



SAVED TO SERVE
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THE MINISTRY OF ANGELS

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will study the ministry of angels. It is important for us to understand who angels are and what their ministry is or else we will be deceived in these last days.

2. Who are angels?

a) Psalm 8:4-5 _____

b) Psalm 104:4 _____

3. What does it mean to “minister”? **Answer:** According to the dictionary, to minister means to attend to the needs of someone.

4. What is the work of the angels?

a) Hebrews 1:13-14

b) Psalm 103:20

c) Revelation 1:1; 19:10

d) Psalm 34:7; 91:11-12

e) Revelation 7:1-3

f) Revelation 14:15-20; Matthew 25:31-32

“Every man’s work passes in review before God and is registered for faithfulness or unfaithfulness. **Opposite each name in the books of heaven is entered with terrible exactness every wrong word, every selfish act, every unfulfilled duty, and every secret sin, with every artful dissembling.** Heaven-sent warnings or reproofs neglected, wasted moments, unimproved opportunities, the influence exerted for good or for evil, with its far-reaching results, **all are chronicled by the recording angel.**”
{GC 482.1}

5. What are some examples of angels protecting humans and delivering God’s messages to them? Genesis 19:1-16; Revelation 1:1

6. How many of us have guardian angels? Matthew 18:10 _____

“**A guardian angel is appointed to every follower of Christ. These heavenly watchers shield the righteous from the power of the wicked one.** This Satan himself recognized when he said: “Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not Thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side?” Job 1:9, 10. The agency by which God protects His people is presented in the words of the psalmist: “The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them.” Psalm 34:7. Said the Saviour, speaking of those that believe in Him: “Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of My Father.” Matthew 18:10. The angels appointed to minister

to the children of God have at all times access to His presence.” {GC 512.2}

7. **Note:** Not all angels are good or righteous. There are also evil angels. Let us confirm this from scripture.
8. Where did the wicked angels come from, and where are they now? Revelation 12:7-9; Jude 6; 2 Peter 2:4

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9. What caused Satan and the evil angels to fall from heaven? Isaiah 14:12-14
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“Leaving his place in the immediate presence of the Father, Lucifer went forth to diffuse the spirit of discontent among the angels. He worked with mysterious secrecy, and for a time concealed his real purpose under an appearance of reverence for God. **He began to insinuate doubts concerning the laws that governed heavenly beings, intimating that though laws might be necessary for the inhabitants of the worlds, angels, being more exalted, needed no such restraint, for their own wisdom was a sufficient guide.** They were not beings that could bring dishonor to God; all their thoughts were holy; it was no more possible for them than for God Himself to err. The exaltation of the Son of God as equal with the Father was represented as an injustice to Lucifer, who, it was claimed, was also entitled to reverence and honor. If this prince of angels could but attain to his true, exalted position, great good would accrue to the entire host of heaven; for it was his object to secure freedom for all. But now even the liberty which they had hitherto enjoyed was at an end; for an absolute Ruler had been appointed them, and to His authority all must pay homage. Such were the subtle deceptions that through the wiles of Lucifer were fast obtaining in the heavenly courts.” {PP 37.1}

10. **Note:** Hebrews 1:13, 14 & Psalm 104:4 told us that angels are ministers. The word “minister” also refers to pastors and religious leaders of churches. So since we see that there are good angels and evil angels, then there must also be true ministers and false ministers.

11. What does 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 tell us about the ability of Satan and his evil angels?
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12. If evil angels can transform into angels of light and also into ministers, what is one way that we can discern false ministers? Isaiah 8:20
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13. **Note:** How else can we discern true ministers from false ministers? To answer this question, we are going to look back at the scriptures which explained the work of the heavenly angels and then we will make the present day application. See scriptures below.

