

Angels

Introduction:

Many in the world are enamored with the thought of angels. Television has wild and fanciful depictions that leave the imagination running wild. Web sites abound in “angelology.” Many homes have some sort of angelic picture, carving, or statue of an angel. The early church experienced a wave of angelic worship (Col. 2:16ff). We would like to examine the subject of angels this evening; however, let us stick to the facts. Let us not go beyond the word of God (Numb. 22:18) and neither let us add our fanciful ideas to the word of God (Deut. 29:29).

I. What are angels?

- a. The word “*angel*” (*aggelos*) = “A divine messenger, angel” (LS 4).
- b. Angels are created beings (Ps. 148:1-5).
- c. The angels are apparently given law to follow (how would angels sin if there is no law for them to follow / cf. II Pet. 2:4 and compare with Rom. 4:15).
- d. Angels are clearly spirit beings (Heb. 1:14) that exists in the unseen spirit world and are never given in marriage (Luke 20:35).
- e. Angels, at times, have appeared in human form (cf. Gen. 18:1ff; 19:1ff; Lk. 24:4, 23; Heb. 13:2).
- f. Some angels are given names in the Bible (Michael / Jude 9; Gabriel / Lk. 1:19, 26).

II. Angels in the OT:

- A. Angels delivered the Law of God to Moses at Sinai (Deut. 33:2; Ps. 68:17; Acts 7:53; Gal. 3:19).
- B. After David’s sin of numbering Israel, he saw an angel with a sword stretched across all of Jerusalem (I Chron. 21:16).
- C. Elijah was cared for by an angel (I Kings 19).
- D. An angel carried out God’s orders to destroy 185,000 Assyrians (Isa. 37:36).
- E. The Lord sent an angel to stop the mouths of lions when Daniel was thrown in among them (Dan. 6:22).

III. Angels in the NT:

- A. Angels announce the coming of Jesus into the world (Matt. 1:18-23; Lk. 2:10).
- B. Jesus said that he could call legions of angels to defend him (Matt. 26:53).
- C. Angels ministered to Jesus after he was tempted of the devil (Matt. 4:11) and when praying in the Garden of Gethsemane (Lk. 22:39-43).
- D. An Angel instructed Philip to go to the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26).
- E. An angel aided Peter when in prison (Acts 12:7-11).
- F. An angel comforted Paul while in the ship headed for Rome (Acts 27:23).
- G. Jude tells us how that Michael, the archangel, contended with Satan over the body of Moses (Jude 9).
- H. An Angel revealed the message of Revelation to the apostle John (Rev. 1:1).

IV. What do angels do?

- A. Angels aid saints (Heb. 1:14) (i.e., Elijah, Daniel, Jesus, Paul).
- B. How? (I Pet. 3:12).
- C. Some believe that Matt. 18:1-6, 20 describes guardian angels.
- D. Angels are interested in the spiritual welfare of mankind (Lk. 15:10; I Pet. 1:12).
- E. Angels carry out God’s judgments against humanity (Rev. 16:1-17).

- F.** Angels will accompany Jesus when He returns to judge the world (Matt. 25:31; II Thess. 1:7).
- G.** Angels will separate the righteous from the wicked at the end of times (Matt. 13:39-41, 49).
- H.** Angels will carry the righteous home to glory (Lk. 16:22).
- I.** Angels worship God in heaven (Heb. 1:6; Rev. 7:11-12).

Conclusion

There remains much more to be studied and learned on the subject of angels. We have; however, examined some evidence that helps us understand the place of angels in our world. The service of the angels toward saints appears to be the clearest information we can find (Heb. 1:14). We also know that the angels are very interested in man's spiritual well being (Lk. 15:10). The scriptures reveal angels to be God's messengers (Lk. 1:19; Acts 10:1ff etc.). Angels will be with the Lord when He comes again. They will play a big part in separating the wicked from the righteous and escorting the righteous home to glory (Matt. 13:39ff). Angels continue their work today (Heb. 13:2).