Show reverence and respect during the services when it comes to songs or other issues. We should never allow joking to get out of control in our studies.
When we're singing a song, there should be a reverence for God and respect for the moment of warship.

During studies joking should be very controlled and limited.
Our children are watching, they should grow up seeing in us the highest respect and honor for God's teachings in his word.

The sons of God shouted for joy, when God created the earth; not the universe?

Some people never grow up; they are at the same level of maturity when 70 as they were in their teens! Why? Because of pride, they can't humble themselves to receive advice; they resent encouragement, instruction and advice

Matthew 27:45–46 (NKJV)
45 Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land.
46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, **"Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?"** that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

Matthew 27:51–56 (NKJV)
51 Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,
52 and
the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised;
53 and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

The time for morning was one year.
Their dead bodies were placed in family tombs, when the tomb was needed for another family member the bones were gathered and placed in an **ossuary**

ossuaries (from Lat. *os* or *ossum*, 'bone'), small chests used for gathering human bones after the corpse had rotted.

54 So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!"
55 And many women who followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him, were there looking on from afar,
56 among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

Stars are used metaphorically to describe 2 things.

It's never used to describe pastor teachers

1. the 11 sons of Jacob and the 12 tribes of Israel:
Genesis 37:9
Revelation 12:1

2. Angels:
Job 38:4–7 (NKJV)
4 "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.
5 Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?
6 To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone,
7 When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Revelation 9:1 (NKJV)
1 Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit.

When a request or a suggestion is made, for example: would you help me with the kids; instead of saying "jokingly" know you do it!
Answer with a kind and willing tone "yes I'd be glad to". That's not to say that you're not willing for the start; but we want to train the children good manners by our example; always demonstrating a humble obedience to Scripture.

4.15.18

Beginning our study of the book of Revelation with an accurate understanding of how angels function in the first, second and third chapters; is all important for an accurate development of angels legal activities in the following chapters through the end of the book.

Who are the angels of the churches?

Angels of the Court

1. **Summary:**

Though it's not a major problem to identify these angels as pastors; yet if we properly identify them as legal *witnesses*, *recorders*, and *executioners* of the judgments of the reigning authority and judge in the courtroom of heaven; then our overall perspective of God's dealings in the church age, and our own personal roles including the manner in which we advanced toward rewards and inheritance becomes greatly enhanced.

Malachi 3:16–17 (NKJV)
16 Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, And the Lord listened and heard them; **So a book of remembrance was written before Him** For those who fear the Lord And who meditate on His name.
17 "They shall be Mine," says the Lord of hosts, "On the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them As a man spares his own son who serves him."

a. **Revelation 1:1 (NKJV)**
1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him **to show His servants**—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John,

God requires education for the health of the churches

Revelation 1:11 (NKJV)
11 saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

Remember it's government's obligation to protect the nation and institute law that brings peace and order and structure, that allows for education and knowledge, that allows for prosperity in human society.

This is why Pres. Trump is laboring to only allow educated immigrants into this country. Individuals able to contribute to the prosperity of the family and of the nation and society.

Genesis 1:28 (NKJV)
28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Deuteronomy 32:8 (NKJV)
8 When the Most High divided their inheritance to the nations, When He separated the sons of Adam, He set the boundaries of the peoples According to the number of the children of Israel.

Acts 17:26 (NKJV)
26 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,

b. **In part, chapters 2 & 3 will be structured by our understanding of who these angels are!**

Revelation 1:20 (NKJV)
20 The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the **angels** of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

Revelation 2:1 (NKJV)
1 "To the **angel** of the church of **Ephesus** write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:

Revelation 2:8 (NKJV)
8 "And to the **angel** of the church in **Smyrna** write, 'These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:

Revelation 2:12 (NKJV)
12 "And to the **angel** of the church in **Pergamos** write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:

Revelation 2:18 (NKJV)
18 "And to the **angel** of the church in **Thyatira** write, 'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass:

Revelation 3:1 (NKJV)
1 "And to the **angel** of the church in **Sardis** write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

Revelation 3:7 (NKJV)
7 "And to the **angel** of the church in **Philadelphia** write, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens":

Revelation 3:14 (NKJV)
14 "And to the **angel** of the church of the **Laodiceans** write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:

As we go through the background of the role of angels in history and prophecy, and we look at the role of angels in the book of Revelation, what we are going to discover is that this will enhance our understanding of the individual role of the believer in the angelic conflict.

