

## ANGELS

### IV. THEIR FUNCTION

#### A. **Psalm 103:20-22**

The purpose of angels is to do whatever God tells them to do.

#### B. **Psalm 78:49**

On many occasions, angels were the agents of God's wrath, used to kill men.

##### 1. **Acts 12:23**

King Herod was struck by an angel, leading to his gruesome death.

##### 2. **2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 19:35**

An angel once slew 185,000 Assyrians in a single night.

#### C. **1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3:16; John 1:51**

During Jesus' time on earth, angels were actively attending Him.

##### 1. **Luke 2:8-14**

Angels announced His birth to the shepherds.

##### 2. **Mark 1:13**

Angels ministered to Him during His ordeal in the wilderness.

##### 3. **Luke 22:41-43**

An angel strengthened Him as He prayed for the cup to pass.

#### D. **Luke 4:10-12; Matthew 26:51-54**

However, Jesus declined to rely on angels when doing so would counteract His purpose, either yielding to temptation as the devil wanted or avoiding the suffering of the cross.

#### E. **Acts 7:52-53; Galatians 3:19**

Angels presented the Old Testament. This is in keeping with the literal meaning of the word angel, which is "messenger".

##### 1. **Hebrews 2:2-3**

In contrast, Christ and the apostles presented the New. This makes the New better than the Old.

2. **Galatians 1:8**

No angel could now present revelation without sinfully contradicting the truth.

F. **Hebrews 1:13-14; Psalm 34:7**

Angels serve God's people.

1. **Daniel 3:19-28**

An angel protected Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the fiery furnace.

2. **Daniel 6:16-22**

An angel protected Daniel in the den of lions.

3. **Acts 5:19-20**

An angel sprang the apostles out of prison.

4. **Acts 12:7-11**

An angel sprang Peter from prison.

5. **Acts 27:23-24**

An angel comforted Paul when he was approaching shipwreck.

Whether this function of theirs ceased with the cessation of spiritual gifts (**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13**) is uncertain. If they continue in this capacity, it is not in a visible manner. To ascribe activities to them or deny activities to them would be unfounded. We do not know.

G. **Luke 16:22**

Angels carry the righteous dead to their reward.

H. **Matthew 25:31-33**

Angels will be present for the final judgment.

1. **1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:16**

An archangel's shout will herald the dawn of the last great day.

2. **Luke 12:8-9**

Angels will witness either Christ's confession or His denial of those who either confessed Him or denied Him.

3. **2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 1:7-10**

Angels will be involved in executing vengeance on the unbelieving and disobedient.

4. **Matthew 13:49-50**

They will haul the wicked to their ultimate doom.