

Lesson Two

The Ministry of the Angels

Angels and Demons, pp. 23-34

Goals

1. To help us understand that God created the angels to serve him and his people.
2. To help us appreciate that God sends angels to protect us in this life and bring us safely to the next life.

Introduction

- What is a job description? How does it help you carry out your work?

What did angels do in the past?

Luke 1:19 The angel answered, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news."

- The word *angel* means "messenger." What divine messages did angels deliver at the time of Christ?
- Do angels still deliver divine messages today?

Mark 16:15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."

- How does God deliver his messages today?

What do angels do today?

Psalm 91:11,12 For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

- Evaluate: The Bible teaches that each of us has a personal guardian angel.

Luke 15:10 “In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

- Evaluate: God’s angels are mainly concerned with protecting us from physical harm.
- What positive role did angels play in the case of Philip (Acts 8:26) and Cornelius (Acts 10:5)?
- What negative roles did angels play in the cases of Zechariah (Luke 1:20) and Herod (Acts 12:23)?

What will angels do in the future?

Luke 16:22 “The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried.”

- Sometimes a dying person may comment that he or she can hear the angels sing. What truth does such a statement have for us believers?

Matthew 24:30,31 “At that time . . . they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a

loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.”

- What role will angels play at the end of time?

- Multiple choice: The church calendar has a special day to recognize angels—Saint Michael and All Angels Day. It falls on
 - (a) March 15.
 - (b) June 1.
 - (c) September 29.
 - (d) October 31.

- Evaluate: Because angels serve God and carry out his will, they are worthy of our worship.

***Revelation 7:9-12** After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: “Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!”*

- Who are those dressed in white?

- In this crowd pick out a loved one who has died in the Lord.

Summary

As God revealed his Word to the world, he often sent angels as his messengers. Even though this important task seems to have ended, angels are still deeply involved in the lives of God’s people. They protect us physically and spiritually and assist behind the scenes in bringing more souls into the Lord’s church. The work of the angels will continue to the end of time. At our deaths they

bring us home to heaven. At the judgment, they will come with Christ to judge the earth. Together with the angels, we will sing God's praises forever.

During the week

1. Read chapters 5, 6, and 7 in Revelation. Note the glory and splendor of the angels and how they serve the Lamb, Jesus Christ.
2. To review this lesson, read chapter 2 of *Angels and Demons*.