

A Study of Angels and Demons
Lesson 3 – The Providence of God and Spiritual Beings
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Introduction: God wants us to know that He will provide and care for His people.

A. God tells us how to have fellowship with Him so that we can enjoy His unfailing provisions. **(Jude 20-21, 24-25)**

1. We are to make the building of our faith a priority while we trust God to provide for us as He has promised.
2. God does not give us much information in how and when He acts in these unseen provisions. God tells us what we need to know.
3. Men are prone to give attention to things that are not in the realm of men to change. Consider the plan of salvation. **(Rom 10:6-10; Deut 30:11-14)**

B. There are many things about God's providence that we cannot be specifically sure of in our individual lives.

1. While we know the Lord will provide, we do not always know how He will do it.
2. Abraham learned this and so did Mordecai. **(Esther 4:14)**
3. Paul would also grant the possibility of God's actions in meeting Onesimus. **(Philemon 1:15)**
4. Please be careful in attributing things to God. We could be wrong.

I. God gives us a glimpse into His providential use of angels

A. The major function of angels is to minister to us! **(Heb 1:14)**

1. If just one of these powerful spiritual beings worked for us then how could we fail? God's provisions do not take away man's ability to choose. **(Mt 23:37-38)**
2. Angels have a limited role given by God.
3. Do we wish to depend upon these mighty provisions? Do we want to fight Satan's forces without God? We then must put on the whole armor of God. **(Eph 6:10-14)**

B. The nation of Israel had the arch angel Michael that "stands watch" and plays a role in the delivery of God's people. **(Dan 12:1)**

1. Satan falsely used the role of angels to tempt Jesus to sin. **(Ps 91:11-12; Mt 4:5-7)**
2. God provides for those who walk by faith.
3. God did provide for Israel in fulfilling the promise made to Abraham. Angels are described as walking "to and fro throughout the earth." **(Zech 1:8-13)**
4. God wanted His people to know of their invisible presence. He wants us to know that they are a part of how God executes His will. **(Ps 103:20-21)**

C. God allowed some to see the invisible role of angels. **(2 Kgs 6:14-17)**

1. These angelic warriors were already there. Elijah prayed that the Lord would open the eyes of the young man that he "might see."
2. This account would give us only a glimpse into an invisible spiritual battle that is involved in God's care for us.
3. We are urged to see by faith! Are your eyes enlightened? **(Eph 1:18-21)**

- D. Present day actions of angels towards God's children that encourage us.
1. Angels are witness to what happens to us both good and bad. We can assume that apostles were not unique in this. **(1 Cor 4:9)**
 2. Could we include angels then in the great cloud of witnesses? **(Heb 12:1)**
 3. We should be very careful not to overthrow the faith of a weak brother in Christ. **(Mt 18:10; Rom 14:13-15)**
 4. Angels rejoice at the repentance of one sinner. **(Lk 15:10)**
 5. We will be escorted by angels at death! **(Lk 16:22)**

II. God has given us a glimpse into the actions of Satan and his demons

- A. Satan's power is found in persuasion. **(John 8:43-46)**
1. Satan is cunning and we cannot match his persuasive abilities.
 2. The power of Satan's persuasion is found in deception. He wants you to walk in darkness. **(2 Cor 4:3-4; Eph 5:11; 6:11-12)**
 3. Satan's war is against knowledge, he wants to deny you access to the truth. You however must be willing to let him do his work. **(Matt 13:19)**
- B. Demons are involved in this persuasion.
1. Where did idolatry come from? They were drawn by demons! **(Lev 17:7; Deut 32:17; 2 Chron 11:15)**
 2. This deception was so powerful that they willingly gave their children. **(Ps 106:35-37)**
 3. We are told that we cannot have fellowship with both God and demons. **(1 Cor 10:20-21)**
 4. Idolatry can take many deceptive forms today. **(1 Jn 2:14-17; 1 Cor 10:14; Col 3:5; 1 Sam 15:23)**
- C. Satan attempts to deceive us about angels!
1. We can fall prey to Satan's deception by speaking of angels beyond what is revealed.
 2. Much false doctrine is attributed to lies of men who claim to know more about angels from personal experience. **(Col 2:18-19)**
 3. We must reject any other gospel even if it was supported or taught by angels. **(Gal 1:8)**
 4. Consider how many with "experiences" hate the opening of God's word to "test the spirits." Look at who is greater! **(1 Jn 4:1, 4-6)**

Questions

1. What harm can man's curiosity into the unrevealed actions of the spiritual realm cause?
2. What can we know about a specific act of God's providence in our lives?
3. How did Israel know that angels were working on their behalf? What did God want Israel to do with that knowledge?
4. Name some areas where God has revealed truths about angels to encourage us?
5. What is the major work of Satan and his demons?
6. What has God attributed to Satan and demons? How did Satan do this?
7. How does Satan deceive men about angels?