

Angels After Christmas

Matthew 2:11-20

Matthew 2:11-20

11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.

12 And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

13 And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.

Matthew 2:11-20 - continued

14 When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:

15 And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.

16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men.

Matthew 2:11-20 - continued

17 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying,

18 In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.

19 But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,

20 Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life.

Introduction

A. Christmas renews interest in angels

B. Biblical facts about angels

1. Created beings who do not marry or reproduce

Mark 12:25

For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven.

2. People do not become angels at death

3. They are masculine in appearance

Acts 1:10

And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel

Introduction

B. Biblical facts about angels – continued

4. They have masculine names

5. They are messengers of God ministering to believers

Hebrews 1:14

Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

6. They are not all-knowing

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.

Introduction

C. Angels are active reporters of the birth of Christ
Luke 2:10-11

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.

I. They Were Protectors (2:11-13)

A. Herod had told the wise men to report their findings to him

Matthew 2:8

And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

1. He wanted to destroy Jesus

2. The wise men were warned to depart another way

2 Corinthians 2:11

Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

I. They Were Protectors (2:11-13)

B. An angel told Joseph to flee into Egypt

1. This event is Exodus in reverse

2. This event was to fulfill the Scripture

Hosea 11:1

When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.

Hebrews 4:15

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

C. Angels protect those who trust the Savior today

II. They Were Directors (2:19-20)

- A. After Herod died, it was safe to return**
- B. Joseph had to be notified**
 - 1. An angel appeared to him in a dream**
 - 2. This situation was similar to the announcement to Joseph of Christ's coming birth**

II. They Were Directors (2:19-20)

C. Angels have often directed believers who needed God's guidance

- 1. Angels directed Lot to depart from doomed Sodom (Genesis 19)**
- 2. And angel directed Daniel concerning coming prophetic events**

Daniel 8:16

And I heard a man's voice between the banks of Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision.

II. They Were Directors (2:19-20)

D. The direction of angels is always consistent with the Word of God

Psalm 103:20

Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.

Galatians 1:8

But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

III. They Were Encouragers

Matthew 4:11

Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

A. Angels encouraged Jesus following His encounter with Satan

- 1. His temptation in the desert had left Him drained and strained**
- 2. Even Jesus needed encouragement**

III. They Were Encouragers

B. We can do same work that angels do

1 Peter 4:10-11

10 As every man hath received the gift, *even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

11 If any man speak, *let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

IV. They Were Announcers

A. They were not summoned to the cross

Matthew 26:53

Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?

IV. They Were Announcers

B. Their responsibility was to announce Christ's resurrection and return

Matthew 28:5-6

5 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

IV. They Were Announcers

B. Their responsibility was to announce Christ's resurrection and return - continued

Acts 1:11

Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

**We are also to make these great
announcements to the world**