

## ANGELS

SERIES: DOCTRINE | WEEK 11 | 11.7.2021

Good morning. [AUDIENCE: "GOOD MORNING."] Oh, man. [MORE YELL OUT GOOD MORNING] Thank you. Thank you. [TURNS TO HIS LEFT WITH OUTSTRETCHED ARM] My favorite cheering squad over here [THEY HOOT AND HOLLER], Good morning. Thank you. Thank you. Wait a minute, [FACES FORWARD, EXTENDS BOTH ARMS OUT] what about these right in here? [THEY HOOT AND HOLLER] Okay, thank you. Those of you online, you can do the same thing in your living room, wherever you're at in the world, we love you and we're so happy to be able to say hello to you and come to you by the way of video today. Welcome. Oh, [MOTIONS TOWARD BALCONY] I have to say hi to those of you up there in the balcony, wave at me, I can hardly see, I have no idea who's up there but thank you for your waving. I appreciate it. Good morning.

We are in a series called DOCTRINE – what Christians should believe. Who's going to teach us this stuff? We've got to get a foundation of what the Bible talks about, what its main foundational teachings are because so many of these teachings are being corrupted through current culture, media, many of the things that we're seeing online and in entertainment. We want to draw a line here and say here's what God says about it. Up until now many of the topics that we have talked about I have expressed as being absolutely crucial, if we get them wrong and I miscommunicate with you about those and you believe the wrong thing, the result could be that you would miss Heaven. That would be the greatest malpractice you could ever have in life. So we have to be extremely careful to nail it absolutely perfectly. They are hills that we would die on, things regarding who God is, The Trinity – God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. You get the wrong god your sins aren't forgiven and you miss eternity [in Heaven]. We had to nail that perfectly. They are hills that we would die on here at Calvary.

Last week we talked about our enemy, we talked about Satan. We talked about the choice that the angels had and a third of them followed him when he fell because of his pride. We recognize that we have an enemy, we are at war, there is a battle against us, and we've got to know our enemy's first rule of engagement.

This morning we're going to talk about angels and I have to announce to you, to me this is a much happier concept, a much happier topic, and in so many ways it isn't nearly one of those hills that we would die on type of topics. But, as you'll see as we bring this all together, you're going to see that there is so much valuable information in this that we need to know, that we probably rarely ever get to talk about. Last week when we talked about the fact that one-third of the angels fell, now, I always give you lots of credit as being a really smart congregation – how many didn't fall? [AUDIENCE: "TWO-THIRDS"] Nice. Two-thirds didn't fall, one-third fell and they're against us as demons, two-thirds did not fall.

We've talked over these last however many weeks it's been about God the Father loving us, and the power of God, and who God is. We've talked about His Son who was sent to give His life as a sacrifice because we couldn't give a perfect sacrifice, and He died on the cross and He took on Himself our sins and exchanged to us His righteousness so that we could be seen in the eyes of God as righteous. We've talked about His Holy Spirit which, when Jesus left this earth, He gave to us to empower us to live the daily life so He could be with us all the time.



Now today we add to that an incredibly powerful thing that we probably know very little about – angels. And when we put all that together all of a sudden we realize, wow, there is so much more going on that anything that you felt last week when you left here realizing the amount of battle there is in the Satan and his demons that may have been a bit

overwhelming, today I want you to walk out of

here at the end of the day going, wow, we have the power of God in our life and God has all sorts of things that He is leveraging for our good and to make us as the Scripture says more than conquers through Jesus Christ our

### ROMANS 8:37 (ESV)

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

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Lord. I want you to know you are not alone in this battle, you have not been left here to somehow slog through this mess we call a fallen world, but we have a God who is powerful and active; active when we don't see him, active when we do see Him, active inside of you, and I'm excited about that today [APPLAUSE] and I want you to be excited about it. Thank you very much. So listen to these words of Scripture, Psalm 148:2:

**Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!**

– PSALM 148:2 (ESV)

That's our response to a great God. Psalm 103:20:

**Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word!**

– PSALM 103:20 (ESV)

There are a lot of angels. I told you that there are two-thirds that did not fall. They have a will; some chose to follow Satan, some said no way, I believe in God. Daniel 7:10 says:

**a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.**

– DANIEL 7:10b (ESV)

That's Daniel 7:10. I will let you mathematicians work on that a while; for me, it's a lot.

