

The Ministry Of Angels

Hebrews 1:14, "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to do service for the sake of them that shall inherit salvation?"

1

Misconceptions About Angels

- Angels look like people with wings.
- Angels are passive creatures.
- Angels were once humans.
- Everyone has a personal, guardian angel.

2

The Purposes/Work of Angels

- Ministering spirits. Psalms 104:4; Hebrews 1:6-7, 13-14
- Angel (*aggelos* – 175 times in the NT ASV): "Messenger"
 - "The word angel is applied in Scripture to an order of supernatural or heavenly beings whose business it is to act as God's messengers to men, and as agents who carry out His will." (*I.S.B.E.*)
 - "A messenger, envoy, one who is sent; one of that host of heavenly spirits." (Thayer)
 - Messengers and instruments of the divine will.
 - Stand in the presence of God. Luke 1:19

3

The Origin, Nature and Work of Angels

Created beings in spirit realm. Psalms 148:1-6

- Through the Son and for the Son. Colossians 1:16
- Called "sons of God." Job 38:4-7 (1:6)
- Above humans. Psalms 8:4-5 (cf. 1 Corinthians 6:3)
- Worship God. Psalms 103:20; Hebrews 1:6; Revelation 5:11-12
- Free will, can sin: No redemption. 2 Peter 2:4
- Limited knowledge. Matthew 24:36; 1 Peter 1:10-12
- Do not marry. Matthew 22:30

4

The Origin, Nature and Work of Angels

- Not to be worshiped. Revelation 22:8-9 (5:11-12)
- Announced the birth of Jesus. Luke 1:26ff; Matthew 1:19-20; Luke 2:8ff
- Attended to Jesus in the wilderness. Matthew 4:11
- Strengthened Jesus in the garden. Luke 22:43
- Rolled away the stone at the tomb. Luke 24:4-6
- Ascension of Jesus. Acts 1:9-11

5

The Origin, Nature and Work of Angels

- Acts 10:3 – Appeared to Cornelius.
- Acts 8:26 – Spoke to Philip.
- Acts 12:7 – Rescued Peter.
- Acts 27:23 – Stood by Paul.
- Angels are innumerable.
 - Luke 2:13 – Multitude of heavenly hosts were praising God.
 - Matthew 26:53 – Jesus commanded 12 Legions of angels. cf. 2 Kings 19:35

} Limited to the age of miracles. 1 Corinthians 13:8-10

6

Are Angels Active in our Lives?

- **Past:** Delivered God's messages to humans. Hebrews 1:1 (Genesis 19:12ff; Matthew 1:20; Luke 1:11-20, 26-38)
 - *Law of Moses.* Acts 7:38, 53; Galatians 3:19; Hebrews 2:2
 - *Gospel age.* Acts 5:19-20; 8:26; 10:3-6, 22; Revelation 1:1
 - Interested in your salvation. 1 Peter 1:10-12; Ephesians 3:8-10
 - Angels not allowed to change revealed truth.
 - Men are not to appeal to angels as a source of authority. Galatians 1:8

7

Are Angels Active in our Lives?

- **Present:** Serve before God's throne on behalf of God's people. Hebrews 1:14
 - Visible activity of angels has ended.
- **Future:**
 - Attend righteous ones when they die. Luke 16:22
 - Separate wicked from the just. Matthew 13:47-50
 - Execute divine wrath at Christ's return. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8 (Matthew 13:41-42, 50)

8

What about Guardian Angels?

- **Catholic definition:** Not in the Bible

"That every individual soul has a guardian angel has never been defined by the Church, and is, consequently, not an article of faith; but it is the "mind of the Church," as St. Jerome expressed it: "how great the dignity of the soul, since each one has from his birth an angel commissioned to guard it." (Commentary in Matthew, xviii, lib. II). – *Catholic Encyclopedia*

9

What about Guardian Angels?

- **Bible:** Angels, who are in God's presence, are interested in us. Matthew 18:10
 - Sympathetic to the fortunes of men: Rejoice when sinners repent. Luke 15:10
 - Angels will be present when Jesus either confesses or denies knowing you. Luke 12:8-9
 - Concerned for our salvation. 1 Peter 1:12
 - Serve God for God's people as they are sent forth by God to execute His will and work on our behalf. Hebrews 1:14
 - Fellow-servants of God's servants on earth. Revelation 22:8-9

10

Conclusion:

- Confess and worship Jesus now – follow the example of the angels! Revelation 7:11-12, "And all the angels were standing round about the throne, and (about) the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, (be) unto our God for ever and ever. Amen."

11