Educating Angels

The grand privilege we have in this dispensation of grace

A 12-Lesson Study by Keith Blades | Enjoy the Bible Ministries®

Study Overview & Lesson Summaries

About This Series

These twelve lessons look at one of the grand privileges of God's grace in this dispensation of grace: educating angels. Lessons 2–4 cover seven matters that provide a frame of reference; Lessons 5–10 cover the five major categories of angelic education; Lessons 11–12 look at fundamental differences between the operation of angels today in this dispensation of grace compared to how angels operated in God's program with Israel. Those categories: real godliness; the excellency of the power of God's Word operating within us; the manifold wisdom of God; the grandeur of the time when we judge angels; and the inexpressible magnificence of the cross work of the Lord Jesus Christ, the foundation of the other four.

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Lesson Summaries

L1

Educating Angels, Not Entertaining Angels *Ephesians 3:10; I Corinthians 2, 4, 11; I Timothy 5; Ephesians 6; Hebrews 13; Colossians 2:18–19*

A Grand Privilege of God's Grace

- Keith's miniseries looks at one of the grand privileges of God's grace that we experience in this dispensation of grace: educating angelic beings

Ephesians 3:10 — the Goal of the Study

- Keith calls Ephesians 3:10 the goal of the study: an impact the members of the church, the body of Christ, are designed by God to have upon the principalities and powers — not an impact on this earth
- The impact is one of them knowing something — being educated in a particular issue, the manifold wisdom of God
- God kept the mystery hidden from the angelic realm as well as from men; the body of Christ is privileged to be the primary means of that education — a privilege very little understood and appreciated

Entertaining Angels in God's Program with Israel

- Entertaining angels (Hebrews 13:2) belongs to God's program with Israel, where the angels minister for God's people; you won't entertain an angel in this dispensation of grace — the issue is you and I educating them
- In I Peter 1:12 the issue was revealed to the prophets, not a mystery; the prophets knew nothing about the dispensation of grace that God has brought in and has put a suspension in Israel's program

L2

Suckered In: Satan's a Dispensationalist *Colossians 2; Galatians 1; II Corinthians 11; Hebrews 12:22; Matthew 25; Colossians 1:15–16*

The Warning of Colossians 2

- Ignorant of the effect the dispensational change has had upon the angels, Christians will be suckered in; Paul says beware (verse 8), because the adversary with his policy of evil is out there, and one of the ways its beguilings and enticements come across is by the attractive issue of angels

An Angel from Heaven; an Angel of Light

- In II Corinthians 11 Satan did not transform himself when he fell; Paul is talking about a dispensational change, when the dispensation of grace was brought in
- Satan's a dispensationalist; the only way anybody can recognize the tactics of the adversary today is to be a dispensationalist. Satan's ministers today are not ministers of sin; they are not ministers of unrighteousness

Governmental Authority in the Heavenly Places

- There is a territorial breakdown in the heavenly places, just as on this earth; angelic beings occupy those positions in the heavenly places, men on the earth; God created governmental authorities for the administration of His rule in both realms (Colossians 1:15–16)
- Those positions are in rebellion against God because their occupants joined the satanic rebellion; Keith says God is going to reconcile those governmental authorities back to Himself — that's really what the mystery of Christ is primarily all about
- The body of Christ will be utilized for the reconciliation of that realm and put in those positions; those creatures are the ones God has designed us to impact — though He wants His own angels educated also

L3

Greater in Power and Might; Servants and Ministers *II Peter 2:11; Matthew 28; Ephesians 6:10; Psalm 103; Job 38: Frame of Reference Issues 4–6*

The 4th Issue: Greater in Power and Might

- Peter is writing to the members of the remnant of Israel; in II Peter 2 he has in view God avenging His cause with Israel and caretaking of the remnant during that time
- Verse 11 compares angels and men: angels "are greater in power and might"

The 5th Issue: Servants and Ministers

- The general role of the angels, seen all the time in God's program with Israel, is servants and ministers; it is not normal for them to be ministered unto, but that is what goes on in the dispensation of grace

The 6th Issue: Limited Knowledge

- Angels have limited knowledge and often learn by observation; God is the omniscient one and did not create them omniscient, so us educating them is not a foreign concept
- A classic case is the revelation of the mystery: neither the holy angels nor the devil and his angels knew anything of what God kept secret since before the world began

