

## Jesus Christ And The Angels

### Introduction.

- I. It is difficult, really impossible, to separate Christ's life from the angels.
- II. Angels played a major role in the life and teachings of Christ.
- III. His entire life was touched by angels.
  - A. He was constantly attended by angels.
  - B. They were presence to announce His birth and were with Him even to His ascension.

### I. Angels And The Nativity

- A. Gabriel announced to Zacharias that he would father a son in his old age to be named John. (Lk. 1:7, 11-20).

LUK 1:7 And they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both advanced in years.

11 And an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. 12 And Zacharias was troubled when he saw him, and fear gripped him. 13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will give him the 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 he will drink no wine or liquor; and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, while yet in his mother's womb. 16 "And he will turn back many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 "And it is he who

will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous; so as to make ready a people prepared for the

Lord." 18 And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this for certain? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." 19 And the angel answered and said to him, "**I am Gabriel**, who stands in the

presence of God; and I have been sent to speak to you, and to bring you this good news. 20 "And behold, you shall be silent and unable to speak until the day when these things take place, because you did not believe my

words, which shall be fulfilled in their proper time."

B. Gabriel announced the coming of Christ to Mary, a young virgin girl from Nazareth. (Lk.1:26-38).

26 Now in the sixth month **the angel Gabriel** was sent from God to a city in Galilee, called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And coming in, he said to her, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29 But she was greatly troubled at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this might be. 30 And 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 bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. 32 "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; 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 His kingdom will have no end. " 34 And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God. 36 "And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. 37 "For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

1. Mary was a virgin and without the explanation of Gabriel she would not have understood her approaching pregnancy. She knew she was "a virgin" (parthenos). (Lk. 1:34).
2. The angel insured her the conception was by the Holy Spirit. (Lk. 1:35).
3. Consequently, Jesus would be called "the Son of God." (Lk. 1:35).

C. An angel announced the virgin birth of Jesus to Joseph. (Matt. 1:18-25).

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. 19 And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her, desired to put her away secretly. 20 But when he had considered this, behold, **an angel** of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for that which has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 "And she will bear a

Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins." 22 Now all this took place that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us." 24 And Joseph arose from his sleep, and did as **the angel** of the Lord commanded him, and took her as his wife, 25 and kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

1. The unidentified angel convinced Joseph not to divorce Mary. (Matt. 1:19,20).
2. He was to be named "Jesus" [Savior] because an angel commanded it. (Matt. 1:21).
3. The birth of Jesus was the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy from the 7<sup>th</sup> century B.C. (Isa. 7:14).

ISA 7:14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, **a virgin** will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel. "Virgin" is from Hebrew "Almah." It never is used of a married woman.

D. Angels announced the birth of Christ to the shepherds. (Lk. 2:9-15).

9 And **an angel** of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. 10 And the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people; 11 for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 "And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths, and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there **appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host** praising God, and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased." 15 And it came about when **the angels** had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds began saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us."

1. The sudden appearance of the angels would cause anyone to fear, but they overcame their fear and went and worshiped Jesus. (Lk. 2:15).
2. They did not delay in seeking Jesus. (Lk. 2:15).
3. Wise men seek Jesus.

E. An angel instructed Joseph to take Jesus to safety in Egypt because of the wicked Herod the Great. (Matt. 2:13,14).

13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise and take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him." 14 And he arose and took the Child and His mother by night, and departed for Egypt; This was about 4 B.C..

1. Jesus is not at this time in a manger, but in a "house."
2. He may have been as much as 2 years old. (Matt. 2:16).
3. We do not know how long they were in Egypt.
4. They move to Nazareth on their return from Egypt to Palestine. (Matt. 2:23).

F. An angel told Joseph to return to the land of Israel after the death of Herod. (Matt. 2:19, 20).

19 But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, 20 "Arise and take the Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel; for those who sought the Child's life are dead."

## II. Angels And Christ's Temptations

- A. It is recorded in 3 of the gospels. (Matt. 4:1-11; Lk. 4:1-13; Mk. 1:12,13).
- B. At the end of the temptation angels ministered unto Him. (Matt. 4:11; Mk. 1:13).

<p>MAT 4:11 Then the devil left Him; and behold, <b>angels</b> came and began to minister to Him.</p>	<p>MAR 1:12 And immediately the Spirit impelled Him to go out into the wilderness. 13 And He was in the wilderness forty days being tempted by Satan; and He was with the wild beasts, and the <b>angels were ministering to Him.</b></p>
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1. Luke omits the reference to angels ministering to Jesus.

LUK 4:13 And when the devil had finished every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.

2. He emphasizes that Satan had strongly tempted Jesus and only left Him "for a season." (Lk. 4:12).

C. Satan misused the psalms (Matt. 4:6,7; Psa. 91:11,12).

MAT 4:6 and said to Him, "If [Since] You are the Son of God throw Yourself down; for it is written, 'He will give His angels charge concerning You'; and 'On their hands they will bear You up, Lest You strike Your foot against a stone.'"