Jesus said in Matthew 26:53 that He had the ability to call more than 12 legions of angels to His command, to His beckon need at any moment:

**<sup>53</sup> Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?**

– MATTHEW 26:53 (ESV)

A legion – 6,000 angels – He said that He had the ability to call more than 12 legions. Scripture speaks of a host of angels, talks about angel armies, armies of angels ready to come and take care of what is needed at the moment. Hebrews 12:22, in numbering the angels, says this:

**<sup>22</sup> But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,**

— *listen to these words:*

**and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,**

– HEBREWS 12:22 (ESV)

How many angels are there? I'm not going to give you a trick question: Innumerable, a lot, I heard you say that.

Angels are popular in pop culture. You probably have angels sitting around your house somewhere. They're not quite as "in" right now as they were before so those expensive collections are probably sitting in a box somewhere. Maybe they're still in a dusty curio cabinet somewhere, but they come in and out of style popular-wise, and they'll get more popular here in the next month as Christmas comes along and angels are sold in stores. We read a lot about them in books; we find a lot of curiosity when we read about them. The movie industry is very interested in angels. Oftentimes angels enter into movie scripts, they draw a lot of curiosity from us. Unfortunately, we find ourselves trained more by movies on what an angel is and what an angel does—and believe me, they don't really care about this Book. And today as

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we're trying to understand angels you'll hear me give a lot of Scripture throughout this series and I'm hoping you're taking notes, hope you download the notes. This is a teaching series to lay down the foundations of the faith, but we go to the Scripture to get our information. When the Scripture isn't quite clear on something, we're just going to say it, we're going to own it going, "I don't know, I'm not 100% sure." But be careful when you're taking your information from current culture, from figurines, from books, from movies as to what angels are because most of us have our view of angels created based on that.

### ANGEL

MESSENGER SENT FROM GOD

The word *angel* means "messenger sent from God." A messenger sent from God and here's what we need to know and here's what I want you to think about for a moment: An angel should never be prayed to because an angel has been sent from God. It is God who dispatches, the angel is merely fulfilling what God has assigned them to do. So our job is never to pray to the angel. Now there is nothing wrong—and I'll say this a couple times this morning—there's nothing wrong with saying to God, "God, I don't know what it takes here but would You send an angel to do war on this? Would You send an angel to take care of this?" I don't think there's anything wrong with doing that.

They're everywhere in the Bible, 34 books of the Bible have angels mentioned in it. Over 300 references in the Bible to angels. I probably would recommend that you not picture angels as little chubby babies sitting on clouds playing harps, those are pictures that have been given to us I think really weaken the view of what an angel is. We're going to talk about that and try to paint a picture and try to put some visuals to this this morning. Although that little, fat baby in the clouds normally is playing a harp, in Revelation Chapter 5 you see angels playing harp so that might be okay. The first angel that we see in the Bible is found in Genesis Chapter 3 after man fell to sin, mankind was escorted out of the Garden of Eden and God placed an angel there at the entrance on the east side of the garden. And it told us that that angel was there with a flaming sword, flashing sword, guarding the garden. That's always been very visual to me, flaming, flashing sword guarding the garden.



### GENESIS 3:24 (ESV)

He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

They are created beings, God created them. I'm going to read this passage a couple times this morning, it's that important, Colossians 1:16:

### WHO ARE THESE ANGELS?

CREATED BEINGS

**<sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.**

– COLOSSIANS 1:16 (ESV)

How much of what we come into contact was created by God? All things. Nehemiah 9:6<sup>1</sup> says:

**"You are the Lord, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you."**

– NEHEMIAH 9:6 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Transcriber edit/correction: Reference given in the video is Psalm 148:1-6, but the passage actually quoted is Nehemiah 9:6.

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We'll talk about this some that there are numerous names for angels throughout the Bible, *host* is one of those names. They're personal beings, they are called *holy ones* throughout Scripture. Daniel 8:13 says:

### WHO ARE THESE ANGELS?

HOLY ONES

<sup>13</sup> Then I heard a holy one speaking,

— *an angel* —

and another holy one said to the one who spoke,

"For how long is the vision concerning the regular burnt offering, the transgression that makes desolate, and the giving over of the sanctuary and host to be trampled underfoot?"

