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**BIBLE STUDY**

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

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**“MINISTERING SPIRITS AND FLAMES OF FIRE”**

**Hebrews 1:6-14**

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***Hebrews 1:6 "And again, when he bringeth in the first begotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him."***

***Hebrews 1:7 "And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire."***

The main point of chapters 1 and 2 is that Christ is superior to the angels because of the work He has accomplished. The writer of Hebrews proves Christ’s superiority by citing seven Old Testament passages. It was necessary that he prove to his readers Christ’s superiority over the angels, for in the first-century world, pagan and Christian alike accorded great significance and power to angels. Some had possibly taught that Christ Himself was an angel and for that reason able to perform miracles. Angels are created, spiritual beings who are servants of God. The word angel means “messenger.” Though they also have power to become visible in human form, they are incorporeal beings, possessing intellect, emotion, and will. There are several benefits derived from understanding the ministry of angels. When we realize that they constantly observe our Christian lives, we will improve our conduct. When we understand how they protect us, we will appreciate God’s care for us. When we consider their tremendous strength and ability, we will be encouraged. Finally, their example of unceasing service ought to motivate us to more consistent service for God. Many first-century Jewish Christian revered angels because they were a means of divine revelation. But God never said to an angel, “You are my Son.” Nor does an angel have the right to receive worship, which is for God alone. Rather, all God’s angels worship the Son. The word angel is always used in the masculine gender, although sex in the human sense is never ascribed to them. They have supernatural power but are not omnipotent. They have great wisdom but are not omniscient. Their number is vast, but not limitless. Jesus is greater than the angels. Angels are in fact, under His control. In Revelation Jesus is above all in heaven and is the only one worthy to even open the book.

***Revelation 5:9 "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;"***

***Revelation 5:10 "And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."***

***Revelation 5:11 "And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;"***

***Revelation 5:12 "Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing."***

***I Peter 3:22 "Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him."***

We see from all this that there is no greater in heaven or earth than Jesus Christ our Lord. Many times, we see the angels of the Lord appear in fire of one kind or the other. A great example of this was when the chariot of fire came and escorted Elijah to heaven when he went up in the whirlwind.

***II Kings 2:11 "And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, [there appeared] a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven."***

Elisha was promised that if he could see this great happening, he would get a double portion of the blessings God had given Elijah, and he did. Let us see in this next verse just what happened on another occasion pertaining to angels and fire.

***II Kings 6:17 And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain [was] full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha."***

This was an army God had sent to help Elisha. Elisha knew they were there, but the young man with him had not seen them until Elisha asked for him to be able to see. We have friends that sing a song about having a band of angels camped all around you to help you if you are a Christian. This is the same thing that is here in Kings. Angels are ministering spirits. The fallen angels who followed Lucifer out of heaven are now called devil spirits, and they are commonly called demons. They minister evil and not good. The angels who did not fall are ministering only good to the Christians.

***Hebrews 1:8 "But unto the Son [he saith], Thy throne, O God, [is] for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness [is] the sceptre of thy kingdom."***

***Hebrews 1:9 "Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, [even] thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows."***

***Hebrews 1:10 "And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:"***

Jesus {the Word of God} earned the right to be all these wonderful things. He paid for the privilege on the cross of Calvary. We see in this Scripture above that God the Father called Jesus, God. Jesus was Creator God. The 2 powers in this world are the spoken Word and the written Word, and Jesus is both.

***Isaiah 9:6 "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."***

***Isaiah 9:7 "Of the increase of [his] government and peace [there shall be] no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."***

***Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."***

***John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."***

***John 1:2 "The same was in the beginning with God."***

***John 1:3 "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made."***

Unlike the rest of humanity, the Son consistently loved righteousness and hated lawlessness. He is the everlasting Creator of the heavens who has been seated at God’s right hand with his enemies under his feet.

***Ephesians 1:20-22***

***20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,***

***21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:***

***22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,***

The psalm quoted by the author in verse 9 speaks of Christ’s companions. The idea of being a “companion” or “partner” of Christ shows up several times in Hebrews (3:1, 14). Believers have the opportunity to be Christ’s companions, his partners, who will rule with him as part of his inner circle. This honor is distinct from justification. Those who accept him as their sin-bearer gain entrance by grace into the kingdom of God as heirs. But your participation as Christ’s companion or partner determines the level of your inheritance in the kingdom. Christ himself had to inherit a name even though he was appointed as an heir. You are an heir by grace. But your obedience and participation with Christ determines your benefits and privileges in the kingdom. If you are a Christian, you have been saved to become a partner and to rule with Christ. You can’t lose your salvation (relationship), but God doesn’t want you to lose out on partnership (fellowship) the calling he has on your life.

***Hebrews 1:11 "They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment;"***

***Hebrews 1:12 "And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail."***

We know from the bible that The Word of God [Jesus] is the everlasting one. He has no end and no beginning. The scriptures also teach that Jesus [the Word] is eternal. The earth that we know will pass away. It was created by the Word of God, so we know it had a beginning and we know that it will pass away and be replaced with a new heaven and earth.

***Revelation 1:8 " I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty."***

***Revelation 1:17 "And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:"***

***I Timothy 1:17 "Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, [be] honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen."***

***Matthew 24:35 "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."***

***Luke 21:33 "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away."***

***Revelation 21:1 "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea."***

***Hebrews 1:13 "But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?"***

***Hebrews 1:14 "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?"***

We can easily find examples of angels appearing to men and women here on the earth. Sometimes they are dispatched of God to protect us. Sometimes they bring an important message from God. A good instance of them bringing a message of warning is when the angels warned Lot and his family to get out of Sodom and Gomorrah, before God destroyed it. Several people were brought a message of the upcoming birth of a child. Mary the mother of Jesus was one, the parents of John the Baptist were two more. We read earlier of God sending an army of angels to fight for the saints, we also know that God placed angels at the entrance to the garden of Eden to stop Adam and Eve from entering. Angels are ministering spirits who serve those who are going to inherit salvation. He has assigned ministering angels to oversee you and make sure you receive your inheritance in time and in eternity. However, faithfulness to the King is the criteria to become part of Christ’s administrative cabinet when he establishes his earthly millennial kingdom on his return.

***Hebrews 3:14 “For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;”***

***Romans 8:17 “And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”***

***2 Timothy 2:12 “If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:”***

***Revelation 2:16-17***

***16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.***

***17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.***

**QUESTIONS**

1. Who were the angels of God to worship?
2. Who is the only one worthy to open the book in heaven?
3. What are angels?
4. What would Elisha receive, if he saw Elijah rise to heaven?
5. What are the angels now who followed Lucifer out of heaven?
6. What is the purpose God has for angels?
7. Jesus is called by what names in Isaiah 9:6?
8. What is silver symbolic of?
9. Where does the Christian get his righteousness?
10. Who laid the foundation of the earth?
11. Who is the Word of God?
12. What are the 2 great powers in the world?
13. Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my \_\_\_\_ shall not pass away.
14. What are some of the jobs God has for angels to do mentioned in the Bible?
15. Besides sitting on the right hand of God, what is Jesus?