MAT 4:7 Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

PSA 91:11 For He will give His angels charge concerning you, To guard you in all your ways.

PSA 91:12 They will bear you up in their hands, Lest you strike your foot against a stone.

1. Satan knows scriptures, but he deliberately misused this scripture.
2. Satan urged Jesus to take a short-cut to fame.
3. It was sinful to put one's life unnecessarily in danger. (Deut. 6:16).

DEU 6:16 "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test, as you tested Him at Massah.

### III. Angel And Christ In Gethsemane

A. "An angel" strengthened Jesus. (Lk. 22:41-43).

LUK 22:41 And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and began to pray,

LUK 22:42 saying, "Father, if Thou art willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Thine be done."

LUK 22:43 Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, **strengthening** Him.

1. The "strengthening" appears to be associated with verse 44.

LUK 22:44 And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground.

2. Jesus was "in agony" because He knew what was before Him - mocking, scourging, crucifixion, having the sins of mankind placed on Him. See Lk. 19:10; Matt. 16:21; Jn. 2:19-21; Matt. 26:28; Isa. 53:4-6.

B. Jesus could call for angels if He wanted to be defended. (Matt. 26:51-53).

MAT 26:51 And behold, one of those who were with Jesus reached and drew out his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest, and cut off his ear.

MAT 26:52 Then Jesus said to him [Peter], "Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword.

MAT 26:53 "Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels?"

1. John tells us that the "one" was Peter. (Jn. 18:10).

JOH 18:10 **Simon Peter** therefore having a sword, drew it, and struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his **right ear**; and the slave's name was **Malchus**.

2. He also gives us the name of the slave. (Jn. 18:10).

3. John even tell us which ear was “cut off.” (Jn. 18:10).

#### IV. Angels And Christ's Resurrection

A. There were 2 angels involved in the resurrection. (Matt. 28:2-7; Mk. 16:5; Lk. 24:4; Jn.20:12).

<p>MAT 28:2 And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for <b>an angel</b> of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it.</p> <p>MAT 28:3 And his appearance was like lightning, and his garment as white as snow;</p> <p>MAT 28:4 and the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.</p> <p>MAT 28:5 And <b>the angel</b> answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified.</p> <p>MAT 28:6 "He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying.</p> <p>MAT 28:7 "And go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going before you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you."</p>	<p>MAR 16:5 And entering the tomb, they saw <b>a young man</b> sitting at the right, wearing a white robe; and they were amazed.</p>
<p>LUK 24:4 And it happened that while they were perplexed about this, behold, <b>two men</b> suddenly stood near them in dazzling apparel;</p>	<p>JOH 20:12 and she beheld <b>two angels</b> in white sitting, one at the head, and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying.</p>

- B. Matthew and Mark mentioned the angel who spoke.
- C. They did not deny another angel was present.
- D. Luke and John affirm there were two angels.

#### V. Angels And The Ascension

A. The ascension is recorded in Luke and Acts.

<p>LUK 24:50 And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them.</p> <p>LUK 24:51 And it came about that while He was blessing them, He parted from them.</p>	<p>ACT 1:9 And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.</p> <p>ACT 1:10 And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was departing, behold, <b>two men in white clothing</b> stood beside them;</p> <p>ACT 1:11 and they also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."</p>
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1. Angels are not mentioned in Luke’s account of the ascension.
2. They are mentioned by Luke in Acts. (Acts 1:10).
3. The "two men dressed in white" were almost for certain angels.
4. Similar language was used in the resurrection account.

LUK 24:4 And it happened that while they were perplexed about this, behold, <b>two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling apparel;</b>	JOH 20:12 and she beheld <b>two angels</b> in white sitting, one at the head, and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying.
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B. Angels reminded apostles of what Jesus had earlier taught. (Lk. 21:27).

LUK 21:27 "And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

## VI. Angels And The Second Coming

A. Jesus will come with his holy angels. (Matt. 16:27; 25:31; Mk. 8:38; 2 Thess. 1:7).

MAT 16:27 "For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with <b>His angels</b> ; and will then recompense every man according to his deeds.	MAT 25:31 "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and <b>all the angels</b> with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.  Rev. 5:11.	MAR 8:38 "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with <b>the holy angels.</b> "	2TH 1:7 and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His <b>mighty angels</b> in flaming fire,
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B. The second coming of Christ will be attended by the shout (voice) of Michael, the archangel. (1 Thess. 4:16; Jude 9).

C. They shall gather the elect. (Matt. 24:31).

MAT 24:31 "And He [Jesus] will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

1. The “elect” are those who have chosen to obey the gospel. (2 Thess. 2:14). See Jas. 1:21; Rom. 1:16; Mk. 16:15,16.
2. It is not a partial or arbitrary selection. (Acts 10:34, 35).

