

Life Group Notes 12/10/2023

Pastor Mark Warren Participants in his Birth Part 3 Angels

[No doctrine is a given unless it has been found in the Word given by the Holy Spirit and received by you. If you have observations or questions, feel free to send me an email with your comment or observations at tbeachhead@comcast.net. Thank you for taking the time—Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.]

Remember: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our hearts...and guide our discussions. **PLEASE PRE-READ THESE NOTES AND CHOOSE THE DIRECTION THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR GROUP.** BE COGNIZANT OF YOUR GROUP'S TIME AND BE SENSITIVE! **Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study.**

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions that Pastor Mark has raised this week, 12/10. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. **The purpose is to minister to one another.** I include each of the passages mentioned in full, to facilitate the enjoyment of these notes. Footnotes are not meant to distract. This week's footnotes include:

1. [On angels and human invention.](#)
2. [On demons and fallen angels.](#)

*****Important:** At the very [end of these notes](#), I've included passages that were mentioned in this week's message for deeper study using SOAP journaling to help further your study during the week. ***

Pastor Mark opened today's message talking about the stress of the season, and about coming to church as a matter of habit, with our minds elsewhere, because that is what we do on a Sunday. Do you have a testimony? What is on your mind during this season?

See [footnote 1](#) below. What is your understanding of angels? Do you understand more? What struck you in Pastor Mark's message most?

Look up Luke 2: [8](#)And there were shepherds residing in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks by night. [9](#)Just then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.[10](#)But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid! For behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: [11](#)Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord! [12](#)And this will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

[13](#)And suddenly there appeared with the angel a great multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying: [14](#)"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests!"

1. What do you see?
2. How many angels first appeared?
3. Where was the angel? In heaven floating, or on the earth beside them?
4. Why was this encounter frightening for the shepherds? Where was the glory? Why is that scary?

5. What is the angel's first word to the shepherds? Why? How important was the angel's message?
6. Has there ever been a more important message?
7. What two things does the angel know that the shepherds will soon learn? Does the angel tell them to go? Or does he already know they're going? How can you tell?
8. What are swaddling clothes? Why not just say "diapers?" What does the thought of Jesus in diapers do to you?
9. Look up 1 Peter 1: [10](#)Concerning this salvation, the prophets who foretold the grace to come to you searched and investigated carefully, [11](#)trying to determine the time and setting to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. [12](#)It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, when they foretold the things now announced by those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things. Looking at What Peter says, why do you think so many of the heavenly host got involved in the announcement? What were they seeing?

Pastor points out the various offices administrations and purposes of the angels throughout scripture.

- **Messenger angels**—As we see above in Luke, angels throughout the scriptures, both old and new, are sent with messages. This is the meaning of the word in both Old and New testaments.
- **Guardian angels**—Look up Psalm 91: [9](#)Because you have made the LORD your dwelling—my refuge, the Most High—[10](#)no evil will befall you, no plague will approach your tent. [11](#)For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. [12](#)They will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. [13](#)You will tread on the lion and cobra; you will trample the young lion and serpent.
 1. What do you see? What is the purpose of angels in this psalm?
 2. Are we alone in our struggles?
 3. What is prerequisite to angelic protection?
 4. Have you done this? What is your first refuge when trouble arises?
 5. What do the angels do?

Look up Matthew 18:10 [10](#)See that you do not look down on any of these little ones.

For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of My Father in heaven.

1. What do you see?
 2. What does "their angels" mean? Where are their angels found?
 3. Explain the concept of "guardian angels."
- **Worship filled angels**—Notice the angels in this passage in Luke.
 1. What are the two things they do in their song in this passage?
 2. Look at the shepherds' response. [15](#)When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." How had the angels prepared the shepherds for their next step, without a single command?

3. Read the rest of the passage: *16* So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the Baby, who was lying in the manger. *17* After they had seen the Child, they spread the message they had received about Him. *18* And all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. *19* But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. *20* The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, which was just as the angel had told them. What do you see? What is the fruit of true angelic ministry?
4. Look up Revelation 5: *11* Then I looked, and I heard the voices of many angels and living creatures and elders encircling the throne, and their number was myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands. *12* In a loud voice they were saying: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing!" How do the angels respond to current events? How many are there?
- **Heavenly warfare**—Look up Daniel 10: *12* "Do not be afraid, Daniel," he said, "for from the first day that you purposed to understand and to humble yourself before your God (note: 21 days prior to the appearance of the angel), your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. *13* However, the prince of the kingdom of Persia opposed me for twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia."
 1. How long did it take for God to hear and respond to Daniel's prayer?
 2. How long did it take from first prayer until answer received?
 3. What did Daniel continue to do while he waited a response?
 4. What happened in heaven, so that the response was finally received?
 5. Connect Daniel's prayer and Michael's war on his behalf.
 6. Look up Revelation 12: *7* Then a war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. *8* But the dragon was not strong enough, and no longer was any place found in heaven for him and his angels. *9* And the great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. How is history repeating itself? Using the passage from Daniel, can you guess what caused war in heaven? Who was praying on earth?
 7. Where did the dragon's angels come from?
 8. How does the deceiver get into heaven in the first place? (What do you think? Can a deceived heart, in prayer, possibly bring the deceiver with him? Do you know Christians who spend their days accusing other Christians?)

