

OUR FIGHT - Part 4

Text: Heb. 1:14

OPENING: Well we finished up our study of Satan and Demons (If you missed any of that be sure to look up our podcast) and we are moving this week to the study of Angels.

As with Demons there are very wide ranging beliefs when it comes to the study of Angels.

- **Mormons** for example believe that Angels are spirits of deceased human *or* humans yet to be born.
 - As such, Mormons also believe that [Adam](#) (the first man) is now the archangel Michael (Sort of a celestial upgrade) and that [Gabriel](#) lived on the earth as [Noah](#)
- The **Bahi** faith believes that people who love God on earth become Angels in Heaven.
- You may be aware that the **Catholic** Church was the origin of Christmas (Christ-Mass) But did you know that the Catholic Calendar points to Sept. 29 as Michaelmas – due to their veneration of Angels. Some even pray to angels. – we pray only to the God who dispatches angels.
- Many **Family Bible Publishers** seem to think that Angels are chubby naked babies with little-bity wings.
- In the 1994 hit **Angels in the Outfield** – Angels were the spirits of deceased major league ball players who would help players make out of this world catches are run at super sonic speed.
- Probably my favorite depiction of an angel in popular media was the 1996 hit movie **Michael** – where John Travolta played an archangel who smelled like cookies despite his pack a day cigarette habit - He went around from place to place smoteing things. In his defense he reminds his critics that ***he is an angel, not a saint.***

ILLUSTRATION: *I was reminded of how distorted our views of angels can be in my first funeral in rural Kentucky. I had only been at the Church for a day or two when I received a call that I might out to attend the funeral of a lady who had at one time attended the Church. The student pastor and I went together and arrived just before the service began. As we went in we were told that the main auditorium was full, but there were a couple of seats open in the smoking section. YES, there was a smoking section. As we went in a sat down, I realized that I was slightly overdressed in my coat and tie – most of the other guys had on NASCAR apparel. In just a few moments a light came on with signaled that the funeral was about to begin, the put out their cigarette and the lady spit out their dip and over the loud speaker came Elvis Presley singing – How Great Thou Art. In front of me I saw a porcelain statue of a tall blond woman angel that*

flapped it's wings slowly and changed colors with every flap. Apparently that was the angel of redneck heaven.

Well, what does the Bible teach about Angels?

- **The Bible speaks of Angels 273 times in 34 different books.**
- **It refers to Angels with terms like** “sons of God”, “holy ones”, “spirits”, “watchers” (Dan. 4:13, 17, 23), “thrones,” “dominions,” “principalities,” and “authorities”.
- **Only two Angels are specifically named in Scripture** – Michael and Gabriel.
- **The Bible presents Angels as Created Spirit Beings who have the ability to visibly manifest.**

TEXT: Hebrews 1:14 (NASB95)

¹⁴Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

- **They do not function as human beings in terms of marriage or reproduction. (Mark 12:25) Jesus taught that when you get to heaven you won't either.**
- **They are not subject to death (Luke 20:36).**
- **There seems to be a very large number of angels, but sense they do not reproduce their number is static.**

Revelation 5:11 (NASB95)

¹¹Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands.

- **In the order of creation the bible teaches that Angels outrank man.**

Hebrews 2:7 (NASB95)

⁷“YOU HAVE MADE HIM FOR A LITTLE WHILE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS; YOU HAVE CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR, AND HAVE APPOINTED HIM OVER THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS;”

- **Redeemed Humans will one day outrank angels**

1 Corinthians 6:3 (NASB95)

³Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life?

So what do they do?

I find it interesting that God doesn't snap a finger and make things happen, but he employs means to achieve ends. Of the means he employs are angels.

1. They have a Ministry to God the Father

Isaiah 6:1-7 (NASB95)

¹In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. ²Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory." ⁴And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke.

- In the Building of the Ark of the Covenant, two angels are depicted above the mercy seat.

Deuteronomy 33:2 (NASB95)

²He said, "The LORD came from Sinai, And dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, **And He came from the midst of ten thousand holy ones...**

Hebrews 12:22 (NASB95)

²²But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels,

So the Capital City of Heaven pictures 1000's of angels serving the Father in various ways.

Not only do they have a ministry to the Father

2. They have a Ministry to the Son.

a. Angels predicted His birth

Luke 1:26-28 (NASB95)

²⁶Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

b. Angels protected Him in infancy

Matthew 2:13 (NASB95)

¹³Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt,

and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him.”

Later in Matthew 2:20 (NASB95)

²⁰“Get up, take the Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel; for those who sought the Child’s life are dead.”

c. Angels ministered to Him after the temptation

Matthew 4:11 (NASB95)

¹¹Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and *began* to minister to Him.

d. Angels strengthened Him at Gethsemane

Angels strengthened Him as He wrestled in prayer in anticipation of His crucifixion.

Luke 22:43 (NASB95)

⁴³Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him.

e. Angels announced His resurrection

The angels invited the women to enter the empty tomb to see the empty wrappings that they might be certain of the resurrection and proclaim it to the world. The angels reminded the women of Jesus’ earlier promise that He would rise on the third day.

Matthew 28:5-7 (NASB95)

⁵The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. ⁶“He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. ⁷“Go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you.”

f. Angels attended His ascension

Acts 1:10 (NASB95)

¹⁰And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them.

g. Angels will attend His Second Coming

Matthew 25:31 (NASB95)

³¹“But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.

So the ministry of Jesus is surrounded with Angels.

The have a ministry to the Father, the Son

3. They have a Ministry to believers.

a. They give us physical protection.

Psalm 34:7 (NASB95)

⁷The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, And rescues them.

