

Daniel and the Angel in the Lions Den



Angels Volume 4 by R. J. Adams



Peter Being Released From jail by an Angel

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Section 16: Daniel And The Angels

(Dan 1:1-2 NCV) During the third year that Jehoiakim was king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and surrounded it with his army. The Lord allowed Nebuchadnezzar to capture Jehoiakim king of Judah. Nebuchadnezzar also took some of the things from the Temple of God, which he carried to Babylonia and put in the temple of his gods.

(Dan 1:3-4 KJV) And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes; Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.

(Dan 1:4 NCV) King Nebuchadnezzar wanted only young Israelite men who had nothing wrong with them. They were to be handsome and well educated, capable of learning and understanding, and able to serve in his palace. Ashpenaz was to teach them the language and writings of the Babylonians.

(Dan 1:6-7 KJV) Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego.

God Gives Wisdom To Daniel And His Companions

(Dan 1:8-10 NKJV) But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs. And the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, "I fear my lord the king, who has appointed your food and drink. For why should he see your faces looking worse than the young men who are your age? Then you would endanger my head before the king."

(Dan 1:11-17 NKJV) So Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the

eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, "Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink. "Then let our appearance be examined before you, and the appearance of the young men who eat the portion of the king's delicacies; and as you see fit, so deal with your servants." So he consented with them in this matter, and tested them ten days. And at the end of ten days their features appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king's delicacies. Thus the steward took away their portion of delicacies and the wine that they were to drink, and gave them vegetables. As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

(Dan 1:18-19 NKJV) Now at the end of the days, when the king had said that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. Then the king interviewed them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they served before the king.

Once again we see that the power of God is far superior to that of the sorcery, witchcraft and divination of the kings other counselors.

(Dan 1:20 NKJV) And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm.

Daniel was a relative of Zedekiah and a descendant of king David. Although he did not sit upon a throne ruling over the children of Israel he was throughout the course of his life from his teen age years onward a trusted counselor of the kings of Babylon and the kings of the Medes and the Persians. Daniel himself, and his companions were a fulfillment of a prophecy given to Hezekiah by Isaiah when they were take to Babylon, castrated and served the king.

(Isa 39:5-7 KJV) Then said Isaiah to Hezekiah, Hear the word of the LORD of hosts: Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store until this day, shall be carried to Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD. And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.

For those who may not be familiar with he term, a eunuch is a castrated

man employed as an attendant or functionary in a king's court or harem or a man or boy whose testes are not functioning or have been removed.

(Mat 19:12 KJV) For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it.

Daniel was a eunuch, castrated by the king of Babylons orders, so he did not have to worry about family problems as most of us do. Daniel is never recorded to have complained about it though, receiving it as a blessing from God enabling him to be more fully devoted to the things of the Lord. How many of us could undergo what Daniel and his friends did and still be faithful to God without complaint.

(Isa 56:3-5 NCV)" The eunuch should not say, "Because I cannot have children, the LORD will not accept me." This is what the LORD says: "The eunuchs should obey the law about the Sabbath and do what I want and keep my agreement. If they do, I will make their names remembered within my Temple and its walls. It will be better for them than children. I will give them a name that will last forever, that will never be forgotten.

Daniel was indeed in the category of the great heroes of faith. He will receive a great reward in God's kingdom. I'm sure that Daniel and those with him were comforted by the words written about them in Isaiah's prophecy. God did give them an everlasting name by putting the details of their lives in the bible for millions to read and their deeds will be recounted throughout eternity.

Josephus give us some more information about Daniel and his companions.

Josephus Chapter 10

CONCERNING DANIEL, AND WHAT BEFELL HIM AT BABYLON

But now Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, took some of the most noble of the Jews that were children, and the kinsmen of Zedekiah their king, such as were remarkable for their beauty of their bodies and comeliness of their countenances, and delivered them into the hands of tutors, and to the improvement to be made by them. He also made some of them to be

eunuchs; Now among these there were four of the family of Zedekiah, of most excellent dispositions, the one of whom was called Daniel, another was called Ananias, another Misael, and the fourth Azarias: and the king of Babylon changed their names, and commanded that they should make use of other names. Daniel he called Baltasar; Ananias, Shadrach; Misael, Meshach; and Azarias, Abednego. These the king had in esteem, and continued to love, because of the very excellent temper they were of, and because of their application to learning, and the progress they had made in wisdom.

The King Has A Dream

(Dan 2:1-3 NCV) During Nebuchadnezzar's second year as king, he had dreams that bothered him and kept him awake at night. So the king called for his fortune-tellers, magicians, wizards, and wise men, because he wanted them to tell him what he had dreamed. They came in and stood in front of the king. Then the king said to them, "I had a dream that bothers me, and I want to know what it means."

Josephus Chapter 10

Now two years after the destruction of Egypt, king Nebuchadnezzar saw a wonderful dream, the accomplishment of which God showed him in his sleep; but when he arose out of his bed, he forgot the accomplishment; so he sent for the Chaldeans and magicians, and the prophets, and told them that he had seen a dream and informed them that he had forgot the accomplishment of what he had seen, and he enjoined them to tell him both what the dream was, and what was its signification;

The king had truly forgotten his dream by the providence of God and could not tell them his dream even if he wished to do so. God caused this to happen for the purpose of promoting Daniel and his companions. As we know from the scriptures, promotion comes not from the will of man, but from the Lord.

(Psa 75:6-7 KJV) For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.

The Kings' Wise Men Cannot Reveal or Interpret The Kings Dream

(Dan 2:4-11 NCV) The wise men answered the king in the Aramaic language, "O king, live forever! Please tell us, your servants, your dream. Then we will tell you what it means." King Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "I meant what I said. You must tell me the dream and what it means. If you don't, I will have you torn apart, and I will turn your houses into piles of stones. But if you tell me my dream and its meaning, I will reward you with gifts and great honor. So tell me the dream and what it means." Again the wise men said to the king, "Tell us, your servants, the dream, and we will tell you what it means." King Nebuchadnezzar answered, "I know you are trying to get more time, because you know that I meant what I said. If you don't tell me my dream, you will be punished. You have all agreed to tell me lies and wicked things, hoping things will change. Now, tell me the dream so that I will know you can tell me what it really means!" The wise men answered the king, saying, "No one on earth can do what the king asks! No great and powerful king has ever asked the fortune-tellers, magicians, or wise men to do this; the king is asking something that is too hard. Only the gods could tell the king this, but the gods do not live among people."

(Dan 2:12-13 NCV) When the king heard their answer, he became very angry. He ordered that all the wise men of Babylon be killed. So King Nebuchadnezzar's order to kill the wise men was announced, and men were sent to look for Daniel and his friends to kill them.

Daniel Prays For Wisdom

(Dan 2:14- NCV) Arioch, the commander of the king's guards, was going to kill the wise men of Babylon. But Daniel spoke to him with wisdom and skill, saying, "Why did the king order such a terrible punishment?" Then Arioch explained everything to Daniel. So Daniel went to King Nebuchadnezzar and asked for an appointment so that he could tell the king what his dream meant. Then Daniel went to his house and explained the whole story to his friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Daniel asked his friends to pray that the God of heaven would show them mercy and help them understand this secret so he and his friends would not be killed with the other wise men of Babylon.

Josephus Chapter 10

Now when Daniel heard that the king had given a command that all the wise men should be put to death, and that among them himself and his three kinsmen were in danger, he went to Arioch, who was captain of the king's guards, and desired to know of him what was the reason why the king had given command that all the wise men, and Chaldeans, and magicians, should be slain. So when he had learned that the king had had a dream, and had forgotten it, and that when they were enjoined to inform the king of it, they had said they could not do it, and had thereby provoked him to anger, he desired of Arioch that he would go in to the king, and desire respite for the magicians for one night, and to put off their slaughter so long, for that he hoped within that time to obtain, by prayer to God, the knowledge of the dream. Accordingly Arioch informed the king of what Daniel desired; so the king bid them delay the slaughter of the magicians till he knew what Daniel's promise would come to; but the young man retired to his own house, with his kinsmen, and besought God that whole night to discover the dream, and thereby deliver the magicians and Chaldeans, with whom they were themselves to perish, from the king's anger, by enabling him to declare his vision, and to make manifest what the king had seen the night before in his sleep, but had forgotten it. Accordingly, God, out of pity to those that were in danger, and out of regard to the wisdom of Daniel, made known to him the dream and its interpretation, that so the king might understand by him its signification also. When Daniel had obtained this knowledge from God, he arose very joyful, and told it to his brethren, and made them glad, and to hope well that they should now preserve their lives, of which they despaired before, and had their minds full of nothing but the thoughts of dying. So when he had with them returned thanks to God, who had commiserated their youth, when it was day he came to Arioch, and desired him to bring him to the king, because he would discover to him that dream which he had seen the night before.

God Gives Daniel The Interpretation Of The Dream

(Dan 2:19-23 NCV) During the night God explained the secret to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven. Daniel said: "Praise God forever and ever, because he has wisdom and power. He changes the times and seasons of the year. He takes away the power of kings and gives their power to new kings. He gives wisdom to those who are wise and knowledge to those who understand. He makes known secrets that are deep and hidden; he knows what is hidden in darkness, and light is all around him. I thank you and praise you, God of my ancestors, because you

have given me wisdom and power. You told me what we asked of you; you told us about the king's dream."

Daniel in some ways is very similar Joseph, the son of Jacob who was sold into slavery and carried down to Egypt. God gave them both great understanding, wisdom, and the ability to interpret dreams. After that he gave the rulers of the nations they were in dreams that needed to be interpreted so that they could use their gifts. We all may not have the gifts that Joseph and Daniel had, but we all have some skills that we can use for the glory of God as he gives us opportunity.

Daniel Reveals The Interpretation To The King

(Dan 2:24-27 NCV) Then Daniel went to Arioch, the man King Nebuchadnezzar had chosen to kill the wise men of Babylon. Daniel said to him, "Don't put the wise men of Babylon to death. Take me to the king, and I will tell him what his dream means." Very quickly Arioch took Daniel to the king and said, "I have found a man among the captives from Judah who can tell the king what his dream means." The king asked Daniel, who was also called Belteshazzar, "Are you able to tell me what I dreamed and what it means?" Daniel answered, "No wise man, magician, or fortune-teller can explain to the king the secret he has asked about.

(Dan 2:28-36 NCV) But there is a God in heaven who explains secret things, and he has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen at a later time. This is your dream, the vision you saw while lying on your bed: O king, as you were lying there, you thought about things to come. God, who can tell people about secret things, showed you what is going to happen. God also told this secret to me, not because I have greater wisdom than any other living person, but so that you may know what it means. In that way you will understand what went through your mind. "O king, in your dream you saw a huge, shiny, and frightening statue in front of you. The head of the statue was made of pure gold. Its chest and arms were made of silver. Its stomach and the upper part of its legs were made of bronze. The lower part of the legs were made of iron, while its feet were made partly of iron and partly of baked clay. While you were looking at the statue, you saw a rock cut free, but no human being touched the rock. It hit the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. Then the iron, clay, bronze, silver, and gold broke to pieces at the same time. They became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summertime; the wind blew them away, and there was nothing left. Then the rock that hit the statue became a very large mountain that filled the whole earth. "That was your dream. Now we

will tell the king what it means.

(Dan 2:37-38 NCV) O king, you are the greatest king. God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory. Wherever people, wild animals, and birds live, God made you ruler over them. King Nebuchadnezzar, you are the head of gold on that statue. "Another kingdom will come after you, but it will not be as great as yours. Next a third kingdom, the bronze part, will rule over the earth. Then there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron. In the same way that iron crushes and smashes things to pieces, the fourth kingdom will smash and crush all the other kingdoms. "You saw that the statue's feet and toes were partly baked clay and partly iron. That means the fourth kingdom will be a divided kingdom. It will have some of the strength of iron in it, just as you saw iron was mixed with clay. The toes of the statue were partly iron and partly clay. So the fourth kingdom will be partly strong like iron and partly breakable like clay. You saw the iron mixed with clay, but iron and clay do not hold together. In the same way the people of the fourth kingdom will be a mixture, but they will not be united as one people. "During the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up another kingdom that will never be destroyed or given to another group of people. This kingdom will crush all the other kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will continue forever. "King Nebuchadnezzar, you saw a rock cut from a mountain, but no human being touched it. The rock broke the iron, bronze, clay, silver, and gold to pieces. In this way the great God showed you what will happen. The dream is true, and you can trust this explanation."

The King Promotes Daniel And His Friends

(Dan 2:46-49 NCV) Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell facedown on the ground in front of Daniel. The king honored him and commanded that an offering and incense be presented to him. Then the king said to Daniel, "Truly I know your God is the greatest of all gods, the Lord of all the kings. He tells people about things they cannot know. I know this is true, because you were able to tell these secret things to me." Then the king gave Daniel many gifts plus an important position in his kingdom. Nebuchadnezzar made him ruler over the whole area of Babylon and put him in charge of all the wise men of Babylon. Daniel asked the king to make Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego leaders over the area of Babylon, so the king did as Daniel asked. Daniel himself became one of the people who stayed at the royal court.

The Fiery Furnace

(Dan 3:1-12 NCV) King Nebuchadnezzar made a gold statue ninety feet high and nine feet wide and set it up on the plain of Dura in the area of Babylon. Then he called for the leaders: the governors, assistant governors, captains of the soldiers, people who advised the king, keepers of the treasury, judges, rulers, and all other officers in his kingdom. He wanted them to come to the special service for the statue he had set up. So they all came for the special service and stood in front of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. Then the man who made announcements for the king said in a loud voice, "People, nations, and those of every language, this is what you are commanded to do: When you hear the sound of the horns, flutes, lyres, zithers, harps, pipes, and all the other musical instruments, you must bow down and worship the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Anyone who doesn't bow down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace." Now people, nations, and those who spoke every language were there. When they heard the sound of the horns, flutes, lyres, zithers, pipes, and all the other musical instruments, they bowed down and worshiped the gold statue King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. Then some Babylonians came up to the king and began speaking against the men of Judah. They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! O king, you gave a command that everyone who heard the horns, lyres, zithers, harps, pipes, and all the other musical instruments would have to bow down and worship the gold statue. Anyone who wouldn't do this was to be thrown into a blazing furnace. O king, there are some men of Judah whom you made officers in the area of Babylon that did not pay attention to your order. Their names are Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They do not serve your gods and do not worship the gold statue you have set up."

(Dan 3:13-18 NCV) Nebuchadnezzar became very angry and called for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. When they were brought to the king, Nebuchadnezzar said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, is it true that you do not serve my gods nor worship the gold statue I have set up? In a moment you will again hear the sound of the horns, flutes, lyres, zithers, harps, pipes, and all the other musical instruments. If you bow down and worship the statue I made, that will be good. But if you do not worship it, you will immediately be thrown into the blazing furnace. What god will be able to save you from my power then?" Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, saying, "Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves to you. If you throw us into the blazing furnace, the God

we serve is able to save us from the furnace. He will save us from your power, O king. But even if God does not save us, we want you, O king, to know this: We will not serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up."

(Dan 3:19-23 NCV) Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and he changed his mind. He ordered the furnace to be heated seven times hotter than usual. Then he commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were tied up and thrown into the blazing furnace while still wearing their robes, trousers, turbans, and other clothes. The king's command was very strict, and the furnace was made so hot that the flames killed the strong soldiers who threw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into the furnace. Firmly tied, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego fell into the blazing furnace.

The Prayer of Azariah in the Furnace (An Apocryphal Book)

Azariah 1:23-25 Now the king's servants who threw them in kept stoking the furnace with naphtha, pitch, tow, and brushwood. And the flames poured out above the furnace forty-nine cubits, and spread out and burned those Chaldeans who were caught near the furnace.

Azariah 1:1-22 They walked around in the midst of the flames, singing hymns to God and blessing the Lord. Then Azariah stood still in the fire and prayed aloud: "Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our ancestors, and worthy of praise; and glorious is your name forever! For you are just in all you have done; all your works are true and your ways right, and all your judgments are true. You have executed true judgments in all you have brought upon us and upon Jerusalem, the holy city of our ancestors; by a true judgment you have brought all this upon us because of our sins. For we have sinned and broken your law in turning away from you; in all matters we have sinned grievously. We have not obeyed your commandments, we have not kept them or done what you have commanded us for our own good. So all that you have brought upon us, and all that you have done to us, you have done by a true judgment. You have handed us over to our enemies, lawless and hateful rebels, and to an unjust king, the most wicked in all the world. And now we cannot open our mouths; we, your servants who worship you, have become a shame and a reproach. For your name's sake do not give us up forever, and do not annul your covenant. Do not withdraw your mercy from us, for the sake of Abraham your beloved and for the sake

of your servant Isaac and Israel your holy one, to whom you promised to multiply their descendants like the stars of heaven and like the sand on the shore of the sea. For we, O Lord, have become fewer than any other nation, and are brought low this day in all the world because of our sins. In our day we have no ruler, or prophet, or leader, no burnt offering, or sacrifice, or oblation, or incense, no place to make an offering before you and to find mercy. Yet with a contrite heart and a humble spirit may we be accepted, as though it were with burnt offerings of rams and bulls, or with tens of thousands of fat lambs; such may our sacrifice be in your sight today, and may we unreservedly follow you, for no shame will come to those who trust in you. And now with all our heart we follow you; we fear you and seek your presence. Do not put us to shame, but deal with us in your patience and in your abundant mercy. Deliver us in accordance with your marvelous works, and bring glory to your name, O Lord. Let all who do harm to your servants be put to shame; let them be disgraced and deprived of all power, and let their strength be broken. Let them know that you alone are the Lord God, glorious over the whole world."

An Angel Of The Lord Rescues Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

Azariah 1: 26-27 But the angel of the Lord came down into the furnace to be with Azariah and his companions, and drove the fiery flame out of the furnace, and made the inside of the furnace as though a moist wind were whistling through it. The fire did not touch them at all and caused them no pain or distress.

Azariah 1:28-31 Then the three with one voice praised and glorified and blessed God in the furnace: "Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our ancestors, and to be praised and highly exalted forever; And blessed is your glorious, holy name, and to be highly praised and highly exalted forever. Blessed are you in the temple of your holy glory, and to be extolled and highly glorified forever.

(Dan 3:24-25 NCV) Then King Nebuchadnezzar was so surprised that he jumped to his feet. He asked the men who advised him, "Didn't we tie up only three men and throw them into the fire?" They answered, "Yes, O king." The king said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire. They are not tied up, and they are not burned. The fourth man looks like a son of the gods."

(Dan 3:26-27 NCV) Then Nebuchadnezzar went to the opening of the

blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, come out! Servants of the Most High God, come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out of the fire. When they came out, the governors, assistant governors, captains of the soldiers, and royal advisers crowded around them and saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies. Their hair was not burned, their robes were not burned, and they didn't even smell like smoke!

The Three Recognize That Cherubim And Angels Surround God's Throne

Azariah 1:32-35 Blessed are you who look into the depths from your throne on the cherubim, and to be praised and highly exalted forever. Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom, and to be extolled and highly exalted forever. Blessed are you in the firmament of heaven, and to be sung and glorified forever. "Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord; sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever. Bless the Lord, you heavens; sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever. Bless the Lord, you angels of the Lord; sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.

The Three Praise God For Their Rescue

Azariah 1:60-68 "Bless the Lord, all people on earth; sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever. Bless the Lord, O Israel; sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever. Bless the Lord, you priests of the Lord; sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever. Bless the Lord, you servants of the Lord; sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever. Bless the Lord, spirits and souls of the righteous; sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever. Bless the Lord, you who are holy and humble in heart; sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever. "Bless the Lord, Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishael; sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever. For he has rescued us from Hades and saved us from the power of death, and delivered us from the midst of the burning fiery furnace; from the midst of the fire he has delivered us. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever. All who worship the Lord, bless the God of gods, sing praise to him and give thanks to him, for his mercy endures forever."

Nebuchadnezzar Acknowledges The God Of Israel

(Dan 3:28 NCV) Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Their God has sent his angel and saved his servants from the fire! These three men trusted their God and refused to

obey my command. They were willing to die rather than serve or worship any god other than their own.

(Dan 3:29-30 NCV) So I now give this command: Anyone from any nation or language who says anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego will be torn apart and have his house turned into a pile of stones. No other god can save his people like this." Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the area of Babylon.

(Dan 4:1-7 NCV) King Nebuchadnezzar sent this letter to the people, nations, and those who speak every language in all the world: I wish you peace and great wealth! The Most High God has done miracles and wonderful things for me that I am happy to tell you about. His wonderful acts are great, and his miracles are mighty. His kingdom goes on forever, and his rule continues from now on. I, Nebuchadnezzar, was happy and successful at my palace, but I had a dream that made me afraid. As I was lying on my bed, I saw pictures and visions in my mind that alarmed me. So I ordered all the wise men of Babylon to come to me and tell me what my dream meant. The fortune-tellers, magicians, and wise men came, and I told them about the dream. But they could not tell me what it meant.

(Dan 4:8- NCV) Finally, Daniel came to me. (I called him Belteshazzar to honor my god, because the spirit of the holy gods is in him.) I told my dream to him. I said, "Belteshazzar, you are the most important of all the fortune-tellers. I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you, so there is no secret that is too hard for you to understand. This was what I dreamed; tell me what it means.

The King told Daniel his vision and Daniel gave him the interpretation. The vision foretold that the king would have a mind like a beast for seven times.

(Dan 4:10-12NCV) These are the visions I saw while I was lying in my bed: I looked, and there in front of me was a tree standing in the middle of the earth. And it was very tall. The tree grew large and strong. The top of the tree touched the sky and could be seen from anywhere on earth. The leaves of the tree were beautiful. It had plenty of good fruit on it, enough food for everyone. The wild animals found shelter under the tree, and the birds lived in its branches. Every animal ate from it.

The Angels Decree The kings Punishment

(Dan 4:13-15 NCV) "As I was looking at those things in the vision while

lying on my bed, I saw an observer, a holy angel coming down from heaven. He spoke very loudly and said, 'Cut down the tree and cut off its branches. Strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the animals under the tree run away, and let the birds in its branches fly away. But leave the stump and its roots in the ground with a band of iron and bronze around it; let it stay in the field with the grass around it.

(Dan 4:16 NKJV) Let his heart be changed from that of a man, Let him be given the heart of a beast, And let seven times pass over him.

The king's punishment was to be for the duration of seven times, probably meaning seven times the amount of time he forced people to worship the golden image. It is likely his decree was for six months so his punishment would have lasted for 3 1/2 years, the same amount of time that the Antichrist will force men to worship the idol he sets up. Some think his punishment lasted for seven years but this does not seem to agree with the historical and archeological evidence. Again the 3 1/2 time period also typifies perfectly the Antichrist's actions which Daniel later prophesied about as being 1,290 days.

(Dan 4:17 KJV) This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.

The angels were involved in this transaction and God permitted them to determine the punishment that would come upon the king for causing people to worship the golden idol he had set up even after Daniel had proven to the king that the Lord was the one true God. The angels decreed the punishment but as we shall see it was for the king's own good that he might repent and be saved.

God gave Daniel visions, dreams, and direct contact with angels for our benefit. The writings of Daniel were given so that the people alive at any time in history may know that the Lord God rules over the kingdoms of men. Anyone doubting the veracity of the scriptures need only study the book of Daniel, the prophecies in it and their fulfillments in history to verify that the bible is true. This is an example of the angels being involved in the affairs of men, revealing to us the future for the purpose of our salvation and blessing.

(Dan 4:17 NKJV) 'This decision is by the decree of the watchers, And the

sentence by the word of the holy ones, In order that the living may know That the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, Gives it to whomever He will, And sets over it the lowest of men.'

Daniel Interprets The Vision

(Dan 4:18-22 NCV) "That is what I, King Nebuchadnezzar, dreamed. Now Belteshazzar, tell me what the dream means. None of the wise men in my kingdom can explain it to me, but you can, because the spirit of the holy gods is in you." Then Daniel, who was called Belteshazzar, was very quiet for a while, because his understanding of the dream frightened him. So the king said, "Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or its meaning make you afraid." Then Belteshazzar answered, "My master, I wish the dream were about your enemies, and I wish its meaning were for those who are against you! You saw a tree in your dream that grew large and strong. Its top touched the sky, and it could be seen from all over the earth. Its leaves were beautiful, and it had plenty of fruit for everyone to eat. It was a home for the wild animals, and its branches were nesting places for the birds. O king, you are that tree! You have become great and powerful, like the tall tree that touched the sky. Your power reaches to the far parts of the earth.

(Dan 4:23 NKJV) And inasmuch as the king saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, 'Chop down the tree and destroy it, but leave its stump and roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze in the tender grass of the field; let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let him graze with the beasts of the field, till seven times pass over him';

(Dan 4:24-26 NCV) "This is the meaning of the dream, O king. The Most High God has commanded these things to happen to my master the king: You will be forced away from people to live among the wild animals. People will feed you grass like an ox, and dew from the sky will make you wet. Seven years will pass, and then you will learn this lesson: The Most High God is ruler over every kingdom on earth, and he gives those kingdoms to anyone he chooses. "Since the stump of the tree and its roots were left in the ground, your kingdom will be given back to you when you learn that one in heaven rules your kingdom.

