

## **Angels & Demons**

*Revelation 12<sup>7-12</sup>; Psalm 103<sup>9-end</sup>; Hebrews 1<sup>5-end</sup>; John 1<sup>47-end</sup>*

*For the devil has come down to you with great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!  
[Revelation 12<sup>12</sup>]*

When is the last time you consciously and deliberately invited an angel to get involved with your life? If Jesus believed in angels, then we should too! But what are they for?

### ✠ **Angels are messengers:**

The Psalmist talks about the angels as **mighty ones who do his bidding**. The author to the Hebrews sums up their role: **are not angels spirits in divine service, sent to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?**

We know about all the famous visits of angels to Abraham, to Isaiah, to Elizabeth, to Mary and to Jesus at key moments of his ministry. But the angels are also there for us because we are those who are to inherit salvation.

So how would you make use of an angelic power available to support you? The good news is that God never intended us to be self-sufficient or self-reliant. What we can be sure about is that, if angels were present in the Hebrew Scriptures and in the Christian Scriptures and in the history of the Church, their availability won't have changed: it will be our willingness to ask for help!

### ✠ **Angels assist with worship:**

Hebrews again - **let all God's angels worship him** and in the Psalm, **bless the Lord, you angels of his**. In Revelation we join the worship session, **rejoice then, you heavens and those who dwell in them**.

When we lift our voice in praise we are never alone - we join with angels and archangels and we have so much more to our praise. Angels certainly see God in heaven, but our song is more vibrant than theirs (even though they have had all eternity to refine it) as ours is one of grateful thanks because we have been forgiven and set free and so know about liberation and salvation.

I unashamedly confess that there have been moments in worship when the

hair has stood up on the back of my neck: when playing the organ in the Royal Albert Hall with four trumpets standing immediately behind the organ bench and a choir of 400 and a congregation of 7000 and in the hymn 'Crown him with many crowns' we get to 'All hail redeemer hail!' - then; and so many more times (most recently when we had a choir of professional singers singing for a wedding and had a descant to 'Dear Lord and Father'). When that happens I can just see the angels standing by and smiling, their job done.

### ✠ **Angels help us fight the devil:**

It is unfashionable to believe in a devil that has any power today, but it is very important that we are honest with ourselves about the sort of devil we have stopped believing in.

But, who better to help us in our fight with the devil than angels - devils are angels who have fallen from God's presence: angels understand them better than us. And, listen, the devil has no power only anger: **for the devil has come down to you with great wrath, because he knows that his time is short** - he can intimidate, entice, frighten, threaten but he can't DO anything!

Instead of quivering at the devil, just imagine the angels of God watch on, arms folded, shaking their heads and laughing when the devil continues his pretence of power!

Michael and all the angels are to us a symbol of victory and an encouragement to persevere. Every hymn today has a reference to angels and if you strain hard enough you might just hear them joining in and as we go from here you can take one with you for the week ahead!