

4 • Four Big Realities

To conclude our study, let's focus in on four **BIG** realities.

☀ **Angels are real.**

In **Luke 16:22**, when Jesus described the deaths of the rich man and Lazarus, he said, "The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side." In **Romans 8:38-39**, Paul assures us that angels cannot separate us from the love of God. In **1 Corinthians 13:1**, he referenced "the tongues of men and of angels." In **Hebrews 13:1-2**, as Christians are called to continue in brotherly love and hospitality, we are reminded, "some have entertained angels unawares."

☀ **Angels are involved in spiritual warfare.**

In **Jude 9**, the archangel Michael is described as "contending with the devil." In **2 Peter 2:4**, it is revealed that "God did not spare angels when they sinned." **Revelation 12:7-9** describes war in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the devil and his angels. **Jude 6** describes some angels "who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling." In **Ephesians 6:10-12**, Christians are described as "wrestling" against "the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places." Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light (**2 Cor 11:14**).

☀ **Angels have been involved in and fascinated by the unfolding of the gospel.**

In **1 Corinthians 4:9**, Paul wrote that the apostles had "become a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men." In **1 Peter 1:12**, Peter describes the gospel as "things into which angels long to look." Jesus even taught us in **Luke 15:10** that "there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents".

☀ **Angels will play a role in "the end."**

The Lord Jesus will one day be "revealed from heaven with his mighty angels" (**2 Thes 1:7**). **Matthew 16:27** assures us that "the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father." In **1 Thessalonians 4:16**, the Holy Spirit promises through the apostle Paul, "the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel." In **Matthew 24:36**, Jesus describes "that day and hour" that "no one knows, not even the angels of heaven." But he also promises that one day, some will be told to depart "into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels."



What should we learn from these four **BIG** realities? Have your Bible ready? **Let's talk...**

For Class & Family Discussion:

- Why do you think it's important for us to know and trust that angels are real?
- We heard in **2 Peter 2:4** that some of the angels “sinned.” What does that tell us about angels? **Jude 6** reveals even a little more when it shares that some angels “did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling.” What does that mean?
- What goes through your mind when you hear Paul describe disciples of Jesus as wrestling “against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places” (**Eph 6:12**)? Looking around that verse, is there any hope? If so, where can that hope be found? What do we need in order to succeed?
- Looking back at **1 Peter 1:10-12**, why do you think angels “longed to look” into what God was doing through “the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories”?
- **Luke 15:10** seems to be really important. In fact, let's go back and read **Luke 15:1-10** together. What is Jesus teaching us? What difference should it make in our lives?
- We heard in **2 Thessalonians 1:7** that one day, the Lord Jesus is going to be “revealed from heaven with his mighty angels” (see also **Matthew 16:27** and **1 Thes 4:16**). Why is this important to remember? What difference should it make in how we think about “the end”?
- Jesus taught us something really, really important in **Matthew 25:41**. In fact, **25:31-46** is worth reading together. What stands out to you, particularly from **25:41**?
- What about you? What's the biggest thing you've learned in our brief study of angels?