

LIVING AMONGST THE ANGELS

INTRODUCTION

".....Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Colossians 3:1

The central focus is Christ, but the things above are wider than the person of Christ.

1. ANGELS ARE INTEGRAL TO THE HEAVENLY REALMS

"At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it... Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads...In the centre, around the throne, were four living creatures..."

Rev 4:2-6

"Whenever the living creatures give glory, honour and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, ¹⁰the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say..."

Rev 4:9-10

"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."

Rev 5:11

Whilst still on Earth we are surrounded by angels and work with angels to bring about the purposes of God.

"He then added, "I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

John 1:51

“Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?”
Hebrews 1:14

“But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly,²³ to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect,²⁴ to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.”
Hebrews 12:22-24

2. HOW SHOULD WE UNDERSTAND THE INCREASE IN ANGELIC AWARENESS?

Evangelicals have traditionally been very wary of the angelic for:

- Fear of deception
- Fear of distraction

“Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions. ...”
Colossians 2:18

But there is a high priority in scripture on the presence of angels.

- The tabernacle furnishing:

“He overlaid the ceiling beams, door-frames, walls and doors of the temple with gold, and he carved cherubim on the walls.”
2 Chronicles 3:7

- Exodus 26-31 - The cherubim depicted throughout the tabernacle.

The Temple: Two enormous angels, representing the cherubim dominated the site of the temple. They were 15-20 ft high and 15-20 ft wide. There was also a freeze around the ceiling of the temple, depicting angels and the cherubim.

The cherubim were also on the ark of the covenant and God is consistently described as being present “between the cherubim”.

- a) Jesus gave insight into the ways of Heaven and the operation of the angels:

“See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.” **Matthew 18:10**

“Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?” **Matthew 26:53**

- b) Jesus ministered was ministered to by them:

After the desert fast and temptations and in Gethsamene.
“An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him.” **Luke 22:43**

3. THE ROLE OF ANGELS

Angels are involved in:

- Warring on behalf the people of God (2 Kings 19).
- Speaking God’s announcements on the Earth (Luke 1:11 / 1:26).

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- To guide and direct the people of God (Exodus 23:20).
- Protect – Peter's deliverance from Heaven (Acts 12).
- Bring comfort and strengthening (1 Kings 19).
- Bring acts of judgement.

4. HOW DO WE RESPOND TO THE ANGELIC PRESENCE?

- 1) We train our senses to be alert to their presence.
- 2) We watch and look for them with our:
 - a) Eyes
 - b) Spiritual eyes
 - c) Imagination
- 3) Sometimes it is appropriate to ask some questions.
- 4) Allow their presence to heighten our faith and expectation to move in the supernatural realm of God's power.

"Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions. ..." **Colossians 2:18**

We do not pay too much attention to the angels, we do not go into great detail about them or try and understand the complex hierarchy of angels.

We are going to see an increase in the angelic presence, do not be too thrilled if you see them, but do not be too disappointed if you don't. Trust the Holy Spirit to sharpen your spiritual senses whilst keeping your eyes profoundly fixed on Jesus Christ!