(Dan 4:27 NCV) So, O king, please accept my advice. Stop sinning and do what is right. Stop doing wicked things and be kind to the poor. Then you might continue to be successful."

The Sentence Decreed By The Watchers Is Fulfilled

(Dan 4:28-33 NKJV) All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. At the end of the twelve months he was walking about the royal palace of Babylon. The king spoke, saying, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?" While the word was still in the king's mouth, a voice fell from heaven: "King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you! And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses." That very hour the word was fulfilled concerning Nebuchadnezzar; he was driven from men and ate grass like oxen; his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair had grown like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws.

(Dan 4:34-37 NKJV) And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?" At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my honor and splendor returned to me. My counselors and nobles resorted to me, I was restored to my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added to me. Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down.

King Belshazzar, Son of Nebuchadnezzar Rejects The Lord

(Dan 5:1-4 NCV) King Belshazzar gave a big banquet for a thousand royal guests and drank wine with them. As Belshazzar was drinking his wine, he gave orders to bring the gold and silver cups that his ancestor Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the Temple in Jerusalem. This was so the king, his royal guests, his wives, and his slave women could drink from those cups. So they brought the gold cups that had been taken from the Temple of God in Jerusalem. And the king and his royal guests, his wives, and his slave women drank from them. As they were drinking, they praised their gods, which were made from gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

Once again idol worship precedes judgment. It is amazing how kings who have such great resources of wisdom at their command, who can hire the wisest people in the world to be their counselors, always seem to choose to do evil rather than good. It is the same in today's world in many countries.

An Angelic Hand Decrees The Fate Of Babylon

(Dan 5:5 NCV) Suddenly the fingers of a person's hand appeared and began writing on the plaster of the wall, near the lampstand in the royal palace. The king watched the hand as it wrote.

(Dan 5:6-8 NCV) King Belshazzar was very frightened. His face turned white, his knees knocked together, and he could not stand up because his legs were too weak. The king called for the magicians, wise men, and wizards of Babylon and said to them, "Anyone who can read this writing and explain it will receive purple clothes fit for a king and a gold chain around his neck. And I will make that person the third highest ruler in the kingdom." Then all the king's wise men came in, but they could not read the writing or tell the king what it meant.

(Dan 5:9-12 NCV) King Belshazzar became even more afraid, and his face became even whiter. His royal guests were confused. Then the king's mother, who had heard the voices of the king and his royal guests, came into the banquet room. She said, "O king, live forever! Don't be afraid or let your face be white with fear! There is a man in your kingdom who has the spirit of the holy gods. In the days of your father, this man showed understanding, knowledge, and wisdom like the gods. Your father, King Nebuchadnezzar, put this man in charge of all the wise men, fortune-tellers, magicians, and wizards. The man I am talking about is named Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar. He was very smart and had knowledge and understanding. He could explain dreams and secrets and could answer very hard problems. Call for Daniel. He will tell you what the writing on the wall means."

Daniel was apparently semi retired and little used by king Belshazzar although he was still available. The king seemed to prefer taking advice from his younger sorcerers and magicians rather than a man of God.

(Dan 5:13-16 NCV) So they brought Daniel to the king, and the king asked, "Is your name Daniel? Are you one of the captives my father the king brought from Judah? I have heard that the spirit of the gods is in you, and

that you are very smart and have knowledge and extraordinary understanding. The wise men and magicians were brought to me to read this writing and to explain what it means, but they could not explain it. I have heard that you are able to explain what things mean and can find the answers to hard problems. Read this writing on the wall and explain it to me. If you can, I will give you purple clothes fit for a king and a gold chain to wear around your neck. And you will become the third highest ruler in the kingdom." Then Daniel answered the king, "You may keep your gifts for yourself, or you may give those rewards to someone else. But I will read the writing on the wall for you and will explain to you what it means.

(Dan 5:18-21 NCV) "O king, the Most High God made your father Nebuchadnezzar a great, important, and powerful king. Because God made him important, all the people, nations, and those who spoke every language were very frightened of Nebuchadnezzar. If he wanted someone to die, he killed that person. If he wanted someone to live, he let that person live. Those he wanted to promote, he promoted. Those he wanted to be less important, he made less important. "But Nebuchadnezzar became too proud and stubborn, so he was taken off his royal throne. His glory was taken away. He was forced away from people, and his mind became like the mind of an animal. He lived with the wild donkeys and was fed grass like an ox and became wet with dew. These things happened to him until he learned his lesson: The Most High God rules over every kingdom on earth, and he sets anyone he chooses over those kingdoms.

(Dan 5:22-23 NCV) "Belshazzar, you already knew these things, because you are a descendant of Nebuchadnezzar. Still you have not been sorry for what you have done. Instead, you have set yourself against the Lord of heaven. You ordered the drinking cups from the Temple of the Lord to be brought to you. Then you and your royal guests, your wives, and your slave women drank wine from them. You praised the gods of silver, gold, bronze, iron, wood, and stone that are not really gods; they cannot see or hear or understand anything. You did not honor God, who has power over your life and everything you do.

(Dan 5:24- NCV) So God sent the hand that wrote on the wall. "These are the words that were written on the wall: 'Mene, mene, tekel, and parsin.' "This is what the words mean: Mene: God has counted the days until your kingdom will end. Tekel: You have been weighed on the scales and found not good enough. Parsin: Your kingdom is being divided and will be given to the Medes and the Persians."

(Dan 5:29 NCV) Then Belshazzar gave an order for Daniel to be dressed in purple clothes and to have a gold chain put around his neck. And it was announced that Daniel was the third highest ruler in the kingdom.

After interpreting the sign Daniel was promoted to the third highest office in the kingdom. Daniel had long ago been high up in the government of Babylon and neither wanted nor needed the king's promotions. However, even though Belshazzar did not consult Daniel very often during his reign God had more work for Daniel serving under Darius the Mede and Cyrus the Persian. Daniel became instrumental in arranging for the Israelites in captivity to go home to the land of Israel.

(Dan 5:30 NCV) That very same night Belshazzar, king of the Babylonian people, was killed.

Darius Becomes King

(Dan 5:31 NCV) So Darius the Mede became the new king when he was sixty-two years old.

(Dan 6:1-3 NCV) Darius thought it would be a good idea to choose one hundred twenty governors who would rule his kingdom. He chose three men as supervisors over those governors, and Daniel was one of the supervisors. The supervisors were to ensure that the governors did not try to cheat the king. Daniel showed that he could do the work better than the other supervisors and governors, so the king planned to put Daniel in charge of the whole kingdom.

(Dan 6:4-5 NCV) Because of this, the other supervisors and governors tried to find reasons to accuse Daniel about his work in the government. But they could not find anything wrong with him or any reason to accuse him, because he was trustworthy and not lazy or dishonest. Finally these men said, "We will never find any reason to accuse Daniel unless it is about the law of his God."

(Dan 6:6-9 NCV) So the supervisors and governors went as a group to the king and said: "King Darius, live forever! The supervisors, assistant governors, governors, the people who advise you, and the captains of the soldiers have all agreed that you should make a new law for everyone to obey: For the next thirty days no one should pray to any god or human except to you, O king. Anyone who doesn't obey will be thrown into the lions' den. Now, O king, make the law and sign your name to it so that it

cannot be changed, because then it will be a law of the Medes and Persians and cannot be canceled." So King Darius signed the law.

Josephus gives us more details as to the whole account of Daniel and the kings officials.

Josephus Chapter 11

However, while Daniel was in so great dignity, and in so great favor with Darius, and was alone intrusted with everything by him, as having somewhat divine in him, he was envied by the rest: for those that see others in greater honor than themselves with kings, envy them: and when those that were grieved at the great favor Daniel was in with Darius, sought for an occasion against him, he afforded them no occasion at all, for he was above all the temptations of money, and despised bribery, and esteemed it a very base thing to take anything by way of reward, even when it might be justly given him, he afforded those that envied him not the least handle for an accusation. So when they could find nothing for which they might calumniate him to the king, nothing that was shameful or reproachful, and thereby deprive him of the honor he was in with him, they sought for some other method whereby they might destroy him. When therefore they saw that Daniel prayed to God three times a day, they thought they had gotten an occasion by which they might ruin him; so they came to Darius, and told him, that "the princes and governors had thought proper to allow the multitude a relaxation for thirty days, that no one might offer a petition or prayer either to himself, or to the gods, but that he who shall transgress this decree shall be cast into a den of lions, and there perish."

(Dan 6:10 NCV) Even though Daniel knew that the new law had been written, he went to pray in an upstairs room in his house, which had windows that opened toward Jerusalem. Three times each day Daniel would kneel down to pray and thank God, just as he always had done.

Josephus Chapter 11

Whereupon the king, not being acquainted with their wicked design, nor suspecting that it was a contrivance of theirs against Daniel, said he was pleased with this decree of theirs, and he promised to confirm what they desired; he also published an edict to promulgate to the people that decree which the princes had made. Accordingly, all the rest took care not to transgress those injunctions, and rested in quiet; but Daniel had no regard

to them, but, as he was wont, he stood and prayed to God in the sight of them all: but the princes having met with the occasion they so earnestly sought to find against Daniel, came presently to the king, and accused him, that Daniel was the only person that transgressed the decree, while not one of the rest durst pray to their gods. This discovery they made, not because of his impiety, but because they had watched him, and observed him out of envy: for supposing that Darius did thus out of a greater kindness to him than they expected, and that he was ready to grant him a pardon for this contempt of his injunctions, and envying this very pardon to Daniel, they did not become more favorable to him, but desired he might be cast into the den of lions, according to the law.

(Dan 6:11-13 NCV) Then those men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. So they went to the king and talked to him about the law he had made. They said, "Didn't you sign a law that says no one may pray to any god or human except you, O king? Doesn't it say that anyone who disobeys during the next thirty days will be thrown into the lions' den?" The king answered, "Yes, that is the law, and the laws of the Medes and Persians cannot be canceled." Then they said to the king, "Daniel, one of the captives from Judah, is not paying attention to you, O king, or to the law you signed. Daniel still prays to his God three times every day."

(Dan 6:14-18 NCV) The king became very upset when he heard this. He wanted to save Daniel, and he worked hard until sunset trying to think of a way to save him. Then those men went as a group to the king. They said, "Remember, O king, the law of the Medes and Persians says that no law or command given by the king can be changed." So King Darius gave the order, and Daniel was brought in and thrown into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May the God you serve all the time save you!" A big stone was brought and placed over the opening of the lions' den. Then the king used his signet ring and the rings of his royal officers to put special seals on the rock. This ensured that no one would move the rock and bring Daniel out. Then King Darius went back to his palace. He did not eat that night, he did not have any entertainment brought to him, and he could not sleep.

An Angel Rescues Daniel

(Dan 6:19-21 NCV) The next morning King Darius got up at dawn and hurried to the lions' den. As he came near the den, he was worried. He called out to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God! Has your God that

you always worship been able to save you from the lions?" Daniel answered, "O king, live forever!

(Dan 6:22-22 NCV) My God sent his angel to close the lions' mouths. They have not hurt me, because my God knows I am innocent. I never did anything wrong to you, O king." My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king."

When Daniel was thrown into the lions den it was an angel that shut the lions mouths and prevented Daniel from suffering any harm. The angels can do the same for us today, protecting us from harm until our work on earth, whatever it may be, is completed.

God's protection for his people does not come from some supernatural source as the heathen seek, such as chants and magic, and amulets. It comes from the angels who are simply God's created beings that we cannot see with our natural eyes. Even though we cannot see electricity flowing through a wire to our lamp, we know it is there because when we turn on the switch the light comes on. In the same way we can know that God's angels are there guiding our path through life. If we are following God's will and in tune with his Holy Spirit, then our steps are being ordered by God through his angels.

(Dan 6:23 NCV) King Darius was very happy and told his servants to lift Daniel out of the lions' den. So they lifted him out and did not find any injury on him, because Daniel had trusted in his God.

Josephus Chapter 11

Now when his enemies saw that Daniel had suffered nothing which was terrible, they would not own that he was preserved by God, and by his providence; but they said, that the lions had been filled full with food, and on that account it was, as they supposed, that the lions would not touch Daniel, nor come to him; and this they alleged to the king;

The Kings officials who were jealous of Daniel accused the king of having over fed the lions and accused the king of saving Daniels life by that means.

(Dan 6:24 NCV) Then the king commanded that the men who had accused Daniel be brought to the lions' den. They, their wives, and their children

were thrown into the den. The lions grabbed them before they hit the floor of the den and crushed their bones.

Josephus Chapter 11

But the king, out of an abhorrence of their wickedness, gave order that they should throw in a great deal of flesh to the lions; and when they had filled themselves, he gave farther order that Daniel's enemies should be cast into the den that he might learn whether the lions, now they were full, would touch them or not;

The king, in order to prove to himself that the angel of God did indeed rescue Daniel and that it was not by chance that Daniel survived, ordered that the lions be gorged with meat and then to have Daniels accusers themselves cast into the den with the lions.

Josephus Chapter 11

And it appeared plain to Darius, after the princes had been cast to the wild beasts, that it was God who preserved Daniel, for the lions spared none of them, but tore them all to pieces, as if they had been very hungry and wanted food. I suppose, therefore, it was not their hunger, which had been a little before satisfied with abundance of flesh, but the wickedness of these men that provoked them [to destroy the princes]: for if it so please God, that wickedness might, by even those irrational creatures, be esteemed a plain foundation for their punishment. When, therefore, those that had intended thus to destroy Daniel by treachery were themselves destroyed, king Darius sent [letters] over all the country, and praised that God whom Daniel worshipped, and said that he was the only true God, and had all power.

(Dan 6:25-28 NCV) Then King Darius wrote a letter to all people and all nations, to those who spoke every language in the world: I wish you great peace and wealth. I am making a new law for people in every part of my kingdom. All of you must fear and respect the God of Daniel. Daniel's God is the living God; he lives forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed, and his rule will never end. God rescues and saves people and does mighty miracles in heaven and on earth. He is the one who saved Daniel from the power of the lions. So Daniel was successful during the time Darius was king and when Cyrus the Persian was king.

Daniel Understands The Scriptures And prays For Restoration

(Dan 9:1-2 NIV) In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom--in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the LORD given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years.

(Dan 9:3-14 NIV) So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes. I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed: "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with all who love him and obey his commands, we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws. We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. "Lord, you are righteous, but this day we are covered with shame--the men of Judah and people of Jerusalem and all Israel, both near and far, in all the countries where you have scattered us because of our unfaithfulness to you. O LORD, we and our kings, our princes and our fathers are covered with shame because we have sinned against you. The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him; we have not obeyed the LORD our God or kept the laws he gave us through his servants the prophets. All Israel has transgressed your law and turned away, refusing to obey you. "Therefore the curses and sworn judgments written in the Law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against you. You have fulfilled the words spoken against us and against our rulers by bringing upon us great disaster. Under the whole heaven nothing has ever been done like what has been done to Jerusalem. Just as it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come upon us, yet we have not sought the favor of the LORD our God by turning from our sins and giving attention to your truth. The LORD did not hesitate to bring the disaster upon us, for the LORD our God is righteous in everything he does; yet we have not obeyed him.

(Dan 9:15-19 NIV) "Now, O Lord our God, who brought your people out of Egypt with a mighty hand and who made for yourself a name that endures to this day, we have sinned, we have done wrong. O Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts, turn away your anger and your wrath from Jerusalem, your city, your holy hill. Our sins and the iniquities of our fathers have made Jerusalem and your people an object of scorn to all those around us. "Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, O Lord, look with favor on your desolate sanctuary. Give ear, O God, and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of the city

that bears your Name. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, hear and act! For your sake, O my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name."

Daniels Visions And The Interpretations Given By Angels

Daniel had many visions and visits from angels who explained the meaning of the visions. Those that pertain to the end times events will be presented along with the book of Revelation in a later chapter.

(Dan 8:15-16V) While I, Daniel, was watching the vision and trying to understand it, there before me stood one who looked like a man. And I heard a man's voice from the Ulai calling, "Gabriel, tell this man the meaning of the vision."

Daniel received visitations from more than one angel. One of the angels who spoke with Daniel and interpreted Daniel's visions is identified as Gabriel the archangel. Gabriel interpreted a vision concerning the end times.

(Dan 8:17-19 NIV) As he came near the place where I was standing, I was terrified and fell prostrate. "Son of man," he said to me, "understand that the vision concerns the time of the end." While he was speaking to me, I was in a deep sleep, with my face to the ground. Then he touched me and raised me to my feet. He said: "I am going to tell you what will happen later in the time of wrath, because the vision concerns the appointed time of the end.

Daniel Receives Another Visit From Gabriel

(Dan 9:20-21 NIV) While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the LORD my God for his holy hill--while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice.

(Dan 9:22-23 NIV) He instructed me and said to me, "Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding. As soon as you began to pray, an answer was given, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed. Therefore, consider the message and understand the vision:

Daniel was given a prophecy showing him when the Messiah, Jesus Christ would come, and told that the Messiah or “Anointed One,” would be cut off and then Jerusalem and the Temple would be destroyed again. At the time Daniel was given this prophecy the temple had not even been rebuilt and the Jews in captivity had not even returned from Babylon to Israel. Our God is truly a God who controls all things.

In addition to prophecies about the first coming of Christ Daniel is also given prophecies concerning the Antichrist, the Abomination of Desolation that Antichrist will commit, and prophecies concerning the tribulation period, the persecution of the saints and the resurrection of the dead. In short, Daniel saw history unfold from his day until the end of the millennium, a span of 3500 years.

Daniel Receives Yet Another Angelic Visit

Daniel was no doubt greatly loved by God and his angels. In his lifetime, Visions, interpretations of dreams and signs, and visits from angels actually seem to be commonplace for Daniel. What a man of God he was.

(Dan 10:1-3 NIV) In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, a revelation was given to Daniel (who was called Belteshazzar). Its message was true and it concerned a great war. The understanding of the message came to him in a vision. At that time I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips; and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over.

(Dan 10:4-6 NIV) On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river, the Tigris, I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of the finest gold around his waist. His body was like chrysolite, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude.

(Dan 10:7-12 NIV) I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision; the men with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves. So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless. Then I heard him speaking, and as I listened to him, I fell into a deep sleep, my face to the ground. A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. He said, "Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been

sent to you." And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling. Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them.

(Dan 10:13-14 NIV) But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia. Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come."

Daniel was given a glimpse of the future of Israel and those who would rule over it. He saw the reign of Alexander the Great, the prince of Greece. Then he saw the end of Alexander's empire and what would come after that. He saw Antiochus Epiphanes commit the abomination, a type of what the antichrist will do in the future.

(Dan 12:1 NIV) "At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people--everyone whose name is found written in the book--will be delivered.

(Dan 12:2-3IV) Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

Daniel saw that at the time of the end, Michael the Archangel would come to the rescue of Israel and the world. Shortly after that the first resurrection would take place and those whose names were written in the book of life would begin their everlasting life. Later the lost would be raised to face judgment.

(Dan 12:4 NIV) But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge."

Daniel's last recorded vision concerned Gabriel and two other unidentified angels. Daniel was told that his vision concerned the time of the end.

(Dan 12:5-7 NIV) Then I, Daniel, looked, and there before me stood two

others, one on this bank of the river and one on the opposite bank. One of them said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, "How long will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled?" The man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, lifted his right hand and his left hand toward heaven, and I heard him swear by him who lives forever, saying, "It will be for a time, times and half a time. When the power of the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed."

One of the other angels asked Gabriel how long it would be before all of the things that had been revealed to Daniel would be fulfilled. In a cryptic answer that could not be understood at that time the angel was told, for Daniel's and our benefit no doubt, that all would be accomplished and completed in a time, times and a half a time.

There is a double meaning here and it will be explained more fully later but for now a time times and a half a time basically means three and a half. It is one time, plus two times, plus a half of one time, three and a half total. The double meaning is this, that the period that the antichrist would persecute the saints would last 3 1/2 years and that the time for everything to be fulfilled would be 3500 more years. Daniel lived at exactly the halfway point of human history, the year 3500 from the creation of Adam. 3500 years plus another 3500 years would equal the heavenly week of earth's history, for to the Lord, a day is as a thousand years. The last day, the seventh day will be the heavenly sabbath, the day of rest, when Christ will rule and reign for 1000 years of peace.

We are not far from the beginning of that day for soon the first 6000 years will be completed and the millennium will begin.

(Dan 12:8-10 NIV) I heard, but I did not understand. So I asked, "My lord, what will the outcome of all this be?" He replied, "Go your way, Daniel, because the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end. Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand.

(Dan 12:13 NIV) "As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance."

Josephus's Summary Of Daniel The Prophet

If any should doubt the veracity of the scriptures Josephus, the Jewish historian should dispel that doubt, for even nearly two thousand years ago the learned recognized the fulfillments in history concerning the prophecies recorded in the book of Daniel the prophet.

Josephus Chapter 11

But it is fit to give an account of what this man did, which is most admirable to hear; for he was so happy as to have strange revelations made to him, and those as to one of the greatest of the prophets, insomuch, that while he was alive he had the esteem and applause both of the kings and of the multitude; and now he is dead, he retains a remembrance that will never fail, for the several books that he wrote and left behind him are still read by us till this time; and from them we believe that Daniel conversed with God; for he did not only prophecy of future events, as did the other prophets, but he also determined the time of their accomplishment; and while the prophets used to foretell misfortunes, and on that account were disagreeable both to the kings and to the multitude, Daniel was to them a prophet of good things, and this to such a degree that, by the agreeable nature of his predictions, he procured the good will of all men; and by the accomplishment of them, he procured the belief of their truth, and the opinion of [a sort of] divinity for himself, among the multitude.

He also wrote and left behind him what made manifest the accuracy and undeniable veracity of his predictions; for he saith, that when he was in Susa, the metropolis of Persia, and went out into the field with his companions, there was, on the sudden, a motion and concussion of the earth, and that he was left alone by himself, his friends flying away from him, and that he was disturbed, and fell on his face, and on his two hands, and that a certain person touched him, and, at the same time, bade him rise, and see what would befall his countrymen after many generations.

He also related, that when he stood up, he was shown a great ram, with many horns growing out of his head, and that the last was higher than the rest: that after this he looked to the west, and saw a he-goat carried through the air from that quarter; that he rushed upon the ram with violence, and smote him twice with his horns, and overthrew him to the ground, and trampled upon him: that afterwards he saw a very great horn growing out of the head of the he-goat; and that when it was broken off, four horns grew up that were exposed to each of the four winds, and he

wrote that out of them arose another lesser horn, which, as he said, waxed great; and that God showed to him, that it should fight against his nation, and take their city by force, and bring the temple worship to confusion, and forbid the sacrifices to be offered for one thousand two hundred and ninety-six days.

Daniel wrote that he saw these visions in the plain of Susa; and he hath informed us that God interpreted the appearance of this vision after the following manner:—He said that the ram signified the kingdoms of the Medes and Persians, and the horns those kings that were to reign in them; and that the last horn signified the last king and that he should exceed all the kings in riches and glory; that the he-goat signified that one should come and reign from the Greeks, who should twice fight with the Persian, and overcome him in battle, and should receive his entire dominion; that by the great horn which sprang out of the forehead of the he-goat was meant the first king; and that the springing up of four horns upon its falling off, and the conversion of every one of them to the four quarters of the earth, signified the successors that should arise after the death of the first king, and the partition of the kingdom among them, and that they should be neither his children nor of his kindred that should reign over the habitable earth for many years; and that from among them there should arise a certain king that should overcome our nation and their laws, and should take away our political government, and should spoil the temple, and forbid the sacrifices to be offered for three years' time. And indeed it so came to pass, that our nation suffered these things under Antiochus Epiphanes, according to Daniel's vision, and what he wrote many years before they came to pass.

In the very same manner Daniel also wrote concerning the Roman government, and that our country should be made desolate by them. All these things did this man leave in writing, as God had showed them to him, insomuch, that such as read his prophecies, and see how they have been fulfilled, would wonder at the honor wherewith God honored Daniel; and may thence discover how the Epicureans are in an error, who cast providence out of human life, and do not believe that God takes care of the affairs of the world, nor that the universe is governed and continued in being by that blessed and immortal nature, but say that the world is carried along of its own accord, without a ruler and a curator; which, were it destitute of a guide to conduct, as they imagine, it would be like ships without pilots, which we see drowned by the winds, or like chariots without drivers, which are overturned; so would the world be dashed to pieces by its being carried without a Providence, and so perish and come to nought.

So that, by the forementioned predictions of Daniel, those men seem to me very much to err from the truth, who determine that God exercises no providence over human affairs; for if that were the case, that the world went on by mechanical necessity, we should not see that all things would come to pass according to his prophecy.

Now, as to myself, I have so described these matters as I have found them and read them; but if anyone is inclined to another opinion about them, let him enjoy his different sentiments without any blame from me.

Since all of Daniels prophecies up until the time of the Roman empire have come true we can expect that his predictions concerning the end times will also come true, and perhaps in our lifetime.

Chapter 17: Angels and the Restoration

From The Return Of The Jews To The New Testament

Jeremiah prophesied that Judah would return after seventy years

(Jer 25:11-14 NIV) This whole country will become a desolate wasteland, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years. "But when the seventy years are fulfilled, I will punish the king of Babylon and his nation, the land of the Babylonians, for their guilt," declares the LORD, "and will make it desolate forever. I will bring upon that land all the things I have spoken against it, all that are written in this book and prophesied by Jeremiah against all the nations. They themselves will be enslaved by many nations and great kings; I will repay them according to their deeds and the work of their hands."

