

Quick Review

- * Last week, we looked at God's assurance in vv. 10-15, followed by Jacob's two part response in vv. 16-22
- * The assurance came in two parts ...
 - ◆ Jacob's dream in vv. 10-13a ... picturing God's presence and continuous communion between heaven and earth, mediated by His angels for the care of His people — true then and TRUE NOW!
 - ◆ God's presence and spoken assurances in vv. 13b-15
- * God confirms the Abrahamic Covenant promises and adds a very personal addendum in v. 15 ... What was that?
 - ◆ I will be with you ... [READ v. 15 again]

Review .. Continued

- * And not only be with him, but ...
 - ◆ Keep him — protection
 - ◆ Bring him back — promise
 - ◆ Not abandon you — presence
 - ◆ Accomplish His promises — providence
- * Jacob responds with worship in vv. 16-19
 - ◆ Acknowledges God's presence,
 - ◆ His access to & communion with God, and ...
 - ◆ Memorializes the place with a "pillar stone" and a name — Bethel ... "House of God"

Review .. Continued

- * And then we came to this tricky 'vow' in vv. 20-22
 - ◆ ... Everyone PERFECTLY understood my explanation, RIGHT?
- * I want to quickly revisit the explanation of the vow with a summary comment and an illustration to clarify the technical mish-mash I raced through last week
- * So remember ... the challenge of vv. 20-22 comes from where the EV's place the word "then" ...
- * Making it "look" to our Western eyes and minds like Jacob is "bargaining" with God

Review .. Continued

- * Let me emphatically restate that Jacob is not making a bargain with God!!
- * He is simply affirming the assurances that God has given him and expressing what he will do in thanksgiving!
- * All OT vows are grammatically written as "conditional clauses" ... simply stated, they are written using "if/then" sentence structures

Review .. Continued

- * Conditional clauses are used to express “arguments and responses”
- * The first part of a conditional clause expresses the “condition(s)” — and based on the context the condition is considered to be either ...
 - ◆ True for the sake of the discussion;
 - ◆ False for the sake of the discussion; or
 - ◆ Uncertain (i.e. maybe true, maybe false) for the sake fo the discussion

Review .. Continued

- * In vv. 20-21 the conditions are “true for the sake of the argument”
 - ◆ God has just given Jacob assurances and he is affirming their veracity in the “conditions”
- * The challenge arises from where we place the marker for the response ... i.e. the “then”
- * As I argued last week, I place it at the beginning of v. 22 ... and I gave you perhaps an overwhelming grammatical explanation — for which I apologize

Review .. Continued

- * In thinking about how I could have better expressed my point, I came up with the following illustration ...
- * Lets say I gave you a bag filled with six oranges and four apples ...
- * And then asked you to place them into two bowls ...
- * How would you arrange the oranges and apples?
- * Why did you do it that way?
 - ◆ Why not place “five items in each bowl?”

Review Continued

- * The oranges and the apples graphically represent the grammatical argument I made last week
- * The verb forms in v. 20-21, after the initial “If God will keep me, are all oranges!
 - ◆ We place ALL these into one bowl, grouping the “like things,” thus including “And the LORD will be my God” in the conditions
- * Then in v. 22, we have a break from oranges, suggesting that what follows should be placed into another bowl.
 - ◆ Thus I start v. 22 with the “then” part of the conditional clause

Review .. Continued

- * This also makes the most contextual sense ...
- * In v. 15 God JUST TOLD Jacob, in practical terms, that He will be his God ...
 - ◆ I will be with you, keep you, return you, not abandon you, and accomplish what I say!
- * Jacob assumes these things to be true in the 1st part of his vow
- * And “THEN” responds with his promise to God in v. 22
 - ◆ This place will be your house — marked by the pillar stone, and
 - ◆ He will give a tenth of what he has to God!

WHAT QUESTIONS, OR
COMMENTS, DO YOU HAVE?

Angelology

A "BRIEF" EXCURSUS

Angels

* Opening thoughts

- ◆ Scripture affirms their existence, though, like God, makes no attempt to systematically prove their existence ...
- ◆ Rather, they are presented throughout the Bible as existing and active ...
 - Mentioned just over 100x's in the OT and 175x's in the NT;
 - Revealed throughout the entire Bible by many writers and over multiple periods of history; and
 - Spoken of by Jesus Himself — Matt 13:39, 41; 16:27; 18:10
- ◆ All of which supplies ample attestation to their existence

Angels

- * There are **good ones** and **evil ones!**
 - ◆ The “good ones” are of God and minister on His behalf
 - ◆ The “bad ones” belong to Satan, warring against God and his children
- * The two groups are identical “in essence” ...
- * Differing only in the fact that
 - ◆ The one (**Satan**) directly and volitionally chose to disobey/challenge God, and ... wanting to BE God
 - ◆ The others (**demons**) chose to follow Satan in his disobedience ... making Satan their god — just like Rom 1:18ff choosing a creature over the Creator

Angels

- * The nature of Angels ...
 - ◆ They are created beings — by divine fiat Ps 148:1-5
 - ◆ We are not told “when” ... **but what can we say about timing?**
 - It had to be sometime in Days 1-6!!!
 - ◆ They are spirit beings that do not procreate (Matt 22:28-30)
 - They exist beyond the bounds of our sensual perception, but can take on, and inhabit, physical forms
 - ◆ They have intellect (i.e. cognitive abilities), emotions, and will ... And they demonstrate “self-consciousness”

