

God's Angelic Host

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Let me give you some quotes from kids giving you their perception of angels. This is Gregory, age 5. He says, "I only know the names of two angels, Hark and Herald, from the Christmas song, you know." Then Matthew, age 9, says this: "It's not easy to become an angel. First you die, then you go to heaven, then there's still the flight training to go through and then you've got to agree to wear angel's clothes." Kids. Henry, age 8, says, "My guardian angel helps me with math, but he's not much good for science." Jack, age 6, says, "Angels don't eat, but they drink milk from holy cows." You can tell the words being said in the household there. Finally, Sarah, age 7, says, "What I don't get about angels is why, when someone is in love, they shoot arrows at them." So, we see kids have unusual perceptions of angels. The fact is adults don't know any more about angels than kids do. What we want to do today is look at the subject of angels. We are going to see before we're done that God created a class of beings, the angels, as instruments of His will to look after all of us. What a God we serve, to create a class of beings just to do that.

1. The first point we want to make is that God designed and created the angels.

They are created beings. They are spirit beings. Let's go to Psalms 148:1-5. This is a hymn that we sing. Every time I read this Psalm the music is going on in the back of my head. It tells us that God created the angels. Notice this.

***Psalms 148:1.** Praise ye the Lord. Praise ye the Lord from the heavens: praise him in the heights.*

2) Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts. (KJV)

Angels are part of God's host. When you read about the heavenly host, it is talking about the angels, plus the other beings that are around the throne.

3) Praise ye him, sun and moon ... (KJV)

They are God's creations.

3b) ... praise him, all ye stars of light.

4) Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens.

5) Let them [the angels] praise the name of the Lord: for he commanded, and they were created. (KJV)

They were created at God's command. They were created at God's design before the big bang. They were created before the universe came into existence. We won't turn there, but Job 38:6 tells us that the angels shouted for joy at creation. So, we at least know that they were created at some point prior to the creation of the physical universe.

2. The second point we want to make is how many angels are there?

Let's go to Revelation 5:11. This gives us at least the number of angels around God's throne at that moment in time when John had the vision.

Revelation 5:11. *And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; (KJV)*

If you do the math, you come out to a minimum of a hundred and four million angels and those are just around God's throne. There may be others somewhere else at that moment we don't know about. It could be many more, because in Hebrews 12:22 it describes an innumerable, uncountable company of angels. So, we know that there are millions, millions, millions of angels. That's something that is hard for us to comprehend. We are going to see that they have a purpose.

3. The third point we want to make is that there exist armies of angels.

Again, these armies of angels have a purpose. Let's go to Genesis 32:1-2. This is an account of Jacob, who is walking and he comes onto something.

Genesis 32:1. *And Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him.
2) And when Jacob saw them, he said, This is God's host: ... (KJV)*

We heard that before.

2b) ... and he called the name of that place Mahanaim. (KJV)

If you look up the word "host" and you look up the word "Mahanaim", they are the same word. It's Strong's 4264 and it means *an encampment of travelers or troops, hence an army*. So, Jacob could have just as easily said, this is God's army that I'm coming upon. When you see in the Bible the term Lord of hosts, God of hosts, Lord God of hosts, it is referring to the fact that all of the angels belong to God. They were created by God. It refers to Him as Lord of hosts and God of hosts as the God of all the angels, every one of them.

Let's go to 2 Kings 6:14-18 and see an example of an army of angels. The context is that Israel is at war with Syria and the king of Syria is not happy with Elisha, because God has been talking to Elisha and Elisha is whispering in the ear of the king of Israel and thwarting the efforts of the king of Syria. So, the king of Syria finally had enough and he sent troops to surround this little town of Dothan that Elisha was in. It is fifty miles north of Jerusalem. We are going to see this town is surrounded.

2 Kings 6:14. *Therefore sent he [the king of Syria] thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about.*

15) And when the servant of the man of God [Elisha] was risen early, and gone forth ... (KJV)

He was probably up on the walls of the city.

15b) ... behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. ... (KJV)

This was not just a company of men with bows and arrows.

15 continued) ... And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! How shall we do? (KJV)

Notice Elisha's response.

16) And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. (KJV)

He is talking about this huge army outside the walls of the city.

17) And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha. (KJV)

There were angels on those horses. There were angels in those chariots.

