

Sunday, November 9, 2025—Hebrews 1:14 Angels As Ministering Spirits

Introduction/Review

- Beginning in verse 5 the focus of Hebrews 1 has been on Christ being “better” than the Angels. The following table summarizes that argument.

Verse(s)	Quotation	Focus
5	Psalm 2:7; 2 Sam. 7:14	<u>Sonship</u> — the Son has a unique relationship with the Father
6	Psalm 97:7	<u>Worship</u> — angels worship the Son
7	Psalm 104:4	<u>Nature</u> — angels are created servants
8–9	Psalm 45:6–7	<u>Deity and Kingship</u> — the Son’s throne is forever
10–12	Psalm 102:25–27	<u>Creator</u> — the Son made heaven and earth
13	Psalm 110:1	<u>Exaltation</u> — the Son reigns at God’s right hand

Hebrews 1:14

- Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?**
- Verse 14 closes the chapter with a powerful contrast and practical conclusion. After a cascade of Old Testament quotations showing Christ’s eternal kingship and divine nature, the writer ends by defining exactly what angels *are* and *are not*. This verse completes the argument:
 - The Son **reigns** — angels **serve**.
- Are they not all ministering spirits**—“they” is a reference back to Angels in verse 13.
 - Ministering** (*leitourgika*) = serving, performing sacred duties (the same root as “liturgy”).
 - Spirits** (*pneumata*) — angels are non-physical, spiritual beings.
 - This defines angels by function, not by status: They exist to serve, not to rule.
 - In Psalm 104:4 (quoted earlier in v.7), angels are described as winds and flames of fire — swift, powerful, but still created servants under divine command. Contrast:
 - The Son is the eternal, enthroned Creator (vv. 8–13).
 - The angels are His servants, carrying out His will.

- **Sent forth**—Greek: *apostellomena*—from the same root as apostle (“one who is sent”). It indicates that angels act only under divine commission. They do not act independently or with sovereign authority; they are dispatched at God’s command. This recalls many biblical scenes. We will look at some examples shortly.
 - So their nature is one of obedient service — always sent, never enthroned.
- **To minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation**—“Minister for” literally means to serve on behalf of or for the benefit of. “Them who shall be heirs of salvation” = Hebrews i.e., Israel — those who will inherit eternal life through Christ.
- So, angels are not ruling spirits, but serving spirits, sent by God to aid the redeemed.
- This is profound: The exalted Son shares His authority by commanding these mighty beings to serve His people.

Angels as Ministering Spirits

- In [2010](#), I preached a series of sermons here at GLBC titled “The Truth About Angels” from 2/14-3/18. I encourage everyone to check out that series on the church website if they are interested in here more on this topic.
- Hebrews 1:13-14—these are the verses that are used to teach that people have guardian angels.
- Hebrews 2:1-4—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 about our relationship with Angels.

Religious Role Reversal

- Rather than allowing angelic ministration its proper place in Israel's program, religion tries to reverse the roles and have angels helping and protecting us.
- Angels are fascinating creatures but we should not worship them.
- Colossians 2:18
 - *Beguile*—defraud, take something away from you.
 - Colossians 2:4—parallel thinking words that sound good but in reality teach something radically different.

- What are they trying to defraud you of? Colossians 2:10 your standing of completeness in Christ. Satan's goal is to put something between you and Christ. Satan doesn't want you to understand your complete standing in Christ.
- How does Satan attempt to beguile you?
- *Voluntary Humility*—humility is good but not in this verse. Religion tried to produce a false humility which says your really not good enough to approach God on your own. They want you to look for mediators between you and God.
 - I Timothy 2
 - Ephesians 4:30, 1:13—we have been placed into an intimate union with Christ as the Head of the Body of Christ.
- *Worshipping of Angels*—religious system tries to make you think you need angels. Paul says that anyone who is involved with this type of activity is intruding into things they have not seen.
- *Intruding*—crashing the party
- *Vainly*—empty, useless, or of no value.
- The end of this type of thinking is that you and what you have seen become your authority rather than God's written word.

