

The Trumpet Call

Messages and Reports

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By Evangelist Edgar Martin

Lessons from Angels and Heavenly Beings: Part I—Angels

“And of the angels he saith, who maketh his angels spirits and his ministers a flame of fire.”—Hebrews 1:7 “Are they not all ministering spirits?”—Hebrews 1:14

God has special created angels and other beings to do His will. In heaven, saints and angels worship and serve God together (Rev. 7:8–17). Heaven is brought very near to earth when saints here encounter angels (Heb. 1:4; 12:1-2, 22-24). Angels do indeed watch over the redeemed and minister to them (1 Pet. 1:12; Heb. 1:14). Created a little lower than the angels, we are inspired by their holy character and obedience (Psa. 8:5). Of course, Our Lord and our God is the object of our worship. We are never to worship angels (Col. 2:18), but we are to worship Christ as angels do! In Part II of this writing, we will discuss some of God’s other heavenly creatures, but for now, let’s look at the qualities which angels have which we should emulate.

Perfect holiness: Jesus referred to “holy angels”. We, too, are called to holiness. Through redemption and sanctification we can and must be holy! Peter reminded us that angels are watching. He said, “therefore, be sober, be obedient, be holy as He is holy (1 Pet. 1:12-16).

Constant focus upon the Lord: In Matthew 18:10, Jesus said, “In heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.” They watch over children, and yet never stop gazing at the Father. We, too, may ever live in the light of His countenance. Beholding God’s glory, we are changed into His image setting our affections on things above, not on things of the earth (2 Cor. 4:18; Col. 3:2; Heb. 12:2).

Watchers and Protectors of God’s people: The angel of God went before and behind the camp of Israel (Ex. 23:20). God’s angel shut the lions’ mouths (Dan. 6:22); opened prison doors (Acts 5:19); and stood by Paul during a storm at sea (Acts 27:23). Angels are still protecting God’s people today. They bear us up in their hands, camp around us, and ascend and descend upon the son of man (Heb. 1:4; Psa. 91:11, 34:7; John 1:51). Jacob’s ladder still stands. Innumerable companies of angels still watch and worship (Gen. 28:10-16; Isa. 6:1-8; 2 Kings 6:17; Heb. 12:22-24; Eph. 3:6). We are watchmen on the walls and are our brothers’ keepers. Let us defend the weak, rescue the perishing, lift up the fallen and strengthen the feeble knees. Jesus referred to pastors as “stars and angels” (Rev. 1:20). We all can be God’s ministering spirits and flames of fire burning for Him.

Giving nourishment and strength: An angel brought Elijah food and water. Angels ministered to Jesus in the wilderness and in the garden (1 Kings 19:5-8; Matt. 4:11; Luke 22:43). God spreads a table before us in the presence of our enemies. Our Savior calls us to come and

dine. There is bread and fish, heavenly manna and living water (Psa. 23:5; John 21:9-13). Though we are mortals we can imitate angels. We can offer comfort to the weary and soul food to hungry hearts.

Messengers for God: Angel visits came to Abraham and Sarah; the Patriarchs and prophets; Mary and Joseph; the shepherds of Bethlehem; the women at the tomb and Christ's disciples. Angels are usually not seen, but, God still sends them among us. In fact, the scriptures speak of entertaining angels unawares (Heb. 13:1). When we deliver God's message with the Holy Spirit's anointing, these are things "the angels desire to look into" (1 Pet. 1:12). Be God's messenger angel!

Executing Judgment: Angels of wrath are warring angels, or destroying angels. They execute judgment upon the wicked as when God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19); ancient Egypt, and the wicked tribes of Canaan in the days of Joshua (Josh. 24:11-13; 18). He sent His angels to defend His people and to smite their enemies (1 Chr. 20:1-37; 32:21; Isa. 37:36).

God's men are gentle; however, there are times when the sword must be sharp and the fire hot! The axe must be laid to the root, the chaff burned. Today pastors, as "flaming fires," must preach the truth to separate sinners from saints and smite the strongholds of Satan (2 Cor. 10:4; Matt. 10:34; Heb. 4:12; Matt. 3:2; Rev. 3:25-29).

Escorting souls to heaven: Jacob saw Angels ascend and descend from heaven to earth. Mortals have never made this journey, but when God calls us home, He will send His angels to carry us there. Like Lazarus, who was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom, righteous souls are escorted to heaven by the angels (Luke 16:22). Angels are the reapers of redeemed souls. At the final harvest time, God will send the angels to separate the wheat from the tares and the sheep from the goats (Matt. 13:39; Mark 13:27; Matt. 25:31-46). Our assignment as "angels of the churches" is to lead the souls of men toward heaven. We escort souls in this life. How serious is our responsibility! We comfort the saints in their journey and warn the wicked of the wrath to come. When the race is finished, angels will take the Redeemed and carry them home.

Dear Christian mortal, is your earthly journey becoming more heavenly? Are angelic traits found in your life? Do you desire to be holy and pure like the angels? Are you learning lessons from our eternal partners in praise? What lessons are the angels learning from you? Do they watch you with bitter disappointment, or do they rejoice over your obedience? We must prepare to be saints who will live together forever with angels.