Daniel Read Jeremiah's Prophecy When The Seventy Years Were Completed

(Dan 9:2 NCV) During Darius' first year as king, I, Daniel, was reading the Scriptures. I saw that the LORD told Jeremiah that Jerusalem would be empty ruins for seventy years.

God Determines World Events

(Isa 45:18-19 NIV) For this is what the LORD says-- he who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited-- he says: "I am the LORD, and there is no other. I have not spoken in secret, from somewhere in a land of darkness; I have not said to Jacob's descendants, 'Seek me in vain.' I, the LORD, speak the truth; I declare what is right.

(Isa 45:21-23 NIV) Declare what is to be, present it-- let them take counsel together. Who foretold this long ago, who declared it from the distant past? Was it not I, the LORD? And there is no God apart from me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none but me. "Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other. By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will not be revoked: Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear.

(Isa 46:8-11 NIV) "Remember this, fix it in mind, take it to heart, you rebels. Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please. From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose. What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do.

Angelic activity continued during the time of the captivity of Israel and Judah as we have already seen and afterward as the Jews returned to their own homeland. Daniel prophesied concerning the countries that would control Jerusalem until the time of the first coming of Jesus Christ and then also jumps forward to the future and predicts the world conditions at his (Christ's) second coming 2000 years later. Daniel's prophecies and their fulfillment's leading up to the restoration of the Jews will be reviewed now, those concerning the Greek and Roman empires later in this chapter, and those concerning the end times in a future chapter.

As we shall see from the prophecies in the book of Daniel, angels were continuously intervening in human events during the time from the captivity until the birth of Christ. They were working behind the scenes to prepare the way for the first coming of Christ.

God Controls The Kingdoms Of mankind Through Angels To Accomplish His Own Purposes

It was God's will to punish the Jews for seventy years and he did so by the rule of the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, who came to power by God's permission through the angels. Following that God gave the kingdom to the Medes and the Persians and inspired Cyrus and Darius to permit the Jews to return to their homeland and rebuild Jerusalem and the Temple. This again was initiated in the unseen realm of angels as we have seen in the record of the handwriting on the wall to king Belshazzar on the night his kingdom fell. After this Alexander the Great and the Kingdom of Greece was given power by God to rule over the Holy Land. This was done so that the Greek language would be in place for the writing of the New Testament in Greek, the language of the Gentiles, for whom the New Testament was primarily given. Following the establishing of the Greek language as the premier language of communication in the area the Messiah Jesus Christ would be born, God permitted the Roman Empire to come to power. The Roman empire built the roads throughout the world at that time which would be used to spread the gospel to all nations. Everything was always

under the control and planning of God.

God did not give Daniel the prophecies concerning the future kingdoms merely to give Daniel something to write about. The Lord was showing Daniel how he would set up world events for the coming of the Messiah and for the spreading of the Gospel to the Gentiles and the world.

Although the kings in the world think that they are performing all of their own ideas and thoughts as they rule and reign, ultimately they are under the control of God through the angels to accomplish his purposes. They (the kings) are allowed to do many things on their own, both good and evil, for which they will be judged, but the major events in their reigns are determined by God and caused to happen through angels, in order to fulfill his word and his will.

God Reveals Future History To Daniel by Dreams, Visions And Angels

(Dan 2:19 NCV) During the night God explained the secret to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven.

(Dan 2:26-28 NCV) The king asked Daniel, who was also called Belteshazzar, "Are you able to tell me what I dreamed and what it means?" Daniel answered, "No wise man, magician, or fortune-teller can explain to the king the secret he has asked about. But there is a God in heaven who explains secret things, and he has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen at a later time. This is your dream, the vision you saw while lying on your bed:

(Dan 2:29-30 NCV) O king, as you were lying there, you thought about things to come. God, who can tell people about secret things, showed you what is going to happen. God also told this secret to me, not because I have greater wisdom than any other living person, but so that you may know what it means. In that way you will understand what went through your mind.

(Dan 2:31-36 NCV) "O king, in your dream you saw a huge, shiny, and frightening statue in front of you. The head of the statue was made of pure gold. Its chest and arms were made of silver. Its stomach and the upper part of its legs were made of bronze. The lower part of the legs were made of iron, while its feet were made partly of iron and partly of baked clay. While you were looking at the statue, you saw a rock cut free, but no

human being touched the rock. It hit the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. Then the iron, clay, bronze, silver, and gold broke to pieces at the same time. They became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summertime; the wind blew them away, and there was nothing left. Then the rock that hit the statue became a very large mountain that filled the whole earth. "That was your dream. Now we will tell the king what it means.

The Babylonian Empire

(Dan 2:37-38 NCV) O king, you are the greatest king. God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory. Wherever people, wild animals, and birds live, God made you ruler over them. King Nebuchadnezzar, you are the head of gold on that statue.

King Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian empire that was at its zenith at that time is explained to be the head of gold in the dream.

(Dan 7:1-4 NCV) In Belshazzar's first year as king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream. He saw visions as he was lying on his bed, and he wrote down what he had dreamed. Daniel said: "I saw my vision at night. In the vision the wind was blowing from all four directions, which made the sea very rough. I saw four huge animals come up from the sea, and each animal was different from the others. "The first animal looked like a lion, but had wings like an eagle. I watched this animal until its wings were torn off. It was lifted from the ground so that it stood up on two feet like a human, and it was given the mind of a human.

King Nebuchadnezzar was also the first animal. His wings being torn off represent his time of insanity recorded in Daniel where the king lived like an animal for a period of time and then his mind was restored and he regained his kingdom. This is not guesswork. Daniel's vision was explained to him by the angel Gabriel and another angel.

The Angel Gabriel Interprets Daniel's Vision

(Dan 7:16-17 NCV) I came near one of those standing there and asked what all this meant. "So he told me and explained to me what these things meant: 'The four great animals are four kingdoms that will come from the earth.

The Medo-Persian Empire

(Dan 2:39 NCV) "Another kingdom will come after you, but it will not be as great as yours.

(Dan 7:5 NCV) Then I saw a second animal before me that looked like a bear. It was raised up on one of its sides and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, 'Get up and eat all the meat you want!'

Following the Babylonian empire the Persians and the Medes came to power under Cyrus and then Darius.

(Dan 10:1-6 NCV) During Cyrus' third year as king of Persia, Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, received a vision about a great war. It was a true message that Daniel understood. At that time I, Daniel, had been very sad for three weeks. I did not eat any fancy food or meat, or drink any wine, or use any perfumed oil for three weeks. On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, I was standing beside the great Tigris River. While standing there, I looked up and saw a man dressed in linen clothes with a belt of fine gold wrapped around his waist. His body was like shiny yellow quartz. His face was bright like lightning, and his eyes were like fire. His arms and legs were shiny like polished bronze, and his voice sounded like the roar of a crowd.

(Dan 10:7-10 NCV) I, Daniel, was the only person who saw the vision. The men with me did not see it, because they were so frightened that they ran away and hid. So I was left alone, watching this great vision. I lost my strength, my face turned white like a dead person, and I was helpless. Then I heard the man in the vision speaking. As I listened, I fell into a deep sleep with my face on the ground. Then a hand touched me and set me on my hands and knees. I was so afraid that I was shaking.

(Dan 10:11-12 NCV) The man in the vision said to me, "Daniel, God loves you very much. Think carefully about the words I will speak to you, and stand up, because I have been sent to you." When he said this, I stood up, but I was still shaking. Then the man said to me, "Daniel, do not be afraid. Some time ago you decided to get understanding and to humble yourself before your God. Since that time God has listened to you, and I have come because of your prayers.

Daniel prayed and as a result an angel was sent to him to answer his prayer for understanding.

(Dan 10:13 NCV) But the prince of Persia has been fighting against me for

twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the most important angels, came to help me, because I had been left there with the king of Persia.

The angel was detained because he was busy holding back the demonic forces that were empowering the king of Persia and his army. It was not yet God's time to let the Medo-Persian empire conquer the Babylonians. The angel was holding the invaders back until the night when the handwriting would appear on the wall to Belshazzar and then Cyrus would be permitted by God to conquer Babylon for the purpose of releasing the Jews from captivity.

Notice the demonic and human armies were so strong that Michael the archangel had to be sent to help this angel otherwise he would not have been able to hold them back. Since one angel destroyed 185,000 human troops just think how powerful the Persian army was. Satan is constantly trying to prevent the prophecies God has given from coming to pass in order to make God into a liar. Had the Jews been released to go home even one day before the seventy years were completed God would be a liar and a sinner. Satan however will never succeed because God is all powerful and cannot lie.

(Dan 10:14-21 NCV) Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people, because the vision is about a time in the future." While he was speaking to me, I bowed facedown and could not speak. Then one who looked like a man touched my lips, so I opened my mouth and started to speak. I said to the one standing in front of me, "Master, I am upset and afraid because of what I saw in the vision. I feel helpless. Master, how can I, your servant, talk with you? My strength is gone, and it is hard for me to breathe." The one who looked like a man touched me again and gave me strength. He said, "Daniel, don't be afraid. God loves you very much. Peace be with you. Be strong now; be courageous." When he spoke to me, I became stronger and said, "Master, speak, since you have given me strength." Then he said, "Daniel, do you know why I have come to you? Soon I must go back to fight against the prince of Persia. When I go, the prince of Greece will come, but I must first tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. No one stands with me against these enemies except Michael, the angel ruling over your people.

Only Michael was assisting the angel against the Persians, so two angels was enough to withstand that mighty army. Notice that the angel told Daniel that after the Persians came to power that the prince of Greece (Alexander the Great) would come. The angel would have to hold back the Grecian

powers from conquering the Persians until the proper time on God's itinerary. This angel also stated that Michael is the angel who rules over the Jewish people.

Contrary to what some may think, the angels are not all sitting on clouds playing harps and singing. They are busy ensuring that God's word and prophecies come to pass exactly as he has specified. Other angels are guarding the heirs of salvation, which is us if we belong to Christ. Being an angel is not necessarily an easy job. Some are indeed surrounding the throne of God and singing, praising and worshipping him continuously, as that is their job.

The Greek And Roman Empires

(Dan 2:39-40 NCV) Next a third kingdom, the bronze part, will rule over the earth. Then there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron. In the same way that iron crushes and smashes things to pieces, the fourth kingdom will smash and crush all the other kingdoms.

After the Medo-Persian Empire Alexander the Great came on the scene and Greek culture was implemented upon the holy land by Alexander and his successors. The Roman empire followed the Grecian empire and became the greatest power the world had known up until that time.

This was a thumbnail overview of world history given to Daniel through the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Daniel was given more details concerning these empires later by an angel.

The Fall Of Babylon Under Belshazzar, Nebuchadnezzar's Son

(Dan 5:24-28 NCV) So God sent the hand that wrote on the wall. "These are the words that were written on the wall: 'Mene, mene, tekel, and parsin.' "This is what the words mean: Mene: God has counted the days until your kingdom will end. Tekel: You have been weighed on the scales and found not good enough. Parsin: Your kingdom is being divided and will be given to the Medes and the Persians."

(Dan 5:29 NCV) Then Belshazzar gave an order for Daniel to be dressed in purple clothes and to have a gold chain put around his neck. And it was announced that Daniel was the third highest ruler in the kingdom.

(Dan 5:30-31 NCV) That very same night Belshazzar, king of the

Babylonian people, was killed. So Darius the Mede became the new king when he was sixty-two years old.

(Dan 6:28 NCV) So Daniel was successful during the time Darius was king and when Cyrus the Persian was king.

Isaiah Prophesied That A King Named Cyrus Would Facilitate The Temple Restoration

(Isa 44:24-26 & 28 NIV) "This is what the LORD says-- your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb: I am the LORD, who has made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself, who foils the signs of false prophets and makes fools of diviners, who overthrows the learning of the wise and turns it into nonsense, who carries out the words of his servants and fulfills the predictions of his messengers, who says of Jerusalem, 'It shall be inhabited,' of the towns of Judah, 'They shall be built,' and of their ruins, 'I will restore them,' who says of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd and will accomplish all that I please; he will say of Jerusalem, "Let it be rebuilt," and of the temple, "Let its foundations be laid.'"

(Isa 45:1-5 NIV) "This is what the LORD says to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I take hold of to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their armor, to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut: I will go before you and will level the mountains ; I will break down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron. I will give you the treasures of darkness, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the LORD, the God of Israel, who summons you by name. For the sake of Jacob my servant, of Israel my chosen, I summon you by name and bestow on you a title of honor, though you do not acknowledge me. I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me,

(Isa 45:6-9 NIV) so that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting men may know there is none besides me. I am the LORD, and there is no other. I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the LORD, do all these things. "You heavens above, rain down righteousness; let the clouds shower it down. Let the earth open wide, let salvation spring up, let righteousness grow with it; I, the LORD, have created it. "Woe to him who quarrels with his Maker, to him who is but a potsherd among the potsherds on the ground. Does the clay say to the potter, 'What are you making?' Does your work say, 'He has no hands'?"

(Isa 45:11-13 NIV) "This is what the LORD says-- the Holy One of Israel, and its Maker: Concerning things to come, do you question me about my children, or give me orders about the work of my hands? It is I who made the earth and created mankind upon it. My own hands stretched out the heavens; I marshaled their starry hosts. I will raise up Cyrus in my righteousness: I will make all his ways straight. He will rebuild my city and set my exiles free, but not for a price or reward, says the LORD Almighty."

Josephus Book 11 - Chapter 1

How Cyrus, King Of The Persians, Delivered The Jews Out Of Babylon, And Suffered Them To Return To Their Own Country, And To Build Their Temple; For Which Work He Gave Them Money

In the first year of the reign of Cyrus, which was the seventieth from the day that our people were removed out of their own land into Babylon, God commiserated the captivity and calamity of these poor people, according as he had foretold to them by Jeremiah the prophet, before the destruction of the city, that after they has served Nebuchadnezzar and his posterity, and after they had undergone that servitude seventy years, he would restore them again to the land of their fathers, and they should build their temple, and enjoy their ancient prosperity; and these things God did afford them; for he stirred up the mind of Cyrus, and made him write this throughout all Asia:—"Thus saith Cyrus the King:—Since God Almighty hath appointed me to be king of the habitable earth, I believe that he is that God which the nation of the Israelites worship; for indeed he foretold my name by the prophets; and that I should build him a house at Jerusalem, in the country of Judea."

This was known to Cyrus by his reading the book which Isaiah left behind him of his prophecies; for this prophet said that God had spoken thus to him in a secret vision:—"My will is, that Cyrus , whom I have appointed to be king over many and great nations, send back my people to their own land, and build my temple." This was foretold by Isaiah one hundred and forty years before the temple was demolished. Accordingly, when Cyrus read this, and admired the divine power, an earnest desire and ambition seized upon him to fulfill what was so written; so he called for the most eminent Jews that were in Babylon, and said to them, that he gave them leave to go back to their own country, and to rebuild their city Jerusalem, and the temple of God, for that he would be their assistant, and that he would write to the rulers and governors that were in the neighborhood of

their country of Judea, that they should contribute to them gold and silver for the building of the temple, and, beside that, beasts for their sacrifices.

The Return From Babylon

(Ezra 1:1-4 NCV) In the first year Cyrus was king of Persia, the LORD caused Cyrus to send an announcement to his whole kingdom and to put it in writing. This happened so the Lord's message spoken by Jeremiah would come true. He wrote: This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: The LORD, the God of heaven, has given all the kingdoms of the earth to me, and he has appointed me to build a Temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. May God be with all of you who are his people. You are free to go to Jerusalem in Judah and build the Temple of the LORD, the God of Israel, who is in Jerusalem. Those who stay behind, wherever they live, should support those who want to go. Give them silver and gold, supplies and cattle, and special gifts for the Temple of God in Jerusalem.

The Captives From Babylon Return As The Lord Prophesied

(Ezra 2:1 NCV) These are the people of the area who returned from captivity, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had taken away to Babylon. They returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each going back to his own town.

(Ezra 2:64-65 & 70 NCV) The total number of those who returned was 42,360. This is not counting their 7,337 male and female servants and the 200 male and female singers they had with them. All the Israelites settled in their hometowns. The priests, Levites, singers, gatekeepers, and Temple servants, along with some of the other people, settled in their own towns as well.

(Ezra 3:1-3 & 6 NCV) In the seventh month, after the Israelites were settled in their hometowns, they met together in Jerusalem. Then Jeshua son of Jozadak and his fellow priests joined Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and began to build the altar of the God of Israel where they could offer burnt offerings, just as it is written in the Teachings of Moses, the man of God. Even though they were afraid of the people living around them, they built the altar where it had been before. And they offered burnt offerings on it to the LORD morning and evening. On the first day of the seventh month they began to bring burnt offerings to the LORD, but the foundation of the Lord's Temple had not yet been laid.

Historical References To Cyrus And Darius From The Holman Bible Dictionary

CYRUS The third king of Anshan, Cyrus (the Great) assumed the throne about 550 B.C. According to the best histories Cyrus was reared by a shepherd after his grandfather, Astyages, king of Media, ordered that he be killed. Apparently, Astyages had dreamed that Cyrus would one day succeed him as king before the reigning monarch's death. The officer charged with the execution instead carried the boy into the hills to the shepherds.

As an adult, Cyrus organized the Persians into an army and revolted against his grandfather and father (Cambyses I). He defeated them and claimed their throne. The Babylonian Empire next stood in his path, an obstacle which appeared to be insurmountable. Engaging the Babylonian army at Opis, Cyrus' troops routed them and moved on Babylon. The people in the capital welcomed Cyrus with open arms, seeing him as a liberator rather than a conqueror. All that remained was Egypt, which he left for his son, Cambyses II. Cyrus truly was the ruler of the world.

Cyrus' military exploits have become legendary. However, he is best remembered for his policies of peace. His famous decree in 539 B.C. (2 Chron. 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-4) set free the captives Babylon had taken during its harsh rule. Among these prisoners were the Jews taken from Jerusalem in 586 B.C. They were allowed to return to rebuild the Temple and city. Along with this freedom Cyrus restored the valuable treasures of the Temple taken during the Exile. Since the Jews had done well in Babylon financially, many of them did not want to return to the wastes of Judah. From these people Cyrus exacted a tax to help pay for the trip for those who did wish to rebuild Jerusalem.

His last years are obscure. Cyrus was killed while fighting a frontier war with the nomadic Massagetae people. His tomb is in Pasargadae (modern Murghab). |

Darius Reigns After Cyrus' Son Cambyses II

DARIUS King of Persia (522-486 B.C.) Successor to Cambyses II in the Persian Empire, Darius spent his early years as king putting down revolts in Media, Persia, and Egypt. After solidifying his power in the Middle East, he set out to reconquer the Scythians and Greeks who had rebelled under his predecessor. He was successful in this venture until the Battle of Marathon

in 490 B.C. From that time the kingdom began a gradual regression until finally conquered by Alexander the Great in 331 B.C.

Darius brought a new sense of unity to his empire. He enlarged on the policies of Cyrus the Great in making restoration to those disenfranchised by the Assyrian and Babylonian dominations. The Jews received additional financial aid for finishing the Temple in Jerusalem (Ezra 6:8-9). |

Angels Tell Zechariah It Is The Lord's Time To Restore Jerusalem

(Zec 1:7-12 NCV) It was on the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month, which is the month of Shebat, in Darius's second year as king. The LORD spoke his word to the prophet Zechariah son of Berekiah, who was the son of Iddo. During the night I had a vision. I saw a man riding a red horse. He was standing among some myrtle trees in a ravine, with red, brown, and white horses behind him. I asked, "What are these, sir?" The angel who was talking with me answered, "I'll show you what they are." Then the man standing among the myrtle trees explained, "They are the ones the LORD sent through all the earth." Then they spoke to the Lord's angel, who was standing among the myrtle trees. They said, "We have gone through all the earth, and everything is calm and quiet." Then the Lord's angel asked, "LORD All-Powerful, how long will it be before you show mercy to Jerusalem and the cities of Judah? You have been angry with them for seventy years now."

(Zec 1:13-17 NCV) So the LORD answered the angel who was talking with me, and his words were comforting and good. Then the angel who was talking to me said to me, "Announce this: This is what the LORD All-Powerful says: 'I have a strong love for Jerusalem. And I am very angry with the nations that feel so safe. I was only a little angry at them, but they made things worse.' "So this is what the LORD says: 'I will return to Jerusalem with mercy. My Temple will be rebuilt,' says the LORD All-Powerful, 'and the measuring line will be used to rebuild Jerusalem.' "Also announce: This is what the LORD All-Powerful says: 'My towns will be rich again. The LORD will comfort Jerusalem again, and I will again choose Jerusalem.'"

(Zec 1:18-19 NCV) Then I looked up and saw four animal horns. I asked the angel who was talking with me, "What are these?" He said, "These are the horns that scattered the people of Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem."

(Zec 1:20-21 NCV) Then the LORD showed me four craftsmen. I asked, "What are they coming to do?" He answered, "They have come to scare and throw down the horns. These horns scattered the people of Judah so that no one could even lift up his head. These horns stand for the nations that attacked the people of Judah and scattered them."

(Zec 2:1-5 NCV) Then I looked up and saw a man holding a line for measuring things. I asked him, "Where are you going?" He said to me, "I am going to measure Jerusalem, to see how wide and how long it is." Then the angel who was talking with me left, and another angel came out to meet him. The second angel said to him, "Run and tell that young man, 'Jerusalem will become a city without walls, because there will be so many people and cattle in it. I will be a wall of fire around it,' says the LORD. 'And I will be the glory within it.'"

God Commands The Israelites To Rebuild The Temple Through The Prophet Haggai

(Hag 1:1-12 NCV) The prophet Haggai spoke the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, the governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest. This message came in the second year that Darius was king, on the first day of the sixth month: "This is what the LORD All-Powerful says: 'The people say the right time has not come to rebuild the Temple of the LORD.'" Then Haggai the prophet spoke the word of the LORD: "Is it right for you to be living in fancy houses while the Temple is still in ruins?" This is what the LORD All-Powerful says: "Think about what you have done. You have planted much, but you harvest little. You eat, but you do not become full. You drink, but you are still thirsty. You put on clothes, but you are not warm enough. You earn money, but then you lose it all as if you had put it into a purse full of holes." This is what the LORD All-Powerful says: "Think about what you have done. Go up to the mountains, bring back wood, and build the Temple. Then I will be pleased with it and be honored," says the LORD. "You look for much, but you find little. When you bring it home, I destroy it. Why?" asks the LORD All-Powerful. "Because you all work hard for your own houses while my house is still in ruins! Because of what you have done, the sky holds back its rain and the ground holds back its crops. I have called for a time without rain on the land, and on the mountains, and on the grain, the new wine, the olive oil, the plants which the earth produces, the people, the farm animals, and all the work of your hands." Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and all the rest of the people who were left alive obeyed the LORD their God and the message from Haggai the prophet,

because the LORD their God had sent him. And the people feared the LORD.

The Foundation Of The Temple is Completed

(Hag 1:13-15 NCV) Haggai, the Lord's messenger, gave the Lord's message to the people, saying, "The LORD says, 'I am with you.'" The LORD stirred up Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, the governor of Judah, and Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and all the rest of the people who were left alive. So they came and worked on the Temple of their God, the LORD All-Powerful. They began on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month in the second year Darius was king.

(Ezra 3:8-9 NIV) In the second month of the second year after their arrival at the house of God in Jerusalem, Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Jeshua son of Jozadak and the rest of their brothers (the priests and the Levites and all who had returned from the captivity to Jerusalem) began the work, appointing Levites twenty years of age and older to supervise the building of the house of the LORD. Jeshua and his sons and brothers and Kadmiel and his sons (descendants of Hodaviah) and the sons of Henadad and their sons and brothers--all Levites--joined together in supervising those working on the house of God.

(Ezra 3:10-11 NCV) The builders finished laying the foundation of the Temple of the LORD. Then the priests, dressed in their robes, stood with their trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, stood with their cymbals. They all took their places and praised the LORD just as David king of Israel had said to do. With praise and thanksgiving, they sang to the LORD: "He is good; his love for Israel continues forever." And then all the people shouted loudly, "Praise the LORD! The foundation of his Temple has been laid."

The Entire Temple Is Completed

(Ezra 6:15-16 NCV) The Temple was finished on the third day of the month of Adar in the sixth year Darius was king. Then the people of Israel celebrated and gave the Temple to God to honor him. Everybody was happy: the priests, the Levites, and the rest of the Jewish people who had returned from captivity.

(Ezra 6:19-21 NCV) The Jewish people who returned from captivity celebrated the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month. The

priests and Levites had made themselves clean. Then the Levites killed the Passover lambs for all the people who had returned from captivity, for their relatives the priests, and for themselves. So all the people of Israel who returned from captivity ate the Passover lamb. So did the people who had given up the unclean ways of their non-Jewish neighbors in order to worship the LORD, the God of Israel.

