

A study of Angels, Ministering Spirits, Part 4

Lets do a quick review of the last three weeks.

- I. Angels exist, thousands upon tens of thousands
- II. Angels are at times sent to lead us to repentance
- III. Angels are sent to rescue and protect God's people
- IV. Angels watch over us as individuals
- V. Angels as God's messengers give us direction
- VI. Angels are sent to encourage in times of trial and temptation
- VII. There is rejoicing in the presence of angels when we are saved
- VIII. Angels are present at the time of death for the Christian

From Genesis to Revelation we see the existence and interaction of angels with God and man. From Adam and Eve's banishment from Eden, to the time the law was given to Moses, from the life of Jesus, his birth, death, resurrection and ascension, throughout the church age, to the second coming and the judgment of the world, angels have been and are still present. They have been faithfully discharging their assigned responsibilities as His messengers,



Hezekiah delivered, www.pitts.emory.edu

IX. Angels present at the giving of the law.

Acts 7:37 - 38 (NIV) ³⁷“This is that Moses who told the Israelites, ‘God will send you a prophet like me from your own people.’³⁸He was in the assembly in the desert, with the angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers; and he received living words to pass on to us.

Acts 7:53 (NIV) you who have received the law that was put into effect through angels but have not obeyed it.”

“ειςδιαταγασαγγελων. After all that has been said on this difficult passage, perhaps the simple meaning is, that there were *ranks*, διαταγαι, of angels attending on the Divine Majesty when he gave the law: a circumstance which must have added greatly to the grandeur and solemnity of the occasion; and to this Psalms 68:17 seems to me most evidently to allude: *The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even many thousands of angels: the Lord is among them as in SINAI, in the holy place.* It was not then by the *mouhths* nor by the *hands* of angels, as *prime agents*, that Moses, and through him the people, received the law; but God himself gave it, accompanied with *many thousands* of those glorious beings.” —The Adam Clarke Commentary

Verse 53. *Who have received the law by the administration of angels* -God, when he gave the law on Mount Sinai, was attended with thousands of his angels,

—John Wesley's Explanatory Notes on the Whole Bible, see Galatians 3:19

X. Angels observe our behavior.

God is also concerned about how we respond to the gospel, how we relate to the world and to one another. His holy angels stand in observance to our behavior.

1 Peter 1:10 - 12 (NIV) ¹⁰Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care¹¹ trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. ¹²It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

The angels of God are not omniscient (having complete awareness and/or knowledge). They watch with eager anticipation as God's plan of redemption unfolds through the ministry of the church, His followers that make up the bride of Christ.

Ephesians 3:10 - 11 (NIV) ¹⁰His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Men and the angels of God look on at the dedication of the apostles in the face of rejection, harsh treatment and suffering for the cause of Christ as they play out their role on the stage of life.

1 Corinthians 4:9 (NIV) For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to men.

Hebrews 13:1 - 2 (NIV) Keep on loving each other as brothers. ²Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.

1 Corinthians 11:10 - 11 (NLT) So a woman should wear a covering on her head as a sign of authority because the angels are watching. ¹¹But in relationships among the Lord's people, women are not independent of men, and men are not independent of women.



Joshua and the Heavenly Soldier, www.pitts.emory.edu

“. . . the apostle uses the word *angels*, in its most obvious sense, for the heavenly angels; and that he speaks according to the notion which then prevailed among Jews, that the holy angels interested themselves in the affairs of men, and particularly were present in their religious assemblies, as the cherubim, their representation, were present in their temple.

—Adam Clark Commentary

1 Timothy 5:17 - 21 (NASB) The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at

preaching and teaching. ¹⁸For the Scripture says, "YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING," and "The laborer is worthy of his wages." ¹⁹Do not receive an accusation against an elder except on the basis of two or three witnesses. ²⁰Those who continue in sin, rebuke in the presence of all, so that the rest also will be fearful of *sinning*. ²¹I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of *His* chosen angels, to maintain these *principles* without bias, doing nothing in a *spirit of* partiality.

XI. Angels present at the Lords return

Matthew 16:24 - 27 (NIV) Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. ²⁶What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? ²⁷For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.

Matthew 24:30 - 31 (NIV) ³⁰"At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. ³¹And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

Matthew 25:31 (NIV) ³¹"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory.

XII. Angels execute God's judgment.

Acts 12:21 - 23 (NIV) ²¹On the appointed day Herod, wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people. ²²They shouted, "This is the voice of a god, not of a man." ²³Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.

2 Samuel 24:16-17 When the angel stretched out his hand to destroy Jerusalem, the LORD was grieved because of the calamity and said to the angel who was afflicting the people, "Enough! Withdraw your hand." The angel of the LORD was then at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. ¹⁷ When David saw the angel who was striking down the people, he said to the LORD, "I am the one who has sinned and done



Plague of Death, www.pitts.emory.edu

wrong. These are but sheep. What have they done? Let your hand fall upon me and my family."

Angels will also be instrumental in judgment at the end of the age when they cast unbelievers into the furnace of fire

Matthew 13:36 - 13:43 (NIV) ³⁶Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field."³⁷He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.⁴⁰ As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴²They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

Angels will sound the trumpet judgments during the Tribulation

Revelation 8:1- ¹When the Lamb broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. ²And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. ³Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne. ⁴And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand. ⁵Then the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and threw it to the earth; and there followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

⁶And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound them.

⁷The first sounded, and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were thrown to the earth; and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up. ⁸The second angel sounded, and *something* like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea; and a third of the sea became blood, ⁹and a third of the creatures which were in the sea and had life, died; and a third



Michael and the dragon, www.pitts.emory.edu

of the ships were destroyed. ¹⁰The third angel sounded, and a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of waters. ¹¹The name of the star is called Wormwood; and a third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the waters, because they were made bitter. ¹²The fourth angel sounded, and a third of the sun and a third of the moon and a third of the stars were struck, so that a third of them would be darkened and the day would not shine for a third of it, and the night in the same way. ¹³Then I looked, and I heard an eagle flying in midheaven, saying with a loud voice, “Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!” (Rev. 9:1, 13; 11:15);

Angels pour out the bowl judgments upon the earth (Rev 16:2-17).

XIII. Why is our understanding of Angels so important?

“Those engaged in war need to know who their enemy is. It is folly to move forward into battle ignorant of what you will face there, oblivious to the strength of the troops arrayed against you, with out a true assessment of the forces you have with you to meet the advancing threat. That seems obvious; simple common sense. But remember that right now—even as you read—all of us on earth are in the midst of a spiritual war. Christians know that victory is theirs in Christ, but they must still engage the enemy in combat.” — Handbook of Christian Apologetics, Part 3, Chapter 5

Ephesians 6:12, 16 (NIV) ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. . . ¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

“Part of the armor God gives us is the knowledge that we struggle against a more-than-human enemy, and are helped by more-than-human allies. The demons and the angels are here surrounding us, moving swiftly on the field of battle. There is no possible advantage in pretending otherwise.” —Handbook of Christian Apologetics, Part 3, Chapter 5

“Suppose you really believed you and your life were surrounded by real, present and powerful spirits who knew you and either helped or harmed you. How would your everyday consciousness be changed?”
—Handbook of Christian Apologetics, Part 3, Chapter 5

