Letter 927b Angels In The Church 2024-07-06

Dear **Yeshua**,

Friday, 5 July 2024, 7:12AM

Some time ago the Lord Holy Spirit led me to an an online source of Biblical Scholarship. The website is www.biblefacts.org, and is hosted by Ken Johnson (Th. D.) I have been reviewing many of his videos, and have purchased a number of his published books.

About two days ago, I was in the shower thinking about an ongoing question I have concerning the 7 Letters to the 7 Churches in the Book of Revelation. This prompted me to ask the Lord a question. He then suggested that I write down the question and send it to Ken Johnson.

Yesterday I followed the Lord's advice, and sent the question(s) to Dr. Johnson via email.

Below is a copy of the note I sent to Biblefacts.org:

BEGIN EMAIL:

From: (...)

Subject: Revelation Ch. 2:1, 2:8, 2:12, 2:18, 3:1, 3:7, 3:14

Date: July 4, 2024 at 6:16:50 AM PDT

To: questions@biblefacts.org

In The Book of Revelation, in the 7 Letters to the 7 Churches, in each of the Churches, Jesus refers to "the angel of the church of ...".

Whenever I have heard a teaching on these Letters, in every instance, the word "angel" is used to denote a human messenger.

Does the language of the text mandate a definition of "angelos (G32)" to be human, as opposed to a messenger from Heaven (other than human)?

Or, is it possible that Jesus actually means angels from Heaven who He sends and assigns to each church?

Any help in understanding this mystery is greatly appreciated.

END EMAIL.

Then coincidentally, just today within the last hour, I was watching a video entitled "Papias Mysterious Prophetic Scrolls" (https://youtu.be/PCg4_5jw690). In the Q&A section that follows the main review, there are two questions about the same topic.

Dr. Johnson's answer to both is that the angels are human Church Pastors, not angelic Spirit People sent by Jesus from Heaven.

Based on all that I know from the Bible, I think that the likelihood that the 7 Revelation Church Angels being Men is low, and that the likelihood of them being angelic "Spirit People" (angels) is high.

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According to a word search on "angel(s)" in the Bible (using e-Sword X (NKJV)): There are 299 instances in 285 verses, with 76 of the instances occurring in Revelation.

I just finished reviewing all 299 occurrences of "angel" in the Bible. So far, I cannot find a single instance that the word angel refers to a human, unless I were to interpret the 7 Church angels as men, which it seems that most Bible Scholars do.

While I was performing this review, an idea from the Lord occurred to me:

IDEA:

"I wonder whether I, as a new Believer, after having studied the Bible on my own, without any influence from others, including Bible Scholars, and performing this same word search and verse by verse review, would come to the conclusion that angels originated from Heaven, and that some fell and followed Satan in his rebellion against God?

I wonder if I would also know that Jesus sends angels to help in the Church (see Acts 8:26, 12:11, et al below)?

Would I also know that Jesus has assigned angels to the 7 Churches in Revelation, and that they would help in disseminating His Word to His Churches?

And in all of my research, would I have any idea that the Holy Spirit suddenly changed the dictionary He was using to write the Bible, and define the 7 Church Angels in Revelation Chapters 2-3 as men, but then in Chapters 4-22 suddenly go back to His other dictionary and define most of the other angels in Revelation as Spirit People of Heaven? (Not to mention all the other angels in the rest of the Bible that clearly are not men).

My answers would be "yes", "yes", "yes", and "no".

END IDEA.

I remember the very first time when I heard this teaching. I was a young man in my mid-twenties, and was doing janitor work late at night at a Shakey's Pizza Parlor in Bellevue, Washington. I had the radio on a Christian station, and it was playing an episode of Chuck Smith's radio Bible Study (which, if memory serves, was called The Word For The Day).

Pastor Smith was reviewing the Book of Revelation, and was in Chapters 2 and 3. At one point he began to read about the 7 Churches, and as soon as he said the phrase "the angel of the church..." he immediately qualified the phrase by saying that the word "angel" meant "minister" (or pastor).

As soon as I heard him say that, I stopped what I was doing and said:

"WHY DID HE DO THAT?"

