

The Letter to the
Hebrews



Introduction

- Are all sacrifices acceptable to God?
- Ananias and Sapphires pretended to give all to the church but pocketed some of the money.
- This chapter mentions three sacrifices God is pleased to receive from us.

**A Right Response
to Fellow Christians**

Hebrews 13:1-9

Special Needs

- What is a right response to believers with special needs (1-3)?
- We should let brotherly love continue.
- This suggests that some of them may have neglected this important response.
- We should treat other believers like family.

Special Needs

- One practical demonstration of love involved meeting the needs of Christian workers who were on the move.
- There weren't many inns and certainly weren't hotels back in that century.
- Facilities for travelers were often dens of danger and immorality.

Special Needs

- Christian leaders were required to demonstrate hospitality (1 Timothy 3:2).
- “Some have entertained angels” - a reference to Genesis 18-19 where Abraham entertained strangers who were angels.
- We should always treat needy guests as messengers of God.

Special Needs

- The next verse (vs. 3) changes the focus to those imprisoned (Hebrews 10:34) and abused for their faith.
- We need to identify and help those imprisoned and mistreated for their Christian commitment.

Persecuted Christians

EACH MONTH

322 CHRISTIANS ARE
KILLED FOR THEIR FAITH



Learn more about the persecution of Christians worldwide, and what you can do to help.

214 CHURCHES AND
CHRISTIAN **PROPERTIES**
ARE DESTROYED



772 FORMS OF **VIOLENCE**
ARE COMMITTED AGAINST
CHRISTIANS *(SUCH AS BEATINGS, ABDUCTIONS,
RAPES, ARRESTS AND FORCED MARRIAGES)*



Family

- What is a response to the family (4-6)?
- We should hold marriage in high honor.
- Both Jewish and pagan marriages at this time were characterized by laxity and immorality.
- Christians were admonished to live differently than those in the world.

Family

- First, marriage is to be honored.
- Marriage is of divine origin and not merely a social contract. Marriage today can end for any reason or no reason at all.
- Second, those who are married must maintain moral purity.

Family

- Another threat to marriage is materialism.
- First, renounce the love of money.
- Second, be content with what you have.
- We should be happy and content with what God will give us (Deut. 31:6-8).

Family

- Another threat to marriage is anxiety.
- These encouraging words from Psalm 118 remind us that God's presence banishes anxiety about personal needs.
- Notice that this verse describes God as a "helper." We see the verbal form in Hebrews 2:18 to describe Jesus.

Church

- What is a right response to the fellowship of the church (7-9)?
- Committed believers are to imitate the faith of their spiritual leaders and avoid unchristian doctrines.
- This chapter contains three references to leaders of churches.

Church

- This passage seems to be talking about leaders who have completed their service in a congregation and died.
- They were to reflect on both the words and deeds of these former leaders and imitate their faith.

Church

- Although these former leaders have died, Jesus Christ remains the same.
- He is our high priest (Hebrews 4 and 7).
- By contrast, we should not be led away by strange teachings or by rituals and by eating ceremonial foods. “Food does not bring us closer to God” (1 Cor. 8:8).

**A Right Response
to God and the Church**

Hebrews 13:10-25

God

- What is a right response to God (10-16)?
- These verses use symbolism to contrast the privileges of the Jews who were believers to those who were not.
- They had access to a special altar (the atoning death of Jesus Christ).