Pastor points out scriptural evidence that is only hinted at in Psalm 91, that we are surrounded by angelic beings. Look up 2 Kings 6: *15* When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early in the morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. So he asked Elisha, "Oh, my master, what are we to do?" *16* "Do not be afraid," Elisha answered, "for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." *17* Then Elisha prayed, "O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see." And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw that the hills were full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

1. What did Elisha see that his servant did not at first see?
2. How did Elisha see them?

3. How did the servant come to see them?
4. How real were the angelic forces? (Take the time to look up the passage.)
5. How does this relate to Psalm 91? Psalm 91 is a song of David. How do we know Elisha was familiar with the song?
6. How real are the angels around you?

Pastor also takes the time to forewarn us concerning the worship of angels. Look up Revelation 22:8*And I am John, who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had shown me these things. 9But he said to me, "Do not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God!"*

1. What do you see?
2. What does the angel say of his own rank?
3. What does it mean to be a "fellow servant?" Who is greatest in the kingdom of God?
4. With whom does an angel rank? With what degree of spiritual authority does the angel compare himself?
5. Look up 1 Corinthians 6: 2*Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? 3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life!* What does this speak of the rank of angels and saints?
6. Compare what Paul in 2 Corinthians says to what John says in Revelation.
7. Look up Revelation 2: 26*And to the one who overcomes and continues in My work until the end, I will give authority over the nations. 27He will rule them with an iron scepter and shatter them like pottery—just as I have received authority from My Father. 28And I will give him the morning star.* What authority does the overcomer get? What does this authority look like? Apply it to yourself as an overcomer. What do you look like?
8. How much of God's authority does He intend to share? Can you explain this?

Concerning fallen angels, Pastor warns us of the deceiving angels as well. Look up what Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 11: 13*For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. 14And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. 15It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their actions.*

1. Put the warning in your own words.
2. What form can demonic angels take?
3. Take a moment: What is key to discerning the counterfeit?
4. What is the first characteristic of the Real, the Faithful and the True?
5. Knowing God is love, what is the deceiver NOT?
6. Pastor says an angel of God will point the heart toward Jesus, and God Himself. What does the deceiver point at?
7. Why is a body of believers a bulwark of protection against deception?
8. When we love one another, how is our authority and our power increased?

Pastor speaks of the expectation of an increase of signs and angelic visitations in the last days. Look at what Joel says of this from the passage Peter repeated on the day of Pentecost: Joel 2: 28*And afterward, I will pour out My Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. 29Even on My menservants and maidservants, I will pour out My Spirit in those days. 30I*

will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. [31](#)The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and awesome Day of the LORD. [32](#)And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the LORD has promised, among the remnant called by the LORD.

1. List the events you see.
2. What signs and wonders can we expect?
3. How many are we seeing today?
4. What can we look forward to?
5. Compare Joel's signs to the false signs and wonders spoken of in Revelation 13: [13](#)And the second beast performed great signs to cause even fire from heaven to come down to earth in the presence of the people. [14](#) Because of the signs it was given to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived those who dwell on the earth, telling them to make an image to the beast that had been wounded by the sword and yet had lived. [15](#)The second beast was permitted to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship it to be killed. What do you see?
6. Compare this to what Jesus says concerning false signs: Matthew 24: [23](#)At that time, if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There He is!' do not believe it. [24](#)For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders that would deceive even the elect, if that were possible. [25](#)See, I have told you in advance. How does knowing this in advance help us?
7. What do deceivers do and where do they point? What do real angels do and where do they point?

Pastor moves on to the appearance of angels.

1. What do you think? Where do we get our ideas from?
2. Have you ever seen an angel? Do you have a testimony?
3. Look up two similar passages where angels appear. First, to Balaam in Numbers 22: [31](#)Then the LORD opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road with a drawn sword in his hand. And Balaam bowed low and fell facedown. Now look up Joshua 5: [13](#)Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in His hand. Joshua approached Him and asked, "Are You for us or for our enemies?" [14](#)"Neither," He replied. "I have now come as Commander of the LORD's army." What do these appearances have in common? What does the drawn sword signify?

