



The Angels' Plea For Peace

Luke 2:9-14

Angels

- Angels appear in more than half of the books of the Bible, with over 300 total references.
- Angels have three primary responsibilities:
 - They magnify God.
 - They are messengers of God.
 - They minister to people.
- Most of the time angels are not seen; they minister invisibly behind the scenes.
- When angels do appear, they often look just like humans.



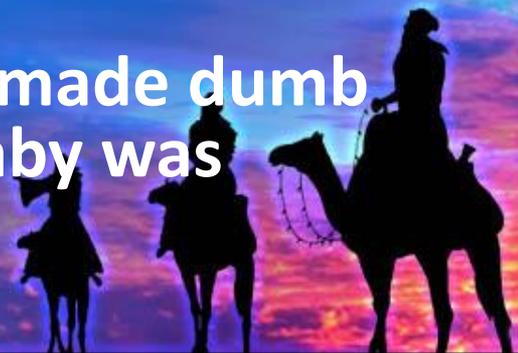
Angels (continued)

- Angels appear suddenly to ordinary people doing ordinary things.
- Angels cause people to be afraid.
- Angels are never to be adored.
- Good angels never draw attention to themselves.
- When Biblical angels discharge their duty and deliver their tidings, they withdraw from human contact.
- Angels are not to be prayed to.
- Angels were present with Jesus:
 - At His Temptation
 - In the Garden of Gethsemane
 - At His Resurrection
 - At His Ascension
 - And will accompany Him at His Second Advent



Denied and Doubted

- The first appearance of an angel in the gospel accounts takes place in the opening verses of Luke when Gabriel appears to Zechariah.
- Even though Zechariah had been praying for a child, and even though he was a priest he denied and he doubted.
- The angel described what kind of person John would be as well as his purpose.
- Because of his doubts, Zechariah was made dumb and was not able to speak until the baby was born.



Not Sure But Surrendered

- Gabriel appeared to a virgin named Mary six months after visiting Zechariah.
- Mary was told that she would be pregnant and give birth to a son and she was to give him the name Jesus.
- While Zechariah denied and doubted, Mary was simply not sure how all this would happen.
- Mary responded with the heart of a servant.



Accepted and Acted

- Joseph needed some divine intervention after he found out Mary was pregnant.
- Because Joseph was a righteous man, he determined to end the engagement.
- Joseph received a visit from an unnamed angel who gave him a glimpse of the glory of the child.
- Joseph had two more encounters with angels and accepted the messages and acted on them.



Believed and Broadcasted

- The final exhibit of angelic intervention took place in the fields around Bethlehem.
- In the midst of the shepherd's mundane work, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared.
- The shepherds watched as heaven opened up and literally saw an entire militia of messengers, hundreds and thousands of angelic warriors worshipping God.
- Peace comes only after praising.
- The shepherds discussed what they should do and were unanimous in their decision to head to Bethlehem.
- The shepherds became messengers of the message they had received from the angel.
- There are angels everywhere and they are still doing God's work today.



Conclusion

- Angels do not understand everything about redemption because they cannot experience it.
- Study the Scriptures and be open to the supernatural.
- Christmas must become personal.
- Heaven is open now, but it will not stay that way forever.
- We are called to believe and broadcast the good news.
- “We” are now the messengers of the manger story.

