

THE ANGELIC HOST

LESSON 3

OUTLINE:

- 1) *The Angelic Host – Their Ministry*

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:

We come now to the place where we begin to see the value of having a knowledge about angels. By knowing something of their work, we become aware of where we fit in. There is no reason to believe that the work of angels, both good and bad, has in any way ceased or changed. God's will, God's plans and God's love can all be seen in the activities of His angels. Lesson 3 will be a partial answer to some of the questions about the reason to learn about angels. It will be a partial answer because only the angels of God will be considered at this time. The activity of the evil angels will be the subject of a later lesson. We will divide this lesson on the ministry of the good angels into several categories, all of which point out the fact of their being servants of God.

THE ANGELIC HOST – THEIR MINISTRY

First: Their Messenger Ministry

The Old Testament Hebrew word for angel was "malak", which meant "sent one" or "messenger." The New Testament Greek word was "aggelos" which also meant "messenger." There can be no doubt that angels conveyed messages from God in Heaven to men on earth.

The first recorded appearance of an angel in the Bible concerns an incident where Sarai, Abraham's wife, caused Hagar, her handmaid, to run away. This angel was given the task of delivering a message to Hagar. The message had what to say?

About what she must do? _____
_____ (Genesis 16:8-9).

About her having children? _____
_____ (Genesis 16:10)

About her then physical condition-about a child? _____
_____ (Genesis 16:11)

About the future of the child? _____
_____ (Genesis 16:12)

What can be said about the truth of the message delivered to Hagar by the angel?

Genesis 16:15 _____

After looking at the first mention of an angel in the Bible, let us now look at the last mention. It is found in the Book of Revelation. What did God send this angel to do?

Revelation 22:16 _____

From the first to the last, angels are seen as conveyors of God's messages to men. There are other illustrations of such angelic activity. What was the message two angels were told to deliver to Lot?

Genesis 19:1,12-13 _____

What method did one angel use to deliver his message to Jacob?

Genesis 31:11 _____

Hagar was privileged to have an angel speak to her on another occasion. Where was this angel when he delivered the message?

Genesis 21:17 _____

What type of message was given by an angel to Gideon?

Judges 6:12,14 _____

At the start of this section of our study on the ministry of angels, it was noted that an angel was sent to inform someone of the birth of a child. This seemed to be a common type message delivered by angels. What other three births were announced by angels?

Judges 13:2-5,24 _____

Matthew 1:20-21 _____

Luke 1:11-13 _____

What was the message an angel delivered to Mary, the mother of Jesus?

About herself? _____ (Luke 1:28,30).

About Jesus? _____ (Luke 1:32-33).

About the birth? _____ (Luke 1:35).

There are two occasions where angels were sent to give messages that would result in the salvation of people. What were they and to whom were they spoken?

Acts 8:26-27,37 _____

Acts 10:22-24,30-31,43-44,48 _____

An angel was sent to speak words of comfort to Paul, which were?

Acts 27:23-24 _____

Second: Their Protective Ministry

The Scriptures are full of accounts where angels are seen working in behalf of God's children. Their work is carried out in obedience to God's commands.

What did the writer of Hebrews say God sends forth His angels to do?

Hebrews 1:14 _____
This verse makes it clear that God assigns His angels the vital work of serving those who have made Christ their Lord and Savior.

What does the Psalmist say God charges His angels to do? _____
_____ (Psalm 91:11-12).

What did such angelic protection actually mean? _____
_____ (Psalm 91:10).

What three things had David done which caused God to be willing to give him such angelic protection?

Psalm 91:9,14 _____

When we often escape danger, accidents, etc., we attribute it to "luck". The credit should probably go to the guardian angels charged with our welfare. Seldom do we realize the many narrow escapes in our daily lives that are arranged by our angels. God's love for us is seen in His minute by minute concern for our safety. Such a thought should bring us comfort. There are ample illustrations in the Bible of angels watching over God's servants.

How was Daniel protected by an angel?

Daniel 6:22 _____

How did God protect 3 young men who refused to bow to an idol?

Daniel 3:20-26 _____

We are told that, if the need arises, there are armies of angels at our disposal. Jesus implied this when He said He could call 12 legions of angels to keep Him from being arrested by the Roman soldiers. Such angelic armies were not just available for Christ. They stand ready to come to the aid of any of God's people who need them. The king of Syria sought to take the life of the prophet Elijah. Upon learning that Elijah was in the city of Dothan, he sent a great army to take him. The city was surrounded by the Syrians. A servant of Elijah, when seeing what was about to happen, was afraid and asked Elijah what they should do. Elijah gave a strange answer, which was?

2 Kings 6:16-18 _____

How was Joseph protected, along with Mary and the baby Jesus, from Herod?

Matthew 2:13-15 _____

On one occasion Paul was on a ship that was about to be broken apart by a storm. The crew thought of jumping overboard. What changed their mind?

Acts 27:22-26 _____

What is another type of protective service provided God's followers?

Exodus 23:20 _____

The angel is said to camp around and deliver those who regard God in what way?

Psalm 34:7 _____

Oftentimes the things we must endure are not easy. On one occasion Christ was very burdened. What was done to encourage Him?"

Luke 22:43 _____

What did David pray concerning some who sought his destruction?

Psalm 35:4-6 _____

Angels will never act in accordance to our request. They are God's servants and do only as God instructs. David did not pray to the angels. How did he begin his prayer? _____

(Psalm 35:1).

It might be said that the enemy of a Christian may bite off more than he can chew, for he could eventually face not just the Christian, but also the angelic army as well as God Himself. It may have been such a thought as this that caused Paul to say _____(Romans 8:31).

The Syrian army that tried to take Elijah found this to be true.

Jesus once told a man named Nathaniel that he would see a great thing, which was described as what?

John 1:51 _____

Jesus had many close calls during His earthly ministry. It was not uncommon for His life to be in danger due to the efforts of His enemies. By what seemed like strange events, He always managed to escape. He could never have been taken or crucified had such not been the plan of God. Maybe if our eyes could be opened like those of Nathaniel, we too could see angels ascending and descending over each of us who belong to Him.

There are numerous other instances in the Bible which point out the protective ministry of angels provided for all of God's children. It is believed by many that every child of God has assigned to him at least one guardian angel.

Jesus pointed out that there are some who are of special interest to a certain group of angels. Who are they and what is said of the angel's activity?

Matthew 18:10 _____

Another type of protective ministry is seen in what an angel did for Elijah. Elijah had fled into the desert to hide from his enemies. What did this angel do for the prophet?

1 Kings 19:4-6 _____

There is yet another occasion where angels are seen providing food for one in need. We will take up this other instance when we begin Lesson 4

(Protective Ministry to be continued)