— DANIEL 8:13 (ESV)

And you can read the rest of the passage there. One of the things that's powerful about an angel is they don't need food. They never run out of strength. They don't need any sleep. If they're going to go do battle they don't need a couple Red Bulls to stay awake, they just keep going and going. Luke tells us they don't die, they have emotions and will, they chose—they had the opportunity to choose to follow God or to rebel against God—even as each of us have emotions and will and the ability to choose. They don't marry. Listen to this in Matthew Chapter 22:30:

<sup>30</sup> For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

— MATTHEW 22:30 (ESV)

What he's explaining here is that for those of us who are married today, we will not be married in Heaven. We're going to be just like the angels who are not married in Heaven. For some of you, the fact that you're not going to be married in Heaven you're sitting shouting, "Yay!" inside of you right now. Don't – don't respond, could get you in deeper trouble. And for some of you you're going, "Oh, I don't want that to be the case," but the verse also makes it very clear why we're not going to be married in Heaven, the angels are not married in Heaven.

### LUKE 20:34-36 (AMP)

Jesus said to them, "The sons of this [world and present] age marry and [the women] are given in marriage; but those who are considered worthy to gain that [other world and that future] age and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; and they cannot die again, because they are [immortal] like the angels (equal to, angel-like). And they are children of God, being participants in the resurrection."

This next one I want to tell you I'm going to say something very opposite in a little bit so you'll hear the both sides of this, the angels do not have bodies, they are spirits. What I'm going to tell you a little bit later is that they take on bodies, but in and of themselves they do not have bodies. Listen to Hebrews Chapter 1, verses 13 & 14:

### WHO ARE THESE ANGELS?

THEY DON'T HAVE BODIES

<sup>13</sup> And to which of the angels has he ever said,

"Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"?

<sup>14</sup> Are they not all

— *listen to this:*

ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

— HEBREWS 1:13-14 (ESV)

They don't have bodies. They're powerful beings. Second Peter 2:11 says:

### WHO ARE THESE ANGELS?

POWERFUL BEINGS

<sup>11</sup> whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord.

— 2 PETER 2:11 (ESV)

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They're powerful so when God dispatches them, which we'll talk about here in a moment, you're going to see incredible power because of who they are. In the Scripture three different names are given to

## THREE ANGELS ARE NAMED IN THE BIBLE

1. LUCIFER
2. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL (JUDE 1:9)
3. GABRIEL (LUKE 1:26-38)

individual, specific angels. You'll see that, um, I believe on this slide, you'll see it in your notes today if you downloaded the notes online, you'll see that there's three angels that are named. Oftentimes when we read our Bibles we read some of these names we think, *Wow, there's a lot of different names of angels.* We only get the names of three and each of these three are really only mentioned a number of times in our Bible. Since I created these notes I found one more so I'm going to tell you that one so you can go to my notes, put a little *x* over "3" and put "4" next to it and circle it. I wanted to beat the fact checkers to me because Monday morning my email blows up, "You said..." I know – *sorry*.

So here they are, the first one we talked about last week – Lucifer – "angel of light." Satan himself who

*I will...*

- \* ascend to heaven; above the stars of God
- \* set my throne on high
- \* sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north
- \* ascend above the heights of the clouds
- \* make myself like the Most High

ISAIAH 14:13-14 (ESV)

chose to fall because he says he wanted to become like God; he says "I will" five different times and he's kicked out of Heaven. Because I believe this next one's probably a fallen angel, the one that I forgot to mention in the three that's #4, but we'll make #2 – now you're really confused. Let me give you one other that's not in the list. Revelation Chapter 9, verse 11, says there is an angel that guards the bottomless pit and it gives a Hebrew name for that angel and a Greek name for that angel in Revelation Chapter 9. Hebrew name is Abaddon and the Greek name is Apollyon.<sup>2</sup> Abaddon and Apollyon, the same angel meant to

guard the bottomless pit. We assume that that's a fallen angel, but it may be otherwise.

This next one's the one you're probably most familiar with – Michael the archangel. Michael means "who is like God." Archangel is an incredibly unique position. He's the *only* archangel; because he is the archangel he is the leader. He's only mentioned four times in the Bible but they're fascinating times. In Daniel 10 it talks about him trying to get to someone to bring an answer to prayer but it takes him three weeks to get there because having to battle his way there. So it does remind us the battle that we're in here on this earth.

