

“Angels of the Heavenly Host”

Luke 2:8-21

INTRODUCTION

1. The introduction of song & poetry in the birth narratives of the Gospels.
2. The arrival of angels—individual angels and the angelic host (many!).

ANGELS AT CREATION

Job 38:4-7: Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.

⁵Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?

⁶On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone,

⁷when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

- Creation. Pre-sin. Everything working in harmony. GOODNESS.

ANGELS AT MT. SINAI

1. The Bible says the angels were present in a special way at the giving of the Mosaic Law.

Deuteronomy 33:1-2: This is the blessing with which Moses the man of God blessed the people of Israel before his death. ²He said, “The Lord came from Sinai and dawned from Seir upon us; he shone forth from Mount Paran; he came from the ten thousands of holy ones, with flaming fire at his right hand.

2. The New Testament also speaks of the angels present at the giving of the Law of God.

- Galatians 3:19: Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary.
- Hebrews 2:1-3a: Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. ²For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, ³how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?

3. The Law of God reveals His holy character and righteous standard.

- Romans 3:20: For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

ANGELS AT THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST. LUKE 2:8-14

1. The angels of the heavenly host announced the coming of the Messiah. Luke 2:13

2. The arrival of the Messiah! The angels sang!

Psalm 91:11: For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

Heb. 13:2: Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

ANGELS AT THE RETURN OF CHRIST

1. The angels will accompany Christ at his return.

- Matthew 25:31: When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.

2. The angels will be present at the judgment of mankind.

- Matthew 16:27: For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.
- Mark 8:38: For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

ANGELS IN HEAVEN

Revelation 5:9-13: And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, ¹⁰and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”

¹¹Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹²saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”

¹³And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

- Romans 5:1-2: Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Daniel 7:9-10: "As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire.

¹⁰ A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.

2 Thessalonians 1:7b-9: ...when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels ⁸in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.

"A young girl about twelve, who had been in distress for some time, called upon me in the house where I was, and asked me with great sedateness, 'What shall I do to get Christ?' Shall we tell them that they are not Christless, and are not unconverted, when we evidently see many of them to be such? Shall we tell them that their fears of the wrath of God is all but delusion, and that it is no such dreadful thing that they need to be much afraid of it? Shall we tell persons lamenting their cursing and swearing, Sabbath-breaking, and other immoralities, that it is the devil that now makes them see these evils to be offensive to God and destructive to their souls? Shall we tell them who, under the greatest uneasiness, inquire of us what they shall do to get an interest and faith in Christ, that Satan is deluding them when they have or show any concern this way?"

-From an account by Rev. Robe, minister of the gospel in Kilsyth, Scotland (mid-1700's)