

Sunday, March 14, 2010—The Truth About Angels: The Angels As Ministering Spirits

Introduction

- Trough the first three studies in series we have studied the following truths regarding the Angelic world:
 - Definition: a heavenly messenger charged by God to carry out a particular commission.
 - Characteristics of angels
 - Classifications of angles
 - The fall of Lucifer and the angelic rebellion
 - Existence of the heavenly sanctuary and tabernacle
 - Current abode of fallen Angels in the second heaven
 - Structures of governmental authority in the heavenly places
- This morning we are going to turn our attention to the activity of angels in the Bible.

In Relation to God

- In relation to God the father, angels primary ministry to worship and praise him:
 - They Praise Him (Psalms 148:1-2, Isaiah 6:3)
 - They Worship Him (Hebrews 1:6, Revelation 5:8-13)
 - They Rejoice in What He Does (Job 38:6-7)
 - They Serve Him (Psalms 103:20, Revelation 22:9)
 - They Appear Before Him (Job 1:6, 2:1)
 - They are Instruments of God's Judgments (Revelation 7:1, 8:2)

Angles as Ministering Spirits

- Hebrews 1:13-14—these are the verses that are used to teach that people have guardian angels.
- What salvation is this verse speaking about? Hebrews 2:1-4 is talking about the gospel of the kingdom which was spoken by the Lord and confirmed with signs and wonders. This is Israel's kingdom salvation.
- Hebrews 1:14—it is important to note that the people in Hebrews 1:14 have not yet received their salvation. Israel as a nation does not receive salvation and the forgiveness of sins until the kingdom.
 - Romans 11:26
 - Acts 3:18-19
- Psalm 91:10-12—ministering angels is how God chose to take care of the nation of Israel.
- Psalm 34:7—all through the life of the nation of Israel angels ministered to God's chosen people.

- This morning we are going to look the angelic ministry to Israel during the Old Testament, Life of Jesus Christ, and during the Ages to Come.

Old Testament

- Genesis 24:7, 40—an angel is going to guide Isaac to the right girl. From the earliest days of God’s dealing with Israel before they were even a nation we find angelic activity associated with Israel.
- Exodus 23:20-23
- Angels were involved in the giving of the Law to the nation of Israel (Galatians 3:19, Hebrews 2:2, Acts 7:53).
- Angels provided physical provision and protection (I Kings 19:5-7, Daniel 6:22).
- Angels were involved in the answering of prayers (Daniel 9:20-27, 10:5-21).

Earthly Ministry of Christ

- Angels are active throughout the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ.
- At His Birth:
 - *Prediction:* Gabriel predicted His birth (Matthew 1:20, Luke 1:26-28)
 - *Announcement:* An angel announced His birth to the shepherds and was then accompanied in praise by a multitude of angels (Luke 2:8-15).
- During His Life:
 - *Warning:* Angel warned Joseph and Mary to flee to Egypt to escape Herod’s wrath (Matthew 2:13-15).
 - *Direction:* An angel directed the family to return to Israel after Herod died (Matthew 2:19-21).
 - *Ministration:* Angels ministered to Him after His temptation (Matthew 4:11) and in His stress in Gethsemane (Luke 22:43).
 - *Defense:* He said that a legion of angels stood ready to come to His defense if called upon (Matthew 26:53).
- After His Resurrection:
 - *Stone:* An angel rolled away the stone from the tomb (Matthew 28:1-2).
 - *Announcement:* Angels announced His resurrection to the women on Easter morning (Matthew 28:5-6, Luke 24:5-7).
 - *Ascension:* Angels were present at His ascension (Acts 1:10-11).

Ages to Come

- Angels are also very active in the Ages to Come.

- Angels will protect the 144,000 during the tribulation period (Revelation 7:1-14).
- Angels will announce the destruction of Babylon along with those who worshiped the Beast (Revelation 14:4-9).
- Angels sound the trumpet judgment during the tribulation (Revelation 8:2-12, 9:1, 11:35).
- Angels pour out the vial judgments upon the earth (Revelation 16:2-17).
- Angels will cast unbelievers into the furnace of fire at the end of the tribulation (Matthew 13:39-42).
- Angels will regather Israel for entrance into the millennial kingdom (Matthew 24:29-31).
- Angels will accompany Christ when He sits upon the throne of his glory (Matthew 25:31).

Other Observations About Angelic Activity

- Angels appear to be particularly active when God institutes a new epoch or sweep in his dispensational dealings with the nation of Israel.
 - They joined in praise when the earth was created (Job 38:6-7).
 - They were involved in the giving of the Mosaic Law (see above).
 - They were active during the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ (see above).
 - They will be involved in events surrounding the time of Jacob's trouble (tribulation) and the establishment of Christ's kingdom on earth (see above).
- Notice that we have not said anything this morning about our relationship with Angels. Next week we will talk about the great religious role reversal and the Body of Christ's relationship with the Angelic world.