

What Do Good Angels Do?

To serve and to protect.

–Common law enforcement motto

Sometimes the motto “To serve and to protect” is emblazoned on police cars or cruisers. The motto serves to emphasize that the police are to serve citizens in time of need and to protect them from criminals and evildoers. In the same way, God created His holy angels to serve Him and His people. Now they also protect His people against the evil one and his evil angels.

57. How often are we aware of the care and protection given us by the police or other public servants? Why might we be unaware of all the things they do for us?

Servants of the Most High

Like our police forces, good angels are God’s servants to carry out His will both in heaven and upon earth. And like our police forces, some of their duties are pleasant, while others are difficult. This is especially the case when it comes to restraining and punishing evil.

58. Read Genesis 19:1–3, 10–12, 15–16; Daniel 6:19–22; Acts 5:12–21. In these passages, how did angels serve God’s people? How do they deliver us from evil today (Hebrews 1:13–14)?

59. Read Genesis 19:13, 23–28; Acts 12:20–23; Revelation 20:1–3. While the duties of God’s angels described in these passages may surprise us, how do angels protect God’s people by restraining or punishing evildoers?

60. Read Matthew 1:20–21; Mark 1:13; Luke 22:39–43. How did angels serve and protect Jesus while He was on earth? Try to recall other passages where angels appear during Jesus’ earthly ministry.

61. Read Acts 1:10–11; 8:26–40; 10:21–33. How did angels also serve and protect the apostles as they went forth teaching and baptizing?

62. Read Zechariah 1:7–17; Luke 24:1–6; Revelation 1:1–3. As we learned earlier, *angel* means “messenger.” From these verses, describe other important messages God’s angels have brought to people.

63. Read Psalm 103:19–21; Hebrews 1:1–6; Revelation 5:11–14. Having seen how God’s holy angels serve Him on earth, how do they serve God in heaven?

Companions of God’s People

As they serve us, God’s angels are our companions here on earth. The elect angels do what they were created to do—God’s will. Christians have been given the gift of faith so that we can serve God. Angels help us to do that.

64. Read 1 Corinthians 4:9; Ephesians 3:8–11; 1 Peter 1:10–12. Angels are very interested in the life of the Church on earth. In what do they have particular interest?

65. Read Hebrews 13:2. What do we at times do for angels? How should this affect how we treat strangers? those who are less fortunate?

Protectors of the Saints

God’s holy angels are present as we worship. They pray for us. They observe the struggles of our lives. They help us. God’s angels guard and protect us our whole lives.

66. Read Matthew 18:10 and Luke 16:22. What do angels continue to do for us while we live? What do they do for us when we die? Describe what this means for you personally.

67. Read Matthew 24:31; 1 Corinthians 6:3; Revelation 7:9–17. What will angels do for believers on the Last Day? What will believers do for angels? Discuss our glorious and joyous future together beginning with the return of Christ on the Last Day.

Angelic Appearances and Jesus

Below is a list of angelic appearances during our Lord's ministry upon earth, beginning with the announcement of His birth and concluding with the angels' appearance following His ascension into heaven.

The angel Gabriel announces the conception and birth of Jesus to the Virgin Mary.	Luke 1:26–38
An angel encourages Joseph to care for Mary and her unborn, holy Child.	Matthew 1:20–21
The angel and the angelic multitude announce the birth of Jesus to the shepherds.	Luke 2:8–14
An angel warns Joseph to take Mary and the baby Jesus into Egypt.	Matthew 2:13
An angel informs Joseph that it is safe to return with Mary and Jesus to Nazareth.	Matthew 2:19–20
Angels minister to Jesus after His temptation by the devil in the wilderness.	Matthew 4:11; Mark 1:13
An angel ministers to Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane.	Luke 22:39–43
Two angels converse with Mary Magdalene, Johanna, Mary the mother of James, and Salome about the bodily resurrection of Jesus.	Matthew 28:1–7; Mark 16:1–7; Luke 24:1–7
Two angels appear to Mary Magdalene prior to Jesus' appearance to her.	John 20:11–14
Two angels speak to the disciples following Jesus' ascension into heaven.	Acts 1:10–11

Point to Remember

“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the first-born who are enrolled in heaven.” Hebrews 12:22–23