

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

As we approach this time of communion and consider the life and death of Christ as set forth in the Gospels, we notice that Jesus was acknowledged on numerous occasions as well as being ministered to by angels several times. I will refer to a few scriptures that bear these truths out.

1. At the baptism of Jesus, God declared, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” Matthew 3:17
2. At the transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain, God declared, “This is my beloved Son, hear ye Him” Matthew 17:5
3. John the Baptist met Jesus one day and declared, “Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” John 1:29
4. The apostle Peter declared of Jesus “We have believed and come to know that You are the Holy One of God.” John 6:69
5. Upon Jesus’ death on the cross, the Roman centurion declared, “Truly, this was the Son of God”

The following scriptures show the fact of angels acknowledging and ministering to Jesus while here on earth

1. An angel announced the birth of Jesus and then a multitude of angels joined the angel rejoicing and praising God over His birth Luke 2:9-14
2. After fasting for forty days and being tempted by the devil in the wilderness, angels came and ministered to Jesus. Matthew 4:11
3. In the garden of Gethsemane while Jesus was praying earnestly that the impending suffering of the cross might be avoided, all the time stressing that His Father’s will be done and not His, and angel from heaven appeared strengthening Him. Luke 22:39-46
4. Jesus speaking to a man called Nathaniel said, “You will see the heavens opened and angels ascending and descending on the Son of Man (Jesus). John 1:51 (Indicating the provisional care God would give to Jesus, His Son, during His earthly ministry.

To sum all this up, I would say this:

John 8:29 Jesus speaking, “And He who sent Me is with Me, He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things as the Father taught Me.”

During the earthly ministry of Jesus, God’s presence was continually with Him. Many acknowledged Him for who He was and angels also did that plus ministered to Him on several occasions.

As our thoughts turn to the cross, the picture changes. As Jesus hung there in agony, He uttered those words “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” In that moments, Jesus sensed the absence of God. God did not respond. The angels did not respond. The heavens fell silent! Why, we might ask?

2 Corinthians 5:20 God made Jesus who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him

Habakkuk 1:12-13 Are You not from everlasting, oh Lord, my God, my Holy One? Your eyes are too pure to approve evil and You cannot look on wickedness with favor.

Isaiah 53:6 But the Lord has caused the iniquity (sin) of us all to fall on Him

As Jesus took upon Himself the sins of humanity, our sins, God's presence departed. These scriptural truths certainly give a profound emphasis on John 3:16. God loved – He gave. The incredible magnitude of God's love for us even though we are so unworthy.

As we partake of the emblems, the bread and the juice, we remember the body and blood of Christ given for us on the old rugged cross.

Prayer:

Father in heaven, we thank You for the grace, mercy, and forgiveness that flows from Calvary. Would You bless the bread and juice that represents the body and blood of Christ, Your Son. Please forgive and cleanse us from any and all sin. We thank You and praise You for our eternal hope through our resurrected Lord. For we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.