

Th131 God's Plan

Lesson Th131-14 Angelic Powers

In our last lesson you learned that God created the universe a long, long time ago. He also created spirit beings we call angels. The angels would live in the spirit world and would watch over creation as God's representatives. They were made to never wear out or die, but were made to live forever. We also learned that angels usually appear as men.

Today we will learn that angels were not created equal. Some angels were created with great power and authority. These would be the leaders of the angelic armies. Other angels were created weaker and designed for other purposes like being messengers. Angels were not born. They were created. They did not grow up and develop into either a leader or a messenger but rather were created with certain powers and authority built into them. All together the angels formed massive armies where the smaller weaker angels obeyed those in authority over them. Together they were God's messengers and envoys overseeing all of the universe. We have learned how the stars cannot be counted. There are places in the Bible that describe the numbers of angels in similar ways.

In a later lesson we will learn how it came to be that some angels became evil. But in this lesson we want to discuss how some angels were created with greater power and authority than others. The Old Testament prophet Daniel experienced this firsthand. Daniel was a Jew who had been captured and taken to Babylon as a youth when Israel had been invaded by the Babylonians. The Spirit of God was upon Daniel and he became a man of great influence there.

Here is what he said happened to him. "I was very sad for three weeks. I didn't eat any rich food. No meat or wine touched my lips. I didn't anoint myself with oils or perfumes at all until the three weeks were over. At the end of the three weeks I was standing on the bank of the great Tigris River that ran through Babylon. I looked up and saw a man dressed in linen clothes. He had a belt around his waist. It was made out of fine gold. His body gleamed like golden topaz gem. His face shone like lightning. His eyes were like flaming torches. His arms and legs were as bright as polished bronze. And his voice was like the sound of a large crowd.

"I was the only one who saw the vision. The people who were there with me didn't see it. But they were so terrified that they ran and hid. So I was left alone as I stood watching this great vision. Suddenly I felt very weak. My face turned as pale as death. And I was helpless. Then I heard the man speak. As I listened to him, I fainted and fell flat upon my face.

"The next thing I knew a hand touched me. It pulled me up on my hands and knees. I began to tremble with fear. The man said, 'Daniel, you are highly respected. Think carefully about what I am going to say to you. And stand up. God has sent me to you.' When he said that, I trembled as I stood up.

"Do not be afraid, Daniel. You decided to get more understanding. You made yourself humble as you worshiped your God. Since the first day you did those things, your words were heard. I was sent to give you an answer. But the prince of Persia opposed me and captured me

for 21 days. Then Michael came to help me. He is one of the leaders of the angels. He helped me win the battle over the king of Persia. Now I have come to explain the vision to you. I will tell you what will happen to your people. The vision shows what will take place in days to come.

“While he was telling me these things, I bowed with my face toward the ground. I wasn’t able to speak. Then someone who looked like a man touched my lips. I opened my mouth. I began to speak to the one who was standing in front of me. I said, ‘My master, I’m greatly troubled because of the vision I’ve seen. And I feel very weak. How can I talk with you? My strength is gone. In fact, I can hardly breathe.’

“The one who looked like a man touched me again. He gave me strength. ‘Do not be afraid,’ he said. ‘You are highly respected. May peace be with you! Be strong now. Be strong.’

“When he spoke to me, I became stronger. I said, ‘Speak, my master. You have given me strength.’

“So he said, ‘Do you know why I have come to you? Soon I will return to fight against the prince of Persia. When I go, the prince of Greece will come. But first I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. No one gives me any help against those princes except Michael who is the prince over the people of Israel and the great prince of all of the angels.’” (Dan 10:2-21).

This is an amazing story that gives us a look into the powers and conflicts of angels. This mighty angel appears to Daniel and the first thing he does is apologize. He recounts how that on the first day of Daniel’s fast he was sent to Daniel with a message. But he ran into trouble. The angelic prince who is over the Persian people resisted him for 21 days. The Prince of Persia is a fallen angel. But because he was originally created with power greater than the messenger angel, he was able to resist and even capture the messenger angel. It was not until Michael, one of the chief princes among all of the angels (v. 13), arrived and freed him that the messenger angel was able to complete his assignment to Daniel.

How can this be? How can some fallen angels have more power than the angels loyal to God? The answer is simple. All angels were not created equal. In the same way all men are not born with equal strength. Some men grow up to be large and very strong. Others grow up to be small and weak. It does not matter whether the men are good or evil. Their strength or power is built within the person and in the same way some angels were created with great power and others were not. Thus a fallen angel who is a great power like a prince will have more power than a loyal angel who was created weaker.

Do not let this truth worry you. In later lessons you will learn that Jesus has broken the power of Satan and all of his angels and that through Him we have power over them as well.

This lesson is **important** because it teaches that some angels were created with greater power and authority than others.

The **main truth** of this lesson is that even though angels have different strengths and gifts, and some are good while others are evil, just like people, we can rejoice because God will accomplish His purposes. Through Him we have power over them as well.

Let's **review** some of the concepts you have learned in this lesson:

1. Are all angels created with equal power and authority? [Pause]
A. If you said “No,” you are correct.
2. Who is the greatest or chief angel in all of creation? [Pause]
A. If you said that it is Michael, you answered correctly.
3. Can a fallen angel have more power than an angel loyal to God? [Pause]
A. If you said “Yes,” you are right.

Your **assignment** for this lesson is to listen to it until you understand the concepts and the story. Then, find someone and teach them what you have learned.