

Worship With Angels
International Bible Lesson
Hebrews 12:18-29
Sunday, September 23, 2012
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

“But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels” (Hebrews 12:22—KJV).

“Instead, you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, with its thousands of angels” (Hebrews 12:22—GNB).

“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering” (Hebrews 12:22—NRSV).

On Earth, believers run the race of faith surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses in heaven (see Hebrews 12:1). When those who follow Jesus Christ worship God, they spiritually enter the city of the living God in heaven. Whether Christians worship God alone at home, in a crowded bus, in a country church, or in a great cathedral, they can spiritually join with innumerable angels in festal gathering.

The Letter to the Hebrews says worshipping the living God with the angels celebrates the work of Jesus in the lives of His people. The Letter describes some of what Jesus has accomplished and does for His followers. Jesus enrolls His followers in heaven, and before God, the Judge of all, Jesus makes perfect those who live righteous in Him (Hebrews 12:23). Though Cain spilled the blood of his brother, Abel, who became the first martyr for his faith, when Jesus came into the world to die on a cross, He achieved more than martyrdom. Jesus shed His blood as a sacrifice for sinners, to save His followers from the consequences and the practice of sin, to cleanse them from the stain of sin and purify their conscience, to free them from the power of sin and temptation, and to empower them to live in ways that bring joy to heaven and earth. For these and additional reasons, the Bible tells us how we should worship, “Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe” (Hebrews 12:28).

— © Copyright 2012 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr. — E-mail: lgp@InternationalBibleLessons.org

You may be reprint or reproduce this International Bible Lesson for not-for-profit use.

More Uniform Bible Lessons are available at InternationalBibleLessons.org.
Read the verse by verse commentary on the Bible Lesson at: BibleLessonForum.com
International Bible Lessons Archives from 2007-2012 InternationalBibleLessons.com.
See the recommended study and worship resources at SmallChurchResources.com.

Thinking Further

1. How does the writer describe the experience of those who came to God in the time of Moses under the old covenant?

2. How does the writer describe the experience of those who come to God since the coming of Jesus Christ under the new covenant?

3. What does the writer say that should make believers think of heaven as a happy place?

4. How does the writer warn people not to reject Jesus?

5. Read Hebrews 12:28 again. How should believers approach God? Why?