

Difficult Texts In The Bible

Ministering Spirits

(He 1:14)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Afternoon
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons on the "Difficult Texts In The Bible."
 - a. We've looked at a number of these. Last week we examined what the brackets mean ie **Mk 16:9-20**.
 - b. This week we are going to be examining angels and in particular **He 1:14**.
 - i. **He 1:14** "Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?"
3. Angels have been a fascinating subject for many for years.
 - a. The reason for this is the shroud of uncertainty concerning them.
 - b. This is usually based on the false assumption there is not that much written about them, however there is quite a bit.
 - i. Case-in-point is Hebrews one where we have an entire chapter of information concerning angels.
 - ii. The chapter however is not dedicated to angels but rather to Jesus.
4. Concerning **He 1:14**.
 - a. This verse has captivated many and lead many to believe some false ideas concerning angels.
 - b. People want to know "how angels minister to the saints?"
4. Let us look at our text now...

I. Remember The Context

- A. First this is the longest chapter written about angels
 1. No other chapter in the Bible has this much information about angels in one place.
- B. The point of the chapter is not to give information about angels but to contrast Jesus and angels showing Jesus is superior
 1. The writers intent is not one of simply giving us insight into angels.
- C. Jesus is greater than angels because...
 1. He has a more excellent name (**1:5**).
 - i. Son is better than messenger anytime.
 2. He is worshiped by angels (**1:6**).
 - i. He who is worshiped is greater than he who worships.
 3. He is called God (**1:8**).
 - i. Nuff said.
 4. He was anointed above his companions (**1:9**).
 - i. Angels were not anointed by God but Jesus was.
 5. He was the creator not the created (**1:10**).
 - i. The Creator is always greater than the created.
 6. He is eternal (**1:12**).
 - i. Once again angels were created they have not always been.

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7. He is sitting at the right hand of God (**1:13**).
 - i. Nothing created can or will do this. Jesus is God.

II. Breaking Down The Text

A. Angels defined

1. The Greek word for angel is "ἄγγελος" or "angelos" and means...
 - i. "“a messenger” (from angello, “to deliver a message”), sent whether by God or by man or by Satan" (Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W. (1996). Vol. 2: Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (26). Nashville, TN: T. Nelson.)

B. Ministering spirits

1. The Greek word for minister is "λειτουργικός" or "leitourgikos" and means...
 - i. "relating to the performance of service, employed in ministering" (Thayer, J. H. (1889). A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: Being Grimm's Wilke's Clavis Novi Testamenti (376). New York: Harper & Brothers.)
 - ii. This word has the same root as deacon which means servant.
2. The purpose of angels is to perform services.
 - i. They ministered to...
 - a. Jesus in the garden.
 1. **Lk 22:43** "Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him."
 - b. Children
 1. **Mt 18:10** "Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven."
 - c. The righteous dead
 1. **Lk 16:22** "So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried."
 - d. All the dead by gathering them
 1. **Mt 13:41** "The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness"
 2. **Mt 24:31** "And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."
3. Angels are spirits not flesh
 - i. This means they are not in our "dimension" but rather in the spiritual realm.
 - a. **Ep 6:12** "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."
 - ii. They can manifest themselves as man sometimes, taking the form of, but they are not man.

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4. Angels are to "render" service to those that shall inherit salvation.
 - i. I will not begin by saying we can know the totality of this verse. However we can know what God has given us to know.
 - a. Angels render service by...
 1. Watching over children.
 - i. This doesn't mean we have guardian angels in the since that people use it today.
 - ii. Angels cannot perform miracles today which is what is meant by guardian angel now-a-days.
 2. Taking faithful Christians who are dead to Paradise.
 - i. What a comforting thought.
 3. By assisting God through providence.
 - i. God does not perform miracles today (**I Co 13:9-10; Ja 1:25**) but He does providentially take care of us ie through natural means (**Pl 15**).
 - ii. **Pl 15** "For perhaps he departed for a while for this purpose, that you might receive him forever"
- C. When all is said and done...
 1. What we know is what we have been given.
 - i. **Ro 8:28** "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

CONCLUSION

1. So do angels minister to Christians...yes...do we know how completely...no.
 - a. I'm glad however that they do because I know they work for our great and awesome God doing His will and His will is always going to be for our benefit.
2. Invitation¹
 - a. God's Plan of Salvation
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**

¹ Brother Jimmy Jividen & his sermon "Are They (Angels) Not All Ministering Spirits?" was a great help in the development of this outline.