Learning by Observation; Not Created as Confidants

- God never created angels to be His confidants, but He did create man with that in mind; we possess a closeness of relationship with God that angels do not — we're being treated as sons — and there's education in that

L4

Godliness, and the Issue in Satan's Mind *Genesis 1:26; Romans 8:14–15; I Timothy 1; Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 28; Romans 16:25–27: the 6th and 7th Matters*

Confidants: Man, Not Angels

- Angels were never created by God to be His confidants, but as servants and to be His ministers; man really was created to be His confidant, with an intimacy of fellowship exceeding that of any creature

Sonship and Godliness

- Godliness is experienced and put on display when God treats men like sons; in this dispensation of grace He's made us sons of God — we've received the adoption (Romans 8:14–15)
- Sonship is not unique to this dispensation; what is unique is that us Gentiles get in on it. Israel rejected sonship and godliness and signed a law contract to be dealt with as children, not sons

The 7th Matter: the Issue in Satan's Mind Is Wisdom

- In Satan's plan of evil and contention with God, the issue in his mind is wisdom — not power, and not so much authority, though authority is not excluded
- In Ezekiel 28 the prince of Tyrus is a man; the king of Tyrus, from verse 11, is Satan himself — the anointed cherub, created full of wisdom, who corrupted his wisdom by reason of his brightness
- He infused the prince of Tyrus with the same thinking, doing and laboring — the components of godliness in Satan likeness. His boast: I'm wiser than you, and you can't keep a secret from me

God the Only Wise

- Especially the second half of that boast — you can't keep a secret from me — is the reason the dispensation of grace issue was the mystery of Christ; by the simple act of keeping a secret, God produced the complete doom of the Satanic plan of evil

L5

The Five Categories and Real Godliness *Genesis 1:26; Ephesians 2; Deuteronomy 4; Isaiah 55:8–9: Gentiles Consigned to Ungodliness, Israel God's Godly Nation*

Roles Reversed: Five Categories of Angelic Education

- In this dispensation of grace the roles are almost completely reversed: we are the ones ministering to angels in an educational sense
- There are primarily five major categories of angelic education: real godliness; the excellency of the power of God's Word operating within us; the manifold wisdom of God (Ephesians 3:10); the grandeur of the time we judge angels; and the inexpressible magnificence of the cross work

What Godliness Is (Genesis 1:26)

- Godliness is having some very personal, intimate things in common with God. Its three components: to think like God does (man's spirit designed to have the knowledge of God operating within it), to act like God does, to labor with God in what he's doing

Israel, God's Godly Nation (Deuteronomy 4; Isaiah 55)

- God created Israel to be a godly nation; once the kingdom is established, the

issue will be Israel teaching the nations godliness

The Mystery of Godliness

- God interrupted and suspended his program with Israel and brought in the dispensation of grace, the mystery program, and with it the mystery of godliness
- Godliness itself is not the mystery, and with us it is not in the exact same way as with Israel: our godliness is in the sight of the angels, and we have the privilege of educating them in it

L6

Real Godliness in the Sight of the Angels *James; I and II Peter; I Timothy 3:14–16; I Corinthians 11:10: The Realm of the Impact; the Second Category Introduced*

Real Godliness: the Realm of the Impact

- The first category is educating the angels in real godliness — that God created man to be a godly creature; we formerly twice dead Gentiles were once consigned over to ungodliness, to Satanliness
- In accordance with the mystery of godliness, the primary difference from Israel is not really in the thinking, acting and laboring (though there are matters of difference within the three) but the realm of the impact; the angels are educated in the Body of Christ bringing godliness to their realm

The Remnant: Godliness in the Eyes of Men (James; I and II Peter)

- Hebrews through Revelation are the epistles written to the remnant of Israel; there godliness is an issue because it is an issue in God's program with Israel, and the impact is in the eyes of men
- The remnant of Israel have the privilege of putting godliness on display in the eyes of men; the Gentiles behold their good works (I Peter 2:11–12), the result of thinking like God does, and their labor makes an impact upon the nations, the same issue as Deuteronomy 4

Seen of Angels (I Timothy 3:14–16)

