

Angels

I. Introduction —

A. Respect God's silence. (Dt 29.29; Pr 30.6; 2 Jn 9; Rev 22.18-19)

B. Dangers:

1. Speculation. (Rom 1.21-22; 2 Cor 10.5; Col 2.18-19; 1 Tim 1.3-4; 2 Tim 2.23)
2. Tradition. (Mt 15.9; Col 2.8)
3. Emotion.

II. Angels are *created* beings. (Ps 148.1-6; cf. Col 1.16)

A. But before creation week. (Job 38.4-7)

B. Angels are not Creator; i.e. not God, deity, divine, etc.

1. Not omnipresent.
2. Not omnipotent.
3. Not omniscient. (1 Pet 1.12; Mt 24.36)

C. Not to be worshiped. (Col 2.18; cf. iconology)

III. Angels are *above us*. (Heb 2.7)

A. They are not under our control, subject to our wills, etc.

1. They are not our equals, with whom we can take liberties.

B. They are God's servants. (Mt 26.53; Ps 103.19-21)

1. By definition, "ministering spirits" (Heb 1.14).

C. But they have the power of choice, and can choose sin. (2 Pet 2.4; cf. Mt 25.41)

IV. Do we have *guardian angels*?

A. Yes, angels guard and protect God's people. (e.g. Gen 19.1ff; Num 22.31-35; 1 Kgs 19.5-8; 2 Kgs 6.14-17; Dan 6.22; Mt 18.10; Ac 5.19; 12.7ff; 27.23)

B. But *personal/individual*?

1. Traditional views: birth-assigned protector; at personal disposal, can be loaned; good and evil, i.e. conscience.
2. Supposed passages, answered:
 - a) Heb 1.14 — no individualization, no personal control, answer to God.
 - b) Mt 18.10 — collective, not individual; “little ones who believe in Me” (v 6)
 - c) Ac 12.13-16 — “angel” = spirit; it was not God who said this; where was “his [guardian] angel” earlier (v 11)?
3. Problems with “guardian angel” concept:
 - a) Where was _____ guardian angel? (e.g. Stephen, Ac 7)
 - b) Good/evil conscience? (Mt 7.13-14)
 - c) More than Scriptures? (Gal 1.6-9; 2 Pet 1.3; Jude 3; 2 Tim 3.16-17)
 - d) Angels are *God’s* servants, not ours; they answer to *Him*, not to us.

V. Conclusion —

- A. Respect God’s silence; do not take liberties with angels or with God’s word.
- B. Do not loose nor bind; i.e. broaden or restrict angels’ work.
- C. Be prepared... (Lk 16.22)