

Angels: God's Ministering Spirits

Intro to Angels

I. The Angels Of God: Developing a Biblical Perspective

"Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation." Hebrews 1:14 (NASB)

II. Why Should We Study About Angels?

- A. It is a Biblical subject and, therefore, worthy of our attention.
 - 1. The word angel or angels occurs some 300 times in our English Bibles.
 - 2. The Hebrew word malak (used to describe angels) occurs 108 times in the Old Testament.
 - 3. The Greek word angelos (also used to describe angels) occurs 186 times in the New Testament.
 - 4. Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 that all Scripture is profitable for teaching, therefore, the Scriptures relating to angels are a profitable area of study for the Christian.
- B. Angels played a significant role in the life of Christ.
 - 1. Angels announced Christ's birth (Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-24; Luke 2:8-15a).
 - 2. Angels protected Jesus as an infant (Matthew 2:13, 19).
 - 3. Angels ministered to Jesus during and after His temptation (Mark 1:13; Matthew 4:11).
 - 4. An angel strengthened Jesus while in the garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:43).
 - 5. Angels announced His resurrection (Matthew 28:1-7; Mark 16:5-7; Luke 24:4-7; John 20:11-13).
 - 6. Angels attended His ascension back to heaven (Acts 1:10).
 - 7. Angels will be with Jesus at His return (Matthew 25:31; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-8).
- C. Angels play a significant role in the life of the Christian.
 - 1. Angels have a great interest in man's salvation (Luke 15:7, 10; 1 Peter 1:10-12). Should we not have an interest in these spirit beings who have such great interest in us?
 - 2. Angels minister to those who will inherit salvation (Hebrews 1:14). Should we not study those whose service is aimed at aiding man in obtaining eternal life?
 - 3. Upon man's death, the angels escort the righteous to Abraham's bosom (Luke 16:22). Doesn't this fact create a desire to know more of them?
 - 4. The redeemed will someday become "like" angels (Luke 20:34-36). This passage does not teach that we will become angels; rather, it teaches that we will be like them. Thus, to study their nature is to learn more about our eternal destiny.