

Angels Part 1

Introduction

- 1) The Christmas story that we have just celebrated is full of the mention of angels; angels are an integral part of the story.
- 2) Angels are mentioned 196 times in the Old Testament and 93 times in the New Testament. These references are scattered throughout the scriptures – mentioned in 34 out of the 66 books that make up the Bible.
- 3) The Hebrew word for angel – Mal'ach
The Greek word for angel – angelos (messenger)
- 4) Every reference to angels is incidental to some other topic. God's revelation never aims at informing us regarding the nature of angels. When they are mentioned it is always to inform us further about God, what He does, and how he does it

Wrong Views of Angels

- 1) Appearance – we must rid ourselves of the 'medieval picture' of angels as having wings, fair hair, long white apparel etc.
- 2) Origin – they are not people who have died and then turned into angels.
- 3) Function - they are not mediators between man and God. They are not to be worshipped or prayed to!

Angel of the Lord

This term is used in the Old Testament. A careful study of the many passages using this term suggests that this is no 'ordinary' angel, but is a theophany, or better a Christophany- a preincarnate appearance of Christ. The angel of the Lord is identified as God, speaks as God and claims to exercise the prerogatives of God (Gen 16:7; 21:17-18; Exodus 3:2.etc)

Bible Teaching on Angels

- 1) Angels are a distinct order of being.
- 2) Angels are not born as we are born; they do not marry as we marry; they do not have children as we have children.
- 3) Angels are spirits (Hebrews 1:14) they do not have a body of flesh, although they can appear as human beings. They do not die as we humans die (Luke 20:36).
- 4) Angels know more than humans do (Matt 24:36).
- 5) Angels are not eternal – there was a 'time' when they did not exist. (Colossians 1:16).
- 6) Countless numbers of angels – 10000 x10000; myriad upon myriad.
- 7) Ranks among the angels?
Michael - the only angel called an archangel (Jude 9).
- 8) angels are not omniscient.
- 9) Their 'abode' is heaven (Mark13:32).

10) There are 'good' angels and 'fallen' angels.

- Abode of fallen angels 2 Peter 2: 4; Jude 6
- A third of angels rebelled against God? (See Revelation 12:14)

11) Angels are mentioned at key times in the ministry of Jesus :

Birth narratives

Temptation narratives (Matthew 4:11)

Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:43)

Resurrection

Ascension

Ministry to Human Beings

1) Rejoice over sinners who repent (Luke 15).

2) Protection Psalm 91:11-12

Story of Elisha- 1Kings 19

3) Provision Elijah – 1Kings 19

4) Deliverance Peter – Acts 12

5) Comfort Paul- Acts 27

6) Guidance Philip – Acts 8

Cornelius –Acts 10

7) Separate righteous from the unrighteous Matt 13:39-40.

8) Involved in implementing God's judgement. Herod –Acts 12:23.

9) Angels are observers of our world!

1Corinthians 4:9; 1Timothy 3:16.

Final Thought

Angels are not created in the image of God, therefore they do not share man's glorious destiny of redemption in Christ. At the end of the age redeemed man will be exalted above the angels – 1 Corinthians 6:3.