

# Our Father's Angelic Host

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I want to start off with some quotes from kids—young kids—that were sent to me earlier. These are quotes from young kids trying to explain the concept of angels.

The first one is from Matthew, age 9. He says, "It's not easy to become an angel. First you die, then you go to heaven and then there's still learning how to fly." So that's his concept.

Gregory, age 5 says, "I only know the names of two angels: Hark and Harold." For those of you who sang those songs back then.

Then Jack, age 6 says, "Angels don't eat but they drink milk from holy cows."

You wonder where kids come up with this.

Finally, Sarah, age 7 says, "What I don't get about angels is why, when someone is in love, they shoot arrows at them." She's thinking.

The fact is, obviously children don't know much about angels, but adults don't know any more than children do. Look at the imagery around Valentine's Day that we just passed through. A naked, chubby baby with wings and a bow and arrow, launching arrows at people in love, I guess. We know, of course, if you look into it, it is all from Greek mythology and later into Roman mythology. The reason for all this laughable confusion—and it is laughable and it is confusion—is Satan's attempt to counterfeit and pervert anything in our Father's Word—anything and everything.

Today, what we're going to see from our Father's Word is that God Almighty created a class of spirit beings as instruments of His will. We are going to see that the fact that He did so—that He would create a specific class of Beings to do His will—the fact that He did so is a testament to His love for each one of us.

The title of the sermon is:

## Our Father's Angelic Host

The first point of six today that we are going to make.

### **1. Yehovah designed and created the angelic host.**

We will define what we mean by host in just a second. So, with that in mind, go to the first verse in Psalm 148—we sing this as one of our hymns. It is very instructive about the angelic host.

**Psalm 148:1** *Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the LORD from the heavens: praise him in the heights. (KJV)*

I think we can remember the melody going on with this hymn.

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

If we look up the Hebrew word for *hosts*, it is Strong's #6635 and it literally means “a mass of persons”. Then it goes on to say, “especially regularly organized for war”—meaning “an army”. So, we could just as easily say praise Him all His army.

3) *Praise ye him, sun and moon: 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 praise the name of the LORD: for he commanded, and they [His angels, His hosts] were created. (KJV)*

We see here that the Father created this class of beings and we are told that He did so before the universe ever existed; before anything physical existed. For time's sake we won't go there but Job 38:6 tells us that all the angels shouted for joy at creation. Which also tells us their creation pre-dated the physical universe. Nearby, back in Psalm 104:1 there are a few verses that give us more instruction about the fact that the angels are a class of beings created by our Father. There are many more scriptures by the way, but just for sake of time we're only going to cover two. Psalm 104 is also quoted in Hebrews 1:7, just as a reference.

**Psalm 104:1** *Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honor and majesty.*

2) *Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain:*

3) *Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind:*

4) *Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire: (KJV)*

So, this tells us that the angels are indeed spirit beings and this also tells us that they are called His ministers. If you look up the Hebrew word for *ministers* it's Strong's #8334 and it has an interesting definition, it means “to attend as a menial”—as a menial servant—or a worshipper”. Figuratively, “to contribute to or to do service or to wait upon”. We are told that the angels contribute to what God wants done and; contribute to serving Him and to waiting upon Him. They wait for His commands or directions to do His will. So, this first point is just establishing very quickly that God Almighty designed and created the angelic army or angelic host.

The second point, we want to ask a question.

## **2. What does the Bible tell us about the purpose and the job of the angels?**

They were created to do His will, so what specifically is their purpose—what is their job? How do they help Almighty God? Point A, if you like to outline:

## **2A. They worship the Father and minister to Him.**

One of their functions is to worship Him and to minister to Him. We see that in Revelation 7:11. This describes what is going on around our Father's heavenly throne and it gives us an indication of the role that the angelic host plays.

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

That's the Greek word *Theos* meaning "the Supreme Divinity"; they fell down and worshipped God Almighty.