Psalm 91:11-12 (NASB95)

¹¹For He will give His angels charge concerning you, To guard you in all your ways. ¹²They will bear you up in their hands, That you do not strike your foot against a stone.

In Acts. 5:19 Angels came and released the apostles from prison. ¹⁹But
during the night an angel of the Lord opened the gates of the prison. ...

In Acts 12:7 once again Angels broke Peter out of prise. ⁷And behold, an
angel of the Lord suddenly appeared and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter's side and woke him up, saying, "Get up quickly." And his chains fell off his hands. ⁸And the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." ⁹And he went out and continued to follow, and he did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision.

In our own Church -

ILLUSTRATION: *One of ladies tells of an occasion when she was being attacked by a man in college when suddenly she was the length of 3 or 4 cars from the man. Running toward her dorm.*

ILLUSTRATION: *Another sent me a story where her 13 year old sister was **about to be ran over** by a car when she felt someone grab her and through her to the ground out of the way of the oncoming car.*

ILLUSTRATION: *When I was around 12 years old my dad and I with some friends rode **4 wheelers** in Bankhead Forrest. We were riding on a newly graveled road when the rest of the men sped off and left me. I was going as fast as I could to catch up and I lost control of my ATV. It slid at high speed toward a cliff that was at least 40-50 feet straight down. Somehow I squared a single small tree at the edge of the cliff and wasn't thrown from the four wheeler.*

ILLUSTRATION: *In the book Angels - Billy Graham wrote, "The Reverend John G. Paton, a missionary in the New Hebrides Islands, tells a thrilling story involving the protective care of angels. Hostile natives surrounded his mission headquarters one night, intent on burning the Patons out and killing them. John Paton and his wife prayed all during that terror-filled night that God would deliver*

them. When daylight came they were amazed to see the attackers unaccountably leave. They thanked God for delivering them.

"A year later, the chief of the tribe was converted to Jesus Christ, and Mr. Paton, remembering what had happened, asked the chief what had kept him and his men from burning down the house and killing them. The chief replied in surprise, 'Who were all those men you had with you there?' The missionary answered, 'There were no men there; just my wife and I.' The chief argued that they had seen many men standing guard--hundreds of big men in shining garments with drawn swords in their hands. They seemed to circle the mission station so that the natives were afraid to attack" (**Angels: God's Secret Agents [N.Y.: Doubleday, 1975], p. 3).**

Elisha had a similar experience in 2 Kings 6:15-17 (NASB95)

¹⁵Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" ¹⁶So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." ¹⁷Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." And the LORD opened the servant's eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

b. The give Physical provision.

1 Kings 19:5-7 (NASB95)

⁵He (Elijah) lay down and slept under a juniper tree; and behold, there was an angel touching him, and he said to him, "Arise, eat." ⁶Then he looked and behold, there was at his head a bread cake *baked on* hot stones, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank and lay down again. ⁷The angel of the LORD came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise, eat, because the journey is too great for you."

c. They give us Encouragement.

During the storm at sea an angel encouraged Paul, reminding him he would arrive safely at Rome to bear witness for Christ.

Acts 27:23-25 (NASB95)

²³"For this very night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood before me, ²⁴saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar; and behold, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you.' ²⁵"Therefore, keep up your courage, men, for I believe God that it will turn out exactly as I have been told.

d. The give us Direction.

An angel directed Philip to witness to the Ethiopian eunuch

Acts 8:26 (NASB95)

²⁶But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, "Get up and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a desert road.)

An angel arranged the meeting of Cornelius and Peter that brought the Gentiles into acceptance in the believing community (Acts 10:3,22).

e. They Assist in answers to prayer.

There seems to be a relationship between the prayer for Peter's release from prison and the angel's releasing him (Acts 12:1–11).

Similarly, Daniel's prayer was explained by the angel (Dan. 9:20–27; cf. 10:10–12:13).

f. They Carry believers home.

Luke 16:22 describes the death of Lazarus and the angels carrying him to Abraham's bosom. This may be the way God causes all His dying saints to be "absent from the body...at home with the Lord."

So they have a ministry to the Father, the Son, believers...

4. They have a Relationship to unbelievers

- a. **Sodom** - Angels announced the coming destruction of Sodom because of those people's sin (Gen. 19:12–13);

Genesis 19:12-13 (NASB95)

¹²Then the two men said to Lot, "Whom else have you here? A son-in-law, and your sons, and your daughters, and whomever you have in the city, bring *them* out of the place; ¹³for we are about to destroy this place, because their outcry has become so great before the LORD that the LORD has sent us to destroy it."

- b. **Bowl Judgments** angels pour out the bowl judgments upon the earth (Rev. 16:2–17).
- c. **Judging Israel for Idolatry** Angels are seen judging the people of Jerusalem for their idolatry (Ezek. 9:1–11);
- d. **Struck Herod** - an angel struck Herod Agrippa I for his blasphemy so that he died (Acts 12:23).

Acts 12:23 (NASB95)

²³And immediately an angel of the Lord struck him because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and died.

e. Cast Unbelievers into the Fire -

Matthew 13:41-42 (NASB95)

⁴¹“The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, ⁴²and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

At the end you will either be carried away by angels like garbage to the dump.... Or you will set in judgment over the Holy Angels. That is an amazing thought.

100 years ago someone penned these lyrics -

There is singing up in Heaven such as we have never known,
Where the angels sing the praises of the Lamb upon the throne,
Their sweet harps are ever tuneful, and their voices always clear,
O that we might be more like them while we serve the Master here!

*Holy, holy, is what the angels sing,
And I expect to help them make the courts of heaven ring;
But when I sing redemption's story, they will fold their wings,
For angels never felt the joys that our salvation brings.*

That's the group that I want to be in!!!! What about you can you sing that song in all honesty?