2.

3. **Law is based in and originates from an eternal absolute, grounded in the character of God:**

a. **Only in the Judeo-Christian teachings of Scripture is there this almighty God who binds himself contractually to a certain standard of behavior of operation.**

Law is based on something that goes
beyond the Constitution,
beyond society, and
beyond culture.
Law is based on an eternal absolute that is grounded in the character of God.

4. **Angels activity in the tribulation from chapter 4 through 19**

a. **They are instrumental in a series of ongoing judgments,**

1. The judicial decisions that come forth from the throne of God are announced by various angels.
2. Angels warn of impending judgments.
3. Angels carry out or mediate these judgments.

It is Supreme Court of heaven that pronounces the judgment but it is an angel that carries out the function, the actual operation of the judgment.

Geophysical disasters, or whether it has to do with some sort of disease or sickness it is carried out by an angel.

5. **Angels carrying out judicial activity in the Old Testament**

a. **Angels/Cherubim guard the tree of life:**

Part of the judicial decree for their punishment after Adam and the woman had sinned
Was that they were barred from having access to the tree of life.

So:

Genesis 3:22–24 (NKJV)
22 Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"—
23 therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken.
24 So He drove out the man; and He placed **cherubim** at the east of the garden of Eden, and a **flaming sword** which turned every way, **to guard the way to the tree of life**.

having authority over life

God placed a sentry, a guard, a cherub with a flaming sword.

That sword throughout Scripture is a picture of having authority over life.

This cherub has the authority to take the life of any human being who tries to enter Eden and to take of the fruit of the tree of life.

b. **Two angels go to Sodom and bring Lot and his family out,**
They are the ones responsible for executing judgment on Sodom and Gommorah.

Genesis 19:1–6 (NKJV)
1 Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground.

c. **An angel executes judgment on Israel after David's failure to apply doctrine!**

1 Chronicles 21:1–18 (NKJV)
1 Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel.
2 So David said to Joab and to the leaders of the people, "Go, number Israel from Beersheba to Dan, and bring the number of them to me that I may know it."
3 And Joab answered, "May the Lord make His people a hundred times more than they are. But, my lord the king, are they not all my lord's servants? Why then does my lord require this thing? Why should he be a cause of guilt in Israel?"
4 Nevertheless the king's word prevailed against Joab. Therefore Joab departed and went throughout all Israel and came to Jerusalem.
5 Then Joab gave the sum of the number of the people to David. All Israel had one million one hundred thousand men who drew the sword, and Judah had four hundred and seventy thousand men who drew the sword.
6 But he did not count Levi and Benjamin among them, for the king's word was abominable to Joab.
7 And God was displeased with this thing; therefore He struck Israel.
8 So David said to God, "I have sinned greatly, because I have done this thing; but now, I pray, take away the iniquity of Your servant, for I have done very foolishly."
9 Then the Lord spoke to Gad, David's seer, saying,
10 "Go and tell David, saying, 'Thus says the Lord: "I offer you three things; choose one of them for yourself, that I may do it to you." ' "
11 So Gad came to David and said to him, "Thus says the Lord: 'Choose for yourself,
12 either three years of famine, or three months to be defeated by your foes with the sword of your enemies overtaking you, **or else for three days the sword of the Lord**—the plague in the land, with the **angel** of the Lord destroying throughout all the territory of Israel.' Now consider what answer I should take back to Him who sent me."
13 And David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Please let me fall into the hand of the Lord, for His mercies are very great; but do not let me fall into the hand of man."
14 So the Lord sent a plague upon Israel, and seventy thousand men of Israel fell.
15 And God sent an **angel** to Jerusalem to destroy it. As he was destroying, the Lord looked and relented of the disaster, and said to the **angel** who was destroying, "It is enough; now restrain your hand." And the **angel** of the Lord stood by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.
16 Then David lifted his eyes and saw the **angel** of the Lord standing between earth and heaven, having in his hand a drawn sword stretched out over Jerusalem. So David and the elders, clothed in sackcloth, fell on their faces.
17 And David said to God, "Was it not I who commanded the people to be numbered? I am the one who has sinned and done evil indeed; but these sheep, what have they done? Let Your hand, I pray, O Lord my God, be against me and my father's house, but not against Your people that they should be plagued."
18 Therefore, the **angel** of the Lord commanded Gad to say to David that David should go and erect an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

6.

7.

8.

vv