

1. Last week I taught in part the **Doctrine of the Angelic Conflict**.

Definition

1. The angelic conflict is an intense war on the part of the fallen angels to further their cause by

- producing a creature incapable of being saved--part angel and part man,
- killing the humanity of Christ,
- inducing Christ to sin,
- somehow keeping man from accepting Christ as Savior, and
- causing sweeping Christian apostasy.

2. Angels were created as super creatures to do God's will.

Eze 28:12 "Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: "'You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

Eze 28:13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared.

Eze 28:14 You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones.

Eze 28:15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you.

Eze 28:16 Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones.

Eze 28:17 Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings.

Isa 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

Isa 14:13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

Isa 14:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Isa 14:15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Isa 14:16 They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;
Isa 14:17 That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?

Isa 14:18 All the kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, everyone in his own house.

Isa 14:19 But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcass trodden under feet.

2.1 One of the three lead angels (referred to as a covering-angel) named Lucifer went on negative signals and chose to be disobedient to God's plan. This occurred sometime in eternity past. The other two covering or lead angels--Michael and Gabriel—these two did not follow Lucifer in the fall.

3. Lucifer took one-third of all the angels with him in his rebellion.

4. Because of this rebellion, God after a trial sentenced Satan and his fallen cadre to the Lake of Fire. The Lake of Fire was created not for man but for Satan and his subalterns.

Mat 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:

5. Satan and his partners apparently protested, using as their defense: "God is not fair, for we could not help ourselves." The excuse, as best we can tell, went something like this, "I, as a creature angel so inferior to you members of the Trinity, I could not help myself; after all I am not like you."

6. God created man inferior to angels for the purpose of showing that a "sub creature" could stay on positive signals and not rebel against God's plan.

7. Christ took on the form of man and showed Satan that the Godman could be tempted, but refuse to fall. His example left Satan without excuse.

8. We as believers are also part of the conflict. We demonstrate to the one-third who followed Satan in his fall that an inferior creature will choose God's plan of salvation and deliverance, thus providing further evidence in the appeal phase of the angelic conflict that the demons are without excuse.

9. Angels have tremendous power and strength with superhuman wisdom and can traverse the galaxies and the Third Heaven.

Psa 103:20 Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word.

Psa 103:21 Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will.

Job 2:1 On another day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them to present himself before him.

Job 2:3 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason."

Job 2:4 "Skin for skin!" Satan replied. "A man will give all he has for his own life.

10. Angels are neuter in gender, although under Satan's direction some chose to become masculine when they rebelled just before the flood--"they left their first estate." For more information see my *Doctrine of Tartaros*.

Gen 6:1 When men began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them,

Gen 6:2 the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose.

Gen 6:3 Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days will be a hundred and twenty years."

Gen 6:4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days -- and also afterward -- when the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown.

Gen 6:5 The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.

Gen 6:6 The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain.

11. Elect angels will accompany Christ at His Second Advent.

Mat 25:31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory.

12. The fallen angels are properly called demons. Satan is generally called Satan, the Devil or Lucifer. Demons are also called Satan's ministers.

13. God in His perfection has declared that man is an important creature in His plan to resolve the angelic conflict.

The Beginning of the Conflict

1. The Godhead consists of three beings in One. The three personalities are God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

