

Introduction:

1. What if Jesus had done it? What if Jesus *had called* ten thousand angels?
 - a. This song is related to a statement Jesus made to the apostle Peter in Matthew 26:53.
 - b. The song actually understates what Jesus said in regard to the number of angels. A Roman legion contained 6,000 men; twelve legions would be 72,000. Note that Jesus said "more" than twelve legions.
2. The point is, Jesus could have brought all that was happening to Him to an immediate halt, Matthew 26:47-54.
 - a. Don't underestimate the power of angels. On numerous occasions, angels have been used by God to wreak havoc and destruction, 2 Kings 6:17; Isaiah 37:36.
 - b. In the case of the arrest of Jesus, God could have sent legions of angels, not only to stop what was happening, but also to destroy the Jews and the Romans who had devised their wicked plot to kill Jesus.
 - c. Without question, Jesus could have called legions of angels. What if He had done it? What would have been the consequences if He had made the call?

The Lesson:**I. The Scriptures would not have been fulfilled.**

- A. Jesus Himself states that as a consequence in Matthew 26:54. The prophecies from the Old Testament that for so long had been awaiting fulfillment would never have been fulfilled.
 1. Such great prophetic chapters as Isaiah 53 would become "what might have been."
 2. There are literally dozens of Old Testament prophecies that would have gone unfulfilled.
 3. The plan of God, however, was so secure that these things had to be fulfilled, John 10:35. Jesus said "...the Scripture cannot be broken."
- B. If, however, Jesus had called down legions of angels, these things would not have been fulfilled, thus all of these prophets of old would become false prophets.
 1. The works of these men would become worthless writings. Everything changes!
 2. Jesus would not be what He is to us, because these writings are about Jesus.

II. There would have been no crucifixion.

- A. While it is true that Jesus would have avoided the awful agony of the cross, that would not be good news for us.
 1. Jesus died for a purpose, 1 Corinthians 15:3; Romans 5:6, 10.
 2. If there were no crucifixion, there would be no blood shed for our sins, Romans 5:8-9.
- B. Many disregard the crucifixion and blood of Christ. If He had called 10,000 angels, there would be nothing to disregard!

III. There would have been no resurrection of Christ.

- A. There could have been no resurrection if Christ had not died. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.
 1. If there was no resurrection, our faith is meaningless, 1 Corinthians 15:17.
 2. All that Christianity is hinges upon the resurrection of Christ. Without the resurrection, it is nothing. If you have any hope at all for the future, it must be based on the fact that you serve a risen Savior. Jesus died and is now alive!
 3. Listen to the words of the angel in Matthew 28:5-6. The angel's words mean that there is hope and meaning to life! All is well. "Because He lives, I can face tomorrow!"
- B. But if Jesus had called ten thousand angels, there would have been no resurrection. Our faith would be an empty nothing.

IV. There would have been no Pentecost.

- A. Oh certainly, the Jewish Day of Pentecost would have come and gone just as it had for more than a thousand years. But, the events in Acts 2 on that Day of Pentecost would not have happened.
 1. There would be no Christ—no King Jesus—on David's throne, Acts 2:30. Jesus cannot be king if He does not die.

2. There would be no plan of salvation Acts 2:36, 38. Jesus cannot be either Lord or Christ if He does not fulfill the prophecies concerning Him. If He is not Lord and Christ, then His commandments regarding salvation are meaningless. There is no salvation. Don't think about, "Should I be baptized or not?" No such options could be given if Jesus had called ten thousand angels.
 3. There would be no gospel—no good news. Acts 2:41 says they "gladly" received his word. "Gladly" is a response to good news. They received the message this way because it meant release from their sins! Remember 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. If Jesus had called down legions of angels to prevent His death, then the whole system would be in vain. If Jesus had called the angels, someone could still have written a book about all this, but it would not have been called "gospel" (good news).
 4. There would have been no church established, Acts 2:47. The church is the body of the saved, Ephesians 5:23. If nobody is saved, then there is no church! You and I would not be here doing what we are doing today! It is amazing that some people really don't want to engage in worship and service unto Jesus. If Jesus had not died, we *could not* meet to worship Him and study His word. I'm not ashamed to tell people that I am a member of the church established by Christ. If Jesus thought enough of it to die for it, I ought to think enough of it to own up to the fact that I believe in it, and be faithful to its cause!
 5. There would be no heaven for you and me. There could be no heaven because there would be no gospel, no forgiveness of sins, Hebrews 9:22; Colossians 1:5. If Jesus had called legions of angels, then John Lennon's longed-for dream in his song *Imagine* would be a reality. He sang, "Imagine there's no heaven..."
 6. No heaven means no hope, 1 Corinthians 15:19. We would not be able to comfort one another with the words of 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. There would be no second coming of Christ, no resurrection for the people of God; there would be nothing but misery at death—for both the living and the dead.
- B. This would be the sad state of affairs if Jesus had called ten thousand angels.

Conclusion:

1. Thank God for Jesus! Thank God that He died for our sins! Though we grieve that He had to die, thank God that He did die.
2. Jesus *could have* called ten thousand angels, but He *would not*. Jesus died because He loves you. He wanted to save your soul. Jesus would rather die than have you go to hell! How could you help but to love Him?