Angels

- ◆ They are innumerable and demonstrate organization
- * The qualities of angels — originally
 - ◆ **Holiness** ... created “good” but like mankind, some fell!
 - ◆ **Privileged** ... In God’s presence; Second to God in created order (1Heb 2:5ff)
 - ◆ **Immortal** ... Luke 20:35-36
 - ◆ **Accountable to God** ... they will be judged (2 Pet 2:4; Jude 6-7)
 - ◆ **Powerful & intelligent - but limited** ... spatially, authority, full-knowledge (matters of salvation and affairs of men)

Angels

- * There is Biblical evidence for order among Angels
- * There are special groups of Angels
 - ◆ Cherubim & Seraphim — who guard the throne of God
 - Holy of Holies when on earth — heavenly throne room in this age
 - ◆ Some are identified with particular responsibilities
 - Power over fire (Rev 14:18)
 - Power over water (Rev 16:14)
 - The binding of Satan (Rev 20:1-2)

Angels

- ◆ The angels of the 7-churches (Rev 2-3)
- ◆ Tribulation angels executing judgment
 - ▶ The four winds of the earth (Rev 7:1)
 - ▶ Seven angels releasing the trumpet and bowl judgments (Rev 8:2; 15:1)
- ◆ Named angels
 - ▶ Gabriel (Dan 8:16; 9:21)
 - ▶ Michael ... the archangel (Dan 10:13; Jude 9; Rev 12:7)

Angels

- * Their ministry — the “Good Ones”
 - ◆ To the Trinity
 - ▶ Praise (Ps 148); Worship (Rev 5:8-13); Rejoicing in God’s work (Job 38:6-7); Service to God (Ps 103:20)
 - ◆ To the unrighteous
 - ▶ Announcing judgment — Gen 19:13 (S & G)
 - ▶ Inflicting judgment — Acts 12:23 (Herod’s death)
 - ▶ Separating the righteous and unrighteous — Matt 13:39

Angels

- ◆ To the righteous (i.e. believers)
 - ▶ Most broadly — **READ** Heb 1:14
 - ▶ Bringing answer to prayer — Acts 12:5-10
 - ▶ Aiding in the salvation of people — Acts 8:26; 10:3
 - ▶ Observe and learn God's plans — 1 Pet 1:12; 1 Cor 11:10
 - ▶ Provide reassurance in times of fear — Acts 27:23-24
 - ▶ Present and care for believers at death ... we will have an "angelic escort" to heaven — Luke 16:22

Angels

- * What about Satan & his minions
 - ◆ These are the fallen angels ... Satan and those angels that followed him — a third of all the created angels (Rev 12:4-9)
- * Satan is the kingpin ... **How/when did he fall?**
 - ◆ The Bible is not explicitly clear on either ...
 - ◆ **How:** Many people cite Isa 14:12ff and Ezek 28:11ff
 - ◆ **When:** We do know he was in the garden of Eden — Gen 3; Rev 12:9 ... so he was around "early"

Angels

* Overall how would you describe Satan's character?

- ◆ Wholly and thoroughly evil, opposed to God and God's people

* Scripture describes him as a ...

- ◆ Slanderer - Acts 13:10
- ◆ Accuser of believers - Rev 12:10
- ◆ Tempter - Matt 4:1; 1 Thess 3:5
- ◆ Murderer and Liar - John 8:44

Angels

* Satan primarily targets three areas ...

- ◆ The Trinity & Israel
- ◆ The Nations & people in general
 - ▶ Darkens minds to the gospel (2 Cor 4:3-4) and snatches the gospel from people's hearts (Luke 8:12)
- ◆ Believers
 - ▶ Active opposition - 1 Pet 5:8; 1 Tim 3:7
 - ▶ Arranges & administers afflictions - Job 1-2; 2 Cor 12:7

Angels

- ▶ Tempts believers to sin ...
 - ◆ Lying (Acts 5:3); Sexual desires (1 Cor 7:5); Others
- ▶ Hinders ministry - 1 Thess 2:18
- ▶ Sows false believers among believers - Matt 13:38ff
- ▶ Incites division among believers - 1 Cor 3:1ff

* Demons character

- ◆ Though **less** bankrupt than Satan, they are ...
 - ▶ Morally corrupt — described as **darkness, unclean, wicked, and ...**

Angels

- ▶ Deceptive - 1 Tim 4:1
- ◆ Like Satan, Demons are aligned against ...
 - ▶ God
 - ▶ People, in general ... by means of **physical affliction, mental and emotional affliction, demon possession, and deceptive signs & wonders (Rev 16:13-14)**
 - ▶ Believers

Angels

- * Satan & Demons together wage spiritual warfare
— Eph 6:10-12 [\[READ\]](#)
- * In the West we tend to “pooh-pooh” the spirit world ... but it is no less real!
- * Yet we do not dismay
- * Rather we are ...
 - ◆ [Alert](#) to the enemy’s schemes ... We must be attuned to his attacks and ready to resist - Jas 4:7; 1 Pet 5:9

Angels

- ◆ [Armed](#) to resist ... We have been given a specific set of biblical weapons to “wear” - Eph 6:12ff
- ◆ [Assured](#) of victory ... We fight from a position of victory because —
 - ▶ Satan is limited by God - Job 1:2
 - ▶ The cross - John 12:31; 16:32-33; Heb 2:14-15
 - ▶ The world system is passing away - 1 John 2:17
 - ▶ Christ is greater than Satan - 1 John 4:4
