

Study of Angels in the Old and New Testaments
Discussion #4
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The Angel of the Lord—a Personal Bible Study

As we have seen, there are many references to “the angel of the Lord” in the OT. Many of these passages describe the One who is over all things, including angels. When the angel of the LORD speaks as God Himself in the first person, doing or saying things only God Himself can do or say, it is clearly a manifestation (or “theophany”), not one of His heavenly creatures. As we continue our study of angels in the Bible, we do well not to confuse these references to God with the passages that describe angels and their work. **I challenge you to prepare for next week by looking up and meditating on the following Scriptures:** You’ll find that you will be reading God’s Word for a purpose and getting more from your studies. [This handout –if you misplace it–will be available on our church web site.]

In the following Bible passages, discover the clues that indicate that the “angel” might be God Himself:

Genesis 16: 7-11:

Genesis 22: 11-12:

Genesis 31: 11-13

Exodus 3: 1-6:

Numbers 22: 20-35 (especially verses 20 and 35):

Judges 6: 11-16:

Zechariah 3: 1-4:

Angels in the New Testament

1. Jesus not only had the whole measure of the Holy Spirit (John 3: 34), but the total attention of the angels. They attended to

- His B _____
- His T _____
- His C _____
- His R _____
- His A _____
- His S _____ C _____

They will also be reapers at the Second Coming. (See Revelation)

- 2. Which book of the Bible mentions angels more than **50 times**; in fact, more times in this book than in any other book in the Bible.
- 3. Why are they mentioned so often in this book? What do angels represent in this book?
- 4. If Christians believe that God is invisible—but active—why don’t many view angels in the same way?
- 5. The only angels who are “chained” in the Bible are those associated with angels who “lost their estate.”

6. Gabriel appears in Zacharias in Luke 1. What do we learn here? [report]. An angel is named; only Gabriel and Michael are named in the Bible; such miracles seem to have had little impact upon mankind as a whole. Even though Z. spoke with Gabriel, he still doubted, bringing about the loss of his hearing and his speech for 9 months (Luke 1: 62-63). Why was this punishment necessary? Do Gabriel go too far in punishing Zacharias? No, he was given the AUTHORITY (Gk. Eksousia) to act!

7. If you had seen the angel of the Lord, would you have believed? Would anyone?

8. Gabriel visited Mary (Luke 1: 26-28), the mother of Jesus. She believe and did not ask for more signs. She believed and responded. That's it. Contrast this with Zacharias.

9. Angels were involved in the conversion of sinners, but they did not preach the Gospel. Why not?? (See Cor. 4:7; Acts 8 and 10 (angels used to bring preacher and sinner together). Angels did not preach to save sinners (Acts 11: 13-14) Men and angels each have specific jobs to do, and they are Providentially arranged.

10. Angels in the NT are used to carry about **Providence**. (We you drive down this street in Columbia, I hope you now associate its name with God's Providence. God provides for us all. He provides all of our needs—all of them. Just try tracing to God, says Luther, anything you own or think you "deserve" or "earned." Won't these things point to God as their Author and Giver.

Angels in the NT:

- released imprisoned apostles (Acts 5:19)
- released P _____ (Acts 12: 6-11)
- protected P _____ from the sea (Acts 27: 18-26)

11, What does it mean that some people have entertained angels? (Heb. 13:1) What does "hospitality" mean to you today? What are the hallmark Christian virtues?

12, Hebrews and the "position of angels" in relation to Jesus. The argument in Hebrews is that Jesus is the Son of God, and it is built upon angels! (Heb. 1:1-2:9, 16).

13. In Acts 12, Herod has James beheaded and Peter imprisoned. And when the crowd cries to Herod, "it is the voice of God not man," Herod accepts this proclamation and immediately, an angel smites Herod with worms—and he dies! (See v. 23 for the reason)

14. Angels minister to the heirs of salvation (Heb. 1:14). This is a bold promise. Sarah and Abraham doubted a promise by God.

15. Angels will minister NOW and will in the judgment. What will the angels do during the judgment? (Matt. 13: 39-43; and 2 Thes. 1: 7-9). Why are angels required to collect only the sinful, not the just?

Next Week and Forthcoming Study:

Study Ephesians 6: 12-17 to find out what weapons we have in the fight against evil angels. List each of these weapons below and be prepared to suggest a practical way that each spiritual tool could be better employed in YOUR LIFE. We will soon be moving on to the study of "Last Things" (what will happen when you die? What are different view of millennialism? What does Revelation tell us about these last things?

Blessings,
John

