

Pastor's Pen

Special!

Are they not all ministering spirits, sent to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

Hebrews 1:14

Do you realize how special you are to be a follower of Christ? Before you get too excited, you are not special because of anything that you have done to become a Christian. God makes that clear, "For *by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not of works, so that no one may boast.* 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them (Eph. 2:8-9)." What I mean by special is that even though we were made a little lower than the angels, we can do something that the Angels can never do: glorify God for our salvation.

Angels and people have God as creator, but only humans can know His Son as Redeemer. The angel Gabriel and all of the other angels that did not rebel do not need a redeemer, and Satan and the third of the angels that did do not get a redeemer. We can do what no angel can do: sing our praises to God for our redemption. Angels rejoice over our conversion (Luke 15:10) and give God the glory for it, but they can never know the joy you know from salvation. You were once lost, but now you are found. You were blind, but now you see. You were once a slave to sin but now a slave of righteousness. Because God has saved us from Hell, we can praise Him forever for saving wretches like us.

The writer of Hebrews tells us that one calling of these angels is to serve those who are heirs of salvation. Think about this for a moment: God's angels minister to the saints. Commentaries agree that this is both a current and future prospect. We will be served by God's angels for all eternity. David L. Allen, the author of *The New American Commentary of Hebrews*, writes this about 1:14: *This verse illuminates the interplay of realized eschatology with its "already" and futuristic eschatology with its "not yet."* The doctrinal sections of the epistle focus on the former, while the parenetic.

Remember, Christian you are special in the eyes of God.

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

- Got Questions

What is the purpose of angels?

Scripture gives us only glimpses into the supernatural realm, but it is enough to learn that angels perform a variety of tasks and are used for several purposes:

1. To serve the people God saves. One purpose of angels is to minister to the elect of God: "Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?" (Hebrews 1:14). Paul experienced an angelic visitation during a storm at sea. The angel brought him comfort (Acts 27:23-24). Others who have been served by angels include Elijah (1 Kings 19:3-8) and Peter (Acts 12:6-10).
2. To deliver messages. The word angel literally means "messenger." In the Bible, angels usually appeared as men when they delivered messages from God to people (see Genesis 18:1-3). The angel Gabriel appeared to at least three people in the Bible. He interpreted a vision for Daniel (Daniel 8:16), told Zechariah about the birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:19), and proclaimed to Mary that she would be the mother of the Messiah (Luke 1:26). Angels in the form of men also warned Lot of God's impending judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:1).
3. To wage spiritual battle. Another purpose of angels is to fight the forces of spiritual darkness who try to thwart God's plans (Ephesians 6:12; Jude 1:9). When an angel appeared to Daniel to deliver the interpretation of a vision, the angel stated that Michael the archangel had to help him fight his way through enemy forces (Daniel 10:10-14). The full extent of angelic warfare is not known to us, but these few glimpses are enough to suggest that a fierce cosmic battle rages just out of sight.

Quote of the Week

"It's not uncommon to hear people use Jesus' warning against judging as a basis for accepting behavior which the Bible actually condemns."

- Alistair Begg

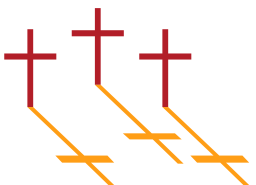
4. To worship God. Angels constantly surround the throne of God, worshiping and shouting His praises (Psalm 148:1-2; Isaiah 6:3, Hebrews 1:6; Revelation 5:8-13). Since angels were created to worship God, their rejection of that purpose is an unforgivable wrong. When Lucifer, a chief angel, refused to worship God and insisted that angels worship him instead, God cast him from heaven (Isaiah 14:12-18). Angels siding with Lucifer were exiled with him.

5. To serve. Angels exist to do the will of their Creator. They go where God sends them, say what He gives them to say, and minister to His children on earth (Psalm 103:20; Revelation 22:9; Hebrews 1:14). After Jesus' forty-day temptation in the wilderness, angels came and ministered to Him (Matthew 4:11). When the righteous die, it seems that angels carry them straight to the place of God's rest (Luke 16:22).

6. To execute judgment. Angels are not all radiance and joy. They also carry out God's orders for destruction. The book of Revelation foretells many angelic acts that will bring about the ultimate destruction of the world (Revelation 7:1; 8-10). When Pharaoh refused to let the people of God leave Egypt, God sent an angel to strike down every firstborn son (Exodus 12:12, 23). Angels were involved in the death of Herod (Acts 12:23), the slaughter of the Assyrian army (2 Kings 19:35), and the punishment of Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 21:15).

7. To aid in the transmission of God's Word. Hebrews 2:2, speaking of the Mosaic Law, calls it "the message spoken through angels." Somehow, angels were involved in the process of Moses receiving the law on Sinai, revealing yet another purpose of angels.

God uses angels any way He chooses. Because we hardly know anything about a world outside our physical universe, we cannot possibly understand all the purposes angels fulfill. But Christians have the confidence that God's holy angels stand ready to protect and deliver God's mortal children (Psalm 91:11). While angels are created beings, as we are, and should never be worshiped, we can thank the Lord for them and the unseen ways. He uses them to impact our lives.



Weekly Gatherings

Bible Classes

Old & New Testament Classes
Ladies Class
Young Adults Young Parents
Youth Surge
Sunday Morning @ 9:30AM

Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM Men's Bible Study
1st and 3rd Saturday
Women of Grace | 9AM
Wednesdays | 6:30PM AWANA

Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM
Please check church website
for start date and directions to each

Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team
and need to sign up, please contact the
team leader at the appropriate email
address on the back of this bulletin.

Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM
Youth Study & Surge!

Service Times

Sunday Services 8AM & 11:00AM
Sunday School 9:30AM
Children's Church @11:00AM

Giving from service on 08/27/2023

General Offering	13,551.13
Building Fund	3,240.00
Uganda Missions	175.00
Benevolence	300.00

Total.....\$17,266.13
Attendance 256
Online.....28

Build the Body Ministries

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org
Maintenance-maintenance@ghbcva.org
Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org
Communications-communications@ghbcva.org
Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org
Security-security@ghbcva.org



Grace Harvest
Baptist Church
go • gather • grow • go



ghbcva.org | 804.561.3742
9821 South Redfield Drive, Amelia, VA 23002

Grace Harvest Baptist Church

Sept 3, 2023

Welcome