



Decoding Hebrews 13: Visited By Angels?

0:00:00 Hebrews 13 says to be careful when you're entertaining, you might be entertaining angels unaware. I'm going to show you angels in the Old Testament that people were absolutely entertaining that ended up being God himself. We're also going to talk about grace and law and how each of those fit into the believer's life. We're going to dive into it all as we finish up Hebrews chapter 13 right after this.

0:00:28 Hello everyone. [Jim Staley](#) here, [Passion for Truth Ministries](#) and welcome to this week's broadcast. If you are new to this channel, thank you so much for being here. We are all about going back to the original biblical Hebraic roots of our faith. Christianity is not born out of a void. It's not born from Roman Catholicism. It's born in the first century out of Hebrew Jewish culture. So if we don't know what they believe, if we don't know the people groups and the debates and the different theological perspectives that it was birthed from, well, we're just going to take our denominational bias and read it right back into the scripture. But we want to get back to doing Bible things in Bible ways. Well, this is how you do it. You let the author speak from his perspective and that's what we're going to do today. We've been doing this for 12 weeks now, going through the [previous 12 chapters](#). If you missed any of them, I encourage you to go back and check it out, especially week 11. [Chapter 11](#) seems to have gone viral all over the place. Hundreds of thousands of people from all over the world are watching it and we're getting emails every day, that particular one about the Hall of Faith and the real Hebraic definition of faith seems to have really impacted people. So if you haven't watched that, I encourage you to check it out. In the meantime, let's wrap up the book of Hebrews by walking through the last chapter.

0:01:40 Now before we do, just a quick recap. The entire book has been a discovery and an exposé by the author of Hebrews to project onto his readers that, hey, the law of God is not done away with. What's happening is there is a new sheriff in town that's administrating the new covenant, the law of God, and that is a difference that we discovered in chapter eight. The difference between a new

covenant and the law of God is significant. They're not the same. The new covenant is like an administration in the United States of America. It's brand new, but it doesn't change the constitution or the laws. It's just a new administrator of them. That's what the new covenant is. The new covenant is a new administrator from the Melchizedek priesthood that overrides the Levitical priesthood, and that means that now there is someone who's going to be administrating it that can give grace where the law doesn't give grace. Even today, if you go over the speed limit and you're pulled over by a robot cop one mile an hour over, you broke the law, you're getting a ticket, right? But a real human being can give grace. That's how Yeshua does it. Jesus gives grace where there is no grace in the law. It's just black and white. Blessing if you keep it, curses if you don't. But now that you have a real administrator, Yeshua from the Melchizedek priesthood, He can absolutely give grace based on the situation and based on the repentance or the attitude, the heart of that individual. It doesn't change whether it's sin. It just changes whether or not we get a consequence, and that's the blood of Christ. When it does, it nailed the consequences to the cross, didn't nail the law itself. With that being said, let's move over to **Hebrews chapter 13** and let's discover what it has to say for us today. Amen.

0:03:26

Hebrews 13

"*Let brotherly love continue. ²Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.*"

-NKJV

We've all heard this passage before, but where does it come from? It comes from **Genesis 18 and 19**. I want to go there and show you this, and then we're going to go through the rest of this chapter fairly quickly. But this is actually a pretty significant thing that he's saying about entertaining angels. All right. So verse one of chapter 18, it says,

Genesis 18

"*Then the LORD.*" [Now, anytime you see capital L-O-R-D in your Bibles, that's called a Tetragrammaton. That is the actual four lettered name of God, Yod-Heh-Vav-Heh, or more appropriately called it by His proper name, Yahweh. Some people say Yehovah.] **"*...appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day.*"** [So Yahweh appears to Abraham.] **"*So he lifted his eyes and looked and behold, three men were standing by him.*"** [So he lifted his eyes and looked and behold, three men were standing by him.] **"*When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, bowed himself to the ground and said, 'My Lord, if I now find favor in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant.'*"**

So first of all, it's three men. Three human beings are showing up. Abraham recognizes something significant here, and he asked to be able to bless them. So we're going to move all the way down here to **verse 16**, where it's more, where the text is relevant to this discussion, and he says, now out of the three men, it says,

Genesis 18

"¹⁶ ...the men rose from there, looked towards Sodom, and Abraham went with them to send them on their way. And Yahweh said, 'Shall I hide from Abraham what I'm doing, ¹⁷since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? ¹⁸For I've known him in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they may keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him.'" [Now watch carefully.] ¹⁹And the Lord said, 'Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave, ²⁰I will go down now and see whether they have done together all according to the outcry against it that has come to Me. And if not, I'll know.' [So He says, I'm going to go and destroy Sodom and Gomorrah if I go there and find out that it's true. And what's the next verse said?] ²²Then the men turned away from there and went towards Sodom, but Abraham stood before Yahweh."

