

# Some Thoughts & Questions About Angels

by Danny Brown

There has been a number of TV programs, stage plays and Movies involving angels. Some, it seems, get their understand and beliefs about angels from these sources. However such sources are not always true or authentic..The only authentic source for accurate information about angels is the Bible.

The term angel is from the Hebrew word "malak" and the Greek word "angelos" meaning messenger. The word is used to refer to the Devil's angels (messengers). (Matt 25:41) We also find that the word is used in regard to some men, John had sent some of his disciples to question Jesus. These disciples are referred to as angels. "And when the messengers (angels) of John departed . . ." Luke 7:24 see also 2 Kings 2:5) The word is used mostly to refer to those created spirit beings, superior to man, whose dwelling place is in heaven with God. This last is the meaning of the word angels as it will be used in this article.

## Some Things Men and Angels Have In Common

1. Both angels and men are alive. Both have the ability to move about, speak and worship God.
2. Neither is deity. Both are of a lower order than God. Men are yet a little lower than the angels. (Heb 2:1)
3. Both have free will. Both can choose to obey or disobey God. Each is held responsible for his choice. His final state will depend on the choice he makes. (Men, Rom 6:16,23; Angels, Jude 6)
4. Both have feelings or emotions. The angels shouted for joy when God laid the foundation of the earth. (Job 38:4-6).
5. Neither have wings. Saraphims (six wings, Isa 6) and Cherubims (four wings, Ezediel 1), it seems to me, are of a different order of God's creation than angels. However, if they are angels, then it is this order of angels that have wings. There is no reference to angels, in general, having wings. The nearest thing to supporting the idea of them having wings is the statements that they do fly, and that swiftly. (Dan 9:21; Rev 14:6).

## Some Things Different

1. Men marry and are given in marriage and by procreation populate the earth and continue the race. (Luke 20:34; Gen 1:28) Angels do not marry and procreate, but are created beings. (Matt 22:30; Neh 9:6) This implied that angels are sexless beings. As a result, there are no baby angels, no cupids with bows and no teen angels. The fact that angels are sexless should rule out the false notion that angels cohabited with the daughters of men and their offspring were demons. (Gen 6)

2. Men are visible to one another while alive. Angels, as spirit beings, are invisible to men. There are occasions when the eyes of the beholder has been opened so that he has the ability to see angels, as did the prophets servant at Dothan (2 Ki 6:15-17) or when angel appear as men on earth. (Gen 18, 19)

3. Men are mortal and subject to death. (Heb 9:27) Angels are immortal, not subject to death. (Luke 20:34-38).

4. Men are men. Angels are angels. Men do not become angels at death. When Lazarus died he was still Lazarus in Abraham's bosom. (Luke 16:19-31) Abraham was still Abraham.

5. Men have a saviour, Jesus Christ, the son of God. (Heb 2:9; 1 Tim 2:5) Angels do not. Angels that sin are kept in Tartarus in chains of darkness until their judgment. (Jude 6; 2 Pet 2:4)

## Personal Guardian Angel?

Do we, each one, have a personal guardian angel watching over us? I believe the answer to that question is no. I understand that Islam teaches that each person has two personal angels – one to write the good and one to write the bad that is done. There are two passages that are sometimes suggested to teach that we do have guardian angels - Matt 18:10 and Acts 12:15.

Matt 18:10 says, "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones: for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven." The intent of Jesus statement was not to teach that each one has a guardian angel but to teach that little ones should not be despised. If angels in heaven are concerned about these little one, we surely should not look down or disdain them. Notice that the angels under consideration are not on earth but in heaven and that their number is plural. Note also that the reference to little ones is also plural. Plural little ones and plural angels. Thus one or several guardian angels for each person is not supported by the passage. It is certainly true that angels are ministering spirits (Heb 1:14) and they have

a work to perform for saints, but this is a far cry from each one having a personal angel assigned to him.