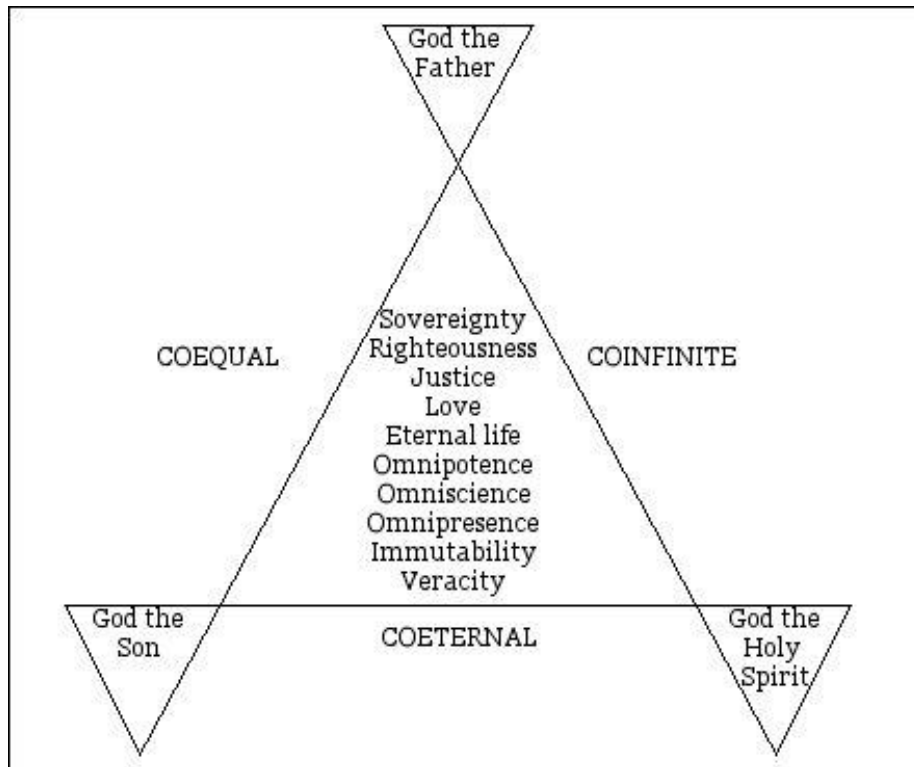
Isa 48:16 "Come near me and listen to this: "From the first announcement I have not spoken in secret; at the time it happens, I am there." And now the Sovereign LORD has sent me, with his Spirit.

Isa 48:17 This is what the LORD says -- your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go.

Mar 1:9 At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

Mar 1:10 As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

Mar 1:11 And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."



2. Like the Trinity there are three angels mentioned by name, i.e., Lucifer, Michael and Gabriel--as noted earlier, they are called covering angels.

3. Lucifer is said to be a created angel that covereth.

Eze 28:14 You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones.

4. In the Holy of Holies there are two angels that cover the ark of the covenant and mercy seat.

Exo 25:18 And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat.

Exo 25:19 And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: even of the mercy seat shall ye make the cherubims on the two ends thereof.

Exo 25:20 And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be.

Exo 25:21 And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee.

Exo 25:22 And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.

1Ki 6:23 In the inner sanctuary he made a pair of cherubim of olive wood, each ten cubits high.

2Ch 3:10 In the Most Holy Place he made a pair of sculptured cherubim and overlaid them with gold.

Psa 80:1 Hear us, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock; you who sit enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth

5. Observe that one covering angel is missing because of the fall. One member of the Trinity became lower than an angel, and He affected the strategic victory of the angelic conflict. Jesus Christ the Godman resolved Satan's excuse and the excuses of his demons.

6. It must also be noted that Satan is very active both on earth and in heaven until the end of human history.

Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ...

Gen 3:4 "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman ...

Gen 3:14 So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.

Job 1:6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.

Job 1:7 And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

Job 1:8 And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

Job 1:9 Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?

Job 1:10 Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

Job 1:11 But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.

Job 1:12 And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So, Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

Job 2:6 And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life.

Job 2:7 So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.

Job 2:8 And he took him a potsherd to scrape himself withal; and he sat down among the ashes.

Mat 4:3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

Mat 4:4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Mat 4:5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.

Mat 4:6 "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

Mat 4:7 Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Mat 4:8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.

Mat 4:9 "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

Mat 4:10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

Luk 22:31 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat.

Acts 5:3 Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?"

Zec 3:1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him.

7. Satan is not denied access to the Third Heaven until the middle of the Tribulation.

Rev 12:7 And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back.

Rev 12:8 But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven.

Rev 12:9 The great dragon was hurled down -- that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

8. A natural question asked often is, "Why is there life on planet Earth amidst all the many galaxies?"

8.1 In a book published in February 2000 entitled *Rare Earth* two professors, Ward and Brownlee, who specialize in geological sciences, mass extinctions, astronomy and astrobiology have concluded there is most likely no advanced life elsewhere in the universe, only here on planet Earth. They have written,

"The earth's evolutionary achievements can be attributed to the following critical factors: our optimal distance from the sun, the positive effects of the moon's gravity on our climate, plate tectonic and continental drift, the right types of metals and elements, ample liquid water, maintenance of the correct amount of internal heat to keep surface temperatures within a habitable range, and a gaseous planet the size of Jupiter to shield Earth from catastrophic meteoric bombardment." They go on to write: "... conventional wisdom is wrong ... We finally said out loud what so many have thought for so long ... Earth is simply just too special the result of myriad physical conditions missing from most of the universe with just enough time and circumstances to let complicated life arise.

