

THE ANGELIC CONFLICT (#01)

Nepiology is the study of the doctrines essential to the spiritual growth of an immature believer – “For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a baby (**nepios**) [infant or immature] when compared to the teleios [mature] of Heb.5:14). (Heb.5:13)

Recently, we’ve studied three lessons on the doctrine of the Angelic Conflict (AC):

- The AC against God
- The AC against Mankind
- The AC against the Church.

Understanding the role of the AC in the Church Age is important enough to mention again. The Bible opens with the AC (Genesis 3) and closes with it (Revelation 20).

During our last two Nepiology studies, we studied the importance of the Plan of God in the believer’s life in time and eternity. We also learned that the Plan of God was instituted in eternity past at the Eternal Life Conference, before the foundation of the world (Eph.1:4-5; 1 Pet.1:20).

We learned that Jesus Christ was the center piece of the Plan of God (John 17:1-5, 24). This is an important reason for the AC against the Plan of God.

This lesson will study four aspects of the Angelic Conflict (AC)

1. The AC is the result of the revolt of the archangel Lucifer against the center piece of the Plan of God, the Son of God (Eph.1:20-23) (Isa.14:12-15; Ezek.28:11-19; Rev.12:1-13/ fall of satan).

As a result of this revolt in eternity past, Satan and 1/3 of the angles were sentenced to the Lake of Fire at the end of human history (Matt.25:41; John 16:11; Rev.12:4; 20:10; Mark 3:11; 5:6-13).

2. God created mankind (tselem Demuth [In the image according to the likeness of the Godhead] with volition of the soul to resolve the AC by choosing God’s will over Satan’s.

(2 Tim.2:26) “And they come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.” (1 Pet.5:8-9; 2 Cor.2:11).

The fall of Adam is evidence of the extension of the AC into human history (Gen.3; 2Cor.11:3-4; 1 Tim.2:11-15).

Volition is the common denominator between man and angels in the AC. Satan tries to get the believer to act against the directive will of God like Eve (Gen.3) or Jesus (Matt.4) or Job (Job 1-2).

(2 Cor.10:4-5) “For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.”

3. Therefore God send His Son born of a woman under the Law to live and die volitionally in obedience to the directive will of God (Ps.8:3-5; Heb.2:5-11; Phil.2:5-11).

(Phil.2:8) “And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even the death on the cross.” (Heb.12:2-3)

(Luke 22:22, 42) “For indeed, the Son of Man is going as it has been decreed; but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!” (Luke 22:22, 42) [“**Yet not My will, but Thine be done.**”]

Jesus Christ had to be born outside the slave market of Adam’s original sin (Luke 1:31-35) (VB) to redeem those born inside it and to defeat satan (1 Cor.15:22, 45; 2 Cor.5:21; 1 Tim.1:15; Acts 26:18; Col.1:13-14; 2:15; 1 Pet.3:22).

Angels observe and rejoice with the volitional decision **to believe** the gospel of grace salvation (Luke 15:7, 10; Rom.1:16; 1 Cor.15:1-4; 2 Cor.4:3-4 and **to obey** the directive will (1 Cor.4:9; 6:3; Matt.4:11).

4. Satan’s strategy is to attack and corrupt all divine agencies in human history.

He disguises himself as a communicator of truth (2 Cor.11:3-4, 13-15; 1 Tim.4:1).

(2 Cor.2:11) “In order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.”

Satan attacks the five divine institutions:

- Freedom (Gen.3:1-5)
- Employment (Job.1:10-11)
- Marriage (1 Cor.7:5)
- Family (1 John 3:12)
- Nation (Rev.20:8).

He attacks the Church as a Divine Agency of the Word of God and evangelism in the world. (Matt.16:18; 28:18-20).

He is behind anti-Christ propaganda and persecution (2 Thess.2:1-10).

He attacks the spiritually advancing believer with distractions to the faith cycle and spiritual growth (Parable of the Sower (Matt.13:19) also (Eph.6:17; Matt.4) [Disarm].

He attacks the unbeliever’s thinking about the gospel of grace salvation (1 Cor.1:18-21; 2 Cor.4:3-4).

PAY ATTENTION:

Those who do not choose to know God or to obey the gospel will suffer the same consequences as Satan and the fallen angels in the Lake of Fire (2 Thess.1:8-10; Rev.20:10, 15).

(Rev.20:15) “And if anyone’s name was not found written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the Lake of Fire.”

This lesson helps to explain why the AC had to be fought in the sphere of mankind and human history. (John 17:15-17; Rom.8:37-39; 1 John 5:18-20).