Mystery of Godliness #2: Educating Angels

Educating angels in this dispensation of grace

Lessons 4 & 5 of "Educating Angels" | Keith Blades | Enjoy the Bible Ministries®

Study Overview & Lesson Summaries

About This Teaching

This teaching is Lessons 4 and 5 of the series of studies on "educating angels in this dispensation of grace". Lesson 4 completes the seven fundamental matters about the angelic realm: the sixth, that angels have limited knowledge — with godliness a prerogative of man — and the seventh, that the issue in Satan's plan of evil is wisdom. Lesson 5 quickly reviews the seven matters, lists the five major categories of angelic education, and begins the first, godliness, in which we, "in accordance with the mystery of godliness," have the privilege of educating the angels.

www.enjoythebible.org

Lessons at a Glance

Lesson	Core Focus
L4	Godliness, and the Issue in Satan's Mind: Wisdom — Sixth and Seventh Matters — Genesis 1; Hebrews 1; Romans 8; Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 28
L5	Educated by Us in the Issue of Godliness — Seven Matters Reviewed; Five Categories — Genesis 1; Ephesians 2; Deuteronomy 4; Isaiah 55

Lesson Summaries

L4

Godliness, and the Issue in Satan's Mind: Wisdom *Sixth and Seventh Matters — Genesis 1; Hebrews 1; Romans 8; Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 28*

Sixth Matter: Angels' Limited Knowledge

- The sixth matter: angels have limited knowledge — they are not omniscient; they learn, especially by observation, and so educating them is not a foreign thing
- Angels were never created by God to be His confidants, for a one-to-one intimacy of fellowship; they were created as servants and to be His ministers — man really was created to be His confidant

Godliness: "after our likeness" (Genesis 1:26)

- Godliness is an issue with man; man is created after God's likeness — there is no such declaration about an angelic being — God likeness, which is the word godliness

- Godliness: man created to have some things in common with God, to be able to do some things like God; its three components: to think like God does, to act like God does — doing things God's way — and to labor with God in what He is doing

Sonship and Godliness (Hebrews 1; Romans 8)

- In this dispensation of grace God treats us as sons — He has made us sons of God; we have received the adoption (Romans 8:14–15: "ye have received the Spirit of adoption")
- Hebrews is written to the remnant of Israel; there (Hebrews 1:5) God never said to the angels anything about a father and son relationship — He created man to have that relationship with Him
- Because sonship is an issue with us, godliness is an issue with us; Paul, our apostle, in Romans to Philemon, has more to say about godliness than any place else in the Bible

Educating the Angels in Godliness

- What God wants accomplished is godly edifying — edification unto godliness with the members of the body of Christ (I Timothy 1:3–4: "godly edifying which is in faith"); a local assembly is designed by God to produce that
- Godliness was put on hold, so to speak, from the moment Adam sinned; part of the education we give the angels is the way God designed man to function, before the kingdom is established on this earth

Seventh Matter: Wisdom (Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 28)

- The issue in Satan's mind is not power, and not so much authority, but wisdom; Isaiah 14, prophetic of what redeemed Israel will say, shows the goal of his plan: "I will be like the most High"
- The King of Tyrus (Ezekiel 28:11 on) is Satan himself, the anointed cherub, created "full of wisdom"; he corrupted his wisdom by reason of his brightness
- With the prince of Tyrus, a man (verses 1–10), the boast is great wisdom — Ezekiel 28:3: "thou *art* wiser than Daniel; there is no secret that they can hide from thee"; Satan's boast: "I'm wiser than you, and you can't keep a secret from me"

The Secret Kept: God the Only Wise

- It is especially the boast "you can't keep a secret from me" that is the reason the dispensation of grace was the mystery of Christ; God did keep a secret, and by that simple act produced the complete doom of the Satanic plan of evil
- The biggest issue in educating angels is displaying to Satan and his cohorts that Satan wasn't wise enough: God took the wise one in his own craftiness, and Paul speaks of God as the only wise

L5

Educated by Us in the Issue of Godliness *Seven Matters Reviewed; Five Categories — Genesis 1; Ephesians 2; Deuteronomy 4; Isaiah 55*

The Seven Matters Reviewed

- The seven matters, quickly reviewed: (1) an innumerable company of angels; (2) both camps of angelic beings, both receiving an educational impact from us; (3) angelic beings occupying positions of governmental authority in the heavenly places; (4) the excellency of the power of God's word operating within us, in which we educate them; (5) angels as ministers and servants; (6) limited knowledge — they aren't omniscient; (7) in Satan's plan of evil the

issue isn't power but wisdom

- The primary sphere of our influence as members of the church the body of Christ is in the heavenly places among the angelic beings — though it is not that we make no impact upon men
- In this dispensation of grace angels function not so much as ministers and servants as students, in a sense, in a classroom, appreciating an education God gives to them through us

Five Major Categories of Angelic Education

- (1) Godliness — what is here called "real godliness"; (2) the excellency of the power of God's Word operating within us; (3) the manifold wisdom of God in overcoming the Satanic plan of evil — the Ephesians 3:10 issue
- (4) The grandeur of the time when we judge angels and function in the heavenly places according to our vocation; (5) the inexpressible magnificence of the cross work of the Lord Jesus Christ — the foundation of the four preceding categories

Godliness: Three Components (Genesis 1:26)

- Angels weren't created in God's image after God's likeness, but man is; man wasn't created to become a god — the issue in godliness is having some very personal, intimate things in common with God
- To think like God does — man's spirit designed to have the knowledge of God operating within it; to act like God does — do things God's way; to labor with God in what He's doing — a body that has the capacity to do things