- A. Hebrews 1:13, 14 - True ministers will assist people to get to heaven; they will be involved in aggressive evangelism.
- B. Psalm 103:20 - True ministers will teach, preach, and live out all of the principles in the ten commandments.
- C. Revelation 1:1; 19:10 - True ministers emphasize and share the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy.
- D. Psalm 34:7; 91:11,12 - True ministers teach that God will provide and protect those who fear Him (depart from evil).
- E. Revelation 7:1-3 - True ministers will emphasize the sealing message and that God’s people must get victory over sin.
- F. Revelation 14:15-20 - True ministers will teach that harvest time (2nd Coming of Jesus) is imminent and will keep before the people the event that precedes the 2nd Coming of Jesus which is the Mark of the Beast Crisis.
- G. GC 482.1 - True ministers will keep before the people that we are living in the judgment hour where all of our actions are being chronicled.

14. **Note:** When Satan came to tempt Christ in the wilderness, he came as an angel of light. See Desire of Ages 118.2. Christ couldn’t trust the evidences of His senses to determine whether the angel was from heaven or not; Jesus unmasked Satan as the deceiver because of his words of doubt (See Matthew 4:3 - “If Thou be the Son of God”). So when demons come to personate people in these last days, we can know that they are false if their words contradict the Word of God and if we understand the state of the dead. Read *The Great Controversy*, the chapters entitled, *Can Our Dead Speak To Us* and *The Time Of Trouble*.

“Only those who have been diligent students of the Scriptures and who have received the love of the truth will be shielded from the powerful delusion that takes the world captive. By the Bible testimony these will detect the deceiver in his disguise. To all the testing time will come. By the sifting of temptation the genuine Christian will be revealed. **Are the people of God now so firmly established upon His word that they would not yield to the evidence of their senses?** Would they, in such a crisis, cling to the Bible and the Bible only? **Satan will, if possible, prevent them from obtaining a preparation to stand in that day. He will so arrange affairs as to hedge up their way, entangle them with earthly treasures, cause them to carry a heavy, wearisome burden, that their hearts may be overcharged with the cares of this life and the day of trial may come upon them as a thief.**” {GC 625.3}

15. How can we receive protection by the heavenly angels? Psalm 34:7; 91:1, 2; Matthew 6:6

“Said the angel, “List ye!” Soon I heard a voice like many musical instruments all sounding in perfect strains, sweet and harmonious. It surpassed any music I had ever heard, seeming to be full of mercy, compassion, and elevating, holy joy. It thrilled through my whole being. Said the angel, “Look ye!” **My attention was then turned to the company I had seen, who were mightily shaken. I was shown those whom I had before seen weeping and praying in agony of spirit. The company of guardian angels around them had been doubled, and they were clothed with an armor from their head to their feet. They moved in exact order, like a company of soldiers. Their countenances expressed the severe conflict which they had endured, the agonizing struggle they had passed through. Yet their features, marked with severe internal anguish, now shone with the light and glory of heaven. They had obtained the victory, and it called forth from them the deepest gratitude and holy, sacred joy.**” {EW 270.4}

16. When will we fully understand the ministry of the heavenly angels on our behalf? See quotation.

“Not until the providences of God are seen in the light of eternity shall we understand what we owe to the care and interposition of His angels. Celestial beings have taken an active part in the affairs of men. They have appeared in garments that shone as the lightning; they have come as men, in the garb of wayfarers. They have accepted the hospitalities of human homes; they have acted as guides to benighted travelers. They have thwarted the spoiler’s purpose and turned aside the stroke of the destroyer.” {ED 304.4}

“Every redeemed one will understand the ministry of angels in his own life. The angel who was his guardian from his earliest moment; the angel who watched his steps, and covered his head in the day of peril; the angel who was with him in the valley of the shadow of death, who marked his resting place, who was the first to greet him in the resurrection morning —**what will it be to hold converse with him, and to learn the history of divine interposition in the individual life, of heavenly co-operation in every work for humanity!**” {ED 305.2}