



Men's Discipleship Class – Week 14

January 17, 2019

Verses:

Daniel 10:10-14

Joshua 5:13-14

Psalms 34:7

Hebrews 1:13-14

Matthew 18:10

Acts 8:26-29

Acts 12:5-9, 12-15

Daniel 6:20-22

2 Kings 19:35

Hebrews 13:1-2

Matthew 22:29

Matthew 28:1-5

1 Corinthians 11:4-10

We are going to start in Daniel. As in weeks past, we are going to cover a good bit of ground. We are going to look at angels today and their role in your life and their purpose. It is a little bit unusual when you actually see what is said particularly when we look at Joshua. Daniel 10:10-14. We looked at this in response to demons. Now we are going to go back and look at with angels.

*10*And behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. *11*And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly loved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. *12*Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. *13*The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia, *14*and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come."

So you have right here this angel/demon battle. God sent a message to Daniel, but there is a battle between angels and demons that occurs. Gabriel was not strong enough to battle the demon over Persia. God sends Michael the archangel to come and help Gabriel get past this particular demon. This is a great reminder that angels and demons are not equal in stature. There are variances between them. Obviously, Gabriel could not fight this guy and finally gets him there.

Now I want to be careful. I do not want to read one verse before we go to some other verses so that you do not misunderstand. Go to Joshua 5. There is a unique little thing that occurs here. Go to the book of Joshua. Joshua. Judges. Ruth. 1 & 2 Samuel. You are in the left first part of the Old Testament. Listen to what he says.

13When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us, or for our adversaries?"

This is one of my most favorite responses in scripture.

14And he said, "No; but I am the commander of the army of the LORD. Now I have come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, "What does my lord say to his servant?" 15And the commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

So who is he? He is Michael. He is the commander of the army of the Lord. He is the archangel. He does not care about either one of them. He lives for one thing. He lives for obedience to the King of Kings. We are going to read a couple of scriptures here that seem to indicate they exist for you, but they do not. You are in one affect neutral to the angels. They serve the King and not you. Now, they are going to serve you, but I want you to look at a couple of verses with me. Go to Psalm 34:7. Joshua explains this verse particularly. Go to Psalm 34:7. They have a neutrality toward us, and yet, they respond to us. Listen to what it says.

7The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

So again, you have this response that he encamps around those who fear God. Now, what is the obvious inference? If you do not fear God, he does not encamp around you, and he does not deliver you. It goes back to this. He serves the Father. If you do not fear the Father, he does not deliver you, and he does not encamp around you. You are neutral to him.

Now, look at a couple of other verses. Go to the book of Hebrews 1:13-14. Here is what it says.

13And to which of the angels has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"? 14Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

Again, they are sent to those who are Christians. They are not sent to anywhere else. They are sent to those who are Christians. Now, if this is correct, unless an angel is trying to bring someone to Christ (We will look at that in just a second.), they minister to us. If you are a lost person and have rejected Christ, the only thing you have in your life is an old nature that hates God and demonic persuasion. You have no angelic help. You cannot control yourself from the inside. A lost person is why the Bible says they are lost. They have nothing. It is a tremendously frightening thing. They are sent to us.

Look at Matthew 18:10. Let me show you something I thought of this morning. I think this maybe true. I do not know how it works. It is intriguing to me. Look at Matthew 18:10.

10“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.

Obviously, there really is such a thing as a guardian angel for a child. A child is given an angel. That seems to be distinct from these other factors. These other factors have a neutrality. They are only driven to those who are believers and who fear God. For children, there is a guardian angel given. There is an angel assigned. It is interesting to me. I do not know how this relates. I remember when I sat in Bolivia with the head of Compassion. I shared this when he came to speak. When I did the deal here at Central and asked how many were saved from the age of 20 years old and below, there was a gasp in the congregation. Ninety-six percent of our church were saved before the age of 20. I was talking to Wess about it. He acknowledged that was true all across the world. I assumed it was just an American thing. No. Research has been done. In every country in the world, once you reach the age of 20 years old, you have a four percent chance of being saved.

