

Remnant Life Church
August 12, 2018
Angels – (Introduction)
“Why, What, and Who”

- In seminary and Bible college preaching classes students are usually taught to focus their preaching on a select verse or passage, on a single thought or theological truth; in order to keep the content from becoming too large or overwhelming for the listener...I'm not doing any of that!
- We are going to embark, starting this morning, on a rather broad journey of study that is not dealt with too often, but I believe is very necessary – angels
- Angels are misunderstood, and misrepresented by many in the church today to the detriment of our knowledge of the Scripture

- Surveys and polls taken regularly show that a very large percentage of people today believe in the existence of angels
 - The issue is, however, and this is also true in the church, is not if you believe but what you believe
 - Much of what people believe today regarding angels is dictated by movies, tv shows, fantasy books, and new-age religion
 - For instance, many people wrongly believe that when someone dies they become an angel – that is simply not true
 - Or that angels decide how things are going to happen in our lives and we should ask them to intervene – also not true

- Angel belief is certainly not new
 - The Hebrews, Egyptians, Greeks and Phoenicians all strongly believed in angels.
 - Because of that, in the ancient world there were many different types of cults that worshiped angels.
 - Some in the early church even turned away from worship of Jesus Christ and embraced the worship of angels.
 - The Apostle Paul addressed this very issue in his letter to the church in Colossae (**Col 2:18**)
 - Of course, much of the teaching of the New-Age religion embraces angel worship and how important they are to your happiness and daily life
- This morning, by way of an introduction, I want to address 3 questions: Why? What? and Who?

WHY take the time to study about angels?

- First, they are found throughout the Bible and are important to what takes place on earth from the heavenly realm
 - In the NIV version of the Bible an angel or angels is referred to 290 times
 - Now since the Bible tells us they are present in this life then we should understand and know who and what they are
- Second, we must know the truth, according to the Bible, to distinguish from false beliefs and teaching

3. In **2 Kings 6:17** God opened the eyes of Elisha's servant so that he could see the horses and chariots of fire (angelic warriors) when they were surrounded by the Arammites
- iii. Encounters today also still occur
 - Evangelist preaching at a small church when he turned and looked behind him to see the whole front filled with angels. They started to walk past him...all fell out.
 - What are angels? – they are created, supernatural beings

WHO are angels?

- They are not 'like us' in the sense of what we understand that to mean as it relates to humans
 - Remember they are supernatural in nature
 - While they do have specific characteristics, they are not another form of human
 - They are a collective of created beings to serve God
- The clue of who an angel is can be best understood by knowing its function
 - The word "angel" translates into messenger, envoy, or ambassador
 - They do one thing – the will of God
 - **Ps 103:20** - *Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word.*
 - Their purpose and function in heaven is to worship and praise God
 - **Ps 148:2** - *Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts.*
 - But because heaven can interact directly with us here, angels can, and do, have earthly missions
 - **Job 38:7** tells us they were present at the creation of the universe
 - **Dan 12:1** shows us that they assist God in His providential ordering of the affairs of earth as Daniel shares his prophecy of the end times involving the archangel Michael
 - They are also active in the events of judgement and reconciliation
 - In **Gen 19** we read the story of Lot and the 2 angels who came to rescue his family from the city of Sodom
 - They were also many times present interacting with Jesus in His earthly ministry
 - The angelic choir announced his birth to the shepherds in **Luke 2**
 - They ministered to Jesus after he was tempted in the desert (**Mark 1:13**)
 - An angel was at the rolled away stone at the empty tomb (**Math 28:2**)
- Angels are present with us at all times but in a realm of existence that is not seen or heard by us unless directed by God for His purposes
 - Do not let Hollywood, secular writers, or false religions influence your thinking about these messengers of God
 - What does the Bible say? (Our first and most important question)
 - They are very real, very active, and used of God for our good according to His purposes
- Pastor Dave have you ever seen an angel?
 - Not to my knowledge

- What does that mean?
- We are told that angels may be among us in forms to make them look like anyone else
 - **Heb 13:2** - *Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.*

God created in perfect order

- His creation is in order
- Angels have an order or hierarchy (as do the demonic host)
- In the weeks to come we are going to examine this order, their function, how demons came to be, and how we should live our lives with the knowledge of this supernatural world that is all around us.