



“He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways”
(Psalm 91:11).

Are Angels Real?

Central Truth: God’s angels protect His people.

L300. Date: November 1987. **Text:** Psalm 91:1-12. **Topic:** Angels.

Psalm 91 is not a psalm about angels, but about God's protective care over His people. God is presented as a refuge, a fortress, a deliverer, and a protector. In the midst of those wonderful assurances there is the statement, *“He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone”* (Psalm 91:12, 13).

This is a surprising statement. It must be of special meaning to the child of God. It was at this point that the devil challenged Jesus during His temptation in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11). It was a challenge to trust God's care through the ministry of His angels.

Christians give little attention to angels these days. Yet there are about three hundred references to angels in the Bible. We who are saved have come *“to an innumerable company of angels”* (Hebrews 12:22). *“Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation”* (Hebrews 1:14)? This study is based on Psalm 91:12, 13, but it will reach far beyond as we seek to summarize the Bible teaching concerning angels.

I. THE GOD OF ANGELS

A. God is greater than the angels. He is *“the most High”*; there is no person or thing greater than He (Psalm 91:1, 9). Because He is so great we should sing praises to Him (Psalm 7: 17). He is awesome in His person as He rules the earth (Psalm 47:2). It is His purpose *“that men may know that”*

the God “*whose name alone is JEHOVAH*” is “*the most high overall the earth*” (Psalm 83:18). Do not fear angels or worship angels. Reverence and worship God.

B. God is the Creator of angels. When John wrote, “*All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made*” (John 1:3), that included angels. “*By him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him*” (Colossians 1:16). That settles all doubt. Angels are not eternal beings; they were created by God.

C. God is the Master of angels. The good angels are His messengers and servants who are sent to do His will (Hebrews 1:14; Daniel 6:22). The evil angels are kept under God's power to await His judgment at the end (II Peter 2:4). He is in total control of all angels, good or evil. Never permit your interest in angels to turn you in adoration or in fear from the worship of the Lord God. He is the God of angels, greater than any and all of them.

II. THE EXISTENCE OF ANGELS

A. The Old Testament writers spoke of angels. They were the morning stars which sang together when the sons of God shouted for joy (Job 38:7). Cherubim were set to guard the way to the tree of life in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:24). An “*angel of the LORD*” appeared to Moses in a flame of fire near Horeb (Exodus 3:2). Isaiah saw seraphim around the throne of God expressing praise to Him (Isaiah 6). And “*the angel of his presence*” saved His people (Isaiah 63:9). A good concordance will show you many other Old Testament references to angels. Look at them and worship the God of angels.

B. The New Testament writers spoke of angels. John saw them in heaven and on earth doing the will of God (Revelation 5:11, 12; 12:7; 22:9). They are active in both praise and judgment. Peter wrote that angels are subject to Jesus now (I Peter 3:22) and said they are “*greater in power and might*” than are men (II Peter 2:11), Paul said angels would be involved with Jesus' return when He executes judgment on an ungodly world (II Thessalonians 1:7). Luke wrote of the angels which announced to Mary the coming birth of the Christ (Luke 2:15) and of the angels assisting Jesus in Gethsemane (Luke 22:43). Matthew told how an angel explained the birth of Jesus to Joseph (Matthew 1:20) and protected the Christ child by warnings to flee from Egypt and return to Galilee (Matthew 2:13, 19). Other references are too numerous to list here.

C. Jesus spoke of angels. He said that little children had angels which beheld the face of the Father in heaven (Matthew 18:10). He said the angels in heaven were not omniscient, for they did not know the time of His return (Mark 13:32). He said He would send forth the angels to gather His elect at the end of the age (Matthew 13:41). He said legions of angels were available to Him at His word to assist Him or protect Him (Matthew 26:53). Look in your concordance under angel to find the many other references Jesus made to them.

It is evident that the Bible writers in both the Old and New Testaments thought angels were real and active. The Bible believer today will accept that doctrine without doubt.

III. THE NATURE OF ANGELS

A. Angels are created beings. God has “**made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host**” (Nehemiah 9:6), and that includes the angels. Read Colossians 1:16. Angels are not eternally existent or self-existent beings. They came from the creative hand of God as did plants, animals, and humans. They are creatures of the Creator.

B. Angels are spiritual beings. They are reported as appearing in human form at times, but they are “*all ministering spirits*” (Hebrews 1:14). God “*maketh his angels spirits*” (Psalm 104:4).

C. Angels are sexless beings. Every reference to them is in the masculine form. Jesus said angels do not marry nor are they given in marriage (Luke 20:34-36). No baby angels are born in the spirit world. Neither is there any child born to a human which was fathered by an angel.

D. Angels are powerful beings. They are “*greater in power and might*” than are men (II Peter 2:11). They “*excel in strength*” (Psalm 103:20). One angel killed 165,000 soldiers in one night (II Kings 19:35). One angel will bind Satan and cast him into a bottomless pit (Revelation 20:2, 10). Their power is great, but it is delegated by and subject to the will of God.

E. Angels are immortal beings. They do not die (Luke 20:34-36). There are no angel funerals, as there are no angel births.

F. Angels are beyond numbering. At one time the angels before God's throne were numbered as “*ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands*” (Revelation 5:11). They are part of “*an innumerable company of angels*” (Hebrews 12:22). Because their number is so great, they are organized in ranks like the military with archangels, seraphim, cherubim, principalities, powers, and rulers (Isaiah 6:1-7; Ezekiel 1:5-28; Ephesians

6:12).

IV. THE WORK OF ANGELS

A. Angels minister before God always. They worship Him (Isaiah 6; Revelation 5) and execute His commands (II Kings 19:35; I Chronicles 21:15-30). They are His servants.

B. Angels ministered to Jesus during His incarnate life on earth. They strengthened Him (Matthew 4:11; Luke 22:43). They protected Him (Matthew 26:53). They will return with Him in glory (Matthew 25:31, 32; Mark 8:38). They will execute His judgment (II Thessalonians 1:7, 8), and they will gather His elect to Him (Matthew 24:31).

C. Angels minister to believers in Jesus. They protect us (Psalm 34:7; Exodus 14:19; Daniel 6:22), direct us (Exodus 23:20-23), and assist us (Psalm 91:12; Hebrews 1:14; I Corinthians 11:10). They convey messages from God (Acts 10:3, 20-32; 27:23). They rejoice in the salvation of sinners (Luke 15:10). They observe the work of mankind (I Timothy 5:21; I Corinthians 4:9; 11:10). They escort the dead into the presence of God (Luke 16:22). Praise the Lord for the ministry of His angels.

People tend to exaggerate and pervert Bible teaching on angels. It is an abuse to presume on the help of angels (Matthew 4:5.7). It is an abuse to expect them to substitute for us in sharing the gospel of Jesus (Acts 10:1.6, 30.33). It is an abuse to worship them (Colossians 2:18; Revelation 22:8). It is an abuse to fear them (I Corinthians 6:3). From a study of the angels, turn your attention to Him who is creator and governor of the angels. *“Worship God”* (Revelation 22:9).

Questions

1. How does the Christian have the experience referred to in Hebrews 12:28?
2. What assurance do you find in Hebrews 1:14?
3. What is the difference between Psalm 91:12, 13 and Matthew 4:6?
4. What does Colossians 1:16 say about the origin of angels?
5. What are some Old Testament references to angels?
6. What are some New Testament references to angels?
7. How did Jesus show that He believed in the existence of angels?
8. What does the Bible say about the power of angels?
9. What is the work of angels in relation to believers?
10. How might the doctrine of angels be abused today?

