

THE IN-BETWEEN

Beings and Powers Between Human Beings and God

Angels, Demons, the Devil, Heavenly Powers, Dark Powers, Human Beings Between Death and Resurrection
Senior Adults & Friends Class • Summit View Church of Christ • Winter 2020-2021

Section 1: THE EARLIEST GLIMPSES OF HEAVENLY BEINGS

(to perhaps roughly 1450 BC)

Focal Point #1

Genesis 3 — THE SERPENT & CHERUBIM IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN

- What did the serpent do?
- Who is the serpent? How do we know?
- What does this first glimpse of an evil presence in God's creation tell us about the heavenly realm?
- What are cherubim? How do we know?

Genesis 6:1-4 — Who are the “sons of God” who married “the daughters of humans”?

Genesis 16 — *This is the first recorded sighting of an angel after the Garden of Eden.*

- What is an angel?
- Who is “the angel of the Lord”?

Focal Point #2

Genesis 18:1 to 19:29 — ANGELS APPEAR TO ABRAHAM & LOT

- What roles do the angels play in these stories?
- Did Abraham speak to God himself or just to an angel?
- What power do the angels in these stories display?
- What do we learn about God through the actions of the angels in these stories?

Recurring Theme — That Ancient Serpent

Genesis 3:1-15 — Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?” The woman said to the serpent, “...God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’” “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”... Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

Isaiah 65:25 — “The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, and dust will be the serpent's food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,” says the Lord.

2 Corinthians 11:3 — But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray...

Revelation 12:9 — The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray.

Revelation 20:2 — He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.

Genesis 21:1-21 — An angel appeared to _____ for the second time.

Genesis 22:1-19 — How did the angel of the Lord help Abraham and Isaac?

Genesis 24:7 & 24:40 — Abraham said God would send his angel to help the servant find a _____ for Isaac. *Notice this reference to an angel's invisible help.*

Genesis 28:10-22 — What were the angels in Jacob's dream doing?

Genesis 31:10-13 — How did God's angel speak to Jacob?

Genesis 32:1-2 — *Mystery! Why did these angels appear to Jacob? What did they say or do? How did he know they were angels? We just don't know.*

Genesis 32:22-32 — According to Genesis, whom did Jacob think he had wrestled with? _____

- According to Hosea 12:4, with whom did Jacob wrestle?

Genesis 48:15-16 — In what sense could Jacob call God an angel?

O safe and happy shelter, O refuge
tried and sweet

O trysting place where heaven's love
and heaven's justice meet!

As to the holy patriarch that
wondrous dream was giv'n

So seems my Savior's cross to me, a
ladder up to heav'n

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus," verse 2
alluding to Genesis 28:12
words by Elizabeth Clephane (1872)

Focal Point #3

Job 1-2 — SATAN APPEARS BEFORE GOD

- How could Satan have possibly had the right to enter God's presence with the angels?
- What power does Satan demonstrate here? And in this story, how does his authority compare with God's authority?
- What ability does Satan have to cause suffering?
- What do we learn here about Satan's character?

Job 4:17-19 — What does Eliphaz tell us about angels?

Job 15:14-16 — What does Eliphaz say here about God's "holy ones"?

Job 26:6 — Chronologically, this may be the Bible's first reference to "the realm of the dead". What does Job say about it?

Job 33:19-28 — What does Elihu think an angel might do for a person who is suffering because of their sin?

Job 38:1-7 — What does God say the angels were doing when he created the earth?