Acts 12:15 reads, "And they said to her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel." Herod had put James to death and imprisoned Peter. In the night an angel opened the prison gates and Peter was freed. He knocked at the door of the gate at Mary's house and Rhoda came to the door. When she heard Peter's voice, for gladness she rushed to tell the others without opening the door for Peter.. Amidst the confusion, and unbelief that Peter was freed, they thought, for whatever reason, that it was his angel. However, their thoughts are not divine revelation. It was not an angel it was Peter at the door

## **Hebrews 13:2**

"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

When I first became acquainted with this passage years ago I was taught that it enjoined hospitality upon the Christian. Also that the early Christians were known for their hospitality and the church grew as a result. If we desire to restore what the first Christians did we too will practice hospitality.

I was also taught that the passage referred to an incident in Abraham's life recorded in Genesis 18. The three wayfarers seen by Abraham did not at the first appear to be anything other than men. However later on he suspected that they were either prophets or angels when there was the promise of a son given. By the time two of the three departed for Sodom there was no question but that they were angels who had appeared to him as men.

Is it possible that we, today, may entertain angels unawares? I was taught that the passage was teaching that you never know who you may be entertaining. Some humble visitor may turn out to be an angel in human form. Through the years I have had no reason to change my view of this passage.

## **Angels Today**

What are angels doing now? The Hebrew writer in showing how much greater Christ is than the angels says of angels, "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation." (Heb 1:14) Please note that the passage says "for" not "to" the saints. We do not presume to know all the things angels are doing nor do we believe that everything they are doing is revealed. There are, however, many things revealed unto us that angels are doing for the saints.

1. I suspect that angels, like humans, are still learning about the wisdom of God and God's scheme of redemption for men. Peter tells us that not only the prophets, but also the angels desired to look into those things sent down from heaven by Deity. (1 Pet 1:11-12) Paul tells us that when the principalities and powers (angels) see the church functioning as God intended, they see God's wisdom. His wisdom is like a well-cut diamond with a multitude of facets that sparkles in every direction. His wisdom is manifold, that is, many sided and angels desire can see it.

2. During his lifetime, Jesus pulled back the curtain just a little so that we could see beyond death. He said, "There was a certain rich man, . . . and there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, . . . and it came to pass that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom; the rich man also died, and was buried." (Luke 16:19-22) Since death is the lot of every one and each one will experience it individually. (Heb 9:27) We all may have some anxiety about what it will be like. I like to think that for the righteous we will not have to go it alone. That there will be an angel to carry us, to go with us, to show us the way, to give comfort in that strange new place.

3. There are many things said about angels in conjunction with the second coming of Christ. "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:" (1 Thess 4:16) There are only two angels named in Scripture, Michael and Gabriel. Much has been said about Gabriel blowing his horn or trumpet. This may be good fiction but it is not good Bible. There is not one word about Gabriel sounding the trump at the end of the world. Both the parable of the tares and net reveal that the angels of God will have a part in the judgment. They are the reapers who separate the good from the bad. (Matt 13)

4. Though this is not a work required of angels it is something that they do. They rejoice over sinners who repent. (Luke 15:10)

5. When you read Daniel 10:11-15; 12:1; Rev 5 – 20 et al there is revealed a spiritual conflict in which some angels are engaged. The curtain is just barely pulled back, not much is revealed, we would like to know more. What is revealed lets us know that the angels are ministering for the saints even in the spiritual realm.

6. Angels, along with all other created beings worship God. "And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beast and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing." (Rev 5:11-12) "And I John saw these things and heard them. And When I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel

which shewed me these things. Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellow-servant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God." (Rev 22:8-9)

7. There is, no doubt, many other things angels are doing for saints that have not been mentioned.

## **Conclusion**

It is not the angels responsibility, obligation or privilege to tell men what to do to be saved. In speaking of the gospel, God's power to save, Paul said, "We have this treasure in earthen vessels . . ." (2 Cor 4:7). It is the privilege of men to carry the good news of the miraculous birth, sinless life, death, sacrifice, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ to the lost of every nation.

The Bible is God's revelation to man. It contains everything necessary for doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness that men may be perfect, completely furnished unto every good work (2 Tim 3:16-17) Should an angel reveal himself and teach something different from what you read in the Scriptures, don't you believe it. First of all, that angel will not be around for long. The chains of darkness and Tartarus await him. Secondly, Paul said, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." (Gal 1:8)