

THE TRUE MINISTRY OF ANGELS

Angels are mentioned 108 times in the Old Testament—165 times in the New Testament. Indeed, the Old and New Testaments are filled with exciting stories of these mighty angelic beings appearing and intervening in the affairs of mankind -

- **1 Guarding the entrance to the Garden of Eden** (Genesis 3:24)
- **2 Slaying the entire Assyrian army** (2 Chronicles 32:21 & Isaiah 37:36)
- **3 Rescuing Lot and his family** from Sodom and Gomorrah before it was destroyed (Genesis 19:1-26)
- **4 Strengthening Jesus** in the garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:43)
- **5 Rescuing Peter** (Acts 12:7-10) and Paul from prison (Acts 16:25-26)
- **6 Smiting Herod** who died instantly (Acts 12:23).

WE SEE THEM FLYING IN THE MIDST OF HEAVEN in the book of Revelation (Rev 8:13 & 14:6)

- **7 Bringing God's judgement** (Revelation 16:1)
- **8 Binding Satan** and casting him into the bottomless pit (Rev 20:1-3)
- **9** We hear their **thunderous, continuous praise of God**; “ ... Day and night they never cease to sing, ‘Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!’” (Revelation 4:8).
- **10** John goes on to tell us “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.” (Revelation 5:11^{ESV}).

AND WE ARE TOLD -

Hebrews 12:22 **SLIDE**

... You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels.

Many Christians claim to have experienced Angels doing many fantastic things! **Some people teach some strange and unscriptural theories about these spiritual beings ... So let's uncover just what**

the Scriptures say about Angels – what they actually do and what they don't do, and how they minister to us.

HERE'S OUR TEXT ...

Hebrews 1:14 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

*Are not the angels ministering **spirits** sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?*

1. THE FIRST THING WE SEE HERE IS

They are '**spirit beings**'.

They do not have a physical form, although their spiritual form can sometimes appear in the likeness of humans ...

There are many Old Testament references such as 'Sodom and Gomorrah' where Two Angels walked into the city and everyone saw them as two men -

Genesis 19:1&5

¹***The two angels** entered Sodom in the evening, as Lot was sitting in Sodom's gateway. When Lot saw them, he got up to meet them. He bowed with his face to the ground.*

⁵*And they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are **the men** who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them (carnally)."*

Hebrews 13:2 NLT

Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!

So angels can look like ... talk like ... human beings ... But they are not.

2. THE SECOND THING WE GLEAN FROM OUR SCRIPTURE IS ...

Hebrews 1:14 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

*Are not the angels **ministering spirits** sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?*

THEY ARE MINISTERING SPIRITS OF GOD, NOT OF MAN

THE WORD "MINISTER" AS IN **MINISTERING SPIRITS** -

Usually applied to those who **stood before God** in His earthly sanctuary:

*Ellicot says the words mean, '**continually sent forth to do service (to God), for the sake of them who are to inherit salvation**'.*

Angels only minister to people at the command of God for a specific purpose of God, **not like some erroneously teachers say ...**

One pastor wrote ...

'Angels are hard-wired to listen for and obey the Believer who gives Biblical commands respectfully' (John Hamel)

HE GOES ON TO SAY –

'The angels cannot obey the voice of God's Word in the Earth unless a Believer gives voice to it' (John Hamel)

THE TRUTH

NB: When an angel ministered to anyone ... most were completely unaware it was going to happen until it happened. There is NO REFERENCE TO ANYONE COMMANDING AN ANGEL TO DO THEIR BIDDING IN THE SCRIPTURES.

Psalm 103:20 **SLIDE**

*Bless the LORD, all His angels mighty in strength, who do His word, **who hearken to the voice of His command.***

WE ... DO NOT HAVE COMMAND OVER THEM!

3. THE THIRD THING WE GLEAN FROM THIS SCRIPTURE IS ... THEY ARE SENT TO SERVE ... BUT WHO DO THEY SERVE?

Hebrews 1:14 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

*Are not the angels ministering spirits sent to serve **those who will inherit salvation?***

Not just anybody but specifically those [us] who will inherit salvation [ongoing salvation and also salvation yet to come] ...

NB: This means all believers ... but it's that specific aspect about us as believers that the angels have been sent to serve ... **God's purpose for us** ...

'Ministering Spirits' - The allusion is to the angels' office of subordinate ministration in furtherance of the Divine purposes of human salvation

Pulpit Commentary

FULL SALVATION IS GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOU & ANGELS ARE DEDICATED TO GOD & TO SEEING HIS PURPOSE FULFILLED IN YOU ...

THEY ARE DEDICATED TO US BECAUSE ...

- We are a part of God's divine purpose (Romans 8:28)
- We have been predestined for glory --

Romans 8:30 **SLIDE**

And those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified.

