

Great Controversy Series
Angels and Demons: Who Are They?
Chapter 31 - Agency of Evil Spirits
Bible Sermon Study Notes: Cary Rodgers, Jr., pastor

Storms, earthquakes, North Korea and now the Las Vegas massacre. We have to wonder: 'What's next?'

Rick Hampson, USA TODAY Published 10:07 a.m. ET Oct. 3, 2017

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/10/03/storms-quakes-fires-korea-and-now-vegas-shooting-whats-next/725889001/>

“When the month began, a confluence of hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, wildfires and a brewing international nuclear confrontation already had some Americans thinking about End Times.

Then Las Vegas, the nation’s playground, witnessed the worst mass shooting in U.S. history — the latest in this peerless series of catastrophes. Some were natural, some man-made. Together, they’ve shadowed a usually optimistic nation with a cloud of sorrow and anxiety.”

“Why?” asked country music star Blake Shelton in a tweet after the shooting. That was one question, shared many times by many others. There was another: “What’s next?”

‘Calm Before the Storm’: Trump Makes Cryptic Remark at Military Dinner

by Richie Duchon NBC News October 6, 2017 <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/white-house/calm-storm-trump-makes-cryptic-remark-military-dinner-n808266>

As photographers snapped pictures and recorded video, Trump asked reporters: "You guys know what this represents?"

“Maybe it’s the calm before the storm,” he said, answering his own question.

"What's the storm?" one reporter asked.

“Could be the calm before the storm,” he repeated.

"What storm, Mr. President?" NBC News' Kristen Welker asked again.

"You'll find out," Trump replied, before reporters were ushered out of the room.

The mystery continued into Friday. Trump, asked again during a brief session with U.S. manufacturers what he meant the night before, said only that "you'll find out" and winked.

The great controversy continues, but will so come to an end, soon. Are you ready for the storm? It is a storm by the dragon and his evil demons. Are you ready for the storm?

“The connection of the visible with the invisible world, the ministration of angels of God, and the agency of evil spirits, are plainly revealed in the Scriptures, and inseparably interwoven with human history. There is a growing tendency to disbelief in the existence of evil spirits, while the holy angels that "minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation" (Hebrews 1:14) are regarded by many as spirits of the dead. But the Scriptures not only teach the existence of angels, both good and evil, but present unquestionable proof that these are not disembodied spirits of dead men.” GC 511

What proof does the Bible give that clearly reveal that angels are not disembodied spirits of dead men?

1) **The dead know nothing!**

Ecclesiastes 9:5-6

- 5 For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.
 6 Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any *thing* that is done under the sun.

Psalms 146:4

4 His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.

2) **Angels existed before humans were created and before the death of the first human being on earth**

Job 38:4, 7 (God speaking to Job)

- 4 Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.
 7 When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Genesis 3:24

24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

This took place after the disobedience of Adam and Eve and before the death of human beings.

3) **Angels are created beings that excel in strength, abilities, and intelligence higher than human beings. They are neither male or female.**

Psalms 8:4-5

- 4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?
 5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.

What do angels do as representatives of God's heavenly government?

Psalms 103:19-20

- 19 The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.
 20 Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that **do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.**

Hebrews 1:13-14

- 13 But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?
 14 Are they not all **ministering spirits**, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

The heavenly angels of God are **ministering spirits that excel in strength and do the will of God.**

“As God's messengers they go forth, like 'the appearance of a flash of lightning,' (Ezekiel 1:14), so dazzling their glory, and so swift their flight. The angel that appeared at the Saviour's tomb, his countenance 'like lightning, and his raiment white as snow,' caused the keepers for fear of him to quake, and they 'became as dead men.' Matthew 28:3, 4. When Sennacherib, the haughty Assyrian, reproached and blasphemed God, and threatened Israel with destruction, 'it came to pass that night, that the angel of the Lord went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand.' There were 'cut off all the mighty men of valor, and the leaders and captains,' from the army of Sennacherib. 'So he returned with shame of face to his own land.' 2 Kings 19:35; 2 Chronicles 32:21. GC 512

How many heavenly angels are they?

Revelation 5:11

11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was **ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands**;

Hebrews 12:22

22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an **innumerable company of angels**,

They are literally billions of heavenly angels!

Angels minister to us to glorify God for the salvation of souls! They are seen in action all through out the Bible. Many times unseen to the human eyes they are working on behalf of God's people and souls for the kingdom of God!

“Angels are sent on missions of mercy to the children of God. To Abraham, with promises of blessing; to the gates of Sodom, to rescue righteous Lot from its fiery doom; to Elijah, as he was about to perish from weariness and hunger in the desert; to Elisha, with chariots and horses of fire surrounding the little town where he was shut in by his foes; to Daniel, while seeking divine wisdom in the court of a heathen king, or abandoned to become the lions' prey; to Peter, doomed to death in Herod's dungeon; to the prisoners at Philippi; to Paul and his companions in the night of tempest on the sea; to open the mind of Cornelius to receive the gospel; to dispatch Peter with the message of salvation to the Gentile stranger--thus holy angels have, in all ages, ministered to God's people.” GC 512

Should we worship angels in anyway? While in vision what did an angel tell the prophet John?