- Like the remnant, we are beneficiaries of a position in Christ that enables us to be godly; our godliness is on display especially in the sight of the angels, and the holy angels are thrilled by it

The Second Category Introduced

- The second category is educating angels in the excellency of the power of God's Word operating within us, especially Satan and his angels; angels are greater in power and might (II Peter 2:11), but Satan also claims that spiritually

L7

God's Word Excels the Course for This World *Colossians 1; Ephesians 2–6; II Corinthians 4; Romans 6, 8, 13; Galatians 5:16; Titus 2–3: The Adversary's Bravado Boasts*

Not the Power of Ownership (Colossians 1:12–13)

- This category is the excellency of the power of God's Word operating within us; the power in view is not the Colossians 1 power of darkness we've been delivered from — that power of ownership he used to have with us has been broken, and we belong to the Lord

Two Bravado Boasts

- The adversary boasts there is more attraction in the course for this world he has charted than in what God has provided — yet we are not only justified unto eternal life but sanctified unto living unto God
- He also claims that through contrary doctrines and winds of doctrine he can corrupt our minds from the simplicity that is in Christ; he wages a policy of evil to prevent the Ephesians 3:10 impact

The Excellency of the Power Within (II Corinthians 4)

- We educate the angelic realm in the excellency of the power of God's Word, which exceeds the adversary's boastful claims; it operates in our inner man, and we get to exalt its power in a way the angelic realm has never seen before
- The power of God operated within Paul so he did not faint — not in his circumstances; the trouble is not removed, but who God has made you in Christ is greater than your circumstances
- That excellency of power is in the Book, in Romans through Philemon in particular; it can handle both the course of this world with its enticements and the policy of evil with its opposition

L8

Power to Overcome the Policy of Evil *Ephesians 6:10–13; II Corinthians 1 and 4; II Timothy 1; Ephesians 3:13–16, 20: The Second Bravado Claim*

The Bravado Claim in the Policy of Evil

- Satan claims power in his opposition, through doctrinal corruption and intimidation and discouraging tactics, to take us out of the battle: as a captive prisoner of war, or by voluntary resignation through a spirit of fear
- By natural possession his claim to greater power is true, but God has provided something more excellent than the power within the policy of evil

The Doctrinal Armor (Ephesians 6:10–13)

- The armor is not doctrine in general but specific doctrines, contained in Romans through Philemon in particular, designed to address every single wile of the devil in each of the three phases

The Sufferings of Christ (II Corinthians 1)

- This entire epistle, II Corinthians, is dedicated to the tactics of the policy of evil against us and the sufferings of Christ that result from it; in chapter 1 Paul is not talking about the sufferings of this present time as in Romans 8 — he is talking about the sufferings of Christ
- God has provided for us to be comforted in the face of the opposition from the policy of evil, and encouraged, strengthened and fortified to endure it; the salvation of II Corinthians 1:6 is not from sin's debt and penalty but from being victimized by the policy of evil

The Excellency of the Power and the Inner Man (II Corinthians 4; Ephesians 3)

- For Ephesians in danger of fainting in their minds, Paul prays for strength in the inner man; the power that worketh in us does exceeding abundantly above all the policy of evil can work against you

L9

Manifold Wisdom: Taking the Wise One in Craftiness *Ephesians 3:10; Ephesians 1; Colossians 2; I Corinthians 2; Ezekiel 28: the Centerpiece Category*

Five Major Categories of Angelic Education

- The series is going through five major categories of angelic education; the centerpiece is educating Satan's principalities and powers in the genius of God and the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ, providing for the reconciliation of their realm

Principalities and Powers in Heavenly Places (Ephesians 3:10)

- The revelation of the mystery is God's exceeding great wisdom in taking the wise one, Satan and his cohorts, in their own craftiness; we have the privilege of keeping the knowledge before their eyes

The Heavenly Places Taken Back Too

- Keith assumes we understand the dispensation of grace is a distinct program from God's program with Israel; in Acts 9 the Lord came back from heaven, raised up Saul of Tarsus, and the revelation of the mystery began to be made known to him

Far Above All Principality and Power (Ephesians 1; Colossians 2)

- God in His genius provided for repossessing the heavenly places through the cross work of Christ but said nothing about it — keeping this a mystery was the hidden wisdom of God; the adversary thought only the earth was in view

