

Pastor Nathan Mains - August 17, 2008

Angels

Allies and
Adversaries

We Are Not Alone



Did you know that:

- in 34 of 66 books of the Bible there are specific references to angels? (17 OT, 17 NT)
- God created angels? - *For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.* Colossians 1:16 (NIV)
- angels have rank?
- angels are normally invisible to us but can appear as humans? ...*some people have entertained angels without knowing it.* - Hebrews 13:2 (NIV)
- there are both good and bad angels?
- that the creation of all angels and the rebellion of bad angels happened before man was created?

Did you know that:

- ❑ good angels are agents of God working behind the scenes (unseen allies) in the drama of world events to promote Gods program (...they often protect and rescue God servants)? This should encourage us – There is much more help than we realize!
- ❑ bad angels, called demons (unseen adversaries mentioned 100 times in the Bible), used to be good angels, but followed their leader, Lucifer & rebelled against God? Now they are devoted to opposing God, His plan and His people, including you.
- Because these unseen adversaries use schemes and subtlety to distract us from what is most important we should keep continually on guard.
 - More on that next week.

Did you know that:

□ There is much happening that we do not see and more at stake that we realize. We (people) are more the point in a cosmic struggle than we can imagine.

1 Peter 1:12 ...*angels long to look into these things.*— things related to grace and our salvation.

Luke 15:10 ...*there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.*

Ephesians 3:10 *His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, 11 according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. 12 In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. (NIV)*

Do you ever feel inadequate?

Judges 6:11 *The **angel of the LORD** came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah... where... **Gideon** was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites.*

12 *When the **angel of the LORD** appeared to Gideon, he said,*

"The LORD is with you, mighty warrior."

13 *"But sir," Gideon replied, "if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us?*

Where are all his wonders that our fathers told us about when they said, 'Did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt?'

But now the LORD has abandoned us and put us into the hand of Midian."

There's more help than you realize

Judges 6:14 *The LORD turned to him and said,*

*"Go in the strength you have
and save Israel out of Midian's hand.*

Am I not sending you?"

15 *"But Lord," Gideon asked, "how can I save
Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I
am the least in my family."*

16 *The LORD answered,*

"I will be with you,

and you will strike down all the Midianites together."

(NIV)

Time to step up

Judges 6:25 ...the LORD said to him ...Tear down your father's altar to Baal and cut down the Asherah pole beside it. 26 Then build a proper kind of altar to the LORD your God on the top of this height...

27 So Gideon took ten of his servants and did as the LORD told him. But because he was afraid of his family and the men of the town, he did it at night rather than in the daytime.

28 In the morning when the men of the town got up, there was Baal's altar, demolished, with the Asherah pole beside it cut down and the second bull sacrificed on the newly built altar! (NIV)

Who did this?

Judges 6:29 *They asked each other, "Who did this?" When they carefully investigated, they were told, "Gideon son of Joash did it."*

30 *The men of the town demanded of Joash, "Bring out your son. He must die, because he has broken down Baal's altar and cut down the Asherah pole..."*

31 *But Joash replied to the hostile crowd... "Are you going to plead Baal's cause? Are you trying to save him? Whoever fights for him shall be put to death by morning! If Baal really is a god, he can defend himself when someone breaks down his altar."*

32 *So that day they called Gideon "Jerub-Baal," saying, "Let Baal contend with him," because he broke down Baal's altar.*

There's more help than you realize

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

Psalm 91:11-12 For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

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

But Jesus should always be the point

John 15:4-5 *Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing*

□ So what should our attitude be?

Philippians 4:13 *I can do everything through him who gives me strength.*

Heb 13:6 *So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" (NIV)*

□ As we focus on Jesus isn't it encouraging to know He has provided angels to protect and help us?

Take Away

As we follow Jesus He provides unseen allies working for God's purposes alongside of us.

We need never feel alone but can be bold and courageous to do and be all He asks of us.