

3 • Angel Activity in the New Testament

In our first lesson we learned that angels are **created spirit servants of God** (Heb 1:13-14). Alright, but *how* do they serve? What sort of things do they *do*? Where in the Bible can we see them sent out to serve? We went searching in our last lesson for angel activity in the Old Testament. What about the New Testament?



- 🕒 Gabriel appears to Zechariah and promises a son to be named John (Luke 1:8-25)
 - 🕒 Gabriel appears to Mary and promises a son to be named Jesus (Luke 1:26-38)
- 🕒 An angel delivers messages to Joseph (Matt 1:20; 2:13, 19)
 - 🕒 An angel announces the birth of the Christ to a group of shepherds (Luke 2:9-15)
- 🕒 Angels come and minister to Jesus after his temptations (Matt 4:6-11)
 - 🕒 Jesus tells Nathanael that he will see the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man (John 1:51)
- 🕒 An angel strengthens Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:43)
 - 🕒 Jesus asks, "Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?" (Matt 26:53)
- 🕒 An angel rolls back the stone of Jesus' tomb, sits on it, and announces good news (Matt 28:2-7)
 - 🕒 An angel opens the prison doors and releases the apostles (Acts 5:19)
- 🕒 An angel tells Philip where to go to meet the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26)
 - 🕒 An angel tells Cornelius to send for Peter in Joppa (Acts 10:3)
- 🕒 An angel makes Peter's chains fall off in prison and leads him out (Acts 12:7-11)
 - 🕒 An angel strikes down Herod Agrippa I (Acts 12:20-23)
- 🕒 An angel appears to Paul in a storm, tells him not to be afraid and that he will stand before Caesar (Acts 27:13-26)

In our last lesson, we'll dig a little deeper into the "So what?" big picture. For now, let's just think together through the angel activity we've seen in the New Testament. Clearly, we have a whole lot to talk about. Have your Bible open and ready? **Let's dive in...**

For Class & Family Discussion:

- As you look at that long list of angel activity in the New Testament, think about some of those action words. How did angels serve? What sort of things did angels do? We heard words like *promise, announce, message, minister, strengthen, open, lead, and strike*. What should we learn from that? What can we know about angels using the New Testament?
- We even heard a name for one of those angels. Gabriel. Can we find Gabriel anywhere else in the Bible? Let's notice specifically what he says about himself in **Luke 1:19**. What can we know about Gabriel?
- Can we know the name of any other angels? What about the one in **Jude 9** and **Revelation 12:7**? What do you think an "archangel" is? One other time, we read about an "archangel," and that's in **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**. Putting all of that together, what can we know?
- Thinking through those passages about Jesus and angels... how do they relate to each other? Who is greater? Who serves whom? What can we learn from that?
- We briefly heard Jesus say something very interesting to Nathanael in **John 1**. Let's go back and read **John 1:43-51** together. What do you think Jesus meant in **1:51**?
- How would you describe what these angels were doing in scenes like **Acts 8:26** and **10:3**? Is there anything we can learn from that?
- What's something you noticed from that long list about angel activity in the New Testament that you hadn't noticed before?
- What are angels? **Angels are created spirit servants of God** that show up all over the Old and New Testament. Next week, we'll bring it all to a close by looking at the "So what?" big picture...