

## Title: “The Angels”

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### Message:

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

A multitude of heavenly hosts watched as God entered into his creation in the form of a human baby. Together they had filled the sky with multitude and with song:

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

What joy was poured out at this blessed event. The source of all glory, of all honor, of all blessings was lying in a manger, in a world that was created *through* him. This was not simply another birth; it was *the* birth. It was the flesh and blood of the covenant, the *promise*, that God himself made to Adam and Eve. This birth, above all other births, was worthy of their praise, worthy of their attention. Not a single eye in heaven was cast anywhere except this manger scene and not a single voice was silent as this savior was being born. There was nothing more important, nothing that deserved their attention, more than this birth. They may not have understood how this would play out, may not have even understood how Jesus could have entered into his creation, but they surely understood the significance of what they bore witness to. They understood the weight of the event.

As the years continued, they watched as the father broke into his creation to present to the world who he had sent. Once on the banks of a river and again on the peak of a mountain. There in the river Jordan Jesus was baptized. He had no sin to be cleansed, but instead took upon ours. “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” God proclaimed. Did the angels hear this proclamation over their song of praise and worship? Were their eyes cast on this event, just as they were on Jesus’ birth? The voice of God was being heard. How could they not pay attention to it? How could it not give them pause? And did they turn their gaze on these humans whose ears beheld the voice of God? If they did, what did they see? For standing before these was Jesus, God in the flesh. And they had just heard God’s voice confirm it. And they had just seen the Holy Spirit. Did they understand what was playing out in their witness? Did they realize the significance of this event?

And again, at the top of the mountain God pulled open the curtain of heaven and provided a preview of the risen Christ. He proclaimed, “This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!” And the angels watched as it all played out. And again, they watched the reactions of the humans who witnessed it. What did they see?

And then, when the father turned his back on his son, what did these angels do? These same angels that were currently worshiping God in song, what did they do? Did they stop singing, if just for a moment, as they watched this play out before them? Did they stand in awe, wondering what it all meant, and what the next scene would bring? Did they, if only for the briefest of moments, wonder

if maybe God had lost and Satan had won? For there, hanging on the cross, was God, separated from himself, and breathing his last breath. There, hanging on the cross, was the single, only hope for God's creatures, and that only hope was about to die. Did it pause their praise? If only for a moment?

Or maybe, just maybe if they *did* pause their singing... if they *did* pause their worship... maybe they did so because of the reactions they beheld on earth. For these angels trusted God, worshiped him night and day, and so these angels knew that God had won. There was never any doubt. They may not have understood what was happening, how it would bring about victory, but they trusted completely in God. And so their song would not have paused because of any of this. As Jesus exited the world, their song would have swelled to fill every corner of heaven, just as it did when Jesus had entered the world. So any pause in their praise would have had its reason anchored in the people's reactions to Jesus' death.

What must the angels have thought as they watched God being treated in such a way by his creation? What must have gone through their minds as they saw these people beat and murder him? Did these people not understand who had come into their creation? Did they not understand *why* he came? Did they not even care? How could that even be possible? The Lord of heaven and earth came to save his creation from the grasp of Satan. He gave everything for these people. He emptied himself, humbled himself, condescended himself, for no other reason than to give these people hope, real hope. He took on flesh, accepted physical suffering, pain, and torture. He endured a separation from the father, a spiritual wound far greater than any physical one. And he did it *all*, and he did it *only*, for them, God's most precious creation. But still, some of God's most precious creation would hang him on a tree to die. And others would lay him in a tomb in defeat. And others would dismiss him as just another false promise. And even after he would rise from the dead, many others, so many others, would reject this truth and seek their own way, their own path. What must the angels thought as they watched all of this? What must they be thinking now? How can man, any man, look back on these events and disregard them as little more than history? How can anyone dismiss so lightly the gravity of what was done for him, for her? How can any eye be closed and any mouth be mute? For we have seen what the angles have seen. And the angels are singing in worship, constant in praise. Enamored in awe over an event that didn't affect them. How can man be so dismissive when it affected him so greatly?

Don't let the weight of this event pass you by. God entered into his creation, suffered and died, and then rose again. None of this was done for the angels. All of this was done for you. Don't let the weight of this event pass you by.

<No prayer>