

## Angelology – Discovering Doctrine

- The items that appear in our foundations booklet under angelology are not the traditional items you may see on this topic
- Angelology is the doctrine of angels, but tonight we will spend the bulk of our time talking about Satan
- This is fitting because of our understanding of Satan's origin
- But it means we have to start with some preliminary information on angels not connected with our "we believe" statements at all
- First, our word for angel in the New Testament means "a messenger, envoy, one who is sent" or "a messenger from God"
- It's the word ang'-el-os and it is translated 179 times as angel, and 7 times as messenger
- Angels are created beings
- We know this because of several passages of scripture
- Like this one...

Psalm 148:2, 5

2 Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts.

5 Let them praise the name of the LORD: for he commanded, and they were created.

- Or this one...

Colossians 1:16

16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

- We know that they are described as spirits, from passages like...

Hebrews 1:7

7 And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.

- Which is a direct quote from Psalm 104:4

- And goes on to say...

## Hebrews 1:13-14

13 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?

- These are personal beings who are not just a force or an influence
- They have the characteristics of a person
- When Peter describes salvation, he says...

## 1 Peter 1:10-12

10 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

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.

- That is, the angels bowed their heads to look into this mystery of God's son coming to earth to save lowly sinners
- Sinners whom the angels rejoice to see saved...

## Luke 15:10

10 Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

- They are beings that have free will, as Jude describes...

## Jude 1:6

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.

- But they remain subject unto Christ

## 1 Peter 3:22

22 Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

- There is much, much more that could be said about angels
  - For the sake of this lesson, let's concentrate on the "we believe" statements, which have been the basis for these studies...
1. We believe that Satan was once holy and enjoyed heavenly honors.
  2. We believe that Satan through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty God fell and drew after him a host of angels.
  3. We believe that he is now the malignant prince of the power of the air, and the unholy god of this world.
  4. We believe that he is to be man's great tempter, the author of all false religions, the chief power of the present apostasy, the lord of the anti-Christ, and the author of all powers of darkness.
  5. We believe that he is destined to final defeat at the hands of God's own Son.
  6. We believe that he will be placed in judgment for eternity in hell.
- Ezekiel seems to describe this one we call Satan
  - In his description of an earthly king
  - This is what he says...

Ezekiel 28:14-17

14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

16 By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

- This passage is about the King of Tyre
  - But his description seems to go far beyond the picture of any historical king
  - This king appears to provide for us a picture of Satan himself
  - There is language within the text that leads us to believe this
- Verse 12 says this king was "perfect in beauty," which does not seem a fitting description for any earthly king
  - Verse 13 says he had "been in Eden the garden of God," which is another curious description for an earthly king

- The garden tends to denote a place of privilege and perfection, like the garden of Genesis
  - That theme is continued as verse 14 calls him "the anointed cherub that covereth"
  - This could allude to the cherubim in the temple of Solomon, which were a part of the ark
  - The cherubim seem to be among the highest rank of heavenly beings
  - This designation as the "anointed cherubim" may speak of a high rank among the cherubim - maybe even the highest?
  - Verse 14 also says he was "upon the holy mountain of God," which is synonymous with an elevated position too
  - Verse 15 says he was "perfect" or "blameless" in his ways "from the day he was created"
  - That modifier about a man provides another reason to think twice
  - Men of earth are born in iniquity with imputed sin that is passed down from Adam
  - So, there appears to be additional meaning here and throughout the passage
  - The text, in a number of ways, forces us to deal with that additional meaning
- 
- Those acquainted with other scriptures about Satan find similarities here
  - He was perfect (or complete, whole, entire, and sound), but iniquity was found in Him
  - He was exactly as God created Him to be
  - But he chose something else
  - And his choice was pride and arrogance and his own way
  - His heart was lifted up and corrupted because of his beauty and brightness
  - Therefore he would be cast down
- 
- Some of the parallels between the King of Tyre and Satan become obvious as we read Isaiah
  - And an account which calls Satan by name...

#### Isaiah 14:12-14

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!

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:

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

- This heavenly being is cut down to the ground too
  - His brightness (in the Ezekiel passage) and title here "son of the morning" have similarities as well
  - His desire to exalt himself is also seen clearly
  - And the similar picture of a mountain is also part of this account
- 
- The key reason for his condemnation comes in two phrases
  - First, "I will exalt my throne above the stars of God," which is a claim of extraordinary pride

- Second, "I will be like the most High," which is breathtaking in its arrogance (and its impossibility)
- His heart was lifted up like that of the King of Tyre
- In keeping with all that is described in the account of that king
- This is the reason so many are inclined to connect the two
- In fact, our foundations booklet lists both passages under its Angelology heading
- Connected to these six "we believe" statements, primarily about the Devil
- It also lists one more passage that will help us explain its assertions...

#### Revelation 12:7-9

7 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.