18) And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto the Lord, and said, Smite this people, I pray thee, with blindness. And he smote them with blindness according to the word of Elisha. (KJV)

Can you imagine that? It was a hopeless situation. To the physical eyes there was no solution. You see, God has armies of angels that protect His people and we cannot forget that fact. You remember the night Christ was taken. Peter cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest. Christ said in Matthew 26:53 I can call twelve legions of angels. That's seventy-two thousand angels. He would just speak the word. They were probably right there already. He could speak the word and he could wipe everybody out, if Christ so chose, but that was not part of the plan. Those armies are available when God chooses. The point is in this third point that we have help we can't even imagine by armies of angels totaling in the millions. We can't forget that.

4. The fourth point we want to investigate is what is the appearance of angels?

What do they look like? The traditional view perverts the truth. Dorothy and I were in Canada, just coincidentally, between Christmas and New Year's visiting the Sooke brethren. The place we were staying had on the counter a cloth and they had a figurine of this little baby with wings and a bow and arrow. That is the perception of angels. It

was this fat little baby naked with bow and arrow. They call them in the world a cherubic baby. That is a perversion, a counterfeit of real cherubs. This little figurine has wings and cherubs have wings. That's a special class of angels God created. We don't have time to cover that today. Again, it's a perversion. Of course, this baby was naked. There is no place in the Bible where angels appear naked. They are always clothed. Satan, you see, perverts all of that and tries to water it down that it's these little babies flapping around. Aren't they cute, but they don't do anything other than maybe shoot arrows, as that little girl said, to somebody in love.

Now the Bible reveals the truth. Angels appear as humans when God wants them to. Let's go to Acts 1:9-11. Angels appear as humans in most cases and they do so at God's request, at God's desire, God's orders or God's commands.

Acts 1:9. *And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.*

10) And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

11) Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. (KJV)

So, we see here they looked like men. They were in white, clean garments. They're not slovenly. They were very clean, very neat. As we are going to see, they looked like young men, not aged men. You remember the account of Stephen. When he was stoned, before he died he was preaching Christ to all of those around him; the Jews, the Sanhedrin, the rabbis, the priests. As he was addressing the Sanhedrin, the Bible tells us in Acts 6:15 his face looked like the face of an angel. This is just my speculation. It could have been that his face started to glow. God was showing them that something miraculous was going on here. Something serious was going on here. Stephen was most likely in his twenties at that time. We get a hint here that angels look like young men. My guess is, and again this is speculation, that God created the angels to look younger than He does. We are going to see in a minute that God is described as having hair the color of wool. Again it's my speculation; I think God designed humans, men and women, that when they age their hair turns gray. That is an analogy to the way God appears. It is my speculation that God appears as a mature human. I am not degrading God to be human, but He has that countenance. He created angels to look younger than He looks.

Angels can also appear, in addition to appearing as humans, in glory also. Let's go to Revelation 10:1 and see the appearance of what John describes as a mighty angel.

Revelation 10:1. *And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head ... (KJV)*

Can you imagine that?

1b) ... and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: (KJV)

So, he had a human form, but his face glowed so brightly it would be like looking into the sun. You could hardly stand it. His feet were the color of fire, again just bright, glowing. We see here that angels, according to God's command, can turn up the wick so to speak as far as their brightness.

We also see that some angels have appeared in partial glory. They look like humans but yet there is something different. Let's look at that in Luke 24:1-4. Christ was arrested. He was crucified. He died. He was buried and now he is resurrected.

Luke 24:1. *Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. (KJV)*

They didn't want to do it on the Sabbath. They did it on Sunday morning.

*2) And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.
3) And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.
4) And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: (KJV)*

We see here that if God wants the angels to make an impression, again they can turn up the wick so to speak and their garments are shining. This shows the humans around about that these are not normal human beings. These are spirit beings from God. We see here, closing out the fourth point that angels generally appear to mankind as young men. I'll give some personal examples that various people have experienced over the years.

5. The fifth point is what does the Bible say about the purpose, the job of angels?

This gets down to the nitty gritty. They primarily have two functions. First is they worship God and minister to Him. We are going to look at an Old Testament example and a New Testament example. Let's go to Daniel 7:9-10.

Daniel 7:9. *I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days ... (KJV)*

Whenever you see that term, it refers to who we now know as God the Father, the Almighty, the God of hosts.

9b) ... did sit, whose garment was white as snow ... (KJV)

Notice the description of God. The angels have white garments when they appear to men.

9 continued) ... and the hair of his head like the pure wool: ... (KJV)

Some of us kind of are getting in that area.

9 continued) ... his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. (KJV)

Can you imagine?

10) A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: ... (KJV)

If you do that math, it's a hundred and two million angels ministering to God, standing before God, praising God and ready to do whatever He wants them to do. Now let's look at a New Testament example. Turn to Revelation 7:11-12. Again, this is talking about the angels around God's throne. Their function is to worship God and to minister to Him and to do His will.