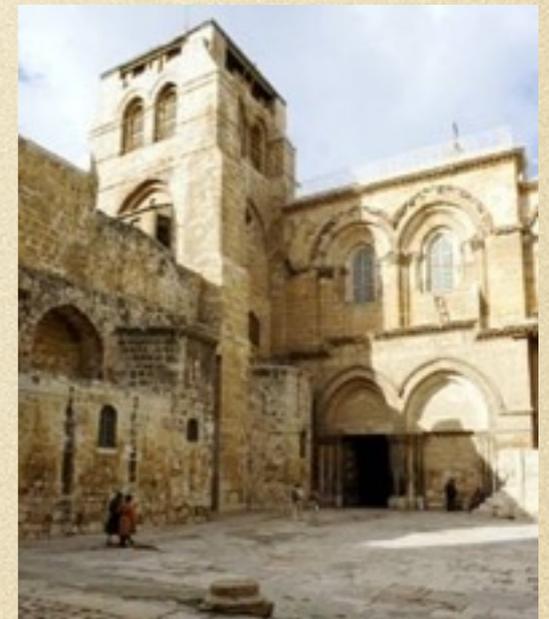
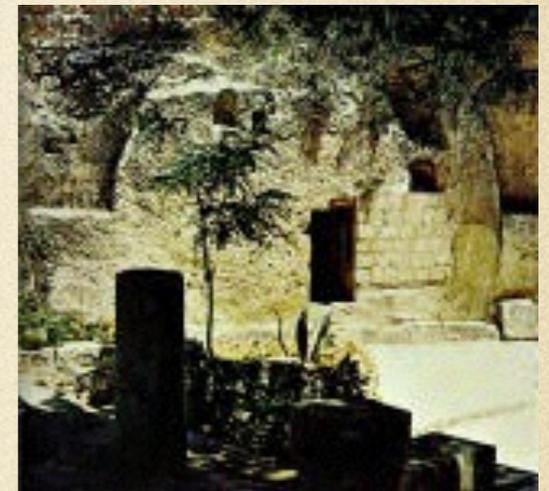
God

- The bodies of animals (vs.11) were burned outside the camp by the priests.
- The writer uses this to remind believers that they have access that unbelievers do not.
- Jesus died outside the walls of Jerusalem (John 19:20) to make people holy.

Outside the Gate

Garden Tomb

Church of the Holy Sepulcher



God

- The writer then urges us to go outside the camp of Judaism. We are to reject the rituals of Judaism and cling to Jesus.
- This verse (vs. 14) adds two features to the appeal for commitment to Christ.
- First, we are to live for the future, not the present (seek the city to come).

God

- Second, Christians are to enjoy togetherness. We are to participate in and build up the body of Christ.
- Christians should also (vs. 15) present a sacrifice of praise to God.
- There are no circumstances in which praise to God is inappropriate.

Church Leaders

- What is a right response to church leaders (17)?
- We have already been admonished to imitate the lifestyle of leaders who have passed on.
- Now we see an appeal to give a proper response to present leaders.

One Another

- What is a right response to one another (18-21)?
- The writer requests prayer for himself and for those with him.
- He may have been criticized but also he wanted to be with them.

One Another

- This section (20-21) ends with a theologically packed benediction.
- He identifies God as the God of peace seeking to promote peace among the readers.
- Jesus is described as the great shepherd of the sheep.

One Another

- The writer prayed that God would bring out the full potential of each believer.
- He prayed that God would provide the readers with everything good that they would do God's will, and that it would be pleasing to God's sight.

Genuine Affection

- The writer ends (vs. 22-25) with two comments about the entire letter.
- First, it is a word of exhortation. Second, it is a brief letter (covers lots of issues but could be read in an hour).
- Timothy has been released, the gospel of grace continues!

Application



Attributes of Angels

- Angels are mentioned 108 times in the Old Testament and 165 times in the New Testament.
- Angel comes from the Greek word angelos which means “messenger.”
- The corresponding Hebrew word also means messenger.

Were Angels Created?

- The Bible clearly teaches that angels have not always existed (Nehemiah 9:6; Psalm 148:2-5).
- The Bible teaches that God is the creator of all things (Colossians 1:16-17).
- John 1:3 - says all things came into being through Him.

When Angels Created?

- The Bible doesn't say when angels were created, but there are some hints.
- Some speculate they were created with the creation of the heavens (Genesis 1).
- Job 38:7 says "the sons of God shouted for joy" when God laid the foundations of the earth.

How Many Angels?

- The Bible does not reveal the exact number but various passages suggest it could be in the millions.
- Hebrews 12:22 talks of an innumerable company of angels.
- David says there are thousands upon thousands (Psalm 68).

