

ANGLES
on
ANGELS

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As we look around us today there is a barrage of “religious” exercises being practiced. Among these practices is an emphasis on angels, the vast majority of which are “fairy tale-ish” unbiblical views. Even those which are scripturally sound in principle are often times applied in an unscriptural fashion.

One of Satan’s avenues of attack is to bombard society with unscriptural false doctrine which allows the lost soul to feel an artificial sense of security. And thus Satan has again succeeded, as he has provided man with yet another religion in an unbiblical angle on angels.

Much has been derived from some extreme views of angels, ranging from the idea that; the government of the world is placed in the hands of angels, that every man (saved or unregenerated) has his own guardian angel, to the belief that each and every nation has a presiding angel, not to mention each and every planet and star.¹

Hollywood once again has assisted in the propagation of such as it broadcasts of such programs which include the likes of Touched by an Angel, Angels in the Outfield, City of Angels, and Angel. All of which portray angels in an unscriptural light and at times even in filthy unholy scenarios. In addition to television, there is a virtual unlimited pool of false angelology which has proliferated the internet. Such teaching as the following (which speaks of accounts of meetings, rescues and even fine dining by and with angels) can often be found not only throughout the data packets on the internet, but also in desperate minds of unbelievers.

“I was about thirteen years old when I had my first encounter with an angel. I was going upstairs to my room, pulling my entire weight on the handrail, when it suddenly came off in my hand. I fell backwards, head first. Halfway into a terrible fall, I felt a strong hand on my back push me upright. There was nobody there-- well, nobody visible!”²

There are also a myriad of books on the market, such as Angels in the Snow, which reveal unscriptural thoughts and ideas about angels which tend to give people that warm fuzzy feeling that they are looking for.

The Roman Catholic Church has had a great impact on the false doctrine of angels. Their unscriptural teaching in regards to the ministry of angels has extended from the idea that angels can “guide our thoughts, works and words” to the dangerous teaching that “every one of God’s creation” is being protected by them.³ This however, by no means tops the heretical teaching of the RCC, which teaches that one is able to pray to specific angels for things which fall underneath their jurisdiction⁴, thus disregarding the teaching that it is Jesus to whom we are to pray through, to the Father.

Suffice it to say, Hollywood and the rest of the unsaved world will never properly introduce angels, or anything Godly for that matter, to this world. So the question is, what is the ministry of angels is during this dispensation. There is a biblical truth to the existence of angels, and more specifically in the life of the believer.

First, let's look at some truths about angels. The word angel is a title of an office and not necessarily a description of a person.⁵ Angels were created by the triune God Head with specific abilities and traits, many which differ from those of the human race. They were created with power and might greater than man.⁶ Ultimately, these supernatural beings were created to serve God.⁷ As a matter of fact, Hebrews 1:6 reminds us that the angels are bidden to worship Jesus, the Son of God and are subject unto Christ Himself. Thus, being the worshippers and not the object of worship, it is an obvious truth that they themselves are not, and should not, be worshipped. To put things in the proper perspective, let's stop and be reminded for a minute that Christ Himself will be the judge of all man at the Great White Throne, while angels on the other hand will be judged by man. (1 Corinthians 6:1-3)

Due to their habitation, they are able to move through space and time with great mobility. This has also given them great access to God and history, which in turn gives them a greater knowledge (Revelation 22:9), not to be confused with the omniscience of God.

Angels are indeed glorious beings as described in Matthew chapter 28 and verse 3 as having a "countenance" which "was like lightning, and" "raiment white as snow."⁸ However, they in no way have the ability of God Himself to be in every place simultaneously. Nor do they have the all-knowing knowledge of God, or any other attributes which might be ascribed to the God Head.

Angels differ from man in significant ways. They are, first and foremost, forever loyal to God and the duty which He has established and commanded them to. They are to hearken unto the voice of his word and do his pleasure. (Psalm 103:20-21) They worship God with all the intensities of adorning love.⁹

There are also some things that angels do not do. Specifically, angels do not preach the gospel. As A.J. Joppie stated “only man can speak to man’s heart”.¹⁰ Angels do not have the same heart as man, so to understand it and its need is impossible. Although they can understand the provision of a Saviour, they cannot understand the need for one. Angels are not heirs of God, they cannot experience the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, nor will they ever experience the fulfillment and blessing of parenthood.

And so, having discussed the proper attributes that are to be ascribed to angels as well as their relationship with the triune God-Head, we can now focus on the work of angels in the lives of the saints. While keeping in mind that they are not to be worshiped in any way, let us start by stating the following: The Lord Jesus Christ is to receive all praise for any blessings which come by way of angels.

The work of angels, specifically speaking of “good” angels, is described clearly in scripture. As they wait to accompany the Lord Jesus Christ in His return, one of their primary duties, this side of heaven, is to serve and protect¹¹ those who have trusted Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. They seek to preserve the saints from accidents and

harm many more times than we can image. They are also standing by and fighting a spiritual battle for us in the spirit world in order to protect us from evil. (Acts 27:23) ¹²
They do so as others of the host, both give worship and praise toward God, and ceremonially guard the throne of God.

Not only can we see the work of angels, but we should learn from them also. Their demonstration of worship practices, service and obedience, love for our Saviour, as well as an excitement to see sinners saved is an example to us all.

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³ Catholic Doctrine, www.catholic.org

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⁵ Bible Questions Answered, William L. Pettingill, DD., Fundamental Truth Publishers, pp.59-60

⁶ What the Bible Teaches, R.A. Torrey, CR 1898, Fleming H. Revell Company , pp.500-509

⁷ Way of Life Encyclopedia or Bible and Christianity, David Cloud, pp. 18

⁸ What the Bible Teaches, R.A. Torrey, CR 1898, Fleming H. Revell Company , pp.500-509

⁹ Library of Biblical and Theological Literature, Vol. VI – Systematic Theology, 1894, New York: Hunt and Eaton Cincinnati: Cranston and Curts, Edited by George R. Crooks, DD. And John F. Hurst, DD pp.490-504

¹⁰ The Ministry of Angels, A.S. Joppie, Baker Book House, Grand Rapids Michigan, 1953

¹¹ What the Bible Teaches, R.A. Torrey, CR 1898, Fleming H. Revell Company , pp.500-509

¹² What the Bible Teaches, R.A. Torrey, CR 1898, Fleming H. Revell Company , pp.500-509