

# The Angelic Rights Movement

Presentation Notes (March 1, 2017)

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## 1. Intro Slide

## 2. Key Questions

- What does “God’s order” and government look like?
- Was Lucifer’s rebellion in Heaven a “rights movement”?
- Where do rights come from, and should Christians join rights movements?
- What would God have us do in light of these answers?

## 3. Heaven Before the Fall

- How does God rule His creation, and what does this say about His character?
- What were the results of His method of government?

## 4. God’s Government (PP 34.3) – Four Pillars

**Interesting Point:** There are four pillars before standing before God’s “throne” (Ark of the Covenant)

- **LOVE:** “The law of love” is “the foundation of the government of God”
- **UNITY:** “The happiness of all intelligent beings depends upon their perfect accord with its great principles of righteousness”

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*Can two walk together, except they be agreed? (Amos 3:3)*

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- **SERVICE:** “God desires from all His creatures the service of love - service that springs from an appreciation of His character”
- **FREEDOM:** “He takes no pleasure in a forced obedience; and to all He grants freedom of will, that they may render Him voluntary service”

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*Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting. Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them. (Isaiah 1:14)*

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## 5. The Allegiance of Love

*“So long as all created beings acknowledged the allegiance of love, there was perfect harmony throughout the universe of God. It was the joy of the heavenly host to fulfill the purpose of their Creator... There was no note of discord to mar the celestial harmonies.” (PP 35.1)*

## 6 & 7. A Heavenly Hierarchy?

### Slide 1

- Does Heaven have a hierarchical government or authority structure, or are all the heavenly beings “equal” from that standpoint?

### Slide 2 - Chart

- **The “first” is servant of all:** *“If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all.” (Mark 9:35)*
- **First = Last:** *“I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.” (Isaiah 44:6)*
- **Christ submits to the Father:** *“... the head of Christ is God.” (1 Corinth 11:3) “the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him” (John 8:29) “And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” (Phil 2:8)*
- **But Christ is the head of all else:** *“Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be **thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers**: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the **preeminence**.” (Colossians 1:15-18)*
- **Holy Spirit:** *“The Holy Spirit exalts and glorifies the Saviour. It is his office to present Christ, the purity of his righteousness, and the great salvation that we have through him.” (Christian Education 59.2)*
- **Angels:** *“The angels were marshaled in companies, each division with a higher commanding angel at its head.” (Early Writings 145.2)*
- **Mankind:** *“What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet.” (Psalm 8:4-6)*
- **Animals:** *“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.” (Gen 1:26)*

## 8. “I” Will Be Like God (Isaiah 14:12-15)

- “Little by little Lucifer came to indulge the desire for self-exaltation... And coveting the glory with which the infinite Father had invested His Son, this prince of angels aspired to power that was the prerogative of Christ alone.” (PP 35.2)
- **What spawned Lucifer’s rebellion?**

- **Self-Admiration:** *“Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness.”* (Ezekiel 28:17)
- **Jealousy:** *“...when God said to His Son, “Let us make man in our image,” Satan was jealous of Jesus. He wished to be consulted concerning the formation of man, and because he was not, he was filled with envy, jealousy, and hatred.”* (Early Writings 145.1)
- **God decides who will be in authority:** *“Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and **I have set thee so...**”* (Ezekiel 28:14)
- **“God Himself had established the order of heaven;** and in departing from it, Lucifer would dishonor his Maker and bring ruin upon himself.” (PP 35.3)

## 9. The Great Assembly

*“The King of the universe summoned the heavenly hosts before Him, that in their presence He might set forth the true position of His Son and show the relation He sustained to all created beings. The Son of God shared the Father’s throne, and the glory of the eternal, self-existent One encircled both.”* (PP 36.2)

## 10. An “Invasion of Rights”

*“Rejecting with disdain the arguments and entreaties of the loyal angels, he denounced them as deluded slaves. **The preference shown to Christ he declared an act of injustice both to himself and to all the heavenly host, and announced that he would no longer submit to this invasion of his rights and theirs.** He would never again acknowledge the supremacy of Christ. He had determined to claim the honor which should have been given him, and take command of all who would become his followers; and he promised those who would enter his ranks a new and better government, under which all would enjoy freedom. Great numbers of the angels signified their purpose to accept him as their leader. Flattered by the favor with which his advances were received, he hoped to win all the angels to his side, to become equal with God Himself, and to be obeyed by the entire host of heaven.”* (PP 40.1)

