

What About Angels?

The Ministry of Angels – Ps. 103:20-21; Heb. 1:13-14

Angels heed the voice and the Word of God and do His pleasure. Angels do not heed our voice and our word and do our pleasure. God created angels to be ministers unto the heirs of salvation and God sends them to do what He commands.

Minister unto us, the heirs of salvation – Ps. 91:11-12; Mt. 18:10; 2 Kings 6:15-17

God has given angels charge over us. Satan tried to twist this promise by tempting Jesus to prove that God was with Him by doing something that would cause the angels to manifest protection, etc. Elisha asked God to open the eyes of his servant to show him that they were surrounded by angels and that they had nothing to fear from the Syrian army.

Angelic References in the N.T.

1. In the Ministry of Jesus

- a. About His Birth – Angels spoke to Mary (Lk. 1; Mt. 1), Joseph (Mt. 1 & 2) and the Shepherds (Lk. 2)
- b. Angels ministered to Jesus' physical needs after being tempted by Satan (Mt. 4:11)
- c. Angels ascended and descended upon Jesus (Gen. 28:11-12; Jn. 1:51)
- d. In the Garden, an angel came and strengthened Him. (Lk. 22:43)
- e. An angel rolled away the stone. At the Resurrection of Jesus, two angels were seen in the tomb. (Mt. 28:2-7; Jn. 20:12)
- f. When Jesus ascended into heaven, two angels spoke to the disciples and told them Jesus would return in like manner. (Acts 1:10-11)
- g. When Jesus returns, angels will return with Christ during His second coming. The angels will assist by gathering the elect and separating the wicked. (Mt. 16:27; 25:31; 13:41-43; 1 Th. 4:16; 2 Th. 1:7-9; Mt. 24:30-31)

2. In the Book of Acts

- a. An angel opened the prison doors to release the apostles to continue preaching Christ (Acts 5:17-20) Notice they preached, not the angels.
- b. Philip was informed by an angel to go to the desert. There he met and preached to an Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-27) Notice who preached.
- c. An angel told Cornelius to send for Peter to hear the Gospel. (Acts 10:3-6) Notice who preached and who did not.
- d. An angel rescued Peter from prison before he was to be executed. (Acts 12:5-11)
- e. Paul was informed by an angel that he nor the other people on the ship would perish. (Acts 27:23)

3. What does the New Testament teach concerning Angels?

- a. The saints will judge the angels in the future (1 Cor. 6:3)
- b. The saints are forbidden to worship angels. Being consumed with angels is fleshly and carnal. (Col. 2:18; Rev. 22:8-9) Only fallen angels seek attention and the worship that rightly belongs to God. (Heb. 1:5-6)
- c. The saints seem to have a guardian angel. (Mt. 18:10; Acts 12:5-16)
- d. The angels desire to look into the gospel that we receive. (1 Pt. 1:10-12) We proclaim the truth of the gospel to the angels, the angels do not proclaim the gospel to us or teach us revelation. (Eph. 3:10; 1 Jn. 2:20,27)

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4. Heirs of salvation are the ones who proclaim the gospel

- a. The angel could not preach to the Ethiopian but told Philip where to go, so that Philip could preach the gospel to him. (Acts 8:26)
- b. An angel appeared to Cornelius to send for Peter in order to hear words by which he and his household would be saved. (Acts 11:13-14; Rom. 10:13-17)
- c. Angels may proclaim or make an announcement to get people's attention, but only those redeemed from sin are the ones who are ordained to preach the gospel.

5. Some interesting considerations concerning angels:

- a. In the Bible, when people had a visitation from an angel, there are no references to those angels having wings. With the many stories of angelic visitations today, sometimes you will hear of visible manifestations of angel feathers being left behind after a visitation. Feathers only fall out due to corruption or death or mortality. Elect angels are immortal and incorruptible, thus if they have wings, why would their feathers fall out? Perhaps fallen angels, who are corrupted, if they have wings, their feathers could fall out. Also, you will hear of people getting "saved" by hearing angels preach the gospel and the proof is "feathers" left behind. That did not occur in the Bible.
- b. Many claim that there are angels of revival, but there are no references in the Word concerning that. The Agent of Revival is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, not angels. (Jn. 6:44; 12:32; 16:7-8) Angels are present with us when we preach, they can minister to us when needed, and they can assist us in accordance with the will of the Father. They will not obey our commands, they don't work for us. We do not pray to angels, nor tell them what to do, etc.
- c. God is humble and meek and lowly of heart. He isn't flashy and trying to prove that He exists. (Mt. 11:29; Mt. 4:3) Some try to convince others that God is with them and that they are telling the truth by "angels of revival" holding coins on the wall or making a fork stand up without holding it.