

## Angels (ἄγγελος—Gk.32 [to bring *tidings*] *a messenger*) (Context: 2 Cor 12:1-7 verses Rev 2:1)

### Their Works:

#### Worship God

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Isa 6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, *is* the LORD of hosts: the whole earth *is* full of His glory.

Luk 2:13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Rev 5:11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; 12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

Rev 7:11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and *about* the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, 12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, *be* unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

- Their worship is "*fervent and enthusiastic...a good role model for Christians.*" They are "*in the immediate presence of God...*" and "*...eyewitnesses of His glory*". They "*worship Him continuously*". (*It can be difficult to get many Christians to worship Him on Sundays.*)

1Pe 1:12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; **which things the angels desire to look into.**

#### Revealed God's Will to Man

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H4397 מַלְאָךְ mal'âk *mal-awk'*

From an unused root meaning to *despatch* as a deputy; **a messenger**; specifically **of God**, that is, an **angel** (also a **prophet, priest** or **teacher**): - ambassador, angel, king, messenger.

G32 ἄγγελος aggelos *ang'-el-os*

From ἀγγέλλω aggellō (probably derived from G71; compare G34; to bring tidings); a messenger; especially an “angel”; by implication a pastor: - angel, messenger.

- "*Angels are spirits by nature, but function ...as messengers...*"

Heb 2:2 For if **the word spoken by angels** was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward;

- Concerning **Lot: Sodom & Gomorrah**

Gen 19:12 And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring *them* out of this place: 13 For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD **hath sent us** to destroy it.

- The giving of the **Law of Moses**

Deu 33:2 And he said, The LORD came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; He shined forth from mount Paran, and He came with ten thousands of saints: from His right hand *went* a **fiery law** for them.

Act 7:53 Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept *it*.

- **Moses**

Gal 3:19 Wherefore then *serveth* the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to Whom the promise was made; and *it was* **ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator** (*Moses*).

- Angels "*brought God's law to mankind, the precursor of the saving gospel of Christ*". They also "*brought and interpreted great prophesies to Daniel and to Zechariah*".

Rev 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to shew unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass; and He **sent** and **signified** *it* by His **angel** unto His servant John:

### *Fight Against God's Enemies*

- Man:

In **Gen 19** God "*used these two angels to punish the Sodomites and destroy their city*" yet held them back when **Christ** was arrested (**Mat 26:53**) lest we "*be without an atoning sacrifice for our sins*".

**Gen 19:13** For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it.

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- **Herod:**

**Act 12:20** And Herod was highly displeased with them of Tyre and Sidon: but they came with one accord to him, and, having made Blastus the king's chamberlain their friend, desired peace; because their country was nourished by the king's *country*. **21** And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them. **22** And the people gave a shout, *saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man.* **23** And immediately the **angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory:** and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

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- **Satan:**

**Dan 10:13** But the **prince of the kingdom of Persia** withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.

**Dan 10:20** Then said he, Knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? and now will I return to **fight with the prince of Persia:** and when I am gone forth, lo, the **prince of Grecia** shall come. **21** But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and *there is* none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince.

*"Princes and kings of Persia" here "were not human monarchs". "Even the most powerful of human rulers are helpless against God's anger".*

**Eph 6:12** For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

The "*princes and kings of Persia*" were "*but a momentary hindrance (21 days)*" until **Michael** arrived and "*Satan's demons were defeated*" ...who "*were obviously trying to tempt the rulers of those nations to do that which was evil*".

**Dan 11:1** Also I in the first year of Darius the Mede, *even* I, stood to **confirm and to strengthen him**.

### Minister to God's People

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**Heb 1:7** And of the angels He saith, Who maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire.

**Heb 1:14** Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

- **To Lot:**

**Gen 19:16** And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and **they brought him forth, and set him without the city**. **17** And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.

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- **To Elijah:**

**1Ki 19:1** And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword. **2** Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do *to me*, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time. **3** And when he saw *that*, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba, which *belongeth* to Judah, and left his servant there. **4** But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I *am* not better than my fathers. **5** And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then **an angel touched him**, and said unto him, Arise *and* eat. **6** And he looked, and, behold, *there was* a cake baken on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again. **7** And the angel of the LORD **came again** the second time, and touched him, and said, **Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee**. **8** And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the **strength of that meat forty days and forty nights** unto Horeb the mount of God.

**2Ki 2:11** And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, *there appeared* a **chariot of fire**, and **horses of fire**, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. **12** And Elisha saw *it*, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces. **13** He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan;

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- **Daniel:**

Dan 6:22 My God hath sent His angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before Him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

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- **Lazarus:**

Luk 16:22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was **carried by the angels** into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

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- **Apostles:**

Act 5:19 But the **angel** of the Lord by night **opened the prison doors**, and **brought them forth**, and said, **20** Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.