(Ezra 7:1-6 NCV) After these things during the rule of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra came up from Babylon. Ezra was the son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah, the son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub, the son of Amariah, the son of Azariah, the son of Meraioth, the son of Zerahiah, the son of Uzzi, the son of Bukki, the son of Abishua, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the high priest. This Ezra came to Jerusalem from Babylon. He was a teacher and knew well the Teachings of Moses that had been given by the LORD, the God of Israel. Ezra received everything he asked for from the king, because the LORD his God was helping him.

After the temple was completed there was a time of peace and learning for the Jews under Ezra the scribe. The Medo-Persian empire lasted from 550 BC beginning with Cyrus and Darius and ending in 331 BC with a descendant of Darius, also named Darius on the throne.

(Dan 11:1-2 NCV) In the first year that Darius the Mede was king, I stood up to support Michael in his fight against the prince of Persia. "Now then, Daniel, I tell you the truth: Three more kings will rule in Persia, and then a fourth king will come. He will be much richer than all the kings of Persia before him and will use his riches to get power. He will stir up everyone against the kingdom of Greece.

Darius had three successors to the Persian throne and then came Alexander from Macedonia to conquer the Persian kingdom and was spoken to the prophet Daniel by the angels. This latter Darius was defeated by Alexander the Great and the Grecian empire began, just as the angel Gabriel had foretold to Daniel.

The Greek Empire

(Dan 2:39 NCV) Next a third kingdom, the bronze part, will rule over the earth.

(Dan 7:6 NCV) "After that, I looked, and there before me was another

animal. This animal looked like a leopard with four wings on its back that looked like a bird's wings. This animal had four heads and was given power to rule.

(Dan 8:1-7 NCV) During the third year of King Belshazzar's rule, I, Daniel, saw another vision, which was like the first one. In this vision I saw myself in the capital city of Susa, in the area of Elam. I was standing by the Ulai Canal when I looked up and saw a male sheep standing beside the canal. It had two long horns, but one horn was longer and newer than the other. I watched the sheep charge to the west, the north, and the south. No animal could stand before him, and none could save another animal from his power. He did whatever he wanted and became very powerful. While I was watching this, I saw a male goat come from the west. This goat had one large horn between his eyes that was easy to see. He crossed over the whole earth so fast that his feet hardly touched the ground. In his anger the goat charged the sheep with the two horns that I had seen standing by the canal. I watched the angry goat attack the sheep and break the sheep's two horns. The sheep was not strong enough to stop it. The goat knocked the sheep to the ground and then walked all over him. No one was able to save the sheep from the goat, so the male goat became very great.

Gabriel Explains The Vision To Daniel Part I - Concerning Alexander

(Dan 8:15 NCV) I, Daniel, saw this vision and tried to understand what it meant. In it I saw someone who looked like a man standing near me. And I heard a man's voice calling from the Ulai Canal: "Gabriel, explain the vision to this man."

(Dan 8:20-22 NCV) "You saw a male sheep with two horns, which are the kings of Media and Persia. The male goat is the king of Greece, and the big horn between its eyes is the first king. The four horns that grew in the place of the broken horn are four kingdoms. Those four kingdoms will come from the nation of the first king, but they will not be as strong as the first king.

Josephus Chapter 8

About this time it was that Philip, king of Macedon was treacherously assaulted and slain at Egae by Pausanias the son of Cerastes, who was derived from the family of Orestae, and his son Alexander succeeded him in the kingdom;

After the death of his father Philip, Alexander the Great came on the scene and Greek culture was implemented upon the holy land by Alexander and his successors. Alexander was the fulfillment of the prophecies concerning the king of Greece who would overthrow the empire of the Medes and the Persians.

Alexander the Great, King of Macedonia And Persia

Alexander III, king of Macedonia, the first king to be called "the Great," conquered the Persian empire and annexed it to Macedonia. The son of Philip II and Olympias, he was born in 356 BC and brought up as crown prince. Taught for a time by Aristotle, he acquired a love for Homer and an infatuation with the heroic age. When Philip divorced Olympias to marry a younger princess, Alexander fled. Although allowed to return, he remained isolated and insecure until Philip's mysterious assassination about June 336.

Alexander was at once presented to the army as king. Winning its support, he eliminated all potential rivals, gained the allegiance of the Macedonian nobles and of the Greeks and defeated the neighboring barbarians. Then he took up Philip's war of aggression against Persia, adopting his slogan of a Hellenic Crusade against the barbarian.

After organizing Egypt and founding Alexandria, Alexander crossed the Eastern Desert and the Euphrates and Tigris rivers, and in the autumn of 331 defeated Darius's grand army at Gaugamela (near modern Irbil, Iraq). Darius fled to the mountain residence of Ecbatana, while Alexander occupied Babylon, the imperial capital Susa, and Persepolis. Henceforth, Alexander acted as legitimate king of Persia, and to win the support of the Iranian aristocracy he appointed mainly Iranians as provincial governors.

In the autumn of 324, at Ecbatana, Alexander lost his boyhood friend Hephaestion, by then his grand vizier. The loss was irreparable. After deep mourning, he embarked on a winter campaign in the mountains, then returned to Babylon, where he prepared an expedition for the conquest of Arabia. He died in June 323 without designating a successor.

Alexander at once became a legend to the peoples that had seen him pass like a hurricane. Greek accounts from the start tended to blend almost incredible fact with pure fiction (for example, his meeting with the Queen of the AMAZONS). The only clear features that emerge are Alexander's military genius and his successful opportunism: his unequalled eye for a

chance and his sense of timing in both war and politics. The only clear motive is the pursuit of glory: the urge to surpass the heroes of myth and to attain divinity. The success of his ambition, at immense cost in human terms, spread a veneer of Greek culture far into central Asia, and some of it--supported and extended by the Hellenistic dynasties--lasted for a long time. It also led to an expansion of Greek horizons and to the acceptance of the idea of a universal kingdom, which prepared the way for the Roman Empire. Moreover, it opened up the Greek world to new Oriental influences, which prepared the way for Christianity. Alexander's influence had long-lasting effects. The Greek culture and language pervaded the region for centuries afterward. The New Testament was written in Greek. The Software Toolworks Encyclopedia

Ancient Empires - Greece - From "The Daily Bible Study CD

Alexander the Great lived only about 33 years, from 356 to 323 B.C., but during that time he became one of the most successful military commanders in human history. Alexander's tactical genius, front-line bravery, and paradoxically, his often short-tempered recklessness (his troops had to rescue the young king a number of times after he had charged too far ahead of them in battle), enabled him to rapidly overrun a vast region that had been occupied by earlier empires - Egyptian, Assyrian, Babylonian, and Persian. Alexander was the son of King Philip II of Macedon. In 336 B.C., at age 20, he assumed command of the Greek army. After putting down a rebellion in Greece, he began an eastward military campaign that quickly made him the ruler of the earth from Greece to India (see map below), where, according to some accounts, he sat down and wept because he had "run out of world to conquer." He died suddenly at age 33, from an unknown illness.

The Jews Fear Alexander Will Destroy Them Because of Their Loyalty to Darius

The Jewish leaders and their priests refused to be disloyal to Darius the King of Persia whom they were subject to during the time when Alexander the Great was coming into power but before he had defeated Darius. They had refused to provide Alexander's army with food when he had been nearby and Alexander had vowed revenge upon them. After Alexander conquered Darius Judea was in great fear of Alexander's wrath coming upon them. God worked a miracle to prevent that from happening.

God Protects The Jews By Giving Alexander A Vision

Josephus Chapter 8

Now Alexander, when he had taken Gaza, made haste to go up to Jerusalem; and Jaddua the high priest, when he heard that, was in an agony, and under terror, as not knowing how he should meet the Macedonians, since the king was displeased at his foregoing disobedience. He therefore ordained that the people should make supplications, and should join with him in offering sacrifices to God, whom he besought to protect that nation, and to deliver them from the perils that were coming upon them; whereupon God warned him in a dream, which came upon him after he had offered sacrifice, that he should take courage, and adorn the city, and open the gates; that the rest appear in white garments, but that he and the priests should meet the king in the habits proper to their order, without the dread of any ill consequences, which the providence of God would prevent. Upon which, when he rose from his sleep, he greatly rejoiced; and declared to all the warning he had received from God according to which dream he acted entirely, and so waited for the coming of the king.

And when he understood that he (Alexander) was not far from the city, he went out in procession, with the priests and the multitude of the citizens. The procession was venerable, and the manner of it different from that of other nations. It reached to a place called Sapha; which name, translated into Greek, signifies a prospect, for you have thence a prospect both of Jerusalem and of the temple; and when the Phoenicians and the Chaldeans that followed him, thought they should have liberty to plunder the city, and torment the high priest to death, which the king's displeasure fairly promised them, the very reverse of it happened; for Alexander, when he saw the multitude at a distance, in white garments, while the priests stood clothed with fine linen, and the high priest in purple and scarlet clothing, with his mitre on his head having the golden plate on which the name of God was engraved, he approached by himself, and adored that name, and first saluted the high priest. The Jews also did all together, with one voice, salute Alexander, and encompass him about: whereupon the kings of Syria and the rest were surprised at what Alexander had done, and supposed him disordered in his mind.

However, Parmenio alone went up to him, and asked him how it came to pass, that when all others adored him, he should adore the high priest of the Jews? To whom he replied, "I did not adore him, but that God who hath honored him with that high priesthood; for I saw this very person in a

dream, in this very habit, when I was at Dios, in Macedonia, who, when I was considering with myself how I might obtain the dominion of Asia, exhorted me to make no delay, but boldly to pass over the sea thither, for that he would conduct my army, and would give me the dominion over the Persians; whence it is, that having seen no other in that habit, and now seeing this person in it, and remembering that vision and the exhortation which I had in my dream, I believe that I bring this army under the divine conduct, and shall therewith conquer Darius, and destroy the power of the Persians, and that all things will succeed according to what is in my own mind." And when he had said this to Parmenio, and had given the high priest his right hand, the priests ran along by him, and he came into the city; and when he went up into the temple, he offered sacrifice to God, according to the high priest's direction, and magnificently treated both the high priest and the priests.

Alexander The Great Is Shown The Prophecy Concerning Himself In The Book Of Daniel

Josephus Chapter 8

And when the book of Daniel was showed him, wherein Daniel declared that one of the Greeks should destroy the empire of the Persians, he supposed that himself was the person intended; and as he was then glad, he dismissed the multitude for the present, but the next day he called them to him, and bade them ask what favors they pleased of him: whereupon the high priest desired that they might enjoy the laws of their forefathers, and might pay no tribute on the seventh year. He granted all they desired: and when they entreated him that he would permit the Jews in Babylon and Media to enjoy their own laws also, he willingly promised to do hereafter what they desired: and when he said to the multitude, that if any of them would enlist themselves in his army on this condition, that they should continue under the law of their forefathers, and live according to them, he was willing to take them with him, many were ready to accompany him in his wars.

Alexander's Kingdom Is To Be Parted Among His Four Generals At His Death

(Dan 8:8 NCV) But when he was strong, his big horn broke off and four horns grew in place of the one big horn. Those four horns pointed in four different directions and were easy to see.

(Dan 11:3-4 NCV) Then a mighty king will come, who will rule with great power and will do anything he wants. After that king has come, his kingdom will be broken up and divided out toward the four parts of the world. His kingdom will not go to his descendants, and it will not have the power that he had, because his kingdom will be pulled up and given to other people.

(Dan 8:20-21-22 NCV) "You saw a male sheep with two horns, which are the kings of Media and Persia. The male goat is the king of Greece, and the big horn between its eyes is the first king. The four horns that grew in the place of the broken horn are four kingdoms. Those four kingdoms will come from the nation of the first king, but they will not be as strong as the first king.

The angel Gabriel explained to Daniel that kingdom of Alexander The Great would be divided up into four weaker kingdoms after his passing from the scene. The kingdom did not pass to a descendant of Alexander as was the custom of kings.

1Mac 1:1-9 And it happened, after that Alexander son of Philip, the Macedonian, who came out of the land of Chettiim, had smitten Darius king of the Persians and Medes, that he reigned in his stead, the first over Greece, And made many wars, and won many strong holds, and slew the kings of the earth, And went through to the ends of the earth, and took spoils of many nations, insomuch that the earth was quiet before him; whereupon he was exalted and his heart was lifted up. And he gathered a mighty strong host and ruled over countries, and nations, and kings, who became tributaries unto him. And after these things he fell sick, and perceived that he should die. Therefore he called his servants, such as were honourable, and had been brought up with him from his youth, and parted his kingdom among them, while he was yet alive. So Alexander reigned twelve years, and then died. And his servants bare rule every one in his place. And after his death they all put crowns upon themselves; so did their sons after them many years: and evils were multiplied in the earth.

Ancient Empires - Greece - From "The Daily Bible Study CD

After Alexander's death, his empire was taken over by four of his generals. Syria went to Seluecus and Egypt to Ptolomy The land of Israel, situated between them, was first held by Syria, and then by Egypt from 301 B.C., and then back to Syria when Antiochus the Great took it in 198 B.C. Amazingly, an account of Alexander's conquests, premature death, and succession by four of his generals was recorded in The Bible - over 2

centuries before they happened! The prophecy, written over 200 years before Alexander was even born, is found in all of Daniel chapter 8.

Gabriel Explains The Vision To Daniel Part II Concerning Antiochus Epiphanes

(Dan 8:9-11 NCV) Then a little horn grew from one of those four horns, and it became very big. It grew to the south, the east, and toward the beautiful land of Judah. That little horn grew until it reached to the sky. It even threw some of the army of heaven to the ground and walked on them! That little horn set itself up as equal to God, the Commander of heaven's armies. It stopped the daily sacrifices that were offered to him, and the Temple, the place where people worshiped him, was pulled down.

(Dan 8:23-26 NCV) "When the end comes near for those kingdoms, a bold and cruel king who tells lies will come. This will happen when many people have turned against God. This king will be very powerful, but his power will not come from himself. He will cause terrible destruction and will be successful in everything he does. He will destroy powerful people and even God's holy people. This king will succeed by using lies and force. He will think that he is very important. He will destroy many people without warning; he will try to fight even the Prince of princes! But that cruel king will be destroyed, and not by human power. "The vision that has been shown to you about these evenings and mornings is true. But seal up the vision, because those things won't happen for a long time."

After the division of Alexander's kingdom it was prophesied that a fierce king would arise who would persecute the Jews. This king was known in history as Antiochus Epiphanes. The term "epiphany" comes from a Greek word which means "appearance" or "manifestation." Antiochus gave himself the name Epiphanes, which comes from the root epiphany. Antiochus considered himself to be God manifested in the flesh, and wanted to be worshipped as such, which is just what Antichrist will do when he arrives on the world scene. What Antiochus does to the Jews the Antichrist will do on a worldwide scale to all who worship the true God, but only for a short season and then he will be destroyed.

Antiochus Epiphanes Comes To Power

1Mac 1:10 & 16-19

And there came out of them a wicked root Antiochus surnamed Epiphanes, son of Antiochus the king, who had been an hostage at Rome, and he

reigned in the hundred and thirty and seventh year of the kingdom of the Greeks. Now when the kingdom was established before Antiochus, he thought to reign over Egypt that he might have the dominion of two realms. Wherefore he entered into Egypt with a great multitude, with chariots, and elephants, and horsemen, and a great navy, And made war against Ptolemee king of Egypt: but Ptolemee was afraid of him, and fled; and many were wounded to death. Thus they got the strong cities in the land of Egypt and he took the spoils thereof.

Antiochus attacked Egypt and took spoils but he could not rule over them completely because the Roman empire, which was getting stronger and stronger during that time threatened to make war on him if he did not leave Egypt. Antiochus left Egypt for fear of the Romans, just as Gabriel the archangel had foretold to Daniel, but he was so angry he attacked Jerusalem on his way back to Antioch.

(Dan 11:42-45 NCV) The king of the North will show his power in many countries; Egypt will not escape. The king will get treasures of gold and silver and all the riches of Egypt. The Libyan and Nubian people will obey him. But the king of the North will hear news from the east and the north that will make him afraid and angry. He will go to destroy completely many nations. He will set up his royal tents between the sea and the beautiful mountain where the holy Temple is built. But, finally, his end will come, and no one will help him.

Josephus Book 12

Now Antiochus, upon the agreeable situation of the affairs of his kingdom, resolved to make an expedition against Egypt both because he had a desire to gain it, and because he condemned the son of Ptolemy, as now weak, and not yet of abilities to manage affairs of such consequence; so he came with great forces to Pelusium, and circumvented Ptolemy Philometer by treachery, and seized upon Egypt. He then came to the places about Memphis; and when he had taken them, he made haste to Alexandria, in hopes of taking it by siege, and of subduing Ptolemy, who reigned there. But he was driven not only from Alexandria, but out of all Egypt, by the declaration of the Romans, who charged him to let that country alone.

King Antiochus returning out of Egypt, for fear of the Romans, made an expedition against the city Jerusalem; and when he was there, in the hundred and forty-third year of the kingdom of the Seleucidae, he took the city without fighting, those of his own party opening the gates to him. And

when he had gotten possession of Jerusalem, he slew many of the opposite party; and when he had plundered it of a great deal of money, he returned to Antioch.

Antiochus Returns To Jerusalem And Plunders The Temple

1Mac 1:20-25 And after that Antiochus had smitten Egypt, he returned again in the hundred forty and third year, and went up against Israel and Jerusalem with a great multitude, And entered proudly into the sanctuary, and took away the golden altar, and the candlestick of light, and all the vessels thereof, And the table of the shewbread, and the pouring vessels, and the vials. and the censers of gold, and the veil, and the crown, and the golden ornaments that were before the temple, all which he pulled off. He took also the silver and the gold, and the precious vessels: also he took the hidden treasures which he found. And when he had taken all away, he went into his own land, having made a great massacre, and spoken very proudly. Therefore there was a great mourning in Israel, in every place where they were;

The Sacrifices Stop After Antiochus Plunders The Temple

(Dan 8:12 NCV) Because there was a turning away from God, the people stopped the daily sacrifices. Truth was thrown down to the ground, and the horn was successful in everything it did.

(Dan 8:13-14 NCV) Then I heard a holy angel speaking. Another holy angel asked the first one, "How long will the things in this vision last--the daily sacrifices, the turning away from God that brings destruction, the Temple being pulled down, and the army of heaven being walked on?" The angel said to me, "This will happen for twenty-three hundred evenings and mornings. Then the holy place will be repaired."

Antiochus IV Epiphanes reigned for 11 years. In the 143rd year of the Grecian empire, the 5th year of his reign he stopped the sacrifices in Jerusalem. The temple was cleansed and the sacrifices began anew in the year that he died, which was the 149th year of the Grecian kingdom. Just as the angel told Daniel, the sacrifices were stopped for about 6 years and 4 months, or 2300 days.

Josephus Book 12

Now it came to pass after two years in the hundred and forty-fifth year, on the twenty-fifth day of that month which is by us called Chasleu, and by the Macedonians Apelleus, in the hundred and fifty-third olympiad, that the king came up to Jerusalem, and, pretending peace, he got possession of the city by treachery: at which time he spared not so much as those that admitted him into it, on account of the riches that lay in the temple; but, led by his covetous inclination (for he saw there was in it a great deal of gold, and many ornaments that had been dedicated to it of very great value), and in order to plunder its wealth, he ventured to break the league he had made. So he left the temple bare, and took away the golden candlesticks, and the golden altar [of incense], and table [of shewbread], and the altar [of burnt offering]; and did not abstain from even the veils, which were made of fine linen and scarlet. He also emptied it of its secret treasures, and left nothing at all remaining; and by this means cast the Jews into great lamentation, for he forbade them to offer those daily sacrifices which they used to offer to God, according to the law.

1Mac 1:29-31 And after two years fully expired the king sent his chief collector of tribute unto the cities of Juda, who came unto Jerusalem with a great multitude, And spake peaceable words unto them, but all was deceit: for when they had given him credence, he fell suddenly upon the city, and smote it very sore, and destroyed much people of Israel. And when he had taken the spoils of the city, he set it on fire, and pulled down the houses and walls thereof on every side.

1Mac 1:41-50 Moreover king Antiochus wrote to his whole kingdom, that all should be one people, And every one should leave his laws: so all the heathen agreed according to the commandment of the king. Yea, many also of the Israelites consented to his religion, and sacrificed unto idols, and profaned the sabbath. For the king had sent letters by messengers unto Jerusalem and the cities of Juda that they should follow the strange laws of the land, And forbid burnt offerings, and sacrifice, and drink offerings, in the temple; and that they should profane the sabbaths and festival days: And pollute the sanctuary and holy people: Set up altars, and groves, and chapels of idols, and sacrifice swine's flesh, and unclean beasts: That they should also leave their children uncircumcised, and make their souls abominable with all manner of uncleanness and profanation: To the end they might forget the law, and change all the ordinances. And whosoever would not do according to the commandment of the king, he said, he should die.

The Abomination Of Desolation

(Dan 11:31 NCV) "The king of the North will send his army to make the Temple in Jerusalem unclean. They will stop the people from offering the daily sacrifice, and then they will set up the destroying terror..."

(Dan 11:31 NIV) "His armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up the abomination that causes desolation."

(Mat 24:15 NIV) "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel--let the reader understand--"

1Mac 1:54 & 59 Now the fifteenth day of the month Casleu, in the hundred forty and fifth year, they set up the abomination of desolation upon the altar, and builded idol altars throughout the cities of Juda on every side;... Now the five and twentieth day of the month they did sacrifice upon the idol altar, which was upon the altar of God.

Two years after stopping the sacrifices Antiochus returned and performed the ultimate insult to the Jews. He sacrificed a pig on the altar of God in the temple at Jerusalem.

The prophecies about the "abomination that causes desolation" are thought by some to have all been completely fulfilled. I was once told by a denominational minister that everything in the book of Daniel has already happened long ago, and in a sense he was correct. Antiochus did fulfill Daniel's prophecies, but as we see from the words of Jesus in the new testament, long after the end of Antiochus' reign, there is a greater fulfillment of Daniel's words yet to come. We study the past in order to know what the future holds, and many of the prophecies that were given to Daniel by Gabriel and the other angel may very well occur again in the near future, in our lifetimes. Watch for another "Abomination of Desolation" to occur, perhaps in our lifetimes.

Antiochus Kills Those Who Follow God's Laws

1Mac 1:55-58 And burnt incense at the doors of their houses, and in the streets. And when they had rent in pieces the books of the law which they found, they burnt them with fire. And whosoever was found with any the book of the testament, or if any committed to the law, the king's commandment was, that they should put him to death. Thus did they by

their authority unto the Israelites every month, to as many as were found in the cities.

1Mac 1:60-64 At which time according to the commandment they put to death certain women, that had caused their children to be circumcised. And they hanged the infants about their necks, and rifled their houses, and slew them that had circumcised them. Howbeit many in Israel were fully resolved and confirmed in themselves not to eat any unclean thing. Wherefore the rather to die, that they might not be defiled with meats, and that they might not profane the holy covenant: so then they died. And there was very great wrath upon Israel.

Josephus Book 12

And when the king had built an idol altar upon God's Altar, he slew swine upon it, and so offered a sacrifice neither according to the law, nor the Jewish religious worship in that country. He also compelled them to forsake the worship which they paid their own God, and to adore those whom he took to be gods; and made them build temples, and raise idol altars, in every city and village, and offer swine upon them every day. He also commanded them not to circumcise their sons, and threatened to punish any that should be found to have transgressed his injunction. He also appointed overseers, who should compel them to do what he commanded. And indeed many Jews there were who complied with the king's commands, either voluntarily, or out of fear of the penalty that was denounced; but the best men, and those of the noblest souls, did not regard him, but did pay a greater respect to the customs of their country than concern as to the punishment which he threatened to the disobedient; on which account they every day underwent great miseries and bitter torments; for they were whipped with rods and their bodies were torn to pieces, and were crucified while they were still alive and breathed: they also strangled those women and their sons whom they had circumcised, as the king had appointed, hanging their sons about their necks as they were upon the crosses. And if there were any sacred book of the law found, it was destroyed; and those with whom they were found miserably perished also.

Antiochus Attacks Persia

1Mac 6:1-4 About that time king Antiochus traveling through the high countries heard say, that Elymais in the country of Persia was a city greatly renowned for riches, silver, and gold; And that there was in it a very rich

temple, wherein were coverings of gold, and breastplates, and shields, which Alexander, son of Philip, the Macedonian king, who reigned first among the Grecians, had left there. Wherefore he came and sought to take the city, and to spoil it; but he was not able, because they of the city, having had warning thereof, Rose up against him in battle: so he fled, and departed thence with great heaviness, and returned to Babylon.

1Mac 6:5-9 Moreover there came one who brought him tidings into Persia, that the armies, which went against the land of Judea, were put to flight: And that Lysias, who went forth first with a great power was driven away of the Jews; and that they were made strong by the armour, and power, and store of spoils, which they had gotten of the armies, whom they had destroyed: Also that they had pulled down the abomination, which he had set up upon the altar in Jerusalem, and that they had compassed about the sanctuary with high walls, as before, and his city Bethsura. Now when the king heard these words, he was astonished and sore moved: whereupon he laid him down upon his bed, and fell sick for grief, because it had not befallen him as he looked for. And there he continued many days: for his grief was ever more and more, and he made account that he should die.

