

THE ANGELS OF GOD: HIS AGENTS OF JUDGMENT!

Reapers ...

- (Matthew 13:38–43 ESV) The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

Judges ...

- (Matthew 13:49–50 ESV) So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Avengers ...

- (Matthew 16:27 ESV) For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.

Destroyers ...

- (2 Samuel 24:16 ESV) And when the angel stretched out his hand toward Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD relented from the calamity and said to the angel who was working destruction among the people, “It is enough; now stay your hand.” And the angel of the LORD was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

Destroyers ...

- (Psalm 78:49 ESV) He let loose on them his burning anger, wrath, indignation, and distress, a company of destroying angels.

Avengers ...

- (2 Thessalonians 1:7-8 ESV) And to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

Warriors ...

- (2 Kings 19:35 ESV) And that night the angel of the LORD went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. And when people arose early in the morning, behold, these were all dead bodies.

THE ANGELS OF GOD: HIS ADORING WORSHIPERS!

Angels do not know everything. They are not gods but beings created by God as we are. In Revelation 7 we are going to observe a scene in heaven in which the angels are going to be absolutely wowed before their holy God. What has happened? They see “*a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands*” (7:9).

And what did they do in response to this great assembly of those dressed in white and purchased by the blood of the Lamb? They fell on their faces and worshiped God. What a joyful day, a great day of affirmation for their God and his salvation work, and they are completely swept off their feet (if they have feet) by the joy and majesty of the moment. Savor the moment. The angels have anticipated something like this for thousands of years at least. Peter writes concerning this interest of God’s holy angels in the salvation of God’s people.

- (1 Peter 1:10–12 ESV) *Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.*

The Apostle Paul speaks to this also. Paul was given the stewardship to reveal God’s mysterious plan that God had kept secret from the beginning.

- (Ephesians 3:9–10 NLT) *I was chosen to explain to everyone this mysterious plan that God, the Creator of all things, had kept secret from the beginning. God’s purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.*

So what is the significance? This multitude that is beyond numbering which is standing before the throne of God is more of the mystery revealed. So, again, what is the response of the holy angels as they see the salvation of their God?

- (Revelation 7:11–12 NLT) *And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living beings. And they fell before the throne with their faces to the ground and worshiped God. They sang, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and strength belong to our God forever and ever! Amen.”*