Revelation 7:11. *And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, (KJV)*

The Greek word for "God" is "theos" and it means *the supreme divinity*. So, these millions of angels are worshipping God, falling down before Him. Following is what they say.

12) saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. (KJV)

We read earlier in Psalms 148 that the angels sing praises to God. In addition to praising God, they execute God's will. Whatever He wants they do. Let's go to Psalms 103:20-21. This gives us an idea that the angels are there to do whatever God wants them to do. Undoubtedly, they report back to Him about what's happening on this earth.

Psalms 103:20. *Bless the LORD ... (KJV)*

In the King James it is all caps "LORD". It means "YHVH". It means *the Eternal*.

20b) ... ye his angels, that excel in strength ... (KJV)

We can't imagine the power that the angels have.

20 continued) ... that do his commandment ... (KJV)

Obviously, God's commands are outlined in the Bible, but also they do whatever He tells them to do.

20 continued) ... hearkening unto the voice of his word. (KJV)

Whatever God wants that's what they do.

21) Bless ye the Lord, all ye his hosts; ... (KJV)

This is again telling us that when the word hosts are used, it is talking about the armies of angels that serve God.

21b) ... ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure. (KJV)

The Hebrew word for "ministers" means *to contribute to*. God says, "Here is what I want you to do," so they contribute, make a contribution to do His will. So, we see here one of the purposes of angels is that they are there to worship God, sing praises to God and minister to God.

The second job of the angels, and this is the one that should be mindboggling to all of us is that they minister to those God is dealing with and, since Christ walked this earth, to those who God is calling right now and down through the millennia. Their job is to minister to us. This should humble us and this should just shake us to the core that God would love us so much that He would design a class of beings whose primary job is to serve the likes of us. Let's go to Hebrews 1:13-14. This is quoting Psalms 110:1, so this is not only in the New Testament. It is in the Old Testament. When you see the New Testament quote the Old Testament, it gives us a more complete understanding of whatever verse the New Testament is reflecting upon.

Hebrews 1:13. *But to which of the angels said he [the Father] at any time, Sit on my right hand ... (KJV)*

He didn't tell the angels to sit on My right hand. We know who He did say that to.

13b) ... until I make thine [Jesus Christ] enemies thy footstool? (KJV)

He did say that to Christ. He didn't say that to any of the angels. We are told here the purpose of the angels.

14) Are they [angels] not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation? (KJV)

That's us. They are sent forth to minister to us. The Greek word for "minister" is the word "deacon," a word we are all familiar with. Deacon can also mean *a waiter of tables*. So, it tells us that the angels are there to serve those who God has called. They are there to minister to us and they were created to do so. That should be humbling to

all of us that God looks on us and thinks enough of us to create armies of angels to take care of us.

The Bible also says we have specific angels assigned to us. Let's go to Matthew 18:10. Christ is speaking. Think about this. This is just so awesome. It's just unbelievable, really, to the human mind.

Matthew 18:10. *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. (KJV)*

So, we see here in principle that those God is dealing with have angels assigned to them. They are in heaven reporting to God and doing God's command regarding us. Let me give you an example. I have mentioned this before. When a minister in the church was a young student at Ambassador College, he decided on a whim to go to Italy for the Feast. He flew to England, spent Atonement there. He said, "I packed too much and I was late getting across the channel into France and then late getting to Paris to take a train to Italy." He was huffing and puffing with all of this extra baggage that he took. He walks into this Paris train station and everything is in French, of course, and everybody is speaking French. At that time you couldn't get anybody to speak English. He said, "I was a little scared; never been overseas before. Now I have to catch this train or I'm going to be late for the Feast. I just was anxious and uneasy." This young man, neatly dressed, walked up to him and said, "You are going to Italy aren't you, to the Feast and mentioned the town." The man said, "Yes." He said, "Here are your tickets. The train you want is right down here." He was so thankful. He said, "I ran to get the train, because I was late." He didn't even thank the guy really. He looked around and there was nobody there; just a crowd of people. He went on and got on the train and finally realized what had happened. What are the odds of somebody knowing an American, speaking English and giving him tickets and knowing exactly where he was going; a total stranger doing that? Obviously, God had mercy. He looks after us. He told the angel, "Hey, take care of this and the angel did."

As an aside, let me just mention the concept of a guardian angel is false. If we knew we had a guardian angel and somehow knew the guardian angel's name, guess what we would do? We would worship the angel. Satan has fostered this concept of a guardian angel just to get people off track. As we have seen here, there are multiple angels. Do they have angels permanently assigned to us or do they rotate? We'll find out someday. We just don't know.

