

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

- HOW DO WE RECOGNIZE AND RESPOND TO THE MINISTRY OF ANGELS TODAY?
- TODAY WE WILL LOOK AT WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS ABOUT ANGELS.
- WE WILL THEN SEE TWO EXAMPLES OF ANGELIC VISITATION AND TWO VERY DIFFERENT RESPONSES.
- ANGELS ARE REAL AND AN ACTIVE PART OF OUR LIVES AND IN THE RESTORATION OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD.
- WHAT A GREAT SOURCE OF ENCOURAGEMENT THAT GOD HAS CREATED THE MIGHTY ANGELS AS LOYAL COMPANIONS AND FRIENDS WHO GUARD AND MINISTER TO US IN OUR MINISTRY JOURNEY.
- CO-LABORERS IN THE HARVEST.

We must use caution that we only use scripture as a basis for understanding angels. Just like with demons, culture has written stories and created a false theology and people get caught up in it and worship the angels.

The apostle John fell at the feet of the angel in:
Revelation 19:10

“And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.””

Hebrews 1:14

“Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?”

Hebrews 13:2

“Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.”

Angels on assignment may choose to remain invisible to avoid the human response of adoration and worship.

THEY CAN TAKE THE SHAPE OF HUMANS

What is the purpose of Angels?

To return with Jesus:

2 Thessalonians 1:7

“and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels,”

To guard the church:

Revelation 1:20

“The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.”

To execute judgment:

Acts 12:23

“Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died.”

To exalt, worship and glorify God:

Hebrews 1:6

“But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: “Let all the angels of God worship Him.””

They are created as a separate creation from humans.

They possess different levels of wisdom, authority and holiness than humans.

They display emotions, especially joy:

Luke 15:10

“Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

TWO VISITATIONS AND TWO DIFFERENT RESPONSES

ZACHARIAS AND ELIZABETH:

[Luke 1: 11-23](#)

11. Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. 12. And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

13. But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. 14. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. 15. For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. 16. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. 17. He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,’ and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

18. And Zacharias said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years.”

19. And the angel answered and said to him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings. 20. But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time.”

21. And the people waited for Zacharias, and marveled that he lingered so long in the temple. 22 But when he came out, he could not speak to them; and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple, for he beckoned to them and remained speechless.

23. So it was, as soon as the days of his service were completed, that he departed to his own house. 24 Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months, saying, 25 “Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.”

MARY AND JOSEPH:

[Luke 1: 26-38](#)

26. Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,

27. to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

28. And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"

29. But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was.

30. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

31. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS.

32. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.

33. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

34. Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

35. And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

36. Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. 37 For with God nothing will be impossible."

38. Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

[Matthew 1:18-25](#)

18. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

19. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

20. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

21. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

22. So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying:

23. "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

24. Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife,

25. and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

We can be righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless, and still miss divine appointments, and miss the full blessing due to our unbelief.

Zacharias's unbelief took away their opportunity to give thanks and praise for this answered prayer. Instead of coming out of the tent praising God for an angelic encounter, glorifying God for answered prayer with an incredible prophecy, he got to watch in silence.

Both Mary and Joseph, facing incredible shame and disappointment respond with belief, gratitude and blessing.