

# THE MINISTRY OF ANGELS



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## Servants of the Lord

Angels are all expressions of the glory of God. Each one revealing the aspects of His nature - His love, His power and the radiancy and light of His Being. All are created to serve Him.

*“Praise the Lord, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word. Praise the Lord, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will” Psalm 103:20-21.*

They are never to be worshipped. Nor are we to command them or call on them (Jude 8-9). They serve at the bidding of the Lord. The Lord Himself is always the centre of our prayers and worship (read Hebrews 1:6-13). Our relationship with Him is always the centre of our focus.

## Worshippers of the Lord

Heaven is filled with the glorious sound of angels worshipping the Lord.

*“Then a voice came from the throne, saying: ‘Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both great and small!’ Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: ‘Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready” Revelation 19:5-7.*



Heaven and earth join together in worship. When we worship the Lord we join Heaven’s worship and Heaven responds to us!



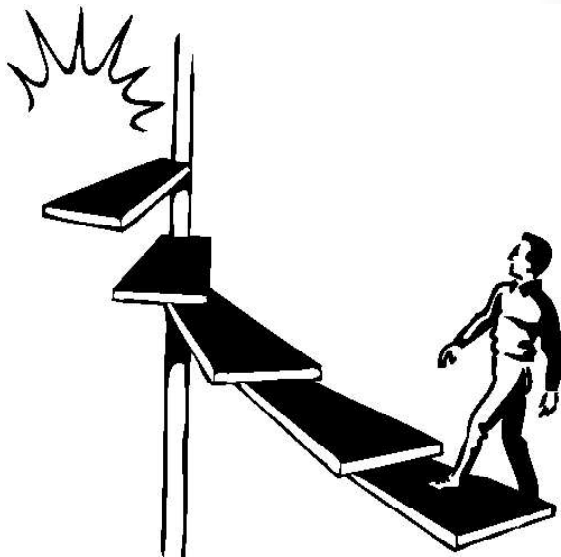
As believers in Christ we are now children of God (1 John 3:1), citizens of Heaven (Philippians 3:20), seated together with him in the heavenly realms (Eph.2:6) and have come to “thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly” (Hebrews 12:22). True worship has a genuine heavenly sound!

*“Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they were saying: ‘Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!’ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: ‘To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honour and glory and power, for ever and ever! The four living creatures said, ‘Amen’, and the elders fell down and worshipped ’” Revelation 5:11-14.*

## The Stairway

Jacob, running from the anger of his brother, Esau, for “stealing” his Birthright, receives a special vision in a dream (Genesis chs.27 to 28):

*“He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the LORD...” Genesis 28:12-13.*



Later, encouraging the faith of Nathanael to believe in Him, the Lord Jesus referred to Jacob’s dream and described himself as the stairway between Heaven and earth.

*“Very truly I tell you, you will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man’” John 1:50-51.*

Faith in the work of the Lord Jesus on the Cross, which dealt with everything that separated us from a loving Father, has now opened Heaven for us. The “veil” has been taken away...

*“But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away” 2 Corinthians 3:16 (read through verses 7-18).*

At the exact moment the Lord Jesus died a miracle happened. The veil, the thick curtain in the temple which separated the people from entering into the Holiest of All, was ripped in two from top to bottom (Matthew 27:50-51). There was now free access into the Presence of a holy, righteous God in all His glory. This was the reality of the finished work of Jesus. Hebrews 10:19-20 reveals the wonder of what was happening through his death...

***“Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body”***

Jesus’ body was the veil. He hung on the Cross taking in himself everything in us that separated us from the Father. He could have called 12 legions of angels to help him but he did not (Matthew 26:53). He took hold of the suffering of the Cross for us. Heaven is now open to all those who believe and receive for themselves what he has done. Through Jesus, the “stairway” is now a daily experience for the Christian. At the command of the Lord angels are busily involved with every believer in their life and their call to minister to others.

## **Sent on Assignment**

There are many examples in Scripture of angels sent on assignment by the Lord. They are commissioned to bring judgment, deliverance, protection, direction, guidance and specific messages from the Lord.

### **\* Garden of Eden - Barred from Tree of Life**

***“And the Lord God said, ‘The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live for ever.’ So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life”*** Genesis 3:22-24.

### **\* Sodom & Gomorrah - Judgment poured out**

***“Then the Lord said, ‘The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me...The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening...Then the Lord rained down burning sulphur on Sodom and Gomorrah***

*– from the Lord out of the heavens” Genesis 19:1-24.*

### **\* Support - Jacob sees the angelic camp**

When Jacob had stolen Esau’s blessing as the firstborn (Genesis 27:) he had run from his brother in fear for his life. After many years away he is on his way back, very much afraid that Esau will meet him with his army and kill him and his family. His eyes are then opened to see angels encamped on the way (Genesis 32:1-21; 33:1-4).

*“The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them” Psalm 34:7.*

### **\* Israel’s deliverance and protection**

When God delivered the Children of Israel out of slavery in Egypt, a mighty angel was commissioned to guard them against the oncoming Egyptian army.

*“Then the angel of God, who had been travelling in front of Israel’s army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel” Exodus 14:19-20.*

### **\* Entry to the Promised Land - Balaam stopped**

Balaam, hungry for the money promised him by Balak, the son of the Moabite king (Jude 1:11), plans to put a curse on Israel as they arrive and camp opposite Jericho, the entry to the Promised Land. An angel stands across the road in front of Balaam with his sword outdrawn. The donkey on which Balaam is riding sees the angel and turns off the road, refusing to go on no matter how much Balaam prods him and beats him. The Lord finally opens Balaam’s eyes to see the angel (read the full account in Numbers 22).

