

31. Angels of the Lord

“THE connection of the visible with the invisible world, the ministration of angels of God, and the agency of evil spirits, are plainly revealed in the Scriptures, and inseparably interwoven with human history. There is a growing tendency to disbelief in the existence of evil spirits, while the holy angels that ‘minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation,’ are regarded by many as the spirits of the dead. But the Scriptures not only teach the existence of angels, both good and evil, but present unquestionable proof that these are not the disembodied spirits of dead men.” - GC 511.

SELECTED REFERENCES

GC 511,512; AA 152-154; DA 98,99 Gabriel; [1] Pages 7-22. 212-227. [2] Article “Angels.” [3] Pages 354-362.

Memorize: Psalms 34:7.

A. ANGELS ARE CREATED BEINGS.

Hebrews 2:7; Colossians 1:16, 17; Psalm 104:4; Nehemiah 9:6.

“Though we are unable to understand the nature of angels, though their existence is surrounded with unfathomable mystery, and though they dwell in the light and glory of the throne of God, yet we do know that they are created beings, And that they were created by the same God who created man. “By Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him: and He is before all things, and by Him all things consist.” Colossians 1:16, 17. With this unqualified statement, that all things both in heaven in earth, visible and invisible, were created by the Son of God, Jesus Christ, we must admit at once that angels are created intelligences. He who made the earth, also made the heavens. He who created man, and gave to him life and being, created also the angels, and gave to them power and glory beyond the mind of man to comprehend.” - I. H. Evans, in “Ministry of Angels.” pages 18, 19.

“These angels of light created a heavenly atmosphere about the soul, lifting us toward the unseen and the eternal. We cannot behold their forms with our natural sight; only by spiritual vision can we discern heavenly things. The spiritual ear alone can hear the harmony of heavenly voices.” - AA 153.

“As to the nature of ‘angels’ in the limited sense, they are ‘spirits’ (Hebrews 1:7,14), of wind like velocity, subtle nature, capable of close communion with God; sharers in His truth, purity, and love. Since they ever behold His face (Matthew 18:10), even as the redeemed shall (1 John 3:2); not necessarily incorporeal; ... but ... having bodies ... [of] glorious ... appearance, like our Lord’s when transfigured and afterwards as the ascended Savior.... [They sometimes] appear in human form, . . . [but] never dwell in men’s bodies as the demons.”-A. R. Fausset, in “The Englishman’s Bible Cyclopedia,” art. “Angels.”

1. Lived before men; are a different creation from men. Job 38:4, 7; Genesis 3:24; Hebrews 2:7 (note margin).

“Here we have positive proof that before death had ever come to man, before ever a funeral note was chanted by the living for the dead, there were heavenly beings, stronger than man, and more like God than he. For they drove the man and the woman out of the garden, and kept the way of the tree of life. These were no earthly beings. God did not create them when He made the earth; but they were with Him, and sang His praises, in creation’s morning.”-I. H. Evans, in “Ministry of Angels,” page 14.

2. Their number, glory, power, and speed. Revelation 5:11; Psalm 68:17; Ezekiel 1:13, 14; 2 Kings 19:35.

“We shall never know the full glory of the angelic host until we see them coming in the clouds of heaven with the Son of man, to gather the harvest of the earth. Then, our mortal bodies changed, we shall be able to look upon the Savior as He returns to earth to gather His ransomed children, clothed in His own glory and the glory of the Father and the glory of all the holy angels. Dazzling beyond our utmost conception will be that wonderful sight. And in some degree we, if faithful, shall share this glory-we shall be ‘equal unto the angels.’ Luke 20:3” - Id., page 53.

“ ‘The living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning Light

travels 186,000 miles a second.” “These holy messengers from the throne of God are not only mighty in power and wisdom, but in the rapidity of their movements in carrying out His will they transcend the highest flights of imagination that the mind of man can compass. . . . More rapid than the passage of light, swifter than the lightning’s flash, these holy creatures go and return, bearing the messages of God in heaven to His children on earth.” --Id., page 64.

“Angels are God’s ministers, radiant with the light ever flowing from His presence, and speeding on rapid wing to execute His will.” - PP 34.

3. Angels obey and worship God. Psalm 103:20; Revelation 22:8,9; Daniel 7:9,10.

Worship and service are their twofold function. “The law of love being the foundation of the government of God, the happiness of all intelligent beings depends upon their perfect accord with its great principles of righteousness. God from all His creatures the service of love, service that springs from an appreciation of His character.” - PP 34.

B. DIFFERENT ORDERS OF HEAVENLY ANGELS.

Cherubim. Exodus 25:16-18; Psalm 80:1; Ezekiel 28:14.
Seraphim. Isaiah 6:2,3,6,7.

C. SPECIALLY COMMISSIONED ANGEL OFFICERS.

1. Gabriel. Daniel 9:21; 10:5,6; Luke 1:18,19,26-30.

“It Was Gabriel, the angel next in rank to the Son of God, came with the divine message to Daniel. It was Gabriel, whom Christ sent to open the future to the beloved John.” - DA 234.

2. Four Angels restrain war. Revelation 7:1.

“The sealing time is very short, and will soon be over. Now is the time, while the four angels are holding the four winds, to make our calling and election sure.” - EW 58.

D. ANGEL MINISTRY ON THE EARTH.

Hebrews 1:6,7,14; Psalm 34:7; 91:11,12; Revelation 8:3,4.

