

Who are Angels?

Week 2 – The Reality of the Spirit Realm

Message Mate

- The word angel comes from the Greek word *angelos* meaning messenger, but angels do much more than deliver messages. Angels were created by God (Ps 148:1-5) before the creation of the earth (Job 38:4-7). Humans were created a little lower than angels, yet angels serve us (Heb 2:6,7; 1:14).
- The Scriptures provide the names and roles of four groups of angels, cherubim, seraphim, archangels and angels. Cherubim are in the immediate presence of God, encircling His throne (Ps 99:1; 2 Kings 19:15) and were made for the top of the Ark of the Covenant (Ex 25:22) and the Holy of Holies (2 Chron 3:10-13). The Seraphim, described in Isaiah 6:1-4 are above the throne of God where they praise God and declare His holiness. Then there are archangels. Only Michael is named as an archangel and wherever he is mentioned he is involved in spiritual warfare (Jude 9, Daniel 10; Rev 12:7,8), but Gabriel is also believed to be an archangel. He stands in the presence of God and brought very important messages to Zechariah, Mary and Daniel (Lk 1:19, 26; Dan 9:21).
- Angels played a key role in the formation of Israel as a nation (Nu 20:16; Ex 23:20; Deut 33:2; Gal 3:19). Angels were very important in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ including around his birth (Lk 1:26-38; 2:8-15; Mt 1:20, 2:12, 2:19). Angels came to Jesus after Satan had tempted him (Mt 4:11) and in the Garden of Gethsemane (Lk 22:43). An angel rolled the stone away from the tomb at his resurrection and angels spoke to those at the tomb (Mt 28:2-7; Jn 20:11,12; Lk 24:4-7). Angels appeared at his ascension (Acts 1:9-11) and will be with Him when He returns (Mt 25:31) and at the judgement (Mt 13:49,50).
- Angels continue to minister in many ways today including watching over us (1 Cor 4:9), helping people come to faith in God (Heb 1:14; Acts 8:26; 10:3) and rejoicing when people receive salvation (Lk 15:10). Angels are involved with prayer (Rev 8:3) and praise (Lk 2:13,14). They proclaim messages from God (Gen 18:1-33; 21:17,18; Dan 9:21) and provide for our needs (1 Ki 19:5,6). They protect people from harm (Dan 6:22; Ps 34:7) and we each have a guardian angel (Mt 18:10). Angels prevail over the spiritual enemy (Dan 10:12,13) and can bring God's judgement (2 Pet 2:11; Acts 12:23; 2 Ki 19:35; Rev 16).
- Angels are not to be worshipped (Rev 19:10). We learn from Daniel 9:20-23, that as we pray, God can release angels to be involved in each of the ways outlined above to minister to us and ensure that God's will and plans are being fulfilled in our lives.

Some Questions to Consider

1. Have you ever had an encounter with an angel, or believe that perhaps the “near-miss” from an accident may have involved an angel protecting you or someone you love? Perhaps you could share this with the group.
2. Given that the God sits enthroned between the cherubim (Ps 99:1), discuss the symbolism and significance of the Ark of the Covenant (Ex 25:22) and the Holy of Holies (2 Chronicles 3:10-13) both having two cherubim to show God’s presence for the people of Israel.
3. Have you previously considered the extent of the involvement of angels in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ? If angels were so integral to the life and ministry of Jesus, why would they not also be important in your life to help you fulfil the calling that God has for you?
4. Read Hebrews 1:14 and 2:6,7. Discuss the role of angels in serving God’s people.
5. Having discussed Question 4, now consider that angels also play an important role in bringing people to faith in Jesus Christ, directing people of faith and leading people to meet Jesus (Heb 1:14; Acts 8:26; 10:3). Discuss recent testimonies of people having dreams of angels and coming to faith in God.
6. Consider the following roles of angels (Scriptures are in the message mates)
Watch over us
Help bring people to salvation
Prayer
Praise God
Proclaim - Messages
Provide for People’s Needs
Protect People
Prevail over Evil
Bring Judgement

Have you been aware that angels can minister today in each of these situations? Do you have experiences or have you prayed that God would send His angels for one or more of these situations.

Pray –

Join with the angels in praising God, using the words of the seraphim from Isaiah 6:3
‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory.’
Give thanks to God for his angels who He sends to do His will and to serve us.

