

ANGELIC MINISTRY IN THE CELESTIAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, NIGERIA,
IN THE LIGHT OF HEBREWS 1:4-14

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is to look into angelic ministry beliefs and practices in the Celestial Church of Christ Nigeria, analyze and align it with Hebrew 1:4-14. There is a lot of teachings on the ministry of angels which are overtime abused. There is therefore need for every Christian to understand the biblical teachings on the ministry of angels. the researcher used historical –grammatical approach to reveal the meaning of some selected verses in Hebrew 1:4-14 due to exegetical nature of the studied topic. This research work unravel that some of African indigenous churches Christians ignorantly give undue authority and power to angels, they worship angels even pray in the names of some angels to God. Biblical injunction to all Christians is to pray to God only in the name of Jesus Christ because Christ is above all and angels are servants of Christ. They worship God, deliver God's messages to people and are not to be worshipped by any person. This research shows that angelic ministry is not a miracle, Christian should avoid being victim of heretic teachings on angels, special reports should not be attached to angels, and Man should always worship and thank God for the ministry of angels that are genuine cases and do not contradict the Scripture.

5.2 CONCLUSION

It is essential that every Christian understands what the Bible teaches about God, Jesus Christ, salvation, spirituality, and the ministry of angels so that they might not fall into errors of heretics. The claim of receiving special revelation from God to get names of angels not mentioned in the Bible is considered unbiblical. Therefore, it must be avoided so that the word of God will not be misinterpreted.

Jesus Christ is above all. Christ is all in all who mediate between God (creator) and man (creature). No Christian should give any credence to angels because angels are creatures of God. The book of Colossians is an excellent commentary on this.

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created... For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. (Colossian 1:15-20).

It is the conclusion of this writer that angels exist because the Bible teaches it.

Angels are servants of God and worship God from biblical record. No one should idolize angels. Angels minister to heirs of salvation.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the aforementioned explanations in Hebrews 1:4-14 regarding the ministry of angels in the Scripture and how the Celestial Church of Christ views and practices it. It is hereby recommended that:

(1) Angels are not to be worshiped:

Everywhere angels are mentioned in the Bible, the reference to angel(s) is incidental to some other issues. They are not the main subject of the passage. God's love and grace is the main subject. When they are mentioned, it is always in order to give further information about God, what He does, and how He does it. This fact teaches Christians that angels should not be focused and not be worshipped. Angels are not small god. Pastors should teach and educate their church members properly.

(2). Angelic ministry is not a miracle:

Angelic ministry is non-miraculous (1 Cor. 13:8-10), and does not interfere with the free moral agency of man: There is no miracle in the ministry of Angels, all what angels did or will do were/will not be independent of God injunctions. All what Christian may experience should give glory to God, thus angels cannot perform any miracle on their own without God's order.

(3) Christians must not participate in angel worship:

Many people engage in angels' gimmickry to deceive people. There are heretic teachings on angelology that contradict what the Bible says about angels. Believers in Christ must be cautious of all deceptive teaching on angels.

(4) Special reports should not be attached to angels:

Whenever there is a report of angels, it is only natural for Christians to be skeptical and there is the need for a certain amount of skepticism, what Gangel calls “healthy skepticism.”¹²⁶ The reasons a healthy skepticism is needed are the deceptions of Satan that brings about spiritual bankruptcy of our culture and its willingness to accept anything but the truth.

(5) Man should always thank God:

Thankfulness should be given to God for the ministry of angels that are genuine cases and do not contradict the Scripture.

(6) The fact that each Christian does not have a guardian angel does not deny the fact angels do minister to believers.

¹²⁶Gangel Kenneth (2004), Angels, God’s ministering spirit, cited from [www .bible. org/ article/angel-god% 25E2%](http://www.bible.org/article/angel-god%25E2%2599%A2) (accessed on march 23 2015).