

Educating Angels

A 12-Lesson Study by Keith Blades | Enjoy the Bible Ministries®
Study Overview & Lesson Summaries

About This Series

This series examines one of the most remarkable and often-overlooked privileges of the dispensation of grace: the capacity of members of the body of Christ to make an educational impact upon the angelic realm. Drawing from Paul’s epistles (Romans–Philemon) and with careful right division throughout, Keith Blades establishes seven foundational matters about the angelic realm, then traces five distinct categories of angelic education taking place through the church today. The series concludes by addressing commonly misunderstood passages that describe angelic ministry in God’s program with Israel, equipping believers to rightly divide the Word and apply only what pertains to the body of Christ in this dispensation of Gentile grace.



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Lesson Summaries

L1

The Privilege of Educating Angels *Introduction and Key Scriptures*

- The series title 'Educating Angels' describes a unique privilege of this dispensation of grace: members of the body of Christ make an educational impact upon the angelic realm.
 - Key verse: Ephesians 3:8–10 — God's purpose is that the church should make known the manifold wisdom of God to principalities and powers in heavenly places.
- In God's program with Israel the roles were reversed: angels ministered unto God's people (Hebrews 1:14). This dispensation represents a complete role reversal.
- Paul introduces the theme in 1 Corinthians 2:6–8 — God's wisdom in a mystery was hidden from the princes of this world (the angelic governmental authorities in Satan's camp).
- Multiple passages confirm angelic awareness of what is happening through the body of Christ: 1 Corinthians 4:9; 1 Corinthians 11:10; 1 Timothy 5:21.
- Satan's policy of evil is actively opposed to this education taking place — Ephesians 6:12 identifies the principalities, powers, and rulers of darkness as the opposition.
- Warnings in Colossians 2:4, 8, 18 caution against being beguiled through an erroneous, Israel-program understanding of the role of angels.
- Ignorance of the dispensational change is the root cause of most confusion about angels in Christianity today.

L2

Frame of Reference — The Angelic Realm *Two Camps, Innumerable Company, Warnings*

- Seven foundational matters must be in the believer's frame of reference before the education issue can be properly understood.

Matter 1: An Innumerable Company

- The angelic realm is a vast, innumerable company — Hebrews 12:22; Revelation 5:11; Psalm 68:17. The sheer scale of their population is important to appreciate.

Matter 2: Two Distinct Camps

- There are holy angels (God's own) and the devil and his angels (Matthew

25:41). Satan's angels in positions of governmental authority are the primary audience of Category 3 education.

- Satan's angels are also called 'devils' (unclean spirits) when functioning in the context of his policy of evil — Matthew 4:24; 1 Timothy 4:1.

Matter 3: Governmental Positions in Heavenly Places

- Angelic beings occupy positions of principalities, powers, might, dominions, and thrones in heavenly places — Ephesians 1:21; 3:10; 6:12. This governmental structure is the context of Ephesians 3:10.
- These governmental positions were not disrupted at Satan's fall — they are still occupied, and the body of Christ is the instrument through which God is working to reclaim them.

L3

Frame of Reference — Power, Might, and the Servant Role

Angels Excel, Yet We Are Equipped Beyond Them

Matter 4: Angels Excel in Power and Might

- Angels excel in strength and power compared to men — Psalm 103:20; 2 Peter 2:11. They do not rail accusation even against corrupt dignities, demonstrating their restraint and capacity.
- An angel rolled back the stone and caused an earthquake — Matthew 28:2–3. Their natural power and might surpasses human capacity.

Our Power Exceeds Theirs

- The believer in this dispensation has access to power that exceeds angelic power by nature — Ephesians 6:10; Colossians 1:11; Ephesians 1:19.
- The 'exceeding greatness' of God's power toward us who believe (Ephesians 1:19) exceeds what the angelic beings possess by nature. This is educational to them.

Matter 5: Angels as Servants and Ministers

- Angels are servant-ministers who execute God's commandments and await his word — Psalm 103:20–21; Hebrews 1:7, 14. They do not operate independently; they hearken to God's voice.

Matter 6: Limited Knowledge

- Angels are not omniscient. They learn by observation and instruction — Job 38:4–7 (they witnessed creation); Job 1–2 (Satan's limited knowledge of Job is demonstrated); Psalm 139:1–4 (only God searches the heart).
- Angels do not know your thoughts. Satan and his angels cannot read your mind — only God is omniscient. This is a practical and important distinction.

