

Subject: *Biblical Truth about Angels – Part 5*

Scripture: *Hebrews 1:1-14*

The Ministry of Angels to Believers

1. Angels deliver God's messages. The word "angel" in the Old and New Testaments means "messenger." *Psalms 103:20 Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.* We should not attempt to communicate with angels to determine God's will or to get spiritual information. God has made His will known through His written Word, complete and without error.

- A. They are faithful to heed God's words and to deliver His truth to others. If an angel from heaven were to proclaim a false gospel (Gal. 1:8-9), he would incur God's judgment. Mormonism is an example of a religion based on information supposedly given by an angel that teaches a different gospel from God's gospel of salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.
- B. They delivered God's Law, the Ten Commandments, to Moses (Acts 7:52-53; Gal. 3:19; Heb. 2:1-2). The Law came through angels into the hands of Moses and then to the people. This helps us to understand why the Jews had such high regard for angels and why the writer of Hebrews began his epistle showing that Jesus is superior to angels.
- C. Angels interpreted visions and revealed prophecy to Daniel (Dan. 7:15-27; 8:13-26; 9:20-27; 10:1-12:13).
- D. An angel interpreted God's visions to Zechariah (Zech. 4:1; 5:5; 6:5).
- E. An angel announced the birth of John the Baptist to his father Zachariah (Lk. 1:11-20) and the birth of Jesus to Joseph and Mary (Mt. 1:20-25; Lk. 1:26-35).
- F. An angel revealed the details of Christ's birth to the shepherds (Lk. 2:8-12).
- G. An angel unveiled the prophecy of Revelation to the apostle John (Rev. 1:1; 22:6, 8).

2. Angels guide believers (Mt. 1:20-21; Acts 8:26; 10:1-8; 11:13-14). Their ministry is external, while the ministry of the Holy Spirit to believers is internal (Jn. 14:16-17). Angels minister *to* believers, but the Holy Spirit ministers *within* believers. Angels may lead us to evangelize, but angels are not responsible for the work of evangelism.

3. Angels provide physical needs (1 Kg. 19:5-8, Elijah).

4. Angels protect believers (Ps. 34:7; 35:5-6; 91:11-12; Mt. 18:10).

- A. Lot (Gen. 19:1-24)
- B. Jacob (Gen. 32:1-32)
- C. Elisha and his servant (2 Kg. 6:15-17)
- D. Daniel (Dan. 6:20-23)
- E. Peter and the apostles (Acts 5:17-20; 12:5-10)
- F. 144,000 Jews (Rev. 7:2-4)

5. Angels encourage believers (Acts 5:19-20; 27:21-25).

6. Angels may carry believers to Heaven (Lk. 16:22).

7. Angels minister in unexpected ways. Their ministry may be unseen because they are invisible. Angels may visibly appear as men (Heb. 1:13-14; 13:2). God has supernaturally

opened human eyes to see the invisible spirit world (Balaam, Num. 22:31; Elisha's servant, 2 Kg. 6:15-17). Angels are described as "ministering spirits" whose assignment is to care for believers (Heb. 1:14). Although God usually cares for us directly, He does care for us at times through the intermediate agency of holy angels. God works by the means He chooses.

8. Angels watch believers with great interest (1 Cor. 4:9; Eph. 3:10; 1 Pet. 1:12). They rejoice when sinners repent and are converted (Lk. 15:10). The church is an object lesson to angels, revealing God's wisdom and grace. They have a holy curiosity with regard to salvation, and they marvel at God's saving grace, since Christ did not redeem any of them (Heb. 2:16).

Our Response to Angels and Their Ministry

1. We should learn and appreciate what God teaches about angels and their ministry.
2. We should thank God for creating and sending angels on our behalf.

Only eternity will reveal just how much they have meant to us.

Hebrews 1:14 *Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?*

3. We should thank Jesus for becoming lower than angels.

Christ was willing to leave the presence of angels and all His heavenly glory to obey the Father's will to be our Redeemer.

Hebrews 2:9 *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*

Hebrews 2:14-16 *Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.*

4. We should follow the example of angels.
 - A. Be like them in reverent worship
 - B. Be like them in humble submission
 - C. Be like them in prompt obedience

When Stephen appeared before the Jewish council, his face looked like the face of an angel. **Acts 6:15** *And all that sat in the council, looking steadfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel.*

William MacDonald comments: "They saw the mysterious beauty of a life that is fully surrendered to the Lord, determined to proclaim the truth, and more concerned with what God thinks than with what men may say. They saw something of the glory of Christ reflected in the radiant face of His devoted follower" (*Believer's Bible Commentary*). We should desire to have not a face like an angel, but a life like an angel—reverent, submissive, and obedient.

BIBLICAL TRUTH ABOUT ANGELS – PART 5

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A. Be like them in _____

B. Be like them in _____

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