Another function of angels ministering to God's people is they announce God's will to men when God wants it announced. Remember in Judges 13 an angel appeared to Samson's parents and told them they were going to have a son and he was going to have a Nazarite vow over him from the day of his. So, an angel made that announcement. Also, in Matthew 1 an angel appeared to Mary and said to her astonishment that she was going to give birth to the Messiah. Can you imagine? Talk about a mind blowing experience.

Also, they are there to assist, to protect and to deliver God's people. Think about that. Let's go to Genesis 19:1-5. You know where we are going. It's the example of Lot. Lot was in a bad position; made some bad choices. There were bad, bad people around him and it was a horrible place to live, if you wanted to live God's way. Yet, the Bible called him righteous Lot. We talked about that a while back.

Genesis 19:1. *And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground; (KJV)*

That word "bowed" can mean *lay down flat*, like you were worshipping God or it can mean *you just bend from the waist*. The point is he thought they were humans.

2) And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, nay; but we will abide in the street all night. (KJV)

Lot knew that was not a good idea. Of course, the angels knew this. They were just seeing what Lot's response would be.

3) And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat. (KJV)

Somehow God works it out that a spirit being can eat physical food. It's going to be interesting to see how that works.

4) But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round ... (KJV)

They surrounded the house.

4b) ... both old and young, all the people from every quarter: (KJV)

This shows you the mentality of that city.

5) And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, where are the men which came in to thee this night? Bring them out unto us, that we may know them. (KJV)

That's a polite King James usage of words that they wanted to have sexual relations with them and use them. Now, these reprobates would not have desired these men if they were not good looking and fit, which they undoubtedly were.

9) And they said, Stand back. And they said again, This one fellow came in to sojourn ... (KJV)

He came from the outside. He's living amongst us now.

9b) ... and he will needs be a judge ... (KJV)

He's judging us? They knew Lot judged their character and probably spoke about it.

9 continued) ... now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, even Lot, and came near to break the door. (KJV)

So, we see here that Lot's life is in danger. He could be killed, mutilated.

10) But the men [the angels] put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house to them, and shut to the door.

11) And they smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door. (KJV)

The angels saved Lot's life. God used those angels to protect Lot.

He's going to do that for us, too, and He does that for us, too. Let's go to Psalms 34:7. We should be awestruck if we understand what this verse really, truly means. God loves us so much that He would do this.

Psalms 34:7. *The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them. (KJV)*

We talked about armies of angels. We see here an angel encamps around it and undoubtedly, we know there are more angels, but there could be dozens, hundreds, thousands of angels camped around those that fear Him, referring to those that God is dealing with and calling now.

Let's look at another example of angels taking care of one of God's people. We will go to 1 Kings 19:1-8. King Ahab is the king of the northern ten tribes and he was a bad, bad man. The problem was his wife Jezebel was even worse and they were ruining Israel. Elijah was preaching against them.

1 Kings 19:1. *And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword. (KJV)*

You find that in the previous chapter, 1 Kings 18:40. Elijah personally hacked the prophets of Baal to death. Elijah was not somebody to mess with.

2) Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time. (KJV)

I'm going to hack you to death in the next twenty-four hours.

3) And when he saw that [understood it], he arose, and went [ran] for his life, and came to Beer-sheba ... (KJV)

That's about forty miles southwest of Jerusalem.

3b) ... which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there. (KJV)

Notice what he did.

4) But he himself went a day's journey [ten to fifteen miles] into the wilderness ... (KJV)

He was going in hiding. He didn't want anybody to follow him.

4b) ... and came and sat down under a juniper tree ... (KJV)

Notice his state of mind.

4 continued) ... and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now ... (KJV)

Have we ever said this? I'm at the end of my rope. I can't handle it anymore. I'm done. I'm spent. All of us at certain times in our life have been in that situation.

4 continued) ... O Lord, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers. (KJV)

He was undergoing severe depression here.

5) And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat. (KJV)

Notice the care of the angel. Get up. Wake up. I want you to eat something. I want you to drink something.

6) And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baken on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again. (KJV)

There was everything that he needed. Then he went back to sleep.

7) And the angel of the Lord came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee.

8) And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God. (KJV)

Horeb is near Mount Sinai where God and Christ appeared to Moses. Guess what? Horeb was two hundred and eighty miles away. So, in the next forty days he was going to walk two hundred and eighty miles. He had nothing to eat, nothing to drink. His strength resulted from what the angel gave him; that food and that water and it lasted him until he got to Mount Horeb. That was some food. Look at how the angel, according to God's instructions, just took care of this man.

