

5. Angels On Assignment The Ministry of Angels in the life of Jesus

Sunday 24 March 2024

God has taken great care to describe the **function and operation** of these powerful created beings, some of these angels He has assigned to serve us as heirs of salvation. (Hebrews 1:14)

1. Angels played a vital role during the earthly life of Jesus

In the opening chapters of the books of Matthew and Luke, angels were present. At the close of the Gospels, and throughout the book of Acts angels were present.

2. God sent angels to the earth to prepare, and to foretell the birth of Jesus Christ

- i. The arch angel Gabriel came to Zechariah announcing the birth of John the Baptist Luke 1:11-20

Luke 1:11-13, 16-20

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³ But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John ...

¹⁶ And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, ¹⁸ Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.

¹⁹ The angel said to him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. ²⁰ And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time.”

Gabriel rebuked Zechariah and supernaturally shut his mouth so he couldn't speak against God's plan coming to pass!

Luke 1:63-64 *And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, saying, “His name is John.” So they all marveled. ⁶⁴ Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, praising God.*

Compare Zechariah's response to the angel Gabriel, with Mary and Joseph's response to him.

- ii. The angel appeared to Mary to announce the birth of Jesus (Luke 1:26-38)

Luke 1:26-33 *Now in the sixth month **the angel Gabriel was sent by God** to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!” ²⁹ But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. ³⁰ Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”*

- iii. Mary's response to the angel

Luke 1:38 *behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your Word. And the angel departed from her.*

- iv. An angel came to Joseph saying not to be afraid for the Child was conceived by the Holy Spirit

Matthew 1:20-21 NLT ***an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. “Joseph, son of David,” the angel said, “do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. ²¹ And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”***

- v. Joseph's response to the angel: ***‘he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife.’*** Matt 1:2

- God's plan to bring the Saviour would be executed with the assistance of angels.
- God's plan of salvation needed Mary and Joseph's obedience to Him.

3. Angels announced the birth of the Saviour to shepherds

Luke 2:8-10 *And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."*

Luke 2:13-15 *Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."*

4. An angel warned Joseph of those who would try to kill the Child

- i. Wise men arrived in Jerusalem from the East asking king Herod: ... *where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.* (Matthew 2:2)
- ii. The wise men found Jesus, worshipped, and gave gifts to Him. *Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.* (Matthew 2:12)
- iii. The angel warned Joseph to take Mary and Jesus to flee to Egypt, because king Herod would try to kill the Child.

Matthew 2:13 *Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."*

- iv. The angel appeared to Joseph again and told him it was now safe to return, but that they should stay in Galilee.

Matthew 2:19-20 *Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰ saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead. ²¹ Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee.*

Joseph was a discerning leader of his family, open and obedient to the instruction of the angel.

5. Angels ministered to Jesus after His 40 day trial in the Wilderness

When Jesus was 30 years old He was ready to begin His 3 year public ministry. After Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist ... *He was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.*

Mark 1:13 *And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him.*

6. An angel strengthened Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

Isaiah 53:4-6 NIV *Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, ... ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed. ⁶ ... and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

Luke 22:42-44 *...Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." ⁴³ Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. ⁴⁴ And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*

Mathew 26:46-51 *... Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand."*

7. Jesus had at His disposal the help of more than 12 legions of angels

Mathew 26:50-51 *Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him. ⁵¹ And suddenly, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear.*

Matthew 26:52-54 BSB *Put your sword back in its place,” Jesus said to him. “For all who draw the sword will die by the sword. ⁵³ Are you not aware that I can call on My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen this way?”...*

8. An angel was the first to announce that Jesus Christ had risen from the dead

i. An angel rolled the stone away

Matthew 28:1-2 *Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake; **for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it.***

ii. The soldiers guarding the tomb shook for fear and became as dead men

Matthew 28:3-4 *His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. 4 And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.*

iii. The angel gave instruction to the women to gather the disciples and to meet Jesus in Galilee

Matthew 28:5-7 *But the angel answered and said to the women, “**Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. 7 And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you.”***

Acts 1:4-5, 8 *And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, ..., you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” ... ⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

9. Angels were present when Jesus returned to heaven

Acts 1:9-11 *Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, ¹¹ who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.*

10. Jesus was received into heaven by “thousands” of angels in chariots!

Psalms 68:17-18 KJV *The chariots of God are **twenty thousand, even thousands of angels:** ...¹⁸ Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: Thou hast received gifts for men; ...*

11. Angels will accompany Christ at His Second Coming

Matthew 16:27 *For the **Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels,** and then He will reward each according to his works.*

12. Angels continued to be prominent at the beginning of the Church Age

Angels brought messages, gave instruction and guidance to people. Angels responded to prayer, brought deliverance, shook the foundation of prisons, Angels strengthen the disciples, execute judgment on kings

Acts 2:1-4 *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ... 4 **And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.***

The disciples were all filled with the Holy Spirit and power. God gave them a supernatural language that activates angels.

1 Corinthians 13:1a *Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, ...*

We have the same Holy Spirit, and the same heavenly language. Our supernatural prayer language takes us directly into the throne room of heaven where angels are waiting to be released by our words.