*12) Saying, amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. (KJV)*

They sing praises to the Father, they say praises to the Father. We read earlier in Psalm 148 about the angels singing praise and worshiping God Almighty. There are hundreds of scriptures that reveal this. In addition to praising God and worshipping God, they are there to execute His will. They are servants to do His will. We see that back in Psalm 103:20-21.

**Psalm 103:20** *Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, [they are singing praises, they are blessing God Almighty] that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word. (KJV)*

They are waiting on Him to issue commands, directives, desires and then they execute His will. They do His word.

*21) Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts [the angelic hosts, the angelic army]; ye ministers [that's Strong's #8334 which we read earlier] of his, that do his pleasure. (KJV)*

This tells us very clearly—there are so many other scriptures that amplify this—the prime duty of the angels is to worship the Father and then minister to Him, to do His will. Remember Jacob's dream where he saw heaven and earth and there was a ladder in between them and he saw angels ascending and descending the ladder from God's throne to the earth? Obviously, angels do not need a ladder to go between the earth and heaven, but it was a vision—something visible a human being could latch onto. But it is showing that the angels are coming to and from the throne of God, doing His will on this earth, then going back and reporting what they had done or taking an assignment and coming to the earth and fulfilling that assignment. We are talking about the fact that angels worshipped the Father and ministered to Him.

We have the cherubim who are specialized angels at His throne. We see that in 2 Kings 19; we'll just read one verse, verse 15. We are breaking into the prayer of Hezekiah. Hezekiah is praying before God Almighty, but notice what he says and his vision of the throne of God.

**2 Kings 19:15** *And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said, O LORD God of Israel, the one who dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth.* (KJV)

Hezekiah had a proper vision of God Almighty and he is addressing the Father. What he is doing is framing his prayer by acknowledging who the Father is—who Yehovah is—and where He resides. He is saying the Father dwells between these magnificent creatures—these spirit beings—that God created. We could spend the rest of the time exploring the cherubim, but that would get us off into details. It would be a good Bible study at some point for someone. But the point is that these are also created beings who minister to the Father, right at His throne. They are purpose designed—designed for a specific purpose, angelic beings who serve at the very throne of God Almighty.

In point A, we have seen that the function of the angelic host is worshipping and serving the Father. But there is a second function and this applies to all of us.

## **2B. The angelic host ministers to those whom God is dealing with and whom God is calling.**

The angelic host minister to those that the Father is dealing with at any moment in time and to those who He is calling to be in His Kingdom. In Hebrews 1:13 we see that the Bible tells us that the angels are spirits who minister—that is one of their functions. Paul is quoting Psalm 110:1. He is talking about Jesus Christ and contrasting the angelic host with Him.

**Hebrews 1:13** *But to which of the angels said he [referring to the Father] at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?* (KJV)

Obviously referring to His Son—verse 14.

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

One of their functions is to minister to us who are called and have the potential to have eternal life in our Father's Kingdom. The Greek word for *minister* in verse 14 is "diakonia" and we get the English word deacon from that. It means "attendance as a servant". I think we have all seen movies about past British kings hundreds of years ago and they are at this giant table. The head of the house is there and these servants are all lined up around the table, standing back behind the guests and just waiting for a command. "I need more water, could you bring me this" or "could you do that" They are

ministers. The Greek word diakonia directly relates to that and so we can see that they are ministering spirits and they minister, of all things, to us—as God’s children. Think about that; we don’t often let that sink into our minds. But there is a class of beings and one of their prime functions is to minister to those whom God is dealing with, whom God is calling.

The fact is, scripture tells us that we have angels specifically assigned to each one of us. In Matthew 18:10 Christ is talking and He is cautioning those around Him, including His disciples, that they have to be very careful here. Of course, as a church and as a ministry, the ministry needs to pay specific heed to this also.