We are predestined for glorification with Christ, which will be complete when Jesus comes again ...

Meanwhile we who are **like him inwardly** are becoming more **like Him outwardly ...**

THE ANGELS' GREAT MISSION IS ... to keep us on track as we walk through this world ... being transformed from glory to glory (2 Corinthians 3:18) ... until we inherit our complete salvation – our total glorification with Christ.

THEY ARE NOT SENT TO PROSPER US WITH WEALTH AS PEOPLE ERRONEOUSLY TEACH ...

*One lady minister wrote ... Now, close your eyes and imagine that instead of a physical person, this is actually your Prosperity Angel. **SLIDE***

The amazing thing is we all have one. When you think of money as a physical expression of God's love it only makes sense that He would create and assign Prosperity Angels to insure that we have it!

The first time God showed me this, I can honestly tell you that I felt a shift in my soul immediately. And more importantly I felt different about prosperity. I felt like it loved me because it came from Love. I knew then that it would support me and would never leave me because God created it to take care of me. I call my Prosperity Angel "Prosperity". Carmen Abercrombie (Coach Carmen)

NB: No mention of Jesus at all.

ANOTHER PERSON WROTE AN ANONYMOUS BLOG ...

We see Angels of Prosperity at work in the Bible, although they are not labelled with this title ... We too can use this strategy to enlist the help of the Angel of Prosperity. (A blog about Angels) Anonymous

N.B. These are demonic spirits sent by Satan to try and divert your attention away from the great thing you have in Christ to a lesser thing that **you don't have, that your flesh craves for ...**

These fake ministers preach another gospel, not about Christ ... They even show signs of gold dust and have prophecies of prosperity. There is great hype – a hysteria that the religious flesh craves after ...

If you are involved in any of that ... get out now, it's demonic!

TRUE ANGELS ARE MINISTERS OF GOD... SENT FORTH BY GOD ... TO SERVE THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN CALLED OF GOD TO GOD'S FINAL PURPOSE REGARDING SALVATION.

SO HOW DO ANGELS MINISTER TO US?

THEY SERVE GOD BY SERVING US ... EXTERNALLY

Hebrews 1:14 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

Are not the angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

to serve (diakonian) waiting at table; in a wider sense: service, ministrations. From **diakonos**; attendance; figuratively aid, service. Ministry ... *the same word as Deacon ...*

WHAT DO THEY DO??

Do they run around and open doors for us ... fan us when we are hot ... massage our feet ... NO!!!!

SLIDE ANGELS GUARD & PROTECT US AS WE WALK THROUGH THE MINE-FIELD OF THIS WORLD SYSTEM

- 1. FROM SATANIC ATTACK**
- 2. FROM HUMAN ATTACK**
- 3. FROM THE DANGERS OF THIS FALLEN WORLD**

1. **SLIDE 11** ANGELS GUARD US FROM SATANIC ATTACK

Satan would do anything he could to rob, kill and destroy us who are destined for God's glory ... But he cannot touch us without God's permission.

SATAN SAID TO GOD ABOUT JOB

Job 1:10 International Standard Version **SLIDE 11**

... You **surrounded** him with **a fence** on all sides, **around** his house, and **around** all that he owns.

Literally ('hedge' is a verb so), **you have hedged or fenced or walled** him all around ...

THIS HEDGE, I BELIEVE, WAS THE ANGELS OF GOD

Psalm 34:7 **SLIDE**

The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them.

Encamps - (hō·neh) to pitch a tent

Fear - (lî·rê·'āw) to reverence = **THE STATE OF HEART OF ALL BORN AGAIN BELIEVERS**

Delivers - to deliver, equip, strengthen; NOT NECESSARILY TO DELIVER OUT OF

SLIDE

Just as the President of the USA is continually guarded by his 'Secret Service', so Each Born Again Believer in Jesus Christ has their own 'Secret Service' from God. These are called Angels and their job is to protect you physically as you walk through this world.

There are however, many things people claim angels do which are not what the Scriptures say.

2. **SLIDE 14** ANGELS GUARD US FROM HUMAN ATTACK

We read in Acts 12:6-11 how Peter was in prison ... sleeping ... bound in chains ... with a guard either side of him ... and 16 guards at the gate ... and the gate was locked ...

***An angel appears** beside him ... nudges Peter in the ribs and says, 'Come on mate, we're getting outta here.'*

Peter stands up and his chains fall off ... They walk past 2 guard posts and get to the locked gate which opens automatically (- first ever automatic doors) ...

Acts 12:11 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE 14**

*Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I know for sure that **the Lord has sent His angel and rescued me** from Herod's grasp and from everything the Jewish people were anticipating."*

SLIDE *John Paton (24 May 1824 – 28 January 1907) a Missionary to the New Hebrides had natives surround his house armed with spears, bows and arrows to kill him, when they suddenly ran.*

SLIDE *A few months later, the chief who had led the attack was converted. He came to John Paton and asked, 'Where did you get all those soldiers that night?'*

John answered, 'We didn't have any soldiers'.