L4

Frame of Reference — Godliness and Satan's Plan of Evil

Man as God's Confidant; Satan's Corrupted Wisdom

Matter 6 (continued): Man as God's Confidant

- Man was created by God to be His confidant — in God's image and after His likeness (Genesis 1:26). Angels were created to be God's servants, not His confidants.
- Sonship and godliness are 'man issues' — God never said to any angel 'Thou art My Son' (Hebrews 1:5). In this dispensation, sonship is received at salvation (Romans 8:15).

- The mystery of godliness (1 Timothy 3:16) is directly connected to our function as educating angels — it is because of our godly position in Christ that angels are being educated.

Matter 7: Satan's Plan of Evil

- Isaiah 14:12–14 records Satan's five 'I wills,' including his goal to be 'like the most High' — the possessor of heaven and earth. His plan centers on possessing the governmental positions in heavenly places.
- Three thrones are in view in Isaiah 14: the throne of God, the throne of David (the earth), and the throne of God's assembly. Satan sought to possess all three.
- Ezekiel 28:17 — Satan's wisdom was corrupted by his brightness. His plan of evil is built on corrupted wisdom, and he traffics that corruption throughout his realm.
- 1 Corinthians 2:6–8 — God kept His wisdom hidden in a mystery precisely because He planned to bring Satan's corrupted wisdom to nothing through it. Satan did not perceive the plan of God.

L5

The Five Categories — Introduced; Category 1 Begins

Godliness: What We Were; What We Now Are

- The five categories of angelic education in this dispensation of grace are: (1) Godliness, (2) Excellency of the power of God's word, (3) The manifold wisdom of God, (4) The grandeur of judging angels, and (5) The cross of Christ reconciling the heavenly realm.

Category 1: Educated in Godliness

- Godliness means God-like-ness: to think like God, act like God, labor with God, and enjoy relationship with God as He originally designed man to function (Genesis 1:26).
- The angelic beings observed godliness being created in man at the foundation of the earth — and they observed Satan destroy it through his plan of evil almost immediately (Genesis 3).
- From Adam's sin onward, man became ungodly. The Gentile nations were consigned to ungodliness at the tower of Babel (Genesis 11). We were 'without God in the world' — Ephesians 2:11–12.
- Romans 1:18 — God's wrath is revealed against all ungodliness and unrighteousness. This was the state of all Gentiles, including us before salvation.
- God created Israel to be a godly nation — Deuteronomy 4:5–8 describes Israel's wisdom and nearness to God as a testimony to the surrounding nations. Godliness is not exclusive to the mystery, but is foundational to God's purpose with man.
- Israel repeatedly failed and became as ungodly as the nations (Isaiah 55:8–9). This backdrop magnifies what God has now accomplished in this dispensation of grace.

L6

Category 1 (continued) — The Mystery of Godliness *Our Position in Christ Educates Both Angelic Camps*

- In God's program with Israel, godliness was displayed before men — the

Gentile nations could observe Israel's relationship with God. In this dispensation, the display is before the angelic realm.

- James 1:18; 1 Peter 2:11–12; 2 Peter 1:2–4 — the members of Israel's remnant were expected to function in godliness during the tribulation period, exhibiting the divine nature before the nations.
- In this dispensation of grace, God suspended Israel's program. We who were Gentiles — twice removed from godliness (twofold deadness, Colossians 2:13) — have now been placed into Christ.

1 Timothy 3:14–16 — Mystery of Godliness

- 1 Timothy 3:16 summarizes the provision for godliness in six statements, climaxing with 'received up into glory.' This is the mystery of godliness — the full provision made for us in this dispensation.
- Our three-component position in Christ — justification, sanctification, and sonship — is the basis of our godly standing. Sanctification sets us apart to be what man was originally created to be.
- The angels — both camps — observe the mystery of godliness being manifested through the body of Christ. The holy angels rejoice; the devil's angels are confounded.
- 1 Corinthians 11:10 — the woman's head covering is 'because of the angels.' The proper functioning of men and women in the assembly directly impacts the angelic education in godliness.
- The goal of all edification is godliness — 1 Timothy 1:3–5. Understanding this explains why Satan so vigorously opposes sound doctrine and the goal of teaching.

Category 2 — Excellency of God's Power *Satan's First Bravado*

Claim: Power to Entice

- Satan makes two boastful claims in this dispensation: (1) that he still has the power to entice members of the body of Christ back into the course of this world; (2) that he can victimize us through the sufferings of Christ.

