

Angels in the Old Testament
Discussion #2
Facilitator: John Butcher

"Every redeemed one will understand the ministry of angels in their life. The angel who was their guardian from their earliest moment. The angel who watched their steps and covered their head in the day of peril. The angel who was with them in the valley of the shadow of death, who marked their resting place, who was the first to greet them in the resurrection morning. What will it be to converse with them, and to learn the history of divine interposition in the individual life, of heavenly cooperation in every work for humanity!" E. B. White

"Christians should never fail to sense the operation of an angelic glory. It forever eclipses the world of demonic powers, as the sun does a candle's light." –Billy Graham

Opening Quotes about Role of Angels:

- ❑ **Origin of angels:** "An angel is a spiritual creature created by God for the service of Christendom and the church." (Martin Luther in "Table Talk")
- ❑ **Angels as inspiration and guides:** "Are not all angels ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who will be heirs to salvation." (Heb. 1:14)
- ❑ **Angels of prophecy and good fortune:** God "spake unto me, and swore unto me, saying, 'Unto thy seed will I give this land.' He shall send his angel before thee, and thou shalt take a wife unto my son from thence." (Gen. 24:7)
- ❑ **Angels as messengers of hope and glory:** "And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him Joash the Abiezrite, and said unto him, 'The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.'" (Judges 6: 11-12)
- ❑ **Angels as ambassadors of forgiveness and mercy:** "I will mention the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord hath bestowed on us according to his mercies, and to the multitude of his loving kindnesses. For He said, 'Surely they are my people' and He was their Saviour In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old." (Isa. 63: 7-9)
- ❑ **Angels as rescuers:** "And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said unto her, 'What aileth thee, Hagar? fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is.'" (Gen. 21:17)
- ❑ **Angels of Good and Evil:** "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works." (2 Cor. 11: 13-15)

- I. What does the Bible say about angels in the OT? Well, our general impression is that they are awesome! They are not just robotic messengers.
 - a. Existence
 - b. Work
 - c. Value in the eternal scheme of God's divine plan
 - d. Agency: Christ was the agency of creative power:
 - i. "For by him all things were created: things in heaven and one earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him." (Col. 1:16). God uses agency to accomplish his tasks in others.
 - ii. Angels are delegated to do God's commands, among other things.

- II. What were angels created to do?
 - a. W _____
 - b. S _____

- c. P _____
- III. Angels carry out God's Providence, which is made to appear like coincidence
- a. Understanding angels helps us to
 - i. Appreciate God's Majesty
 - ii. Enlightens our D _____
 - iii. Confirms B _____
 - iv. Comforts our S _____
 - v. Strengthens our F _____
- IV. What is the first time angels are mentioned in the OT?
- a. Gen. 3:24 (Cherubim prevented re-entry to the Garden of Eden)
 - b. First usage of the word "angel" (agellos in Gk.) comes from Hagar in Gen. 16: 7. What is the first duty of the angels here:
 - i. S _____ and P _____
 - ii. Angels also P _____, P _____, and R _____
 - iii. The angel commands that Hagar return
- V. Gen. 18: Abraham is hospitable to angels disguised as man
- VI. Gen. 19: 1, 15-16 & 13. Angels take the hand of Lot and his family and pull them from Sodom. Here angels are used in judgment of God and execution of men.
- VII. In Gen. 22: An angel speaking for God intervenes in the sacrifice of Isaac. God tests us through circumstances. (Deut. 13:3)
- VIII. In Gen. 28: Jacob fleeing from Esau, has a dream (Jacob's ladder)
- a. Angels are ascending and descending from heaven
 - b. The man whom Jacob wrestles is an angel
 - c. God uses an angel to alter the personality of a man. Jacob is changed from a man of "cunning" to a "man of peace"—and given a new name: Israel.
- IX. A "death angel" (Ex. 12) is not scriptural. In Ex. 11:4 and 12:12-13, the Lord says He will pass through the land. Verse 23 says a "Destroyer" will. Angels may have been used in that night of death, but an "angel of death" is not true to the Biblical account. Cf. Psa. 78:49-51, which depicts not "death angels," but "evil angels."
- X. Ex. 14:9: It can be concluded that God used an _____ to part the Red Sea.
- XI. Num 22: 21: An angel is visible and speaks through a donkey in this Biblical comedy. However, Balaam cannot see him, nor is he even amazed by this talking animal!
- XII. Angels used in stories of Gideon, Daniel, David, and Elijah.
- a. They are awesome
 - b. They are obvious
 - c. They are a vital force
 - d. They carry out God's Providence
- XIII. The OT angel is surrounded with mystery ("angel of the Lord" or "angel of Jehovah"). He is with Hagar, Abraham, Moses, Balaam, Gideon, Judges (6:11-13); David (1 Chron. 21:15-17; Elijah (1 Kings 19:5-7) and the slaying of the Assyrians (2 Kings 19:35) Are these angels
- a. Special angels representing God?
 - b. "Christ" or "Jehovah"?
 - c. "Elohim"?

Note: Several students will be reporting on angels in the stories of Gideon, Daniel, David, and Elijah at the beginning of the Wednesday, September 29 Bible Study Class. See you then.

In Christ,
John