

Episode: Three Gospels Series No. 13

Narrator: Angel

Primary Scriptures: Matthew 28

Story Summary: A summary of the life of Jesus with emphasis on angel appearances

Location: Kingdom of Judea (Israel)

Time: Circa 30 AD

Suggested Memory Scriptures: Matthew 28:5-6, 10, 18-20

This episode has a subtle twist. It assumes seven appearances of unnamed angels dealing directly with Jesus shown in the Gospels are all by the same angel (not including Gabriel's appearances). Using that twist, the backstory of the angel and its thankfulness are part of the story line. The seven appearances are:

1. To tell Joseph about Mary (Mat. 1:20-24).
2. Announce the birth of Jesus (Luke 2:9-15).
3. To tell Joseph to take Jesus to Egypt to avoid Herod's wrath (Mat. 2:13-14).
4. To tell Joseph to move from Egypt back to Israel (Matthew 2:19-23).
5. To attend to Jesus after the wilderness temptations (Matthew 4:11).
6. To strengthen Jesus at Gethsemane (Luke 22:43).
7. To roll away the stone of Jesus' tomb and inform the women (Matthew 28:2-5).

It is quite reasonable to wonder why God didn't physically protect Jesus while he was on earth. Even Satan recognized that God could have easily done so. During the temptations in the wilderness, Satan applied Psalm 91:11-12, which says that God can command his angels and they will protect him to the extent that he won't even hit his foot on a rock. With one word, God could have sent ten thousand angels to protect Jesus, as one song suggests.

Why didn't God protect Jesus physically? The Bible doesn't specifically say, but possibly it was to allow Jesus to fully experience his human nature. In any event, it is clear that the Gospel writers did not record any events where angels were used to protect Jesus. With the exception of Gethsemane, angels were used only for their primary purpose of being messengers.

Looking at the list of scriptures above, it is apparent that angels were involved in Jesus' life on earth from start to finish. In fact, they were probably involved even after he left. When Jesus ascended into heaven, Acts 1:10-11 says two men dressed in white tell Jesus' followers that Jesus went to heaven and would return in the same manner. The most likely conclusion is that those two men were angels.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why didn't God use his angels to protect Jesus physically while he was on earth?
 2. How did the angels directly involved with Jesus communicate with humans?
 3. In which two Gospels are all of the appearances of angels written?
 4. How many appearances of angels are written about during the main part of Jesus' ministry?
 5. Concerning humans, what is the main purpose of angels?
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1. The Bible doesn't say, but reasons could include ensuring that Jesus fully experienced being a human. 2. Through dreams, audibly talking 3. Matthew and Luke 4. None. Only at the start and finish. 5. To bring messages from God.

Applications Questions:

1. God didn't choose to physically protect Jesus to keep him from any harm or pain. Should that impact how you think God should protect you?
2. Do you think angels still deliver messages from God to humans? If so, how should you expect an angel to bring a message from God to you? Do you think you have ever received a message that way?
3. This video episode was used to quickly tell the story of Jesus' life. Could you summarize the life of Jesus in a few minutes? What parts would you emphasize?

Application Questions for Teens:

1. Do you think popular media correctly portrays angels and demons? Do movies tend to make demons repulsive or attractive? Evil or good? Do movies tend to portray angels as coming from God?
2. If you got a message delivered by an angel, how would you know it was an angel from God?
3. Do you think God should protect Christians more than he does others? Why or why not?
4. Do you think God should keep Christians from pain and suffering? Why or why not?