Revelation 19:10

10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See *thou do it* not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Even though angels excel in strength, might and made a little higher than human beings they are not divine. They are NOT God. Angels do not deserve worship in anyway. They are created beings and fellow servants made to glorify God and be servants of God. Only God deserves our worship because He is the Creator.

Who are “guardian angels”?

“A guardian angel is appointed to every follower of Christ. These heavenly watchers shield the righteous from the power of the wicked one.” GC 512

Psalms 34:7

7 The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

Matthew 18:10

10 **Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.**

Our guardian angel's have direct access to the throne of God at all times!

“Thus God's people, exposed to the deceptive power and unsleeping malice of the prince of darkness, and in conflict with all the forces of evil, are assured of the unceasing guardianship of heavenly angels. Nor is such assurance given without need. If God has granted to His children promise of grace and protection, it is because there are mighty agencies of evil to be met--agencies numerous, determined, and untiring, of whose malignity and power none can safely be ignorant or unheeding.” GC 513

Would you like to meet your guardian angel and talk with him? I am sure he has many stories and testimonies to share about your life to the glory of God!

“Every redeemed one will understand the ministry of angels in his own life. The angel who was his guardian from his earliest moment; the angel who watched his steps, and covered his head in the day of peril; the angel who was with him in the valley of the shadow of death, who marked his resting place, who was the first to greet him in the resurrection morning--what will it be to hold converse with him, and to learn the history of divine interposition in the individual life, of heavenly co-operation in every work for humanity!” Education p 305

Who are evil angels?

Revelation 12:7-9

- 7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,
 8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.
 9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

“Evil spirits, in the beginning created sinless, were equal in nature, power, and glory with the holy beings that are now God's messengers. But fallen through sin, they are leagued together for the dishonor of God and the destruction of men. United with Satan in his rebellion, and with him cast out from heaven, they have, through all succeeding ages, co-operated with him in his warfare against the divine authority. We are told in Scripture of their confederacy and government, of their various orders, of their intelligence and subtlety, and of their malicious designs against the peace and happiness of men.” GC 513

How many evil angels are they?

Revelation 12:4

4 And his tail drew [Dragon=Satan] the third part of the stars of heaven [Angels], and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

1/3 of the heavenly angel's now known as demons were at one time heavenly angels who believed the lies of Satan and rebelled against the God of heaven. As a result they were cast out and are sentenced to be burned up with hell fire. As you know demons are not evil dead people or dead “spirits”.

The great controversy and evil demons during the ministry of Jesus Christ

When Jesus came to personally to save this world from sin, Satan and his evil demons was seen throughout the four gospel of the new testament trying to stop the plan of Jesus. By the time Jesus started His ministry Satan was successful in seducing about 99% of the world into idolatry besides a faithful few!

“Here two rival powers claimed supremacy. Jesus was stretching out His arms of love, inviting all who would to find pardon and peace in Him. The hosts of darkness saw that they did not possess unlimited control, and they understood that if Christ's mission should be successful, their rule was soon to end. Satan raged like a chained lion and defiantly exhibited his power over the bodies as well as the souls of men.” GC 514

Even though Satan and his evil demons tried to discourage and stop the work of Jesus by taking literal possession of people, Jesus revealed His love and power over the Satan and the demons before the world and universal stage of the great controversy!

What was one of the worst cases of demon possession during earthly ministry of Jesus Christ?

Matthew 8:28

28 And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way.

Mark 5:3-8

3 Who had *his* dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains:

4 Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any *man* tame him.

5 And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones.

6 But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him,

Did the demon, fallen angels, recognize Jesus and His divine power when they faced Him? Did they obey His command to come out?

7 And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not.

8 For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit.

Notice in every case of demon possession when Jesus commanded the demons to come out of the possessed person they had to flee!

How many demons were they possessed with?

Mark 5:9

9 And he asked him, **What is thy name?** And he answered, saying, My name *is* Legion: for we are many.

“In the Roman army a legion consisted of from three to five thousand men. Satan's hosts also are marshaled in companies, and the single company to which these demons belonged numbered no less than a legion. GC 514

Mark 5:12-15

12 And all the devils besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them.

13 And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea.

Out of mercy Jesus cast the demons into the pigs. If not the demons would have taken possession of the rebellious professed people of God who were rising abominable pigs for money!

14 And they that fed the swine fled, and told *it* in the city, and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that was done.

What was the condition of the two men after the demons were cast OUT?

15 And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.

The demoniacs of Gergesenes is one of the worst cases of demon possession recorded. Jesus reveals here that He has ALL power over all demons and Satan and that He can save any man from possession if they desire to be free! **They went from wild and insane demoniacs to gentle and sane men of God who shared their testimonies all throughout the country! THIS IS THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL!** Jesus can some

anybody, it does not matter how low in sin they find themselves in or how many demon possessed they are, they can be saved through the power of Jesus Christ!