Man's Specialness; No Real Godliness Since Adam Sinned

- The angelic beings saw the specialness in man; on the very day God created Adam He began to educate him so he would be thinking like God does
- Having sinned, man thinks unlike God, acts unlike God, and no longer labors with God; from that moment the angels have not seen real godliness, but man thinking, acting and laboring like and with the adversary

Gentiles Consigned Over to Ungodliness

- In time past we Gentiles were consigned over to ungodliness — "without God in the world" (Ephesians 2:11–12), left in the hands of the adversary; especially following the Tower of Babel, God consigned the nations over to the adversary
- The course Satan charted for this world was a course of ungodliness — one of Satanliness, deviliness; ungodliness is the term Paul uses (Romans 1:18) because that is what God had consigned the world over unto

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

- God created Israel to be a godly nation; in Deuteronomy 4:5 Moses has the first two components of godliness in view, and Israel's godliness was put on display in the sight of the nations
- Isaiah 55:8–9 is a rebuke — "my thoughts *are* not your thoughts" — the indictment is that they aren't the godly nation He designed them to be; Israel distanced themselves so far from Him that they became just as ungodly as the nations, the straw that brings the fifth course of punishment
- Introduced, to carry over: God interrupted and suspended His program with Israel and brought in the mystery of godliness; our godliness is in the sight of the angels — godliness with us is not in the exact same way it was with Israel

Key Doctrinal Distinctions

Angels vs. Man: Servants and Confidants

The angels were created by God as servants and to be His ministers, but man really was created by God to be His confidant. Angels weren't created in God's image after God's likeness, but man is; God didn't create the angels with godliness in view — they recognized it was a prerogative of man.

Godliness Is Not the Mystery

Godliness itself was not a mystery; godliness is an issue in God's program with Israel. God interrupted and suspended His program with Israel, brought in the dispensation of grace, the mystery program, and with it brought in the mystery of godliness. Godliness becomes an issue with the church the body of Christ, but not in the exact same way it was with Israel — not to do what Israel didn't do, nor to take over what the remnant had begun to do.

In the Sight of the Nations vs. in the Sight of the Angels

Israel's godliness was put on display in the sight of the nations — that was the intent and purpose; with Israel the issue is the earth and its repossession. Godliness with us in this dispensation of grace has an impact upon another realm, the angelic realm: our godliness is in the sight of the angels.

Sonship: Israel and Us

Hebrews is written to the remnant of Israel. Sonship is not unique to this dispensation of grace; what is unique is that us Gentiles get in on it. When sonship and godliness were offered to Israel they rejected it and signed a law contract, to be dealt with as children and not sons; the full-blown issue of their adoption and sonship awaits the kingdom. In this dispensation of grace God has made us sons — we have received the adoption; sonship is something we are beneficiaries of.

Prophesied Program vs. Mystery Program

The prophesied program is in connection with the nation of Israel and the reconciliation of the earth; the mystery program is in connection with the reconciliation of the heavenly places. With Israel the issue is the earth; the reconciliation of the heavenly places, and God even having a plan and purpose of that, was still a mystery. When both are talked about together, as in I Timothy 6, the Lord's two titles are Blessed and Only Potentate, King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

God's Program with Israel vs. the Dispensation of Grace

In this dispensation of grace the roles are almost completely reversed — a complete role reversal, so to speak, from how things were in God's program with Israel — and we are the ones ministering to angels in an educational type sense.

Key Scripture References

Genesis 1:26	“after our likeness” — God likeness; where the word godliness comes from
Genesis 11	The Tower of Babel: the historical event at which God consigned the nations over to ungodliness
Genesis 14	Melchizedek: the Most High God is “possessor of heaven and earth”
Leviticus 26	The fifth course of punishment contracted for in the law contract
Deuteronomy 4:5–8	Israel thinking like God does, not like the nations; godliness put on display “in the sight of the nations”
Isaiah 14:12–14	Prophetic of what redeemed Israel will say; “I will be like the most High” is the goal of Satan’s plan of evil
Isaiah 55:8–9	A rebuke, “my thoughts *are* not your thoughts” — the indictment that they aren’t the godly nation He designed them to be
Ezekiel 28:1–10	The prince of Tyrus, a man; the boast is great wisdom — “thou *art* wiser than Daniel” (verse 3)
Ezekiel 28:11–17	The King of Tyrus is Satan, the anointed cherub, created “full of wisdom”, who corrupted his wisdom by reason of his brightness
Romans 1:18	Ungodliness: the term Paul uses for what God had consigned the world over unto
Romans 8:14–15	Sonship is something we are beneficiaries of in this dispensation of grace
Romans 16:25–27	“To God only wise, *be* glory” — God put on display as the only wise one
I Corinthians 2:6–8	The hidden wisdom of God brings the princes of this world to nought; had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory
I Corinthians 3:18–20	“He taketh the wise in their own craftiness” — applies both to men and to Satan and his angels
Ephesians 2:11–13	Our former Gentile status in time past, “without God in the world”; far off from God
Ephesians 3:10	The manifold wisdom of God made known by the church to the principalities and powers — the third category
I Timothy 1:3–4	“godly edifying which is in faith” — edification unto godliness with God’s saints
I Timothy 1:16–17	“the only wise God” — Paul can’t speak of the revelation of the mystery given to him without saying God’s the only wise one
I Timothy 6	With both programs talked about together, the Lord’s two titles: Blessed and Only Potentate, King of Kings and Lord of Lords
Hebrews 1:5	Written to the remnant of Israel: God never said to the angels anything about a father and son relationship

For further study visit www.enjoythebible.org