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So we've got three men. It starts off saying Yahweh came to Abraham, but now it says three men. I find that very interesting. And then it says that in **verse 22**, they went to Sodom, but one of them stayed back. So what does that mean? Two went to Sodom, one stayed back, one was called Yahweh. All right. And then we come to the most incredible verse here in **verse 24 of chapter 19**, where it says,

Genesis 19

"²⁴Then the Yahweh rained brimstone and fire down on Sodom and Gomorrah from the Yahweh out of the heavens."

-NKJV

And the Hebrew actually says, then Yahweh rained fire down from the Yahweh in heaven. So there's a Yahweh on earth and a Yahweh in heaven. That is incredible. And the rabbi saw the same thing. This passage is even quoted in the Talmud in discussion. So this is a pretty incredible thing because it appears to be two Yahwehs, one on earth and one in heaven. So I just find it very interesting that the angels that they're entertaining, that Abraham's entertaining unaware and Lot is, two are angels, one is Yahweh on earth, talking to a Yahweh in heaven. That eerily sounds familiar to Yeshua, Jesus on earth, who is the son of God, deity in the flesh, talking to His father in heaven and why both of them are connected as everyone is going to be bowing down at the name of God, according to Isaiah. But in the New Testament, it says that the name of Jesus, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess. How can it be both? God doesn't share His glory because they're both the same, one on earth, one in heaven. We don't know how it works. Father and son, it's amazing. Angels unaware.

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Now, let's go to **Judges Chapter 6 verse 11** and you'll see the exact same thing. This is fascinating. I just want to show you this, guys. I know we're getting off topic a little bit here, but it says,

Judges 6

"¹¹Now the Angel of the Lord came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress in order to hide it from the Midianites. ¹²And the angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, 'The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor.' ¹³Gideon said to him, 'Oh my Lord, if the Lord is with us, then why has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles? Which our forefathers told about us saying, did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt? But now the Lord has forsaken us and delivered us in the hands of the Midianites."

-NKJV

By the way, do you guys ever feel that way? You ever feel like, hey man, like if Yahweh is for us, like what the heck's going on in my life? Why are all these horrible things happening if Yahweh is really for us? Well, don't feel like you're the only one. Gideon, a man, a God of the Bible felt the exact same way, but he goes on to **verse 14** says,

Judges 6

"¹⁴Then Yahweh turned to him and said," Yahweh turned to Gideon is what it says. "Go in this might of yours and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?"

-NKJV

How phenomenal is that? Now Gideon in **verse 22** didn't know he was talking to Yahweh until finally Gideon perceived that he was the angel of Yahweh. So Gideon said,

Judges 6

"²²...'Alas, O Lord God! For I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face.'"

-NKJV

To me, that is absolutely tremendous to be able to see that right here in book of Genesis and in Judges, and by the way, Moses at the burning bush, it's the angel of the Lord. It's all Yahweh manifesting himself as an angel and in **Judges 13**, we get the exact same scenario happening again, except just with another character of the Bible. In verse three, it says,

Judges 13

"³And the angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, 'Indeed, now you are barren and have born no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son.'" [This is talking about Samson, of course, and then if you go down, you discover this angel of the Lord.] "²¹When the angel of the Lord appeared no more to Manoah and his wife, then Manoah knew that he was the angel of the Lord."

-NKJV

Meaning that they already knew what the angel of the Lord was. It was Yahweh manifesting in the flesh, and they knew what that meant. The angel of the Lord is God in the heavens manifesting as God on the earth, cloaking himself in angel clothes, pretty much like the New Testament says that Yahweh cloaked himself. Yeshua was cloaked in humanity. If He was cloaked in humanity, that means that He was something different on the inside. You're not the same as a costume. The costume comes off, you die. Something on the inside is what's real. They knew that. That's why he says in the next verse,

Judges 13

"²²Manoah said to his wife, 'We shall surely die because we've seen God.'"