## 11. Tactics: Lies, Fear & Force

- *“Many were disposed to repent of their disaffection and seek to be again received into favor with the Father and His Son. But Lucifer now declared that the angels who had united with him had gone too far to return; God would not forgive. For himself, he was determined never again to acknowledge the authority of Christ. **The only course remaining was to assert their liberty and gain by force the rights which had not been accorded them.**”* (EP 13.4)
- *“The angels whom he could not bring fully to his side, he accused of indifference to the interests of heavenly beings. The very work which he himself was doing, he charged upon the loyal angels. It was his policy to perplex with subtle arguments concerning the purposes of God. Everything that was simple he shrouded in mystery, and by artful perversion cast doubt upon the plainest statements of Jehovah. And his high position, so closely connected with the divine government, gave greater force to his representations.”* (PP 41.3)

## 12. War in Heaven

*“**They rebelled against the authority of the Son.** All the heavenly host were summoned to appear before the Father to have each case decided. It was there determined that Satan should be expelled*

from heaven, with all the angels who had joined him in the rebellion. **Then there was war in heaven. Angels were engaged in the battle;** Satan wished to conquer the Son of God and those who were submissive to His will. But the good and true angels prevailed, and Satan, with his followers, was driven from heaven.” (Early Writings 145.2)

### 13. The Fall of Man

- “Now the serpent was **more subtle** than any beast...your eyes shall be opened, and **ye shall be as gods**, knowing good and evil.” (Genesis 3:1,5)
- Satan was jealous of Christ for not being consulted about the formation of man, and now **he seeks to re-form man into his own cruel image** (and destroy the image of God in him)

### 14. Rise Above... Fall Below

“(Eve) was flattered with the hope of entering a higher sphere than that which God had assigned her. **In attempting to rise above her original position, she fell far below it.** A similar result will be reached by all who are **unwilling to take up cheerfully their life duties in accordance with God’s plan.** In their efforts to reach positions for which He has not fitted them, many are leaving vacant the place where they might be a blessing.” (PP 59.1)

### 15. The Human Rights Movement

- What are human rights, and where do they really come from?
- What is the spirit behind rights movements, and should Christians participate in them?
- What example has Christ left us?

### 16. Where Do Rights Come From?

“There are **certain rights** that belong to every individual in doing God’s service. No man has any more liberty to take these rights from us than to take life itself. God has given us **freedom to think**, and it is our privilege to **follow our impressions of duty.** We are only human beings, and one human being has no jurisdiction over the conscience of another human being.” (Letter 92, 1895 – 2MCP 708.4)

- True human rights are God-given
- These echo the fourth pillar of God’s Government which grants “freedom of will” and promotes “voluntary service” (instead of forced obedience)

### 17. Henry David Thoreau, “Civil Disobedience” (1849)

#### Slide 1

- He was an American essayist, poet, philosopher, abolitionist, naturalist, tax resister, development critic, surveyor, and historian.
- **Transcendentalist** - believe that society and its institutions—particularly **organized religion and political parties**—corrupt the purity of the individual. They also believe that all **people possess a piece of the "Over-soul" (God).** Because the Over-soul is one, this unites all people as one being.
- Extremely influential on individuals as different as Leo Tolstoy, Mahatma Gandhi, and Martin Luther King.
- Gandhi and King developed their ideas on non-violent resistance from this work.

- Non-violent resistance has proven very effective in changing moral, social & political systems over time.

## Slide 2

- It opens with this statement...

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*I heartily accept the motto, "That government is best which governs least"; and I should like to see it acted up to more rapidly and systematically. Carried out, it finally amounts to this, which also I believe- "That government is best which governs not at all"; and when men are prepared for it, that will be the kind of government which they will have.*

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## Slide 3

- And closes with this thought...

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*There will never be a really free and enlightened State until the State comes to recognize the individual as a higher and independent power, from which all its own power and authority are derived, and treats him accordingly.*

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## 20. Government or Anarchy?

