



“The Ministry Of Angels”

Hebrews 1:4-14

3-22-09

*Sermon Exploration:

This week Pastor Steve goes back to the topic of angels and walks us through Angelology 101. A couple weeks ago we brushed on the topic; this week we tackle it head on.

- Remember, angels appear over 300 times in Scripture so it is an important topic to look at.

→Bare Bones Outline...

Introduction

I believe that because of the many misconceptions about angels that it is important for us to get a biblical perspective on angels.

I. What are Angels?

A. Created beings – Colossians 1:16

- God made them before He made man

B. Spirit beings

- Hebrews 13:2 tells us they appear in human likeness
- Matthew 28:3-4 - they appear in other forms

C. Stronger and more powerful than us

D. They have limits

- Not omnipresent, not omnipotent, not omniscient

Note: Humans do not become angels after we die

II. WHAT DO ANGELS DO?

A. Angels serve God

1. Worship Him – Revelation 5:11-12

2. Deliver His messages

- Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Lot and his family, Joshua, Moses, Gideon
- Mary, Joseph, Zechariah – birth of John the Baptist, Empty tomb after The Resurrection

3. Deliver His people from temporal dangers

- Elisha being attacked by Assyria, Daniel, Lot and his family
- Ps 91:11-12 – **“For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”**

4. Agents of His final judgment and Second Coming

- Matthew 24:31; Matthew 13:39-42; Revelation 19-20

B. Angels serve Jesus

- Matthew 2:13-21 - An angel warns Joseph, Mary, baby Jesus to go to Egypt to escape Herod's sword
- Mark 1:13 - Angels comforted and attended to Jesus after He'd been fasting and tested by Satan in the wilderness for 40 days
- Luke 22 tells us an angel appeared to Him and strengthened Him
- Matthew 26:52-53

"Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?"

C. Angels Serve Believers – Hebrews 1:14

1. Rejoice when we repent – Luke 15:10

2. Rescue us from danger – Psalm 34:7

"The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them."

- Acts 5:17-20 - Apostles escape prison
- Acts 12:6-11 - Paul and Silas out of prison

3. Redirect us for ministry service

- Acts 8:26-35 - Philip the apostle

4. Refresh our faith

- Acts 27:23-26

5. Escort us to heaven

- Luke 16:22 (story of rich man and beggar)

III. OUR RESPONSE TO ANGELS

A. Don't slander angels - 2 Peter 2:10

B. Don't worship angels - Colossians 2:18; Revelations 22:8-9

C. Don't pray to angels

D. Do thank God for their ministry

E. Do entertain strangers - you just might be entertaining an angel. Hebrews 13:2

LifeGroup Discussion

→ **Introduction...** Today we will finish up the first chapter of Hebrews by looking at angels. This is an important topic because of the high importance the Jewish community placed on angels and because of the important role they play in the Bible and today. Angels show up over 300 times in the Bible.

→ **Open it...**

1. When you think of angels, what are some of the words that come to your mind?
2. What are some of the common misconceptions some may have about angels?
3. Read Hebrews 1:4-14; 13:2

Trans: We are going to take a look at what angels are, what they do and what our response to angels should be.

→ **Explore it...**

Let's look at three main questions Pastor Steve dealt with in his message on Sunday. The first question he dealt with was – What Are Angels?

1. What Are Angels?
 - What do you remember that Pastor Steve said about what/who angels are?
 - He told us that angels are 1) Created beings. They were created sometime before man. 2) They are spirit beings. They don't have normal flesh and blood like we do. 3) They are stronger and more powerful than we are. 4) They have limits.
 - How do the angels differ from Jesus?

Trans: The second question Pastor Steve dealt with was – What Do Angels Do?

2. What Do Angels Do?
 - What do you remember from Pastor Steve's sermon about the role angels have?
 - Pastor Steve told us angels have basically 3 jobs... 1) They serve God. 2) They serve Jesus. 3) They serve believers.

- We are told that the angels serve God by worshiping Him, delivering messages for Him, delivering His people from danger and by acting as agents of His final judgment and Second Coming.
3. Let's read a few instances where we see angels doing what angels do.
 - 1 Kings 19:5-8. What was the angel's role here in Elijah's life?
 - 2 Kings 19:32-36. What does this tell us about the power of God's angels?
 - Matthew 2:13-14; 19-21. What does the angel do here?
 - Luke 22:39-44. What was the angel's role in Jesus' life here?
 - Acts 5:17-20. What does an angel do here and why?
 - Matthew 18:10. What role does Jesus say angels have in this verse?
 - Revelation 5:11-12. What do we see the angels doing here?
 - These are just a few of the many references in the Bible about the role of angels. Is there a favorite you have that we didn't talk about?
 4. Let's have a little fun for a moment. Of those kinds of tasks, which would you like to do most if you were an angel and why?

➔ ***Apply it...***

As we wrap up let's read a couple more verses about angels...

1. Let's read Psalm 34:7.
 - What do you think this means and how does it make you feel?
2. Let's read Hebrews 13:2.
 - When you read this verse, do any experiences come to your mind when you think you may have had interaction with God's angels?
 - How should this verse affect how we treat others?
3. Why do you think that it's important for believers to know about the biblical role of angels?
4. What important truths will you take away from our brief study on angels?

➔ ***Suggested assignments for the week...***

- ***Take some time this week to read ahead. Read Chapter 2 several times to get a feel for the major themes and issues that it addresses.***

Personal Ah Ha's!! What was one thing that really hit you from this week's message? What is one way you can apply the message from this week to your life?