### **\* Aide in life’s battles - warrior angels**

There are warrior angels sent by the Father to fight against the spiritual powers of darkness that would try to hinder us in the call of God upon our lives. Read Daniel 10:1-21. Note, Daniel was praying to God. He did not call on the angels but, in answer to his prayer, God sent them. A wonderful encouragement is given to us in the account of Elisha. The king of Aram was at war with Israel. When he learned that Elisha, the prophet, was sharing all his secret tactics with Israel’s king he was furious and sent a strong force to capture him...

*“Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They*

*went by night and surrounded the city. When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. ‘Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?’ the servant asked. ‘Don’t be afraid,’ the prophet answered. ‘Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.’ And Elisha prayed, ‘Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.’ Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all round Elisha” 2 Kings 6:14-17 (read also 2 Chronicles 20:1-29; 2 Samuel 5:24; 1 Chronicles 14:15).*

We can be greatly encouraged by the fact that, though our eyes might not be opened to see the angels, Elisha’s experience is a reality for us who are in Christ today.

*“You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world” 1 John 4:4 (NKJV).*

The Enemy was totally defeated by the work of Christ on the Cross and in His Resurrection. It is a *finished* work! However, Satan’s only weapon now is *lies* and he works on the ignorance of people to what Christ has fully done. So Paul writes to Christians...

*“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” Ephesians 6:10-12.*

It is important to see this scripture in the full context of the letter Paul has written: He has already declared that our position in Christ is that we are “far above” all the power of the Enemy (Ephesians 1:18-23; 2:6). The “armour of God” pictures every provision that is now ours by the finished work of Christ which then enables us to face any attack of the spiritual forces. From this position of the reality in our lives of the total victory of the finished work, angels are released to aide us in the battle against the enemy forces.

### **\* Message of the coming of the Saviour**

Gabriel, the angelic messenger of the Lord, is firstly sent to Zachariah to tell him he and his wife, Elizabeth, will have a son who will be the forerunner of the coming of Christ. (Luke 1:5-20). Gabriel is then sent to give the word to Mary that she is chosen, by miracle birth, to

bring the Saviour into the world (Luke 1:26-38).

### \* **Peter rescued**

King Herod was determined to rid Israel of the followers of Jesus and many Christians were imprisoned. James, the brother of John, was killed. Herod then got hold of Peter and threw him into prison with a soldier on either side, bound with two chains, and sentries guarding at the entrance.

*“Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. ‘Quick, get up!’ he said, and the chains fell off Peter’s wrists. Then the angel said to him, ‘Put on your clothes and sandals.’ And Peter did so. ‘Wrap your cloak round you and follow me,’ the angel told him. Peter followed him out of the prison...When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him. Then Peter came to himself and said, ‘Now I know without a doubt that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from Herod’s clutches and from everything the Jewish people were hoping would happen’” Acts 12:7-11.*

In a seemingly impossible situation the Lord sends an angel to set Peter free.

### \* **Philip led**

Philip is in the midst of God moving miraculously in Samaria (Acts 8:4-25) when suddenly an angel brings him direction from the Lord.

*“Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Go south to the road – the desert road – that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza’” Acts 8:26.*

Why would God tell him to leave a city where miracles were happening and many were believing in the Lord. to go to a desert region? The reason was to meet just one man - an Ethiopian - through whom the queen and ultimately a whole nation would be reached for the Lord (Acts 8:27-40).

These are just a few examples in the Word of the wonderful ministry of angels involved on earth as they are sent by the Lord. The same is true for us today!

## **Ministering Spirits**

Commissioned by God, angels are sent to minister to the particular need of a believer at a particular time. The involvement of angels in the

life of the believer in Christ is a wonderful reality. Although we may not see them with our eyes they are busy following the Lord's directions in the circumstances of our life as we walk with Him, grow in Him and serve Him.

**“Are not all angels  
ministering spirits sent to  
serve those who will inherit  
salvation?” Hebrews 1:14.**

As we said before, it is not for us to be involved with the angels as they go about fulfilling the Lord's directions. It is not for us to be commanding them, fellowshiping with them, praying to them or worshipping them (Colossians 2:18). They are the servants of *the Lord*. However, we can be greatly encouraged with the knowledge that the whole of Heaven is behind us. We are not alone. Not only has the Lord promised never to leave us nor forsake us (Heb.13:5; Matt.28:19-20), and the Holy Spirit is within us (John 20:22), God, in His great love for us, sends His powerful angelic beings to surround us, protect us and minister to us. Even the little children have angels representing them before the Father in Heaven (Matthew 18:10).

## **Last Day Harvesters**

Angels are very active in the last days at the time of the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus...

*“At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens...The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil...This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous” Matthew 13:26-27, 41,49 (see also Matthew 24:31).*

## **In Eternity**

*“Don't you realize that we Christians will judge and reward the very angels in heaven?...” 1 Corinthians 6:3 (TLB).*

When reading and studying the Word of God it is always important to note the tense. This statement is in *future* tense. It is not referring to us judging angels now. It is describing an aspect of the wonder of what will be our involvement with the Lord in His purposes throughout eternity. This is what the Lord Jesus made possible by representing us on the Cross, taking our whole sinful being and its deserved judgment in Himself and dying in our place. When He rose from the dead we were raised in Him as a whole new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17, 3:18). We were in Him when He ascended to the Father and we were “accepted in the Beloved” (Ephesians 1:6) and seated together with Him at the right hand of the Father. When He returns, the fulness of all He has accomplished will be evident throughout eternity!

*“But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus” Ephesians 2:4-7.*

This is the business of God that the angels are all about. In obedience and service to the command of the Lord, their focus is to minister to us, the heirs of salvation, and bring glory and worship to God.

**ON COMMISSION!**

