

Th131 God's Plan

Lesson Th131-15 Angelic Assignments

In our previous lessons we learned that God created the universe a long, long time ago. We also learned that God 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 and were not created equal. Some are like princes and have great power and authority.

Today we will learn that angels have different purposes or assignments. We are given the names of only three angelic beings in the Bible. We are told that the angel Michael is a prince and a chief leader of the angels. Gabriel is the name of a messenger angel. Satan is the name of a fallen angelic being. Satan is one we will discuss in future lessons.

In the Bible the apostle Paul wrote a letter to the church in the city of Ephesus. In this letter he wrote; "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the princes, against the powers, against the forces of the world of darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Eph 6:12). Here Paul clearly teaches us that there are various fallen angelic forces that we are in conflict with. The first forces that he lists are princes or rulers. These are the fallen angels that are like the Prince of Persia that the messenger angel battled with in our previous lesson. Michael is also a prince or ruler. He is called a chief prince of the angels. Michael is the angelic prince whose responsibility is the people of Israel. The angelic prince of Greece is also mentioned in that story. From this we learn that one of the assignments of angels is to oversee earthly kingdoms or people groups. Unfortunately, among the angelic princes mentioned, only Michael is an angelic prince loyal to God.

The angel Gabriel is mentioned three times in the Bible. In each story he is described as an angel who stands in the presence of God and has come to deliver a message. Apparently Gabriel is a messenger angel. The first time he is mentioned in the Bible is in the story we learned in our last lesson about Daniel. The second time he appears is in the New Testament is when he is sent to Zechariah (Luke 1:19) and the third time to Mary, who would be the mother of Jesus. Here is the story of his appearance to Mary as written by Luke in the New Testament:

God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee. He was sent to a virgin girl named Mary. The girl was engaged to marry a man named Joseph. He came from the family line of David. Gabriel the angel greeted Mary and said, "The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you."

Mary was very upset because of his words. She wondered what kind of greeting this could be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king like his father David of long ago. The Son of the Most High God will rule forever over his people. They are from the family line of Jacob. That kingdom will never end."

“How can this happen?” Mary asked the angel. “I am a virgin.”

Gabriel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you. The power of the Most High God will cover you. So the holy one that is born will be called the Son of God.”

“I serve the Lord,” Mary answered. “May it happen to me just as you said it would.” Then the angel left her (Luke 1:26-35, 38).

You have learned that some angels are princes, some angels serve as messengers, and now you will discover that some angels are assigned to watch over children. These angels are often called guardian angels. In the New Testament the apostle Matthew recorded this incident where Jesus was teaching His disciples.

At that time the disciples came to Jesus. They asked Him, “Then who is the most important person in the kingdom of heaven?”

Jesus called a little child over to him. He had the child stand among them. Jesus said, “What I’m about to tell you is true. You need to change and become like little children. If you don’t, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Anyone who takes the humble position of this child is the most important in the kingdom of heaven. Anyone who welcomes a little child like this one in my name welcomes me.”

“See that you don’t look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven” (Matt 18:1-5, 10).

This lesson is **important** because it reveals that angels have different ranks and different purposes or assignments.

The **main truth** of this lesson is that angels assist God in His work of advancing His kingdom on earth.

Let’s **review** some of the concepts we have learned in this lesson:

1. The angel Michael is called a prince. What is his assignment? [Pause]
A. If you said that Michael is assigned to the people of Israel, you are correct.
2. What kind of assignment does the angel Gabriel have? [Pause]
A. If you said that the angel Gabriel is a messenger angel, you are right.
3. Jesus says that angels who watch over children have direct access to whom? [Pause]
A. If you said that these guardian angels have direct access to God the Father, you answered correctly.

Your **assignment** for this lesson is to first memorize this Bible verse:

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the princes, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:12).

To memorize this verse, repeat after me:

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood," (Pause to allow them to repeat)

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the princes," (Pause to allow them to repeat)

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the princes, against the powers," (Pause to allow them to repeat)

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the princes, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness," (Pause to allow them to repeat)

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the princes, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places." (Pause to allow them to repeat)

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the princes, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:12). (Pause to allow them to repeat)

Now, review this lesson until you understand the principles and concepts. Then, find someone and teach them what you have learned.