The Hidden Wisdom (I Corinthians 2:6–8)

- The revelation of the mystery is described as a hidden wisdom of God; God ordained it before the world but said nothing about it until He revealed it to Paul — to keep it secret from particular characters, He kept it secret from everybody

"there is no secret that they can hide from thee" (Ezekiel 28)

- God did keep a secret, and by it triumphed over them in the cross; the humiliating testimony is that they are the biggest fools in the universe — that is why that message is hated so much, and why you don't hear it very often in Christianity

L10

Joyful Education; the Cross Is All in All *I Corinthians 2; Matthew 25; Luke 4; Colossians 1; Ephesians 4:1; I Corinthians 6; Revelation 5: the 4th and 5th Categories*

Concluding the 3rd Category: Hidden Even from the Holy Angels

- Finishing the 3rd category, Keith underscores — not new information — that by keeping the mystery hid in Himself, God did not tell the angels; not even His holy angels knew anything about it

The Earth's Repossession Was No Secret

- Satan and his cohorts understood the issue was the repossession of the earth; what God said nothing about was the repossession of the heavenly places

4th Category: the Joyful Education of the Holy Angels

- An extension of the 3rd: before the mystery was revealed, the holy angels thought they would just have to put up with that garbage in their realm; now they understand it is going to be cleaned out and reconciled

5th Category: the Cross, the All in All

- The 5th and final matter is the genius of God and the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ; there is no redemption for the angels on the cross — Christ died as our Redeemer — yet there is something in it they can revel in
- The blood of His cross made it possible for reconciliation to come to their realm as well as the earthly realm; the cross is the all in all for every creature in the universe

How the Victory of the Cross Is Perceived

- In Matthew 28:18 the mystery had not been made known yet; the Lord speaks of His right to implement the remaining mandates of the Davidic Covenant, and the disciples were to look at the cross as the victory for the repossession of the earth

L11 Roles Reversed: Ministering Spirits in Israel's Program

Hebrews 1 and 13; Psalms 103, 104 and 34: Angels in God's Program with Israel

The Roles Are Primarily Reversed

- In this dispensation of grace the roles are primarily reversed: it's like the angels are in a classroom, and the spectacle concept is them observing us, not we observing them
- We don't look for angels to do things; they look for us to do things with an educational impact. In God's program with Israel, that is where you find angels ministering unto God's people

Hebrews 1 and 13: Written to the Hebrews

- The book of Hebrews is written to the Hebrews and deals with God's program with Israel; its gospel is the gospel of the kingdom, the gospel of the world to come, which the Lord began to speak when He was here (Hebrews 2:3–5)

Natural in Israel's Program — Especially the Final Installment

- The Psalms and the prophets that Hebrews 1 quotes knew nothing about the dispensation of grace; the angels are described as ministering spirits in connection with the final installment in God's program with Israel

Them Who "shall be heirs of salvation" (Hebrews 1:14)

- Hebrews 1 first reorients the remnant to God's dealings when He starts dealing with them again; Keith names five mandates to the Davidic Covenant: Redeemer, Deliverer, Avenger, King, Blesser
- Christ will give orders to His angels to deliver members of the remnant in trouble and take vengeance upon their persecutors; sometimes they'll entertain an angel unawares (Hebrews 13)

L12 From Unclean Spirits to an Angel of Light

I Peter 1; Daniel 12; Matthew 18; Revelation 1–3; Mark 5; Matthew 12; II Corinthians 11: the Devil and His Angels

The Time Those Angel Passages Speak Of

- The common passages are about the time yet to come when God's program with Israel is resumed and He has His day of wrath, putting the 2nd and 3rd mandates of the Davidic Covenant into effect as Israel's Deliverer and Avenger
- That is when God's angels function as ministering spirits, and Michael the

archangel stands up as Israel's prince and musters his heavenly host to fight for Israel — angelic activity at a climactic zenith

Unclean Spirits Defiling the Land (Mark 5)

- It is in God's program with Israel that Satan and his angels possess a land and his unclean spirits operate; in his policy of evil against Israel he was keenly interested in defiling the land

