

***Unshakable
Our Angelic Protection
Hebrews 12:22***

We are living in troubled times...

I was reminded again this week in my one year Bible readings...

The war in Ukraine continues...

Since the war began on February 24th, over 1 million people have fled Ukraine... half of those fleeing are children...

In the U.S....

Inflation...

Inflation in America is higher than it has been at any point in nearly 40 years.

Trade Deficit...

A trade deficit occurs when a country's imports exceed its exports during a given time period.

As of December 2021, the U.S. monthly trade deficit increased 1.8% to \$80.7 billion.

Another milestone (or more accurately millstone) was recently passed by the U.S. economy as the January trade deficit surged to an all-time record high of \$107.6 billion, up some \$26 billion from December's \$80.7 billion imbalance.*

Divided Nation...

Our nation continues to become more and more divided in most every way...

- ***Politically***
- ***Socially***
- ***Racially***
- ***Economically...***

As a result, anxiety, depression, and suicide are hitting record levels...

With shaky foundations all around us, what are we to do?

For many, keeping their heads in the sand helps them maintain a sense of comfort... even though it is a mirage...

Others attempt to find various "coping" mechanisms to survive...

But what about believers?...

What must we do?

Do we have any answers?

Do we have any way of offering help to those around us?

Over the next several weeks I am going to be preaching a series I've titled, "UNSHAKEABLE"...

As believers, we have become entitled to several UNSHAKEABLE benefits that will keep our feet on a firm, unshakeable foundation no matter how many tremors are shaking around us...

Hebrews 12:22–24 (ESV) — But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

We are given in these verses the SEVEN privileges of being citizens of heaven...

→ Pic - Unshakable



Our focus today is on this second part of our Unshakable Kingdom that we have come to in Jesus...

Hebrews 12:22 (ESV) — But you have come to ... innumerable angels in festal gathering

1. The PURPOSE of Angels

In the NT there are over 180 occurrences of angels mentioned...

This number does not include the multitude of instances of evil spirits, or demons mentioned...

Over and over we see the activity of angels...

We are given their basic purpose in Hebrews 1:14...

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

“The word, ‘ministering’, that is used here...

Λειτουργικός, ἢ, ὄν: (derivative of λειτουργέω^a ‘to serve,’ 35.22) pertaining to service—‘serving.’ To serve, with the implication of more formal or regular service

Acts 13:2 (ESV) — 2 While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

Romans 15:27 (ESV) — 27 For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings.

Hebrews 10:11 (ESV) — 11 And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

Angels have been given the responsibility of serving...

- They obviously serve God...
- But they are also to serve BELIEVERS

For us, we can categorize their purpose to FOUR basic duties...

➤ **MINISTRY**

An angel removed the stone covering the tomb...

An angel delivered Peter from prison...

An angel encouraged Paul while out at sea...

➤ **MESSENGERS**

They delivered messages to Mary and Joseph...

*An angel came and told the shepherds of Jesus' birth
They delivered the message of Jesus' resurrection to Mary
Magdalene...*

In Acts they delivered messages to Philip and Cornelius...

➤ **WARRING**

An angel killed Herod (Acts 12)

*Angels are going to come and enact judgment against
unbelievers...*

Angels will gather up believers at Christ's return

➤ **WORSHIPING**

Angels are worshipping the Lord in heaven

Angels came and rejoiced at Jesus' birth announcement

1. The PURPOSE of Angels

2. The PLACEMENT of Angels

*Hebrews 12:22 (ESV) — But you have come to ...
innumerable angels in festal gathering*

*In saying that believers have come to these SEVEN
UNSHAKABLE realities we are being told our inheritance...*

*Every believer has come to the activity and involvement of
angels in their lives...*

As we just read in Hebrews 1:14...

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

So,... When might angels be sent to me?

→ *When the mission God has you on is in jeopardy*

- *The religious leaders became jealous of the apostles
and had them arrested...*
- *The Bible says God sent an angel...*

Acts 5:19–20 (ESV)

*But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison
doors and brought them out, and said, "Go and stand in the
temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."*

**→ *When the Lord wants to send you on a special
mission***

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.

→ When someone is ripe for salvation, but has no opportunity to hear the Gospel

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.” 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. And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter.

→ When hope seems lost, but your mission is not over

Acts 27:20 (ESV) — 20 When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope of our being saved was at last abandoned.

Acts 27:23–24 (ESV) — 23 For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, 24 and he said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.’

QUESTION – Does God always send angels so believers won’t get hurt?...

No!

→ DEATH OF JAMES & RELEASE OF PETER

Herod kills James, the brother of John...

Acts 12:1–2 (ESV) — About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword,

Herod arrests Peter and plans to kill him after Passover week

Acts 12:6–8 (ESV) — Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, “Get up quickly.” And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, “Dress yourself and put on your sandals.” And he did so. And he said to him, “Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.”

→ When the Lord wants to check your character

Hebrews 13:2 (NLT) — Don’t forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!

1. The PURPOSE of Angels

2. The PLACEMENT of Angels

3. The POWER of Angels

Hebrews 12:22 (ESV) — But you have come to ... innumerable angels in festal gathering

Again, the NLT says that we have come to...

“countless thousands of angels...”

→ STORY OF ELISHA & SERVANT

2 Kings 6:15–17 (ESV) — 15 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.

It may look like things are in a bad way, but remember...

“Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”

2 Kings 6:16

1. The PURPOSE of Angels

2. The PLACEMENT of Angels

3. The POWER of Angels

4. The PASSION of Angels

Hebrews 12:22 (ESV) — But you have come to ... innumerable angels in festal gathering

What does this mean?

The NLT gives us a better idea...

Hebrews 12:22 (NLT) — No, you have come to ... countless thousands of angels in a joyful gathering.

Because Jesus has won the victory over Satan, the angels who chose to remain with the Lord celebrate!

Like us as believers, the angels are no longer fighting FOR victory, but FROM victory!

Revelation 5:11–13 (ESV) — Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

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Crossgates AM Message

David Jett

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1. The _____ of Angels

2. The _____ of Angels

3. The _____ of Angels

4. The _____ of Angels