Antiochus IV Epiphanes - From "The Daily Bible Study CD

The greatest outrage committed by Antiochus occurred in 167 B.C. when he entered The Temple of God in Jerusalem, erected an altar to the pagan god Zeus, and sacrificed a pig on it. That desecration, dated as the 25th of Kislev according to the Bible Calendar, triggered a rebellion by a group of Jews led by the priest Mattathias and his five sons. When Mattathias died in 166 B.C., the leadership went to his son Judas, who was nicknamed "the Maccabee" which means "the hammer." The name Maccabee was also used for other members of the family who took part in the uprising. With bravery, military genius, and no doubt much help from God, the Maccabees achieved an amazing series of victories through the land. By 164 B.C. they gained control of The Temple and rededicated it to The God of Israel. Their eventual victory and purification of The Temple is today commemorated by Jews with the annual festival of Hanukkah.

The Death Of Antiochus

Josephus Book 12

About this time it was that king Antiochus, as he was going over the upper countries heard that there was a very rich city in Persia, called Elymais;

and therein a very rich temple of Diana, and that it was full of all sorts of donations dedicated to it; as also weapons and breastplates, which, upon inquiry, he found had been left there by Alexander, the son of Philip, king of Macedonia; and being incited by these motives, he went in haste to Elymais, and assaulted it, and besieged it. But as those that were in it were not terrified at his assault, nor at his siege, but opposed him very courageously, he was beaten off his hopes; for they drove him away from the city, and went out and pursued after him, insomuch that he fled away as far as Babylon, and lost a great many of his army; and when he was grieving for this disappointment, some persons told him of the defeat of his commanders, whom he had left behind him to fight against Judea, and what strength the Jews had already gotten. When this concern about these affairs was added to the former, he was confounded, and, by the anxiety he was in, fell into a distemper, which, as it lasted a great while, and as his pains increased upon him, so he at length perceived he should die in a little time; so he called his friends to him, and told them that his distemper was severe upon him, and confessed withal, that this calamity was sent upon him for the miseries he had brought upon the Jewish nation, while he plundered their temple and condemned their God; and when he had said this, he gave up the ghost.

1Mac 6:10-17 Wherefore he called for all his friends, and said unto them, The sleep is gone from mine eyes, and my heart faileth for very care. And I thought with myself, Into what tribulation am I come, and how great a flood of misery is it, wherein now I am! for I was bountiful and beloved in my power. But now I remember the evils that I did at Jerusalem, and that I took all the vessels of gold and silver that were therein, and sent to destroy the inhabitants of Judea without a cause. I perceive therefore that for this cause these troubles are come upon me, and, behold, I perish through great grief in a strange land. Then called he for Philip, one of his friends, who he made ruler over all his realm, And gave him the crown, and his robe, and his signet, to the end he should bring up his son Antiochus, and nourish him up for the kingdom. So king Antiochus died there in the hundred forty and ninth year. Now when Lysias knew that the king was dead, he set up Antiochus his son, whom he had brought up being young, to reign in his stead, and his name he called Eupator.

The Roman Empire

(Dan 2:40 NCV) Then there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron. In the same way that iron crushes and smashes things to pieces, the fourth kingdom will smash and crush all the other kingdoms.

The Roman Empire followed the Grecian empire and became the greatest power the world had known up until that time.

Ancient Empires - Rome - From The Daily Bible Study

The ancient Roman empire spanned the time period from about 145 B.C. to 476 A.D. At its peak, centered on Rome, and connected by a vast system of Roman Roads, it was one of the most extensive and powerful in all human history. Roman Legions conquered and ruled a vast region throughout northern Africa, the Middle East, and Europe.

The term Caesar originated with the family of Gaius Julius, better known to history as Julius Caesar (102-44 B.C.). After his assassination on the Ides of March, the imperial title of Caesar was assumed by the Roman emperors who succeeded him. It was also adopted by later rulers of other nations - the German Kaiser and the Russian Tsar (or Czar) are derived from Caesar.

Unlike the other empires (Egyptian, Assyrian, Babylonian, Persian, Greek) that affected the course of events of The Holy Bible, the Roman empire isn't done yet. Although the ancient Roman empire "fell" long ago, it didn't die - it's going to make a big come-back. But then, so is Jesus Christ. See what The Rock Of Ages is prophesied to do with Daniel's Statue and its Feet Of Iron And Clay.

Europe Today

(Dan 2:41-42 NCV) "You saw that the statue's feet and toes were partly baked clay and partly iron. That means the fourth kingdom will be a divided kingdom. It will have some of the strength of iron in it, just as you saw iron was mixed with clay. The toes of the statue were partly iron and partly clay. So the fourth kingdom will be partly strong like iron and partly breakable like clay. You saw the iron mixed with clay, but iron and clay do not hold together. In the same way the people of the fourth kingdom will be a mixture, but they will not be united as one people.

The Roman empire gradually collapsed and broke up into the separate countries of Europe and the areas outside of Europe regained their autonomy. The Roman empire is gradually voluntarily uniting again in the form of the European union, but they do not have a strong central government as existed in the time of the Caesars, just as Daniel predicted.

(Dan 2:44 NCV) "During the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up another kingdom that will never be destroyed or given to another group of people. This kingdom will crush all the other kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will continue forever.

During the time of the voluntarily united Europe Jesus Christ will return and set up a kingdom that will last forever.

The Destruction Of The End Times Empire

(Dan 2:45 NCV) "King Nebuchadnezzar, you saw a rock cut from a mountain, but no human being touched it. The rock broke the iron, bronze, clay, silver, and gold to pieces. In this way the great God showed you what will happen. The dream is true, and you can trust this explanation."

The rock (Christ) will break apart the Last world empire, that of Antichrist. His empire will consist of the land areas of all of the previous empires. You can look on a map in the back of most bibles and see what areas constituted the various empires of iron, bronze, clay, silver and gold to see what the Antichrist's empire will consist of. Many countries are seeking to join the European union today and many will until the final alignment is completed and Christ returns and destroys it.

This concludes a thumbnail overview of world history as it pertains to the Holy Land, given to Daniel by the angels at the command of God for our benefit. I

Chapter 17: Angels In The Gospels

Although the prophet Daniel's book is not one of the largest in the bible the prophecies given to him by angels cover a great span of time. Daniel lived through the exact mid point in God's 7000 year plan for our world and human beings on earth. We know this both from history and because of the prophecies concerning the 3500 years that were yet to be completed from the time that the angel spoke to Daniel until the end of the millennium and the last judgment were to be completed.

According to the research done by the editors of "The Chronological Bible," the first 4000 years of human history (From the moment of the Creation of Adam, a mature man of about 30 years of age, to Jesus becoming 30 years old) were completed at the moment when Jesus Christ was baptized with water by John the Baptist. Jesus was about 30 years old at that time. This means that our current calendar has an error in it of about 30 years because those who designed our calendar estimated that the first 4000 years were completed on the day Christ was born, not on the day he was baptized 30 years later.

To know what year it actually is from the day that Adam was created we have to subtract 30 years from our current year, and then add 4000 years. Example: $2003 - 30 = 1973$. $1973 + 4000 = 5973$. No one knows exactly what the date is except for God, but by this method we can come pretty close, perhaps plus or minus seven to ten years in either direction.

When we reach the year 6000 on God's perfect calendar the Millennium will begin and when we reach the year 7000 a new heavens and a new earth will be created and eternity will begin.

I have said all this to lead into the timing of the prophecy concerning the coming of the Messiah given to Daniel by our old friend the archangel Gabriel. Gabriel was very active in the time of Daniel giving Daniel many prophecies that would lead up to the coming of the Messiah. Now in the new testament we will see that Gabriel is still very active and involved with preparing the way for the Messiah and protecting him and making sure that everything comes together precisely as the Lord has said it would.

The Prophecies From Gabriel To Daniel Concerning The Time Of The Messiah's 1st Coming

(Dan 9:20-23 NCV) While I was saying these things in my prayer to the LORD, my God, confessing my sins and the sins of the people of Israel and praying for God's holy hill, Gabriel came to me. (I had seen him in my last vision.) He came flying quickly to me about the time of the evening sacrifice, while I was still praying. He taught me and said to me, "Daniel, I have come to give you wisdom and to help you understand. When you first started praying, an answer was given, and I came to tell you, because God loves you very much. So think about the message and understand the vision.

(Dan 9:24 NCV) "God has ordered four hundred ninety years for your people and your holy city for these reasons: to stop people from turning against God; to put an end to sin; to take away evil; to bring in goodness that continues forever; to bring about the vision and prophecy; and to appoint a most holy place.

Jesus Christ's death on the cross put an end to sin, in the sense that it was now able to be washed away and completely forgiven to his supreme sacrifice. From this we can calculate when the prophecy was given to Daniel since the angel Gabriel said that it would happen in 490 years. Since Christ was crucified about 3 1/2 years after his ministry began, 4000 years after the creation of Adam then for the sake of simplicity we will say that Jesus died on the cross 4004 years after the creation of Adam. From 4004 we subtract the 490 years and find that Daniel received the prophecy about 3514 years after the creation of Adam, very near the mid point of history.

The only real significance of all this is that it shows us how perfectly God has everything planned out. Things happen exactly how he says they will and when he says they will. At the perfect, proper and exact time God sent Jesus Christ to die for our sins and enable us to be saved. At the exact time on God's calendar the Messiah will return and set up his kingdom, about 6000 years after the creation of Adam. At the present time we are probably somewhere between 5,960 and 5,980 years from the creation of Adam. That doesn't leave us a whole lot of time left before Jesus sets up God's kingdom on earth, probably less than 40 years. No one knows the day or hour of Christ's return except the Father in heaven, but we can know the season, and the season is Near!

Angels And The Birth Of John The Baptist

An angel, once again Gabriel, foretold the birth of John the Baptist to his

father Zechariah.

(Luke 1:5-10 NCV) During the time Herod ruled Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah who belonged to Abijah's group. Zechariah's wife, Elizabeth, came from the family of Aaron. Zechariah and Elizabeth truly did what God said was good. They did everything the Lord commanded and were without fault in keeping his law. But they had no children, because Elizabeth could not have a baby, and both of them were very old. One day Zechariah was serving as a priest before God, because his group was on duty. According to the custom of the priests, he was chosen by lot to go into the Temple of the Lord and burn incense. There were a great many people outside praying at the time the incense was offered.

(Luke 1:11-13 NCV) Then an angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah, standing on the right side of the incense table. When he saw the angel, Zechariah was startled and frightened. But the angel said to him, "Zechariah, don't be afraid. God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give birth to a son, and you will name him John.

(Luke 1:14-17 NCV) He will bring you joy and gladness, and many people will be happy because of his birth. John will be a great man for the Lord. He will never drink wine or beer, and even from birth, he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will help many people of Israel return to the Lord their God. He will go before the Lord in spirit and power like Elijah. He will make peace between parents and their children and will bring those who are not obeying God back to the right way of thinking, to make a people ready for the coming of the Lord."

(Luke 1:18-19 NCV) Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I know that what you say is true? I am an old man, and my wife is old, too." The angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand before God, who sent me to talk to you and to tell you this good news.

(Luke 1:20-23 NCV) Now, listen! You will not be able to speak until the day these things happen, because you did not believe what I told you. But they will really happen." Outside, the people were still waiting for Zechariah and were surprised that he was staying so long in the Temple. When Zechariah came outside, he could not speak to them, and they knew he had seen a vision in the Temple. He could only make signs to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service at the Temple was finished, he went home.

(Luke 1:24-25 NCV) Later, Zechariah's wife, Elizabeth, became pregnant and did not go out of her house for five months. Elizabeth said, "Look what the Lord has done for me! My people were ashamed of me, but now the Lord has taken away that shame."

Gabriel Appears To Mary

(Luke 1:26 NCV) During Elizabeth's sixth month of pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,

(Luke 1:28-30 NCV) The angel came to her and said, "Greetings! The Lord has blessed you and is with you." But Mary was very startled by what the angel said and wondered what this greeting might mean. The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary; God has shown you his grace."

(Luke 1:34-35 NCV) Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen since I am a virgin?" The angel said to Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you. For this reason the baby will be holy and will be called the Son of God."

(Luke 1:36-38 NCV) Now Elizabeth, your relative, is also pregnant with a son though she is very old. Everyone thought she could not have a baby, but she has been pregnant for six months. God can do anything!" Mary said, "I am the servant of the Lord. Let this happen to me as you say!" Then the angel went away.

(Luke 1:39-45 NCV) Mary got up and went quickly to a town in the hills of Judea. She came to Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the unborn baby inside her jumped, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She cried out in a loud voice, "God has blessed you more than any other woman, and he has blessed the baby to which you will give birth. Why has this good thing happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? When I heard your voice, the baby inside me jumped with joy. You are blessed because you believed that what the Lord said to you would really happen."

(Luke 1:56 NCV) Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

An Angel Appears To Joseph In A Dream

(Mat 1:18-23 NCV) This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. His

mother Mary was engaged to marry Joseph, but before they married, she learned she was pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. Because Mary's husband, Joseph, was a good man, he did not want to disgrace her in public, so he planned to divorce her secretly. While Joseph thought about these things, an angel of the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, descendant of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the baby in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this happened to bring about what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be pregnant. She will have a son, and they will name him Immanuel," which means "God is with us."

Joseph Obeys The Angelic Vision

(Mat 1:24-25 NCV) When Joseph woke up, he did what the Lord's angel had told him to do. Joseph took Mary as his wife, but he did not have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to the son. And Joseph named him Jesus.

Elizabeth Gives Birth To John The Baptist As Gabriel Foretold

(Luke 1:57-64 NCV) When it was time for Elizabeth to give birth, she had a boy. Her neighbors and relatives heard how good the Lord was to her, and they rejoiced with her. When the baby was eight days old, they came to circumcise him. They wanted to name him Zechariah because this was his father's name, but his mother said, "No! He will be named John." The people said to Elizabeth, "But no one in your family has this name." Then they made signs to his father to find out what he would like to name him. Zechariah asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John," and everyone was surprised. Immediately Zechariah could talk again, and he began praising God.

(Luke 1:65-66 NCV) All their neighbors became alarmed, and in all the mountains of Judea people continued talking about all these things. The people who heard about them wondered, saying, "What will this child be?" because the Lord was with him.

(Luke 1:67-79 NCV) Then Zechariah, John's father, was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: "Let us praise the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to help his people and has given them freedom. He has given us a powerful Savior from the family of God's servant David. He said that he would do this through his holy prophets who lived long ago: He

promised he would save us from our enemies and from the power of all those who hate us. He said he would give mercy to our fathers and that he would remember his holy promise. God promised Abraham, our father, that he would save us from the power of our enemies so we could serve him without fear, being holy and good before God as long as we live. "Now you, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High God. You will go before the Lord to prepare his way. You will make his people know that they will be saved by having their sins forgiven. With the loving mercy of our God, a new day from heaven will dawn upon us. It will shine on those who live in darkness, in the shadow of death. It will guide us into the path of peace."

(Luke 1:80 NCV) And so the child grew up and became strong in spirit. John lived in the desert until the time when he came out to preach to Israel.

The Birth Of Christ

(Luke 2:1-7 NIV) In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Angels, Shepherds And The Birth Of Christ

(Luke 2:8-10 NIV) And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

(Luke 2:13-14 NIV) Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

(Luke 2:15-18 NIV) When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

(Luke 2:20 NIV) The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Jesus' Name Was Given To Mary By Gabriel

(Luke 2:21 NCV) When the baby was eight days old, he was circumcised and was named Jesus, the name given by the angel before the baby began to grow inside Mary.

The Magi (Wise Men) Visit The Christ Child

(Mat 2:1-2 NIV) After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

Herod Learns Of Christ's Birth

(Mat 2:3-6 NIV) When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel."

(Mat 2:7-8 NIV) Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

(Mat 2:9-12 NIV) After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were

overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

An Angel Tells Joseph And Mary to Flee With Jesus To Egypt

(Mat 2:13 NCV) After they left, an angel of the Lord came to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up! Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt, because Herod is starting to look for the child so he can kill him. Stay in Egypt until I tell you to return."

(Mat 2:14-15 NIV) So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

Herod Slays The Children In An Effort To Kill Jesus

(Mat 2:16-18 NIV) When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: "A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

An Angel In A Dream Tells Joseph And Mary to Return From Egypt

(Mat 2:19-21 NIV) After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead." So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.

The Family Moves To Nazareth

(Mat 2:22-23 NIV) But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been

warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets: "He will be called a Nazarene."

Angels Still Assist Us Today

If you notice as we are studying angels in the gospels, over and over again it is stated that things happen in order to fulfill old testament prophecies. In many instances angels are involved in arranging things behind the scenes to cause people to be in exactly the right place at exactly the right time to fulfill God's word and his will.

(Heb 1:14 NIV) Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

While most of us do not have any prophecies in the bible written about us for God to have the angels assist him in their fulfillment's, the principle is clear, that God can and does cause the events in our lives to happen so that we are where he wants us to be for our blessing and spiritual growth. The angels didn't just arrange things for Joseph and Mary and then all retired to heaven to sing praises for eternity. They continue to serve the heirs of salvation and will do so until eternity begins, and who knows, perhaps even beyond that.

John The Baptist Preaches In The Spirit And Power Of Elijah

(Luke 1:15-17 NKJV) "For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. "And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. "He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

(Mat 3:1-10 NIV) In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers!

Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

(Mat 3:11-12 NIV) "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

(Mat 3:13-17 NIV) Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

(John 12:29 NCV) The crowd standing there, who heard the voice, said it was thunder. But others said, "An angel has spoken to him."

The Temptation Of Christ By Satan

(Mat 4:1-4 NIV) Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

(Mat 4:5-7 NIV) Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

(Luke 4:5-6 NCV) Then the devil took Jesus and showed him all the

kingdoms of the world in an instant. The devil said to Jesus, "I will give you all these kingdoms and all their power and glory. It has all been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I wish.

(Mat 4:9-10 NIV) "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

Angels Minister To Jesus After Satan's Temptation

(Mat 4:11 NIV) Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

(Mark 1:13 NCV) He was in the desert forty days and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and the angels came and took care of him.

Satan Left Jesus After The Temptation, But Only To Wait For A More Opportune Time

(Luke 4:13 NCV) After the devil had tempted Jesus in every way, he left him to wait until a better time.

After His Baptism And Temptation Jesus Teaches The People About Many Subjects

Jesus began his public ministry shortly after his baptism and the temptation by Satan and taught on many subjects. In this study we will primarily look at all of his teaching concerning angels, Satan and demons, beginning with angels

Angels And Children

(Mat 18:10 NCV) "Be careful. Don't think these little children are worth nothing. I tell you that they have angels in heaven who are always with my Father in heaven.

Angels And Healing

(John 5:1-4 NKJV) After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the

moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had.

(John 5:5- NKJV) Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath. The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed." He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.'" Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?" But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place. Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you." The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath.

Nicodemus 5:13-19 And he said, I lay for thirty - eight years by the sheep-pool at Jerusalem, labouring under a great infirmity, and waiting for a cure which should be wrought by the coming of an angel, who at a certain time troubled the water; and whosoever first after the troubling of the water stepped in, was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. And when Jesus saw me languishing there, he said to me, Wilt thou be made whole? And I answered, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool. And he said unto me, Rise, take up thy bed and walk. And I was immediately made whole, and took up my bed and walked. The Jews then said to Pilate, Our Lord Governor, pray ask him what day it was on which he was cured of his infirmity. The infirm person replied, It was on the Sabbath. The Jews said to Pilate, Did we not say that he wrought his cures on the Sabbath, and cast out devils by the prince of devils?

Angels And Marriage

(Mat 22:30 NCV) When people rise from the dead, they will not marry, nor will they be given to someone to marry. They will be like the angels in heaven.

(Mark 12:25 NCV) When people rise from the dead, they will not marry, nor will they be given to someone to marry. They will be like the angels in heaven.

(Luke 20:36 NCV) In that life they are like angels and cannot die. They are children of God, because they have been raised from the dead.

Angels Rejoice When Humans Repent And Are Saved

(Luke 15:10 NCV) In the same way, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God when one sinner changes his heart and life."

Angels Carry Us To The Presence Of God After Death

(Luke 16:22 NCV) Later, Lazarus died, and the angels carried him to the arms of Abraham. The rich man died, too, and was buried.

(2 Cor 5:6-9 NIV) Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. We live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.

Jesus Could Request Assistance From the Angels And Receive It

(Mat 26:53 NCV) Surely you know I could ask my Father, and he would give me more than twelve armies of angels.

(John 1:51 NCV) And Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, you will all see heaven open and 'angels of God going up and coming down' on the Son of Man."

Jesus, when he was in his human body relied upon prayer to God followed by assistance from the angels, rather than using his own power. He was restricting himself to using the same means that we have at our disposal for our example. Prayer, followed by God's permission to the angels to come to our assistance is the method by which we receive answers to our requests to God. Every prayer of Jesus was answered because he always knew and prayed in accordance with the Father's will. Our prayers also can be answered when we discern the will of God and pray in line with his

program, not our program. That is indeed a difficult task, but it is a goal to strive for, to know and understand God's will and to pray accordingly. We learn his will by studying the scriptures.

Angels Ministered To And Strengthened Jesus as He Prepared For The Cross

(Luke 22:43 NCV) Then an angel from heaven appeared to him to strengthen him.

Angels And The Crucifixion

While we don't see the angels actively involved during the crucifixion they were on the scene soon afterward. No doubt they were all witnesses as the greatest event in human history, the redemption of mankind was occurring. There was no doubt in awe as their creator and ours, Jesus Christ, hung on the cross to redeem fallen mankind. As they witnessed this event they saw the love that God has for his created beings displayed in action.

(John 15:13 KJV) Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Angels And The Resurrection

(Mat 28:2-4 NCV) At that time there was a strong earthquake. An angel of the Lord came down from heaven, went to the tomb, and rolled the stone away from the entrance. Then he sat on the stone. He was shining as bright as lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The soldiers guarding the tomb shook with fear because of the angel, and they became like dead men.

(Mat 28:5-8 NCV) The angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus, who has been crucified. He is not here. He has risen from the dead as he said he would. Come and see the place where his body was. And go quickly and tell his followers, 'Jesus has risen from the dead. He is going into Galilee ahead of you, and you will see him there.'" Then the angel said, "Now I have told you." The women left the tomb quickly. They were afraid, but they were also very happy. They ran to tell Jesus' followers what had happened.

Angels Announce Jesus' Resurrection

(Mark 16:9 NCV) After Jesus rose from the dead early on the first day of the week, he showed himself first to Mary Magdalene. One time in the past, he had forced seven demons out of her.

(John 20:1-10 NCV) Early on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb while it was still dark. When she saw that the large stone had been moved away from the tomb, she ran to Simon Peter and the follower whom Jesus loved. Mary said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him." So Peter and the other follower started for the tomb. They were both running, but the other follower ran faster than Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down and looked in and saw the strips of linen cloth lying there, but he did not go in. Then following him, Simon Peter arrived and went into the tomb and saw the strips of linen lying there. He also saw the cloth that had been around Jesus' head, which was folded up and laid in a different place from the strips of linen. Then the other follower, who had reached the tomb first, also went in. He saw and believed. (They did not yet understand from the Scriptures that Jesus must rise from the dead.) Then the followers went back home.

(John 20:11-12 NCV) But Mary stood outside the tomb, crying. As she was crying, she bent down and looked inside the tomb. She saw two angels dressed in white, sitting where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and one at the feet.

(John 20:13-18 NCV) They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" She answered, "They have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they have put him." When Mary said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know it was Jesus. Jesus asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Whom are you looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said to him, "Did you take him away, sir? Tell me where you put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." Mary turned toward Jesus and said in the Jewish language, "Rabboni." (This means Teacher.) Jesus said to her, "Don't hold on to me, because I have not yet gone up to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am going back to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and said to the followers, "I saw the Lord!" And she told them what Jesus had said to her.

(Luke 24:22-23 NCV) And today some women among us amazed us. Early this morning they went to the tomb, but they did not find his body there. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels who said that

Jesus was alive!

(Luke 24:24-27 NCV) So some of our group went to the tomb, too. They found it just as the women said, but they did not see Jesus." Then Jesus said to them, "You are foolish and slow to believe everything the prophets said. They said that the Christ must suffer these things before he enters his glory." Then starting with what Moses and all the prophets had said about him, Jesus began to explain everything that had been written about himself in the Scriptures.

(Luke 24:28-32 NCV) They came near the town of Emmaus, and Jesus acted as if he were going farther. But they begged him, "Stay with us, because it is late; it is almost night." So he went in to stay with them. When Jesus was at the table with them, he took some bread, gave thanks, divided it, and gave it to them. And then, they were allowed to recognize Jesus. But when they saw who he was, he disappeared. They said to each other, "It felt like a fire burning in us when Jesus talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us."

(Luke 24:33-35 NCV) So the two followers got up at once and went back to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven apostles and others gathered. They were saying, "The Lord really has risen from the dead! He showed himself to Simon." Then the two followers told what had happened on the road and how they recognized Jesus when he divided the bread.

(Luke 24:36-37 NCV) While the two followers were telling this, Jesus himself stood right in the middle of them and said, "Peace be with you." They were fearful and terrified and thought they were seeing a ghost.

(Luke 24:38-43 NCV) But Jesus said, "Why are you troubled? Why do you doubt what you see? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have a living body as you see I have." After Jesus said this, he showed them his hands and feet. While they still could not believe it because they were amazed and happy, Jesus said to them, "Do you have any food here?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish. While the followers watched, Jesus took the fish and ate it.