“Heaven is brought near to earth by that mystic ladder, the base of which is firmly planted on the earth, while the topmost round reaches the throne of the Infinite. Angels are constantly ascending and descending this ladder of shining brightness, bearing the prayers of the needy and distressed to the Father above, and bringing blessing and hope, courage and help, to the children of men. . . . Again and again have angels talked with men, as a man speaks with a friend, and led them to places of security. Again and again have the encouraging words of angels renewed the drooping spirits of the faithful, and carrying their minds above the things of earth, caused them to behold by faith the white robes, the crowns, the palm branches of victory, which overcomers will receive when they surround the great white throne.” - AA 153.

“When man fell by evil angels, with beautiful propriety it was ordered that other angels, holy and unfallen, should minister for God in His reparation of the evil caused to man by their fallen fellow spirits.” -A. R. Fausset, in “The Englishman’s Bible Cyclopedia,” art. “Angels.”

1. Examples to look up if time permits.

Genesis 16:7-11; 18:24; 19:1; Judges 6:12-23; Numbers 22:31,32; Judges 13:6,7,15; 1 Kings 19:4-8; 2 Kings 6:17; Daniel 6:22; Acts 12:7-10; Luke 22:40-43; John 20:11-13.

2. Individual companionship in this life. Matthew 18:10; Malachi 3:16; Luke 15:10.

“A guardian angel is appointed to every follower of Christ. These heavenly watchers shield the righteous from the power of the wicked one. . . . Angels appointed to minister to the children of God have at all times access to His presence. Thus God’s people, exposed to the deceptive power and unsleeping malice of the prince of darkness, and in conflict with all the forces of evil, are assured of the unceasing guardianship of heavenly angels.” - GC 512, 513.

“The angels of God are ever passing from earth to heaven, and from heaven to earth. The miracles of Christ for the afflicted and suffering were wrought by the Power of God through the ministration of the angels. And it is through Christ, by the ministration of His heavenly messengers, that every blessing comes from God to us.” - DA 143.

“So, in all ages, angels have been near to Christ’s faithful followers. The vast confederacy of evil

is arrayed against all who would overcome; but Christ would have us look to the things which are not seen, to the armies of heaven encamped about all who love God, to deliver them. From what dangers seen and unseen, we have been preserved through the interposition of the angels, we shall never know, until in the light of eternity we see the providence of God. Then we shall know that the whole family of heaven was interested in the family here below, and that messengers from the throne of God attended our steps from day to day.” - DA 240.

“An angel is attending you, and taking record of your words and actions. When you rise in the morning, do you feel your helplessness, and your need of strength from God? and do you humbly, heartily make known your wants to your heavenly Father? If so, angels mark your prayers, and if these prayers have not gone forth out of feigned lips, when you are in danger of unconsciously doing wrong, and exerting an influence which will lead others to do wrong, your guardian angel will be by your side, prompting you to a better course, choosing your words for you, and influencing your actions.” - 3T 363, 364.

“An indwelling Savior will strengthen us every hour. Ministering angels will linger in our dwellings, and with joy carry heavenward the tidings of our advance in the divine life, and the recording angel will make a cheerful, happy record.” - 1T 310.

“What we call physical law is no obstruction to angelic ministries. Bolts and bars and prison gates disappear at their volition, and dungeons like palaces shine in their presence. No place can be so dismal, no cavern so deep and dark, no Inquisition cell so hidden and fetid, no fortress so strongly guarded, that they cannot find quick and easy access, if a child of God be there.”-E. A. Stockman, in “Foot-prints of Angels,” pages 74, 75.

“It would be well to ponder more frequently the ministering care of the angels. They keep pace with every railway train, at whatever speed it travels, which bears some child of God to his appointed destination. They convoy every ship ploughing its way through the troubled sea, which carries an heir of salvation to the haven where he would be. They encamp with horses and chariots of fire about every city, however beleaguered, in which God’s servants are found.”-F. B. Meyer, in “Israel; A Prince With God,” page 51.

“Many of the momentous issues of life are seen often to hinge upon seemingly slight incidents. Doubtless, besides the material instruments and visible agents, the invisible angels work in a marvelous way, under God’s providence, guiding events at the crisis so as to carry out the foreordained end.”-A. R. Fausset, in “The Englishman’s Bible Cyclopedia,” art. “Angels.”

3. Will at the end gather the faithful to Jesus. Matthew 25:31; 24:30-31; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17.

“Every redeemed one will understand the ministry of angels in his own life. The angel who was his guardian from his earliest moment; the angel who watched his steps and covered his head in the day of peril. The angel who was with him in the valley of the shadow of death, who marked his resting place, who was the first to greet him in the resurrection morning-what will it be to hold converse with him, and to learn the history of divine interposition in the individual life, of heavenly cooperation in every work for humanity! All the perplexities of life’s experiences will then be made plain. Where to us have appeared only confusion and disappointment, broken purposes and thwarted plans, will be seen a grand, overruling, victorious purpose, a divine harmony.” - Ed 305.

KEY TEXTS

Hebrews 2:7
Genesis 3:24

Hebrews 1:6,7,14
Matthew 18:10

Psalms 68:17
Matthew 24:30,31

THOUGHT QUESTIONS

1. Why are not angels permitted to preach the gospel now? (See 1 Peter 1: 11, 12.)
2. Why do not good spirits take possession of men as the evil sometimes do?
3. What evidences have we that good angels are still here among men?
4. Who only have an angel bodyguard; and when only?
5. What specific facts does your angel know about your character.

TEST QUESTIONS

Answer With Ample Bible Proof

1. How do we know angels are not dead men made perfect?

2. Are angels created beings? If so, when were they created?
3. What part do angels have in the plan of redemption? Enumerate duties.
4. Describe an angel in heavenly form; in human form.
5. What specific talents, knowledge, and power have angels, as seen in their varied ministries to mankind?