-NKJV

In their mind's eye, they believed that they just saw God, and they were concerned that they were going to die because nobody can see God and live. That's why He has to cloak himself. To look at the sun directly, you need a filter to look at the sun and the universe, or it'll burn your eyeballs out. Yeshua is that filter. He is the cloak that allows us to be able to see Him. So that's just verse one of Hebrews that shows us that you can entertain angels unaware. This happens all the time throughout scripture, and a lot of times those angels are God himself, and you just don't know. So you just never know how that's going to work out. All right, let's move on.

0:11:01

Hebrews 13

"³Remember the prisoners as if chained with them, those who are mistreated since yourselves are in the body also."

-NKJV

I know what that feels like. I've been to prison. I know what it's like to sit in a prison cell, even if you were guilty. It's a horrible experience, and the only thing that you have to look forward to every week is mail and visitors. Don't forget those who are being mistreated no matter where they are. Encourage them. That's what we as believers do.

Hebrews 13

"⁴Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled, but fornicators and adulterers God will judge."

-NKJV

He says that marriage is all about not just yourselves, what happens in the bedroom, but it's community. Everything you do in your house, it totally connects to and affects everything that's outside of your house. So make sure you run your house well and recognize that God is going to judge all based on their actions, whether it's in front of the doors or behind closed doors.

Hebrews 13

"⁵Let your conduct be without covetousness. Be content with such things as you have. For He Himself said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' ⁶So we may boldly say, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?'"

-NKJV

Do you ever feel like that? Do you ever feel like you're fighting a losing battle? Do you ever feel like your flesh is never going to go away? Do you feel like your spirit man is never going to grow strong enough to push your flesh down? Guys, I do. I'm not going to lie. Like, I'm no different than the rest of you. So I truly am always fighting the flesh and have lots of demons on top of that, that would love to target me and do target me as being on the tip of the spear for sure, because he understands that I'm married to you. This broadcast doesn't exist without you. So if he can attack me, it affects you. So it just makes perfect sense. Go after the father of the house and the whole house falls. By extension, if he comes after the president of the United States, then it affects the entire administration. The enemy doesn't waste his time going at the bottom. He goes for the top because the top is like the foundation of the whole house. Just shake the foundation, the whole house falls.

0:13:06

This is where we go back. This is why I'm trying to encourage you right now. **Verse five.** He says, man, be content with what you have and recognize the Lord is your helper. Do you cry out to Him or are you to try to solve your own problems? We will not fear. I don't care what problems we come across. Don't fear. Especially don't fear men, but fear God because He can not only judge, He can also help. Right out of the mire, just like that, your situation can change. Maybe God's got you in a situation right now, and I believe this is for somebody out there right now. Maybe God's got you in a situation right now where He's

wanting you to distrust Him so He can increase your faith. He's trying to show off that you're not letting Him because you're trying to solve your own problem. Go to God and say, God, I can't fix this, but I know that You can, and I put it in Your hands and I trust You. Somebody put in the comments right now, Father, I trust You with my situation. Maybe you need to get on your knees and hit pause and confess to God that you've not been trusting Him, and you're not totally fearing Him and recognizing Him as your helper. Maybe you're leaning too much on your spouse. Maybe you're leaning too much on your job or your career, this or that. God is the only one that's there in times of need.

0:14:22

Hebrews 13

"Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith you follow, considering the outcome of their conduct."

-NKJV

He's talking about ministers, he's talking about pastors, and the ones that are supposed to be jurisdictionally over them, meaning protecting them and helping them in authority over them. He's specifically talking about a local congregation, but by extension, anyone that you submit to as spiritual authority, he says, make sure that you remember them, honor them, consider the outcome of their conduct. How is their conduct? How are they operating within the scriptures? And that should tell you whether or not you should even follow them. Amen?

Hebrews 13

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." [Amen for that.] "Do not be carried about with various strange doctrines, for it's good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them."