Now let's go to Daniel 6:20-22 and see another example. You know where we are going here. This is about Daniel in the lions' den. Nebuchadnezzar was tricked by his servants, who hated Daniel. They put Daniel in a position where Daniel violated a previous law. It was the law of the land then that a king could not countermand a previously given order. So, they put Nebuchadnezzar in an untenable situation where he had to throw Daniel into a lions' den, although he loved Daniel. So, Daniel was thrown into the den. He spent the night in the lions' den. Nebuchadnezzar timidly came the next morning, because he was probably thinking he was going to see Daniel half eaten, torn to shreds.

Daniel 6:20. *And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel ... (KJV)*

Oh, he was sorry about what he had done.

20b) ... and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?

21) Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live forever.

22) 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. (KJV)

That angel came in. We don't know how it happened. He turned the lions into pussycats. For all we know they cuddled up like a cat does to a human being and they spent the night together lying around him. This is how God looks after us.

Let me give you an example of a man I know in the church, going back into the early 1960s. He lived in Michigan, I believe, at the time. In the middle of the night he heard some noises in the house. This is not your normal situation. He said later that it sounded like somebody was breaking into the house. He sat up in bed and he was scared. All of a sudden through the doorway leading into the bedroom he saw a figure. He said, "I cried out to God." He couldn't remember exactly what he said but it was something like "Save me God" or "Help me God." It was dark in the bedroom and all of a sudden this intruder was lifted up, thrown against the far wall; landed mid-wall, hit the floor and then looked up and he said, "His eyes were as big as saucers." He said, "I didn't see anything in the room, but the guy just looked in sheer terror and he ran out of the doorway to the bedroom." He had come through the front door. He said, "He took

the screen door off the hinges going out my front door. I didn't do a thing. I just sat there and watched it. I didn't see a thing, but that man was scared to death." Bet he's not going to go into that house anymore. You see, God intervenes when it's needed.

We can see also that the Bible portrays that angels travel at light speed, but it's got to be at the speed of thought. In Ezekiel 1:14 it tells us that the living creatures round about the throne returned in a flash of lightning. When God gives them an order, I'm sure it's like a lightning bolt and, bam; they're there wherever He sends them. I'm sure it's far in excess of the speed of light. It's the speed of God's thought process.

Let's also understand, talking about this fifth point of protecting God's people. Every flight of the people of God mentioned in the Bible was accompanied by angels. If we know the truth, there were probably armies of angels. We just read about Lot. What about the exodus and all of the plagues and all of the protection of God's people and leaving Egypt and going to Mount Sinai and going through the Red Sea and all of that? God used angels to protect them and take care of them. Then there are the historical accounts of the flight of the New Testament church from Jerusalem to Pella in 70 A.D. An angelic voice said to them, it's time to get out of here. Indeed they did and they were spared. The fact is, when you look at it, what love does God have for us that He would create a class of beings and one of their primary jobs is just to look after us and take care of us? It should increase our faith. It should increase our ability to be calm and not worry when we're in trouble.

6. For the sixth point we will see that there are two angels mentioned by name in the Bible.

We can't cover exhaustively every time, but we'll give the highlights. The first one is Michael. Michael is the warrior. He is the fighter. Undoubtedly God created in him a personality with more aggression and he is ready to do whatever God wants. Every time you read about Michael he is in a fight. Let's go to Jude 9. There was a battle with Satan about the body of Moses after Moses died. Undoubtedly Satan wanted to preserve the body of Moses and set it up before Israel as an icon and they would worship Moses' body. God was not going to let that happen.

Jude 9. Yet Michael the archangel ... (JKV)

The Greek means *a chief angel*. Undoubtedly, he is in charge of an army, or more than one maybe.

9b) ... when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee. (KJV)

With God's power, Michael took the body of Moses and undoubtedly buried it and it's lost forever, thwarting Satan. Let's go to Revelation 12:7-9 and see something that is

yet to happen, although sometimes when you think about what's going on in the world today it already has happened.

Revelation 12:7. *And there was war in heaven ... (JKV)*

This is a spiritual war.

7b) ... Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, (KJV)

So, on one side you have an army of angels headed by Michael and on the other side an army of angels headed by Satan. Let's see who wins.

*8) And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.
9) And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. (KJV)*

Michael and his angels had the power to defeat Satan and his angels. That should be comforting to us, because God is going to work His will and there is no power on heaven or earth that is going to thwart that, because God has all power and He has armies of angels to defeat whatever group of angels (demons) Satan has and God's will shall be done.