D. The angels of God shall cast the wicked into the furnace of fire. (Matt. 13:41,42).

41 "The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks,

and those who commit lawlessness, 42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

E. The righteous will ascend to meet Jesus in the air. (1 Thess. 4:13-18).

## VII. Jesus' Teaching Concerning Angels

A. "These little ones" have "their angels" (Matt. 18:10).

MAT 18:10 "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you, that their angels in heaven continually behold the face of My Father who is in heaven.

1. "Little ones" refers to believers. (Matt. 18:6).

JOH 13:33 "Little children, I am with you a little while longer. You shall seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, I now say to you also, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.'

1JO 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;

1JO 2:18 Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have arisen; from this we know that it is the last hour.

1JO 2:28 And now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

1JO 3:7 Little children, let no one deceive you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous;

1JO 3:18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

1JO 4:4 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

1JO 5:21 Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

2. It does not teach that each believer has his own personal guardian angel.

3. "their angels in heaven continually behold the face of My Father who is in heaven" falls short of affirming or teaching that every believer has his/her own guardian angel.

B. The Son of man will either confess or deny men "before the angels of God." (Lk. 12:8,9; Mk. 8:38).

LUK 12:8 "And I say to you, everyone who confesses Me before men, the Son of Man shall confess him also **before the angels of God**;

LUK 12:9 but he who denies Me before men shall be denied **before the angels of God**.

MAR 8:38 "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

C. Jesus will confess the ones who overcomes before the Father and His angels. (Rev. 3:5).

REV 3:5 'He who overcomes shall thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name **before My Father, and before His angels.**

D. The ascent and descent of the angels is similar to the vision of Jacob. (Jn. 1:51; Gen. 28:10-16).

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JOH 1:51 And He said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you shall see the heavens opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

- John 1:51 and Gen. 28:10-19 emphasize the presence of God.
- The two events are not connected.

GEN 28:10 Then Jacob departed from Beersheba and went toward Haran.

GEN 28:11 And he came to a certain place and spent the night there, because the sun had set; and he took one of the stones of the place and put it under his head, and lay down in that place.

GEN 28:12 And he had a dream, and behold, **a ladder was set on the earth with its top reaching to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.**

GEN 28:13 And behold, the **Lord stood above it** and said, "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants.

GEN 28:14 "Your descendants shall also be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

GEN 28:15 "And behold, I am with you, and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

GEN 28:16 Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it."

GEN 28:17 And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

GEN 28:18 So Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on its top.

GEN 28:19 And he called the name of that place Bethel; however, previously the name of the city had been Luz.

- The angels manifest that it is God who is speaking to Jacob.
- He is convinced that God is speaking to Him and God will keep His promises.

1. There is no mention in the patriarch's dream of the heavens being opened in John.
2. There is no mention here of the ladder Jacob saw. (Jn. 1:51; Gen. 28:12).
3. In both passages the angels ascend first which may imply their presence on earth already.
4. Jesus is in this passage perhaps the place of the ladder and is the link between heaven and earth.

5. The force of the Greek perfect tense, "opened", is they would see the heavens opened and remaining open.
6. The wide open heaven, and the ascending and descending angels may symbolize the whole power and love of God, available for men, in the Son of man.
7. It may be an allusion to the fact that the angels would constantly attend Jesus.

E. Angels are interested in man and rejoice when even one sinner repents. (Lk. 15:10).

1. This implies a constant observation of man.
2. Only a constant and careful observation of man would detect even one sinner repenting.

F. Angels escort the righteous to "Abraham's bosom" (Lk.16:22).

1. It is affirmed Lazarus was carried away to "Abraham's bosom" by the angels.
2. It is possible the angels do this for all the righteous at death, but this is an assumption.

G. Angels do not marry (Matt. 22:30), nor do they die. (Lk. 20:36).

H. Angels do not know when Christ will come again. (Matt.24:36).

I. Angels will witness Jesus being ashamed of those who are ashamed of Him. (Mk. 8:38).

J. The devil and his angels will be cast into the "eternal fire" (Matt. 25:41).

1. Some of his angels are in Tartarus doomed for hell. (2 Pet. 2:4).
2. It does not appear all wicked angels are in Tartarus.

EPH 6:11 Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

EPH 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

EPH 6:13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

### **Closing Remarks**

1. Many who believe in Jesus are skeptical of the existence of angels.
2. One cannot believe in the historicity of Jesus without believing in the reality of angels.
3. Angels played a major role in the ministry of the Lord.
4. Angels did not keep Jesus from being tempted, suffering and dying.

5. Angels did not raise Jesus from the dead, but the Holy Spirit did. (Rom. 8:11).

ROM 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.