

“Enchanted- Angels”

Angels are everywhere. Christmas especially. Semi Truck yesterday morning– Unique Freight Carriers. Angel as the logo.

The Confusion around angels: Scripture speaks of so many: The Angel of the LORD, My (God’s) Angel, The Voice of the LORD. The Visitors, The man who wrestled with Jacob, Cherubim on the Ark, seraphim of Isaiah 6, The Spirit, and many others.

[The Hum of Angels, by Scot McKnight](#) was a main source for me as I searched the scriptures for this sermon. His main idea throughout is that angels are everywhere. It is a great read and I definitely would recommend it. However, there are a few assertions that he makes that I question. The Holy Spirit and Angels seem to share function in some way for McKnight. I believe angels are the tangible announcers of the Spirit’s work. God’s Spirit works and manifests from within us. Angels appear and strengthen, encourage, and protect us. None of the work originates from them; it is all the work of God through them. Identity is important, but the attribution is KEY. Look at PSALM 29, of David:

Ascribe to the LORD, you heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness. The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD thunders over the mighty waters. The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is majestic. The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon. He makes Lebanon leap like a calf, Sirion like a young wild ox. The voice of the LORD strikes with flashes of lightning. The voice of the LORD shakes the desert; the LORD shakes the Desert of Kadesh. The voice of the LORD twists the oaks and strips the forests bare. And in his temple all cry, “Glory!” The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD is enthroned as King forever. The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with **peace**.

God’s Holy Name is used EIGHTEEN times in this short psalm. God is always the originator of the work and deserves ALL our praise. Don’t give angels credit for what God has them do. All glory goes to God.

The worship of Angels?

What is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? You have made them **a little lower than the angels** and crowned them with glory and honor. You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet:

-Psalm 8:4-6

Hebrews 1:13-14:

To which of the angels did God ever say, “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”? Are not all angels **ministering spirits** sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

Revelation 19:9-10:

Then the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” And he added, “These are the true words of God.” At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he

said to me, "Don't do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers and sisters who hold to the testimony of Jesus. **Worship God!** For it is the Spirit of prophecy who bears testimony to Jesus."

We should never worship angels or any other spiritual beings created by God. Worship God alone.

The worship of Angels.

The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all. Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word. Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will. Praise the LORD, all his works everywhere in his dominion. Praise the LORD, my soul. -Psalm 103:19-23

Angels are everywhere, and they are worshipping. They worshiped at Creation as referenced in Job. They surround the throne and worship 24/7/365/eternally according to Daniel, Isaiah, and John's Revelation just as a start. We join in the song of angels to the Lamb. We are never really unaccompanied in our tradition when we worship in Spirit and in Truth. Angels surround us in worship. Angels are everywhere.

Angels surround the incarnation from start to finish.

The Birth. If you were told of the birth of Christ at the moment of His coming, you were most often told by an Angel. For now, let's look at just one, Matthew 2:8-15:

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." 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."

At his Temptation (Matthew 4:11)

*Then the devil left him, and angels came and **attended** him.*

In Gethsemene. (Luke 22:43)

*An angel from heaven appeared to him and **strengthened** him.*

At the Tomb. (John 20:12)

*Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, **one at the head and the other at the foot.***

At the Ascension. (Acts 1:11)

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

If you recall from our John study, there was another claim about angels and Jesus. In John 1:51: Jesus tells Nathaniel:

He then added, "Very truly I tell you, you will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

Now look at this passage from Genesis 28:10-12:

Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

Jacob, when he awoke, became the first to anoint something in Scripture. He poured oil on the stone where he slept because it was the Gate to Heaven. Jesus became Jacob's Ladder. The Gate for the Sheep. God's Anointed. Messiah. Christ.

Perhaps the most critical reference to Angels by Jesus was in Matthew 26:47-56.

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him." Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. Jesus replied, "Do what you came for, friend." Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. With that, one of Jesus' companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. "Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. **Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?** But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?" In that hour Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Where were the angels at the Cross?

Angels were everywhere at the Crucifixion. They were witnesses. The things they had "longed to look into" were unfolding before their eyes, and it was a monstrous sight.

They stood by.

Ready to Attend Jesus..

Ready to Strengthen Jesus.

Ready to Protect Jesus.

But Jesus chose to face the Cross alone.

PRAYER.

Communion.

Because he did not call those angels, this is the scene John saw in his vision of Heaven in **Revelation 5:6-14**:

Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people. And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth." Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they were saying: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

He sits on the throne surrounded by angels who would have spared him from an earthly death. His death is proclaimed for all eternity. We proclaim it now as we eat the bread and drink the cup.