### DANIEL 10:13 (ESV)

"The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia,"

Daniel Chapter 12 tells us that he is the angel over the country of Israel, makes you wonder – is there an angel over every country? We know that Israel is special in God's sight and God has a very special plan for Israel, thus He puts the "archangel" in charge of Israel.

### DANIEL 12:1a (ESV)

"At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people."

Jude 9 is a really cool passage. One of the things I shared with you last week is sometimes I wish I had just a pair of spiritual glasses that I could place on and see what was going on in the spiritual world around us, and I shared I think that would be both encouraging and discouraging. I think the discouraging part would be at first we'd be blown away by the kind of battle that there is against us at all times. I think that we would be blown away and encouraged by how much God is doing, how much His Holy Spirit is doing, how much we're being protected by angels at all times. I think there would be a level of

<sup>2</sup> See <https://www.gotquestions.org/Abaddon-Apollyon.html> for more about Abaddon-Apollyon.



enthusiasm going, *Wow! Everyone else is going down at the hands of the enemy who's coming after them and* – as we talked about last week – *look at that hedge of protection around me, look how God is protecting me.* And so there's this back and forth between the spiritual world and saying, *Man, it's bad,* and the excitement of it going, *No, it's good, God's involved.* And we're going to try to continue to build on that.

So in Jude 1:9 Michael the archangel we're told is arguing with Satan over the body of Moses. It's as if for just a moment we get the curtain of the spiritual world pulled back and we get told of something that happened, that when Moses died Michael the archangel is having to deal with Satan over Moses' body. We're not told anything more. We could speculate but there's no point in doing that. There's something going on even in the unseen realm over the body of Moses and Michael the archangel is dispatched to deal with this.<sup>3</sup>

**<sup>9</sup> But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you."**

**– JUDE 1:9 (ESV)**

Another interesting little thing there in Jude, verse 9, that we have to realize is when Michael deals with Satan He says this, He says, "**The Lord rebuke you.**" I hear a lot of talk, I mention this often, I hear a lot of talk where Christians are talking to Satan. It's like we have more conversation with Satan telling them what to do and where to go and what we think of him and this kind of thing than we do with God. Even Michael the archangel did not choose to personally rebuke Satan. He said, "**The Lord rebuke you.**" Let Jesus do that, let Jesus have His way with him. It's not for us to be talking to Satan. Too many people spend too much time talking to Satan.

Four times Michael's mentioned, the last time is Revelation Chapter 12 where there's a war in Heaven, where Michael and His archangels fight Satan and his angels, the demons, and at that moment they're kicked out of Heaven.

**<sup>7</sup> Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, <sup>8</sup> but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.**

**– REVELATION 12:7-8 (ESV)**

This Michael the archangel is a powerful angel.

Gabriel, we're coming into the season of Gabriel momentarily, we're going to talk about Gabriel a lot. It means "the mighty one," he's mentioned four times in Scripture. By the way, you hear me say "he" – when we read about angels in Scripture the best we can see is the male pronoun is used regarding angels throughout Scripture. So when we talk about Gabriel we talk about the angel on top of your Christmas tree that's normally, like, a girl. [HE SHRUGS] I think it's probably fine, I don't think you need to do anything about it, but it changes our perception just a little bit. Gabriel, known as the mighty one, four times in Scripture, and mentioned as the distinguished messenger. Heard one author refer to Gabriel as the *enunciator*. Gabriel is the one who always brings good news to God's people, so if someone shows up to you and says, "Hi, I'm Gabriel," go, "Bring it on! You're gonna be bringing me good news, you're gonna be bringing me important things in a time of need." In Daniel 8 & 9<sup>4</sup> it was Gabriel that brought an

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<sup>3</sup> See <https://www.gotquestions.org/Michael-Satan-Moses.html> for more about Michael fighting Satan over the body of Moses.

