

**Subject: *Biblical Truth about Angels – Part 4***

**Scripture: *Revelation 4:1-11***

In our study of angels we have considered the existence and nature of angels, the names and descriptions of angels, and the types and organization of angels. In this message we are going to look at the ministry of angels. Their ministry is far-reaching and impressive. They minister in heaven and on earth. They have ministered at many times in the past, present, and future. They minister in many ways. Angels minister in Heaven and on Earth, and they do so for the most part beyond the sight of man. Scripture is our only accurate source of information about the existence, nature, names, descriptions, types, organization, and ministry of angels.

**The Ministry of Angels to and for God**

The most important ministry of angels is their ministry to God.

1. Angels worship God (Neh. 9:6; Ps. 148:1-2; Isa. 6:3; Rev. 4:6-11; 5:8-13; 22:8-9)

Their most important ministry is the worship of God. They worship God for His holiness, sovereignty, worthiness, and omnipotence. They know God well, and therefore, they worship Him as He should be worshiped. They never get tired in worship or of worship and their praise is never-ending. They understand that only God is to be worshiped (Rev. 22:8-9). Paul warned of false worship that involved the worship of angels (Col. 2:18).

2. Angels serve God (Ps. 103:20; Lk. 1:19; Col. 1:16)

They obey God's commands, stand ready to obey Him, and understand they were created by God and for Him. Their obedience is suggested in "The Lord's Prayer" *Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven* (Mt. 6:10). In Hebrews 1:7, they are described as God's "ministers" (Gk. *leitourgous*, from which we get our English word, "liturgy"). They are an example for believers to follow (Ps. 100:2, "serve the LORD with gladness").

- A. They serve God eagerly (Mt. 18:10) – They stand ready to carry out God's commands. They are quick to respond with no questioning, arguing, or excuses. C. H. Spurgeon said: "The angels of God serve Him with songs, not with groans; a murmur or a sigh would be a mutiny in their ranks."
- B. They serve God submissively (Heb. 1:14) – They are willing to leave heaven and the immediate presence of God to fulfill their earthy assignments. Thomas Watson wrote: "Heaven is such a happy place that angels would not leave it for a minute even to bring messages from God, were it not that they take such infinite delight in doing God's will."
- C. They serve God fervently (Ps. 103:20-21) – They are not indifferent or lukewarm. But they serve God with a holy zeal.

3. Angels administer God's rule (Dan. 10:13; 12:1; Rev. 7:1; 16:3; 16:8-9)

They are God's agents sometimes used to control nations (Dan. 10:13; 12:1) or the forces of nature (Rev. 7:1; 16:3; 16:8-9). The Old Testament word "angel" comes from a root word meaning "to dispatch as a deputy." They serve as God's deputies exercising His authority.

4. Angels execute God's judgments

They serve as God's agents of destruction (upon Sodom, Gen. 19:13, "the Lord has sent us to destroy it"; upon Egypt, Ex. 12:13, 23; upon the Assyrian army, 2 Kg. 19:35; 1 Chron. 21:15-18; 2 Sam. 24:16; Ps. 78:43, 49; upon Herod, Acts 12:23; upon earth in the Tribulation, Rev. 8:1-2, 6; 15:1; 16:1).

### **The Ministry of Angels to and for Christ**

#### 1. Angels ministered to Christ before and after His birth

They predicted His supernatural conception to Mary, Lk. 1:26-28; gave assurance to Joseph, Mt. 1:18-23; and announced His birth to the shepherds, Lk. 2:8-15.

#### 2. An angel protected Christ as a baby

An angel warned Joseph to escape to Egypt, Mt. 2:13-15, and gave direction for Joseph's return after Herod's death, Mt. 2:19-21.

#### 3. Angels strengthened Christ in times of need

Angels ministered to Him after Satan's temptation in the wilderness, Mt. 4:11, and during His agony in the garden of Gethsemane, Lk. 22:43.

#### 4. Angels were prepared to defend Christ from his enemies

Christ said that the Father could send more than twelve legions of angels or 72,000 angels to rescue Him (Mt. 26:53), but they did not interfere with God's plan for Christ to suffer and die as the sacrifice for sin.

#### 5. An angel opened Christ's tomb (Mt. 28:1-2)

This could have been done by God the Father or Christ Himself. The stone was rolled back not to let Jesus out, but to let the disciples in to see that the tomb was empty.

#### 6. Angels announced Christ's resurrection (Mt. 28:5-7)

#### 7. Angels submit to Christ's supreme authority (Eph. 1:20-21; 1 Pet. 3:22)

#### 8. Angels predicted Christ's return (Acts 1:11)

#### 9. Angels will return with Christ (Mt. 25:31; 1 Th. 4:16; 2 Th. 1:7)

#### 10. Angels will separate the saved and the lost

They will serve as "reapers," Mt. 13:37-40. They will gather His elect from all parts of the earth, Mt. 24:31.

In summary, angels are involved at four important events in the life of Christ: His birth, resurrection, ascension, and return.

## **BIBLICAL TRUTH ABOUT ANGELS – PART 4**

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