

Clarifying Angels and Our Relationship to Them

Part 2

April 18, 2021

The work of angels in relation to God:

Their abode is in heaven - While angels are often depicted as ministering in God's behalf to saints here on earth, it seems their main abode is in heaven.

Lk 2:13-15 And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased." 15 When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another ... (Mt 22:30; Jn 1:51)

Jesus spoke of "the angels which are in heaven" (Mk 13:32),

Paul wrote: "But though we or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you" (Gal 1:8).

It seems that the angels have a special place in which to dwell in Heaven. Jude writes "angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode ..." (Jude 6).

Angels serve God in His heavenly court and attend to His throne (Rev 5:11-12; 7:11).

They worship and glorify God (1Ki 22:19; Isa 6:3; Rev 4:8; 19:4; Lk 2:13-15).

Ps 29:1-2 Ascribe to the LORD, O sons of the mighty, Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. 2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the majesty of holiness.

It appears that **the main ministry of the angels is to worship** and offer unceasing praise to God. For He is worthy (Rev 1:11-12; Isa 6:3; Ps 103:20-21).

They worship Jesus.

Heb 1:6 And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, "AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM."

They inquire into the prophetic plan of God.

1Pt 1:12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look. (Dan 12:5-6)

They perform the will of God.

Ps 103:20 Bless the LORD, you His angels, Mighty in strength, who perform His word, Obeying the voice of His word! (Ps 104:4; Dan 7:10)

They rejoice in God's work of creation and redemption (Job 38:7; Rev 4:11) (Lk 15:10; 1Tim 3:16; Rev 5:11-12).

They gave the law to Israel.

Gal 3:19 Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made. (Dt 33:2; Ac 7:53; Heb 2:2)

They are God's army - Saba refers to the "host of heaven," or the angels, or the army of angels. Dt 33:2 in the blessing of Moses where the "ten thousands of saints" (Kodesh) are not stars, but angels, or heavenly spirits; (Gen 32:2-3; Josh 5:14; Jdg 5:20; 1Ki 22:19; Ps 103:21)

They execute God's judgment:

On the Egyptians (Ex 12:13, 23).
On Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen 19:13).
On the Assyrians (2Ki 19:35).
On King Herod (Ac 12:23).

They are God's instrument to bring His judgment in the book of Revelation.

They hold back the 4 winds of heaven (Rev 7:1).
They pronounce the 7 trumpet judgments (Rev 8:2).
They cast Satan and his angels out of heaven (Rev 12:7-8).
They pour out the 7 vial judgments (Rev 15:1).

They will accompany Jesus Christ at His second coming.

In His second advent Christ will descend from heaven (1Thes 1:10) with the voice of the archangel and the trump of God (1Thes 4:16; See also Mt 13:30, 39, 49-50; 24:30-31).

Angels will accompany Him as the executors of His decrees.

2Thes 1:7-8 and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, 8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

Between chapter 7 and 20 of the book of Revelation angels are mentioned as having part in God's judgments no less than 57 times.

The work of angels in relation to Christians:

Heb 1:14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

Heb 12:22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels,

They seem to observe the people of God.

Lk 15:10 "In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (Lk 12:8-9; 1Cor 4:9; Eph 3:10; 1Tm 5:21; 1Pt 1:12).

They can communicate God's message to us.

Ps 104:4 He makes the winds His messengers, Flaming fire His ministers.

The Revelation of John was given to him by an angel.

Rev 22:8-9 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. 9 But he said to me, "Do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God."

An angel tells Paul of the shipwrecked and that no lives would be lost.

Acts 27:21-26 When they had gone a long time without food, then Paul stood up in their midst and said, "Men, you ought to have followed my advice and not to have set sail from Crete and incurred this damage and loss. 22 "Yet now I urge you to keep up your courage, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. 23 "For this very night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood before me, 24 saying, '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. 26 "But we must run aground on a certain island."

An angel tells Cornelius to send for Peter (Ac 10:1-8).

They can give guidance.

Abraham's instructions to Eleazar in obtaining a bride for Isaac (Gen 24:1-14).

Gen 24:7 "The LORD, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my birth, and who spoke to me and who swore to me, saying, 'To your descendants I will give this land,' He will send His angel before you, and you will take a wife for my son from there.

An angel warned Joseph, telling him to flee to Egypt with his family and then to return.

Mt 2:13 Now 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." (2:19-20).

An angel instructs Philip to go to the desert road.

Ac 8:26-29 But 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.) 27 So he got up and went; and there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure; and he had come to Jerusalem to worship, 28 and he was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go up and join this chariot."

They can minister to physical needs.

Elijah was fed by the angel when fleeing from Jezebel (1Ki 19:1-8).

1Ki 19:7 The angel of the LORD came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise, eat, because the journey is too great for you." 8 So he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mountain of God.

The angels minister to Jesus in the wilderness after His victorious temptations (Mt 4:1-11).

Mt 4:11 Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him.

Jesus was strengthened by an angel in Gethsemane (Lk 22:39-46).

Lk 22:43-44 Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him. 44 And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground.

They can give protection from accidents and harm.

Ps 91:11-12 For He will give His angels charge concerning you, To guard you in all your ways. 12 They will bear you up in their hands, That you do not strike your foot against a stone. (Ps 34:7)

Lot and his family are protected before Sodom and Gomorrah are destroyed (Gen 19:15-26).

Gen 19:22 "Hurry, escape there, for I cannot do anything until you arrive there." Therefore the name of the town was called Zoar.

Elisha is protected by an army of angels (2Ki 6:8-23).

2Ki 6:15-17 Now 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?" 16 So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." 17 Then 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. (Ps 68:17)

An angel protects Daniel by shutting the mouth of the lions (Dan 6:1-28).

Dan 6:20-22 When he had come near the den to Daniel, he cried out with a troubled voice. The king spoke and said to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you constantly serve, been able to deliver you from the lions?" 21 Then Daniel spoke to the king, "O king, live forever! 22 "My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths and they have not harmed me, inasmuch as I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime."

They can deliver us from harm.

Peter and the apostles were released from prison by an angel (Ac 5:17-26).

Ac 5:19-21 But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the gates of the prison, and taking them out he said, 20 "Go, stand and speak to the people in the temple the whole message of this Life." 21 Upon hearing this, they entered into the temple about daybreak and began to teach. ...

Peter was freed by an angel [he was chained to two guards] and escapes prison (Ac 12:1-13).

Ac 12:7 And 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.

They escort believers at death (Lk 16:19-31).

Lk 16:22 "Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. (Jude 9)

Concerning guardian angels:

There is no scriptural authority for the age-old idea that each person, as soon as he is born, is assigned a special guardian angel who will watch over that one throughout his lifetime. The two verses of scripture that have often been used as evidence do not provide enough evidence for this notion.

Mt 18:10 "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven.

Ac 12:15 They said to her, "You are out of your mind!" But she kept insisting that it was so. They kept saying, "It is his angel."

The Scripture is very clear with regard to the ministry of angels in behalf of all believers, but it does not teach individual guardian angels.

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