

## ANGELOLOGY (19)

**(Unfallen Angel #8)** - The angel named “The” angel of the LORD.”

**This particular angel is only found in the O.T. and is actually an O.T. appearance of Jesus Christ prior to His incarnation.** Whenever “the angel of the LORD (Jehovah)” was present, God was present, so this is a member of the Trinity showing up in Person (i.e. Gen. 16:10-13; 22:11-12; Josh. 5:13-15; Is. 63:7-9; Zech. 1:12-21).

The angel of the LORD does not ever show up in the New Testament. Naturally, once Christ took on human form there would be no more of His angelic appearances, which explains why He never shows up in the N.T. It is important to observe that in the N.T. it is always “an angel of the Lord,” not “the angel of the LORD” (Acts 5:19; 12:23).

Since “the angel of the LORD” only shows up in the O.T., we may assume that he had a specific connection to national Israel and matters pertaining to her. This is something that is confirmed in the O.T. (Ex. 23:20-23; Ps. 34:7).

**QUESTION #22** – What are some of the things that unfallen angels do?

Although angelic action manifests itself in many ways, we should always remember that the primary purpose of an angel is to serve God. The main task of an unfallen angel is to carry out specific assignments and to accomplish various purposes for God. Just as there are different classifications and identifications of the angels, so there are different functions, responsibilities and ministries for the angels. This section is designed to explore these various areas of ministry. In systematizing data, we may conclude that there are five key angelic responsibility areas:

**Angelic Responsibility Area #1** - Unfallen angels have a ministry to God .

There are at least nine ministries we may determine:

1. Angels praise God for His creation . Ps. 148:1-2; Job 38:6-7
2. Angels praise God for His holiness . Is. 6:3
3. Angels worship God for His holiness . Rev. 4:8
4. Angels worship God for His majesty . Rev. 5:13-14
5. Angels worship God for His Son . Rev. 5:11-12; Heb. 1:6
6. Angels serve God by obeying God’s Word . Ps. 103:20
7. Angels serve God by promoting God’s worship . Rev. 22:9
8. Angels serve God by carrying out God’s judgments . Gen. 3:22-23; Rev. 8:2
9. Angels serve God by being personally accountable . Job 1:6; 2:1

**Angelic Responsibility Area #2** - Unfallen angels have a ministry connected to God’s program .

Since angels were created very early by God, logically speaking they would have an active interest and role to play in any program of God. It certainly appears that whenever God moves His program in a new direction, angels become very active. We may observe six:

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1. Angels were very active concerning God's creation. Job 38:6-7
2. Angels were very active concerning God's Word. Gal. 3:19; Heb. 2:2; Rev. 1:1; 22:8-9, 16
3. Angels were very active concerning God's nation - Israel. Rev. 7:1-8  
God's unfallen angels have always had a profound and important ministry to Israel. They were involved in blessing Abraham (Gen. 18:1-2, 16, 22; 19:1). They were involved in protecting Abraham's family (Gen. 19:1, 15). Angels protected Elisha and were used to deliver Israel from the Arameans (II Kings 6:15-20). Angels have had and undoubtedly still have a profound connection and association with the nation Israel.
4. Angels were very active concerning God's Son.  
Angels were very active concerning Christ's first coming (Mt. 1:20; 4:11) and they will be very active at His second coming (Mt. 25:31).
5. Angels are very active concerning God's church.
  - A. They were active at the beginning of it. Acts 8:26; 10:3, 7; 12:11
  - B. They are active during the development of it. Rev. 2:1, 8, 12, 18; 3:1, 7, 14
  - C. They will be active at the end of it. I Thess. 4:16
6. Angels are very active concerning Tribulation wrath. Rev. 7:1; 8:2; 10:1; 12:7-8; 16:1; 17:1; 18:1

We may certainly see that during every one of God's new programs or epoch times, angels are very active. From the beginning of creation to the calling of Israel, to the development of the Church right to the end, angels are involved in the whole program of God. We may assume from this that when God's program changes, so in some way do the ministry assignments of angels.

### **Angelic Responsibility Area #3** - Unfallen angels have a ministry connected to Jesus Christ.

Since Jesus Christ is God, we may assume that the same basic purpose of angels pertaining to God the Father, which is to serve Him, also pertains to God the Son (Col. 1:16). Scripture certainly supports the fact that angels have an intense relationship to God the Son:

1. Angels announced His coming. Mt. 1:20; Lk. 1:26-27
2. Angels announced His birth. Lk. 2:8-15
3. Angels protected His life. Mt. 2:13-15, 19-21
4. Angels strengthened Him after His temptations:
  - A. They strengthened Him in the wilderness. Mt. 4:1, 11
  - B. They strengthened Him in Gethsemane. Lk. 22:43
5. Angels would defend Him at any moment He requested. Mt. 26:53
6. Angels testified of His resurrection. Mt. 28:1-7; Lk. 24:1-9
7. Angels announce His future returns:
  - A. An angel will announce the Rapture. I Thess. 4:16
  - B. An angel will announce Christ's second coming. Rev. 19:17
8. Angels will participate in future worship. Rev. 5:11-12

Unfallen angels are closely associated with Jesus Christ at all times. They love Him and serve Him and worship Him.