***010 Angelology III: The Present Activity of Angels***

1. Evidence of the angelic conflict… declarations of God’s superiority to gods:
   1. Superiority of God to gods, Psalm 95:1–6, "1 Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. 2 Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. 3 For the LORD is the great God, And the great King above all gods. 4 In His hand are the deep places of the earth; The heights of the hills are His also. 5 The sea is His, for He made it; And His hands formed the dry land. 6 Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.
   2. The superiority of God to gods, Psalm 96:1–5, "1 Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! Sing to the LORD, all the earth. 2 Sing to the LORD, bless His name; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. 3 Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. 4 For the LORD is great and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. 5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the LORD made the heavens.
   3. The role of the angels in God’s will:
      1. Psalm 103:19–22, "19 The LORD has established His throne in heaven, And His kingdom rules over all. 20 Bless the LORD, you His angels, Who excel in strength, who do His word, Heeding the voice of His word. 21 Bless the LORD, all you His hosts, You ministers of His, who do His pleasure. 22 Bless the LORD, all His works, In all places of His dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!
      2. Psalm 104:1–4, "1 Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, You are very great: You are clothed with honor and majesty, 2 Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment, Who stretch out the heavens like a curtain. 3 He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters, Who makes the clouds His chariot, Who walks on the wings of the wind, 4 Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire.
2. Illustrations of the Activities of Fallen Angels.
   1. The Attempted Destruction of Joshua the High Priest, Zechariah 3:1–10:
      1. Introduction to Zechariah.
         1. Zechariah was a prophet of the late sixth century, B.C., who lived during the time of the rebuilding of the temple.
         2. His ministry takes place after the resumption of the rebuilding, and is simultaneous with Haggai, around 520 B.C.
         3. Through Zechariah, the Lord gives several significant prophecies of the Messiah and His Kingdom.
         4. In chapter three, the focus is on the high priest who will minister in the newly built temple.
      2. The scene, three characters, "1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose (shiteno, accuse, be an adversary) him.
      3. The rebuking words of the Lord, 2: And the LORD said to Satan, “The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke (ga’ar) you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?”
      4. The sinfulness of Joshua, 3: Now Joshua was clothed with filthy (drunken vomit - tsoim) garments, and was standing before the Angel.
      5. The command and the proclamation, 4: Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, “Take away the filthy garments from him.” And to him He said, “See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes.”
      6. The new and clean clothing of the high priest, 5: And I said, “Let them put a clean turban on his head.” So they put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him. And the Angel of the LORD stood by.
      7. The solemn testimony to Joshua, vv.6-10:
         1. Introduction, 6: Then the Angel of the LORD admonished (ya’ad) Joshua, saying,
         2. Conditions and promises, 7: “Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘If you will walk in My ways, And if you will keep My command, Then you shall also judge My house, And likewise have charge of My courts; I will give you places to walk Among these who stand here.
      8. The prophecy of the Messiah, vv.8-10:
         1. The Great Announcement, 8: ‘Hear, O Joshua, the high priest, You and your companions who sit before you, For they are men of wonder (anshey mophet); For behold, I am bringing forth My Servant the BRANCH.
            1. Both Joshua and the angels seated in this scene are about to hear something marvelous.
            2. The seated are called men or beings of wonder, a special and purposeful display of God’s power.
            3. Though they are called men, “beings” works fine to show that they are indeed angels.
            4. These are called the companions of Joshua.
            5. God calls their attention to the BRANCH, tsemach. He is the Lord.

Isaiah 11:1–5, "1 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. 2 The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. 3 His delight is in the fear of the LORD, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; 4 But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. 5 Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist.

Jeremiah 23:5, "5 “Behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD, “That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.

Jeremiah 33:15–16, "15 ‘In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David A Branch of righteousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. 16 In those days Judah will be saved, And Jerusalem will dwell safely. And this is the name by which she will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.’

* + - 1. Promise of the single-day removal of sin, 9: For behold, the stone That I have laid before Joshua: Upon the stone are seven eyes. Behold, I will engrave its inscription,’ Says the LORD of hosts, ‘And I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.
         1. The stone that is laid before Joshua is the same as the cornerstone of Israel, the cornerstone of history.
         2. Psalm 118:22, "22 The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone.
         3. Its seven eyes are the omnipresence of the Lord, seeing into the hearts of every man, to judge.
         4. And then comes a remarkable prophecy, a single day of atonement. Not a yom kippur, but a single day of atonement for the whole world and for all time.
         5. It would come on Passover, 33 A.D.
      2. The resulting universal prosperity, 10: In that day,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘Everyone will invite his neighbor Under his vine and under his fig tree.’”

1. The Attempted Destruction of Job:
   1. Job 1:1, "1 There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and that man was blameless, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil.
   2. Job 1:6–12:
      1. The presentation day, 6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.
      2. The question and answer, 7 The LORD said to Satan, “From where do you come?” Then Satan answered the LORD and said, “From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it.”
      3. The greatness of Job in the Lord’s eyes, 8 The LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil.”
      4. The accusation, 9 Then Satan answered the LORD, “Does Job fear God for nothing? 10 “Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.
      5. The demand, 11 “But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face.”
      6. The permission, 12 Then the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him.” So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD.
2. The Attempted Destruction of Jesus the Son of God. Matthew 4:1–11:
   1. The leading and the purpose, 1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
   2. The first test, physical hunger, 2 And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. 3 And the tempter came and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.” 4 But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’”
   3. The second test, testing God, 5 Then the devil took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, ‘HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU’; and ‘ON their HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.’ ” 7 Jesus said to him, “On the other hand, it is written, ‘YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.’ ”
   4. The third test, worldly power and wealth, 8 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; 9 and he said to Him, “All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me.” 10 Then Jesus said to him, “Go, Satan! For it is written, ‘YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.’”
   5. The ministry of angels, 11 Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him.
3. How Satanic Propaganda Gets into the Human Soul, Job 4:12-16:
   1. The secret and quiet nature of the message, 12 “Now a word was secretly brought to me, And my ear received a whisper of it.
   2. The disturbing character and timing of the message, 13 In disquieting thoughts from the visions of the night, When deep sleep falls on men,
   3. The mental and physical response, 14 Fear came upon me, and trembling, Which made all my bones shake.
   4. The visual description of the creature 15 Then a spirit passed before my face; The hair on my body stood up. 16 It stood still, But I could not discern its appearance. A form was before my eyes; There was silence; Then I heard a voice saying:
   5. The message of the dark angel, Job 4:17-5:4:
      1. The impossibility of righteousness between creature and creator, 17: ‘Can a mortal be more righteous than God? Can a man be more pure than his Maker?
      2. The hopeless fate of man, vv.18-21:
         1. Man is subject to harsher judgment than angels, vv.18-19: 18 If He puts no trust in His servants, If He charges His angels with error, 19 How much more those who dwell in houses of clay, Whose foundation is in the dust, Who are crushed before a moth?
         2. The character of man’s fate, vv.20-21: 20 From morning until evening they are beaten to destruction; appointed, they perish forever. 21 Does not their own excellence go away? They die, and not in wisdom.’
      3. The hopelessness of intervention from angels, 5:1: “Call out now; Is there anyone who will answer you? And to which of the holy ones will you turn?
      4. The lack of a deliverer for a fool, vv.2-4: 2 For wrath kills a foolish man, And envy slays a simple one. 3 I have seen the foolish taking root, But suddenly I cursed his dwelling place. 4 His sons are far from safety, They are crushed in the gate, And there is no deliverer.