"We consider it to be random chance and luck" said Brownlee ... We want there to be lots of life out there ... but as scientists, here's what the evidence in our short lives and our narrow imaginations tell us ... perhaps our conclusions are a result of our failed imaginations ..."

8.2 These men of science claim to lack imagination but the truth lies not in their failure to imagine but their failure to believe that "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Gen 1:2 And the earth was (HAYAH can be translated "was" or "became") without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

8.3 Gen 1:2 tells us in corrected translation that The Earth became desolate, without form and void. Became is the better translation given Isa 45:18, where we find God created a perfect heaven and earth out of absolutely nothing.

8.4 Let's not beat around the proverbial bush. The Earth was not created without form and void, but rather it became without form and void a long time ago in eternity past. As we will see, the triggering event was the fall of Satan and his subalterns.

Isa 45:18 For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.

8.5 The angelic conflict is related to the creation of the Earth and its becoming worthless. That which occurred between the perfect creation and the "becoming **Tohu Va Bohu**" has been a long established hypothesis held by many grace expositors such as Chafer, Walvoord, Pentecost, Thieme, Ryrie, Feinberg and Lindsey.

Isa 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

8.6 The fall of Lucifer and his taking one-third of the angels with him occurred between Gen 1:1 and Gen 1:2.

8.7 This position is further substantiated by Isa 14:13 and Psa 48:2, where Satan chooses Earth as the battlefield for the angelic conflict.

Isa 14:13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

Isa 14:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Psa 48:2 Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.

8.8 After the fall, God restored Earth to perfection in six literal days. Gen 1:2-2:1

8.9 In his rebellion Satan took one-third of all the angels with him, and these fallen angels we know today as demons.

8.10 Satan and his demons were unable to maintain God's perfect creation, thus their original intent to duplicate God's perfection resulted in an imperfect world.

8.11 When we see children with horrible diseases, retardation, missing limbs; old people in dazed states of senility; people with painful burns and scars, bipolar disorders; crack babies, and the many cancer-stricken people of all ages, it is then we better understand Satan's incompetence and the horrific result of that incompetence.

Rev 20:9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

Rev 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

8.16 We have a noble calling as an elite force for God. Not only are we watched by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, but both the elect and fallen angels see and evaluate our thoughts and actions. We represent Christ in His absence as His ambassadors on a planet owned by none other than Lucifer himself, and we should so walk as ambassadors for Christ.

Conclusion

1. The angelic conflict is emphasized in Hebrews, chapters 1 and 2.
2. Angels observe our thoughts and actions.
3. Although Christ showed Satan how to stay positive to God, we are part of the conflict.
4. Both Christ and human beings were made inferior to angels so the fallen angels could have no excuse.
5. This is God's "one-upmanship," for if an inferior creation can do it, then it follows a fortiori that the fallen angels had no excuse.
6. Christ as the Godman is said to be inferior to angels.

Psa 8:4 what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?

Psa 8:5 You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

Heb 2:7 You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honor ...

Heb 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Heb 2:10 In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering.

7. Christ's victory made Him superior to the angels, both as to performance and reward.

Heb 1:4 So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

Heb 1:5 For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father?" Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son?"

Heb 1:6 And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

Heb 1:7 In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire."

Heb 1:8 But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom.

Heb 1:9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."

Heb 1:10 He also says, "In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.

Heb 1:11 They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment.

Heb 1:12 You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end."

Heb 1:13 To which of the angels did God ever say, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet?"

Heb 1:14 Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

8. By accepting Christ as Savior; we become, by imputation, just like our Lord and thus victors in the angelic conflict. Our job after salvation is to manifest our deliverance from the control of our old sin natures. The challenge is ours and the victory is the Lord's.

The Westbank Bible Church accepts direct donations to further the spreading of the Gospel. You can mail or drop off a check or money order made payable to Westbank Bible Church, 4010 Bee Cave Road, Austin, Texas 78746

We do not authorize any third party to solicit donations on behalf of the Church.