-NKJV

0:15:21

Here's what we got, guys. It's important you know this. Some of these, he's responding to the Hebrew congregation, okay, the Jewish congregation, that's why we call it the book of Hebrews, all right, likely, most likely in Rome, and he knows what he's dealing with. We may not know exactly what the subject of certain parts is because it's kind of an inside situation. He knows exactly, and they know what he's talking about. So, he's saying, look, apparently there are some strange doctrines that the apostles themselves did not teach. He said,

man, don't consider yourself with those. He said, it's good that the heart be established by grace, okay? The heart is established by the grace of God. It's not because you do anything that your heart gets established. Your blessings get established by what you do, but your heart is established by the fact that God didn't kill you for what you did last night or what you did yesterday. He's given you grace, and that establishes the relationship, okay? Foods which have not profited those who have, that are occupied with them don't profit your heart. So apparently there was a debate about foods. We know that from **Romans 14**, there was lots of debate on food sacrifice to idols and clean and unclean. And it's like, look, it's not going to establish the heart. We can have that debate, but trust and faith and grace is what's going to establish the heart.

0:16:39

Hebrews 13

"¹⁰We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. ¹¹For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, they're burned outside the camp. ¹²Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate."

-NKJV

So he's trying to, again, make the point from the Levitical perspective, they're bringing in animals and they're sacrificing them, and Yeshua, the Melchizedek priesthood, He did the same thing once and for all. And those that are eating from the Levitical line cannot eat from the Melchizedek line. You just can't. You have to choose who you're going to serve. Are you going to serve the human high priesthood and follow those rules and regulations, which are great, under that temple system? But once you have the Melchizedek system, it doesn't get rid of those rules. It simply overshadows them. If you're going to follow the Levitical system, which is his point, you can't follow the Melchizedek system. You can't follow two high priests. One trumps the other. There's a new administration in town.

Hebrews 13

"¹³Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach."

-NKJV

In other words, if you're going to follow Christ, you're probably going to look like Christ. You're going to be reproached, period. People are going to look down on

you. They're going to slander you. You're going to look different. We don't live our lives the same way as everybody else in the world. It's very easy to follow the world. It's difficult to follow God and be in the world.

Hebrews 13

"¹⁴For we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come."

-NKJV

So, everyone here is focused on Jerusalem, which is great, but he says, look, we don't even have a city anymore. Our city is the new Jerusalem in the new capital with the new administration, the Melchizedek priesthood.

0:18:20

Hebrews 13

"¹⁵Therefore by Him, let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God. That is the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

¹⁶But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

-NKJV

Did you just hear that? The sacrificial system hasn't been done away with. The blood of Christ satisfy the propitiation of sins and the requirement that the law had for death, period. Doesn't get rid of the blessings, that's for sure. More you keep of God's law, the blessings that are there. But he says, if you really want to sacrifice, it needs to be a sacrifice of praise and it needs to be a sacrifice to do good and to share with others. Those are sacrifices that God believes is acceptable at the Melchizedek altar, doing good, sharing, giving tithes, offerings, blessing people, helping those that are less fortunate and praising God. What was the last time you turned on worship music and just praised in your house? What was the last time you turned off that country music station and just turned on some worship in the car? Do you know how much time we waste during the day just scrolling through the news? I know I do. I'm preaching at myself. I hate sometimes looking at this camera. Sometimes I open this book up and I start preaching and I'm like, what in the world? This was written right to me. And I have to look into this thing and knowing that God is looking right at me going, you're such a hypocrite. You are preaching on this and you are struggling with this same thing too. Look, man, we are all fighting to serve God and to not serve the devil or our flesh. So you pray for me. I'll pray for you. How's that? Okay.

0:19:48

So it says in **verse 17**, let's move on to there because we're all feeling a little too convicted about the praise part.

Hebrews 13

"¹⁷Obey those who rule over you and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls as those who must give an account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you."

-NKJV

For those of you that are inside of hierarchical places, everything from a workplace to inside of a local congregation where there is real leadership that has real authority. Okay. Submit to that authority as unto God, as long as it's not unbiblical, right? And by the way, that doesn't give you the right to make the interpretation. So if it's within their right to say, hey, this is our final ruling, submit to that as unto God and pray for them. If you really believe it's wrong, you can respectfully appeal just like you would in a court of appeals. You're not going to walk into the judge and yell at them and tell them how wrong they are. You're going to say, your honor, with all due respect, this is the evidence that I have that I believe would overturn this case. Would you allow me to be able to present it? Sure. Present it, sit down, shut up, let God be the judge. If the judge disagrees and makes a final decision that's not in your favor, so be it. Then go to the Supreme Court, God, and take it up with Him. But don't cause a problem in that congregation or you will be held in contempt of court for and charged with division because you're going to probably dangerously slip into slander or gossip, trying to get other people to take your position. That's how churches split. It's typically not by the enemy. It's the enemy using people that don't like to be told what to do and they don't like to just submit to God through people. Unfortunately, that's the way the system works. It doesn't mean we obey what everybody says. It means that we are respectful and we are loving and it means that when we disagree, we still remain a position of dignity because we are priests and kings and priests and kings don't act like fools and yell and mudsling. They love one another even through disagreement. I have disagreements all the time with people, even some of my closest friends, but we do it with dignity and honor and we can strongly disagree, but in the end of the day, we're still celebrating birthday parties together. We're still going out to dinner together. We're still going on vacations together. All right. All right. Let's get back to the text.

