

MORE THOUGHTS ON GOD'S ANGELS & GOD'S CHILDREN!

ANGELS ARE POWERFUL SPIRITUAL BEINGS THAT CARRY OUT GOD'S PLANS.

- (Psalm 103:20–21 NLT) Praise the LORD, you angels, you mighty ones who carry out his plans, listening for each of his commands. Yes, praise the LORD, you armies of angels who serve him and do his will!

ANGELS ARE MINISTERING SPIRITS SENT OUT TO SERVE THOSE WHO ARE SAVED.

- (Hebrews 1:13–14 ESV) And to which of the angels has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"? Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

GOD'S POWERFUL ANGEL TROOPS ARE SUPERIOR TO THE FORCES OF DARKNESS.

- (2 Kings 6:16–17 NLT) "Don't be afraid!" Elisha told him. "For there are more on our side than on theirs!" Then Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes and let him see!" The LORD opened the young man's eyes, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire.

As wonderful and as powerful as God's angel servant warriors are, it seems that when God brings Earth's history to an end and everything is set in heaven, that we will rule above the angels. This discussion is not about the dangerous territory of pride and self-importance but it is about a biblical view of our true identity in Jesus Christ as those purchased by the blood of the Lamb. This is about understanding who we are as God's new creation.

How does this help us? If we don't know who we are, then we don't understand our salvation. If we don't understand our salvation, then we neither understand the battle nor the opportunity God has blessed us with in our brief time on Earth.

WE SAVED HUMANS HAVE A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP AS BROTHERS WITH CHRIST.

- (Hebrews 2:16–17 ESV) For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

THE SAVED ARE MADE/CONFORMED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD AND THE SON.

- (Romans 8:29 ESV) For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

THE SAVED SHALL ONE DAY BEAR THE IMAGE OF JESUS CHRIST.

- (1 Corinthians 15:48–49 ESV) As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

OUR "NEW SELF" IS CREATED AFTER THE LIKENESS OF GOD IN TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HOLINESS.

- (Ephesians 4:20–24 ESV) But that is not the way you learned Christ!—assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

THE SAVED ARE NOW CHILDREN OF GOD EVEN THOUGH THE WORLD DOES NOT KNOW US AS SUCH.

- (1 John 3:1 ESV) See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

THE SAVED KNOW WE ARE GOD'S CHILDREN NOW, BUT WE DO NOT FULLY KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.

- (1 John 3:2 ESV) Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

THIS HOPE THAT LIVES IN THE SAVED PERSON CREATES A DESIRE IN THAT PERSON TO BE PURE AS GOD IS PURE.

- (1 John 3:2 ESV) And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

THE SAVED ARE RAISED UP AND SEATED WITH JESUS CHRIST IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES.

- (Ephesians 2:6 ESV) And raised us up with him [Christ] and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. (See also Colossians 3:1–4.)

(5:2) I also saw a **powerful Angel**, calling out in a voice like thunder, "Is there anyone who can open the scroll, who can break its seals?"

(10:1) I saw **another powerful Angel** coming down out of Heaven wrapped in a cloud. There was a rainbow over his head, his face was sun-radiant, his legs pillars of fire.

(18:1) Following this I saw **another Angel** descend from Heaven. **His authority was immense, his glory flooded earth with brightness.**

(18:21) **A strong Angel** reached for a boulder—huge, like a millstone—and heaved it into the sea, saying, Heaved and sunk, the great city Babylon, sunk in the sea, not a sign of her ever again.

(Passages from The Revelation of Jesus Christ in The Message)