

Christ Reformation Church

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Angels – Holy and Unholy *August 6, 2023*

Sermon Text: Hebrews 1:14

Scripture Reading: Psalm 103

Heb 1:13-14 And to which of the angels has he ever said, “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”? (14) Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

Last time we considered this fundamental mission of the holy angels – to serve the Lord specifically in connection with those who are to inherit salvation. The elect, in other words. The body of Christ, His church. For example:

Dan 6:19-22 Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions. (20) As he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. The king declared to Daniel, “O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?” (21) Then Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever! (22) **My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths**, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm.”

And again:

Num 20:14-16 Moses sent messengers from Kadesh to the king of Edom: “Thus says your brother Israel: You know all the hardship that we have met: (15)

how our fathers went down to Egypt, and we lived in Egypt a long time. And the Egyptians dealt harshly with us and our fathers. (16) And when we cried to the LORD, he heard our voice and sent an angel and brought us out of Egypt. And here we are in Kadesh, a city on the edge of your territory.

There are many more examples all through the Bible of this very thing. The holy angels sent out by Christ to serve His people – specifically in regard to their salvation. Remember this great truth from last time:

Psa 34:7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

And still another-

Act 12:6-11 Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. (7) And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the

cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, “Get up quickly.” And the chains fell off his hands. (8) And the angel said to him, “Dress yourself and put on your sandals.” And he did so. And he said to him, “Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.” (9) And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. (10) When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel left him. (11) When Peter came to himself, he said, “Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.”

There is no reason whatsoever to think that the Lord does not still do the same for His people today. And one of the things His angels do is battle with Satan’s unholy angels

in order to protect the Lord's people.

Dan 10:13 The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia,

And again:

Rev 12:7 Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back,

The Unholy Angels

Now, what about these unholy angels:

Jud 1:6 And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day—

2Pe 2:4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast

them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment;

Rev 12:7-12 Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, (8) but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. (9) And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. (10) And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. (11) And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. (12) Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great

wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”

Rev 9:20 The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk,

Rev 16:13-14 And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. (14) For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.

Now, as you can see from these scriptures, we have two titles for these allies of the devil – angels and demons. Furthermore, we have certain angels who it would seem that the Lord has kept imprisoned until the day when He comes to judge the world. And then there are

these demons who are not imprisoned but who go about doing Satan’s bidding.

We do not find it clearly stated in the Bible, but a very common conclusion among Bible scholars is that demons originated as rebel allies with Satan when Satan rebelled. Nor are we told why it is that the Lord keeps some imprisoned while others are permitted to be active.

But what we do know with certainty is that Satan has his angels. And we know that they all work in these typical ways:

- They are murderers just like Satan
- They work to blind the lost to the glory and truth of Christ
- They promote the beastliness in mankind (which we are seeing very much of today – radical body deforming, etc). They hate the image of God in man and work to erase it.
- They lie and deceive, promoting the insanity to which sin leads

- They work to destroy the family, marriage, and other vital states established by God
- They are always, always, always behind idolatry and false religion
- They work to oppress Christ's people – think of Job for example, or of the Apostle Paul's "messenger of Satan" thorn in the flesh.
- They fear the Lord Jesus and know that their time of judgment is coming.
- They are used by the Lord to accomplish His purposes.
- They are the spirit behind false prophets

Let's take a look at some examples of Satan's unholy angels at work. The first is an allegory of two sisters who represent Samaria and Jerusalem, and this is one of the evils they did:

Eze 23:39 For when they had slaughtered their children in sacrifice to their idols, on the same day they came into my sanctuary to profane it. And behold, this is what they did in my house.

This is one of the plainest condemnations of abortion that there is in scripture. **Satan and demons are always behind idolatry** and they are always at work striving to murder human beings, to erase them from the earth.

Here, Ezekiel speaks God's condemnation upon people who claim to be Christians yet who promote and practice abortion, then go to church on Sunday. Abortion is the sacrificing of children to the idol gods of the wicked. Here it is again:

Eze 16:20-21 And you took your sons and your daughters, whom you had borne to me, and these you sacrificed to them to be devoured. Were your whorings so small a matter (21) that you slaughtered my children and delivered them up as an offering by fire to them?

Psa 106:36-38 They served their idols, which became a snare to them. (37) **They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the**

demons; (38) they poured out innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan, and the land was polluted with blood.

This nation in which we live is inestimably more wicked than Samaria and Judah in this regard. Millions and millions and millions of children have been and continue to be sacrificed to demons. Satan and his servants will incite murderous rage against anyone who speaks against this holocaust. It is Sodom and Gomorrah.

Here is another:

Luk 8:26-33 Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. (27) When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs.

(28) When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and

said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me." (29) For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man.

(For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.)

(30) Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. (31) And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss.

(32) Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. (33) Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned.

This account gives us quite a lot of insight into the activities of Satan's

angels – these demons. Let's look carefully:

- Demons can possess a human being. They can influence a human being (see Judas as an example).
- Demons, like their master the devil, love to mimic the works of the Lord in order to deceive. In this case, they empowered this man with amazing strength so that he could not even be bound with chains.
- Satan and his servants are of the kingdom of darkness and death. They promote death. This possessed man lived, of all places, among the tombs. Why? There were certainly other places he could have chosen, but the demons put him among the tombs – among the dead. Satan does not give life, he promotes death. Jesus said that Satan has been a murderer from the very beginning.