0:22:03

Verse 18.

Hebrews 13

"¹⁸Pray for us, for we are confident that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring to live honorably, ¹⁹but I especially urge you to do this, that I may be restored to you sooner." [So pray for one another, especially those in ministry.] **"²⁰Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, ²¹make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well-pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen."** [And we're almost finished. It says,] **"²²And I appeal to you, brethren, bear with the word of exhortation, for I have written to you in a few words,"** [13 chapters to be exact,] **"²³know that our brother Timothy has been set free, with whom I shall see you if he comes shortly.** **"²⁴Greet all those who rule over you and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you. ²⁵Grace be with you all. Amen."**

-NKJV

And I love how he ends that. He says that it's not about the individual laws that make your heart grow in deeper walk with God. What grows the heart and the depth of your relationship with the Lord is grace. Of all the things that I get accused of, because I'm a guy that loves to teach the front of the book in the Old Testament and the back of the book and how they come together, I don't see a difference. I see a difference in administration, but I get accused of making it all about rules. Nope. It's about grace. The rules just prove out that I need grace. I take away the rules. I don't need grace. Grace comes in when I'm broken, my flesh gets involved, I mess up, and I choose to do what I want to do. The grace of God is there to bring me home. That's what the author is saying. The heart of the matter is the grace of God. And I want to extend that to every one of you that are out there today, because I know for me, being an apologist, an academic, and a guy that is inside the scholarly realm of scripture, it can be all too black and white for me. And I miss it sometimes in the gray. I miss it sometimes in the scene color. I miss it on the horizontal line sometimes. I'm so vertical, like a scientist that's always looking through a microscope, and sometimes I look up, I'm like, where am I at, right? Any of you guys ever feel like that? But we all need to extend grace. When you share something with somebody that you know they're not going to agree with, give them grace. Don't try to convince them. You're not trying to convince anybody of anything. You're just trying to share what God has done in your heart. And if He's done grace in your heart, then they're going to hear it, they're going to feel it, and they'll connect what you're saying in your head to the transformation that's happening in your heart.

0:24:53

For all you parents out there, the whole entire book of Hebrews is about a new administration that's operating in grace. It makes the law easier to keep when you have a personal relationship with the one who set the rules. Wow. As a parent of six children, all girls, if you are a parent that operates through a firm hand, you're like Moses telling them to keep the law, but there's no connection to the one who wrote it. Once there is a deep connection and relationship structure with the one who makes the rules and one who can actually choose to pardon when they do make mistakes, at times, it makes keeping the rules that much easier. The biggest mistake I see parents make is make rules, bring down the hammer, and there's a zero relationship. Once the child understands the reason behind the law of your house, and the consequences and what's good for them, sometimes I let my kids say, hey, can you understand why you... Do you believe you should be disciplined or not? They will say yes. And the moment they do that, they're connecting to Hebrews and they don't even know it. They're connecting to the grace that's mixing with the Melchizedek and the Levitical. It's the Melchizedek priesthood that totally wraps its arms around the law of God, and then we connect to that, and it all makes sense. Grace without law is nothing. Law without grace is death.

0:26:28

So at the end of the day, we have to have both. This is why God says, a true worshiper worships in spirit and in truth. And that's what I hope that you would have gathered through this entire book of Hebrews. There's a new judge, new sheriff in town. He's here to help you. He's here to give you grace. He's here to teach you how to keep His commandments so you can be fully blessed. When you fail, get back up, repent, and beg for that grace. That's what creates a relationship. Pass that along to someone else who might need your grace, and watch what happens in your relationship. All right, my friends, next week I'm going to do a full review, pulling the best of the best out of the last 13 chapters of Hebrews. Don't miss it. We will see you then. In the meantime, I'm Jim Staley with Passion for Truth Ministries, and like always, I'll see you in the next video.

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