

“Have no other gods before me” Ex. 20:3

Ps 16:4 “*Their sorrows shall be multiplied that hasten after another god...*”

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, July 9th

Reflection: The Bible is God’s revelation of himself, *as He deals with humanity*. It doesn’t reveal every detail about everything; But it does reveal enough for us to know Him and His Nature and Will. (Deut. 29:26-29; Jn 20:30,31; 21:25)

Last week we learned that God’s blessing is a byproduct of our obedience. (Ex. 19:5; Dt. 11:26-28)

Disobedience would result in the removal of the peace and protection of God’s blessing,

Exposing ourselves to the “curse” of God’s enemies. (Dt. 11:27,28)

(This is the essence of sin {Hamartano: miss the mark})

In Exodus 19 Israel chose the blessing. 8 “*All that the LORD hath spoken we will do.*”

Within a month or so they were worshipping the golden calf of Ex. 32:4!

How does a person, family, church, or nation go from Blessed to Cursed?

Ignorantly or intentionally they “*go after other gods.*” (Dt 11:28; Ps. 16:4)

Who are these “other gods”? Where did they come from? What do they want?

The first of the 10 commandments Ex 20:3 “*thou shalt have no other gods before me!*”

These other “gods” are Fallen angels. 1 Cor. 10:20 “*the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, (daimon’ion: demons!) and not to God: and I would not that ye should have Fellowship (koinōnos’: partnership) with devils.*”

Understanding Angels

1. What they are!

A. They are Created Spirit Beings. Gen. 1:1; Jn 1:1-3; Col. 1:16-

1) That means that these “gods” (elohim: from eloah: strength, power)

Were created by El ‘Elyôn: “The Most High God” (Gen 14:18-22; Nu. 24:6; Dt 32:8, etc)

2) That means they are subjected to God’s Power. (Col. 1:16-18) “*And he is the head... the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*” (Prōteu’ō: first in rank and influence!)

B. They have great (delegated) power.

O.T. “angel” (mal’āk’) deputy, dispatch, ambassador

N.T. “angel” (angelos) messenger

1) They are created higher (in rank and power) than man. Ps. 8:4,5; Heb 2:6,7

2. Why they are:

A. They were created to serve. Heb 1:14 “*Are they not all ministering spirits, (public servants)*

1) All were created to Serve God. (Rev. 4:11; Col. 1:6) “*all things were created by ... and for Him*”

2) Some were created to Serve Us! (Heb 1:14b) “*...sent forth to minister (diakonia) for them who shall be heirs of salvation?*” (See also Mt 18:10) By Providing:

a) Direction.

(1) Hagar Gen. 16:7-9

2) Zacharias: Lk 1:11-20

(3) Mary: Lk 1:26-38

4) Joseph: Mt 1:20-25; 2:13

b) Information

(1) Hagar (Gen. 16:10-12) 13 “*Thou God, seest me ...*”

(2) Daniel Dan 8:16 “*Gabriel, make this man to understand*”

(3) Samson’s parents. Jdgs 13:8 “*teach us what we shall do unto the child that shall be born.*”

(4) Gideon Judges 6:12 → “*The Lord is with thee...*”

c) Protection.

(1) Hagar Gen. 16:14 *"therefore the well was called be'ēr (well) lahay (of life) rō'î" (from God who sees)*

(2) Elisha: 2 Kgs 6:16-17

(3) Us! Ps 34:7 *"The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them."*
(hālaṣ': Strengthen, Deliver, Equip)

Isaiah 41:10 *"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; (āmēṣ': fortify) yea, I will help thee, ('āzar': surround, protect) yea, I will uphold thee (tāmak: sustain) with the right hand of my righteousness."*

3. How they are (Organized)

A. They are organized by Rank and Purpose.

1) Cherubim (mentioned 65x)

a) Guarding Eden. (Gen. 3:24)

b) Before God's Throne. Ps. 80:1; 99:1; Is 37:16; Rev. 4 *"...dwellest between the cherubims...?"*

2) Seraphims: Is 6:1-3 *"I saw the Lord upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings... And one cried unto another, Holy, Holy, Holy..."*

3) Messengers. Daniel 10:5-12

4) Principalities (Captains) Daniel 10:13,20-21 *"chief (rishon) princes (sar)"*

Eph. 6:12 *"For we wrestle ... against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."*

4. What do they want? To deceive and distract in order to destroy. Jn 10:10
Col 2:18,19 *"Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind. And not holding (krateo: holding to) the Head, (Jesus) from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God."*

Conclusion:

Why should we care or learn about these "other gods"?

1) Information: Intelligence. 2 Cor 2:11 *"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us:"*

2) Application: Training: 2 Tim 2:3,4 *"endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*

No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who has chosen him to be a soldier."

3) Protection: Recovery/Victory 2 Tim. 2:24-26; Eph. 6:10-13 *"Finally, ..., be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ... Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil (poneros: infected) day, and having done all, to stand."*
(His'tēmi: to abide firm)

Application:

James 4:7 *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist (anthis'tēmi: stand against) the devil, (1 Peter 5:8,9) and he will flee from you."*

In order to resist the devil, we need to learn to recognize him!

"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices." 2Cor 2:11