

Hebrews 1:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

Analysis

Angels are described as 'leitourgika pneumata' (ministering spirits), emphasizing their service role. The phrase 'those who will inherit salvation' uses the present participle 'mellontas,' indicating future certainty. This affirms the Reformed doctrine of preservation of the saints - those being saved will certainly inherit salvation. Angels serve the elect, not vice versa, demolishing any angel worship (cf. Colossians 2:18).

Historical Context

Jewish tradition highly venerated angels, sometimes excessively. The author corrects this by subordinating angels to both Christ and redeemed humanity, whom they serve. This would have been countercultural in a context where angels were often invoked as mediators.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does understanding angels as servants rather than objects of worship affect your prayer life?
2. What assurance does the certainty of inheriting salvation provide in times of doubt?

Interlinear Text

οὐχὶ πάντες εἰσὶν λειτουργικὰ πνεύματα εἰς διακονίαν

not all Are they ministering spirits to minister

G3780

G3956

G1526

G3010

G4151

G1519

G1248

ἀποστελλόμενα διὰ τοὺς μέλλοντας κληρονομεῖν

sent forth for them who shall be heirs

G649

G3588

G3195

G2816

σωτηρίαν

of salvation

G4991

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 34:7 (Parallel theme): The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

Matthew 18:10 (Parallel theme): Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.

Daniel 6:22 (Parallel theme): My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

Acts 27:23 (Parallel theme): For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve,

Acts 5:19 (Parallel theme): But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said,

Acts 12:7 (Parallel theme): And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.

Luke 1:19 (Parallel theme): And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings.

Matthew 1:20 (Spirit): But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

Daniel 3:28 (Parallel theme): Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.

Luke 16:22 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;