

December 22nd



# Advent 2024

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—Warren Wiersbe  
*The Bible Exposition Commentary*

## —CHRISTMAS & CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY—

### “Angelology”

#### **Introduction: Theology & the Birth Narratives**

The best theology is biblical, systematic, contemporary, and practical. This Advent, we are considering together how some of the most familiar accounts in our Bibles reinforce some of the most important truths of Christian theology.

**Anthropology**— Though mankind is affected in every way by sin and is in need of salvation, we can still experience the goodness of God’s original design for us as men and women in the world.

**Soteriology**— The incarnation of the Lord Jesus is central to the saving work of God on our behalf, making it possible for us to be delivered from our enemies and forgiven of our sins.

**Eschatology**— The incarnation of the Lord Jesus is central to the future works of God whereby He will both establish His Kingdom on the earth and resurrect His people that we might dwell with Him eternally.

**Key Point:** The ministry of angels in the birth narratives served to bring \_\_\_\_\_ to God’s people and to confirm the \_\_\_\_\_ identity of the Lord Jesus.

#### **Angelology**

“Angels are beings created to worship and serve God, doing his will in heaven and on earth, including ministering to believers.”  
—Adam Harwood, *Christian Theology*

“The Hebrew word *malak* simply means “messenger”; it may refer to a human messenger...or a divine messenger...The basic meaning of the word is “one who is sent.” As a divine messenger, an angel is a “heavenly being charged by God with some commission.” The word is found 103 times in the OT. The Greek word *angelos* is used 175 times in the NT; however, of men it is used only six times. The word *angelos* is similar to the Heb. *malak*; it also means a “messenger...who speaks and acts in the place of the one who sent him.”  
—Paul Enns, *The Moody Handbook of Theology*

⇒ Angels are spiritual beings (Heb. 1:14) created by God (Col. 1:16) of a higher order than mankind (Heb. 2:7). They are variously referred to in Scripture as “sons of God” (Job 1:6; 38:7) because of their divine origin as His creations. They are also described as “holy ones” (Psa. 89:5,7) and the “host” of heaven, emphasizing that they are both set apart by God for His purposes and comprise the armies of heaven which He commands (Isa. 31:4).

#### **Angels & the Consolation of God’s People**

- The birth narratives reveal that angels serve as ministers of God who are sent from Him to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ his people.

##### **Joseph & the Angel**

**Matt. 1:20-21**— *20 But when he had thought this over, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a Son; and you shall name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”*

⇒ The angel comforted Joseph with the \_\_\_\_\_ of what had occurred with Mary and the real identity of the child. The angel revealed the Lord’s \_\_\_\_\_ to Joseph on numerous occasions so that the child might be protected (Matt. 2:13-14; 22-23).

##### **Zechariah & Gabriel**

**Luke 1:13-14, 19-20**— *13 But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. 14 And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth... 19 And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. 20 And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.”*

⇒ The angel comforted Zechariah with the truth that God had heard his \_\_\_\_\_. The angel also administered the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord because of Zechariah’s unwillingness to accept the Word of the Lord by faith.

### ***Mary & Gabriel***

Luke 1:30-31, 35-37—<sup>30</sup> *And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus...<sup>35</sup> And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God.”*

⇒ The angel revealed the will of the Lord for her in the birth of her son. He also comforted her by telling her about Elizabeth and \_\_\_\_\_ her that all things were possible with God.

**Key Point:** The comfort of God given to His people enables us to walk in \_\_\_\_\_ to Him as His servants.

## **Angels & the Divinity of Christ**

- The birth narratives as well as other portions of the Gospels reveal that the ministry of angels surrounded the entirety of the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord Jesus.

### ***The Shepherds & the Angels***

Luke 2:9-11—<sup>9</sup> *And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*

⇒ The angel comforted the shepherds with the \_\_\_\_\_ that the Messiah had been born just as the prophets had foretold.

Luke 2:13-15—<sup>13</sup> *And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” <sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”*

⇒ What the shepherds saw and heard of the angels \_\_\_\_\_ other heavenly visions of angelic beings (Isa. 6; Ezek. 1).

### ***The Lord Jesus & the Angels***

Mark 1:13—*And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.*

Luke 22:41-43—<sup>41</sup> *And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, <sup>42</sup> saying, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.” <sup>43</sup> And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him.*

John 20:12-13—<sup>12</sup> *And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. <sup>13</sup> They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?”*

Acts 1:10-11—<sup>10</sup> *And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, <sup>11</sup> and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”*

**Key Point:** Just as angels worship Christ as Lord of heaven and earth, we should also offer \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to Him as our Savior and Lord.

## **Christmas & Christian Theology**

1. The birth narratives remind us that we live in a world that is filled with the \_\_\_\_\_ and so our lives should be characterized by both \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord.
2. The birth narratives remind us of important truths about who \_\_\_\_\_ are, who \_\_\_\_\_ is, what He \_\_\_\_\_ done and what He \_\_\_\_\_ do to accomplish His plans and purposes.

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- **The birth narratives reveal that angels serve as ministers of God who are sent from Him to exhort and instruct his people.**

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**Key Point:** The comfort of God given to His people enables us to walk in **obedience** to Him as His servants.

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2. The birth narratives remind us of important truths about who **we** are, who **God** is, what He **has** done and what He **will** do to accomplish His plans and purposes.