(Luke 24:44-47 NCV) He said to them, "Remember when I was with you before? I said that everything written about me must happen--everything in the law of Moses, the books of the prophets, and the Psalms." Then Jesus opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He said to them, "It is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the

third day and that a change of hearts and lives and forgiveness of sins would be preached in his name to all nations, starting at Jerusalem.

Angels Don't Know Everything

As great and powerful as the angels, the servants of the Lord are the are not all knowing like our God. They have limitations just like us humans. Their knowledge only extends as far as is permissible by our Lord. Angels do not know the day and hour of the Lord's return, but when he returns they will be with him.

(Mat 24:36 NCV) "No one knows when that day or time will be, not the angels in heaven, not even the Son. Only the Father knows.

(Mark 13:32 NCV) "No one knows when that day or time will be, not the angels in heaven, not even the Son. Only the Father knows.

Jesus Will Return With His Angels

(Mat 25:31 NCV) "The Son of Man will come again in his great glory, with all his angels. He will be King and sit on his great throne.

(Mark 8:38 NCV) The people who live now are living in a sinful and evil time. If people are ashamed of me and my teaching, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes with his Father's glory and with the holy angels."

(Luke 9:26 NCV) If people are ashamed of me and my teaching, then the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and with the glory of the Father and the holy angels.

(Luke 12:8-9 NCV) "I tell you, all those who stand before others and say they believe in me, I, the Son of Man, will say before the angels of God that they belong to me. But all who stand before others and say they do not believe in me, I will say before the angels of God that they do not belong to me.

Angels And The Resurrection of The Dead

(Mat 24:31 NCV) He will use a loud trumpet to send his angels all around the earth, and they will gather his chosen people from every part of the world.

(Mark 13:27 NCV) Then he will send his angels all around the earth to gather his chosen people from every part of the earth and from every part of heaven.

Angels And The End Of The World

(Mat 13:36-43 NIV) Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field." He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

(Mat 13:47-50 NIV) "Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

The Lake Of Fire Was Prepared For The Devil And His Angels

(Mat 25:41 NCV) "Then the King will say to those on his left, 'Go away from me. You will be punished. Go into the fire that burns forever that was prepared for the devil and his angels.

Jesus Teaches About Satan

Throughout his ministry Jesus teaches about angels. He also gives us information on Satan, the leader of the fallen angels and about demons.

Satan Fell From Heaven

(Luke 10:18 NCV) Jesus said, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

Satan Is A Liar And A Murderer

(John 8:44 NCV) You belong to your father the devil, and you want to do what he wants. He was a murderer from the beginning and was against the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he shows what he is really like, because he is a liar and the father of lies.

Satan And Sickness

(Luke 13:16 NCV) This woman that I healed, a daughter of Abraham, has been held by Satan for eighteen years. Surely it is not wrong for her to be freed from her sickness on a Sabbath day!"

Peter And Satan

(Mat 16:23 NCV) Then Jesus said to Peter, "Go away from me, Satan! You are not helping me! You don't care about the things of God, but only about the things people think are important."

(Mark 8:33 NCV) But Jesus turned and looked at his followers. Then he told Peter not to talk that way. He said, "Go away from me, Satan! You don't care about the things of God, but only about things people think are important."

(Luke 22:31-32 NCV) "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to test all of you as a farmer sifts his wheat. I have prayed that you will not lose your faith! Help your brothers be stronger when you come back to me."

Satan And Judas

(John 6:70 NCV) Then Jesus answered, "I chose all twelve of you, but one of you is a devil."

(Luke 22:3 NIV) Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve.

(John 13:2 NCV) Jesus and his followers were at the evening meal. The devil had already persuaded Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to turn against Jesus.

(John 13:27 NCV) As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered him. Jesus said to him, "The thing that you will do--do it quickly."

Satan And The Gospel

(Mat 13:39 NCV) And the enemy who planted the bad seed is the devil. The harvest time is the end of the world, and the workers who gather are God's angels.

(Mark 4:15 NCV) Sometimes the teaching falls on the road. This is like the people who hear the teaching of God, but Satan quickly comes and takes away the teaching that was planted in them.

(Luke 8:12 NCV) The seed that fell beside the road is like the people who hear God's teaching, but the devil comes and takes it away from them so they cannot believe it and be saved.

As we learned in chapter two of this study, demons are disembodied spirits who search for a home inside of a person or animal. A human being is their body of choice but animals and perhaps even other types of creatures will do when nothing else is available.

John The Baptist Is Accused Of Being Demon Possessed By The Pharisees

(Mat 11:18 NCV) John came and did not eat or drink like other people. So people say, 'He has a demon.'

(Luke 7:33 NCV) John the Baptist came and did not eat bread or drink wine, and you say, 'He has a demon in him.'

Strange behavior is associated with demon possession. In the time of John the Baptist some said he had a demon because he wore strange clothes and ate strange food.

(Mat 3:4 NIV) John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.

This was not true of course, John was a Nazarite from birth and followed old testament law in everything and went beyond it.

(Luke 7:28 NIV) I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

Jesus said that John the Baptist was the holiest man who ever lived. John was filled with the Holy Spirit even before he was born.

(Luke 1:41 NIV) When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Jesus Is Also Accused Of Having A Demon

(John 7:20 NCV) The people answered, "A demon has come into you. We are not trying to kill you."

(John 8:48-49 NCV) The Jews answered, "We say you are a Samaritan and have a demon in you. Are we not right?" Jesus answered, "I have no demon in me. I give honor to my Father, but you dishonor me.

(John 8:52 NCV) The Jews said to Jesus, "Now we know that you have a demon in you! Even Abraham and the prophets died. But you say, 'Whoever obeys my teaching will never die.'

(John 10:20 NCV) Many of them said, "A demon has come into him and made him crazy. Why listen to him?"

(John 10:21 NCV) But others said, "A man who is crazy with a demon does not say things like this. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

The Modus Operandi Of Evil Spirits

(Mat 12:43-45 NKJV) "When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. "Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. "Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation."

(Luke 11:24-26 NCV) "When an evil spirit comes out of a person, it travels through dry places, looking for a place to rest. But when it finds no place, it says, 'I will go back to the house I left.' And when it comes back, it finds

that house swept clean and made neat. Then the evil spirit goes out and brings seven other spirits more evil than it is, and they go in and live there. So the person has even more trouble than before."

People who claim to be infamous people from the past may not be completely untruthful. If they are demon possessed the demon in them may have indeed inhabited the bodies of many evil people during the past 6000 years. Saadam Hussein is reported to have thought that he was Nebuchadnezzar reincarnated, and it is possible that the same demon who possessed that king thousands of years ago in the same land area could still be active and be now possessing Saadam Hussein. Some people with multiple personality disorders may be possessed by many demons. This is not to say that every person with mental problems is demon possessed. There are many other causes for mental confusion besides demon possession.

Jesus Heals People From Many Types of Diseases Including Demon Possession

(Mat 4:24 NCV) The news about Jesus spread all over Syria, and people brought all the sick to him. They were suffering from different kinds of diseases. Some were in great pain, some had demons, some were epileptics, and some were paralyzed. Jesus healed all of them.

(Mat 8:16 NCV) That evening people brought to Jesus many who had demons. Jesus spoke and the demons left them, and he healed all the sick.

(Mat 12:22 NCV) Then some people brought to Jesus a man who was blind and could not talk, because he had a demon. Jesus healed the man so that he could talk and see.

(Luke 11:14 NKJV) And He was casting out a demon, and it was mute. So it was, when the demon had gone out, that the mute spoke; and the multitudes marveled.

(Mark 1:34 NCV) Jesus healed many who had different kinds of sicknesses, and he forced many demons to leave people. But he would not allow the demons to speak, because they knew who he was.

(Luke 4:41 NCV) Demons came out of many people, shouting, "You are the Son of God." But Jesus commanded the demons and would not allow them to speak, because they knew Jesus was the Christ.

(Mark 1:32-34 NIV) That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. The whole town gathered at the door, and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

(Mark 1:38-39 NIV) Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else--to the nearby villages--so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

(Luke 8:1-2 NIV) After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out;

(Luke 13:32 NCV) Jesus said to them, "Go tell that fox Herod, 'Today and tomorrow I am forcing demons out and healing people. Then, on the third day, I will reach my goal.'

Jesus Heals A Madman

(Mark 5:1-20 NCV) Jesus and his followers went to the other side of the lake to the area of the Gerasene people. When Jesus got out of the boat, instantly a man with an evil spirit came to him from the burial caves. This man lived in the caves, and no one could tie him up, not even with a chain. Many times people had used chains to tie the man's hands and feet, but he always broke them off. No one was strong enough to control him. Day and night he would wander around the burial caves and on the hills, screaming and cutting himself with stones. While Jesus was still far away, the man saw him, ran to him, and fell down before him. The man shouted in a loud voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I command you in God's name not to torture me!" He said this because Jesus was saying to him, "You evil spirit, come out of the man." Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He answered, "My name is Legion, because we are many spirits." He begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of that area. A large herd of pigs was feeding on a hill near there. The demons begged Jesus, "Send us into the pigs; let us go into them." So Jesus allowed them to do this. The evil spirits left the man and went into the pigs. Then the herd of pigs--about two thousand of them--

rushed down the hill into the lake and were drowned. The herdsmen ran away and went to the town and to the countryside, telling everyone about this. So people went out to see what had happened. They came to Jesus and saw the man who used to have the many evil spirits, sitting, clothed, and in his right mind. And they were frightened. The people who saw this told the others what had happened to the man who had the demons living in him, and they told about the pigs. As Jesus was getting back into the boat, the man who was freed from the demons begged to go with him. But Jesus would not let him. He said, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you and how he has had mercy on you." So the man left and began to tell the people in the Ten Towns about what Jesus had done for him. And everyone was amazed.

Jesus Heals A Demon Possessed Man In The Synagogue

(Mark 1:23-27 NCV) Just then, a man was there in the synagogue who had an evil spirit in him. He shouted, "Jesus of Nazareth! What do you want with us? Did you come to destroy us? I know who you are--God's Holy One!" Jesus commanded the evil spirit, "Be quiet! Come out of the man!" The evil spirit shook the man violently, gave a loud cry, and then came out of him. The people were so amazed they asked each other, "What is happening here? This man is teaching something new, and with authority. He even gives commands to evil spirits, and they obey him."

Jesus Heals A Woman's Demon Possessed Daughter

(Mat 15:22-28 NIV) A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession." Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel." The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said. He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs." "Yes, Lord," she said, "but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

Some Demons Only Come Out With Prayer or Prayer And Fasting

(Mark 9:14- NCV) When Jesus, Peter, James, and John came back to the

other followers, they saw a great crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. But as soon as the crowd saw Jesus, the people were surprised and ran to welcome him. Jesus asked, "What are you arguing about?" A man answered, "Teacher, I brought my son to you. He has an evil spirit in him that stops him from talking. When the spirit attacks him, it throws him on the ground. Then my son foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes very stiff. I asked your followers to force the evil spirit out, but they couldn't." Jesus answered, "You people have no faith. How long must I stay with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring the boy to me." So the followers brought him to Jesus. As soon as the evil spirit saw Jesus, it made the boy lose control of Himself, and he fell down and rolled on the ground, foaming at the mouth. Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has this been happening?" The father answered, "Since he was very young. The spirit often throws him into a fire or into water to kill him. If you can do anything for him, please have pity on us and help us." Jesus said to the father, "You said, 'If you can!' All things are possible for the one who believes." Immediately the father cried out, "I do believe! Help me to believe more!" When Jesus saw that a crowd was quickly gathering, he ordered the evil spirit, saying, "You spirit that makes people unable to hear or speak, I command you to come out of this boy and never enter him again!" The evil spirit screamed and caused the boy to fall on the ground again. Then the spirit came out. The boy looked as if he were dead, and many people said, "He is dead!" But Jesus took hold of the boy's hand and helped him to stand up. When Jesus went into the house, his followers began asking him privately, "Why couldn't we force that evil spirit out?" Jesus answered, "That kind of spirit can only be forced out by prayer."

(Mat 17:14-21 NASB) And when they came to the multitude, a man came up to Him, falling on his knees before Him, and saying, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is a lunatic, and is very ill; for he often falls into the fire, and often into the water. "And I brought him to Your disciples, and they could not cure him." Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me." And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. "However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."

Jesus Gives People Power To Heal And Cast Out Demons

(Luke 9:1 NCV) Jesus called the twelve apostles together and gave them power and authority over all demons and the ability to heal sicknesses.

(Mat 10:8 NCV) Heal the sick, raise the dead to life again, heal those who have skin diseases, and force demons out of people. I give you these powers freely, so help other people freely.

(Mark 3:13-15 NIV) Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. He appointed twelve--designating them apostles --that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons.

(Mark 6:6 & 7 & 12-13 NIV) Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits. They went out and preached that people should repent. They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

(Mark 9:38-41 NCV) Then John said, "Teacher, we saw someone using your name to force demons out of a person. We told him to stop, because he does not belong to our group." But Jesus said, "Don't stop him, because anyone who uses my name to do powerful things will not easily say evil things about me. Whoever is not against us is with us. I tell you the truth, whoever gives you a drink of water because you belong to the Christ will truly get his reward.

(Luke 9:49-50 NIV) "Master," said John, "we saw a man driving out demons in your name and we tried to stop him, because he is not one of us." "Do not stop him," Jesus said, "for whoever is not against you is for you."

(Mark 16:15-19 NIV) He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well." After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God.

Power From Jesus Over Demons Is Not Proof Of Salvation

(Luke 10:17 & 10-20 NIV) The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

(Mat 7:22-23 NCV) On the last day many people will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, we spoke for you, and through you we forced out demons and did many miracles.' Then I will tell them clearly, 'Get away from me, you who do evil. I never knew you.'

Like Baalam who prophesied by the spirit of the Lord about Israel and like the Jewish high priest who plotted to kill Jesus but prophesied about him unknowingly, doing miracles, prophesying and casting out demons in the Lord's name is not proof of salvation.

(John 11:49-53 NIV) Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, "You know nothing at all! You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish." He did not say this on his own, but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation, and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one. So from that day on they plotted to take his life.

(John 18:13-14 NCV) and led him first to Annas, the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who told the Jews that it would be better if one man died for all the people.

Jesus Teaches About Beelzebub And Demons

(Mat 9:32-34 NCV) When the two men were leaving, some people brought another man to Jesus. This man could not talk because he had a demon in him. After Jesus forced the demon to leave the man, he was able to speak. The crowd was amazed and said, "We have never seen anything like this in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "The prince of demons is the one that gives him power to force demons out."

(Mat 12:22-28 NIV) Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who

was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see. All the people were astonished and said, "Could this be the Son of David?" But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons." Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand? And if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

(Mark 3:23-26 NIV) So Jesus called them and spoke to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come.

(Mark 3:9-12 NIV) Because of the crowd he told his disciples to have a small boat ready for him, to keep the people from crowding him. For he had healed many, so that those with diseases were pushing forward to touch him. Whenever the evil spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." But he gave them strict orders not to tell who he was.

(Mark 3:20-30 NCV) Then Jesus went home, but again a crowd gathered. There were so many people that Jesus and his followers could not eat. When his family heard this, they went to get him because they thought he was out of his mind. But the teachers of the law from Jerusalem were saying, "Beelzebul is living inside him! He uses power from the ruler of demons to force demons out of people." So Jesus called the people together and taught them with stories. He said, "Satan will not force himself out of people. A kingdom that is divided cannot continue, and a family that is divided cannot continue. And if Satan is against himself and fights against his own people, he cannot continue; that is the end of Satan. No one can enter a strong person's house and steal his things unless he first ties up the strong person. Then he can steal things from the house. I tell you the truth, all sins that people do and all the things people say against God can be forgiven. But anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of a sin that continues forever." Jesus said this because the teachers of the law said that he had an evil spirit inside him.

(Luke 11:15-20 NIV) But some of them said, "By Beelzebub, the prince of demons, he is driving out demons." Others tested him by asking for a sign from heaven. Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: "Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall. If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand? I say this because you claim that I drive out demons by Beelzebub. Now if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your followers drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you.

The Gospel Of Nicodemus

The Gospel of Nicodemus, also known as the "Acts of Pilate," include in the narrative an account of Joseph of Arimathea being rescued from the Jewish rulers by angels and also the report of an interview with two of the people whom Jesus raised from the dead when he also arose. The story whether true or not is very ancient and was written early in the Christian era. If nothing else it gives us some interesting insight as to the opinion of some people at that time concerning the state of the dead and about Beelzebub whom scripture calls "The Prince of Demons."

Joseph Of Arimathea And Nicodemus Bury Jesus

(Mark 15:43 NIV) Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body.

(John 19:38-40 NIV) Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs.

The Jewish Leaders Are Angry With Joseph And Nicodemus

[Nicodemus 9:1 & 5-12 When the unjust Jews heard that Joseph had begged and buried the body of Jesus, they sought after Nicodemus; In like](#)

manner Joseph, (of Arimathea) when he came to the Jews, said to them Why are ye angry with me for desiring the body of Jesus of Pilate? Behold, I have put him in my tomb, and wrapped him up in clean linen, and put a stone at the door of the sepulchre: I have acted rightly towards him; but ye acted unjustly towards against that just person, In crucifying him, giving him vinegar to drink, crowning him with thorns, tearing his body with whips, and prayed down the guilt of his blood upon you. The Jews at the hearing of this were disquieted, and troubled; and they seized Joseph, and commanded him to be put in custody before the Sabbath, and kept there till the Sabbath was over. And they said to him, Make confession; for at this time it is not lawful to do thee any harm, till the first day of the week come. But we know that thou wilt not be thought worthy of a burial; but we will give thy flesh to the birds of the air, and the beasts of the earth. Joseph answered, That speech is like the speech of proud Goliath, who reproached the living God in speaking against David. But ye scribes and doctors know that God saith by the prophet, Vengeance is mine, and I will repay to you evil equal to that which ye have threatened to me. The God whom you have hanged upon the cross, is able to deliver me out of your hands. All your wickedness will return upon you. For the governor, when he washed his hands, said, I am clear from the blood of this just person. But ye answered and cried out, His blood be upon us and our children. According as ye have said, may ye perish for ever. The elders of the Jews hearing these words, were exceedingly enraged; and seizing Joseph, they put him into a chamber where there was no window; they fastened the door, and put a seal upon the lock;

Annas and Caiaphas Seek To Kill Joseph

Nicodemus 9:13-16 And Annas and Caiaphas placed a guard upon it, and took counsel with the priests and Levites, that they should all meet after the Sabbath, and they contrived to what death they should put Joseph. And on the Sabbath, the rulers of the synagogue, and the priests and the Levites, made a decree that all should be found in the synagogue on the first day of the week. And rising up early, all the multitude in the synagogue consulted by what death they should slay him. And when the Sanhedrin was sitting, Annas and Caiaphas, ordered Joseph to be brought forth with much indignity. And having opened the door, they found him not. And all the people were surprised, and struck with dismay, because they found the seals unbroken. and because Caiaphas had the key. And they no longer dared to lay hands upon those who had spoken before Pilate in Jesus' behalf.

Joseph Disappears From His Cell, Jesus Is Risen

Nicodemus 10:1-6 When all the assembly heard this, they admired and were astonished, because they found the same seal upon the lock of the chamber, and could not find Joseph. Then Annas and Caiaphas went forth, and while they were all admiring at Joseph's being gone, behold one of the soldiers, who kept the sepulchre of Jesus, spake in the assembly. That while they were guarding the sepulchre of Jesus, there was an earthquake; and we saw an angel of God roll away the stone of the sepulchre and sit upon it; And his countenance was like lightning and his garment like snow; and we became through fear like persons dead. And we heard an angel saying to the women at the sepulchre of Jesus, Do not fear; I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified; he is risen as he foretold. Come and see the place where he was laid; and go presently, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead, and he will go before you into Galilee; there ye shall see him as he told you.

Nicodemus 10:7-14 Then the Jews called together all the soldiers who kept the sepulchre of Jesus, and said to them, Who are those women, to whom the angel spake? Why did ye not seize them? The soldiers answered and said, We know not whom the women were; besides we became as dead persons through fear, and how could we seize those women? The Jews said to them, As the Lord liveth we do not believe you. The soldiers answering said to the Jews, when ye saw and heard Jesus working so many miracles, and did not believe him, how should ye believe us? Ye well said, As the Lord liveth, for the Lord truly does live. We have heard that ye shut up Joseph, who buried the body of Jesus, in a chamber, under a lock which was sealed, and when ye opened it, found him not there. Do ye then produce Joseph whom ye put under guard in the chamber, and we will produce Jesus whom we guarded in the sepulchre. The Jews answered and said, We will produce Joseph, do ye produce Jesus. But Joseph is in his own city of Arimathaea. The soldiers replied If Joseph be in Arimathaea, and Jesus in Galilee, we heard the angel inform the women.

The Jewish Leaders Are Concerned That Everyone Will Believe In Jesus

It is amazing that they (The Jewish Leaders) seem to take no thought for whether or not Jesus is the true Messiah. Their only concern seems to be the preservation of their religious system and their lofty positions within that system. Searching the scriptures to see if Jesus could indeed be the Christ never seems to be an option considered by the leadership. It is a case of

the blind leading the blind.

Nicodemus 10:15 The Jews hearing this, were afraid, and said among themselves, If by any means these things should become public, then every body will believe in Jesus.

The Soldiers Guarding The Tomb Are Paid For Their Silence Concerning The Resurrection

(Mat 28:12-15 NCV) Then the priests met with the older Jewish leaders and made a plan. They paid the soldiers a large amount of money and said to them, "Tell the people that Jesus' followers came during the night and stole the body while you were asleep. If the governor hears about this, we will satisfy him and save you from trouble." So the soldiers kept the money and did as they were told. And that story is still spread among the Jewish people even today.

Nicodemus 10:16-17 Then they gathered a large sum of money, and gave it to the soldiers, saying, Do ye tell the people that the disciples of Jesus came in the night when ye were asleep and stole away the body of Jesus; and if Pilate the governor should hear of this, we will satisfy him and secure you. The soldiers accordingly took the money, and said as they were instructed by the Jews, and their report was spread abroad among all the people.

Three Reliable Witnesses See Jesus Ascend to The Father

Nicodemus 10:18-26 But a certain priest Phinees, Ada a schoolmaster, and a Levite, named Ageus, they three came from Galilee to Jerusalem, and told the chief priests and all who were in the synagogues, saying, We have seen Jesus, whom ye crucified, talking with his eleven disciples, and sitting in the midst of them in Mount Olivet, and saying to them, Go forth into the whole world, preach the Gospel to all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and whosoever shall believe and be baptized, shall be saved. And when he had said these things to his disciples, we saw him ascending up to heaven. When the chief priests, and elders, and Levites heard these things, they said to these three men, Give glory to the God of Israel, and make confession to him, whether those things are true, which ye say ye have seen and heard. They answering said, As the Lord of our fathers liveth, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, according as we heard Jesus talking with his disciples, and according as we saw him ascending up to

heaven, so we have related the truth to you. And the three men farther answered, and said, adding these words, If we should not own the words which we heard Jesus speak, and that we saw him ascending into heaven, we should be guilty of sin. Then the chief priests immediately rose up, and holding the book of the law in their hands, conjured these men, saying, Ye shall no more here after declare those things which ye have spoke concerning Jesus. And they gave them a large sum of money, and sent other persons along with them, who should conduct them to their own country, that they might not by any means make any stay at Jerusalem.

Jesus And Joseph Are Sought

Nicodemus 11:1-5 Then Nicodemus arose, and said, Ye say right, O sons of Israel, ye have heard what those three men have sworn by the Law of God, who said, We have seen Jesus speaking with his disciples upon Mount Olivet, and we saw him ascending up to heaven. And the scripture teacheth us that the blessed prophet Elijah was taken up to heaven; and Elisha being asked by the sons of the prophets, Where is our father Elijah? He said to them, that he is taken up to heaven. And the sons of the prophets said to him, Perhaps the spirit hath carried him into one of the mountains of Israel, there perhaps we shall find him. And they besought Elisha, and he walked about with them three days, and they could not find him. And now hear me, O sons of Israel, and let us send men into the mountains of Israel, lest perhaps the spirit hath carried away Jesus, and there perhaps we shall find him, and be satisfied. And the counsel of Nicodemus pleased all the people; and they sent forth men who sought for Jesus, but could not find him: and they returning, said, We went all about, but could not find Jesus, but we have found Joseph in his city of Arimathea.

The Jewish Leaders Request An Interview With Joseph

Nicodemus 11:6-16 The rulers hearing this, and all the people, were glad, and praised the God of Israel, because Joseph was found, whom they had shut up in a chamber, and could not find. And when they had formed a large assembly, the chief priests said, By what means shall we bring Joseph to us to speak with him? And taking a piece of paper, they wrote to him, and said, Peace be with thee, and all thy family. We know that we have offended against God and thee. Be pleased to give a visit to us your fathers, for we were perfectly surprised at your escape from prison. We know that it was malicious counsel which we took against thee, and that the Lord took care of thee, and the Lord himself delivered thee from our designs. Peace be unto thee, Joseph, who art honourable among all the

people. And they chose seven of Joseph's friends, and said them, When ye come to Joseph, salute him in peace, and give him this letter. Accordingly, when the men came to Joseph, they did salute him in peace, and gave him the letter. And when Joseph had read it, he said, Blessed be the Lord God, who didst deliver me from the Israelites, that they could not shed my blood. Blessed be God, who has protected me under thy wings. And Joseph kissed them, and took them into his house. And on the morrow, Joseph mounted his ass, and went along with them to Jerusalem. And when all the Jews heard these things, they went out to meet him, and cried out saying, Peace attend thy coming hither, father Joseph. To which he answered, Prosperity from the Lord attend all the people. And they all kissed him; and Nicodemus took him to his house, having prepared a large entertainment.

