

Letter 300
When Is An Angel Not An Angel?
2014-12-17

Dear Dan,

Something kinda funny happened at Church. Angel Gabriel was instructed by the Lord not to argue doctrine with Pastor (CB37). Gabriel shared this with me, and I knew this Word was for all of us. This occurred during the service on the very first day of our attending (U20). The reason for this came about as follows.

This Sunday was the first sermon in an exhaustive, verse by verse series of the Book of Revelation. And, as part of an overview, (CB37) touched on the Seven Churches, and the Seven Angels of the Seven Churches, as documented in Revelation chapters 3 and 4.

Now, I am aware of the two predominate interpretations of the Angels of the Seven Churches. But I had never before heard a live sermon on the Book of Revelation, so I had never heard either of the two views presented from the pulpit.

One interpretation says that the word “angel” means other than human spirit people (commonly referred to as angels) which Jesus wanted to include as the primary recipients of His Letters to the Seven Churches. This is the view that my angelic family and I hold.

The other view is that in this instance, the word “angel” is simply referring to the fully Human, presumably Christian messengers that took one copy each of the book to the seven churches from the Apostle John.

What’s funny is that the same people who I have heard teach the “human model”, as I call it, also invoke what is referred to as “the law of first mention”, in that when a topic is first taught in Scripture, the explicit or implicit meaning holds true throughout the rest of the Bible.

So it therefore stands to reason, if that law actually exists and is a sound principal, that the word “angel” always means Other Than Human, except in the rare circumstance where the word is used to provide an analogy, such as the apostle Paul saying that he had been treated “like an angel”. But that use is pretty obvious.

In his sermon, Pastor (CB37) touched on these two interpretations, and said that he went with the “human model” (my words) because the other “other than human” interpretation “had problems”. But he didn’t say what those problems were.

As soon as he said that, I looked at angel Gabriel and said something like “Say What?” And we both knew what the other was thinking. All of us in our group go with the “angels are not human” interpretation in these passages. And, since angels Maiah, Gabe, Gabriella, and Gabriel are all (other than human) angel people, and it was angel Gabe who delivered the Revelation to John in the first place, well, I think they are well qualified to “weigh in” in the subject.

It was soon after this sermon that the Lord informed Gabriel not to argue doctrine with the Pastor, and since we all work together as a team, I take the same Word for myself as well.

So, we don't, and we won't. But at least I can articulate our mild frustration with this unique view in our Letter to you.

Blessings...

R. C. Theophilus