**Matthew 18:10** *Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones [that is a warning from Jesus Christ]; for I say unto you, that in heaven their angels [plural] do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. (KJV)*

Think about that; it is saying that they are angels assigned to us who are directly involved with the Father in heaven and it’s not a stretch to say that the Father gives them responsibility to look after us and take care of us and to do His will regarding us. I had a friend who came into the church in the ’70’s, I think it was. He went to his first Feast and decided to ‘shoot for the moon’ and go to a Feast in France—very first Feast, by himself. He was young, in his twenties and took a flight to France. He had to get a train to go to the Feast site and he was running late with all the delays and everything. He walked into this gigantic French Parisian train station and he was late, couldn’t speak the language, couldn’t read the language, didn’t know where he was or where he had to go and was just befuddled and worried and in a sweat. A young man came up to him and said, “I understand you’re going to—and named the town where the Feast was—and you need to catch a train right away.” My friend said “yes”. Then the young man said to him “It’s right down here, track such and such, gate such and such and you better get moving.” He was shocked so he looked down and then looked around and the young man wasn’t there.

I had another friend on the way to Jekyll Island. His family lived in Michigan and it was their first Feast. They had never been outside Michigan and they were trying to negotiate Atlanta traffic, rush hour, construction and all this kind of stuff and they were lost. They needed to get to the Feast site and were worried—mom and dad and three children—and all of a sudden, a car pulled up in front of them, rolled the window down and said, “You’re going to Jekyll Island, aren’t you?” They said, “yes”—this was before the stickers on bumpers that we had back then—and they said to them “You have to watch this construction if you go down there.” Then they gave them directions to work around the construction, and he told them go ahead of him and he would pull in behind them. They did and then looked in the rearview mirror and it wasn’t the car that he had just spoken to them. So, you see, there are angels assigned to us that we are totally unaware of which is a good thing because we don’t want to be worshiping angels as we’re going to see. The fact is that there is a class of angels and one of their prime functions is to look after the likes of us. Which tells you something about our Father.

Angels also announce our Father's will to those whom He is dealing with. Remember Samson's parents; she was barren and she was told by an angel that she was going to have a son. The angel said, "You are going to raise him as a Nazirite from birth, therefore you will not cut his hair, he will not drink strong drink, you shall not drink strong drink and you will have a son. Of course, we know about Joseph and Mary in Matthew 1 where an announcement was made by an angel—announcing the Father's will to human beings.

They also assist and protect and deliver God's people. That's one of their prime functions—to assist us, to protect us and when we need it, to deliver us. In Genesis 19 is the example of Lot and Sodom and Gomorrah. Think of it from a perspective of beings being assigned to carry out the Father's will and also to protect and to deliver.

**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 [looking like human beings of course]; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground;  
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.  
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)*

So, we see right away, spirit beings can look just like humans and they can eat food.

*4) But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter:  
5) And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, where are the men which came in unto thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them. (KJV)*

That is polite King James English for they wanted to have their way with them, sexually. The fact is these reprobates would not have desired these two young men if they were not good looking and fit and young, which gives us an indication again of their appearance. Verse 9.

*9) And they said, Stand back. And they said again, this one fellow [referring to Lot] came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: 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 now we see the situation has changed and Lot's life is now in danger.

*10) But the men [referring to 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)*

We see that the Father gave these angels special power to save Lot's life and to cause blindness among human beings. It's interesting how nearby they are. We think sometimes when we are down or depressed, that the Father is far off, He's too busy for me or my concerns and we don't even think about any kind of angelic help--spiritual help. But Psalm 34:7 says something different.

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

That's just what happened with Lot. The Hebrew word for *encamps* literally means "to pitch a tent". We know that spirit beings don't need a tent to live in for shelter or to get out of the elements, but the fact is, in putting it in human terms it's as though these angels have a tent in our backyard. Or they have a tent at services over in the corner somewhere—that's how nearby they are. In 1 Kings 19 we see another example of our Father's angelic host or angelic army being right there ready to take action when needed. We are entering a discussion of Ahab who was the king of the Northern Ten Tribes.

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

That's in the previous chapter—chapter 18:40.

