

ANGELIC JOY

Luke 2:8-13

Závadka, 14 December 2019

Luke 2:8-13 Καὶ ποιμένες ἦσαν ἐν τῇ χώρᾳ τῇ αὐτῇ ἀγραυλοῦντες καὶ φυλάσσοντες φυλακὰς τῆς νυκτὸς ἐπὶ τὴν ποιμνὴν αὐτῶν. ⁹ καὶ ἄγγελος κυρίου ἐπέστη αὐτοῖς καὶ δόξα κυρίου περιέλαμψεν αὐτούς, καὶ ἐφοβήθησαν φόβον μέγαν. ¹⁰ καὶ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς ὁ ἄγγελος· μὴ φοβεῖσθε, ἰδοὺ γὰρ εὐαγγελίζομαι ὑμῖν χαρὰν μεγάλην ἣτις ἔσται παντὶ τῷ λαῷ, ¹¹ ὅτι ἐτέχθη ὑμῖν σήμερον σωτὴρ ὅς ἐστιν χριστὸς κύριος ἐν πόλει Δαυίδ. ¹² καὶ τοῦτο ὑμῖν τὸ σημεῖον, εὐρήσετε βρέφος ἐσπαργανωμένον καὶ κείμενον ἐν φάτινι. ¹³ καὶ ἐξαίφνης ἐγένετο σὺν τῷ ἁγγέλῳ πλῆθος στρατιάς οὐρανοῦ αἰνούντων τὸν θεὸν καὶ λεγόντων·

Luke 2:8-13 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

כִּי מְלַאכְיָהוּ יְהוָה לְכָל־דְּרָגוֹתָיו

Psalm 91:11 For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways

Ὅρατε μὴ καταφρονήσητε ἐνὸς τῶν μικρῶν τούτων· λέγω γὰρ ὑμῖν ὅτι οἱ ἄγγελοι αὐτῶν ἐν οὐρανοῖς διὰ παντὸς βλέπουσι τὸ πρόσωπον τοῦ πατρὸς μου τοῦ ἐν οὐρανοῖς

M 18:10 "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.

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0. INTRODUCTION

0.1 WHO ARE ANGELS?

- [BAVINCK] Angels are present at the birth of Jesus (Matt. 1:20; 2:13, 19; Luke 1:11; 2:9), repeatedly in his life (John 1:51; Matt. 4:6), at the time of his suffering (Matt. 26:53; Luke 22:43), and at the resurrection and ascension (Matt. 28:2, 5; Luke 24:23; John 20:12; Acts 1:10). In the history of the apostles, they repeatedly make appearances (Acts 5:19; 8:26; 10:3; 11:13; 12:7; 23:9; 27:23; Rev. 22:6, 16). Finally, at his return Christ will be accompanied by the angels (Matt. 16:27; 25:31; Mark 8:38; Luke 9:26; 1 Thess. 3:13; etc.). ... Scripture is clear that angels are spirits (πνεύματα; Matt. 8:16; 12:45; Luke 7:21; 8:2; 11:26; Acts 19:12; [23:8;] Eph. 6:12; Heb. 1:14), who do not marry (Matt. 22:30), are immortal (Luke 20:35–36) and invisible (Col. 1:16).
- [CALVIN *Institutes*] ...angels are dispensers and administrators of God's beneficence toward us. For this reason, Scripture recalls that they keep vigil for our safety, take upon themselves our defense, direct our ways, and take care that some harm may not befall us.¹

[Billy GRAHAM *Angels, God's Secret Agents*] The Reverend **John G. Paton**, pioneer missionary in the New Hebrides Islands, told a thrilling story involving the protective care of angels. Hostile natives surrounded his mission headquarters one night, intent on burning the Patons out and killing them. John Paton and his wife prayed all during that terror-filled night that God would deliver them. When daylight came they were amazed to see that, unaccountably, the attackers had left. They thanked God for delivering them. A year later, the chief of the tribe was converted to Jesus Christ, and Mr. Paton, remembering what had happened, asked the chief what had kept him and his men from burning down the house and killing them. The chief replied in surprise, "Who were all those men you had with you there?" The missionary answered, "There were no men there; just my wife and I." The chief argued that they had seen many men standing guard—hundreds of big men in shining garments with drawn swords in their hands. They seemed to circle the mission station so that the natives were afraid to attack. Only then did Mr. Paton realize that God had sent His angels to protect them. The chief agreed that there was no other explanation. Could it be that God had sent a legion of angels to protect His servants, whose lives were being endangered?

