

THE ANGELIC CONFLICT

Request: Would you do a simple study on the angelic conflict and how it effects the Believer?

The angelic conflict (AC) is a doctrinal term used to describe the spiritual warfare between Satan's forces and God's divine agencies in the world (John 15:16-19).

Divine agency is God's chosen custodian, in every dispensation of His Word and Work in the world. For example:

- In the **Gentile age**, it was the messianic family (Seth to Abraham).
- In the **Jewish age**, it was the priest-nation of Israel (Abraham to first advent of Jesus Christ).
- In the **Church age**, it is the church (Resurrection-ascension of Jesus Christ to Rapture - Gal.3:26-29).

This lesson will study SEVEN aspects of the Angelic Conflict and how it effects the CWL. This lesson will require two weeks to cover all the material.

1. The AC began in eternity past when the archangel Lucifer led an angelic revolt against the authority of God in Heaven (Isa.14:12-15; Rev.12:4-9/ 1/3 of the angels).

The writer of Hebrews indicates that God offered them grace salvation in Christ which they rejected (Heb.2:2-3; Col.1:20/ things in heaven).

Lucifer and the fallen angels were sentenced to the Lake of Fire at the end of the human history (Matt.25:41; Rev.20:10).

Lucifer unsuccessfully appealed this sentence and two titles were given to him for the rest of human history: satanas (attorney) and diabolos (accuser; evil one) (Rev.12:10-12; 20:10; 1 John 5:19).

2. As a result of the AC in eternity past, two classification of angels evolved: Fallen Angels (Rev.12:9) and elect or holy (Mark 8:38; 1 Tim.5:21).

The fallen angels were divided into classifications following Noahic flood (Gen.6-9): imprisoned fallen angels (2Pet.2:4-5; Jude 6) and demons (disembodied spirits) (Mark 5:9-12; 1 Cor.10:20-21; 1 Pet.3:18-20).

During the post-diluvian civilization, demons are Satan's organized army for spiritual warfare against the plan of God (Eph.6:10-18).

Satan has a strategy against client nations as well as against the church (divine agency) (2 Cor.2:11; Rev.20:7-8).

3. One reason for the creation of mankind was to resolve Satan's appeal of the sentence of the Lake of Fire. (Job 1:6; 2:1-3; 2 Cor.4:3-4.)

This is why the human race was created inferior to angels but in the image and likeness of God but with free will (Gen.1:26-27; Heb.2:7).

Free will (volition) makes the human race agents in the AC. They have the power to choose or reject the grace plan of God (John 3:16; Psa.8:5-6).

4. The fall of Adam is first example of the AC (spiritual warfare) and the importance of man's volition (Gen.2:17; 2 Cor.11:3; 1 Tim.2:13-15; 4:1).

As a result of Adam's fall, Satan gained control over the world of fallen man but not over his free will (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; 1 John 5:19).

The AC has to be resolved in the sphere of fallen mankind and free will (AOS) (Rom.5:12; John 10:17-18).

5. Therefore Jesus Christ has to be born a member of the human race with volition but without the curse of Adam's Original Sin (AOS) (Luke 1:34-35) and then go to the cross, impeccable (without having volitionally sinned) (2 Cor.5:21; 1 John 3:5-8; 1 Tim.1:15).

Jesus was born outside the slave market of Adamic sin (Virgin Birth) in order to redeem all those in it (Acts 26:18; Col.1:13; Eph.2:1-10).

On the cross, Jesus Christ became the substitutional sacrifice for the sin of the world and the victor of the AC (John 1:29,36; Col.2:14-15; 1 Pet.1:18-19; 2:24; 3:18-19).

At the moment of faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16), God's grace transfers the believer into the kingdom of the beloved Son (Col.1:13; John 5:24).

6. All angels observe and acknowledge human volition freely choosing God's grace plan (Luke 15:7, 10; 1 Cor.4:9; 6:3).

7. As a result of positional truth, every church age believer is placed positionally superior to angels and Satan (Heb.1:4-14; Eph.4:8; Col.2:8-15; 1 Pet.3:22; 1 Cor.12:13).

Evil may sometimes appear too powerful a force to win over, but that momentary belief is not based on facts of the word of God. Rather, it's based on the fear of Worldly Thinking (cosmos diabolicus) or the 'grasshopper mentality' as mentioned in Num.13:25-33; Josh.15:13.

Today the Spiritually Mature Believer is the target of the AC (1 Pet.5:8; John 17:15; Eph.6:10-18).

However, every church age believer is adequately equipped for every battle in the AC as a result of:

- The Indwelling Holy Spirit – 1 John 4:4; 2 Thess.2:6-7; Gal.5:16-6) and
- The Holy Scriptures – 1 John 5:4; Rom.10:17; 1 Pet.1:12-15; 2 Cor.5:7).