Claim 1: Power to Entice

- Ephesians 2:2 — Satan formerly operated as 'the prince of the power of the air' in the lives of believers. He boasts that he can still entice us to walk according to the course of this world he has charted.
- Ephesians 2:10 — we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works. The excellency of God's power that created us in Christ is the very power that keeps us from yielding to Satan's course.
- Ephesians 4–5 exhortations — walk worthy, put away lying, be angry without sin, give no place to the devil, walk as children of light. Every positive response to sound doctrine educates angels in the excellency of God's power.
- Ephesians 6:10–13 — the whole armor of God is the power of God's might. Standing, withstanding, and remaining standing against the wiles of the devil demonstrates God's power operating in the believer.
- 2 Corinthians 4:1, 7 — Paul does not faint; the excellency of the power is of God and not of us. The earthen vessel containing this treasure makes the excellency of the power all the more evident.
- Ephesians 3:14–16 — Paul's prayer is that believers be strengthened with might by God's Spirit in the inner man, because this is precisely where the

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fainting takes place and where the power is needed.

L8

Category 2 (continued) — Power in Suffering *Satan's Second Bravado Claim: Power to Victimize*

Claim 2: Power to Victimize Through Suffering

- Satan boasts that through his policy of evil — specifically the afflictions of the gospel — he can break down and victimize members of the body of Christ, as the sufferings of Christ abound in them.
- 2 Corinthians 1:3–7 — God is the Father of mercies and God of all comfort. Paul and the Corinthians were suffering the sufferings of Christ, but God's comfort was equally abundant. This consolation is educational to the angelic realm.
- The Corinthians were not yet partakers of the sufferings; they had succumbed to the policy of evil and needed corrective doctrine. Paul's second epistle teaches them how to endure rather than be victimized.
- 2 Timothy 1:4 — Timothy's tears reflected a breakdown under Satan's policy of evil. He had yielded to the spirit of fear rather than operating in the power of God.
- 2 Timothy 1:6–7 — 'Stir up the gift of God...for God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.' The fire had gone to glowing coals; it needed to be stirred.
- 2 Timothy 1:8 — 'Be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God.' The power of God is the key — the afflictions do not stop, but the power of God enables the believer to be a partaker rather than a victim.
- Every time a member of the body of Christ endures afflictions through the power of God rather than being broken by them, Satan's boastful claim is refuted and angels are educated in the excellency of God's power.

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Category 3 — Manifold Wisdom of God *Principalities and Powers Made to Know God's Genius*

- Key verse: Ephesians 3:10 — 'To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God.'
- The manifold wisdom of God refers to the mystery of Christ — the full revelation of God's dispensational purpose that was hidden from all ages and generations (Ephesians 3:5; Colossians 1:26).
- The dispensation of grace is a parenthetical insert in God's prophetic program. God suspended Israel's program and inserted this dispensation, keeping His purpose hidden even from the angelic realm.
- Ephesians 2:11–12 — what we were: aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, without hope, without God in the world. Now we are members of the body of Christ — the exact opposite.
- Ephesians 1:8–10 — God has abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known the mystery of His will: to gather together in one all things in Christ, both in heaven and on earth.
- The two realms of creation — earthly and heavenly — are both in view. The

heavenly realm includes the governmental positions of the principalities and powers that Satan occupies.

- God's manifold wisdom is the genius of accomplishing the repossession of the heavenly positions through the death of Christ and the revelation of the mystery — without Satan ever perceiving the plan until it was too late.
- The impact upon the principalities and powers in Satan's camp is devastating — the very wisdom they thought they possessed has been brought to nothing (1 Corinthians 2:6). They are being taught this through the church.

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Category 3 (continued) + Category 4 *Judging Angels; The Cross and Reconciliation of All Things*

- Satan's failure to perceive God's plan is confirmed in 1 Corinthians 2:8 — 'had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.' The princes of this world were outsmarted.
- Luke 4:5–6 — Satan's temptation of Christ was premised on the earthly kingdoms. He understood the Davidic covenant scope but did not perceive the heavenly places aspect of the mystery.
- John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11 — the prince of this world is judged. The cross secured the legal basis for the judgment and displacement of Satan from his governmental positions.