9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

- The dragon is also called "that old serpent" or "the Devil" or "Satan"
- He has angels - other heavenly beings, which we described before - fought with him
- They have apparently adopted his prideful vision and they would also see him exalted
- These are fallen angels that we encounter as his "demons" or "devils" throughout scripture
- And they are all-in, apparently, fighting alongside him until the end
- But they cannot prevail against Michael and the angels who continue to serve the One True God
- And the familiar picture of him being cast down is seen again
- The next verse makes the joyful proclamation...

#### Revelation 12:10

10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

- This Devil, Satan - the accuser of the brethren - is defeated in this day
- His pride and arrogance are thrown down with him
- He will no more assault God's children and no more lead an army of angels (fallen with him) to harass them day and night
- This covers our first two "we believe" statements
- Let's move on to the third

- And that "he is now the malignant prince of the power of the air, and the unholy god of this world"
- Ephesians is our first destination...

#### Ephesians 2:1-3

1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;  
 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:  
 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

- Before we are made alive through Christ, we are walking the way Satan - the prince of the power of the air - would have us to walk
- He is the spirit (consistent with our earlier definition) that now works in the children of disobedience
- This title that he holds would give us an indication of his power (the prince) and his realm (the air)
- The air may be considered the heavenly realm, as we see later in Ephesians...

#### Ephesians 6:12

12 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 places.

- He is the ring-leader amongst these principalities and powers
- Satan is the chief ruler of the darkness of this world
- He directs or is over the spiritual wickedness in high places
- There is further description of him, that fits with statement three in Corinthians...

#### 2 Corinthians 4:3-4

3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:  
 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

- Satan is a small "g" god of this world
- He participates in the blinding of minds
- In the things he makes attractive
- In the examples of the people that follow his way of thinking, which is ungodly and anti-God

- In other ways we can't always describe or enunciate too
- Statement four is more lengthy, it says "he is to be man's great tempter, the author of all false religions, the chief power of the present apostasy, the lord of the anti-Christ, and the author of all powers of darkness"
- We have already seen a good bit of evidence for some of these statements in Ephesians
- There is more throughout the New Testament
- Let's talk about the third claim first
- In regard to the Antichrist, we have these words from 2 Thessalonians...

#### 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

- This was among the first things we learned about Satan
- He exalted himself above God
- And would be like The Most High
- This Antichrist seeks to do the very same - to be worshipped as God
- He acts in perfect accordance with Satan's aims and with his character
- And he acts at his direction
- There is evidence for this assertion in Revelation...

#### Revelation 13:3-4

3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

- The beast is the person and all the forces of Antichrist
- The dragon is Satan himself, who empowers him
- Regarding his being our tempter we could talk about Christ's encounter with temptation...

#### Hebrews 4:14-16

14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

- How was Jesus tempted?
- Like as we are
- And do you remember how that was?
- By whom that was?
  
- Let's read the account in Matthew...

Matthew 4:1-11

1 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.

3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,

6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, 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.

- We see "the devil" referenced four times
- Once he is called "the tempter"
- He plays on the common weakness of man, which did not deceive our Savior
- That is, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life
- And Jesus resists
- But this tempting is (in some ways) not unlike that which we face



- Suggestion that we give in to the flesh
- That we question God
- That we take things into our own hands
- Satan provides powerful and seemingly advantageous suggestions regularly
- But they are filled with deadly poison
- While looking good at first, they destroy in the end, as 2 Corinthians warns...

#### 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

- The evil Satan would have us do can look so good
- It can appear light, though it is nothing but darkness
- And those who choose his way can appear good and righteous
- But their example and their advice would lead us well and truly astray from God
- The sad reality is that some will fall into his many traps
- As Paul relates in 1 Timothy...

#### 1 Timothy 4:1-2

1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

- While some will fall, there will be only temporary victories for the enemy of our souls
- He will ultimately face judgement
- As Jesus promised
- And as our sixth "we believe" statement proclaims "he will be placed in judgment for eternity in hell"
- First, Jesus' promise...

#### Matthew 25:41-43

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:

42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:

43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

- The place of torment that awaits those rejecting Christ was prepared for the devil and his angels
- It is described as everlasting fire
- We see them thrown into this place at the end of the New Testament...

#### Revelation 20:7-10

7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

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.

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.

- Some of this passage fits better into next week's lesson on last things or eschatology
- The part that concerns angelology is in verse 10
- When the devil is cast into this everlasting fire, which is a lake of fire and brimstone
- Judge for all eternity for his pride, his arrogance, his deception of mankind, and his rebellion against God
- For him, there is no escape
- For those he seeks to deceive, there is every opportunity for escape
- There is a loving Savior
- A longsuffering God
- Abundant mercy
- Abundant grace
- And the opportunity to call upon the name of the Lord in faith
- For all the wiles of the devil, He cannot stop the hope of salvation
- It persists
- We must spread that hope as far and wide as it is possible - and quickly