Do we see this pre-occupation with death and darkness

around us today? You know the answer to that!

- The man was naked. Why was that? Satan and his angels want to shame human beings. They want to erase the image of God. And there is more.

Satan and demons energetically promote perversions and immorality of the most base kind. It is increasing and increasing around us today. Nudity, fornication, child molestation, perversions of sexuality of all kinds. This is the work of the kingdom of darkness.

- Look at the parallel account which is found in the Gospel of Mark and see the added details:

Mar 5:2-8 And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. (3) He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain,

(4) for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him.

(5) Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones.

(6) And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. (7) And crying out with a loud voice, he said, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me.” (8) For he was saying to him, “Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!”

He was cutting himself. Do we see people cutting themselves today? Of course. Furthermore, we see people increasingly mutilating their bodies in all kinds of sickening ways. This is Satanic and demonic. You say in on Mt. Carmel when Elijah confronted the priests of Baal-

1Ki 18:28 And they cried aloud

and cut themselves after their custom with swords and lances, until the blood gushed out upon them.

Destroying, murdering, and shaming man who was made in the image of God.

Now, consider this once more:

(30) Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” And he said, “**Legion**,” for many demons had entered him. (31) And they begged him not to command them to depart into **the abyss**.

- Their number. There must be myriads and myriads of these evil angels.
- They speak through the man they inhabit.
- Their fear of Christ and the coming judgment. Their absolute subordination to Him. They are terrified that Christ would cast them into a place called “the abyss” which apparently is that place they know they will be cast,

along with Satan, on the Day of Judgment.

- Then consider this – they seek to inhabit human beings. This is something we see repeatedly in Scripture.

Mat 12:43-45 “When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, but finds none. (44) Then it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when it comes, it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order. (45) Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of that person is worse than the first. So also will it be with this evil generation.”

How much of the evil that we are seeing increasingly in people all around us is due to the activity of Satan and his evil hordes working in them? They have been, as Scripture says-

2Th 2:11-12 Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they

may believe what is false, (12) in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

What is the source of this delusion to which the Lord hands them over? It is the deceiving lies of Satan and his servants.

- And herein is reason for US to give thanks and praise to the Lord, because -

Eph 2:1-2 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins (2) in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—

WE were once that man inhabited by legions. We walked after and we followed the devil. We were in bondage to the prince of the power of the air and he was working in us through his servants to oppose and disobey the Lord. Disobedience to God was our defining spirit.

Eph 2:4-5 But God, being rich in

mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, (5) even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

We should always remember this and give thanks to the Lord when we read these accounts of people who were inhabited by demons because in one way or another WE were in that same condition before the Lord Jesus Christ delivered us. When a person is saved, Satan is cast out and the Holy Spirit comes in.

Finally then, consider this carefully -

- They creep into the churches, working among us all of their evil deception with the intent to destroy

Mat 25:31-33 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. (32) Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one

from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. (33) And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left.... Mat 25:41 “Then he will say to those on his left, **‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’**

Mat 7:21-23 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. (22) **On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’** (23) And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

Many (Jesus used that word)...*MANY* will come to Him on that day of judgment boasting to Him about how they served Him. So **STRONG** is their deception that they will have even *cast out their own* in a kind of false deliverance

so as to mislead people. *But where did they do these things? What was their arena?* It was within (and is within right now) the visible church. This is the favorite stage of choice for Satan and his servants:

2Co 11:3-4 But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. (4) For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.

2Co 11:13-15 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. (14) And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. (15) So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.

Last time we learned that the holy angels have often come in the form of men. Many have entertained angels unaware of who they really were. And we asked the question – do the unholy angels do the same? That is, do they sometimes come among us in the form of a human being?

I think it is clear that the answer is, “yes.” Because whether they actually come among us themselves, or whether they choose to come among us through a person and speak through them, the fact is quite clear that they DO come among us. They come to deceive, just as they deceived Eve, they come to lead us astray from Christ, they come to preach another Jesus and operate by another spirit, and the typical outcome is that professing Christians fall for it.

Just as Satan disguises himself as an *angel of light*, so His servants do as well.

Act 5:3 But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep

back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?

drive them out, just as He drove them out of us when He saved us.

1Jn 2:18-20 Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. (19) They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.

Rev 13:11-18 Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon. (12) It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed. (13) **It performs great signs**, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people, (14) **and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth**, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived. (15) And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain. (16) Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, (17) so that no one can buy or sell unless he has

Naivete and ignorance of and unbelief in these things is *dangerous*. Every one of us would fall to Satan's deceptions if not for this:

1 John 2:20 But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge.

We fight against principalities and powers (Ephesians 6), but the gates of hell will not conquer Christ's church. A church that is a true church will be a place where Satan and his servants cannot remain. Christ's Word and His Spirit will

the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.
(18) **This calls for wisdom:** let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666.

That is to say, the Spirit of God in His people gives them His wisdom to realize that the beast is of Satan, that the deceiving message and signs are nothing more than the work of *a creature*, an invention of the devil who always, always, always falls short. He is thoroughly “6” – the number of a mere creature.

Hos 14:9 Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; whoever is discerning, let him know them; for the ways of the LORD are right, and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them.