

5th of March 2017

Angels – Pt 2 The status of angels alongside Christ & believers.

In our first study on this topic we established from the scriptures that angels can take on the form of a man, angels are spirits, and some remain God's angels and minister to the saints, whereas others fell and sought to deceive the whole world. In this study we establish that as a suffering servant the Lord Jesus was made a little lower than the angels, as the Lord of glory he is sitting on the right hand of the Father and the angels are subject unto Him, and believers shall judge angels.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. As a suffering servant the Lord Jesus was made a little lower than the angels.

"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour" (Heb.2: 9, also so verse 5 & 7).

Why was the Lord Jesus made a little lower than the angels? Our verse says "for the suffering of death", hence it was His death on the cross where He suffered for our sins that He was made lower than the angels, and He was also **made** "sin for us...that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2Cor.5: 21).

2. Sitting on the right hand of the Father, the angels are subject unto Christ.

"Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him" (1Pet.3: 22).

When the Father raised the Lord Jesus from the grave, He gave us victory over death "through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1Cor.15: 57), and the angels were "made subject unto him." Let us note that not only are angels made subject unto Him but so are authorities & powers.

3. Believers shall judge angels.

"Know ye not that we shall judge angels?" (1Cor.6: 3).

The context of our verse is believers judging each other rather than going before the unjust to receive judgment. And our verse is a rhetorical question that does not need to be answered – "know ye not that we shall judge angels?" And the verse continues to make the point by saying – "how much more things that pertain to this life?" When we compare scripture with scripture we confirm that saints will also judge the world (1Cor.6: 2), as things that pertain to this life.

Additional comments on our three points.

During His earthly ministry the Lord rebuked the fallen angel known as Satan, and his evil spirits, and they were subject unto Him. Then at His crucifixion He was made a little lower than the angels, and then after His resurrection the angels (good and evil) were subject unto Him.

An illustration to assist in applying the teaching to our life today.

Born in West Germany in 1952 Anneliese Michel had a history of mental illnesses, her "parents were convinced she was possessed. Enter Josef Stangl, a Catholic Bishop who authorized an exorcism [casting out devils] on the young woman. Nearly 70 rituals were performed between 1975 and 1976—ultimately leading to Anneliese's death." – <http://www.the-line-up.com>.

Question to think about.

When we consider our illustration and the failed attempt to cast out devils – is exorcism for today?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

For those in the body of Rome the devils know them **not** as was the case in our illustration, and the example of the vagabond Jews in Acts 19: 13 – 15. But for those in the body of Christ we have authority in the name of the risen Lord Jesus who has the angels (good and evil) subject unto Him, and we have been given the armour to "wrestle...against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph.6: 12).