Look up Hebrews 13: [1](#)Continue in brotherly love. [2](#)Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.

1. What do these angels look like?
2. Does this mean angels can take on human form? Do you have a testimony?
3. Look up Judges 13, as Samson's mother and father encounter the Angel of the Lord: [11](#)And Manoah arose and went after his wife and came to the man and said to him, "Are you the man who spoke to this woman?" And he said, "I am." [12](#)And Manoah said, "Now when your words come true, what is to be the child's manner of life, and what is his mission?" [13](#)And the angel of the LORD said to Manoah, "Of all that I said to the woman let her be careful. [14](#)She may not eat of anything that comes from the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, or eat any unclean thing. All that I

commanded her let her observe.” [15](#)Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, “Please let us detain you and prepare a young goat for you.” [16](#)And the angel of the LORD said to Manoah, “If you detain me, I will not eat of your food. But if you prepare a burnt offering, then offer it to the LORD.” (For Manoah did not know that he was the angel of the LORD.) [17](#)And Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, “What is your name, so that, when your words come true, we may honor you?” [18](#)And the angel of the LORD said to him, “Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?” [19](#)So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering, and offered it on the rock to the LORD, to the one who works wonders, and Manoah and his wife were watching. [20](#)And when the flame went up toward heaven from the altar, the angel of the LORD went up in the flame of the altar. Now Manoah and his wife were watching, and they fell on their faces to the ground. What do you see? Were Samson’s parents aware that they were talking to an angel? What happens when they offer Him a meal?

4. Look up Colossians 2: [18](#)Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, [19](#)and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God. Why is it unhealthy to have an attraction to angels? What is key to discernment, according to what Paul tells the Colossians?
5. Mark says we should be fascinated by Jesus, and what He does in the Holy Spirit to glorify the Father. Explain. How does that protect us?
6. He points out the dangers of praying to angels and any other mediator. Who is the ONLY mediator between us and the Father?
7. Have you renounced tarot cards, Ouija and other devices that point in the wrong direction? Why is this a matter of life and death?
8. Look up Matthew 16: [23](#)But Jesus turned and said to Peter, [“Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me. For you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.”](#) What does this say of deceptive forces? A mere 6 verses prior to these, verse 17, Jesus is calling Peter “blessed” because he discerned Who Jesus is, “...the Christ, the Son of the living God.” What can we learn from this? Can even apostles be deceived? What is the remedy?
9. In the temptations in Matthew 4, when asked to worship Satan (proving the point of Satan’s objective), Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 6:13, “You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him alone.” Why is this verse crucial to discernment?

Pastor touched on fallen angels. Look back at the passage from Revelation 12, [mentioned above](#). There is a battle between Michael and his angels, and the Dragon “and his angels.” Look on to what happens when the conflict is resolved: [7](#)Then a war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. [8](#)But the dragon was not strong enough, and no longer was any place found in heaven for him and his angels. [9](#)And the great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. [10](#)And I heard a loud voice in heaven saying: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Christ. For the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down—he who accuses them day and night before our God. [11](#)They have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony. And they did not love their lives so as to shy away from

death.¹² Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea; with great fury the devil has come down to you, knowing he has only a short time.”

1. Where did the conflict begin?
2. Who was fighting? Who else...Who overcame in the end? How?
3. What three weapons remove the accuser from before the throne? What does the blood do? What does the word of your testimony consist of? How is the Truth effective against the accuser?
4. What do you love most?
5. What happens when “...the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Christ” come? What changes?

Final points:

1. Pastor says, “You will never go wrong when you say, ‘I will trust in God alone. You will never go wrong when your foundation is based on Jesus and on His Word.’” Comment. How has knowing the Word helped you?
2. Practice hospitality. How much would you benefit from entertaining angels. Be kind to people.
3. Let God open your eyes. You have real authority over all the works of the enemy. Fear has no role to play.

The Follow-up Application

1. Use the [SOAP journal studies](#) below throughout the week.
2. Pray this week for God to reveal the spiritual forces at work on your and your family’s behalf. Pray, “Open our eyes to see.”
3. Pray for discernment to become aware of what is really going on today, especially the good but also the evil, that we fear not.
4. Pray that your sons and daughters prophesy, that our seniors dream dreams, and that our youth see visions according to Joel’s word for us today.

Take the time to pray.