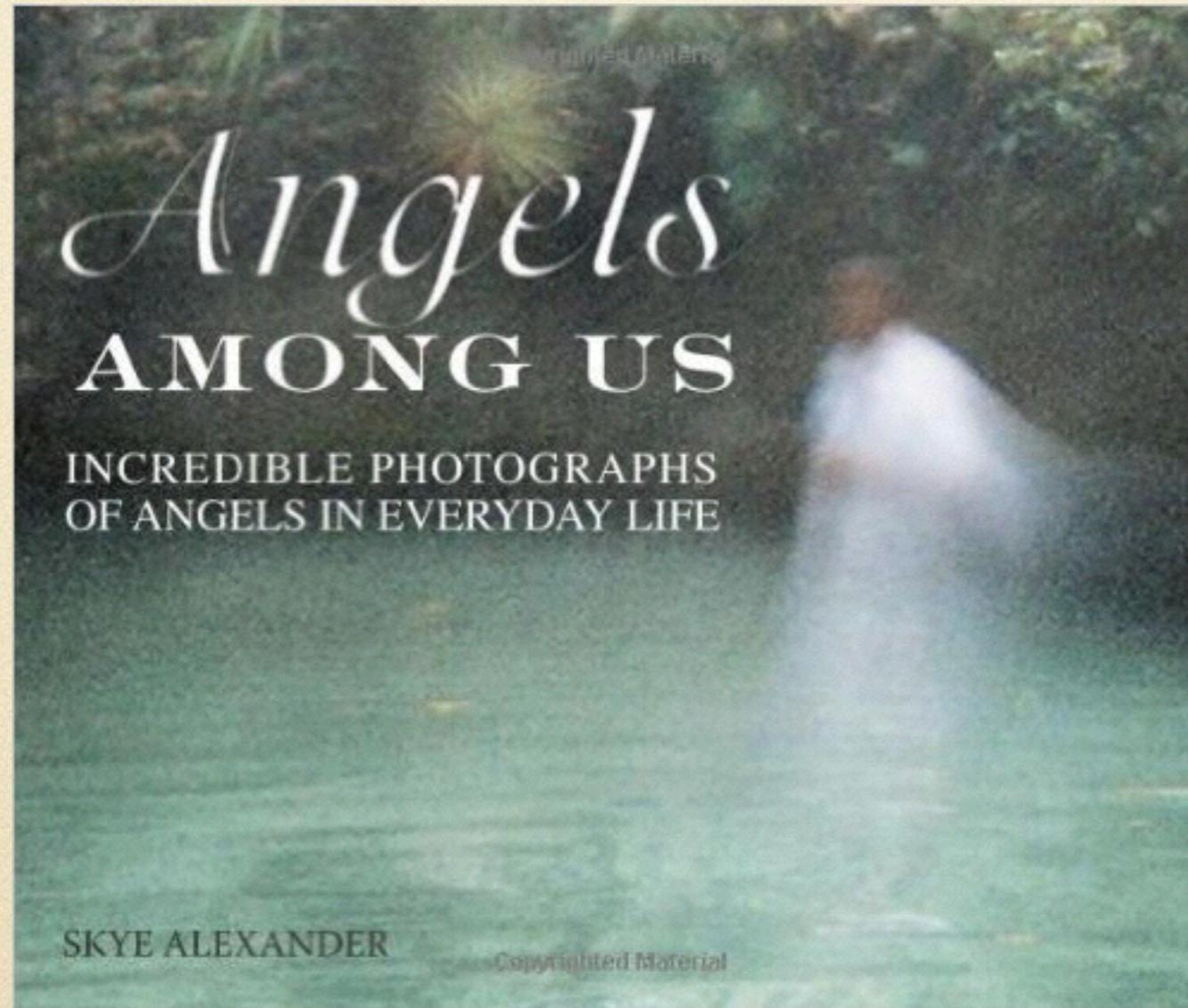
How Many Angels?

- Ten thousand angels came down on Mount Sinai to confirm the presence of God as he gave the Ten Commandments.
- Revelation 5:11 talks about ten thousand times ten thousand angels ministering to the Lamb of God.

Can We See Angels?

- Angels are ministering spirits (Heb.1:14) or spirit beings so they are usually invisible to human beings.
- Angels do take on physical form.
- Some theologians have suggested it is good we cannot see angels or we might be tempted to worship them.

Can We See Angels?



Can We See Angels?

- We are not to worship angels (Colossians 2:18). God alone is worthy of worship.
- When angels appear in their heavenly form, they have a blinding brilliance.
- John saw an angel and said his face was like the sun (Revelation 10:1).

Do Angels Have Wings?

- Some angels have wings: seraphim and cherubim (Isaiah 6:2).
- Seraphim has three pairs of wings: two each for the face, feet, and flying.
- Cherubim have four wings (Exodus 25; Ezekiel 1:11, 10).

