

Angels in the Bible (Part 2) **Sermon January 14, 2018**

The Bible tells us 306 stories where God accomplished His work by sending an angel or many angels to His people. Sometimes they are mentioned as the angels of the Lord; other times just as powerful supernatural persons called “LORD”.

Angels are still among us. Their name means “messenger” and we can be assured that, when they are here, they have come for a certain purpose: for they have been sent by God.

Today, I will highlight 5 reasons from scripture of why God may send an angel to His people.

Angels are sent to give a message from God.

In the Bible, we witness many stories when God sent an angel with a specific message to one of His servants or to a group of people.

In Genesis 18, we see that Abraham and Sarah was visited by three men. They were casual people on a journey. One of them told Abraham that his wife, who was unable to bear a child and biologically passed the time when she could conceive, in a year will bear a son. When Sarah heard this, she started to laugh. The angel said: *Why did Sarah laugh, and say, “Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?” Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.*’ Genesis 18:10-14

In Judges 6, we see that God sent an angel to the discouraged Gideon who asked the stranger that if God is with us, why had all these bad things happened to Israelites. The stranger said to Gideon: “The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.” Later, God showed Gideon that He was with him and he had a special mission to accomplish.

In Luke 1, we see two stories when God is sending His angel Gabriel with messages to His chosen people. First we see that the angel Gabriel came to Zechariah to tell of the news that Elizabeth, his wife, would bear a son. Then God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary, to tell that she would give birth to the very Son of God.

In Luke 2 we read that, at very first Christmas, God sent an angel to the shepherds to tell them the good news of Jesus’ birth.

In Matthew 28, an angel appeared at the tomb of Christ to announce that Jesus was risen.

We see stories also when God sent His angels to His people to protect them and to fight for them. That means that God's angels are protecting us today.

In Psalm 91, God tells us that He sends his angels to protect us. "For He will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands, they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." Psalm 91: 11-12

In Exodus 23:20, as the Israelites were wandering in the desert, God reminded the Israelites of His constant presence with them when he said, "I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared."

Psalm 34:7 reminds us, "The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them."

In Daniel 6, we read the story of how God sent an angel to Daniel in the lion's den to shut the mouth of the lions so that the lions could not harm His faithful child.

Last Sunday, based on 2 Kings 6:17, we heard the story of Elisha. The prophet was in danger, and God surrounded them with an army of angels to save them. Elisa prayed and God opened the servant's eyes to see God's army. Then he realized he had overlooked these mighty invisible beings.

God, our heavenly Father sent His angels to minister to His children, those who were hurt or needed strength.

In a few weeks, we will listen to the story from 1 Kings 19 of the prophet Elijah, who was afraid and running for his life. An angel appeared to him and provided food and water for his journey.

Matthew 4:11 says, that after Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness and stood strong against the temptations of the devil, "Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him."

In Luke 22:43, we see our Lord Jesus Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane, as Judas betrayed Him. We see our Lord Jesus as He prayed and wrestled with what was to come. Then we read that an angel appeared from heaven, "an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength."

We see in the Easter story that the angels are servants of our Lord Jesus Christ. It was an angel of God that rolled away the huge stone guarding the entrance to the tomb, setting in place the events surrounding the resurrection of our risen Saviour as we read: "Suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His

appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.” Matthew 28:2-4

The angels knew what Jesus said, what Jesus was willing to do and reminds the women what they should know.

On Easter morning we see some women approaching the tomb. In Mark, we read that “As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.’” Mark 16: 5-7

Last Sunday in Scripture reading from Acts 12, we heard how the Apostle Peter was rescued by the angel from prison. We can see many times that God sent His angels to minister to the needs of His servants. He is the same today as He was in the past. Even in the future He will send His angels to meet your needs as well.

Angels can be used by God to execute God’s judgment, to punish people for their sin, and to bring judgment.

In a few weeks, we will see closely the story from Daniel 5, where we read that an angel appeared in the form of the fingers of a man’s hand as the fingers wrote on the wall God’s message to King Belshazzar: The message was that God was finished with King Belshazzar and his life would be required of him that very night. “That very night Belshazzar, the Chaldean king, was killed.” Daniel 5:30

Angels enjoy far greater power than men and they are “avengers”, using their great power to carry out God’s judgments. The Bible tells us that it took only one angel to slay the first born of Egypt in Moses’ day.

In 2 Kings 19, we read that the Assyrian forces surrounded Jerusalem to attack God’s people. The Lord promised that He would defend Jerusalem. Dramatically, that night, just one of God’s angels struck the forces of the Assyrians that were camped outside of Jerusalem. The next morning 185,000 Assyrian soldiers lay dead on the field of battle.

Reading carefully the Book of Revelations, we see specific times that God will give angels the charge to execute his judgment.

In heaven, angels as mighty beings are present around the throne, and they give praise and worship to God.

Revelation 4:8 says, “Day and night they never stop saying, ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.’”

In Revelation 5:11-12, we read, “Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand...In a loud voice they sang: ‘Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!’”

God gives his messengers charge still today – to bring a message of hope, to protect, to serve, to carry out his judgment, and to give him praise.

What we can learn from these Biblical stories:

- We can recognize that angels are real, though we cannot see them. They are God’s messengers. They surround us now and always as we read in Colossians 1:16.
- We do not need to fear angels. When the angel appeared to the shepherds, he said that they should not be afraid of him.
- God never asked us to worship angels or to pray to them. God alone is worthy of our worship.
- We do not have authority over angels, only God does. The Bible never tells us to give them instruction or to command them. In Psalm 91:11, we read that God commands them.
- God knows our needs. He is at work. Through His angels, he can send us words of hope; He protects us with love and mercy. He often works behind the scenes in ways we cannot see.

You have to know, and please take this seriously, that if you love your Lord and you try to walk faithfully with Him, there is an entire spiritual realm constantly around you that you are unaware of. But aware or not, it’s incredibly real. Angels are among us. And God works miracles still today.