

Remnant Life Church
September 16, 2018
Angels – pt. 4
What They Do
Eph 2:4-7

What Angels Do

1. Angels worship God
2. Angels protect us
3. Angels help guide us through their actions and messages
4. Angels Strengthen Us
5. Angel's Fight with Us
 - a. Notice I did not say fight FOR us...
 - b. An important question – Fight what?
 - i. A tremendous amount of time and effort over the last 40 years or so has been spent on preaching, teaching, and writing on spiritual warfare
 1. SW has become such a broad term that its definition has become difficult to determine for most Christians
 2. Make no mistake – we are in a battle everyday against the plans of the enemy to discourage us and make us question who God says we are in Him
 3. But what is most important is that we carefully examine the Scripture to avoid building a philosophy, an argument, or a doctrine based on one or two verses
 - c. **READ: 2 Cor 10:4** - *The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.*
 - i. It is this word “strongholds” that has become the focus for much of the teaching on spiritual warfare and how we must battle against them and tear them down
 - ii. The thing is, this is the only time this word is found in the Bible – one time
 - iii. The word for stronghold – ACHK-hoo-rah-mah
 1. The literal interpretation – castle or fortress
 2. A figurative usage (in this verse) – anything on which one relies – holds onto for safety
 3. We should pray against the plans and schemes of the enemy but...
 4. Paul's point here is that we demolish anything that we rely on other than God
 5. It is not against demonic principalities within the spiritual realm that we are called to battle with but the things of our lives that separate us from God
 - d. In fact, none of the NT scriptures about warfare and battles are against spiritual powers
 - i. **James 4:1-2** - *What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have,*

so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God.

1. Some translations say wars and fights instead of fights and quarrels
 2. These battles are against the lusts and desires of the flesh, not spiritual entities
- ii. **1 Peter 2:11** - *Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul.*
1. Again, the battle is within our hearts and souls
 2. Not somewhere in the cosmos
- iii. **2 Tim 2:3** - *Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus*
1. Again, not a fight against the demonic
 2. Paul is calling Timothy to stand firm in the battles of life
- iv. **READ: Eph 6:12** - *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*
1. This verse, perhaps more than any other, has been used to focus our attention on evil angels (demons) in the spiritual realm
 2. But when read within the full context of the chapter, and the armor of God, you see that it is about battling against the temptations of life as the battle that must be won
- v. While we do pray against the enemy Scripture does not call or assign us to pull down strongholds of the spiritual world
1. We are called to defeat the strongholds of the mind, the flesh, and the temptations we face in our day-to-day lives
 2. The fight in the heavenlies is not ours to fight but we HAVE been given the authority to be victorious in what we deal with right here
- vi. Ever wonder why so many of the most well-known leaders of Christian movements and revivals will often fail so catastrophically – morally, financially?
1. It is because their focus remains where it should not
 2. Screaming against satan and demons is showy, draws people attention, brings in crowds, and generates lots of book sales and income
 3. But the Bible does not call us to that – it calls us to be men and women of integrity, character, wisdom, kindness, mercy, and love
 1. **Phil 4:8** - *Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.*
 2. Think about such things – think is not just allow it into your mind – it means to dwell, determine and decide (for action)
 4. In other words – living victoriously!
- e. How is it possible for us to live victoriously?
- f. **READ: Eph 2:4-7** - *But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us*

with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

- i. We are seated with Him in authority not to wage war against spiritual principalities but to show His grace in our lives
- ii. Kenneth Hagin, Sr – “Our position as the church is a position of authority, honor, and triumph – not failure, depression, and defeat.”
- iii. Christian – you must live believing in that authority
- iv. NOTE – while God will send angels to fight with us they do not come to solve our problems for us
 1. God’s will determines our situations
 2. Most often it is ours to walk through trusting in Him

6. Angels Execute God’s Judgement

- a. Angels have in the past, continue today, and will in the future carry out the judgements of God
 - i. **Gen 19** – angels announced God’s judgement on Sodom and Gomorrah
 - ii. **I Chon 21** – one angel stretched out his sword over Jerusalem and 70,000 men of Israel died of a plague
 - iii. **2 Kings 19** – Hezekiah prayed for deliverance and a single warring angel of God killed 185,000 soldiers of the Assyrian army
 1. This was after the King of the Assyrian army boasted that God could save them (**2 Chron 32:17**)
 2. Fear of God!
 - iv. **READ: Acts 12:19b-24** - *Then Herod went from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there. He had been quarreling with the people of Tyre and Sidon; they now joined together and sought an audience with him. After securing the support of Blastus, a trusted personal servant of the king, they asked for peace, because they depended on the king’s country for their food supply. On the appointed day Herod, wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people. They shouted, “This is the voice of a god, not of a man.” Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died. But the word of God continued to spread and flourish.*
 1. No fear of God
 2. **Gal 6:7-8** - *Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.*
- v. All of this pales, however, with the end-time judgements that the angels will carry out on God’s instruction
 1. In **Rev 4** and **5** all of the angelic hosts join in a massive praise and worship service to God crying Holy and Worthy!

2. Then, beginning in chapter 6, the wrath of God is poured out and is carried out by the angels of judgement
 - vi. These same angels will then accompany our Lord Jesus Christ in His triumphal return
 - vii. An angel of judgement will bring the final end to evil and sin
 1. **Rev 20:1-3;10** - *And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time... And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*
 - b. Angels bring the judgement of God against sin and ultimately against satan
 - i. REMEMBER – the battles of our lives will continue but the war has been won!
- Angels play an important role in our lives as Christians as long as we know what they do and what they don't do