

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Red Bud, Illinois

Adult Bible Study
"Angels, Angels Everywhere"

VII. Angels and the Life of Christ

God's angels appear often in events surrounding and during the life of Jesus. His birth, resurrection and the promise of His second coming were announced by angels. Angels stood ready to serve the Son of God on earth while He lived among us. They served Jesus on earth as they have served and will serve Him eternally. Jesus is the Word of God by whom all things were made, including angels (John 1:3). In this lesson we will examine the many times and ways that angels served Jesus during His earthly life.

A. Angels Announced the Birth of Jesus

1) What does the angel Gabriel say about the coming of John (the Baptist) in Luke 1:11-17?

2) What does the angel Gabriel say about the coming of Jesus in Luke 1:26-38?

3) What does the angel tell Joseph about the coming of Jesus in Matthew 1:20-21?

4) What purpose do the angels serve in Luke 2:8-14?

None of these believers sought out angelic beings to provide them this information. God in His grace sent these messengers to His people. They were simply recipients of God's Word as He determined what He wanted them to know.

B. Angels Serve Jesus During His Earthly Life

1) How do angels protect Jesus in Matthew 2:13, 19-20?

2) What do angels do (and not do) in the account of Jesus' temptation in Matthew 4:5-11?

3) Why did Jesus need an angel's service in Luke 22:39-44?

4) What do you think the angels did for Jesus in these two passages?

5) How could angels have served Jesus in Matthew 26:47-54?

Did Jesus desire that help? _____

At many points during His earthly ministry Jesus easily could have made use of angels to do His bidding. Instead, He refuted the devil and his demons with the power of God's Word. He exercised power over

the forces of nature by His own Word. He allowed Himself to be at the mercy of sinful humans instead of using angelic protection in order to complete His Father's plan of salvation for us.

C. Angels Serve the Resurrected Jesus

1) What did the angel(s) do for Jesus at His resurrection in Matthew 28:1-7? _____

2) What did the angels announce to the disciples at the ascension of Jesus? _____

Acts 1:10-11 They were looking intently up into the sky as He was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven."

D. Angels and the Return of Jesus

What will Jesus have the angels do when He returns? _____

Matthew 13:41-42 "The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will weed out of His kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Matthew 24:31 "And He will send His angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other."

Revelation 14:6-7 Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come. Worship Him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."

E. Jesus' Relationship in Regard to His Angels

What is Jesus' relationship in regard to the angels according to His human nature? _____

Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because He suffered death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.

Does the salvation which Jesus won for us apply to the angels _____

Hebrews 2:16-18 For surely it is not angels He helps, but Abraham's descendants. For this reason He had to be made like His brothers in every way, in order that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that He might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because He Himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted.

What is Jesus' position in regard to the angels in His ascended exaltation? _____

1 Peter 3:21-22 through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to Him.

Luther's Morning Prayer: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Next Lesson: The Angel of the Lord