An Angel of Light in the Dispensation of Grace

- Defiling the land doesn't do Satan a whit of good in grace: as Paul says in II Corinthians 11, he has transformed himself into an angel of light, and does not do a Mark 5, except as a trap to ensnare a Christian
- The satanic policy of evil for this dispensation of grace is learned from Paul's epistles, Romans to Philemon — and not once are you told there to cast out a devil
- The primary purpose of the series: appreciating the privilege of God's grace to be educating angels in this dispensation of grace; our conduct and behavior has a privileged impact upon the angelic realm

Key Doctrinal Distinctions

Angels in God's Program with Israel vs. This Dispensation of Grace

In God's program with Israel angels did the ministering; in this dispensation of grace we more or less minister unto the angels. With us it is educating angels; with them it is entertaining angels. Guardian angels, entertaining angels, ministering spirits and the angel of the Lord encamping pertain to God's program with Israel, especially to the time yet to come when the Lord has His day of avenging and purging wrath.

Godliness: An Issue with Man

Keith says godliness is an issue with man and really not an issue with the angels; he notes it may not be precisely accurate to say it that way, but says it so we see the contrast: man is created after God's likeness, and there is no such declaration about angels. The three components of godliness are to think like God does, to act like God does, and to labor with God in what He is doing.

The Hidden Wisdom of God

God kept the mystery hidden not only from men but from the angelic realm; not even His holy angels knew anything about it. God kept it a secret so the princes of this world would crucify the Lord of glory and so produce their own doom; by the simple issue of keeping a secret, God took the wise one in his own craftiness.

The Excellency of the Power of God's Word vs. the Adversary's Bravado Claims

The adversary boasts that the course for this world he has charted is still powerful enough to entice us back in, and that his policy of evil is powerful enough to deceive us, lead us astray, or intimidate us into silence. The excellency of the power of God's Word operating in this dispensation of grace is not operating in circumstances; it operates in our inner man, and the power does not get rid of the afflictions.

Judging Angels and Our Vocation

Our vocation is to occupy those positions of the heavenly places; we do not walk worthy to get it — we have it in Christ and get the privilege of walking worthy of it. The holy angels want godly creatures in those positions of principality, power, might, and dominion and look forward to the time when we judge angels with godly judgments.

Satan Is a Dispensationalist

Satan did not transform himself when he fell; Paul in II Corinthians 11 is talking about a dispensational change. Satan is a dispensationalist, and the only way to recognize his tactics today is to be one. In God's program with Israel Satan and his angels possessed a land, and in his policy of evil he was keenly interested in defiling it; in the dispensation of grace the adversary can't defile any particular land, and he has transformed himself into an angel of light.

Key Scripture References

Genesis 1:26	Man created "after our likeness" — God likeness, where the word godliness comes from
Ezekiel 28:1–7, 11–17	The prince of Tyrus is a man in whom Satan infuses his thinking; the boast is great wisdom. The king of Tyrus is Satan himself, created full of wisdom, who corrupted his wisdom
I Corinthians 2:6–8	The hidden wisdom of God, kept secret from the princes of this world, who otherwise would not have crucified the Lord of glory
I Corinthians 4:9	A spectacle: the angels are compelled to watch, for the purpose of their education
I Corinthians 6:1–3	Paul's reproof of the Corinthians: going to law before the unjust is inconsistent with judging angels
II Corinthians 4:7–9	The excellency of the power operates within Paul, not in his circumstances
II Corinthians 11:13–15	Satan transformed into an angel of light — a dispensational change
Ephesians 3:10	The goal verse of the study: the manifold wisdom of God made known by the church to the principalities and powers
Ephesians 6:10–13	The wrestling is about preventing the impact; the armor is doctrinal armor
Colossians 1:15–20	Through the cross God made it possible for all governmental authorities in both realms to be reconciled

Colossians 2:14–15	The “it” is the cross, where the battle over Satan’s usurpation took place
Colossians 2:18–19	A warning about being beguiled by teaching on angels from Israel’s program that reverses the roles
I Timothy 3:14–16	A summary of the mystery of godliness; “seen of angels” is connected with what took place in the heavenly places following the raising up of Paul
Hebrews 1:13–14	Written to the Hebrews, in God’s program with Israel; “shall be heirs of salvation” speaks of a future time in that program
Hebrews 13:2	Entertaining angels belongs to God’s program with Israel; we will not entertain an angel in this dispensation of grace