<sup>4</sup> See Daniel 8:15-17 and Daniel 9:20-27

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answer to Daniel's prayer, so we like Gabriel a lot. And here at Christmastime we're going to hear a lot about Gabriel as Gabriel announces – listen to Luke 1:19:

**And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news."**

– LUKE 1:19 (ESV)

So there's your angels, three, well, four angels. Then when we're speaking of these innumerable angels, a number of different names used, that when you come across them in Scripture you might go, "Oh, that's speaking of angels." Listen to Psalm 148:2-3:

**<sup>2</sup> Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!**

**<sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you**

— *here it is:*

**shining stars**

— *referring to angels*

– PSALM 148:2-3 (ESV)

The Bible refers to angels as "the sons of God," "sons of the mighty." Job 1:6:

**<sup>6</sup> Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them.**

– JOB 1:6 (ESV)

You'll hear words like heavenly hosts, holy ones, rulers, heavenly beings – all these are names that you'll see written about angels. I mention all this because as you're reading your Bible oftentimes you stop and you scratch your head going, "Well, um, what... okay, what are we talking about here?" And so it's just helpful to understand some of the different names that you're going to hear for angels. And there's one other name that can be confusing but once you understand what it is it'll all make sense, it's the angel of the Lord. The angel of the Lord is only found in the Old Testament. In fact, the first time the angel of the Lord is mentioned is in Genesis Chapter 16 starting at verse 7. Sarai has been horrible to Hagar and Hagar is running away and the angel the Lord shows up in her presence:

**<sup>7</sup> The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur.**

And there the angel of Lord says your descendants are going to increase, a great amount of family is going to come from you:

**<sup>10</sup> The angel of the Lord also said to her, "I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude."**

GENESIS 16:7 & 10 (ESV)

And her response, being one who has been running and scared and feeling very much marginalized, she looks back and says to the angel of the Lord, You are the God who sees:

**<sup>13</sup> So she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, "You are a God of seeing," for she said, "Truly here I have seen him who looks after me."**

– GENESIS 16:13 (ESV)

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One of the fun things about all of us studying this together is if you've been with us you may remember when we talked about the names of God<sup>5</sup> and one of the names of God that we talked about was El Roi, the God who sees, and it was mentioned here in Genesis 16. So now we have the angel of the Lord and you have Hagar saying you are the God who sees.

Angels are not gods and we don't worship angels, so how is it that the angel of the Lord comes to speak to her and she ascribes deity to this angel of the Lord? In the Old Testament of our Bible when we see the angel of the Lord mentioned it's always referring to Jesus Christ. It's referring to a pre-incarnate, pre-birth vision, presentation of Jesus Christ being an "angel"—remember what that word means, "messenger"—Angel of the Lord, Messenger of the Lord. And in those cases you'll see worship ascribed, you'll see the name of the angel of the Lord as *the* angel of the Lord, not *an* angel of the Lord, and the people always worship in that case. Interestingly enough, in the New Testament you never see this angel of the Lord mentioned again. Why? Because in the Old Testament it was a pre-incarnate, pre- the birth of Jesus, um, presentation of "the angel the Lord Jesus." So whenever you see "the angel of the Lord" know that it's speaking of Jesus.

There are two groups of angels in the Bible—cherubim and seraphim—that "im" at the end of both of those words, cherubim and seraphim, makes the words plural, and so it's speaking of a lot of them. Cherubim surround and protect the throne of God; seraphim means "burning ones." One of the things I've enjoyed about studying through this is really adjusting what my picture is and my view of angels. There's a picture here in Isaiah Chapter 6 of the

### GROUPS OF ANGELS

1. CHERUBIM
2. SERAPHIM

seraphim, Isaiah 6:2-3:

**<sup>2</sup> Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. <sup>3</sup> And one called to another and said:**

**"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"**

**– ISAIAH 6:2-3 (ESV)**



You just see this ongoing worship of almighty God, of them surrounding the throne, of them there just constantly lifting up their praise. Two groups of angels, cherubim and seraphim.