Category 4: Educated in the Grandeur of Judging Angels

- 1 Corinthians 6:3 — 'Know ye not that we shall judge angels?' The members of the body of Christ will judge the angelic beings occupying the governmental positions that Christ is going to repossess.
- Colossians 1:15–20 — Christ is the head of all principalities and powers. All things were created by Him and for Him, including the governmental authorities in heavenly places. His is the legal right of repossession.
- Colossians 1:20 — the cross reconciles all things, whether things in earth or things in heaven. The angelic beings in the holy camp see the cross as the basis for the reconciliation of their realm also.
- The holy angels observe members of the body of Christ — who will one day occupy positions in the heavenly places — living in accordance with their sanctified position in Christ, and they see the fitness and righteousness of God's plan.

L11

Clarifying Misunderstood Passages — Part 1 *Israel's Ministering Angels vs. the Body of Christ*

- Having covered the five categories of angelic education, the series now addresses passages that are commonly misapplied to this dispensation but belong to God's program with Israel.
- Satan is a dispensationalist — he transformed himself into an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14) when the dispensational change came. His policy of evil in this dispensation exploits ignorance of right division.

Hebrews 1:13–14 — Ministering Spirits

- Hebrews 1:14 — 'Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?' This is addressed to Israel's remnant concerning the Day of the Lord's wrath — not to the body of Christ today.

- The context of Hebrews 1 is the reorientation of the remnant to Christ's status above angels, pointing forward to when He sits at God's right hand and His enemies are made His footstool. The angelic ministering role is for that future period.

Hebrews 13:2 — Entertaining Angels

- Hebrews 13:2 — 'Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.' This is Israel's program — during the Day of the Lord's wrath, angelic beings will operate in visible, ministering capacities for the remnant.
- The popular notion of a 'guardian angel' assigned to each believer in this dispensation has no basis in Paul's epistles. It imports expectations from Israel's prophetic program into the body of Christ.

Hebrews 2:2–5 — Signs and Wonders

- The signs, wonders, and diverse miracles of Hebrews 2:4 confirm Israel's salvation message — not the body of Christ's message. Right division is essential to avoid importing Israel's sign-gift expectations into the dispensation of grace.

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Clarifying Misunderstood Passages — Part 2 *Unclean Spirits, Guardian Angels, and Revelation*

- 1 Peter 1:3–12 — the salvation of souls Peter describes is the physical deliverance of Israel's remnant at the Lord's return, not spiritual salvation. The angelic involvement in that period pertains to Israel's program.
- Daniel 12:1 — Michael the archangel stands up for Daniel's people (Israel) at the time of the great tribulation. Archangelic intervention on this scale is specific to Israel's prophetic program.
- Matthew 18:10 — 'their angels' refers to angelic guardians assigned to the 'little ones' of the remnant during the Day of the Lord's wrath, not to every believer in this dispensation.

Revelation 2–3 — The Seven Churches

- The seven churches of Revelation 2–3 are assemblies of Israel's remnant in the Day of the Lord's wrath — not churches in this dispensation of grace. Each assembly has an angelic overseer; this is consistent with Israel's program.

Unclean Spirits and the Land of Israel

- The Gospels record an extraordinary concentration of unclean spirits in the land of Israel — part of Satan's policy of evil against God's program with Israel. The land itself carries prophetic significance (fifth course of punishment).
- Mark 5:9 — 'My name is Legion: for we are many.' Approximately 2,000 unclean spirits in one man illustrates the density of Satanic activity in the land during the Lord's earthly ministry.
- Zechariah 13:1–2 — in the kingdom, God will cut off the unclean spirits from the land. The cleansing of the land from unclean spirits is a kingdom promise, not a present-dispensation reality.
- There is no 'land' in this dispensation of grace to which God attaches territorial significance. The unclean spirit/land dynamic is exclusive to Israel's prophetic program and has no direct parallel for the body of Christ today.

Key Doctrinal Distinctions

Israel's Program vs. the Body of Christ — The Fundamental Distinction

In God's program with Israel, angels ministered unto God's people — they served as guardians, messengers, deliverers, and divine agents on behalf of the nation. In this dispensation of grace, the roles are primarily reversed: members of the body of Christ educate the angelic realm. This role reversal is one of the most significant dispensational distinctions in Paul's epistles and is the foundation of this entire series. Importing the angelic ministry of Israel's prophetic program into the body of Christ today — as popular Christianity does almost universally — is a product of failing to rightly divide the Word of Truth.