Meaning, why all of a sudden did he define the word "angel" to mean a man?

After a minute of pondering, I went back to work. But that event is something I remember to this day. And my question still remains: Why <u>DID</u> he do that?

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Here are some Scriptures that lead me to believe **Jesus** presently assigns angels to **His** Churches:

Matthew 1:20

20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an **angel** of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 4:11

11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

Matthew 13:39-43

39 The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the **angels**. **40** Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. **41** The Son of Man will send out His **angels**, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, **42** and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. **43** Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

Matthew 28:2

2 And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an **angel** of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it.

Luke 1:18-20

18 And Zacharias said to the **angel**, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years." **19** And the **angel** answered and said to him, "I am **Gabriel**, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings. **20** But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe **my words** which will be fulfilled in their own time."

Luke 1:26-37

26 Now in the sixth month the **angel Gabriel** was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, **27** to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. **28** And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"

29 But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. **30** Then the **angel** said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31** And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. **32** He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. **33** And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." **34** Then Mary said to the **angel**, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

35 And the **angel** answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. **36** Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. **37** For with God nothing will be impossible."

Luke 2:8

8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** And behold, an **angel** of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. **10** Then the **angel** said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. **11** For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. **12** And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

13 And suddenly there was with the <u>angel</u> a multitude of <u>the heavenly host</u> praising God and saying: **14** "Glory to God in the highest,And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

John 1:51

51 And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the **angels** of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Luke 2:21

21 And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called JESUS, the name given by the **angel** before He was conceived in the womb.

Luke 22:43

43 Then an **angel** appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him.

Acts 5:19

19 But at night an **angel** of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, 20 "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life."

Acts 8:26

26 Now an <u>angel</u> of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert.

Acts 12:7, 11

7 Now behold, an **angel** of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, "Arise quickly!" And his chains fell off his hands. (...) **11** And when Peter had come to himself, he said, "Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His **angel**, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people."

1 Timothy 5:21

21 I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and <u>the elect angels</u> that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality.

Hebrews 1:14

14 Are they not all **ministering spirits** sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

Hebrews 12:22

22 But you <u>have come</u> to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an **innumerable company of angels**,

Hebrews 13:2

2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained **angels**.

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1 Peter 1:12

12 To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which **angels** desire to look into.

Revelation 1:20

20 The mystery of the seven **stars** which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven **stars** are **the angels** of the seven churches, and the seven **lampstands** which you saw are **the seven churches**.

0&A WITH THE LORD.

ME: And yet I know from my own experience that there are **angels** assigned to Churches. But at the same time, I don't think my own testimony would be received by the churches I am presently associated with. Lord, do you have any recommendations?

THE HOLY SPIRIT: "Yes. The best course of action right now is to remain silent. Continue to give to **Jesus** those things which you find distressing, and leave the Rest to Me."

ME: Is this negotiable?

THE HOLY SPIRIT: "Yes."

ME: I remember that not long ago, **Jesus** indicated that **He** wanted me to start making my testimony more public. **He** used this verse to authorize this activity: "Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops." (Matthew 10:27)

THE HOLY SPIRIT: "Remember that the process of obedience is delegated to Me. I will lead you according to the will of <u>Father God</u> and <u>His</u> **Son** on when, where, and how to make public those things which **Jesus** commands."

ME: Okay.

THE HOLY SPIRIT: "Right now you are still in the process of acquiring more experiences with which to testify. Once those have reached completion with Letter 999, we will be in the right position from which to obey **Jesus** in **His** command to make your testimony more public."

ME: Okay. Thank You Jesus.

THE HOLY SPIRIT: "Yes. I agree."

END Q&A.

- **P. S.** I have already touched on this subject in these Letters: 89, 188, 191, 300, 432, 603.
- **P. P. S.** While I was proof-reading this Letter, the Lord pointed out to me that there is a teaching in Acts 12 on how the Lord frees His people to know the truth concerning angels. Therefore I think an exegesis on Acts 12 is called for and will be in the next Letter.

Many Blessings, and Much Shalom...

R. C. Theophilus