

ANGELOLOGY (26)

(Angelic Believer Ministry #6) - Angels have a ministry of unannounced and unsuspected inspection. Hebrews 13:2

Apparently, one of the responsibilities of angels is to help carry out various tests that determine the faithfulness of a believer. Since angels seem to have a day in which they give an account to God, it is logical to assume that on that day they would give accounts and reports of the faithfulness of a believer.

The particular contextual issue in which this is discussed is in that of demonstrating hospitality to strangers. Obviously since an angel is unseen, if one or more were to appear in human form the angel would be a stranger to the believer being tested and examined. **Hebrews 13:2 is very clear that when such a test occurs, the believer has no idea at all that he is in the presence of an angel.**

It also appears from the context that one reason one might give for not reaching out to a stranger would be the fear that a stranger might do something harmful to the believer (Heb. 13:6). This should not be a continual excuse for not reaching out to others, because there are probably times when angels are present.

It is possible for an angel to appear in human form and ask a believer for help. The believer would have no idea he/she was in the presence of an angel, but if he/she chooses to assist, the angel would undoubtedly report this back at the Throne of God. This would undoubtedly lead to great blessing.

One biblical writer brings out a good point when he says that the word “strangers” is not just a reference to believers, but may even include unbelievers. He writes: “A stranger, by definition, is someone we do not know personally. Consequently, it is easy to be deceived when helping a stranger. A person who asks us for ten dollars to buy food for his family may spend it on alcohol or drugs. We should use our common sense in deciding how best to help him, but our primary concern should be for helping, not avoiding being taken advantage of. If we help in good faith, God will honor our effort. Love is often taken advantage of, but this is a cost that it does not count” (John MacArthur, *Hebrews*, pp. 366-367).

We should be careful and cautious not to be a partaker of someone else’s sin by helping them commit it through our support. But we should never use this continued excuse as a crutch for not helping. Angels can and apparently do come to the believer to see how the character is developing. It is imperative that we be open and sensitive to the will of God at all times. If this kind of thing does happen to us, it will probably happen when we least expect it or sense it.

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(Angelic Believer Ministry #7) - Angels have a ministry observation .

Angels are very much interested in our spiritual development and work for God (Eph. 3:10; I Pet. 1:12). They are very much interested in our salvation (Luke 15:10), our service (I Cor. 4:9) and our church (I Tim. 5:21; Rev. 2:1, 8, 12, 18; 3:1, 7, 14).

Dr. Chafer calls this the “progressive discipline of angels.” He writes “The Scriptures disclose the truth that the angels are learning much from their observations of men on earth- especially the outworking of redemption” (Vol. 2, p. 24).

Dr. Charles Ryrie makes a good point when he writes: “The reason for their (angels) interest in us may stem from the fact that since angels do not personally experience salvation, the only way they can see the effects of salvation is to observe how it is manifest in saved human beings.” He goes on to say that we are a theater and the angelic host is watching us perform so “let us put on a good performance for them as well as for the Lord before whom all things are naked and open” (*Basic Theology*, p. 133).

There is no doubt that angels are a vital reality in the life of every believer, so as Dr. Ryrie says, let us do our best to “put on a good performance for them as well as for the Lord.”

Angelic Responsibility Area #5 - Unfallen angels have a ministry to unbelievers .

It is good for us to remind ourselves that God is sovereign over all things, including those who are in rebellion against Him (i.e. Prov. 16:4; Rev. 17:17). It logically stands to reason that since angels are God’s sent messengers who carry out His purposes, He would use them in various ways even in connection with unbelievers. The biblical record makes it very clear that God does use His unfallen angels in at least five ways in regard to unbelievers:

(Angelic Unbeliever Ministry #1) - God can use an unfallen angel to prevent the unbeliever from harming or hurting the believer.

We have already seen that angels protect the believer and one way they do is by not permitting the unbeliever to harm the believer (Acts 12:6-10; Matt. 26:53).

(Angelic Unbeliever Ministry #2) - God can use an unfallen angel to inflict judgment .
Acts 12:19-23

(Angelic Unbeliever Ministry #3) - God can use an unfallen angel for the process of evangelism . Acts 8:26; Rev. 14:6-7

(Angelic Unbeliever Ministry #4) - God can use an unfallen angel for eternal damnation .
Matt. 13:39-43

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(Angelic Unbeliever Ministry #5) - God can use an unfallen angel to deliver His wrath.

Rev. 16:1

Although the unbeliever usually gives more attention to Satan's angels, he really should be more fearful of God's angels. God's angels are much more powerful than Satan's angels (i.e. Rev. 12:7-9). The reason for this is that God's angels have the power of God on their side.

Unfallen angels are very real and very active. They are closely involved with the program of God and in the assistance of carrying out that program. **In this present dispensation they are non-visible, but this does not mean they are non-existent.**

As this Church Age ends, angelic activity will become more intense and eventually more visible. For the present time, we learn much about these wonderful beings from the pages of God's Word, and what we do learn is that angels are very much involved in the plan and program of God.