Here is the intriguing thing to me. You have an assigned guardian angel. When you reject Christ, they leave. I wonder if there is a correlation between an angel assigned to you as a child and do they have an impact on working in your life to bring you to Christ. Do they assist the Holy Spirit in pulling you to Jesus? I think that would account for that. The clear inference is when you do as a child and this guardian angel works with the Holy Spirit to bring you to Christ and you finally come up and say ‘no, I do not think so’, they you lose angelic protection. They are only for those who fear God. Obviously, there is some benefit here as a child. You lose that when you come to the place where you unequivocally say ‘I do not want you in my life’. It is an interesting situation here when you examine the scripture in regards to angels and us.

What do angels do? Look at Acts 8:26-29. This is weird. I do not know that Phillip knew what was going on, but this was a little odd. Listen to this.

26Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. 27And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.”

Here is an interesting thing. You have Phillip directed by both an angel and the Holy Spirit in him. The Holy Spirit indwells you. It is interesting to me. I do not know if Phillip knew this was an angel that spoke to him. I do not know if he just had this feeling that he needed to go and stand by the road. We have no idea what that means. It is intriguing to me. In the very same conversation, an angel says to go and then the Spirit guides him. You have this weird deal here. Again, one role that angels may in fact have is directing your life. When you have this overwhelming impression, I may in fact be an angel. I may in fact be the Holy Spirit. That is an interesting aside to me. Obviously, they speak to us.

Look in Acts 12:5-8.

5So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church. 6Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison.

You've got to have a problem with a guy who is just preaching Jesus caught between two soldiers and bound with chains. Herod really has some mental issues here. He is bound between two soldiers, and there are two guys outside the door. I mean, Peter, this is nuts.

7And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands. 8And the angel said to him, "Dress yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." 9And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision.

Look down, just as an aside, at verse 12.

12When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying. 13And when he knocked at the door of the gateway, a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer. 14Recognizing Peter's voice, in her joy she did not open the gate but ran in and reported that Peter was standing at the gate. 15They said to her, "You are out of your mind." But she kept insisting that it was so, and they kept saying, "It is his angel!"

This proves they are Baptist. They are not believing anything about an angel. So. You have this angel here that rescues Peter. There is a rescue thing. Obviously, this being had some human form. Peter is not terrified. He is kind of asleep, but he at least follows him out.

Go back to the book of Daniel 6. If we do not do anything else, you guys are going to learn some books of the Bible. Daniel 6:20-22. Daniel is in the lions' den.

20As he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. The king declared to Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?" 21Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! 22My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm."

You have this angelic being that again rescues Daniel. He was sent in a human form. He is obviously walking around there, and everyone knows he is there. Daniel knows he is there. This angel is sent and again rescues Daniel.

Go over to 2 Kings. Hang a left. 2 Kings 19:35.

35And that night the angel of the LORD went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians.

These guys are really powerful. You do not really want to jack with an angel. In one night, he killed the entire Brazos Valley. One night. They could do nothing to stop it. They are immensely powerful beyond anything we actually have the ability to deal with.

Look at Hebrews 13. Go to the right. Hebrews 13:1-2. If you get to the book of James, hang a left. This is the verse we all know.

1Let brotherly love continue. 2Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Obviously, they test us. God uses them and probably most of us at some point if this is true have run into angels and had no idea. This is a testing point to see what we do in response to our Christianity. They have that role.

Matthew 22:29 says that when we go to heaven that we will be like the angels. We will neither marry nor be given in marriage. What that means is their number is static. It is set. It is not changing. Once God set the number of angels, that was the end of it. They do not reproduce. They do not have the ability to reproduce which is why you have that weird passage in Genesis where it says the sons of God came down, slept with the women, and created the giants of the day. It cannot be angels because they cannot have sex. They cannot reproduce. It is not angels in that Genesis passage. Their number is static. It is set. When one third of them fell, they are gone forever. We are going to look at this in just a second. This has great bearing on your worship.