Scribe’s Notes:

1. **On angels and human invention**—The subject of angels is raised in almost every religion on earth, even whimsically, where religion has no bearing. Art has created images of great, glowing armed giants, sometimes with wings, sometimes without; or chubby little baby cupids flying around the heads of saints. As Mark pointed out, nothing comes close to what the Bible depicts. Prior to chapter 16 in Genesis, God speaks to Abram directly. From chapter 16 through the rest of the Old Testament He is presented interchangeably with an angel or even the Angel of the Lord. The word in Hebrew, מַלְאָכִים (*malak*) is translated ambassadors (2), angel (101), angels (9), envoys (1), messenger (24), messengers (76). Angels’ presence saturates the narrative of the Old Testament and God’s dealings with man. The Greek word,

ἄγγελος (*angelos*) is similar in meaning and translation to the Old Testament. The word *angelos* – properly, a messenger or delegate (The word “messenger’s” root is ἀγγελία (*angelia*), message which is carried. Thayer’s dictionary adds this: *Note the English word “evangel” (euangelia) is the “good message”, or the gospel—from old English (“good word”) – The messenger can be either human (Mt 11:10; Lk 7:24, 9:52; Gal 4:14; Js 2:25) or heavenly (a celestial angel); someone sent (by God) to proclaim His message. 32 (ἄγγελος) is used 176 times in the NT (usually of heavenly angels), but only the context determines whether a human or celestial messenger is intended. For example, 32 (ἄγγελος) in Rev 1:20 can refer to heavenly angels or key leaders (perhaps pastors) of the seven churches.* Context clues, for a translator, are not always transparent or easily read. When you read through Acts, and see the number of times angels intervened in direction, goals and purpose, you would do well to wonder whether or not you can expect to encounter angels unawares.

2. **On demons and fallen angels**—Mention is often made of demons as “fallen angels.” Their presence is not as ubiquitous in the Old Testament as that of the angels. There is a single passage in 1 Kings 22, where lying spirits are seen in the Council of God, discussing Ahab’s demise. *17* So Micaiah declared: “I saw all Israel scattered on the hills like sheep without a shepherd. And the LORD said, ‘These people have no master; let each one return home in peace.’” *18* Then the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “Did I not tell you that he never prophesies good for me, but only bad?” *19* Micaiah continued, “Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by Him on His right and on His left. *20* And the LORD said, ‘Who will entice Ahab to march up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?’ And one suggested this, and another that. *21* Then a spirit came forward, stood before the LORD, and said, ‘I will entice him.’ ‘By what means?’ asked the LORD. *22* And he replied, ‘I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouths of all his prophets.’ ‘You will surely entice him and prevail,’ said the LORD. ‘Go and do it.’ *23* So you see, the LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouths of all these prophets of yours, and the LORD has pronounced disaster against you.” What do you make of this? How does this compare to the “accuser of the brethren standing before the Lord day and night?” Notice that even the lying spirits are subject to God. What can be known of demons, their tactics and methods is best seen in Satan’s attempt to get to both Eve and Jesus, using what John in his epistle calls, “...the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life.” We do best to protect these gateways to our heart.
 - Where does the idea that Satan took a third of the angels come from? That is found in Revelation 12 as well. Revelation 12: *3* Then another sign appeared in heaven: a huge red dragon with seven heads, ten horns, and seven royal crowns on his heads. *4* His tail swept a third of the stars from the sky, tossing them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, ready to devour her child as soon as she gave birth. An entire doctrine of Satan leading one third of the angels astray was fabricated on this verse, claiming that this fall depicted Satan’s original fall in pre-biblical times. Is it possible? You decide. Is Revelation 12 a future event? Or did it happen before creation?

- What are the angels who have sinned? There are two passages in the New Testament that refer to these. Look up Jude 1:6 And the angels who did not stay within their own domain but abandoned their proper dwelling—these He has kept in eternal chains under darkness, bound for judgment on that great day. Now look up 2 Peter 2: 4 [For if God did not spare the angels when they sinned, but cast them deep into hell, placing them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment;](#) Neither of these passages point to any biblical event, although very likely hidden in the context is the account of “the sons of God going into the daughters of men” spoken of before the flood in Genesis 6:1. The narrative from which both Peter and Jude draw is found in the Book of Enoch, an enigmatic piece of well-known, widely read intertestamental literature that was very popular reading in Jesus’ day.

For further study:

Take a moment each day this week to apply the **SOAP**... (**S**cripture—Copy the scripture. / **O**bservation—Write what you see. / **A**pplication—What is God saying? / **P**ray—What is your response?) ...method to some of the scripture we looked at this week:

Monday: Psalm 91:9-13
Tuesday: 2 Kings 6:15-17
Wednesday: Psalm 34:6-8
Thursday: Matthew 18:10
Friday: Hebrews 1:13-14
Saturday: 1 Corinthians 6:2-4
Sunday: 1 Peter 1:10-13

Once again, some passages suggested here have more than the usual number of verses. This is not to increase the burden but to provide clarity of context. Pick the verses that speak to you most clearly, and run these through the SOAP steps.