We're told there are ranks of angels, we don't know a lot about them, but we'll read Scriptures that speak of rulers and authorities and when you see that it's speaking of angels but in the rank of angels, of the rank they find themselves in. So Ephesians 3:10 says:

**<sup>10</sup> so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.**

**– EPHESIANS 3:10 (ESV)**

I'm going to give you that in Colossians 1:16, we read this earlier:

**<sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.**

**– COLOSSIANS 1:16 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> For a list of the names of God and what they mean, go to <https://www.gotquestions.org/names-of-God.html>



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Now here's the part I'm really excited to talk to you about, this is where this gets really engaging now that you have the foundation that you have about angels, is that there is massive activity of angels in the unseen. In fact, in Genesis Chapter 28<sup>6</sup> we read about a dream that Jacob has, we refer to it as Jacob's ladder. You picture this ladder of the staircase and in this dream the picture is of angels going up and down it rapidly and often. What you learn in that is that in the unseen there's not this huge distance between here and Heaven, there's not a huge disconnect between Heaven and earth, and that there are angels going up and down that staircase or that ladder a lot. If you are active visually, picture the unseen right now of God the Father in Heaven dispatching His angels – and how many do we have? I hope you got that right, I couldn't hear you, [LAUGHTER] I'm just going to go with innumerable.



JACOB'S LADDER  
GENESIS 28:10-22

I want you to hear what Hebrews 1:14 says:

**<sup>14</sup> Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?**

– HEBREWS 1:14 (ESV)

Going up and down the staircase back and forth to Heaven, sent out to serve for those who inherit salvation. That may be those who have not yet inherited salvation, protecting them because, believe me, Satan would like to get them gone before they could ever receive and put their trust in Jesus alone. God may send some angels to protect them so that they have the opportunity to hear the Gospel, so they have the opportunity to respond. And for those of us who have already put our faith and trust in Jesus He sends angels to serve us. There's yet another passage that takes this to a whole other level. When it speaks of those who inherit salvation there's a passage of Scripture that tells us what angels are thinking about those who have been called to inherit salvation, listen to this, 1st Peter 1:12:

**<sup>12</sup> It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.**

– 1 PETER 1:12 (ESV)

So in that passage he's talking about the Gospel, he's talking about what Jesus did on the cross, the forgiveness of sin, the redemption that we have through the blood of Jesus that allows God to look on us and see us as righteous. When it says here what "**angels long to look**" it's painting a picture in the original language that it's angels coming up to the edge of Heaven and peeking out over and looking into the affairs of mankind blown away at those of you responding to salvation and what Jesus did on the cross. Evidently they're mind blown by it. Evidently they're fascinated by it. They didn't have this opportunity to respond to the cross – we do – and they watch us and they're fascinated by it.

If some of you today decide I want to follow Jesus, if some of you today just respond as we already did in partaking of communion, in remembering the body and blood of Jesus, it says here that the angels are looking and going, *That's crazy, that's amazing*. For the one of you who was so moved during our time of communion today and a tear ran down your face because of what our precious Lord Jesus did for you, the angels are looking just amazed by that. For those of you who will come to kneel before holy God of the

<sup>6</sup> Transcriber edit/correction: Correct reference is Genesis Chapter 28, not Chapter 18.

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universe here in a few moments, just at the front to just pray and give your life to Jesus, the angels are peering out going, *Wow!*

Hebrews 2:7 says God made mankind a little lower than the angels:

**<sup>5</sup>For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. <sup>6</sup>It has been testified somewhere,**

**"What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? <sup>7</sup>You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, <sup>8</sup>putting everything in subjection under his feet."**

**– HEBREWS 2:5-8 (ESV)**

But Romans 8<sup>7</sup> says that we are heirs with Christ:

**<sup>16</sup>The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.**

**– ROMANS 8:16-17 (ESV)**

And so we have something extremely unique and that's why they would peer over.

I shared with you earlier that angels are spirits, they don't have bodies, but then I said I would explain to you that they take on bodies and I don't know that we know fully what exactly that means, how they do that, who the body is that they take on, or where they get these bodies, or are these bodies with blood running through them, are they the same, I mean, we don't know. But listen to what Hebrews 13, verse 2 says:

**<sup>2</sup>Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.**

**– HEBREWS 13:2 (ESV)**

Have you ever entertained an angel do you think? It's a trick question because some of you think you haven't. I think most of us think we have. There's just been these weird moments where something happens, someone shows up and they help us, they do something for us. And then also you look around to say thank you and they're gone. I've heard a thousand stories like that. And you may have entertained an angel in that case. I would not speak against that except to say it says don't neglect the hospitality of strangers you may have entertained them unaware, you may have entertained angels unaware. I have a feeling that more often than not the activity of angels in our lives on our behalf being sent by God to serve us is happening where we're unaware of that. I would be more apt to lead you to believe that you don't know when it's happened. I'm not saying there aren't situations where you go like, "That was, I think an angel, I-I... there's no other explanation for that." And I'm okay with that. This passage to me is, personally, moving – don't neglect to show hospitality to strangers.

