

26 February 2017

The angels – Pt 1 their form and function.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. Angels can take on the form of a man.

“And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground” (Gen.19: 1), c.f.: “And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them” (Gen.19: 5).

There is also the example of the sons of God that “saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives” (Gen.6: 2), although not explicit it would make sense that the “sons of God” were angels. Be encouraged to not be “forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares” (Heb.13: 2).

2. Angels are spirits.

“Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire” (Ps.104: 4). See also Heb.1: 7 & 14.

In the context of Ps.104 verses 2, 3, 4 & 5 the “who” is “the Lord, O my soul, O Lord my God,” in verse 1. It is He who is “clothed with honour and majesty” that made His angels spirits.

3. Some remain God’s angels and minister to the saints, whereas others fell and sought to deceive the whole world.

“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!” (Is.14: 12). C.f. “Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?” (Heb.1: 14). C.f. “And...the Devil...which deceiveth the whole world...and his angels were cast out” (Rev.12: 9).

A well known example of an angel ministering to one of God’s children is after Elijah slew 400 prophets of Baal, and Jezebel threatened to kill him (1Kgs 19: 2), and “the angel of the Lord came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise, and eat; because the journey is too great for thee” (1Kgs 19: 7).

Additional comments on our three points.

In this age (the “times of the Gentiles” – Lk.21: 24) if an angel from heaven came and “preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed” (Gal.1: 8), whereas during the time of the tribulation an angel will “fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth” (Rev.14: 6).

Applying the teaching to our life today.

After finishing at BCNZ I visited a Presbyterian minister, and friend of my parents, and asked him “why do you use the Good News Bible?” He said, “The spirit of God told me it was okay”. I replied – “If I asked the same question to a Jehovah’s Witness regarding why he used his NWT, and he replied the same, how would I, or anyone else know which to believe? He only emphasised that he knew the spirit of God spoke to him and therefore he was right.

Question to think about.

If you were asked that question about the Bible, how would you answer?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world” (1Jn.4: 1). So how do we prove to ourselves whether we are listening to one of God’s angels or one of Satan’s angels that deceive? When we prove what is being said, when we try what we hear against God’s word. And if what is being said is contrary to God’s word then we are hearing words from one of Satan’s angels that is trying to deceive us, and if the words are in accordance with the scriptures then we are hearing words from the holy Spirit.