Godliness: A Man Issue, Not an Angelic Issue

God created man in His image and after His likeness to be His confidant — to think like God, act like God, labor with God, and enjoy intimate fellowship with God. The angels were created to be God's servant-ministers, not His confidants. Sonship, godliness, and intimacy of fellowship with God are man issues. God never said to any angel 'Thou art My Son' (Hebrews 1:5). Because godliness is a man issue, and because members of the body of Christ are placed into a sanctified position in Christ that restores and surpasses what Adam forfeited, the angelic realm is educated in godliness through us in this dispensation of grace.

The Hidden Wisdom of God — Satan Outsmarted

Satan's plan of evil was built on corrupted wisdom (Ezekiel 28:17). He believed he understood God's program with Israel and the Davidic covenant, and he understood that the earthly kingdoms were at stake. What he did not perceive — because God kept it entirely hidden, 'hid in God from ages' (Ephesians 3:9) — was the dispensation of grace and the mystery of Christ. Because Satan did not know the plan, he crucified the Lord of glory (1 Corinthians 2:8), which was the very act that secured the legal basis for the repossession of his heavenly positions and the reconciliation of all things. God's manifold wisdom outsmarted Satan's corrupted wisdom entirely, and the body of Christ educates the principalities and powers in this genius daily.

The Excellency of the Power Is of God — Not of Us

Members of the body of Christ are described as 'earthen vessels' containing the treasure of the gospel and the mystery (2 Corinthians 4:7). The purpose is that the excellency of the power may be seen to be of God and not of us. When a believer resists the enticements of Satan's course of this world, endures the afflictions of the gospel through the power of God rather than yielding to the spirit of fear, and stands in the whole armor of God against the wiles of the devil — the angelic beings observe that this power is not human but divine. Every such victory educates them in the excellency of God's power operating in the body of Christ.

Judging Angels — Our Future Role with the Principalities and Powers

1 Corinthians 6:3 reveals that members of the body of Christ will judge angels. This is not a minor detail — it corresponds directly to the repossession of the governmental positions in heavenly places that Christ secured through His cross work (Colossians 1:16–20). The angelic beings in both camps observe members of the body of Christ today: the holy angels see the fitness and righteousness of God's plan as believers walk in their sanctified position, while the principalities and powers in Satan's camp confront the reality that those who will one day occupy their positions are already being educated and prepared. The grandeur of this future judgment is being demonstrated in the present dispensation.

Key Scripture References

Ephesians 3:8–10	The intent of God — that the church make known the manifold wisdom of God to principalities and powers in heavenly places; the foundational passage for the entire series
1 Corinthians 2:6–8	God's wisdom in a mystery was hidden from the princes of this world; had they known it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory
Genesis 1:26	Man created in God's image and after His likeness — the foundation of the doctrine of godliness and man's unique relationship with God as His confidant
Romans 8:15	Believers have received the spirit of adoption (sonship) — sonship is a completed, received position, not something earned or achieved
1 Timothy 3:16	The mystery of godliness summarized in six statements — the full provision for godliness made available in this dispensation of grace
Ephesians 6:10–13	Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might; put on the whole armor of God to stand against the wiles of the devil
2 Corinthians 1:3–7	God of all comfort; partakers of the sufferings of Christ and of His consolation — the power of God enabling endurance educates angels in Category 2
2 Timothy 1:6–8	Stir up the gift of God; God has not given us the spirit of fear but of power, love, and a sound mind; be partaker of the afflictions according to the power of God
Colossians 1:15–20	Christ as head of all principalities and powers; the cross reconciling all things whether in earth or in heaven — the legal basis for repossession of the heavenly realm
Ephesians 1:8–10	Mystery of God's will — to gather together in one all things in Christ, both in heaven and on earth; the two realms of creation both in view
1 Corinthians 6:3	Know ye not that we shall judge angels? — the body of Christ's future role in connection with the governmental positions in heavenly places
Isaiah 14:12–14	Satan's five 'I wills' and his goal to be 'like the most High' — the motivating principle behind the entire plan of evil and the angelic governmental conflict
Ezekiel 28:17	Satan's wisdom corrupted by his brightness — the root of his policy of evil

	and the reason why God's hidden wisdom outsmarted him completely
1 Corinthians 11:10	The woman ought to have power on her head because of the angels — proper assembly conduct in the body of Christ directly educates angels in godliness
Hebrews 1:13–14	Ministering spirits sent forth for heirs of salvation — this pertains to Israel's program in the Day of the Lord's wrath, not to the body of Christ today

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