

KNOW WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT ANGELS

Hebrews 1:13–14

I. INTRODUCTION

- Today we continue our sermon series Know What We Believe... by looking at what the Bible says about angels.
- The Bible contains over 265 verses about angels...yet this is a topic that is often overlooked in the church.
- The Bible teaches that angels are deeply involved in the world... in the church ... in the work of God... and in the lives of believers.
- Understanding the role of angels is not only fascinating...it's encouraging to believers.
- If you belong to Christ... angels have ministered to you in ways you may never fully grasp until you reach Heaven.
- Today... we'll explore what the Bible reveals about these servants of God.

II. BIBLICAL FACTS ABOUT ANGELS

- People do not become angels when they die... angels are spirit beings... who were created by God.
- Three angels in the Bible are given names... Michael, Gabriel, and Lucifer ... Lucifer is the angel who rebelled against God and became Satan.
- The Bible says that the number of angels is vast... Hebrews 12:22 speaks of “innumerable angels” ... and Revelation 5:11 describes “myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands.”
- While angels can be angelic, sweet, kind, and gentle... they are not wimps ... they are very powerful beings.
- In Genesis 3... after Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden ... the Bible says that God posted a mighty angel at the entrance of the garden to keep Adam and Eve from returning.

- In Joshua 5... when the children of Israel were poised to enter the Promised Land ... the Bible says that Joshua encountered a mighty angel warrior holding a sword.
- In Isaiah 35... one warrior angel went out and killed 185,000 Syrian soldiers in a night.
- Angels are not to be worshipped ...and they are not to be prayed to.
- When Lucifer rebelled against God and became Satan... the Bible says that one-third of the angels joined him in rebellion... Revelation 12:3-4
- Lucifer and the rebellious angels were cast out of Heaven...when that happened Lucifer became Satan... and the fallen angels who followed Satan became the demons.
- When Jesus comes again... the Bible says that the holy angels will come with Him... to gather the saints for glory... and the lost for judgment.

III. ANGELS IN THE LIFE OF JESUS

- Angels were involved in the life of Jesus... during His earthly ministry.
- The angel Gabriel announced the birth of Jesus to Mary... when Jesus was born... angels proclaimed His birth to the shepherds.
- An angel warned Joseph to flee to Egypt to get away from the murderous King Herod ... and later an angel told Joseph when it was safe to return to Israel.
- After Jesus was tempted in the wilderness... the Bible says that angels ministered to Him.
- Before His arrest as He prayed in Gethsemane... the Bible says that angels came to strengthen Him.
- After Jesus arose from the dead... the Bible says that angels rolled away the stone and announced the empty tomb.

- 40 days after His resurrection... when Jesus ascended into Heaven ... two angels appeared to the disciples and declared that Jesus would one day come again as He ascended.

IV. ANGELS IN THE LIFE OF BELIEVERS

- One of the ministries that God has given to angels... is to minister to believers.
- *Hebrews 1:14 (NKJV) "Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?"*
- If you are a Christian... there have been times in your life when angels have ministered to you.
- God has used His angels to encourage you...protect you... guide you... and bless you in many ways.
- Angels rescued Lot and his family from Sodom before it was destroyed... angels got down into the den with Daniel... and stopped the lions' mouths.
- And there have been times when angels have ministered to you... and you did not even know it.
- In his book on angels...Dr. Billy Graham shared this story... Many years ago, John G. Paton was a missionary to the New Hebrides Islands in the South Pacific... One night, he and his wife were surrounded by hostile natives intent on burning down their mission house and killing them... With no way to escape, the Patons did the only thing they could...they prayed fervently through the night, asking God for protection... Miraculously, the attackers never advanced. By morning, the attackers were gone... a year later, the tribal chief who had led the attack became a Christian.... Curious, Paton asked him what had happened that night... The chief replied that as they approached the mission house... they saw an army of giant men in shining garments... each holding a sword, surrounding the property... Terrified, the warriors fled... Paton realized that God had sent His angels to

protect them...just as He did for Elisha in 2 Kings 6:17, when the hills were filled with horses and chariots of fire.

V. ANGELS IN THE LIVES OF UNBELIEVERS

- Out of His grace and mercy... God will even use angels to protect and deliver unbelievers out of dangerous and deadly situations ... to give them another opportunity... to turn from their rebellion and sin and be saved.
- If you are not a Christian... it is very likely that you are alive today ... and you are here today... with another opportunity to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior Christ... because God used an angel to deliver you from a situation that could have taken your life.
- God loves you... and He wants you to be saved today.

VI. ANGELS AND THE CHURCH

- Angels love God's people ... and they love the church... the Bible indicates that when a church gathers on earth to worship and to serve the Lord... angels are present with the church.
- When things are right and good in the church... the angels rejoice.
- When things are not right in a church... when worship is not what it ought to be ... when the church is not united as it should be ... the angels are grieved and they intercede for the church.

V. CONCLUSION

- Yes, angels are real... how thankful believers should be to God... for the ministry of angels in our life.
- The Bible says that we should be on the lookout for... and aware of... the ministry of angels in our life.
- It is interesting... that the first time we will actually see an angel ... and know it... will be when we leave this world in death.

- *Psalm 116:15 “Precious in the sight of the LORD Is the death of His saints.”*
- This verse means that no believer will die alone... this verse promises that when that time comes ... God will be there.
- In fact, ... the Bible teaches that when a believer leaves this world for the next... God will send an honor guard of angels to take us to Heaven.
- In the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus... Jesus said when Lazarus died... he was carried by the angels to Heaven... Luke 16:22.
- According to the Bible... when Jesus comes for His people in the Rapture...angels will come with Him... to usher believers to Heaven.
- If you are a believer... when you die... angels will come to take you to Heaven... and get you settled in your new home.
- Until that day comes... let us love, serve, worship and hone the Lord ... with all our hearts.
- Did you know the Bible says that the angels of God rejoice... they have a heavenly party... when a person comes to Christ and is saved!
- *Luke 15:10 (NKJV) “Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”*
- If you are not a Christian... the Lord and the angels have given you one more day to be saved.
- One day your opportunity will be over... be saved today.
- Heavenly Father... We thank You for the truth of Your Word and the comfort it brings... Thank You for the ministry of angels...those unseen servants who protect, guide, and minister to Your people... But even more, we thank You for Jesus—our Savior, our Redeemer, our King... Lord, for every believer here today, strengthen our faith... Help us to walk with confidence, knowing we are never alone... Let us live with gratitude for Your grace and with boldness for Your glory... And for those who are still deciding, still

searching—draw them by Your Spirit... Let today be the day of salvation. Let no heart leave untouched, no soul leave unchanged... We look forward to the day when Your angels will carry us home... Until then, may we serve You faithfully, love You deeply, and worship You fully... In the mighty name of Jesus we pray, Amen.