

Lower Than “gods” or Angels?

I truly enjoy when God reveals something that is not really hidden, but that we often just don't see. My husband calls these revelations distinctions, connections, or better definitions. It isn't that the knowledge is something “new”; it's just that we didn't see it. It has really been there all the time.

This happened to me while I was writing an article for our church newsletter. I was using the scripture in Hebrews 2:6-9 that speaks about the work that Jesus did in reinstating us as mankind to a position of dominion on the earth. I went back and reviewed the original statement found in Psalms 8:4-8. That is when I became focused on the different definitions of the words translated “angels” in the Old Testament and in the New Testament.

In Psalms, the statement, “Thou has made him (mankind) a little lower than the angels” identifies the word “angels” as the Hebrew word for “gods” or God. However, in Hebrews, the word “angels” is the Greek word for messengers or angels. I found myself pondering the difference. I know what I believe it means and how I have been taught, but I found myself asking God how to explain it to people who do not have the same “teachings” that I have.

Now, please do not think that I have any formal theological teaching; I have not. But, I have found that if you are truly seeking the truth in God's word, He is willing and able to reveal it – even to someone who is not an authority or a scholar. So, here is the explanation that the Lord was so gracious to give me. I hope it helps you as much as it did me. I hope it opens your eyes to the reality of the authority and dominion of mankind as it did mine.

Here we go! In the beginning - Genesis 1:26-28 - God made mankind in His own image and likeness. We know that. God was very clear about it. He then gave us dominion over the realm of earth, i.e. fish, fowl, cattle or “every living thing that moveth upon the earth”, every “creeping thing”, and over all the earth or the land. Our bodies were formed of the dust of the ground, but God breathed into us the “breath of life” and we became a living soul, or as some translate it “another speaking spirit.” By these scriptures we know that mankind does not have authority over other “men” and he had no authority over celestial beings, i.e. angels. He did have authority, though, over his own body – it came from “earth.”

We know other things as well. God is a triune being: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We were made as a triune being as well. We are a spirit; we have a mind (soul); and we live in a body. Our spirit was given, or imparted, to us when God “breathed” into our nostrils and life was passed on to us. Was an angel involved in this process at all? No. God Himself gave us life. Hence, we were made a little lower than the gods. This is what Psalms 8 declares. We are not God; we were just made in the god-class. Our body is of the earth, but our spirit is of God. Whatever we as mankind lacked, the spirit of God in us made up the difference. God completed us.

We began our earthly existence meeting and communing with God. We met with God and walked with Him in the “cool of the day.” We do not know how long we did this, but we know we did it long enough to learn how to “dress and keep the garden” and to “name” every living creature – in other words, how to take our place and have dominion. However, things changed. The devil came to visit.

Through the reading of the Word, we know that the serpent that came and had a discussion with Eve was Lucifer, or Satan. This is where one from the angelic class showed up. He has been called the Anointed Cherub – before he fell from heaven. We do know for sure that he was

an angelic, or celestial, being who decided to challenge God's position and authority. Of course it would just make sense that he would not like mankind – the ones who were made in the image and likeness of God.

What he did was go to Adam and Eve and engage them in a discussion about how God was withholding information and “power” from them, i.e. the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He told them that God knew they would be “as gods” (the same Hebrew word translated as angels in Psalms 8), knowing good and evil, and that He didn't want them to be that. No, God wanted them to be “less than” that; and, in that moment, Adam and Eve saw themselves as “deficient” – lacking in something that was to be desired. They also embraced the idea that God had not told them the truth and that He had an ulterior motive in keeping them in the dark. The enemy sowed that seed of strife and the sweet communion that God and mankind had enjoyed was broken. Just like God had told them – they died. That spirit-connection that completed mankind and gave him access to the “god-realm” was severed. The saddest thing of this whole story is that they already were “gods” of the earth; and, what did they gain by knowing “evil”? Only adversity, loss, misery, and eventual death! All they knew up to that time was “good”. What a terrible trick to play on them!

By mankind's own choice, we switched our allegiance from God to a fallen angel. It was an angelic being from whom we got our information and to whom we submitted ourselves. This is where the truth of Hebrews 2 comes to light – we became a little lower than the angels. Our dominion shifted to be under the dominion of Satan and sin. We no longer submitted to the authority of God; and, therefore, no longer ruled over the realm of the earth which had been given to us by God. No, the devil became the “god of this world” where once mankind had exercised dominion and had ruled. How we saw *ourselves* changed the very moment that Adam and Eve accepted the devil's vision of us. How we saw ourselves changed who we became.

