

Angelic Oddities

Angels are a very popular subject. The Bible mentions angels more than 200 times and has quite a bit to say about them. Despite their popularity, though, much of what the Bible has to say about them is ignored. A lot of the popular common knowledge about angels is actually wrong. For example, all of the angels in the Bible are men (there is no mention of any female angels), and no angels sang at Christ's birth. I realize that everyone "knows" that angels sang when Christ was born, but the Bible is clear that they actually didn't. Take a look for yourself:

Luke 2:10: "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host **praising God, and saying,**

14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

The angels *said* "Glory to God in the highest". They didn't sing it. "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" is a great song, but it's not Biblically accurate.

My aim is not to make an exhaustive list of everything that the Bible has to say about angels, but instead to mention a few bits of information that tend to get overlooked. For example, **angels have a sense of curiosity:**

1 Peter 1:12: “Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; **which things the angels desire to look into.**”

The angels are quite interested in our salvation! That subject grabs their attention. This makes sense if you think about it, because salvation was only given to mankind. When the devil fell and brought down many angels with him, God did *not* launch a plan of salvation for angels. It is impossible for fallen angels to be saved because Christ became a man died for the sins of *men*. He did not become an angel and die for the sins of angels. Since the angels do not have a redeemer, all of the angels who have sinned are lost forever with no hope of salvation. (Now, I am not saying that demons *want* to be saved; what I am saying is that salvation is impossible for them.)

This means that salvation is an experience that no angel will ever have. The gospel is only for mankind, and the angels are curious about it.

The angels are also **interested in the apostles**:

1 Corinthians 4:9: “For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, **and to angels**, and to men.”

Paul points out that the apostles are a spectacle to the world, to men, *and to angels*. Since the angels are interested in the gospel, it only makes sense that they are interested in the ministers that God appointed to preach the gospel. Even though God used the apostles in mighty ways, the apostles were despised, persecuted, abused, and (in many cases) executed. These church leaders (who, incidentally, were appointed by Jesus Christ Him-

self) were set forth as being the least, appointed unto death.

Before Jesus was crucified He warned His disciples about this. He told them that “he that is greatest among you shall be your servant” (Matthew 23:11), and He warned them that the highest positions of authority in the kingdom were purchased through immense pain and suffering (Matthew 20:22). Serving God in an ungodly world was not going to be easy. The apostles were made a spectacle to everyone – including angels.

The Bible also tells us that one day **we will judge angels**:

1 Corinthians 6:3: “Know ye not that **we shall judge angels**? how much more things that pertain to this life?”

Some people have tried to argue that this verse is talking about human messengers, not angelic beings. However, the whole point Paul is making is that since we will one day judge *angels* then surely we can judge matters between fellow Christians!

I believe Paul is saying that one day we will be given authority over the angels. Christ said in Revelation 3:21 that “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne”. Christ certainly has authority over the angels; if He is going to share that authority with us then that would confirm the idea that one day we will rule over them.

Another odd fact is that apparently there is **angelic food**. When the psalmist talked about Israel’s journey from Egypt to Canaan he said this:

Psalms 78:24: “And had rained down manna upon them to eat, and had given them of the corn of heaven.

25 Man did eat angels’ food: he sent them meat to the full.”

Do the angels really eat food, or is the psalmist just being poetic? It’s hard to say based on just that one passage, but there is

also the curious experience of Elijah:

1 Kings 19:5: “And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then **an angel touched him**, and said unto him, **Arise and eat.**

6 And he looked, and, behold, **there was a cake baked on the coals**, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again.

7 And the angel of the Lord came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee.

8 And he arose, and did eat and drink, and **went in the strength of that meat forty days** and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God.”

While Elijah was sleeping, an angel cooked him a meal that was so potent that it not only revived him, but it gave him enough energy to travel for 40 days and nights! That angelic food was incredibly powerful.

We’re not done yet though. The apostle Paul tells us that the Mosaic Law was **ordained by angels**:

Galatians 3:19: “Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and **it was ordained by angels** in the hand of a mediator.”

This seems rather astonishing, but it’s not the only place we find this idea in the Bible. Paul is echoing what Stephen told the Pharisees right before he was killed:

Acts 7:52: “Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them

which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:

53 Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it."

In other words, the angels were actually involved in giving the Law to mankind! They played a role that is rarely talked about.

There is one more point that I'd like to bring up, and I have saved the strangest one for last. Paul says that **women should keep their heads covered in church** because of the angels:

1 Corinthians 11:10: "For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head **because of the angels.**"

I don't think that Paul is talking about messengers between churches or anything like that; I think he really does mean angels. There is more going on here than it seems.

As we mentioned earlier in our discussion on Tartarus, in the days before the Flood there was a time when some angels became enraptured with the beauty of human women and had children with them (Genesis 6:1-2). This, however, was an awful sin, and God imprisoned the angels who did this (Jude 1:6; II Peter 2:4). Angels are not permitted to marry women – but as odd as it may seem, some angels actually find women tempting. I think that Paul is saying that when women wear hats (or some other symbol of authority) they remind the angels that they are under authority and are not available.

I know this seems strange, but we often forget that angels can be tempted by sin. The fact that one third of all angels chose to join Satan's rebellion (Rev. 12:4) is a sober reminder that even angels can fall into sin – and once they fall there is no going back. We can obtain forgiveness through Christ, but angels cannot.