“Other instances of a similar nature are recorded in the Scriptures. The daughter of the Syrophoenician woman was grievously vexed with a devil, whom Jesus cast out by His word. (Mark 7:26-30). 'One possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb' (Matthew 12:22); a youth who had a dumb spirit, that oftentimes 'cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him' (Mark 9:17-27); the maniac who, tormented by 'a spirit of an unclean devil' (Luke 4:33-36), disturbed the Sabbath quiet of the synagogue at Capernaum--all were healed by the compassionate Saviour. In nearly every instance, Christ addressed the demon as an intelligent entity, commanding him to come out of his victim and to torment him no more. The worshipers at Capernaum, beholding His mighty power, 'were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! for with authority and power He commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out.' Luke 4:36.” GC 515

Are all demoniac spirits cast out of your life? House? Car? Family? Are you inviting demons and in communion with demons by what you watch, read, listen to or who you hang out with? In the name of Jesus CAST THEM OUT! Get them out of your presence! Your salvation depends on it! Still have Beyonce on your phone? CAST THEM OUT! Jay-Z? CAST THEM OUT! Mary Mary? CAST THEM OUT! Hip Hop Gospel? CAST THEM OUT! Netflix? CAST THEM OUT! Cartoon Network? CAST THEM OUT! They are ALL possessed with demonic spirits! CAST THEM OUT IN THE NAME OF JESUS!

“Those possessed with devils are usually represented as being in a condition of great suffering; yet there were exceptions to this rule. For the sake of obtaining supernatural power, some welcomed the satanic influence. These of course had no conflict with the demons. Of this class were those who possessed the spirit of divination,--Simon Magus, Elymas the sorcerer, and the damsel who followed Paul and Silas at Philippi.” GC 516

Satan and his demons try to make their work of sorcery and magic innocent and harmless. This is a straight of lie. All of their devices are extremely dangerous to your soul! **Satan and his demons are seducing the majority of the world into his “magic kingdom”**. He makes it look fun, exciting, and amusing, especially for children. Think about all of the amusement parks today like Disney World, Carowinds, Cedar Point, King Dominion plus... **ALL of them are filled with magic, witchcraft, sorcery, ventriloquism, demonic music, gambling, plus more. They all point to the “magic kingdom” of Satan!** Don't go and invite demon possession in your life. This is serious and cannot be taken lightly! Notice the names of these amusement parks for example, Disney World, Carowinds, Kings Dominion, and Kings Island. **Who do you think is really king over these things? Is it Jesus? NO! If you ignore the warning you get become dizzy in the Disney World, blown by every wind of doctrine in Carowinds, Satan will have dominion over your life at Kings Dominion, and you will become a possessed servant on Satan's Kings Island.**

Satan, his demons, his devices, schemes, amusements, and entertainment are NOT innocent! They are Satan's toys to possess the minds of billions of people. Wake up! By the way, true people of God should have nothing to do with Halloween, which is a celebration to the work of Satan and his evil demons. Remember the dead are dead. They are not ghosts and goblins! This is only the work of the Devil. Those who “dress up” are acting or being taken by possession that character that they are trying to portray. God has nothing to do with this even if they “dress up” like Bible characters. God is NOT in this foolishness of Halloween.

What should God people remember about October 31, the protestant movement boldness of Martin Luther when he nailed his 95 theses against the papacy!

Satan tries to make it appear that he and his demons are just fiction of little red devils with pitch forks and other weird looking half human beasts.

“So long as we are ignorant of their wiles, they have almost inconceivable advantage; many give heed to their suggestions while they suppose themselves to be following the dictates of their own wisdom. This is why, as we approach the close of time, when Satan is to work with greatest power to deceive and destroy, he spreads everywhere the belief that he does not exist. It is his policy to conceal himself and his manner of working.” GC 516

“...Satan can most readily control the minds of those who are unconscious of his influence, that the word of God gives us so many examples of his malignant work, unveiling before us his secret forces, and thus placing us on our guard against his assaults.” GC 517

POWERFUL APPEAL!!! Listen!!

“The power and malice of Satan and his host might justly alarm us were it not that we may find shelter and deliverance in the superior power of our Redeemer. We carefully secure our houses with bolts and locks to protect our property and our lives from evil men; but we seldom think of the evil angels who are constantly seeking access to us, and against whose attacks we have, in our own strength, no method of defense. If permitted, they can distract our minds, disorder and torment our bodies, destroy our possessions and our lives. Their only delight is in misery and destruction. Fearful is the condition of those who resist the divine claims and yield to Satan's temptations, until God gives them up to the control of evil spirits. But those who follow Christ are ever safe under His watchcare. Angels that excel in strength are sent from heaven to protect them. The wicked one cannot break through the guard which God has stationed about His people.” GC 517