

Angels, Demons & You

Another Dimension

World Outreach Church
Sermon Discussion Guide
Sunday Sermon: **February 16, 2025**



Spiritual forces influence our lives every day. The Bible invites us to be aware of this powerful dimension, which exists beyond our five physical senses (the ability to taste, touch, see, smell, and hear). These senses equip us to engage with our material world, but they are limited. For example, dogs can hear things that humans cannot. Even so, we tend to be reluctant to acknowledge how limited our senses are. They're just receptors, and they do not determine complete reality. That's why living life limited to your five senses will result in leading a very diminished life. It's time to open our minds and hearts more fully to the fact of a spiritual dimension that is not temporal but eternal and more powerful than this present world order. To complete our God-assignments, we need to awaken more fully to this dimension. After all, the true power that shapes our lives is spiritual.

I. JESUS, IN TIME & BEYOND

Pre-Incarnate Appearances of Jesus

John 8:56-59 *Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.*" ⁵⁷ "You are not yet fifty years old," the Jews said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!" ⁵⁸ "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" ⁵⁹ At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

***How can reflecting on Jesus' pre-incarnate existence deepen your worship, prayer, and relationship with Him?**

Post-Resurrection Appearances of Jesus & Post-Ascension Appearances of Jesus

Acts 9:3-18 As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵ "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. ⁶ "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." ... ¹⁰ In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. ¹¹ The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ... ¹⁷ Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord--Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here--has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized.

***Describe a time when you experienced a turning point in your life. How did your decisions impact your life?**

Revelation 1:10-18 On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, ¹¹ which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea." ¹² I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and among the lampstands was someone "like a son of man," dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. ¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

***How does this vision of Jesus encourage or challenge you in your faith?**

***Pastor Allen said that Biblical Criticism uses critical analysis to explain the Bible, often diminishing Scripture's authority and power in our lives. How does this approach impact the effectiveness of the Church in America today?**

II. ANGELS

A. Ministering Spirits and Messengers

Hebrews 1:14 *Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?*

Psalms 103:19-20 (NASB®) *The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, And His sovereignty rules over all.*

²⁰ *Bless the LORD, you His angels, Mighty in strength, who perform His word, Obeying the voice of His word!*

Hebrews 13:2 *Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.*

***How can you apply the message of Jesus' sovereignty and care to your life and relationships?**

B. The Roles of Angels

Guardians

Genesis 3:23-24 So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. ²⁴ After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

Exodus 14:19 *Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them.*

Matthew 18:10 *"See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven."*

***Share a personal story where you believe angels may have provided protection or guidance.**

Instruments of God's Judgment

2 Samuel 24:13-17 *So Gad went to David and said to him, "Shall there come upon you three years of famine in your land? Or three months of fleeing from your enemies while they pursue you? Or three days of plague in your land? Now then, think it over and decide how I should answer the one who sent me." ¹⁴ David said to Gad, "I am in deep distress. Let us fall into the hands of the LORD, for his mercy is great; but do not let me fall into the hands of men." ¹⁵ So the LORD sent a plague on Israel from that morning until the end of the time designated, and seventy thousand of the people from Dan to Beersheba died. ¹⁶ **When the angel stretched out his hand to destroy Jerusalem**, the LORD was grieved because of the calamity and said to the angel who was afflicting the people, "Enough! Withdraw your hand." **The angel of the LORD was then at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.** ¹⁷ **When David saw the angel who was striking down the people**, he said to the LORD, "I am the one who has sinned and done wrong. These are but sheep. What have they done? Let your hand fall upon me and my family."*

Isaiah 37:36-37 (NASB®) *Then the angel of the LORD went out and struck 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians; and when men arose early in the morning, behold, all of these were dead. ³⁷ So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and returned home and lived at Nineveh.*

Matthew 13:36-42 *Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field." ³⁷ He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and **the harvesters are angels.** ⁴⁰ "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ **The Son of Man will send out his angels**, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴² They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

***When was a time you faced consequences for your actions? How did you respond? What did you learn about trusting in God's mercy and justice?**

Lessons from the Journey

Psalms 34:7 *The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.*

Psalms 35:1, 5-6 *Contend, O LORD, with those who contend with me; fight against those who fight against me ...*

⁵ *May they be like chaff before the wind, with the angel of the LORD driving them away;*

⁶ *may their path be dark and slippery, with the angel of the LORD pursuing them.*

Reflection: What ways can you honor the Lord this week?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your Word—for its truth, power, and authority. It illuminates our minds, brings faith to our hearts, and opens the doors of Kingdom possibility. In Your presence, Lord, we declare that we choose You. We want to see and understand. We don't want to be religious, churchy, kind, polite, or timid. **We want to be men and women fully devoted to You.** Forgive us for when we've been more influenced by our secular culture than by Your truth and wanted the applause of something temporary more than we have desired Your approval. We want to begin to make You our topmost priority, cooperating with You and honoring You each day. Help us, in Jesus' name. Amen.