

ANGELS: God's Ministering Spirits  
By Kathryn Presley

"Like every truth, the truth of the angels of God, their presence and their loving ministries--has a very practical value. As we realize by faith that they are watching us, ready to walk with us as we walk with Him... ready to serve us as we serve Him, ready to shield us and help us in a hundred different ways, a solemn feeling will come into our lives. Surely we will walk softly in the presence of the Lord and His holy angels. This will assist in holy living." Dr. A. C. Gaebelein

There are two categories of Angels: Fallen and Unfallen

Apparently Lucifer, "Morning Star, Son of the Dawn" led a revolt in Heaven with one third of the angels following him (Isaiah 14:12, Revelation 12:4). Fallen Angels are also known as demons, evil spirits, authorities or powers. Our focus tonight is on the UNF ALLEN angels.\*

I. "Angel" derives from the Greek word *angelos* meaning "messenger."

II. There are some 300 Bible references to angels- and other references to them where the word "angel" does not appear--such as:

- A. Cherubim (Genesis 3:24) This is the first scriptural reference to an angel.
- B. Seraphim (Isaiah 6:2-3)
- C. A "man" (Genesis 32:24; Joshua 5:13) Many scholars believe these are Theophanies.
- D. Chariots of Fire (II Kings 6:17)

III. They are created beings -- not eternal but everlasting. (Only God is eternal).

IV. They are very powerful (2 Thessalonians 1:7, 2 Peter 2: 11), but are not to be worshiped (Revelation 19:10, 22:8-9).

V. The purpose of angels

- A. They herald (announce) significant events like the birth of Jesus, His resurrection, the Rapture.
- B. They are perfect worshipers of God (Isaiah 6:2-3, Psalm 148:2).
- C. They serve God (Hebrews 1:7) and are perfectly obedient to Him (Psalm 103:20).
- D. God gives assignments which they fulfill (Daniel 6:22; Acts 12:7).
- E. One such assignment is to guard God's people (psalm 34:7; 91:11).
  - 1. This may begin at conception (Hebrews 1:14, Psalms 139:15-16).
  - 2. They escort us to heaven when we die (Luke 16:22).
  - 3. They rejoice when a sinner repents (Luke 15:7).
  - 4. They learn from us (Ephesians 3:10; I Corinthians 4:9).
  - 5. They seem to intervene mostly in times of severe stress.
    - a. They strengthen (I Kings 19:5-8).

- b. They give insight (Daniel 9:22).
- c. They protect (Psalms 34:7; 91:11).

#### VI. Some occasions when angels intervened in Scripture

- A. They inaugurated the law (Acts 7:38).
- B. They helped with the Red Sea crossing (Exodus 14:19).
  
- C. They appeared to Gideon (Judges 6:11).
- D. " " to Samson's parents (Judges 13).
- E. " " to Elijah (I Kings 19:5).
- F. " " to Zechariah, to Mary and to Joseph.
- G. " " to the Shepherds.
- H. " " to Peter and to Paul.
- I. " " to John on Patmos (Revelation 1:1).
- J. " defeated the Assyrian army under Sennacherib (Isaiah 37:36).
- K. " rescued Elisha (II Kings 6:16 ff).
- L. " delivered Daniel (Daniel 6:22).
- M. " ministered to Jesus:  
after His temptation (Matt. 4:11) and  
in Gethsemane (Luke 22:43).

#### VII Angels in the Last Days

- A. An archangel will announce the Rapture (I Thess. 4:16).
- B. They will gather God's elect from all over the earth (Matthew 24:31).
- C. They will accompany Jesus at His Second Coming (Matthew 25:31).

Conclusion: It is a mistake to become too engrossed in angels or emphasize them too much. They are self-effacing and work to bring glory to God. It would also be a mistake to underestimate them. God has used angels in many ways over the centuries to advance His purposes in the world. We should thank Him for all the ways He uses them to help us in our earthly pilgrimage. Someday we will realize how infinitely more difficult our lives would have been without them.

The clear teaching of Scripture is that God sends His angels to guard us until our numbered days are finished and THEN, they carry us safely to our Heavenly Home. If we really believed that-or if we always remembered it-what a lot of worry we worry-warts could avoid!

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 \*We know from Daniel 10:13 that the Adversary has his fallen angels organized and assigned to specific nations. Surely God's angels are no less organized-perhaps assigned to nations, to

cities, to churches, to families, to individuals. (Apparently, the Archangel, Michael, is assigned to Israel. See Daniel 12:1.)

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