

Christmas Remarks, Dec. 20, '87, 11 a.m.

## Rejoicing Angels and Rejoicing Christians

1. The Night those angels sang at Bethlehem was indeed a glorious night.

2. What makes the angels rejoice in our day?

--- It is when a sinner repents and a lost person is saved.

Luke 15:10, "Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

3. It is through THE CHURCH that the plan of salvation and the wisdom of God is made known to the ANGELS, Eph. 3:9-10: "To me this grace was given to make all men see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the principalities and powers (angels) in the heavenly places."

The angels are deeply interested in God's work of redemption. They are not omniscient; they have to learn, as we do. Here we are told that they learn through us, the church.

4. Peter tells us that the angels long to look into God's gracious salvation, including what PERSON was to be the Redeemer, and what particular TIME was indicated between His suffering and His glory, that is, between His first and second advent.

I Peter 1:10-12, "The [OT] prophets searched and inquired about this salvation; they inquired what person or time was indicated by the Spirit of Christ within them when predicting the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glory. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things which have now been announced to you by those who preached the good news to you through the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, THINGS INTO WHICH ANGELS LONG TO LOOK." The angels had to inquire and search out the meaning and interpretation of the message of redemption, much as did the prophets of the OT.

5. We are privileged today to understand some of the things the angels long to know more about.

Furthermore, we are redeemed children of God and are therefore much more blest than angels, who can never be redeemed children of God as we are.

It is greater to be a Christian than it is to be an angel. We do not minister to angels, but angels minister to Christians, who are the heirs of salvation. The lesser minister to the greater. (Heb. 1:14)

Therefore, we as Christians have even greater reasons to sing and rejoice this Christmas.

Have you accepted this Savior into your heart, this One who came as God's only Son to be our Redeemer?

Have you crowned him Lord of All in your life?

If you haven't, do it now.

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