Let's go to another yet future event in Daniel 12:1. This is awe inspiring when you think that Michael stands up for each one of us, this fighter with armies of angels.

Daniel 12:1. *And at that time shall Michael stand up ... (KJV)*

Notice how Michael is described.

1b) ... the great prince ... (KJV)

He's a prince of an angel, an archangel. Notice this.

1 continued) ... which standeth [up] for the children of thy people ... (KJV)

That's us.

1 continued) ... and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy [us] people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. (KJV)

What we're promised here, what we're told here is if our name is written in the book of life, we have an archangel, a prince of God and His armies that are going to stand up for us. What an awesome thing. We don't think about this very much, but there are

armies of angels all around. I wish some time God would just open our eyes for a second and look around and we could see. This is what the Bible tells us and it's very, very encouraging. You see, this is a promise of angelic help when we need it. When we cry to God, that help is available. I believe angels have intervened in history down through the ages to work God's plan.

One of my interests is studying history and World War II history in particular. We celebrated Pearl Harbor here a month ago. We had miraculous help in World War II. Remember, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. All of the battleships were in Battleship Row. They were all destroyed. The admirals at that time were fighting amongst themselves. Most of the admirals put all of the money into battleships. That was the old school way of doing things and the military is really hidebound. The aircraft carriers were kind of the new kids on the block, but during that time all three aircraft carriers were out at sea. How did that happen? Then in April of 1942, Japan had this vast armada to come to Midway to put an end to the American aircraft carriers and put an end to Midway. Again, this was the first battle in the history of the world where you had two navies come together and they fought a battle and they never saw each other, because they had airplanes. The U.S. sent scout airplanes to try to find the Japanese fleet. The Japanese did the same. The U.S. scout planes found the Japanese and attacked them. The Japanese scout plane that was headed in the direction of the U.S. fleet found the carriers and they hit the mike button, turned the radio on and the radio was dead silent. The radio had died. How did that happen? Why did that happen just on that one Japanese scout plane? The U.S. sunk all four Japanese aircraft carriers. That was the turning point in the Pacific of World War II. I believe God said, "Here's what I want you to do," and the angels at the speed of light went down there and they did it.

The second angel is Gabriel and Gabriel is the messenger. He's the announcer. He could be an archangel, but the Bible doesn't say. He has a different job than Michael and, my guess is, he has a totally different personality than Michael, because there's no record of Gabriel ever fighting. Every time Gabriel is there he is making an announcement. He is talking to people. He is a spokesman. He is very literary. When he comes up to somebody and appears, we are going to see in just a minute, his first inclination is "Don't be afraid. Everything's all right. Don't worry. I'm here. I'm from God. I want to tell you something."

Now, Gabriel gives understanding. Let's go to Daniel 9:21-23. He is coming to Daniel, but notice his approach. He is not a fighter ready to do battle. His job is something entirely different.

Daniel 9:21. *Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly ... (JKV)*

God gave him a command. He flew swiftly.

*21b) ... touched me about the time of the evening oblation.
22) And he informed me ... (JIV)*

This was one of his jobs.

22b) ... and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding.

23) At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee ... (KJV)

How would you like God to say this about us?

23b) ... for thou art greatly beloved ... (KJV)

“God sent me to you. I’m Gabriel.”

23 continued) ... therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision. (KJV)

He’s saying, “I’m here to educate you. I’m here to teach you. I want you to expand your mind and think about this.” So, he gives understanding. Also, he reveals. Let’s go to Luke 1:5. This is talking about the parents of John the Baptist. Notice what happens and notice Gabriel’s approach to this.

Luke 1:5. *There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth. (KJV)*

It was the right family. Continue in verses 11-13.

11) And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. (KJV)

This was while he was doing his job at the temple.

12) And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. (KJV)

This was understandable. He knew that this was a spirit being. This wasn’t a human. Notice Gabriel’s reaction.

13) But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias ... (KJV)

“Don’t be afraid. I’m not here to cause you trouble.”

13b) ... for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. (KJV)

You see, the nature of angels is not to make us afraid, not to scare us. Continue in verse 18.

18) *And Zacharias said unto the angel, whereby shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years.*

19) *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. (KJV)*

He's the announcer. He is the messenger. In this next scripture could Gabriel be the announcer of this? Let's go to 1 Thessalonians 4:16. We're not told.

1 Thessalonians 4:16. *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout ... (KJV)*

Notice what announces this.

16b) *... with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: (KJV)*

Could this be Gabriel? We don't know. Another question is: Will Gabriel be the one to announce to us the time to flee? Will he be the one to appear to us and say, "It's time to go," as we're going to see in a minute. "It's time to get dressed. Pack your bags. Here's where I want you to go and I'm going to help you get there."

