

Mystery of Godliness: Educating Angels

Lessons 4 & 5 by Keith Blades | Enjoy the Bible Ministries®

Study Overview & Lesson Summaries

About This Series

Lessons 4 and 5 from Keith Blades' study "Educating Angels" address the issue of "the mystery of godliness" (1 Timothy 3:16) as the doctrinal framework for why we, in this dispensation of grace, have the privilege of educating the angelic realm. Lesson 4 completes the seven frame-of-reference matters about angels — establishing that godliness is uniquely a man-of-God issue, not an angelic one, and that Satan's plan of evil centers on wisdom rather than power. Lesson 5 introduces the five major categories of angelic education in this dispensation of grace and begins developing the first and foundational category: the angels being educated in real godliness through us, in accordance with the mystery of godliness.



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Lessons at a Glance

Lesson	Core Focus
Lesson 4	Frame-of-reference matters 6 & 7: Godliness as a man issue; Satan's plan of evil centered on wisdom
Lesson 5	The five categories of angelic education introduced; Category 1 — the mystery of godliness — developed in detail

Lesson Summaries

L4

Godliness, Wisdom, and the Angelic Realm *Frame-of-Reference Matters 6 & 7*

Sixth Matter: Godliness Is a Man Issue — Not an Angel Issue (Genesis 1:26)

- Angels were never created by God to be His confidants — they were created as servants and ministers; man was created for an intimacy of fellowship with God that exceeds that of any creature
- Genesis 1:26 — "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness" — that God-like-ness is where the word godliness comes from; God created man to be godly
 - Three components of godliness: (1) to think like God does, (2) to act like God does, (3) to labor with God in what He is doing
- Godliness is not an issue with the angelic realm — God did not create angels

in His image, after His likeness; that was reserved for man

- Keith references two ETB video series for deeper study: the "Godliness" primer (a short three-hour series) and "Our Identity in Christ"
- Sonship is the key: when God treats men as sons, godliness is the issue — Hebrews 1:5 (God never said to any angel "Thou art my Son"); Romans 8:14-15 ("Ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father")
- In this dispensation, Paul has more to say about godliness than any other portion of the Bible — because sonship and godliness are issues with us as members of the body of Christ
 - 1 Timothy 1:3-4 — Timothy charged to deal in nothing but "godly edifying which is in faith"
- The mystery of godliness: we Gentiles, once consigned to ungodliness, now have the privilege of educating the angelic realm in the issue of godliness in this dispensation of grace

Seventh Matter: The Issue in Satan's Plan of Evil Is Wisdom (Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 28)

- Satan's plan of evil is not primarily about power — it is about wisdom; his goal stated in Isaiah 14:14 is "I will be like the most High" (possessor of heaven and earth), sitting on three thrones as the all-wise ruler of creation
- Ezekiel 28:12 — Satan was created "full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty"; he corrupted his wisdom by reason of his brightness (verse 17) and formulated his plan of evil on the premise that he was wiser than God
 - His boast through the prince of Tyrus (Ezekiel 28:3): "I am wiser than Daniel; there is no secret that they can hide from me"
- The mystery of Christ was kept SECRET specifically because of that boast — by keeping a secret, God took the wise one in his own craftiness (1 Corinthians 2:6-8; 3:18-20)
- Had Satan known the mystery, he would never have crucified the Lord of glory — by doing so, he produced his own complete doom
- Romans 16:25-27: Paul cannot discuss the revelation of the mystery without ascribing wisdom to God alone — "To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ"
 - 1 Timothy 1:16-17: "Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever"

L5

The Five Categories of Angelic Education *Introducing the Mystery of Godliness*

Quick Recap: All Seven Frame-of-Reference Matters and Their Bearing on Educating Angels

- The seven matters reviewed — innumerable company of angels; holy angels and devil's angels; angelic governmental positions (principalities, powers); their power and might; servant-minister concept; limited knowledge; Satan's plan of evil centered on wisdom
- Each matter connects directly to one or more of the five categories of education we provide to the angelic realm today

Five Categories of Angelic Education in This Dispensation of Grace

- Category 1 — Educated in real godliness, in accordance with the mystery of godliness

- Category 2 — Educated in the excellency of the power of God's word operating within us
- Category 3 — Educated in the manifold wisdom of God overcoming the satanic plan of evil (Ephesians 3:10)
- Category 4 — Educated in the grandeur of the time when we judge angels and occupy positions in the heavenly places
- Category 5 — Educated in the inexpressible magnificence of the cross work of the Lord Jesus Christ

Category 1 Developed: The Mystery of Godliness (Ephesians 2; Romans 1; Deuteronomy 4; Isaiah 55)

- From the moment Adam sinned, the angelic realm has not seen real godliness — man became ungodly by nature, thinking, acting, and laboring like the adversary rather than like God
- Satan acted swiftly at the Fall, knowing the issue of godliness — needing to interrupt the education in godliness before it could progress
- We Gentiles in times past were consigned to ungodliness — Ephesians 2:11-12: "without Christ, without God in the world"; walking according to the prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:1-2)
 - Romans 1:18 — "the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness" — ungodliness is what the consigned Gentile world produced
- **KEY DISTINCTION:** Godliness is NOT the mystery — there IS a mystery OF godliness; godliness was always an issue in God's program with Israel (Deuteronomy 4:5-8)
 - Israel was created to be a godly nation in the sight of the nations — their godliness was to impact men, not the angelic realm
 - Isaiah 55:8-9 — "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways" — a rebuke to Israel that they failed to be the godly nation God created them to be
- In this dispensation of grace, God suspended Israel's program and brought in the mystery of godliness — our godliness is in the sight of the ANGELS, not merely men
- We have the privilege of putting on display to the angelic realm the very thing God created man to be — a godly creature — which has not been on display since Adam fell
- Lesson 5 closes with this foundation laid; the detailed development of Category 1 continues into the next lesson