**GOD THROUGH ANGELS  
DOES POWERFUL THINGS**

I remember my grandma telling me as a little boy, they lived on a main street, railroad track was across the street, they lived at the corner, and she told me that during The Great Depression these homeless people would show up at her front door knocking asking, "Ma'am, can I have food?" And she said, "I always had food ready for them." And as you know not many people had much food in that time and

<sup>7</sup> Transcriber edit/correction: Ephesians 2 was stated in the video, but this reference appears to be incorrect as "heirs with Christ" does not appear in the book of Ephesians, it only appears in Romans Chapter 8.

she'd feed them. As a little boy I'm just sitting there feeling bad for them, I'm feeling bad for her giving up her food to them, and I still remember her looking at me and saying, "The Bible says to do that because we don't know when in doing that we are actually entertaining an angel." I remember as a kid my eyes going wide open.

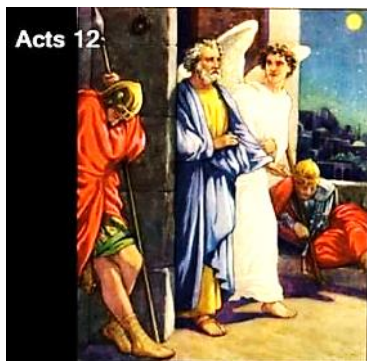
I've had a bunch of parents ask me in this series, "How do I tell my kids this stuff?" Tell them, tell them all of it, just tell them; start talking about this stuff, have conversations about this stuff. My grandmother passed away in 1978 so it was sometime pre-1978 that she told this to me and I can still picture her telling me that story and I can still feel everything inside of me going, *I want to do nice things to needy people. I want to serve an angel.* And in so doing the writer of Hebrews says we do so unawares.

Angels help us. Psalm 91, if you haven't looked at Psalm 91 you should. If you're struggling with some stuff in your life, turn in your Bible to Psalm 91 and start reading it, mark it, save it, you need Psalm 91. Listen to this, Psalm 91:11 says:

**For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.**

**- PSALM 91:11 (ESV)**

Wow. Peter, when he's thrown in jail in Acts 12<sup>8</sup>, it says that an angel came and set him free. Again, don't pray to an angel, don't pray to angels, pray to God. And I don't think there's anything wrong with saying, "God, would You send your angels? Listen, it's probably time for more than one angel." He's probably already dispatched them, He knows what you need but He also wants to hear from us, and so I think it's a right thing to say, "God, send your angels."



**AN ANGEL FREES PETER**

I want to end with two questions that I get asked a whole bunch and I hope will be helpful to you. The first question is: Do our deceased loved ones become angels? If you were to read Facebook [LAUGHTER] the answer would be yes, but if I read my Bible I'm not sure I come to that same conclusion. Now my Bible tells me that we will actually judge the angels, 1st Corinthians 6:3:

**<sup>3</sup> Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life!**

**- 1 CORINTHIANS 6:3 (ESV)**

If we're going to judge the angels in eternity, and I'm not sure what that all is about, I don't understand why or how, it doesn't explain that, it says that we will, then how would we judge the angels if our loved ones became angels? They didn't become angels. The Bible says to be absent the body is to be present with the Lord.<sup>9</sup> We're not going to become angels when we die. Your loved one is not an angel. Your loved one is not flying in some sort of bird form and showing up at your window to let you know they're okay. I know it's bothersome because you've been taught that and you're being trained regularly on Facebook, it makes people feel better. But we have a hope and that hope is in Jesus Christ, not on a bird showing up at our window sill.