Joseph Tells How He Was Rescued By Angels

Nicodemus 11:17-25 But on the morrow, being a preparation-day, Annas, and Caiaphas, and Nicodemus, said to Joseph, Make confession to the God of Israel, and answer to us all those questions which we shall ask thee; For we have been very much troubled, that thou didst bury the body of Jesus; and that when we had locked thee in a chamber, we could not find thee; and we have been afraid ever since, till this time of thy appearing among us. Tell us therefore before God, all that came to pass.

Then Joseph answering, said, Ye did indeed put me under confinement, on the day of preparation, till the morning. But while I was standing at prayer in the middle of the night, the house was surrounded with four angels; and I saw Jesus as the brightness of the sun, and fell down upon the earth for fear. But Jesus laying hold on my hand, lifted me from the ground, and the dew was then sprinkled upon me; but he, wiping my face, kissed me, and said unto me, Fear not, Joseph; look upon me, for it is I. Then I looked upon him, and said, Rabboni Elias! He answered me, I am not Elias, but Jesus of Nazareth, whose body thou didst bury. I said to him, Shew me the tomb in which I laid thee. Then Jesus, taking me by the hand, led me unto the place where I laid him, and shewed me the linen clothes, and napkin which I put round his head. Then I knew that it was Jesus, and worshipped him, and said, Blessed be he who cometh in the name of the Lord. Jesus again taking me by the hand, led me to Arimathaea to my own house, and said to me, Peace be to thee; but go not out of thy house till the fortieth day; but I must go to my disciples.

Nicodemus 12:1-5 When the chief priests and Levites heard all these things, they were astonished, and fell down with their faces on the ground as dead men, and crying out to one another said, What is this extraordinary

sign which is come to pass in Jerusalem? We know the father and mother of Jesus. And a certain Levite said, I know many of his relations, religious persons, who are wont to offer sacrifices and burnt - offerings to the God of Israel, in the temple, with prayers. And when the high priest Simeon took him up in his arms he said to him, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people: a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. Simeon in like manner blessed Mary the mother of Jesus, and said to her, I declare to thee concerning that child; He is appointed for the fall and rising again of many, and for a sign which shall be spoken against. Yea, a sword shall pierce through thine own soul also, and the thoughts of many hearts shall be revealed.

The Witnesses Testify They Saw Jesus Ascend To Heaven

Nicodemus 12:6-7 Then said all the Jews, Let us send to those three men, who said they saw him talking with his disciples in Mount Olivet. After this, they asked them what they had seen; who answered with one accord, In the presence of the God of Israel we affirm, that we plainly saw Jesus talking with his disciples in Mount Olivet, and ascending up to heaven.

Nicodemus 12:8-12 Then Annas and Caiaphas took them into separate places, and examined them separately; who unanimously confessed the truth, and said, they had seen Jesus. Then Annas and Caiaphas said "Our law saith, By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established."

But what have we said? The blessed Enoch pleased God, and was translated by the word of God; and the burying place of the blessed Moses is known. But Jesus was delivered to Pilate, whipped, crowned with thorns, spit upon, pierced with a spear, crucified, died upon the cross, and was buried, and his body the honorable Joseph buried in a new sepulchre, and he testifies that he saw him alive And besides these men have declared, that they saw him talking with his disciples in Mount Olivet, and ascending up to heaven.

Some Dead People Have Arose With Jesus

(Mat 27:52-53 NCV) The graves opened, and many of God's people who had died were raised from the dead. They came out of the graves after Jesus was raised from the dead and went into the holy city, where they appeared to many people.

Nicodemus 12:13-20 Then Joseph rising up, said to Annas and Caiaphas, Ye may be justly under a great surprise, that you have been told, that Jesus is alive, and gone up to heaven. It is indeed a thing really surprising, that he should not only himself arise from the dead, but also raise others from their graves, who have been seen by many in Jerusalem. And now hear me a little: We all knew the blessed Simeon, the high - priest, who took Jesus when an infant into his arms in the temple. This same Simeon had two sons of his own, and we were all present at their death and funeral. Go therefore and see their tombs, for these are open, and they are risen: and behold, they are in the city of Arimathaea, spending their time together in offices of devotion. Some, indeed, have heard the sound of their voices in prayer, but they will not discourse with any one, but they continue as mute as dead men. But come, let us go to them, and behave ourselves towards them with all due respect and caution. And if we can bring them to swear, perhaps they will tell us some of the mysteries of their resurrection. When the Jews heard this, they were exceedingly rejoiced.

The Testimony Of The Sons Of Simeon

Nicodemus 12:21-25 Then Annas and Caiaphas, Nicodemus, Joseph, and Gamaliel, went to Arimathaea, but did not find them in their graves; but walking about the city, they found them on their bended knees at their devotions: Then saluting them with all respect and deference to God, they brought them to the synagogue at Jerusalem: and having shut the gates, they took the book of the law of the Lord, And putting it in their hands, swore them by God Adonai, and the God of Israel, who spake to our fathers by the law and the prophets, saying, If ye believe him who raised you from the dead, to be Jesus, tell us what ye have seen, and how ye were raised from the dead. Charinus and Lenthius, the two sons of Simeon, trembled when they heard these things, and were disturbed, and groaned; and at the same time looking up to heaven, they made the sign of the cross with their fingers on their tongues, And immediately they spake, and said, Give each of us some paper, and we will write down for you all those things which we have seen. And they each sat down and wrote, saying,

Nicodemus 13:1-4 O Lord Jesus and Father, who art God, also the resurrection and life of the dead, give us leave to declare thy mysteries, which we saw after death, belonging to thy cross; for we are sworn by thy name. For thou hast forbid thy servants to declare the secret things, which were wrought by divine power in hell. When we were placed with our

fathers in the depth of hell, in the blackness of darkness, on a sudden there appeared the colour of the sun like gold, and a substantial purple - coloured light enlightening the place. Presently upon this, Adam, the father of all mankind, with all the patriarchs and prophets, rejoiced and said, That light is the author of everlasting light, who hath promised to translate us to everlasting light.

Isaiah The Prophet

Nicodemus 13:5-6 Then Isaiah the prophet cried out, and said, This is the light of the Father, and the Son of God, according to my prophecy, when I was alive upon earth. The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephtholim beyond Jordan, a people who walked in darkness, saw a great light; and to them who dwelled in the region of the shadow of death, light is arisen. And now he is come, and hath enlightened us who sat in death.

Simeon The Priest

Nicodemus 13:7-9 And while we were all rejoicing in the light which shone upon us, our father Simeon came among us, and congratulating all the company, said, Glorify the Lord Jesus Christ the Son of God. Whom I took up in my arms when an infant in the temple, and being moved by the Holy Ghost, said to him, and acknowledged, That now mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles and the glory of thy people Israel. All the saints who were in the depth of hell, hearing this, rejoiced the more.

John The Baptist

Nicodemus 13:10-14 Afterwards there came forth one like a little hermit, and was asked by every one, Who art thou? To which he replied, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, John the Baptist, and the prophet of the Most High, who went before his coming to prepare his way, to give the knowledge of salvation to his people for the forgiveness of sins. And I John, when I saw Jesus coming to me, being moved by the Holy Ghost, I said, Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. And I baptized him in the river Jordan, and saw the Holy Ghost descending upon him in the form of a dove, and heard a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And now while I was going before him, I came down hither to acquaint you, that the son of God will next visit us, and, as the day - spring from on high, will come to us, who are in darkness and the shadow of death.

Adam And Seth

Nicodemus 14:1-9 But when the first man our father Adam heard these things, that Jesus was baptized in Jordan, he called out to his son, Seth, and said, Declare to your sons, the patriarchs and prophets, all those things, which thou didst hear from Michael, the archangel, when I sent thee to the gates of Paradise, to entreat God that he would anoint my head when I was sick. Then Seth, coming near to the patriarchs and prophets, said, I Seth, when I was praying to God at the gates of Paradise, beheld the angel of the Lord, Michael appear unto me saying, I am sent unto thee from the Lord; I am appointed to preside over human bodies. I tell thee Seth, do not pray to God in tears, and entreat him for the oil of the tree of mercy wherewith to anoint thy father Adam for his head - ache; Because thou canst not by any means obtain it till the last day and times, namely, till five thousand and five hundred years be past. (Note: Might this have occurred in the year 500 after creation, making 6000 years the total?)

Then will Christ, the most merciful Son of God, come on earth to raise again the human body of Adam, and at the same time to raise the bodies of the dead, and when he cometh he will be baptized in Jordan: Then with the oil of his mercy he will anoint all those who believe on him; and the oil of his mercy will continue to future generations, for those who shall be born of the water and the Holy Ghost unto eternal life. And when at that time the most merciful Son of God, Christ Jesus, shall come down on earth, he will introduce our father Adam into Paradise, to the tree of mercy. When all the patriarchs and prophets heard all these things from Seth, they rejoiced more.

Satan And Beelzebub Are Perplexed As Jesus Frees The Righteous From Sheol

(Mat 12:24 NIV) But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons."

Nicodemus 15:1-3 While all the saints were rejoicing, behold Satan, the prince and captain of death, said to the prince of hell, Prepare to receive Jesus of Nazareth himself, who boasted that he was the Son of God, and yet was a man afraid of death, and said, My soul is sorrowful even to death. Besides he did many injuries to me and to many others; for those whom I made blind and lame and those also whom I tormented with several devils, he cured by his word; yea, and those whom I brought dead to thee, he by

force takes away from thee.

Nicodemus 15:4-7 To this the prince of hell replied to Satan, Who is that so powerful prince, and yet a man who is afraid of death? For all the potentates of the earth are subject to my power, whom thou broughtest to subjection by thy power. But if he be so powerful in his human nature, I affirm to thee for truth, that he is almighty in his divine nature, and no man can resist his power. When therefore he said he was afraid of death, he designed to ensnare thee, and unhappy it will be to thee for everlasting ages.

Nicodemus 15:8-10 Then Satan replying, said to the prince of hell, Why didst thou express a doubt, and wast afraid to receive that Jesus of Nazareth, both thy adversary and mine? As for me, I tempted him and stirred up my old people the Jews with zeal and anger against him? I sharpened the spear for his suffering; I mixed the gall and vinegar, and commanded that he should drink it; I prepared the cross to crucify him, and the nails to pierce through his hands and feet; and now his death is near at hand, I will bring him hither, subject both to thee and me.

Nicodemus 15:11-14 Then the prince of hell answering, said, Thou saidst to me just now, that he took away the dead from me by force. They who have been kept here till they should live again upon earth, were taken away hence, not by their own power, but by prayers made to God, and their almighty God took them from me. Who then is that Jesus of Nazareth that by his word bath taken away the dead from me without prayer to God? 14 Perhaps it is the same who took away from me Lazarus, after he had been four days dead, and did both stink and was rotten, and of whom I had possession as a dead person, yet he brought him to life again by his power.

Nicodemus 15:15-20 Satan answering, replied to the prince of hell, It is the very same person, Jesus of Nazareth. Which when the prince of hell heard, he said to him, I adjure thee by the powers which belong to thee and me, that thou bring him not to me. For when I heard of the power of his word, I trembled for fear, and all my impious company were at the same time disturbed; And we were not able to detain Lazarus, but he gave himself a shake, and with all the signs of malice, he immediately went away from us; and the very earth, in which the dead body of Lazarus was lodged, presently turned him out alive. And I know now that he is Almighty God who could perform such things, who is mighty in his dominion, and mighty in his human nature, who is the Saviour of mankind. Bring not therefore this person hither, for he will set at liberty all those whom I hold in prison under

unbelief, and bound with the fetters of their sins, and will conduct them to everlasting life.

Nicodemus 16:1-4 And while Satan and the prince of hell were discoursing thus to each other, on a sudden there was a voice as of thunder and the rushing of winds, saying, Lift up your gates, O ye princes; and be ye lift up, O everlasting gates, and the King of Glory shall come in. When the prince of hell heard this, he said to Satan, Depart from me, and begone out of my habitations; if thou art a powerful warrior, fight with the King of Glory. But what hast thou to do with him? And he cast him forth from his habitations. And the prince said to his impious officers, Shut the brass gates of cruelty, and make them fast with iron bars, and fight courageously, lest we be taken captives.

Nicodemus 16:5-13 But when all the company of the saints heard this they spake with a loud voice of anger to the prince of hell: Open thy gates that the King of Glory may come in. And the divine prophet David, cried out saying, Did not I when on earth truly prophesy and say, O that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men. For he hath broken the gates of brass, and cut the bars of iron in sunder. He hath taken them because of their iniquity, and because of their unrighteousness they are afflicted. After this another prophet, namely, holy Isaiah, spake in like manner to all the saints, did not I rightly prophesy to you when I was alive on earth? The dead men shall live, and they shall rise again who are in their graves, an they shall rejoice who are in earth; for the dew which is from the Lord shall bring deliverance to them. And I said in another place, O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting? When all the saints heard these things spoken by Isaiah, they said to the prince of hell, Open now thy gates, and take away thine iron bars; for thou wilt now be bound, and have no power. Then there was a great voice, as of the sound of thunder saying, Lift up your gates, O princes; and be ye lifted up, ye gates of hell, and the King of Glory will enter in.

Nicodemus 16:14-19 The prince of hell perceiving the same voice repeated, cried out as though he had been ignorant, Who is that King of Glory? David replied to the prince of hell, and said, I understand the words of that voice, because I spake them by his spirit. And now, as I have above said, I say unto thee, the Lord strong and powerful, the Lord mighty in battle: he is the King of Glory, and he is the Lord in heaven and in earth; He hath looked down to hear the groans of the prisoners, and to set loose those that are appointed to death. And now, thou filthy and stinking prince

of hell, open thy gates, that the King of Glory may enter in; for he is the Lord of heaven and earth. While David was saying this, the mighty Lord appeared in the form of a man, and enlightened those places which had ever before been in darkness, And broke asunder the fetters which before could not be broken; and with his invincible power visited those who sate in the deep darkness by iniquity, and the shadow of death by sin.

Nicodemus 17:1-8 Death and the devils in great horror at Christ's coming. He tramples on death, seizes the prince of hell, and takes Adam with him to heaven.) Impious death and her cruel officers hearing these things, were seized with fear in their several kingdoms, when they saw the clearness of the light,

And Christ himself on a sudden appearing in their habitations; they cried out therefore, and said, We are bound by thee; thou seemest to intend our confusion before the Lord. Who art thou, who hast no sign of corruption, but that bright appearance which is a full proof of thy greatness, of which yet thou seemest to take no notice? Who art thou, so powerful and so weak, so great and so little, a mean and yet a soldier of the first rank, who can command in the form of a servant as a common soldier? The King of Glory, dead and alive, though once slain upon the cross? Who layest dead in the grave, and art come down alive to us, and in thy death all the creatures trembled, and all the stars were moved, and now hast thou thy liberty among the dead, and givest disturbance to our legions? Who art thou, who dost release the captives that were held in chains by original sin, and bringest them into their former liberty? Who art thou, who dost spread so glorious and divine a light over those who were made blind by the darkness of sin?

Nicodemus 17:9-13 In like manner all the legions of devils were seized with the like horror, and with the most submissive fear cried out, and said, Whence comes it, O thou Jesus Christ, that thou art a man so powerful and glorious in majesty, so bright as to have no spot, and so pure as to have no crime? For that lower world of earth, which was ever till now subject to us, and from whence we received tribute, never sent us such a dead man before, never sent such presents as these to the princes of hell. Who therefore art thou, who with such courage enterest among our abodes, and art not only not afraid to threaten us with the greatest punishments, but also endeavourest to rescue all others from the chains in which we hold them? Perhaps thou art that Jesus, of whom Satan just now spoke to our prince, that by the death of the cross thou wert about to receive the power of death. Then the King of Glory trampling upon death, seized the prince of hell, deprived him of all his power, and took our earthly father Adam with

him to his glory.

(1 Cor 2:8 KJV) Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Nicodemus 18:1-13 Then the prince of hell took Satan, and with great indignation said to him, O thou prince of destruction, author of Beelzebub's defeat and banishment, the scorn of God's angels and loathed by all righteous persons! What inclined thee to act thus? Thou wouldst crucify the King of Glory, and by his destruction, hast made us promises of very large advantages, but as a fool wert ignorant of what thou wast about. For behold now that Jesus of Nazareth, with the brightness of his glorious divinity, puts to flight all the horrid powers of darkness and death; He has broke down our prisons from top to bottom, dismissed all the captives, released all who were bound, and all who were wont formerly to groan under the weight of their torments have now insulted us, and we are like to be defeated by their prayers. Our impious dominions are subdued, and no part of mankind is now left in our subjection, but on the other hand, they all boldly defy us; Though, before, the dead never durst behave themselves insolently towards us, nor, being prisoners, could ever on any occasion be merry. O Satan, thou prince of all the wicked, father of the impious and abandoned, why wouldst thou attempt this exploit, seeing our prisoners were hitherto always without the least hopes of salvation and life? But now there is not one of them does ever groan, nor is there the least appearance of a tear in any of their faces. O prince Satan, thou great keeper of the infernal regions, all thy advantages which thou didst acquire by the forbidden tree, and the loss of Paradise, thou hast now lost by the wood of the cross; And thy happiness all then expired, when thou didst crucify Jesus Christ the King of Glory. Thou hast acted against thine own interest and mine, as thou wilt presently perceive by those large torments and infinite punishments which thou art about to suffer. O Satan, prince of all evil, author of death, and source of all pride, thou shouldest first have inquired into the evil crimes of Jesus of Nazareth, and then thou wouldst have found that he was guilty of no fault worthy of death. Why didst thou venture, without either reason or justice to crucify him, and hast brought down to our regions a person innocent and righteous, and thereby hast lost all the sinners, impious and unrighteous persons in the whole world?

Nicodemus 18:14 While the prince of hell was thus speaking to Satan, the King of Glory said to Beelzebub, the prince of hell, Satan, the prince shall be subject to thy dominion for ever, in the room of Adam and his righteous sons, who are mine.

According to Nicodemus Jesus expanded Beelzebub's authority to include the area of Sheol that Adam and all the saved were now vacating. In that place Beelzebub would have dominion over Satan whenever Satan desired to visit the realm of the unsaved dead.

Jesus Enters Sheol

(Acts 2:25-27 NKJV) "For David says concerning Him: 'I foresaw the LORD always before my face, For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

Nicodemus 10:1-7 Then Jesus stretched forth his hand, and said, Come to me, all ye my saints, who were created in my image, who were condemned by the tree of forbidden fruit, and by the devil and death; Live now by the wood of my cross; the devil, the prince of this world, is overcome, and death is conquered. Then presently all the saints were joined together under the hand of the most high God; and the Lord Jesus laid hold on Adam's hand and said to him, Peace be to thee, and all thy righteous posterity, which is mine. Then Adam, casting himself at the feet of Jesus, addressed himself to him, with tears, in humble language, and a loud voice, saying, I will extol thee, O Lord, for thou hast lifted me up, and hast not made my foes to rejoice over me. O Lord my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me. O Lord thou hast brought up my soul from the grave; thou hast kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit.

Nicodemus 19:7-12 Sing unto the Lord, all ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness. For his anger endureth but for a moment; in his favour is life. In like manner all the saints, prostrate at the feet of Jesus, said with one voice, Thou art come, O Redeemer of the world, and hast actually accomplished all things, which thou didst foretell by the law and thy holy prophets. Thou hast redeemed the living by thy cross, and art come down to us, that by the death of the cross thou mightest deliver us from hell, and by thy power from death. O Lord, as thou hast put the ensigns of thy glory in heaven, and hast set up the sign of thy redemption, even thy cross on earth! so, Lord, set the sign of the victory of thy cross in hell, that death may have dominion no longer. Then the Lord stretching forth his hand, made the sign of the cross upon Adam, and upon all his saints. And taking hold of Adam by his right hand, he ascended from hell, and all the saints of God followed him.

David And The Prophets

Nicodemus 19:13-18 Then the royal prophet David boldly cried, and said, O sing unto the Lord a new song, for he hath done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have gotten him the victory.

The Lord hath made known his salvation, his righteousness hath he openly shewn in the sight of the heathen. And the whole multitude of saints answered, saying, This honour have all his saints, Amen, Praise ye the Lord. Afterwards, the prophet Habakkuk cried out, and said, Thou wentest forth for the salvation of thy people, even for the salvation of thy people. And all the saints said, Blessed is he who cometh in the name of the Lord; for the Lord hath enlightened us. This is our God for ever and ever; he shall reign over us to everlasting ages, Amen. In like manner all the prophets spake the sacred things of his praise, and followed the Lord.

Enoch, Elijah And Antichrist

Nicodemus 20:1-4 Then the Lord holding Adam by the hand, delivered him to Michael the archangel; and he led them into Paradise, filled with mercy and glory; And two very ancient men met them, and were asked by the saints, Who are ye, who have not yet been with us in hell, and have had your bodies placed in Paradise? One of them answering, said, I am Enoch, who was translated by the word of God : and this man who is with me, is Elijah the Tishbite, who was translated in a fiery chariot. Here we have hitherto been and have not tasted death, but are now about to return at the coming of Antichrist, being armed with divine signs and miracles, to engage with him in battle, and to be slain by him at Jerusalem, and to be taken up alive again into the clouds, after three days and a half.

The Thief On The Cross

Nicodemus 20:5-14 And while the holy Enoch and Elias were relating this, behold there came another man in a miserable figure carrying the sign of the cross upon his shoulders. And when all the saints saw him, they said to him, Who art thou? For thy countenance is like a thief's; and why dost thou carry a cross upon thy shoulders? To which he answering, said, Ye say right, for I was a thief, who committed all sorts of wickedness upon earth. And the Jews crucified me with Jesus; and I observed the surprising things which happened in the creation at the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus. And I believed him to be the Creator of all things, and the Almighty King; and I prayed to him, saying, Lord, remember me, when thou comest into thy

kingdom. He presently regarded my supplication, and said to me, Verily I say unto thee, this day thou shalt be with me in Paradise. And he gave me this sign of the cross saying, Carry this, and go to Paradise; and if the angel who is the guard of Paradise will not admit thee, shew him the sign of the cross, and say unto him: Jesus Christ who is now crucified, hath sent me hither to thee. When I did this, and told the angel who is the guard of Paradise all these things, and he heard them, he presently opened the gates, introduced me, and placed me on the right - hand In Paradise, Saying, Stay here a little time, till Adam, the father of all mankind, shall enter in, with all his sons, who are the holy and righteous servants of Jesus Christ, who was crucified. When they heard all this account from the thief, all the patriarchs said with one voice, Blessed be thou, O Almighty God, the Father of everlasting goodness, and the Father of mercies, who hast shewn such favour to those who were sinners against him, and hast brought them to the mercy of Paradise, and hast placed them amidst thy large and spiritual provisions, in a spiritual and holy life. Amen.

The Narrative Ends

Nicodemus 21:1-6 These are the divine and sacred mysteries which we saw and heard. I, Charinus and Lenthius are not allowed to declare the other mysteries of God, as the archangel Michael ordered us, Saying, ye shall go with my brethren to Jerusalem, and shall continue in prayers, declaring and glorifying the resurrection of Jesus Christ, seeing he hath raised you from the dead at the same time with himself.

3 And ye shall not talk with any man, but sit as dumb persons till the time come when the Lord will allow you to relate the mysteries of his divinity. The archangel Michael farther commanded us to go beyond Jordan, to an excellent and fat country, where there are many who rose from the dead along with us for the proof of the resurrection of Christ For we have only three days allowed us from the dead, who arose to celebrate the Passover of our Lord with our parents, and to bear our testimony for Christ the Lord, and we have been baptized in the holy river of Jordan. And now they are not seen by any one. This is as much as God allowed us to relate to you; give ye therefore praise and honour to him, and repent, and he will have mercy upon you. Peace be to you from the Lord God Jesus Christ, and the Saviour of us all. Amen, Amen, Amen.

Pilate Places This Account In The Hall Of Records

Nicodemus 21:7-9 And after they had made an end of writing and had wrote in two distinct pieces of paper, Charinus gave what he wrote into the

hands of Annas, and Caiaphas, and Gamaliel. Lenthius likewise gave what he wrote into the hands of Nicodemus and Joseph; and immediately they were changed into exceeding white forms and were seen no more. But what they had wrote was found perfectly to agree, the one not containing one letter more or less than the other.

Nicodemus 21:10-13 When all the assembly of the Jews heard all these surprising relations of Charinus and Lenthius, they said to each other, Truly all these things were wrought by God, and blessed be the Lord Jesus for ever and ever, Amen. And they went about with great concern, and fear, and trembling, and smote upon their breasts and went away every one to his home. But immediately all these things which were related by the Jews in their synagogues concerning Jesus, were presently told by Joseph and Nicodemus to the governor. And Pilate wrote down all these transactions, and placed all these accounts in the public records of his hall.

