

## Sermon Handout

### Angels in Acts

#### Acts 12:5-11

### I. Background

- a. Angels in Luke/Acts – 44 occurrences (21 in Acts, 23 in Luke)  
Compared to Mt 19x; Mk 5x; Jn 4x; Heb 13x  
Angel “of the Lord” or “of God” 7 times (one is implied)
- b. They do not die and are celibate Lk 20:36
- c. They are called “ministering spirits” Heb 1:14
- d. There are differing categories of angels, but all are “ministers”  
Messengers, Archangels, Cherubim, Seraphim (*also* Christophanies)
- e. When appearing to men, they usually take the form of men Gen 19:1ff

### II. Ministering to those who are “heirs of salvation”

- a. An angel twice releases Peter from prison
  - i. Acts 5:18-20 (tells P & J to “speak the words of this life”)
  - ii. Acts 12:7-11 (*see also* Phil 16:25-26)
- b. Guide the work of evangelism
  - i. Philip 8:26, 29, 39 (sending him/removing him)
  - ii. Involved in Cornelius’ salvation 10:3, 7, 22; 11:13
- c. Execute judgment against idolatry 12:23 *cf.* II Kg 19:8-19, 32-37
- d. Encourage the disciples Acts 1:10; Lk 24:1-8  
“shining clothes” Acts 10:30 (*cf.* v. 3) [note: “a man,” see Ie above]
- e. The case of Stephen
  - i. “The face of an angel” 6:15 *see* Ex 25:18-20; Heb 9:3-5
  - ii. Angels active at Sinai 7:30, 35, 38, 53
- f. Assure Paul of safety in shipwreck Acts 27:23 *cf.* 23:11
- g. Protect the church, including individuals 12:15 *cf.* Mt 18:10  
Are among the congregation in corporate worship I Cor 11:10  
Cherubim at the throne Rev 4:6-8; Eze 10:9-15, 18-20 (*cf.* Is 6:1-7)

### III. A Simple, Brief Doctrine of Angels

- a. God’s celestial servants, ministering to God and men  
Their duties include assurance, direction, protection, vengeance
- b. They stand outside the “natural order” of earth (supernatural)
- c. They were involved in delivering God’s revelation (esp. the law)
- d. They continue to be present with us (esp. in corporate worship)