Look in Matthew 28:1-5. Think about most of your pageants. In our pageants, our angels are always women with little wings, cute, pretty, glittery...oh my gosh. So, listen to this.

1Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. 5But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.

Here is where we are going with this. They have what you call today 'toxic masculinity'. These guys do not use Gillette razors. They have toxic masculinity. They do not look like women. They do not act like women. When they stand there, these tough guys look at them and go 'oh, dang'. You have some delta force commandos standing at the tomb. They are not going to put a bunch of wimps because they think the disciples are going to come and steal the body. They put some tough guys there. They faint at these guys. These guys are bad to the bone which is why I love this last year when we did the pageant and actually made our angels have six packs instead of looking like little women hanging on the clouds. When you look at the Bible, they are masculine.

Go to 1 Corinthians 11. This is going to be a really weird verse. I think it has merit in your worship and really has merit in understanding something about these beings. We tend to look at angels and decide they are not emotional. Look at 1 Corinthians 11, and listen to what it says. Now, inside this passage he is talking about head coverings. The idea is that the women wore a head covering in the same way a woman wears a ring and a man wears a ring. Particularly a woman wears the ring and this head covering to say publically that she was in submission to her husband. That was the point of the head covering. Listen to this.

4Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head, 5but every wife who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, since it is the same as if her head were shaven. 6For if a wife will not cover her head, then she should cut her hair short. But since it is disgraceful for a wife to cut off her hair or shave her head, let her cover her head. 7For a man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man. 8For man was not made from woman, but woman from man.

I would never read that verse to my wife. By the way, they do not think that is funny.

9Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. 10That is why a wife ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.

That is an interesting little statement. Obviously, here he says that the woman should show in worship that she is in submission to her husband. Why? He says because of the angels. Why is that there? Obviously, if you are here, you fear God. You are a believer. There is an angel that is with you. He is obviously coming to worship with you. In worship, they lost guys they cannot get back because redemption is never offered to the other angels. Fallen angels are never going to be given a shot at redemption. This number has ended. It is finished. They do not ever get these guys back. Obviously, emotionally they love these guys. When they sit in church and look down at a woman who refuses to live in submission to her husband, it reminds them of why they lost their friends because they refuse to live in submission to their king. They lost their freedom. The only explanation to me is that it emotionally bothers them when you have a woman in church who is not living in the role God had for her because these guys quit living in the role God had for them. They have been living for eternity. It affects them emotionally when they see women living in the same way their friends lived and it cost them everything in eternity. There is this emotional connection in our worship between angelic beings. I wonder. It is weird. I want to be careful how I say this. When I was on sabbatical, my wife and I went to a bunch of different churches. There are some churches you can walk in to and immediately get a bad feeling while in the building. I know that is subjective. I know that is internal. I get that. It is what we felt. I think if you have women in the church who say they are not going to live in submission to their husband and do not care what the Bible says there is a rebellion. I think maybe sometimes you can sense the emotional temperature inside the building where you have a number of women who might say they are not living in submission to their husband. I wonder at times if some churches have a bad feeling in them because of the emotional pain of the angels that are there. At any rate, this is a weird little verse in there in the scripture.

It is a reminder to you they will speak, they will rescue you, they are powerful, they will guard you as a child, and they will stay with you when you accept Christ. They have the ability to speak and to rescue you and do these things contingent upon whether or not you fear God. I think you start out with an angel. You keep an angel if you come to Christ. They are active in your life if you fear him because they are neutral to you. I think that is what you have. You have angelic work in your life. If you accept Christ, you keep the angel. He then works in your life dependent upon whether or not you are sold out to Christ.