- **Dan 8:16-17** And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai, and it called, "Gabriel, make this man understand the vision." ¹⁷ So he came near where I stood. And when he came, I was frightened and fell on my face (וּבְבֹאֵי נִבְעַתִּי וְאֶפְלָה עַל-פָּנָי).

0.2 ANGELS ATTRIBUTES

- ἄγγελος, ου, ὁ—1. *messenger, envoy* Lk 7:24.—2. *angel*, a supernatural being who acts as messenger Mt 1:20, guardian Ac 12:15, mediator Gal 3:19, and generally as the servant of God. Also of servants of Satan Mt 25:41.
- **Ps 103:20-21** Bless the LORD, O you his angels (מְלַאֲכָיו), you mighty ones (גִּבּוֹרֵי כֹחַ) who do his word, obeying the voice of his word! ²¹ Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will!
- **Heb 1:7** "He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire." (ὁ ποιῶν τοὺς ἀγγέλους αὐτοῦ πνεύματα καὶ τοὺς λειτουργοὺς αὐτοῦ πυρὸς φλόγα) **Ps 104:4** he makes his messengers winds, his ministers a flaming fire (עָשָׂה מְלַאֲכָיו רוּחוֹת מְשֻׁרְתֵי אֵשׁ לְהִט)
- **Lk 15:10** ...there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents (γίνεται χαρὰ ἐνώπιον τῶν ἀγγέλων τοῦ θεοῦ ἐπὶ ἐνὶ ἁμαρτωλῷ μετανοοῦντι)

1. ANGELS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

1.1 CREATION

- Job 38:4-7, "the sons of God shouted for joy" when God laid the foundations of the earth

1.2 THE FALL

- **Gn 3:24** He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim (הַכְרַבִּים) and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

¹ BATTLES, F. L. (transl.) vol.1, p. 166

1.3 PUNISHMENTS

- **1Chron 21:16** And David lifted his eyes and saw the angel of the LORD (מִלְאָךְ יְהוָה) standing between earth and heaven, and in his hand a drawn sword stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders, clothed in sackcloth, fell upon their faces.

1.4 VICTORIES

- **Ex 33:2** will send an angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanites, the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites
- **2Chron 32:21** And the LORD sent an angel, who cut off all the mighty warriors and commanders and officers in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned with shame of face to his own land. And when he came into the house of his god, some of his own sons struck him down there with the sword

2. LONG WAITING

2.1 PROPHECIES

- **Gn 3:15** I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.
- **Micah 5:2** But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days

2.2 INTENSE WAITING

- **1Pt 1:10-11** Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, ¹¹ inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.

3. THE PROMISE OF THE INCARNATION

3.1 THE MYSTERY

- God in human body
- **Isa 59:16** He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no one to intercede; then his own arm brought him salvation, and his righteousness upheld him.
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3.2 MINISTERING TO THE SON OF GOD

- **Mt 1:20** ...an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit
- **Lk 1:26-28** In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"
- **Mt 4:11** ...angels came and were ministering to him
- **Mt 28:2** an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone

3.3 THE GOSPEL

- **Acts 10:3-6** About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, "Cornelius." ⁴ And he stared at him in terror and said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. ⁵ And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter. ⁶ He is lodging with one Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the seaside."

4. TO REMEMBER

- Angels are powerful spiritual beings ministering to God and helping humanity.
- Their joy is in getting humans to know God, repent and be holy.
- The joy of Christmas is the joy of final victory of God over many and long periods of failures.