'Oh yes you did,' said the chief, 'We all saw them surrounding your house. We were terrified at the number of them and ran.'

2 Kings 6:15-17

... When the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots.

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."¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, and said,

*"LORD, I pray, **open his eyes** that he may see." Then 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 6:22

"My God sent His angel and shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, for I was found innocent in His sight, and I have done no wrong against you, O king."

Daniel was protected by angels from the punishment inflicted on him because of the king's decree.

3. SLIDE ANGELS GUARD US FROM THE DANGERS OF THIS WORLD

Psalm 91:10-12

No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;

*¹¹For He shall give His angels charge over you, **to keep you in all your ways.***

¹²In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.

This Psalm was quoted to Jesus by the devil.

Matthew 4:6 Berean Literal Bible

*If You are Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it has been written: 'He will give orders to His angels concerning You, and will they bear You up in their hands, lest **ever** You strike your foot against a stone.'*

Notice the devil left out that the Angels will 'KEEP YOU IN ALL YOUR WAYS'.

'to keep you' (liš·mā·rə·kā) **to hedge about, guard, protect, attend to**

Upon their hands - lifting you over difficulties and stumbling blocks
(Pulpit Commentary)

NB - Least ever you strike [gore] your foot

A foot, a step - refers to our walk through this physical world, e.g. -
'The steps of a good man ...' means his way through this world system.

Jesus Christ never ever stumbled or fell in his 33 years living upon this dangerous fallen planet ... **He never cut himself** ... He was too precious ... His pure, uncontaminated blood was never spilt until the garden of Gethsemane.

His precious blood was for the redemption of mankind.

So God assigned a secret service ... powerful and numerous to protect His way through this world.

SO IT IS FOR US – AS HE WAS IN THIS WORLD, SO ARE YOU (1 John 4:17)

The only reason Satan could get near to Jesus to tempt Him was because God had commanded the angels to pull back ... remember after the temptation -

Matthew 4:11

Then the devil left Him, and angels came and ministered to Him.

THESE ANGELS WOULD HAVE BEEN CHOMPING AT THE BIT TO HELP JESUS ...

IN GETHSEMANE JESUS SAID –

Matthew 26:53

... Do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?

NB: EVEN JESUS DIDN'T COMMAND THE ANGELS ... THE FATHER DID ... HE WOULD HAVE ASKED THE FATHER ...

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

On the Central Coast, a horse ran into my car and landed on the roof ... The car roof collapsed all around me ... and I was not touched at all.

Even though we may not realise it, angels protect us in this world.

SUPPLIMENTARY

WE SHOWED LAST WEEK THAT WE ARE BEING KEPT OR GUARDED BY THE POWER OF GOD ... INTERNALLY.

NOW WE LOOK AT THE FACT THAT WE ARE BEING KEPT OR GUARDED BY ANGELS **EXTERNALLY.**

PETER USES THE SAME CONCEPT ABOUT OUR COMING SALVATION AS THE WRITER OF HEBREWS DOES.

- PETER SPEAKS ABOUT THE INNER POWER OF GOD GUARDING US FOR FULL SALVATION
- HEBREWS SPEAKS ABOUT THE EXTERNAL ANGELS OF GOD GUARDING US FOR FULL SALVATION

1 Peter 1:5 NIV

[We] ... are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

Hebrews 1:14 NIV

*Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve **those who will inherit salvation?***

THE WORD 'SALVATION' IS THE SAME WORD USED BOTH TIMES.

Salvation (sōtērian) [Strong's Greek 4991](#): rescue or safety.

IT MEANS OUR FUTURE SALVATION, WHEN JESUS COMES AGAIN & WE WILL BE COMPLETELY TRANSFORMED INTO HIS

IMAGE & LIKENESS. AND OUR UNREDEEMED FLESH WILL BE FINALLY REDEEMED.

- **THIS IS THE GOAL FOR WHICH WE ARE BEING KEPT BY THE POWER OF GOD ... AND ...**
- ***THIS IS THE GOAL FOR WHICH THE ANGELS ARE MINISTERING TO US ... TO HELP US ACHIEVE IT.***

THIS GOAL IS ALSO IN THE HEART OF EVERY BELIEVER – WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE LIVING FROM IT. THIS MAKES THEM ‘BROTHER’S IN ARMS’, COMRADES WITH US.

THE ANGELS DO NOT PREACH OR TEACH DOCTRINE THESE ‘SPIRIT BEINGS’ ARE NOT OUR ‘MORAL COMPASS’ THEY ARE NOT HERE TO KEEP US FROM SINNING ... (THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS THAT ONE COVERED)