

Angels and the early Church

- **Provided deliverance from prison**
 - In the case of the twelve – **Acts 5:17-20**
 - In the case of Peter – **Acts 12:7-11**
- **Were involved in directing evangelism**
 - Sending Philip to meet the eunuch – **Acts 8:26**
 - Appearing to Cornelius to send for Peter – **Acts 10:1-8, 21-22, 11:12-13**
- **Acted as instruments of judgment**
 - In the case of Herod – **Acts 12:21-23**

Angels and the early Church

- **Provided reassurance**
 - **Appearing to Paul on his journey to Rome –**
Acts 27:21-24
- **Revealed the will of God**
 - **In the book of Revelation – Rev. 1:1, 22:16**
 - **Depicted throughout Revelation as serving Christ:**
 - **Praising Him around the throne – Rev. 5:2, 11**
 - **Carrying out the Lord's warnings and judgments – Rev. 8:2, 6; 16:1**

Angels and the Christians today

- **Concerned for our well-being**
 - They rejoice when sinner's repent – **Lk. 15:10**
 - “Little ones” have “their” angels who behold the face of God – **Matt. 18:10, cf. Heb. 1:14**
 - *“He does not mean, I suppose, to state that every good man has his guardian angel, as many of the Jews believed; but that the angels were, in general, the guards of his followers, and aided them and watched over them.” - Barnes*

Angels and the Christians today

- **Agents of God's providence?**
 - **God's providence could be defined as *“His ability or power to bring about that which is in His will without direct intervention”***
 - **However, while we can understand and see God's providence clearly work, we cannot say how, or always why, it is done. Could angels be working behind the scenes to bring about that which God wants? See Daniel, Revelation**

Angels and the Christians today

- **Companions for the journey home**
 - As Jesus illustrated in the account of the rich man and Lazarus – **Luke 16:22**
 - *“Angels are ministering spirits sent forth to minister to those who are heirs of salvation (He 1:14), and there is no more improbability in the supposition that they attend departing spirits to heaven, than that they attend them while on earth.” - Barnes*

Angels and the Christians today

- **Guardians of the gates to the eternal city**
 - **As depicted in John’s vision – Rev. 21:12**
 - *“Stationed there as guards to the New Jerusalem. Their business seems to have been to watch the gates that nothing improper should enter;”* – Barnes
 - *“...an additional emblem of perfect security, while the gates being never shut (Re 21:25) imply perfect liberty and peace.”* – Jameison-Faussett-Brown

Conclusion:

- **Angels continue to minister for those who will inherit salvation – Heb. 1:14**
- *“Still they watch the lot of man, and rejoice in his salvation; still they join in the praise and adoration of God, the Lord of hosts, still can they be regarded as ‘ministering spirits sent forth to do service for the sake of them that shall inherit salvation.’” – International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*

Conclusion:

- **Their visible activity was limited as far back as the 1st century, perhaps because there was no longer any need. Their visible work was done as Christ had founded the kingdom and the Spirit was able to speak directly to the spirit of man via God's word.**

Conclusion:

- **Considering the purpose they served, we would do well to remind our friends and neighbors:**
 - **Do not worship them**
 - **As the angels themselves warned John –**
Rev. 19:10, 22:8-9
 - **As Paul warned the Colossians 2:18-19**
 - **Do not heed new doctrines from them**
 - **Remember what Satan is capable of!**
II Cor. 11:14
 - **As Paul warned the Galatians – Gal. 1:8**