

Angels, The Ministers of Heaven

TEXT: “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.” (Rev. 4:11)

THESIS: Angels have been created for service to their Creator for his will.

INTRODUCTION:

1. Angels are not imaginary, mythical characters that are displayed on television or in paintings, they are real.
 - a. Yet, there are some misconceptions about angels.
 - i. First, they are not feminine or cute little toddlers that fire heart-shaped arrows into the hearts of lovesick men and women.
 - ii. They do not have wings because wings are physical attributes and the scriptures repeatedly state that flesh and blood or material things cannot enter into Heaven. (1 Cor. 15:50; 2 Cor. 5:1)
 - iii. Neither do they have halos or play the harp for “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.” (Jn. 4:24)
2. Yet, they are messengers or servants of God
 - a. “Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word. Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.” (Psa. 103:20, 21)
 - b. Angels are very cheerful, singing praises to God and are eager to do his bidding.
3. They were created for his purpose and have been given great powers, strength, and knowledge.
 - a. Yet of all the things that they have, there is one thing that they do not possess, and that is forgiveness.
 - b. Forgiveness is something that can only be given to man because of Jesus Christ whose blood dripped at Calvary.
4. Yet, while angels cannot have this forgiveness, the study of angels has always been one of a great mystery.
5. Therefore, let us briefly study:
 - a. Angels, the created beings.
 - b. Their names and what they do.
 - c. Angels, the messengers and helpers to man.

DISCUSSION:

I. ANGELS, THE CREATED BEINGS

- A. The psalmists wrote, “Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts . . . **for he commanded, and they were created.**” (Psa. 148:2-5)
 1. Christ made all things “For by him were all things created, **that are in heaven**, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or 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.” (Col. 1:16, 17)
2. He made angels from nothing as he made the universe and ourselves from nothing.
- B. Yet, angels are not like man. They are supernatural spirits.
1. They were created to have superhuman knowledge, strength, and power.
 2. But they are not limited to the laws of physics. They can be in God’s presence one minute and at the side of man the next. (Dan. 9:20-23)
 - a. They are not limited to the laws of quantum physics meaning they are able to move in and out of our universe without ever being seen. (Heb. 1:14)
 - b. They are not limited to the laws of biophysics because they are able to take on human form which is only at God’s bidding. (2 Kgs. 6:14-17)
 3. Angels are a different kind of being: beautiful, magnificent and unique and not just glorified human beings or disembodied spirits of good people gone to heaven (as some claim).
 4. They are different from men in that marriage does not exist as an option. (Matt. 22:30)
- C. Yet, angels have abilities which God gave them that man cannot possess.
1. They excel in strength (Psa. 103:20) as one demonstrated when he opened the prison doors and told them to Go, speak the words of life. (Acts 5:19, 20)
 2. Their knowledge of bodies chemistry is remarkable because when homosexual children & men came to Lot’s house sexually desiring other men, two angels, “smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door.” (Gen. 19:11)
 3. Again, their awesome power “came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.” (2 Kings. 19:35)
 4. One angel had easily killed 185,000 fighting soldiers, yet their power is not just limited to what they are able to do to men for Daniel said, “My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions’ mouths, that they have not hurt me: .” (Dan. 6:22a)
 5. Furthermore, they came in great power once as “there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.” (Matt. 28:2-4)
- D. It is amazing of the power that only one angel can have and yet when we think of the power of one, we must also attempt to imagine the greatness in the power of

many.

1. For the Hebrew writer said that there is, “**an innumerable company of angels.**” (Heb. 12:22-24)
 2. Furthermore, Daniel claimed, that there were ten thousands times ten thousands of angels (Dan. 7:10)
- E. Angels have been given great power ONLY to do the will of the Father and yet while they at the moment may be higher than man, they are still lower than Jesus.
1. “One in a certain place testified, saying,” that Christ was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering or taste of death for every man who later was crowned with glory and honor for he “**put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him.**” (Heb. 2:6-9)
 2. Yet, while they may be higher than we, we are not to worship them (Col. 2:18), but if we ever saw one, we may be tempted to worship them because of whom and what they are.
 3. Even the great apostle John, the disciple whom Jesus loved, a man of full age both physically and spiritually made this mistake when he said, “And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. Then saith he unto me, **See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.**” (Rev. 22:8, 9)
 4. All the power, knowledge, wisdom and strength that angels have been given is magnificent, yet they are only fellowservants and worship God giving him all the glory as we do.