The people of God will recognize human government as **an ordinance of divine appointment** and will by precept and example teach obedience to it as **a sacred duty** so long as its authority is exercised within its legitimate sphere. But when its claims conflict with the claims of God **we must choose to obey God rather than men**. The Word of God must be recognized and obeyed as an authority above that of all human legislation. (Last Day Events 142.1)

## 21. A Biblical Perspective on Human Government & Authority

But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord. (2 Peter 2:10-11)

## 22. Satan's Subtle Influence

The lines of protection of individual rights and interests have been confused through human policy, and a host of satanic agencies have rushed in to make the most of their opportunity. {1MR 269.2}

- Pride and public display
- Anger and a desire for power often leading to immoral or violent behaviour
- The uplifting of one person's/group's rights often leads to the abuse of another's (revenge)

**God is not against human rights and freedoms, but we are not to use Satan's methods to obtain them.**

## 23. Seven Tenets

The ideas of many social justice/rights movements may sound great on paper, but the realization of those goals can often be quite different.

### Slide 1

- One should strive to act with compassion and empathy towards all creatures in accordance with reason.
- The struggle for justice is an ongoing and necessary pursuit that should prevail over laws and institutions.
- One's body is inviolable, subject to one's own will alone.
- The freedoms of others should be respected, including the freedom to offend. To willfully and unjustly encroach upon the freedoms of another is to forgo your own.

### Slide 2

- Beliefs should conform to our best scientific understanding of the world. We should take care never to distort scientific facts to fit our beliefs.
- People are fallible. If we make a mistake, we should do our best to rectify it and resolve any harm that may have been caused.
- Every tenet is a guiding principle designed to inspire nobility in action and thought. The spirit of compassion, wisdom, and justice should always prevail over the written or spoken word.

These are the **Seven Tenets of the Satanic Temple**, a group that utilizes Satanic imagery to promote egalitarianism, social justice and the separation of church and state. Satan is thus used as a symbol representing "the eternal rebel" against arbitrary authority and social norms.

## 25. The Satanic Temple: "The Greatest Gift is Knowledge"

- **Question: Is Satan Working Subtly Today?**
  - Jesus Christ is the greatest gift, NOT knowledge
  - Satan is subtly mixing truth with error, good with evil (*Slogan: "On this Valentine's Day, Help Me Support The Satanic Temple's Efforts to Protect Reproductive Rights by Giving Me a Hug or a Kiss"*)
- **What were Satan's claims in Heaven?**
  - "He would no longer submit to this invasion of his rights and theirs."
  - "The only course remaining was to assert their liberty and gain by force the rights which had not been accorded them."

## 26. The Case of Brandon Eich

- Creator of JavaScript, one of the most widely used programming languages in the world today
- In 1998, he co-founded the Mozilla project with Mitchell Baker
- He later became CTO of the Mozilla Corporation, and finally CEO in 2014
- Critics of Eich tweeted to gay rights activists that he had donated \$1,000 to California Proposition 8, which banned same-sex marriage in California

- Eich stood by his decision to fund the campaign
- Some of the activists created an online shaming campaign against Eich, with OkCupid (dating website) declaring they would block access to the Firefox browser unless he stepped down.
- On April 3, 2014, Eich stepped down as CEO and resigned from working at Mozilla; in his personal blog, Eich posted that "under the present circumstances, I cannot be an effective leader."

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*"There is not a scintilla of evidence that he has ever discriminated against a single gay person at Mozilla... (this episode) should disgust anyone interested in a tolerant and diverse society." (Andrew Sullivan, writer/editor – openly gay Roman Catholic)*

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## 27. Christ's Example

- "(Jesus) was gentle, and never contended for his rights" (The Youth's Instructor, Dec 12, 1895, par. 2)
  - He was never involved in a political protest
  - Though He sought to break down social barriers and lift humanity up, He never did it with pride, force, or a disregard of government or authority
- Be sure never to respond in kind to any injustice. True religion never fosters ideas or develops character after the attributes of Satan... False or mistaken Christianity is always careless of human needs, sufferings, and rights. {Lt81-1894.7}

## 28. God's Method

To the oppressed and suffering Hebrews the day of their deliverance seemed to be long deferred; but in his own appointed time God designed to work for them in mighty power. Moses was not to stand, as he at first anticipated, **at the head of armies, with waving banners and glittering armor**. That people, so long abused and oppressed, **were not to gain the victory for themselves, by rising up and asserting their rights**. God's purpose was to be accomplished in a way to pour contempt on human pride and glory. The deliverer was to go forth as a humble shepherd, with only a rod in his hand. (Signs of the Times, Feb 26, 1880, Art. A, par. 1)

## 29. Closing Thought

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. (James 4:10)