Key Doctrinal Distinctions

Godliness Is a Man Issue — Not an Angel Issue

God created man in His image, after His likeness (Genesis 1:26) — that God-like-ness is godliness. No such statement was ever made about the angels. They were created as servants and ministers; man was created for an intimacy of fellowship with God exceeding that of any created being. The three components of godliness — to think like God does, to act like God does, and to labor with God in what He is doing — are uniquely man's prerogative. Godliness is therefore something the angelic realm has always

recognized as belonging to man, not to themselves. This is foundational to understanding why we, in this dispensation of grace, have the privilege of educating angels in godliness.

Godliness Is Not the Mystery — There Is a Mystery OF Godliness

Keith draws a sharp and critical distinction: godliness itself is not a mystery. It was always an issue in God's program with Israel — God created Israel to be a godly nation on the earth (Deuteronomy 4:5-8), and godliness is an issue in Hebrews through Revelation for the believing remnant. The MYSTERY is that, in this dispensation of grace, God has made godliness an issue with us Gentiles — who in times past were consigned to ungodliness (Ephesians 2:11-12) with no hope. And further, our godliness is not in the sight of the nations (as Israel's was) but in the sight of the angels. That is the mystery of godliness: Gentile believers displaying God-like-ness to the angelic realm in the dispensation of grace.

Satan's Plan of Evil: The Issue Is Wisdom, Not Power

A critical frame-of-reference matter for appreciating why we educate the principalities and powers in the manifold wisdom of God (Ephesians 3:10). Satan's contention with God is not primarily about power — it is about wisdom. He was created "full of wisdom" (Ezekiel 28:12), corrupted it by pride, and formulated a plan to be "like the most High" (Isaiah 14:14) as the all-wise ruler of creation. His boast: "there is no secret that they can hide from me" (Ezekiel 28:3). God took the wise one in his own craftiness by keeping the mystery of Christ a complete secret — the very thing Satan boasted could never be done. Had he known it, he would never have crucified the Lord of glory (1 Corinthians 2:8).

Five Categories of Angelic Education in This Dispensation

In this dispensation of grace, there are five major categories of angelic education being provided through us, the members of the church, the body of Christ: (1) education in real godliness — the mystery of godliness; (2) education in the excellency of the power of God's word operating within us; (3) education in the manifold wisdom of God in overcoming the satanic plan of evil (Ephesians 3:10); (4) education in the grandeur of the coming time when we judge angels and occupy positions in the heavenly places; and (5) education in the inexpressible magnificence of the cross work of the Lord Jesus Christ. Each category builds upon the cross, and each makes an impact upon both holy angels and the devil and his angels — though specific categories are designed to impact one camp more than the other.

Our Godliness Is in the Sight of the Angels — Not Merely Men

This is the foundational difference between godliness in God's program with Israel and godliness in the mystery program today. In Israel's program, their godliness was to make an impact upon the nations — in the sight of men (Deuteronomy 4:6). In this dispensation of grace, Paul's references to us doing things "in the sight of angels" point to an entirely different dimension: our godliness is put on display to the angelic realm. We have the privilege of displaying to an innumerable company of angelic beings the very thing God created man to be — a godly creature — which has not been genuinely on display to them since Adam fell in the garden.

Key Scripture References

Genesis 1:26-27	"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness" — the origin of godliness as God-like-ness; never said of angels
Isaiah 14:12-14	Satan's five 'I wills' — "I will be like the most High" (possessor of heaven and earth) — the goal and summary of his plan of evil
Ezekiel 28:12,17	Satan created "full of wisdom" — "thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness" — pride corrupting wisdom into the plan of evil
Deuteronomy 4:5-8	Israel created to be a godly nation in the sight of the nations — their godliness was to impact men; contrasts with our angelic education
Isaiah 55:8-9	"My thoughts are not your thoughts" — God's rebuke to Israel for failing to be the godly nation He designed them to be
Ephesians 2:1-2,11-12	We Gentiles in times past: walking according to the prince of the power of the air; without God in the world — consigned to ungodliness
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"
Romans 1:18	"The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness" — ungodliness being what the Gentile world had been consigned to produce
Romans 8:14-15	"Ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father" — sonship established; godliness is therefore an issue with us
Hebrews 1:5	God never said to any angel "Thou art my Son" — sonship is a man issue, not an angelic one; undergirds why godliness belongs to man
1 Corinthians 2:6-8	"The hidden wisdom which God ordained before the world unto our glory... which none of the princes of this world knew" — the mystery kept from Satan
1 Corinthians 3:18-20	"He taketh the wise in their own craftiness" — God's response to the adversary's boast of superior wisdom
1 Timothy 1:3-4	Timothy charged to deal in "godly edifying which is in faith" — the purpose of sound doctrine in this dispensation
Romans 16:25-27	Paul's doxology upon the revelation of the mystery: "To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever"
1 Timothy 1:16-17	"Now unto the King eternal... the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever" — Paul ascribes wisdom to God alone in connection with his ministry

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