



# Systematic Theology

A study of the major doctrines of Scripture

TOPIC 3 – THE DOCTRINE OF ANGELS

LESSON 73 – ANGELS AND MEN

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# Lower than the Angels

- ▶ Hebrews 2:<sup>5</sup> For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. <sup>6</sup> But one testified in a certain place, saying: “What is man that You are mindful of him, Or the son of man that You take care of him? <sup>7</sup> You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, And set him over the works of Your hands. <sup>8</sup> You have put all things in subjection under his feet.” For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing *that is* not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. <sup>9</sup> But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

# Lower than the Angels

- ▶ 10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. 11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, 12 saying: "I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You." 13 And again: "I will put My trust in Him." And again: "Here am I and the children whom God has given Me." 14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. 16 For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. 17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

# Should Angels be Worshiped?

- ▶ Colossians 2:18 Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, 19 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.
- ▶ Angels (and men) worship God - But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him." (Heb. 1:6). "All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God" (Rev. 7:11).
- ▶ Rev. 19: 5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!" 9 Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' " And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God." 10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

# Should Angels be Worshiped?

- ▶ Luke 4:5 Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. 6 And the devil said to Him, “All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. 7 Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.” 8 And Jesus answered and said to him, “Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’ ”
- ▶ Revelation 22:8 Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. 9 Then he said to me, “See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.”

# How Will Christians Judge Angels?

- ▶ 1 Corinthians 6:3 Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?
- ▶ Since all believers are promised that they will sit with Christ on His throne (Rev. 3:21) and have authority to judge (Rev. 20:4), then believers may judge evil angels with Christ in the last judgment.

# Can Christians Bind Satan?

- ▶ Matthew 12:22 Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. 23 And all the multitudes were amazed and said, "Could this be the Son of David?" 24 Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons." 25 But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. 26 If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? 27 And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges. 28 But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. 29 Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.
- ▶ See also Mark 3:27 and Luke 11:14-23

# Can Christians Bind Satan?

- ▶ These texts that show Satan as the strong man and Jesus as the stronger man in no way have anything to do with believers binding Satan. Christ has power over Satan and even in his battle with the Enemy, the Archangel Michael fought and overcame by proclaiming, “The Lord rebuke you.” (Jude 1:9).
- ▶ Any other Biblical passage that may relate to this topic, upon further examination within proper context, is proven to have nothing at all to do with a Christian having the ability to command or bind Satan. We resist him and submit to God, and God redirects Satan in his attacks. (James 4:7).



# Who Are the Sons of God in Genesis 6?

- ▶ Genesis 6:1 Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, 2 that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. 3 And the Lord said, “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.” 4 There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.

# Who Are the Sons of God in Genesis 6?

- ▶ Three Views:
- ▶ 1. Fallen angel view – Satan and/or the fallen angels bred with women who gave birth to Nephilim, offspring that were especially evil and had great size and power.
- ▶ 2. Fallen angels possessed men leading them to immorality with women.
- ▶ 3. Sethite View – the sons of God were the line of Seth, seduced to marry ungodly women whose offspring then rebelled against God.

# Who Are the Sons of God in Genesis 6?

- ▶ For consideration:
- ▶ Nephilim (“giants”) appear pre and post flood (see Numbers 13:30-33 where they descended from Anak).
- ▶ Demons do not have physical bodies (or DNA), although they are able to possess and control fallen men and women. They are not given in marriage and there is not any record of them in Scripture having the ability to reproduce.
- ▶ God throughout Scripture warns Israel (and her Kings) not to marry evil women and this was the tactic used by Balaam to convince Balak as to how to destroy God’s people, by seducing them to marry Midianite women and be led into idolatry.

# Who Are the Sons of God in Genesis 6?

- ▶ For consideration:
- ▶ If demons possessed men and led them into immorality, the moral pollution would prove to be great indeed.
- ▶ Those judged in the flood were not demons, but fallen men and women.
- ▶ The term “sons of God” does not always mean angels. (See Luke 3:38; Matthew 5:9; Romans 8:14, 19; Galatians 3:26). The line of Christ goes back to Noah, to Seth, and to Adam, who is “the son of God.”
- ▶ The term “men of renown” uses the Hebrew word iysh, which means man. Adam referred to himself with this word (Gen. 2:23). Elsewhere it always refers to a descendent of Adam (human being) and never a fallen angel.

# Who Are the Sons of God in Genesis 6?

- ▶ For consideration:
- ▶ In context, Genesis 6 is comparing Noah to the wicked men who were going to be destroyed in the flood.
- ▶ Verse 4 says Nephilim were men of renown.
- ▶ Verse 5 says that the wickedness of man was great.
- ▶ Verse 6 God was sorry He made man.
- ▶ Verse 7 God is going to blot out man from the earth.
- ▶ Verse 8/9 Noah found grace from God and is identified as a righteous man.

# Who Are the Sons of God in Genesis 6?

- ▶ For consideration:
- ▶ The “Giants” (Nephilim) are not necessarily the offspring of the sons of God and daughters of men. Read the text again! It was during the time and after that the daughters of men bore children with the sons of God that there were giants also on the earth.
- ▶ Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them, 2 that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose. 3 Then the Lord said, “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.” 4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown. (NASB)

# Who Are the Sons of God in Genesis 6?

- ▶ When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, 2 the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. 3 Then the Lord said, “My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.” 4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown. (ESV)
- ▶ Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, 2 that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. 3 And the Lord said, “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.” 4 There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown. (NKJV)

# Who Are the Sons of God in Genesis 6?

- ▶ The line of Seth ends at the flood with Noah, and then in the genealogy of Jesus, we trace the line back from Seth to Adam, who was a son of God. Genesis 5 gives the line of Noah from Adam through Seth.
- ▶ The immediate context of Genesis 6 is Genesis 1-5, where we see Cain murder Abel, be banned from society to live as a fugitive and wanderer, and then begin to have children.
- ▶ God throughout Scripture warns Israel (and her Kings) not to marry evil women and this was the tactic used by Balaam to convince Balak as to how to destroy God's people, by seducing them to marry Midianite women and be led into idolatry.
- ▶ The Biblical context does not allow for the Nephilim to be the offspring of the sons of God and the daughters of women...whoever the Nephilim are remains a mystery.