- **Peter:**

Act 12:1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth *his* hands to vex certain of the church. **2** And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. **3** And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.) **4** And when he had apprehended him, he put *him* in prison, and delivered *him* to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter (*Passover*) to bring him forth to the people. **5** Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. **6** And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison. **7** And, behold, the **angel** of the Lord came upon *him*, and a light shined in the prison: and **he smote Peter on the side**, and **raised him up**, saying, Arise up quickly. And **his chains fell off from his hands**. **8** And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and **follow me**. **9** And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was **done by the angel**; but thought he saw a vision. **10** When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith **the angel departed** from him. **11** And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent His angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and *from* all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

- **Paul:**

Act 27:21 But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss. **22** And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of *any man's* life among you, but of

the ship. **23** For there **stood by me this night the angel of God**, Whose I am, and Whom I serve, **24** Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.

### Active Today

**Heb 1:14** Are they not all **ministering** spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

- Providence:

*"Activity of God using nature and its laws as a medium...a miracle is just the opposite...it defies natural law."*

Wayne Jackson

1. **God** never providentially operates in any way that is in conflict with **His** nature or **His** revealed will.
2. Divine providence **does not negate man's freedom of will.**
3. The providential **must be distinguished from the miraculous.**

#### Providence

verses

#### Miraculous

**1Sa 1:5** But unto Hannah he gave a worthy portion; for he loved Hannah: but **the LORD had shut up her womb.** **6** And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because **the LORD had shut up her womb.**

Here we see that **God closed Hannah's** womb but opened it *"manipulating His natural laws of reproduction."*

**1Sa 2:21** And **the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived**, and bare three sons and two daughters. And the child Samuel grew before the LORD.

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**Mat 1:18** Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as His mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, **before they came together, she was found with child** of the Holy Ghost.

**Mat 1:22** Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, **23** Behold, **a virgin shall be with child**, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

**Luk 1:30** And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. **31** And, behold, **thou shalt conceive** in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

Luk 1:34 Then said Mary unto the angel, **How shall this be**, seeing **I know not a man?**

*"God suspended His natural laws of reproduction."* Thus the miracle of **Jesus'** birth.

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#### 4. In providence, **God works behind the scenes.**

Est 4:14 ...: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for *such* a time as this?

**Mordecai** and **Esther** did not know **God's** providence at that time, but we do *"only because we have a divine revelation"*, the book of **Esther**.

Phm 1:15 For **perhaps** he therefore departed for a season, **that thou shouldst** receive him for ever;

**Paul** was telling **Philemon** that **Onesimus'** leaving may have been a negative thing, but **God** took a negative and turned it into a positive. Now he was more profitable to **Philemon** because he left a slave and returned a brother. All part of **God's** providence.

### Providence and Angels

Gen 24:7 The LORD God of Heaven, which took me from my father's house, and from the land of my kindred, and which spake unto me, and that swore unto me, saying, Unto thy seed will I give this land; He shall **send His angel** before thee, and thou shalt take a wife unto my son from thence.

Gen 24:27 And he said, Blessed *be* the LORD God of my master Abraham, Who hath not left destitute my master of His mercy and His truth: I *being* in the way, the LORD **led me** to the house of my master's brethren.

Gen 24:40 And he said unto me, The LORD, before whom I walk, will **send His angel** with thee, and prosper thy way; and thou shalt take a wife for my son of my kindred, and of my father's house:

- *"The angel's service was rendered in an unknown, behind the scenes, providential fashion."*

Heb 1:13 But to which of **the angels** said He at any time, Sit on My right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? **14 Are they not all ministering spirits**, sent forth **to minister** for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

## Guardian Angels

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**Acts 12** concerns **Peter's** imprisonment by **Herod** and his escape at the hands of an angel. In verse **15** after **Rhoda** claims that **Peter** was at the door those inside, even after "*many were gathered together praying*" for his release (v. **5**), because of their unbelief stated "*it is his angel*". This was a popular superstition of that day and not apostolic doctrine as we will see later in **John 5** with the "*troubling of the water*".

**Act 12:22** And the people gave a shout, *saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man.* **23** And immediately the **angel of the Lord smote him**, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

- **Josephus** says that **Herod** "*lingered for five days...the rotting of his flesh produced worms...*"

*"The activity of God using nature and its laws as a medium."*  
Not a miracle, but a behind the scene action by an angel.

- **McGarvey**: "*Let any modern Herods beware!*"

## John 5:3b, 4 (Footnote)

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**Joh 5:3** In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, **waiting for the moving of the water.** **4** For **an angel went down at a certain season** into the pool, and **troubled the water: whosoever** then **first** after the troubling of the water **stepped in was made whole** of whatsoever disease he had.

- The **ASV**, **RSV** and **NIV** omit (*italicize or place in brackets*) this passage because the "*authenticity is questionable*". "*Textual critics have been able to reconstruct 99% of the original New Testament text. The one percent that is disputed does not, in any fashion, change any Biblical doctrines*". The above is "*one of these disputed passages*".
- **Guy N. Woods**: "*...the healing believed by many to have occurred there as a result of the magical waters.*"
- **James Burton Coffman**: "*... these words...retained in the margin, because they explain the common conviction*"

*regarding the pool which resulted in it's popularity...added by some scribe at a very early date to explain what was meant by the cripple's having no one to get him into the water at the propitious moment."*

- This passage is scripture and is added, not as a truthful doctrine to be believed concerning "works" of angels, but to explain a common belief, although false, that was circulated at that time. Just as **John 9:31** ("...*God heareth not sinners...*") was a false idea believed by the elite **Jews** (**Acts 10:1-4**).

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