Our Angelic Teaching Ministry

- While we don't see angels they certainly see us. Not only do they see us but they also watch and scrutinize every detail of our lives (family, work, church, ect.).
- I Corinthians 4:9—we are made a spectacle unto the angels.
- Daniel 4:17
- I Corinthians 11:6-10—angels are watching to see the impact of God's word on your life.
- While angels don't minister to us because we don't need them. We do have a ministry to them. The angels need us.
- I Peter 1:10-12—God made known the events but kept a secret about their timing (Isaiah 53). It was this timing the prophets wanted to know about. Angel's wanted to know the same thing.
- Remember that one of characteristics of angels is that they are not all knowing.
- Ephesians 3:9-10—Paul wants all men to see the fellowship of the mystery in verse 9 so that in verse 10 the angelic creation might understand the manifold wisdom of God.
- The very thing the angels desired to look into in I Peter 1:12 the timing of how the suffering and glory fit together has been made know through the revelation of the mystery.

- Who teaches the angels the angelic world about the manifold wisdom of God? You and I do. The church the body of Christ.
- We have a teaching ministry that extends out through the heavenly places. That is why the angels watch us. They need us we don't need them.
- What do we teach the angels about? The manifold wisdom of God.
- The issue is God's wisdom not his power. The angels learn about the wisdom of God by watching the working of the Word of God in the details of your life. As we take our understanding of mystery truth and who God has made us in Christ and live like who we are.

The Embarrassment of Satan

- I Corinthians 2:7-8—notice how the mystery is synonymous with the wisdom of God.
- God kept it hid so that Satan and his princes would know it. God made know the facts—he just kept a secret about their meaning.
- Ezekiel 28:11-12—remember that Lucifer was the pinnacle of divine creative power in terms of wisdom and beauty. This is a description of the greatest of the angels in his unfallen state.
 - Full of Wisdom
 - Perfect in Beauty
- Ezekiel 28:17—his beauty caused him to be lifted up in pride and corrupted the wisdom he possessed in verse 12.
- Ezekiel 28:3—Lucifer's original boost was that there was not secret that could be kept from him.
- I Corinthians 3:19—God takes the wise in their own craftiness.
- Colossians 2:14-15—the cross puts Satan to open shame. That is why Satan hates what we preach so much.
- The cross is the focal point of the wisdom of God. All God had to do was keep a secret. Satan was so deceived that he did the very thing that sealed his own destruction.
- Ephesians 3:11—the manifold wisdom of God is to center all things in the person of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:10).
- Your life and ministry has impact in the heavenly places right now. We have a daily ministry teaching the angels about the manifold wisdom of God.
- If you don't know it you can't teach it.

Believers Will Judge Angels

- Our angelic teaching ministry is only one aspect of our two-fold ministry to angels.
- I Corinthians 6:1-5
- The Corinthians were having a real problem getting along. Paul says that there is no reason to go to law with another brother before the unjust.
- Problems with the brethren need to be settled amongst the brethren. The only reason why one would go elsewhere is because they desire to be in the flesh.
- Verse 5—Paul really rebukes them. Is there no one among you with any sense?
- Verse 2—Paul uses the fact that we will judge the world to rebuke them for not dealing with their own problems.
- Verse 3—the world we will judge is verse 2 is the angelic world in verse 3. As members of the body of Christ we are going to judge angels.
- We are not going to sit around in heaven all day doing nothing. God has made us part of his plan. It will be responsibility to carry on the business of God throughout the heavenly places.
- We will judge over the affairs of heaven. We rule over them, they are not given charge over us.
- II Timothy 4:18—the body of Christ is part of the heavenly kingdom of God.
- Ephesians 1:20-23, 2:6

Conclusion

- Let's not allow religion to reverse the roles. We minister the angels not they to us.
- We have two-fold angelic ministry:
 - Teaching them about the manifold wisdom of God
 - Judging and ruling them in the Ages to Come
- Remember what you do in life echoes in eternity.