II. THEIR NAMES AND WHAT THEY DO

- A. Angels announce glad tidings to those on earth.
1. Gabriel is but one of the angels of God. However, he had important missions for the establishment of the Kingdom.
 2. On one occasion, he went to Daniel and spoke concerning the revelation of 70 weeks which prophesied the extent of time it would be until the Gospel was given to both the Jews and Gentiles. (Dan. 9:20-27)
 3. He again, spoke to Zacharias of the birth of his son, John the baptizer and took away his speech until he believed it. (Lk. 1:19)
 4. Finally, he announced the good news to Mary that she would soon be with child: Jesus the Christ which the Holy Spirit would give her. (Lk. 1:26-35)
- B. Yet, while Gabriel seemed to be calm and geared more toward helping the Kingdom, Michael had other things to do for God.
1. Michael the archangel stood for God’s people and helped to deliver them. (Dan. 12:1)
 2. Yet, his strength is clearly seen when “there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in

- heaven.” (Rev. 12:7, 8)
3. He continued to fight against Satan even on earth “when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.” (Jude 9)
 4. Michael as well as Gabriel may have been working in different areas for the Lord, but it was all done by what God told them to do.
- C. Then, there are angels who are mischievous.
1. Satan is the commander and chief or prince of devils and definitely is an angel, possibly a bright archangel (2 Cor. 11:14).
 - a. He is the Devil or false accuser, the tempter (Matt. 4:3), the wicked one (Matt. 3:19), Beelzebub (Matt. 10:25), the prince of this world (Jn. 12:31), the Abaddon & Apollyon or destroyer (Rev. 9:11), the enemy of the Lord (Matt. 13:25), the father of lies and a murderer from the beginning (Jn. 8:44)
 - b. All the power of an angel turned into wickedness which was never deity as some claim because Deity Cannot Sin.
 - c. Nevertheless, there have been fallen angels “And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.” (Jude 6)
 - d. There have been some angels that have sinned, “For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;” (2 Pet. 2:4)
 2. Sinful angels have been condemned to hell for “Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:” (Matt. 25:41)
 - a. Unfortunately for angels, they do not have the ability to repent because no one died for them on the cross.
 - b. When they refuse to be subject to God, they are exiled from the presence of God for they have no excuse.
 3. They are subject to Christ in Heaven “Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.” (1 Pet. 3:22)
- D. Therefore, angels not only have great might and knowledge, they also are workers for God in different areas of work, but once they turn from the glory of God, they are forever banished from his sight.

III. ANGELS, THE MESSENGERS AND HELPERS TO MAN

- A. Angels are helpers for mankind.
1. They are ministering spirits “Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?” (Heb. 1:14)
 2. They have helped people when God told the angels to help man.

- B. They have come out among people such as Moses when, “the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.” (Exo. 3:2)
1. They have appeared as men when “there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and **Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground;** And he said, **Behold now, my lords,** turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night.” (Gen 19:1, 2)
- C. Angels have always been the servants for God.
1. Were not the morning stars (angles) shouting for joy at creation? (Job 38:4-7)
 2. Did they not warn Joseph to take Mary and Jesus the Son of God and flee to Egypt? (Matt. 2:13-15)
 3. Haven't we ever heard the scripture that says, “Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.”? (Lk. 15:10)
 4. Do we not know that angels carry the righteous home into Abraham's Bosom? (Lk. 16:22, 23)
- D. This short study of angels is but a scratch in who they are and what they do.
1. Yet, it is more important to remember that their most important quality they possess is to exalt the lamb of God.
 2. For the scriptures teach, “And I beheld, and **I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne** and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; **Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.**” (Rev. 5:11, 12)
 3. One day we will see angles at the second coming of Christ, “When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:” (Matt. 25:31)

CONCLUSION:

1. Angels are magnificent beings (not disembodied spirits of dead men) who were created by God to worship him and to be the ministers of Heaven.
 - a. They were made from nothing and are able to be in the presence of God and man as they slip in and out of our universe undetected by any radar or camera.
 - b. They are supernatural spirits having great power to open doors, stop men in their tracks, and kill if God so commands.
2. They are too numerous to count and with all the power that they possess, they choose to only serve the Father in Heaven.

- a. They tell us to not worship them, but give the glory to God.
 - b. They have been used in sending messages of the kingdom which man enters once he has obeyed the Gospel and has been buried with Christ in baptism. (Rom. 6:3, 4)
 - c. Furthermore, it is known that angels have fought the battles against unrighteousness for the sake of righteousness and the glory of God.
3. We can learn many valuable things from angels.
- a. We should be able to know that the Lamb of God is worthy.
 - b. We should be able to know the main theme of the Bible is: **WORSHIP GOD. . . KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS.**
 - c. We should be able to repent when we do wrong for when angels do wrong they are exiled. Yet, when a Christian does wrong, he can repent and be forgiven.
4. May we too remember to keep God first in our lives and remain faithful till death so that the angels carry us into Abraham's Bosom and live with the angels, the righteous and God forevermore.