

Angels

Matt. 4:11

Introduction:

- A. “Angels” are a hot topic today.
 - 1. Popular topic in religious literature.
 - 2. “Touched by an Angel” – a popular TV show.
- B. “Angels” = “messengers” or “ones sent”.
 - 1. Usually refers to spiritual or heavenly beings.
 - 2. Sometimes refers to men who have been sent (cf. Lk. 7:24, 27; 9:52; Rev. 2-3).
- C. We want to study two aspects of angels – their nature and their work.

Discussion:

I. The Nature of Angels.

- A. They are created spirits (Heb. 1:7)
- B. They are not gods.
 - 1. Jesus is much better. (Heb. 1:4).
 - 2. Must worship Jesus (Heb. 1:6)
 - 3. Not to be worshiped (Col. 2:18).
 - 4. Can sin (2 Pet. 2:4).
- C. They are associated with the church / kingdom (Heb. 12:22, 23).
- D. They have names and ranks (Luke 1:19; Jude 9)
- E. They do not marry and procreate nor die (Matt. 22:20; Lk. 20:36).
- F. They have appeared in various ways in the past.
- G. They may be in the midst of people “unaware” (Heb. 13:2).
- H. Satan also has angels (Matt. 25:41; Rev. 12:9).

II. The Work of Angels.

- A. They serve God as ministering spirits (Psa. 104:4; Heb. 1:7).
 - 1. Have appeared in human form (Gen. 19).
 - 2. Have been instruments of revelation in the past.
 - a. Appeared to Joseph in a dream (Matt. 1:20).
 - b. Involved in the giving of the Old Law (Acts 7:53; Gal. 3:19; Heb. 2:2)
 - c. Revelation now by Christ through his apostles (Heb. 2:2-4)
 - 3. Have been instruments of God’s judgment.
 - a. Against Egypt. (Psa. 78:49).
 - b. Against Assyrians (Isa. 37:36).
 - c. Could have used angels against Romans and Jews (Matt. 26:53).
- B. They have an active interest in God’s people.
 - 1. They protect them (Psa. 34:7; 35:5,6; 91:11, 12; Matt. 18:10)
 - 2. They rejoice in their obedience (Lk. 15:10)
- C. They remove God’s people from the earth.
 - 1. They carried Lazarus to Abraham’s bosom (Luke 16:22).
 - 2. They will come with Jesus (Matt. 25:31)
 - 3. They will be active in the final judgment (Matt. 13:39, 41, 49)

Conclusion:

- A. We can only know what God has revealed about the general activities of angels.
- B. We know little of specific acts of angel activity in God’s providence in the world.
- C. We must be careful not to speculate when we think we have their work in our lives (Deut. 29:29).