

I Corinthians First Things First notes

I Corinthians 6:1-3

Paul in dealing with the ongoing issues of this church has kicked over big can of worms in the few questions he asks in these verses.

- These questions are referring to last things—end times events. Paul expected them to know these things.
- The Holy Spirit has the same expectation of us
- For every single prophecy of Jesus' first coming there are 8 Prophecies of His second coming.
- Just statistically speaking, we should be spending 8 times as much of our focus on last things because God has given them that level of priority.
- But we cannot have an accurate understanding of these last things unless we have firm grip on first things.
- Before we can answer questions like judging the world and angels, we need to ask questions like:
 - Do we know what angels are and their role in all of this?
 - Do we know why some of them are going to be judged?
 - Do we know what demons are?
 - Do we know who Satan is and his role?

We cannot afford to be wrong about these major players in the Bible.

1. Satan and the angels fall under the heading of first things because the Bible indicates that they were here first.

Job 38:4-7 – Several things to address here:

1. The angels (spiritual creatures) were here before any of this physical stuff existed.
 - This matters because we have a tendency to think that matter matters more than anything else!
 - Matter, as we call it (what we can see, hear, touch and smell), was second on the order of things created.
 - We tend to see the spiritual as non-reality and see matter as real things, but which is more real? The things that came first or the things that came after that?
 - People refer to the “real world” as if nothing else is out there or or is as important as the physical world.
 - To those people I would like to say, “God is spirit, so, God isn’t real?” ---When did we get promoted to the place where we determine what is and isn’t real?

Angels were here before anything else that we call real.

2. Satan, the most prominent of these important players, is not nor was he ever been an angel in the way we understand them.
 - “But I’ve always been taught and believed that he was a fallen angel”
Yep, and that’s why we are having this conversation!
 - The Bible never calls Satan an angel, instead it refers to him as a creature that is ranked higher than angels.

Satan was and is a cherub (that’s not a naked baby with wings!).

- Cherubs are not angels; they are altogether different creatures.

--A cherub is to an angel what an elephant is to a house cat.
--Cherubs are throne guardians—we almost always see them in relation to the throne of God in the Bible.

What are Cherubs?: Ezekiel 1:4-14 (remember they shine like coals in a fire); 26 these things are definitely not angels!

--Ezekiel 10:20

What is Satan: Ezekiel 28:12-15 – A good lesson on how God moves his prophets to speak—Ezekiel addresses a “real” person, but his language will go beyond that person to the power that is behind him.

--Isaiah 14:12-15 – “star of the morning” = “Lucifer” in the Latin meaning “shining one” or “shining star”

--The Hebrew word in Genesis 3 for snake is the word nachash = shining or shimmering in appearance.

We can now better understand why God did what He did after removing Adam and Eve from the Garden: Genesis 3:24

If Satan is a cherub, then why have we heard that he’s an angel then?

Possibly because: II Corinthians 11:14.

--He’s a liar and a deceiver but he’s not an angel.

Satan is large and in charge: I John 5:19-20;

--We were once under his power: Ephesians 2:1-2

He had a definite beginning and he will have a definite end:
Revelation 20:10

Matthew 25:41

Who and what are “Satan’s angels”?

--Before you give me the obvious answer of “demons”, I want you to go home this week and research that.

--We are not interested in what has traditionally been referred to as demons but what the Bible say they actually are.

Who are these fallen angels??