As I contemplated this, I thought to myself, “Was there another instance in the Bible where something like this took place?” God impressed me with this incident found in Numbers 13:33. God had brought the Children of Israel to the Promise Land. The twelve spies had been sent to scout out the land and bring back a report. God had already said He had given the people the land. However, ten spies came back with what is called an evil report. This is what they said, “and we were *in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.*” What? God had told them they were the possessors of the Promise Land already – well able to take the land because He was with them. But now, they saw themselves as deficient – lacking in ability. They refused to enter the land and take possession and ended up wandering in the wilderness for forty years. They didn't even consider that the determining factor in their victory was that God was with them and that He had already *given* them the land. He made up the difference! (Emphasis in Numbers 13:33 is the author's.)

Does it make a difference how we see ourselves? Absolutely! Obviously! We judge everything that has to do with our life in relationship to how we see ourselves. If we see ourselves as able, we are able. If we see ourselves as lacking, we are “not enough.” What changes everything for us is the determining factor.

What is the determining factor? The One who is with us! Under who's authority do we “live, move, and have our being?” If we have accepted Jesus as our Savior and are a believer, we are under the authority of the King of kings and the Lord of lords! We are able to take back our position of authority because Jesus “took” it back when He spoiled Satan and his kingdom and we are in Him. We have to renew our mind with the Word of God and begin to see ourselves, again, the way God made us and the way He sees us. We must take God's word as the reality of who we

are and yield to His vision of us – not the enemy’s. We have been reinstated to the god-class with its privilege and authority.

Adam and Eve saw themselves as having little to no authority and lacking in position; however, all the time they had full authority over the realm of earth and had a position in the household of Almighty God. They fell for the oldest trick in the world: they saw themselves based on what someone else said. Not on the truth! They didn’t believe the one who loved them; they believed the one who envied them and wanted what they had for himself. This type of deception still goes on today! The devil really doesn’t have any new scams; he still uses the old ones. Why? Because they work!

The great thing about the verses in Hebrews 2 is that they put us on solid footing in our relationship with the Father – and it has nothing to do with how “wonderful” we are. No, it has everything to do with how wonderful Jesus is and what He did to put us back into the house of God. However, there is one very big change that was made – we came back into the house of God as sons! By and through the Spirit of adoption, we have been made heirs of God and joint-heirs with Jesus the Christ.

Oh, I could just keep on preaching about all that Jesus our Lord did for us – how He reinstated us in the love of God and brought us unto glory, how He put all things back under our dominion, how He even put “celestial” beings under our feet by making us one with Almighty God – and, the knowledge of that will not make one bit of difference if we don’t start seeing ourselves the way He does and begin walking in the fulness of it.

How do we change how we see ourselves? It is simple, but not easy, in the doing. We have to look to the Word of God and let His word change the picture we have of ourselves. We have to hear the Word, read the Word, meditate the Word, believe the Word, and then have faith that the vision we have seen of who we are is made manifest “according to the power that worketh in us.” “That power” being the determining factor – the One who is not only with us, but who also lives within us – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit – all the fulness of God.

So, the next time the devil or any of his followers - human or demonic - start telling you

- * what you are or are not
- * what you can do or not do
- * what you can have or not have
- * what you know or do not know

remind him about some truths. Remind Satan and his followers that they are

- * defeated and no longer in authority in your life
- * stripped of victory and can no longer rule over your life
- * relieved of the keys to hell and of death
- * judged guilty and on the way to permanent incarceration – the bottomless pit and then the lake of fire

Then, remind all your enemies that

- * you are of the god-class
- * you are a son of the Most High God
- * you are an heir of God and joint-heir with Jesus the Christ, the heir of all things

And then, put the last nail in the coffin – tell the devil and all his forces whose you are. You are one with God! You are God’s possession! And the most important of all:

“The Lord knoweth them that are His”!!!

Scriptural Readings: Hebrews 2:6-9, Psalms 8:4-8, Genesis 1-3, Matthew 28:19, 1 John 5:8, 1 Thessalonians 5:23, Ezekiel 28:11-19, Romans 6:16, Psalms 115:16, 2 Corinthians 4:4, Numbers 13, Acts 17:28, Colossians 2:9-15, Revelation 1:5-6 & 17:14, Romans 12:2, Romans 8:14-17, John 17:20-26, Ephesians 3:16-21, Revelation 1:18, Hebrews 1:1-4, 2 Timothy 2:19