

EYES WIDE OPEN

Ephesians 6:10-12 Pt. 3

MESSAGE THEME: “Angels are actively engaged in your world.”

INTRODUCTION

Ephesians 6:10–12 (ESV) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

- In hundreds of verses from Genesis to Revelation, the Bible presents angels and their influence over the spiritual and physical world.

ANGELS IN RELATIONSHIP TO JESUS

- Jesus, as God, is their creator, and is thereby far superior.
- Angels serve and worship Jesus as God. They are not His equals!

*Hebrews 1:1–14 (ESV) Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high . . . 4 **having** become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. . . . 6 And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he [God] says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.” . . . 10 And, [He said to him] “You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; . . . 13 And to which of the angels has he ever said, “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”? 14 Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?*

FACTS REGARDING ANGELS

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| 1. Angels are created beings that do not die. | Gen 2:1; Col1:16; Luke 20:36 |
| 2. Angels were present at creation. | Job 38:1-7 |
| 3. Angels are spirit beings. | Psa. 104:4; Eph. 3:10 |
| 4. Angels are persons (mind, emotion, will). | Luke15:10; Isa. 14:12-14 |
| 5. Angels are too numerous to count. | Psa. 68:17 |
| 6. Angels can take on human form. | Gen. 19:1; Heb. 13:2 |

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| 7. Angels exist to do God's bidding in worship. | Psa. 104:4; Rev. 5:11-12 |
| 8. Angels interact with humans and human affairs. | Dan. 10:14; Matt. 1 & 2; |
| 9. Angels have God-given responsibilities. | Dan. 10 |
| 10. Angels excel in great strength. | Psa.103:20; (1 killed 185,000
2Kings 19:35; they disrupt earthly,
global systems in the book of
Revelation) |
| 11. Angels are an entirely different order of being than humans. | |

ANGELS IN JESUS' LIFE AND MINISTRY

- Before His conception, an angel announced His birth. Luke 1:26-38
- Angels met up with Joseph. Matt. 2:13-18
- Angels ministered to Jesus during the 40 days of temptation. Matt. 4:11
- Angels strengthened Him during His pre-crucifixion agony. Luke 22:43
- Angels came from heaven amidst a violent earthquake, rolled back the stone to the tomb, and explained the scene to the women. Matt. 28:1-6
- Angels appeared when Jesus ascended to heaven. Acts 1:9-11
- At Jesus' second coming, all angels will accompany Him. Matt. 25:31-33
- Angels will be actively worshiping Jesus for all eternity. Revelation

SOME FUNCTIONS OF ANGELS

Messengers

- The Gk. Wd. *angelos* means messenger.
- Angels are perhaps best known as Messengers from God.
- The priest, Zechariah, was visited by the archangel Gabriel, who declared that his barren wife, Elizabeth, would soon bear a son Luke 1:11.
 - Zechariah

Luke 1:11 (ESV) And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

- Gabriel was also sent to Mary, to announce that although still a virgin, she would soon bear a son, who would be called Jesus.
 - Mary

Luke 1:26 (ESV) In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,

- An angel was sent to Phillip, a leader in the Early Church, to give him direction regarding ministry.
 - Phillip

Acts 8:26 (ESV) Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place.

- Many scriptures tell of God sending angels as messengers to people, in both the O.T. and N.T.

Orchestrate & Empower Ministry

- Phillip and the Ethiopian

Acts 8:26 (ESV) Now, an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place.

- Peter visiting Cornelius

Acts 10:3–5 (ESV) About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, "Cornelius." 4 And he stared at him in terror and said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. 5 And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter.

Protectors

- The scriptures tell us that angels can intervene in our affairs and aid us when we are in need.

Hebrews 1:14 (ESV) Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

- Angels are very active in believers' lives.
- Billy Graham, in his book *Angels: God's Secret Agents*, says;

"Every true believer in Christ should be encouraged and strengthened! Angels are watching; they mark your path. They superintend the events of your life and protect the interest of the Lord God, always working to promote His plans and to bring about His highest will for you. . . if we would only realize how close His ministering angels are, what calm assurance we could have in facing the cataclysms of life. While we do not place our faith directly in angels, we should place it in the God who rules the angels; then we have peace."

- There are millions of angels who are sent by God to serve God's children. They are closer and more intimately involved with our lives than we realize.
- The Psalmist, in Psalm 91:11, declares that God has charged His angels with our protection.

Psalm 91:11 (ESV) *For He will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.*

- The high priests seized the apostles and imprisoned them to be tried, but an angel opened the prison doors and brought them out.

Acts 5:18–20 (ESV) *they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. 19 But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, 20 “Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life.”*

Warriors

- God promised Moses that He would send angels to fight for Israel during their trek.

Exodus 33:2 (ESV) *will send an angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanites, the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.*

- **Elisha** was strengthened, knowing that God sent angels to protect him.

2 Kings 6:15–17 (ESV) *When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?” 16 He said, “Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” 17 Then Elisha prayed and said, “O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see.” So the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.*

- **Daniel** 10:12-14 describes a conflict in the heavenlies between Michael, Israel’s archangel, and Persia’s ruling, evil spirit principality.
- Jesus admonished **Peter**, who drew his sword to protect Jesus; he admonished him, saying He could pray to God to send 12 legions (72,000) of angels to rescue Him.

Matthew 26:51–54 (ESV) *And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. 52 Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. 53 Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?*

Personal Ministers

- God gives his angels responsibilities to watch over His people.

Psalm 91:11 (ESV) *For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.*

Hebrews 1:14 (ESV) Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

- Jesus references angels assigned to children.

Matthew 18:10 (ESV) “See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.

OUR RESPONSE

What should be our response to angelic beings as we seek to live for Jesus Christ in this world?

1. We should worship God and thank Him for His angels.
 - First and foremost, angels' existence, work, and purpose throughout history and now (though we do not always see it) should drive us to praise and worship God himself more.
2. We should understand angels to be our fellow servants.
 - As the angel said to John in Revelation 22, we should see angels as “fellow servants” of God with us. We should recognize that, as they are made for God’s purposes, actions, worship, and service, they stand alongside us in his service and praise.
 - Christians are not to pray to angels or worship them in any way. God alone is worthy of worship; prayer should be directed to him alone, in the name of Jesus Christ alone.
3. We should be strengthened in that God dispatches angels for our benefit.