

ANGELS: GOD'S SPECIAL HELPERS

Questions About Angels

Additional praises/significant happenings this past week:

Ice Breaker: How often do you think about angels?

Do Angels Exist? (read Psalm 148:2-5; Matthew 26:50-54)

1. The Bible presents angels as real created beings without trying to prove their existence. They were created to serve God. What support for their existence do we find in these verses?
2. Why do we sometimes forget that angels are for real? How does accepting this truth change your ideas about angels?

How Are Angels Different From Humans? (read Luke 20:34-36; Hebrews 1:14)

1. What differences do we find between angels and humans from these references?
2. Most of today's media portray angels as having many human qualities, e.g. getting tired, frustrated, confused, falling in love, becoming emotionally involved with people, handsome and muscular, etc. However the Bible usually describes them based on the task they are performing for God and does go into great detail explaining what they are like. What dangers are there in portraying angels essentially as humans with special powers?
3. What qualities about angels are the most important to remember?

Does Everyone Have A “Guardian Angel”? (read Psalm 34:7; 91:11; Matthew 18:10)

1. Many people believe that every person has a guardian angel assigned to watch over their welfare. The title is not used in the Bible. Biblical evidence about “guardian” angels is ambiguous at best. What do these verses tell us about 1) God, 2) angels, 3) mankind?
2. Is the promise of angelic protection for all people?

Do Angels Have Special Powers? (read 2 Peter 2:9-11)

1. Peter’s point is that even good angels do not presume to judge the fallen angels (see 2:4) for that authority is reserved for God alone – not for people or even angels. Peter reminds us that angels have more power than we have but are they all-powerful? What limits are there on angelic powers?
2. Why should we not overemphasize angels and their powers?

Wrap up: How has this study affected your attitude toward angels? Toward God?

Prayer:

- Ministry to one another
- For God’s handiwork in orchestrating our outreach efforts

LIFE GROUPS

A safe place to build friendships and nurture spiritual growth.

L ♦ Learn..... applying Biblical truth for everyday living
I ♦ Invite.....welcoming others to our fellowship
F ♦ Fellowship.....nurturing Christ centered caring relationships
E ♦ Evangelism..... reaching others with the hope of Christ

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What Angels Do

Additional praises/significant happenings this past week:

Ice Breaker: Who was the most surprising person to ever show up at your door?

Angels Worship God (read psalm 103:20-21)

1. When we come together to sing and praise the Lord, are we (i.e. as humans) alone in this? Why or why not?
2. How might envisioning worship as the joining of human hearts and a host of angelic spirits draw us into the reality of the spiritual realm and the splendor of worship?

Angels Bring Messages From God (read Acts 27:21-24)

1. This angel's task was to bring a message from God, a word of assurance to Paul. Have you ever felt that an angel delivered a message to you?
2. How would you respond if someone told you he/she had received a message from an angel, but you know the message contradicted the Gospel? (see Galatians 1:8)
3. Christians should not seek messages from angels but should not discount that God can still use angels as messengers. Why doesn't God usually direct us this way? Discuss how God communicates with people today.

Angels Help God's People (read Acts 12:6-11)

1. Pretend that you were Peter, how might you have reacted physically and emotionally?
2. How can knowledge about the help of angels be assuring for believers?

Angels Will Gather God's People at Christ's Return (read Mark 13:26-27)

1. Why is this task given to angels . . . why did Jesus include this detail in describing His return?

Angels Will Be Agents of God's Final Judgement (read Matthew 13:39b-42)

1. How will angels distinguish between the "weeds" and the "wheat"?

Wrap up: How has this study increased your view of God and the work of His angels?

Prayer:

- For one another
- For our personal outreach this week

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ANGEL'S: GOD'S SPECIAL SERVANTS

Jesus Is Superior To Angels

Additional praises/significant happenings this past week:

Ice Breaker: When your parents went away, who were you “subject to” as a child? How did you look upon this person or the rules imposed on you?

Jesus Is God's Son; Angels Are Worshippers (read Hebrews 1:3-6)

1. Think of reasons why people would worship and revere angels instead of God.
2. From this passage, make a list of ways Jesus is superior to angels.
3. With the title of “Son” given to Jesus, what is their only response? (see also Luke 2:13-14) If that’s the situation for angels, how should that apply to us? Why?
4. After considering this passage, why is focusing one’s devotion on angels instead of Christ just plain foolish?

Jesus Is Ruler; Angels Are Servants (read Hebrews 1:7-14)

1. What statements reflect that Christ holds the power (authority) over all things? Search the passage to clarify the authority and limits of authority of angels . . . what evidence is given that angels are subordinate to God?

2. What does it mean to you that God has authority in your life? (home, family, work, etc.)

Jesus Is Savior; Angels Are Messengers (read Hebrews 2:2-3; 9-10; 14-16)

1. The words “the message spoken by angels” (v. 2) reflects the traditional view that angels were involved in bringing the law (10 Commandments) to Moses. (see Galatians 3:19; Acts 7:53) If the message angels gave was binding and violations of it are punished, how much greater is the great salvation Jesus provided? What is meant by the question, “How shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation?”
2. Why was Jesus made human like us i.e., “a little lower than the angels” (v. 9)? What significance does that have for us? Do angels have any real connection of what being human is like and what we are going through as compared to Jesus?

Wrap up: Discuss how we could respond if someone said that Jesus and angels are equal.

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Dangers of an Overemphasis on Angels

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Ice Breaker: Why have angels become such a popular focus?

The Danger of Perverting The Gospel (read Galatians 1:6-9)

1. What does Paul say will happen to anyone who promotes a “gospel” other than that which he preached – the good news of grace (vv. 8-9)? (take a moment to summarize the good news of the Gospel of Christ.)
2. The Galatian believers were Greeks unfamiliar with Jewish laws and customs; those who were confusing them and perverting the Gospel were zealous Jewish Christians who believed that the Old Testament practices such as circumcision and dietary restrictions were required of all believers to be acceptable to God for salvation. How did this “add to” and contradict the true Gospel?
3. Which is more dangerous: 1) Those who directly attack the Gospel, or 2) those who add something new to biblical truth claiming that their new revelations came from angels (e.g. Mohammed claiming the angel Gabriel led him to found Islam; Joseph Smith claimed that the angel Moroni influenced the writing of the Book of Mormon; new age books claiming angelic authority)? Why?

The Dangers of Losing Touch with Christ (read Colossians 2:18-19)

1. What were these false teachers doing? What were the results?

2. The Bible teaches that angels are God's servants. What does it say about worshipping them? (see Exodus 20:3,4; Revelation 22:8,9)

The Danger of Moving Into The Demonic (read 1 Corinthians 10:19-20)

1. Worshipping idols (statues of wood and stone) by sacrificing an animal was the major expression of pagan religion in Corinth. Paul warned these new Christians that continued participation in idol worship indicated an allegiance to the demons. How might someone's devotion to angels, which is idolatry, be serving a demon in disguise who seeks to blind them from the truth of God? (see 2 Corinthians 11:14)

The Danger of Slipping Into Paganism (read Deuteronomy 32:15-18; Psalm 106:35-37)

1. These passages describe Israel's (Jeshurun) descent into paganism. How did this happen . . . what did they do?
2. How may the current fascination with angels be the leading edge of a new paganism? How can Christians withstand these ideas?

Wrap up: Summarize as a group the key points in this study.

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