Chapter 19: Angels In The Acts And The Letters

We have seen in the previous chapter how prominent angels, Satan and demons were during the time Jesus was on earth in a human body. From his birth to his death there was spiritual warfare going on behind the scenes. That warfare continues as the Apostles begin to do as Jesus prophesied, that is preach the gospel throughout the world, beginning at Jerusalem.

Two Angels Tell The Apostles Christ Will Return In The Same Manner As He Departed

(Acts 1:6-8 NCV) When the apostles were all together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, are you now going to give the kingdom back to Israel?" Jesus said to them, "The Father is the only One who has the authority to decide dates and times. These things are not for you to know. But when the Holy Spirit comes to you, you will receive power. You will be my witnesses--in Jerusalem, in all of Judea, in Samaria, and in every part of the world."

(Luke 24:47 NIV) and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

(Acts 1:9-11 NCV) After he said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud hid him from their sight. As he was going, they were looking into the sky. Suddenly, two men wearing white clothes stood beside them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus, whom you saw taken up from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you saw him go."

Satan and his minions were unsuccessful in preventing Jesus from paying the price for mankind's sins. Now the only course of action left to them is to try to prevent people from finding out about it in order to prevent them from hearing the good news and being saved. When they cannot prevent someone from hearing the gospel then they attempt to prevent the person from making a decision for Christ.

That Satan and his followers are a beaten foe is a foregone conclusion, but they still have a little time to deceive as many of the sons of men as is possible for them into rejecting the free gift of salvation offered through faith in Jesus Christ.

The rest of this study of angels will primarily show us what happened in this continuing battle at the beginning of the church age and how it will all end. On an optimistic note so you can start rejoicing now I will tell you, we win! (Those of us who have received Christ as our Lord and Savior)

The Church Age Begins

(Acts 2:1-4 NIV) When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

(Acts 2:12-18 & 21 NIV) Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine." Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: "'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

(Acts 2:37-39 NIV) When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call."

(Acts 3:1-8 NIV) One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer--at three in the afternoon. Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name

of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.

(Acts 4:36-37 NIV) Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

Satan Is Active In The Book Of Acts Inspiring Pride And Greed In Ananias And Sapphira

(Acts 5:1-11 NIV) Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet. Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God." When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. Then the young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him. About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?" "Yes," she said, "that is the price." Peter said to her, "How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also." At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

Peter And The Apostles Performed Healings And Cast Out Demons

(Acts 5:12 NIV) The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade.

(Acts 5:15-16 NIV) As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. Crowds gathered also from the towns

around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed.

The Apostles Are Jailed And Then Rescued By An Angel

(Acts 5:17-18 NIV) Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail.

(Acts 5:19-20 NIV) But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. "Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people the full message of this new life."

Their release from jail by an angel was not just for their personal benefit. They were released by God's command to preach the gospel.

Stephen's Face Shines Like An Angels As He Is About To Be Stoned

(Acts 6:8 NIV) Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people.

(Acts 6:15 NIV) All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Stephen Tells About Moses And The Angels

The Sanhedrin was questioning Stephen about the message he was preaching and Stephen mentioned Moses and the angel at the burning bush.

(Acts 7:30-34 NIV) "After forty years had passed, an angel appeared to Moses in the flames of a burning bush in the desert near Mount Sinai. When he saw this, he was amazed at the sight. As he went over to look more closely, he heard the Lord's voice: 'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.' Moses trembled with fear and did not dare to look. "Then the Lord said to him, 'Take off your sandals; the place where you are standing is holy ground. I have indeed seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their groaning and have come down to set them free. Now come, I will send you back to Egypt.'

(Acts 7:35 NIV) "This is the same Moses whom they had rejected with the

words, 'Who made you ruler and judge?' He was sent to be their ruler and deliverer by God himself, through the angel who appeared to him in the bush.

(Acts 7:37-38 NIV) "This is that Moses who told the Israelites, 'God will send you a prophet like me from your own people.' He was in the assembly in the desert, with the angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers; and he received living words to pass on to us.

(Acts 7:39 NIV) "But our fathers refused to obey him. Instead, they rejected him and in their hearts turned back to Egypt.

The Law Was Put Into Effect By God's Command Through Angels

(Acts 7:51-53 NIV) "You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit! Was there ever a prophet your fathers did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him--you who have received the law that was put into effect through angels but have not obeyed it."

(Acts 7:54-56 NIV) When they heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

(Acts 7:57-60 NIV) At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

Saul (Paul) Approved The Murder Of Stephen

(Acts 8:1-3 NIV) And Saul was there, giving approval to his death. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. But Saul began to

destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.

The Conversion Of Saul (Paul)

(Acts 9:1-2 NIV) Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

(Acts 9:3-6 NIV) As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

(Acts 9:7-9 NIV) The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

(Acts 9:10-16 NIV) In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight." "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

(Acts 9:17-19 NIV) Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord--Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here--has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus.

(Acts 9:20-22 NIV) At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?" Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.

Paul's Commission From God, To Preach The Gospel And Rescue People From Satan

(Acts 26:12-18 NIV) "On one of these journeys I was going to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. About noon, O king, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, blazing around me and my companions. We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' "Then I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' "'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' the Lord replied. 'Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you. I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

Satan Is A Beaten Foe

(Rom 16:20 NCV) The God who brings peace will soon defeat Satan and give you power over him. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

(James 4:7 NCV) So give yourselves completely to God. Stand against the devil, and the devil will run from you.

Even Though Satan has been defeated through Christ we do not see the full results of it yet. It is similar to a man from the United States who has received an inheritance of a mansion in England. He has received the papers stating that he is now the owner of it but has not actually went to England and physically took possession of it yet. The defeat of Satan is a fact, but is still prowling about until he is cast into the lake of fire at the end of the millennium.

Even Though Satan Is A Defeated Foe We Must Respect his Position But Not His Person

(Jude 1:9 NIV) But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

God Uses Satan To Accomplish His Will

(1 Cor 5:5 NCV) then hand this man over to Satan. So his sinful self will be destroyed, and his spirit will be saved on the day of the Lord.

(1 Tim 1:20 NCV) Hymenaeus and Alexander have done that, and I have given them to Satan so they will learn not to speak against God.

How it must irritate Satan to have God thwart his evil plans and work good out of them. If Satan had known that inciting the Jewish leaders to crucify the Lord was going to result in the salvation of mankind he never would have done it.

Even today God uses Satan's attacks on Christians to drive those that have fallen into sin to repentance.

Satan Was Permitted To Afflict Paul To Keep Paul From Becoming Conceited

(2 Cor 12:7-9 NIV) To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

(2 Cor 12:7 NCV) So that I would not become too proud of the wonderful things that were shown to me, a painful physical problem was given to me. This problem was a messenger from Satan, sent to beat me and keep me from being too proud.

Resist The Temptations Of Satan By Following God's Commands

(1 Cor 7:5 NCV) Do not refuse to give your bodies to each other, unless you both agree to stay away from sexual relations for a time so you can

give your time to prayer. Then come together again so Satan cannot tempt you because of a lack of self-control.

(Eph 4:27 & 6:11 NCV) Do not give the devil a way to defeat you. Put on the full armor of God so that you can fight against the devil's evil tricks.

(2 Cor 2:11 NIV) in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

(James 4:7 NIV) Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you

Satan Attempts To Hinder The Preaching Of The Gospel

(1 Th 2:17-18 NKJV) But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavored more eagerly to see your face with great desire. Therefore we wanted to come to you; even I, Paul, time and again; but Satan hindered us.

Those Who Do Not Accept The Gospel Are Blinded By Satan

(2 Cor 4:4 NCV) The devil who rules this world has blinded the minds of those who do not believe. They cannot see the light of the Good News--the Good News about the glory of Christ, who is exactly like God.

(1 Tim 5:15 NCV) But some have already turned away to follow Satan.

When A Person Does Accept The Gospel Satan Attempts To Hinder Spiritual Growth

(1 Th 3:5 NCV) Because of this, when I could wait no longer, I sent Timothy to you so I could learn about your faith. I was afraid the devil had tempted you, and then our hard work would have been wasted.

(1 Pet 5:8 NKJV) Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

A Church Leader Should Not Be A New Convert Or Satan May Fill Him With Pride

(1 Tim 3:6-7 NCV) But an elder must not be a new believer, or he might be too proud of himself and be judged guilty just as the devil was. An elder

must also have the respect of people who are not in the church so he will not be criticized by others and caught in the devil's trap.

A Church Leader Should Not Be A Quarrelsome Person

(2 Tim 2:24-26 NIV) And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

Greater Is He That Is In Us (The Holy Spirit) Than he That Is In The World (Satan)

(1 John 4:4 NCV) My dear children, you belong to God and have defeated them; because God's Spirit, who is in you, is greater than the devil, who is in the world.

Jesus Came To Destroy The Works Of The Devil

(Heb 2:14 NCV) Since these children are people with physical bodies, Jesus himself became like them. He did this so that, by dying, he could destroy the one who has the power of death--the devil--

(1 John 3:8 NCV) The devil has been sinning since the beginning, so anyone who continues to sin belongs to the devil. The Son of God came for this purpose: to destroy the devil's work.

We All Must Make A Choice, To Serve God Or Serve Satan

The Epistle of Barnabas

18:1-5 But let us pass on to another lesson and teaching. There are two ways of teaching and of power, the one of light and the other of darkness; and there is a great difference between the two ways. For on the one are stationed the light-giving angels of God, on the other the angels of Satan. And the one is Lord from all eternity and unto all eternity, whereas the other is Lord of the season of iniquity that now is.

(1 Cor 10:21 NCV) You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons also. You cannot share in the Lord's table and the table of demons.

(2 Cor 6:15 NCV) How can Christ and Belial, the devil, have any agreement? What can a believer have together with a nonbeliever?

(1 Tim 4:1 NCV) Now the Holy Spirit clearly says that in the later times some people will stop believing the faith. They will follow spirits that lie and teachings of demons.

(1 John 3:10 NCV) So we can see who God's children are and who the devil's children are: Those who do not do what is right are not God's children, and those who do not love their brothers and sisters are not God's children.

Jannes And Jambres

(2 Tim 3:8-9 NCV) Just as Jannes and Jambres were against Moses, these people are against the truth. Their thinking has been ruined, and they have failed in trying to follow the faith. But they will not be successful in what they do, because as with Jannes and Jambres, everyone will see that they are foolish.

(James 3:15 NCV) That kind of "wisdom" does not come from God but from the world. It is not spiritual; it is from the devil.

Nicodemus 5:5-6 Thus Moses, when he was sent by God into Egypt, wrought the miracles which God commanded him, before Pharaoh king of Egypt; and though the magicians of that country, Jannes and Jambres, wrought by their magic the same miracles which Moses did, yet they could not work all which he did; And the miracles which the magicians wrought, were not of God, as ye know, O Scribes and Pharisees; but they who wrought them perished, and all who believed them. And now let this man go; because the very miracles for which ye accuse him, are from God; and he is not worthy of death.

Simon The Sorcerer

In the times of the Apostles sorcery was still popular, just as it was in old testament times and is yet today.

(Acts 8:9-11 NIV) Now for some time a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. He boasted that he was someone great, and all the people, both high and low, gave him

their attention and exclaimed, "This man is the divine power known as the Great Power." They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his magic.

(Acts 8:12-13 NIV) But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.

(Acts 8:14-19 NIV) When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

Even though Simon believed the gospel, like Balaam, he was more concerned with making money from it than serving Christ out of a pure heart. The term "simony" meaning being involved in religion for the purpose of making money comes from this mans name.

(Acts 8:20-23 NIV) Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin."

(Acts 8:24 NIV) Then Simon answered, "Pray to the Lord for me so that nothing you have said may happen to me."

Paul And Barnabas Meet Another Sorcerer

(Acts 12:25 NIV) When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, taking with them John, also called Mark.

(Acts 13:1-4 NIV) In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who

had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus.

(Acts 13:6-7 NIV) They traveled through the whole island until they came to Paphos. There they met a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus, who was an attendant of the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. The proconsul, an intelligent man, sent for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God.

Elymas The Sorcerer Is Struck With Blindness

(Acts 13:8-11 NIV) But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith. Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, "You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind, and for a time you will be unable to see the light of the sun." Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand.

(Acts 13:12 NIV) When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord.

Although the scriptures do not specifically say so, the blindness of the sorcerer was probably inflicted upon Elymas by an angel, as was the case with Lot and the men of Sodom. Once again the power of God is shown to be superior to the power of Satan, his fallen angels and his demons.

Philip Casts Out Evil Spirits

(Acts 8:5-8 NIV) Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said. With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. So there was great joy in that city.

Paul Casts Out Evil Spirits And Performs Miracles

Through The Power Of God

(Acts 19:11-12 NIV) God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.

Unsaved People Try Casting Out Demons In Jesus Name

(Acts 19:13-16 NIV) Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out." Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. One day the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.

(Acts 19:17-18 NIV) When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds.

(Acts 19:19 NIV) A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas.

(Acts 19:20 NIV) In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.

An Angel Gives Philip Direction

(Acts 8:26 NIV) Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road--the desert road--that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza."

(Acts 8:27-31 NIV) So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it." Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up

and sit with him.

(Acts 8:32-35 NIV) The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture: "He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

(Acts 8:37-40 NKJV) Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea.

An Angel Appears To Cornelius In A Vision

(Acts 10:1-2 NIV) At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly.

(Acts 10:3-4 NIV) One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, "Cornelius!" Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked. The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God.

(Acts 10:5-8 NIV) Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea." When the angel who spoke to him had gone, Cornelius called two of his servants and a devout soldier who was one of his attendants. He told them everything that had happened and sent them to Joppa.

(Acts 10:9-16 NIV) About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was

being prepared, he fell into a trance. He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles of the earth and birds of the air. Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat." "Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean." The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean." This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

(Acts 10:17-21 NIV) While Peter was wondering about the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius found out where Simon's house was and stopped at the gate. They called out, asking if Simon who was known as Peter was staying there. While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Simon, three men are looking for you. So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them." Peter went down and said to the men, "I'm the one you're looking for. Why have you come?"

(Acts 10:22 NIV) The men replied, "We have come from Cornelius the centurion. He is a righteous and God-fearing man, who is respected by all the Jewish people. A holy angel told him to have you come to his house so that he could hear what you have to say."

(Acts 11:13 NIV) He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter.

(Acts 10:24 & 27-29 NIV) The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. Talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. He said to them: "You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with a Gentile or visit him. But God has shown me that I should not call any man impure or unclean. So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?"

(Acts 10:30-35 NIV) Cornelius answered: "Four days ago I was in my house praying at this hour, at three in the afternoon. Suddenly a man in shining clothes stood before me and said, 'Cornelius, God has heard your prayer and remembered your gifts to the poor. Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He is a guest in the home of Simon the tanner, who lives by the sea.' So I sent for you immediately, and it was good of you to come. Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything

the Lord has commanded you to tell us." Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.

James Is Slain By Herod, But Peter Is Rescued By An Angel

(Acts 12:1-5 NIV) It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. When he saw that this pleased the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This happened during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover. So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.

An Angel Appears To Peter In The Prison

(Acts 12:6-10 NIV) The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists. Then the angel said to him, "Put on your clothes and sandals." And Peter did so. "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me," the angel told him. Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him.

(Acts 12:11-15 NIV) Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I know without a doubt that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's clutches and from everything the Jewish people were anticipating." When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying. Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer the door. When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, "Peter is at the door!" "You're out of your mind," they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, "It must be his angel."

Those who were praying for Peter thought that he had been killed and that

his spirit was appearing at the door to the servant girl after his death. In this case they are using the term angel to mean the spirit of the departed. In Jewish tradition the spirit of the deceased roams the earth for three days before going to the abode of the dead.

(Acts 12:16-19 NIV) But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. Peter motioned with his hand for them to be quiet and described how the Lord had brought him out of prison. "Tell James and the brothers about this," he said, and then he left for another place. In the morning, there was no small commotion among the soldiers as to what had become of Peter. After Herod had a thorough search made for him and did not find him, he cross-examined the guards and ordered that they be executed. Then Herod went from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there a while.

Herod Dies At The Hand Of An Angel Because Of His Evil Deeds In Persecuting The Church

(Acts 12:20-24 NIV) He had been quarreling with the people of Tyre and Sidon; they now joined together and sought an audience with him. Having secured the support of Blastus, a trusted personal servant of the king, they asked for peace, because they depended on the king's country for their food supply. On the appointed day Herod, wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people. They shouted, "This is the voice of a god, not of a man." Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died. But the word of God continued to increase and spread.

Paul Casts A Fortune Telling Demon Out Of A Servant Girl

(Acts 16:13-15 NIV) On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

(Acts 16:16-18 NIV) Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future.

She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.

Men may Be Atheists, But Even The Demons Believe And Tremble

(James 2:19 NCV) You believe there is one God. Good! But the demons believe that, too, and they tremble with fear.

Paul And Silas Are Jailed For Casting Out The Demon

(Acts 16:19-24 NIV) When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice." The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

(Acts 16:25-28 NIV) About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose. The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"

(Acts 16:29-34 NIV) The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved--you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal

before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole family.

We are not told whether or not the earthquake was caused by angels or if God used some other means to open the jail cells. What we do know is that this whole episode began with Paul casting out a demon and evil men inspired by Satan had both Paul and Silas jailed for it. In the end result though God worked out all things for the good with the result being the salvation of the jailer and all of his household.

(Acts 16:40 NIV) After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia's house, where they met with the brothers and encouraged them. Then they left.

(Acts 17:1-4 NIV) When they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ," he said. Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and not a few prominent women.

An Angel Appears To Paul On His Way To Rome

(Acts 27:10-11 NIV) "Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also." But the centurion, instead of listening to what Paul said, followed the advice of the pilot and of the owner of the ship.

(Acts 27:14-15 NIV) Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the "northeaster," swept down from the island. The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along.

(Acts 27:19-22 NIV) On the third day, they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands. When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved. After the men had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: "Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss. But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you

will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed.

(Acts 27:23-25 NIV) Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me.

(Acts 27:27-29 NIV) On the fourteenth night we were still being driven across the Adriatic Sea, when about midnight the sailors sensed they were approaching land. They took soundings and found that the water was a hundred and twenty feet deep. A short time later they took soundings again and found it was ninety feet deep. Fearing that we would be dashed against the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern and prayed for daylight.

(Acts 27:33-36 NIV) Just before dawn Paul urged them all to eat. "For the last fourteen days," he said, "you have been in constant suspense and have gone without food--you haven't eaten anything. Now I urge you to take some food. You need it to survive. Not one of you will lose a single hair from his head." After he said this, he took some bread and gave thanks to God in front of them all. Then he broke it and began to eat. They were all encouraged and ate some food themselves.

(Acts 27:38-39 NIV) When they had eaten as much as they wanted, they lightened the ship by throwing the grain into the sea. When daylight came, they did not recognize the land, but they saw a bay with a sandy beach, where they decided to run the ship aground if they could.

(Acts 28:1-6 NIV) Once safely on shore, we found out that the island was called Malta. The islanders showed us unusual kindness. They built a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold. Paul gathered a pile of brushwood and, as he put it on the fire, a viper, driven out by the heat, fastened itself on his hand. When the islanders saw the snake hanging from his hand, they said to each other, "This man must be a murderer; for though he escaped from the sea, Justice has not allowed him to live." But Paul shook the snake off into the fire and suffered no ill effects. The people expected him to swell up or suddenly fall dead, but after waiting a long time and seeing nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and said he was a god.

(Acts 28:7-10 NIV) There was an estate nearby that belonged to Publius,

the chief official of the island. He welcomed us to his home and for three days entertained us hospitably. His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him. When this had happened, the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured. They honored us in many ways and when we were ready to sail, they furnished us with the supplies we needed.

Wherever Paul went he healed the sick, cast out demons and received angelic help. Eventually he made it to Rome and tradition has it that he was put to death by the emperor Nero. Paul fought the good fight of faith and went on to receive his eternal reward.

Nero was a type of the Antichrist and we Christians who are alive today may someday be called upon to follow in Paul's' footsteps. Let us all make sure we are ready if that should happen.

Angels In The Epistles (Letters) Of The New Testament

(Rom 8:38-39 NIV) For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

As powerful as angels and demons are, neither one has the power to separate us from the love of God. At the last judgment no one will be excused for their sin and failure to accept the grace of God and be saved by saying "The Devil Made Me Do It." While the devil may test humans and at times torment us like he did to Job, he cannot separate us from God's love and saving grace. Only we can do that with our free will by rejecting Jesus Christ.

Angels Have The Job Of Ministering To The Saints

(Heb 1:14 NIV) Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

Paul Was Aware Of The Angels Watching As He Preached The Gospel

(1 Cor 4:9 NIV) For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the arena. We

have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to men.

We (The Saved) Will Judge Angels

(1 Cor 6:3 NIV) Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life!

The scripture doesn't give us any more information on this subject but it is fairly certain that we will judge the fallen angels and Satan and perhaps even the good angels for their performance in assisting us in our salvation and work for Christ.

Paul Recognizes The Validity Of The Destroying Angles In The Old Testament

(1 Cor 10:10 NIV) And do not grumble, as some of them did--and were killed by the destroying angel.

Angels Are Witnesses Of All We Do and We Should Behave Accordingly

(1 Cor 11:10 NIV) For this reason, and because of the angels, the woman ought to have a sign of authority on her head.

A woman should either have long enough hair to cover her head or wear a hat to church. It is not a sin for a woman to be bald from illness or wear a short haircut, but if she does she should cover her head in spiritual meetings. This shows humility and acceptance of God's order of creation, man first, and then woman.

(1 Tim 5:21 NIV) I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism.

Angels Speak In Their Own language

(1 Cor 13:1 NIV) If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

It is not clear if angels speak in only one language or if there are different dialects in heaven, but apparently when they converse with each other they

speak in a language unknown to man.

Angels Are Created From Fire And Air, While Humans Are Made From Clay And Water

(Heb 1:7 NIV) In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire."

Satan Impersonates Angels Of God And His Ministers Impersonate Ministers Of Righteousness

(2 Cor 11:13-15 NIV) For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

(2 Cor 11:14 NCV) This does not surprise us. Even Satan changes himself to look like an angel of light.

Even If An Angel Should Preach To Us Another Gospel We Should Not Receive It

(Gal 3:19 NIV) What, then, was the purpose of the law? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. The law was put into effect through angels by a mediator.

(Gal 1:8 NIV) But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!

Much of the behind the scenes work in giving the law and the gospel to mankind was done by angels. But, now that the gospel has been given and written in the new testament it is unchangeable, even by an angel. Many religions have been started since that time by people claiming to have had an angelic vision. If what was revealed them does not agree with the bible then they should have rejected it rather than promoting a new religion. God's angels do nothing against his word or his will. If the word of an angel does not conform to the bible then that word is from a fallen angel of a demon and is to be rejected.

(Heb 2:2-4 NCV) The teaching God spoke through angels was shown to

be true, and anyone who did not follow it or obey it received the punishment that was earned. So surely we also will be punished if we ignore this great salvation. The Lord himself first told about this salvation, and it was proven true to us by those who heard him. God also proved it by using wonders, great signs, many kinds of miracles, and by giving people gifts through the Holy Spirit, just as he wanted.

We Are Not To Worship Angels

(Col 2:18 NIV) Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions.

Not only are we not to accept anti biblical information from angels but we are not to worship them as some do. Angels are just created beings like we are, but they are of a higher order and have not sinned as we have. We must worship God alone. Anything else is idolatry.

The Gospel In A Nutshell Includes Christ Being Seen By Angels After The Resurrection

(1 Tim 3:16 NIV) Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.

Christ In Human Form Lowered Himself To An Existence Below The Angels

While in a human body Jesus Christ, the creator temporarily inhabited a form lower than the angelic beings he created. But, after the resurrection he regained his former glory and more.

(Heb 1:4-6 NIV) So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father " ? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

(Heb 1:13 & 8 NIV) To which of the angels did God ever say, "Sit at my

right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"? But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom.

The Saints, Not Angels Shall Eventually Reign In The World To Come

(Heb 2:5 NCV) God did not choose angels to be the rulers of the new world that was coming, which is what we have been talking about.

(Heb 2:6-8 NCV) It is written in the Scriptures, "Why are people important to you? Why do you take care of human beings? You made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. You put all things under their control." When God put everything under their control, there was nothing left that they did not rule. Still, we do not yet see them ruling over everything.

Heb 2:9 & 16 NCV) But we see Jesus, who for a short time was made lower than the angels. And now he is wearing a crown of glory and honor because he suffered and died. And by God's grace, he died for everyone. Clearly, it is not angels that Jesus helps, but the people who are from Abraham.

There Are A Great Number Of Angels

(Heb 12:22 NKJV) But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels,

Angels Often Appear In The Likeness Of Humans

(Heb 13:2 NIV) Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.

Angels Desire To Learn New Things

(1 Pet 1:12 NIV) It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

When The Lord Jesus Christ Returns He Will Be Accompanied By His Angels

(1 Th 3:13 NCV) May your hearts be made strong so that you will be holy and without fault before our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

The scripture above is a good verse to end this chapter on because in the next chapter we will see how angels will be involved in the return of Christ.