

How Good Angels Affect You

What role do good angels play in our lives? Do they affect only Christians or everyone?

1. Observe carefully this passage and discern one role of good angels.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." (Matt 1:20, NIV)

2. What do you observe here?

Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. "Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people all about this new life." (Acts 5:17-20, NIV)

3. Carefully read these two passages. What do you perceive of "the one who looked like a man?"

Again the one who looked like a man touched me and gave me strength. "Do not be afraid, you who are highly esteemed," he said. "Peace! Be strong now; be strong."

When he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, "Speak, my lord, since you have given me strength."

So he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? Soon I will return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I go, the prince of Greece will come; but first I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. No one supports me against them except Michael, your prince. (Dan 10:18-21, NIV)

See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven. (Matt 18:10, NIV)

4. What does this tell you about angels?

"Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (Luke 15:8-10, NIV)

5. When Elijah was exhausted running from Jezebel and her threat to take his life, what do you see a good angel doing?

Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, while he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, LORD," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again. (1 Ki 19:3-6, NIV)

6. What function do you see good angels do here? What happens at the end of human history?

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. (Acts 23:21-23, NIV)

"Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Matt 13:47-50, NIV)

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Teacher Notes

What role do good angels play in our lives? Do they affect only Christians or everyone?

1. Observe carefully this passage and discern one role of good angels.

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Ask the student what he observes here. Do you pray to angels?

Good angels bring divine messages from God to guide Christians to the truth or appropriate action. For example, an angel validated Mary's claim of her virginity to Joseph, and indicated what his son should be named – Yahweh is salvation.

You should pray to God the Father in the name of Jesus and not to angels.

2. What do you observe here?

Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. "Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people all about this new life." (Acts 5:17-20, NIV)

Encourage the student to share all that he observes. Are good angels working on their own based on what they see?

Good angels are used to answer prayers, and rescue Believers from physical harm. This is one example of many found throughout the Bible; but, good angels act under the direction of God. In this example, the apostles were freed to preach the gospel.

3. Carefully read these two passages. What do you perceive of "the one who looked like a man?"

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Ask the student to share his observations. Remind him that the more he observes the less he has to interpret. It is important to bear in mind that all interpretations must be well grounded.

While it is not entirely clear, good serve as guardians over children and the nation of Israel. The Bible is not specific how this guardianship is assigned or exercised, but good angels do protect Christians.

Ask the student: could bad things still happen to Believers?

The answer is yes despite angelic protection; however, with our sovereign Lord, nothing outside His will could happen.

4. What does this tell you about angels?

“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” (Luke 15:8-10, NIV)

Ask the student: what observations do you make of good angels? Do they have emotion?

Good angels witness how Christians live their lives especially in the service and worship of God. There are some activities that elicit an emotional response from angels such as rejoicing when one human being is saved.

5. When Elijah was exhausted running from Jezebel and her threat to take his life, what do you see a good angel doing?

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The background here is that Elijah is depressed realizing that people would not change despite the spectacular reality of God’s power on Mount Carmel (“I am no better than my ancestors”). But God sent a good angel to serve by ministering and encouraging him. Elijah would soon learn that God works in less obvious ways besides the spectacular.

6. What function do you see good angels do here? What happens at the end of human history?

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Take the time to understand what is happening in the passages. How do angels affect non-Believers?

Good angels carry out and execute God’s judgment.