Do Angels Fly?

- Isaiah 6:2 says that seraphim fly.
- John saw an “angel flying in midheaven” (Revelation 14:6).
- The angel Gabriel was able to “fly swiftly” when he came to Daniel (9:21).

Ranks of Angels

- Archangel - Michael (Jude 9)
- Gabriel (Daniel 8)
- Seraphim (Isaiah 6)
- Cherubim (Ezekiel 10)

How Powerful?

- Paul refers to them as “mighty angels” (2 Thessalonians 1:7). Same word from which we get the word dynamite.
- Peter talks about “angels who are greater in might and power” than human beings (2 Peter 2:11).

How Powerful?

- God executes his judgments through angels (Psalm 78:49).
- God commands his angels to guard the righteous (Psalm 91:11).
- In the last days they will gather the unrighteous (Matthew 13:41).

Guardian Angel?

- Exodus 23:20 - send an angel before you to guard you.
- Psalm 91:11 - "He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways."
- Michael assigned to the nation of Israel (Daniel 10:21; 12:1).

Guardian Angel?

- Matthew 18:10 - do not despise little ones, their angels in heaven continually see the face of God.
- Hebrews 1:14 - ministering spirits for those who will inherit salvation.

Marriage Held in Honor

- Traditional marriage used to be the norm and now has become a minority:
 - Increase in cohabitation.
 - Increase in unwed births.
 - Increase in divorce.
 - Decrease in couples getting married.

Biblical Perspective

- Biblical perspective on marriage: one man and one woman (Genesis 2:18)
 - Nurture of children (Eph. 6:1-2)
 - Sex within marriage (Ep. 5:31)
 - Flee sexual immorality (1 Cor. 6:18)
- Biblical perspective on family (Ephesians 5:22-6:4)

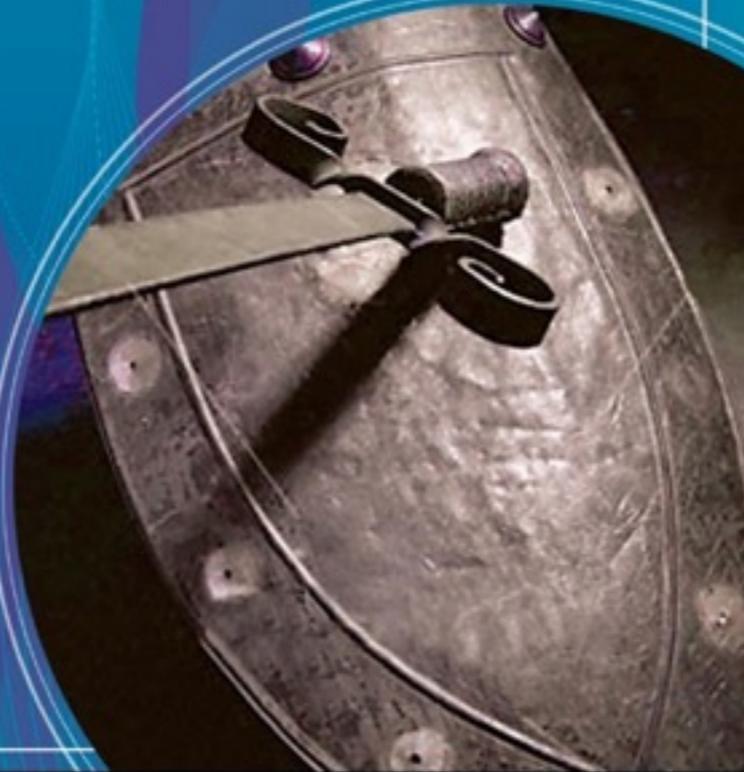
Biblical Perspective

- Present evidence from social science that supports these biblical perspectives:
 - Married people are “happier, healthier, and better off” (*Case for Marriage*)
 - Traditional marriages (incomes, lower social costs)
 - Traditional marriages - positive effects on children

Ministries

- Churches and Christian ministries should strengthen marriages and families:
 - Ministries and programs (Family Life, Marriage Savers)
 - We should participate in the political process to pass laws that strengthen marriages and families (Matthew 5:13-16)

A BIBLICAL
POINT OF VIEW ON
**SPIRITUAL
WARFARE**



KERBY ANDERSON
NATIONALLY SYNDICATED RADIO HOST