We have seen two angels and their differing personalities.

7. In this last point we want to talk about two aspects of the nature of angels.

The first one is they do not want to glorify themselves. They want to glorify God. They are not there to have people worship them. In every account in the Bible when they are coming to do God's will, they keep their visits short and to the point. When their visit is done, they go. They disappear. If a visit is long and rambling, it is not an angel. Every time they fulfill their mission and they go. They don't hang out. They don't ask to be worshipped. Let's go to Revelation 19:9-10. Most people when they see an angel would be scared to death or, as we see here, they want to fall down and worship them. An angel in glory would be something that one might think; I've got to worship this because they are far greater than me.

Revelation 19:9. *And he [the angel] saith unto me [John], Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.*

10) *And I fell at his feet to worship him. ... (KJV)*

Did the angel say, "Oh hey, this is nice. I'll take this. You can bow down and worship me." No.

10b) *... And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant ... (KJV)*

That's the other thing. Angels are servants. Given the fact that they're eternal and have incredible power, they are here to serve us.

10 continued) ... and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus ... (KJV)

We have the testimony of Jesus. They are here to serve us and they do not want to be worshipped. There is no account in the Bible of a human being being allowed to worship an angel. In fact, Paul cautioned against worshipping angels in Colossians 2:18. You can read that later. So, they want to glorify God. We read several scriptures about the fact that they sing praises. They bow down. They worship God. They glorify God.

The second point is they are concerned about our welfare. They care about us. God gives them instruction to take care of us and they do so. Let's go to Acts 12:4-9. Peter and the apostles were preaching Christ and boy the hierarchy of the temple did not like that and they put Peter in prison. Herod was behind it because he wanted calm and peace and he didn't want the Romans on his back.

Acts 12:4. *And when he [Herod] had apprehended him [Peter], he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers ... (KJV)*

A quaternion is four soldiers. So, we have here sixteen soldiers guarding one guy in prison. It goes on to say:

4b) ... to keep him; intending after Easter [Passover] ... (KJV)

This is a huge error in the King James. It says *after Easter*. That was inserted later. The Greek word refers to Passover.

4 continued) ... to bring him forth to the people.

5) Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

6) And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers ... (KJV)

Talk about guarding him. How would you like two smelly soldiers to be on each side of you and they're guarding you.

6b) ... bound with two chains ... (KJV)

They were probably around his feet and around his hands.

6 continued) ... and the keepers before the door kept the prison. (KJV)

They had guards everywhere.

7) And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison ... (KJV)

My guess is Peter was the only one to see the light. Otherwise the soldiers would have awakened.

7b) ... and he smote ... (KJV)

The Greek word can mean *a deadly blow or a gentle touch*, either one. My guess is it would be like waking one of your children. You just gently shake them.

7 continued) ... Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.

8) And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me. (KJV)

Let's just stop for a minute. Look at the nature of the angel. The angel is as protective as a mother of her children. It would be like waking your kids for school. It's time to get up. Come on. Let's get your clothes on. Let's get your shoes on. Let's get your coat on. It's cold outside. He was watching after Peter.

9) And he went out, and followed him [the angel]; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision. (KJV)

He thought he saw a vision, a dream. He was still blurry eyed probably.

10) When they were past the first and the second ward ... (KJV)

That means the guard posts. They had two guard posts inside the prison.

10b) ... they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of its own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him. (KJV)

The job was over and the angel left.

11) And when Peter was come to himself he said, now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews. (KJV)

He understood. What care he gave.

I'll give you a personal example. This was in the late 1990s. Dorothy and I had our own business at the time. I was speaking every Sabbath in the church, but I traveled during the week and Dorothy ran the office. We had to go to the Consumer Electronics Show.

That just ended. It's the first week in January every year. You probably see it on the news occasionally. It's in Las Vegas. So, I had been down there eight or nine days. It had been a stressful year. The show was stressful and I was just worn out, just beat. I took one of the last planes out of Las Vegas. There's a commuter plane that goes to Seattle and a commuter plane leaves Seattle at 11 o'clock and goes home to Yakima. I really wanted to get home, because that was on Thursday night and I had a sermon to get ready for the Sabbath. We got there on time in Seattle and the plane was there and we didn't go, because the weather was bad in Yakima. I had to spend the night, though I didn't want to, got up early the next morning in plenty of time, got to the airport and walked into the Alaska Airlines check-in and it was just jammed. This was before the electronic tickets and all of that kind of stuff. You had to go to the counter. You had to get the ticket. They had to print it out for you and give it to you. The line was halfway down the whole terminal. There were two agents. That was it. So, it didn't take me three or four minutes to figure out, doing the math of how many people in front of me and how long each one was taking. I wasn't going to make that airplane. Now it's Friday, preparation day. I said, "God I just don't know what to do, but please get me on that airplane."