**DO WE HAVE GUARDIAN ANGELS?**

Well, I have another question. This one I've gotten asked a whole bunch this week, people pulled up alongside me: Do you think we have guardian angels? Do you think there's been an angel assigned to us? I, at the beginning of the week, was pretty bold with a couple of

<sup>8</sup> See Acts 12:6-11

<sup>9</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:8 (NKJV): **We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.**

## ANGELS

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you and I said, "No." I did a little more research, I'm probably still no but I got some question marks. And the question marks are based on a couple verses – because remember – we're going to go to the Bible and get our answers. So if you're wondering, like, maybe you're still looking for that robin to show up at your window, see if you can find that in your Bible. Okay? Got it. So the same thing is going to be true with the guardian angel. We know they're powerful, we know they're going up and down between Heaven, we know God's sending them out to serve us, could He have one that's assigned to me? By the way, I hope. That'd be cool. It'd be so cool to meet that one in eternity and going, "Oh, do you remember the time when..." I mean, my mind can go crazy on this. I love the idea. Okay. But let me just throw these couple verses out to you, Matthew Chapter 18, verse 10:



**<sup>10</sup> "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven."**

**– MATTHEW 18:10 (ESV)**

Is it talking about little ones as in, like, babies? And they've been given an angel that's in touch with God? Is it talking about, you know, the Bible talks oftentimes about us as His children, in 1st John<sup>10</sup> it says, "**My little children**"? Are we God's little children? He sees us as the little ones and they're angels? We have angels, we've got our own angel? Only go as far as the text tells you. So far so good. I'm gonna take you back to Psalm 91, the verse I read to you a little bit ago, that was that chapter I said if you're struggling right now you ought to spend some time in that, bookmark it, have it ready to go at all times. Psalm 91, verses 11 & 12, I read you 11 a little bit ago, I'm going to read you 12 now:

**<sup>11</sup> For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. <sup>12</sup> On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.**

**– PSALM 91:11-12 (ESV)**

This is cool, huh? For sure I do know from the verses we've looked at that God is dispatching angels on our behalf and maybe a lot, some of you need a lot. I know I do and I'll take all He'll give me and I'm so thankful to know that my God has at His control power beyond power. That's why it should trouble us any time anyone begins to go to the dark side, to mess with Ouija boards and séances, and different things to bring curses down, to try to create the power of Satan and to summon that power, to even watch it and laugh at it and mess around with it. Only a third of the angels went with him and we know that his end is in the lake of fire for eternity. The God of creation has all the power. God the Father, God the Son who gave His life, God the Holy Spirit that lives in us, and the angels who God dispatches to hold us up in His very hands. We should be standing up right now and we should be shouting.

I have one concern about guardian angels that makes me a little leery of whether there is one guardian angel assigned to me. Here's my concern – if I knew I had a guardian angel I would probably start talking to it and I would probably start making something of it, and pretty soon it would become, or he or whatever, would become so big that it would loom huge over me and all my attention would be on that angel. So much so that the Apostle Paul said in Colossians 2:18:

**<sup>18</sup> Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind,**

**– COLOSSIANS 2:18 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> 1 John 2:1 (ESV): **My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.**

## ANGELS

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We love telling angel stories. We love telling stories about when an angel came and told us something and showed up there and fixed something for us or solved the problem, or how we looked out and we saw all these angels standing around, for some reason we had a moment we were able to stare into the unseen, and we love telling those stories and everyone's like, "Whoa!" But here's what we are at risk at all the time: Idolatry. Go read your Old Testament of your Bible, that's what Israel struggled with the most, something that takes the place of God. Ours is only to worship God.

John, the Apostle John, who was Jesus' best friend, who gets a vision in the book of Revelation of Jesus Christ and what is to come, on two different occasions comes into the presence of an angel and – um, worship team, I'd love for you to come up here, but while they're coming up please don't miss what I'm about ready to share because what I'm about ready to share is so incredibly important. I do not want—they're coming on the stage—for you to miss it. John on two occasions comes into the presence of an angel and I want to read to you right now from Revelation 19, but the same type of thing happens in Revelation 22. Listen to what it says John says:

**<sup>10</sup> Then I fell down at his feet to worship him,**

— *listen to what the angel says:*

**but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus.**

— *and then he says this:*

**Worship God."**

– REVELATION 19:10a (ESV)

[APPLAUSE] Everything continues to draw our attention to the holy, almighty God. He's done so much for us. His power is so great, and yet all of our attention continues to be pointed towards Him of who we sing out the words holy, holy, holy. Would you stand to your feet right now, would you join our worship team in shouting what the angels shout, the cherubim and the seraphim, and sing out that old hymn of our faith, "Holy, holy, holy"? Will you sing it out at the top of your lungs?

**WATCH OR LISTEN >**



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