the angels, since he was talking about the creation of earth.

III. ANGELS ARE GREATER THAN MEN

A. Psalms 8:5: "For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour."

B. Lower in the sense that angels are not bound by the limitations of the flesh.

C. But before we finish this lesson we will notice a very important sense in which we have a marvelous advantage over the angels.

IV. ANGELS ARE NOT OMNISCIENT

A. Matthew 24:36: "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."

B. First Peter 1:12: "Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into."

V. ANGELS DO NOT MARRY

A. Matthew 22:30: "For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven."

B. This verse shows that we will not marry or be married in heaven. This has disturbed some. But we need to understand that nothing in heaven will be of such nature as to be displeasing to us.

VI. ANGELS PLAYED A PART IN GIVING THE LAW OF MOSES

A. Galatians 3:19: "Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed

should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator."

B.Hebrews 2:2: "For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward"

C.Just what part they played and in what sense they spoke the words contained in the Law of Moses, I do not know.

VII.ANGELS ARE (OR WERE) MINISTERING SPIRITS

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

B.I confess to you I do not know, and I do not believe any man can know, whether angels minister to us in the non-miraculous age. I can read of their ministry during the miraculous age.

1.Acts 8:26: "And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert."

2.Acts 12:7-8 tells about an angel's releasing Peter from the prison in Jerusalem.

3.Acts 27:23-24: "For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee."

C.If they minister to children of God in some way today, the Bible does not tell us how. Perhaps they do so in the working of the providence of God.

D.The idea of guardian angels is without foundation in Scripture. Matthew 18:10 says, "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."

1.This affirms that angels behold the face of God.

2.If children have guardian angels to protect them from harm, as some say, then why do little children sometimes suffer tragic accidents?

VIII.ANGELS ARE CAPABLE OF SINNING

A.Second Peter 2:4 says, "For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment."

B.Jude 6: "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day."

C.This fact has caused some to wonder whether one who enters heaven may afterward sin and be cast out. The answer is no. Revelation 21:27 says of heaven, "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."

IX.SATAN IS PROBABLY A FALLEN ANGEL

A.Luke 10:18: "And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven."

B.The sin of which he was guilty was probably the sin of pride, or something associated with pride. First Timothy 3:6: "Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil."

C.Satan is the leader of other fallen angels. Matthew 25:41: "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."

D.When the angels sinned we are not told. But if what we have said is true, it had to be before the sin of Adam and Eve, for Satan was already set to do his work of tempting them to sin.

X.THERE IS NO SCHEME OF REDEMPTION FOR FALLEN ANGELS

A.Not one passage in the Bible about any possibility that fallen angels might be redeemed. Rather Jude 6 says: "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day."

B. Earlier in this lesson we stated, based on Psalms 8:5, that angels are greater than men. It is in this sense.

CONCLUSION

Can you imagine yourself in the position of those fallen angels? "reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day"? No possibility of ever being forgiven. No means by which such could occur. No gospel for them.

But tell me, friend, what is the difference between not having the means by which to be forgiven, and having that means but not taking advantage of it?