There was an Alaska Airlines lady, who was standing out there directing traffic to go here, go there. I went up to her and I told her my sad story and I said, "I really need to make this plane." She got kind of huffy with me and said, "Well, you're no better than anybody else. They're standing in line and why should you jump in front of them," which is true. Then all of a sudden her whole face changed and she looked up maybe ten feet, way above my head and she said, "You know, I think I can help you. Yes, I think I can. We can do this." She kept looking. I looked over and I didn't see anything. There was nothing there. She had this calm, peaceful demeanor about her. She said, "Follow me. We'll take care of this." She dragged me over to the counter. There were lines everywhere. There was a lady sitting behind the counter. She had her head down and was doing something. She took me by the hand, walked me up to this lady and she said, "She'll take care of you." I told her my story. I have to make this flight. She said, "Of course," pressed a couple of buttons. The ticket spat out. She said, "Here. You'll make it in plenty of time." This was before security lines and all of that kind of stuff. "Just go over there." I was seated at the gate there waiting for the plane and I thought, what just happened? It just dawned on me that this doesn't happen. With the lady's demeanor and looking over my head, the only conclusion I can draw is that an angel just showed himself to her and gave her a command, calmed her and all of that and away we went. That's the only conclusion I can draw.

The fact is what we need to remember in closing out this last point is that if you read the first three chapters or Revelation, God assigns an angel to each church era. So, we have a mighty angel over this church era. Then we have angels assigned to each one of us. How much better can that get? It shows God's love for us.

Let's close by reading Psalms 92:1-12. You are familiar with this Psalm. It should have more meaning now when we understand the nature of angels and the fact that one of

their prime objectives is to take care of God's people. Read it with the idea of armies of angels looking over God's people.

Psalms 91:1. *He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.*

2) I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

3) Surely he shall deliver thee ... (KJV)

We've seen how that happens.

3b) ... from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

4) He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

5) Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night ... (KJV)

Not with armies of angels to help us.

5b) ... nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

6) Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. (KJV)

No matter what happens, pestilence, fighting, wars, all of that.

7) A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.

8) Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.

9) Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the Most High, thy habitation; (KJV)

When you read the words "the Most High," it refers to God the Father. There can only be one Most High.

10) There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

11) For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

12) They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. (KJV)

One of our widows in the church, who has since died, had that experience. I would visit her and I went one day to visit her and she said, "You know I fell this week." It was in the summer, so she had a light dress on. I looked at her knees and elbows; no scratches, no scrapes, no blood or anything like that. I said, "Tell me what happened." She said, "I was going to get groceries and I tripped over a chunk of sidewalk that was up a bit and I started going forward and I felt a gentle settling down." Those were her words. She said, "I can't explain it, but it was like I was just lowered to the sidewalk. I

looked around; no scratches, no blood, no bruises, thought for a minute, kind of composed myself. I got up and went on my way. Do you think that was an angel?" Well, of course it was. You see here living proof that He shall give His angels charge over us.

You see, the fact is God designed a group of beings to take care of us. What a blessing. These beings guided the animals into the ark. They pulled Lot out of Sodom and Gomorrah. They protected Israel as they came out of Egypt. They opened jails. If you know anything about history, they kept Germany from getting the bomb. Read the stories of what happened in Norway about the heavy water incident. God took care of that.

The point is that all of these angels that did all of this in the past that we have read about are still alive. They're still here with us. Their very existence should strengthen our faith. The more we know about angels the more we will glorify God. Their existence demonstrates His love for us and His power to take care of us. As we get closer to the time of the end, that group of beings is going to be increasingly important to each one of us. We just need to not worry about the future, because God has a class of beings that are going to take care of us. We don't need to worry about the place of safety or how we get there. We don't need to worry about when to leave or what to wear or whether we should have passports or not. Do you think an angel would be discouraged by a passport at God's command? We don't need to worry about what to wear or where to go. All of that's going to be taken care of, you see, if we do our job which is to be more like Jesus Christ. The fact is we have expert experienced spiritual help when we need it and someday God is going to say to His angels, "These you protect. These you do not." All of us, I think, would like to be in the category that has that protection.

We have to realize that we have a great and wonderful God. What a God we have. He provides for our every need. One of the ways He does that is through the angelic host.