*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 [meaning one of the prophets that he killed—hacked to death] by tomorrow about this time.*

*3) And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba [about forty miles southwest of Jerusalem], which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there.*

*4) But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said [he's talking to God Almighty], It is enough [he's saying "I'm at the end of my rope", and I think if we are honest, we have been at the end of our rope more than once in our spiritual lives]; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers. (KJV)*

He is probably in a bout of depression here—a 'woe is me', "I'm the least, I'm running for my life, I'm out in the middle of the desert, just take my life, let's just get it over with."

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

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

*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. (KJV)*

The angel is saying, “You are a human being and what you need to do is too great for you, but I’m here to help. That’s what I’m doing.

*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)*

That was some food!! Horeb is near Mount Sinai where Yehovah appeared to Moses and from where he was at that moment, was roughly 280 miles away—a long journey.

There is another example in Daniel 6 and we are breaking into a story flow. Nebuchadnezzar was deceived by his servants who hated Daniel. They wanted to do away with Daniel and they tricked Nebuchadnezzar into giving a command that resulted in Daniel being thrown into a lions’ den. The next day, Nebuchadnezzar came expecting to see Daniel torn to pieces. Verse 20 of Daniel 6.

**Daniel 6:20** *And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God [Nebuchadnezzar had a glimpse of who the true God was], 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)*

So, we see that when Nebuchadnezzar came to see, Daniel was alive because of an angel. Basically, the lions became like pussycats. I remember in the 1960’s when I first came into the church, there was a situation where one of the members had his house broken into and he woke up and heard banging and clanging. His bedroom was off of the living room and he was startled and woke up and blurredly looked around. The bedroom door opened with a man standing there. Before he could do anything, this man was picked up and slammed against the far wall and then when he hit the floor, he looked up and wide-eyed started screaming—literally screaming—and ran out of the house. He ran out with such force he took the front screen door off the hinges as he went plowing back out of that house. The member looked around and he didn’t see anything—there was nothing there. Here’s an example, of an angelic intervention in an emergency. The Bible also gives us the indication that angels, obviously being spirit beings, are not limited by physical speed of light or anything like that. They can move with the speed of thought. You can check in Ezekiel 1:14 which talks about the angels going to and fro as a flash of lightening; “Bam!!, they are gone or they arrive”.

The fact is, if we investigate the Bible, every flight of God’s people recorded in the Bible involved angelic help. We read about Lot, the Exodus of Israel—many examples of angelic help including the destroyer that killed the first born. The flight of the New



Testament church from Pella; a word was heard, "it's time to get out of here" and they did. The point is that all of this shows the love that our Father has for us, to create a class of beings to look after us—physical human beings. He has created a class of beings where one of their prime functions is to look after us. They worship and minister to the Father, they minister to those the Father is calling and what an honor that is, when we think about it.

The third point:

### **3. There exists armies of angels.**

Absolute armies of angels. In Genesis 32:1 we see that Jacob ran into an army of angels.

**Genesis 32:1** *And Jacob went on his way, [notice what happened] and the angels of God met him.*

2) *And when Jacob saw them, he said, this is God's host: and he called the name of that place Mahanaim. (KJV)*

The Hebrew word for *host* here and the Hebrew word for *Mahanaim* is the same word—Strong's #4264 and it just means "an encampment of troops", hence an army. So what Jacob was saying was, "This is God's army". He ran into this whole army of angels; the Father allowed him to see them. The term "God of Hosts" occurs thirty-nine times in the Bible. "LORD of Hosts" occurs 236 times in the Bible, referring to the Almighty being the Master of all the angels.

Let's see an example of an army coming to the rescue—2 Kings 6. Israel is at war with Syria and the king of Syria is after Elisha because Elisha is advising the king of Israel and the king of Syria is not happy about that. He has surrounded Elisha in the town of Dothan which is about fifty miles north of Jerusalem. In 2 Kings 6, we break into the story in verse 14.

**2 Kings 6:14** *Therefore sent he [the Assyrian king] 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, behold, a host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? [We're surrounded.]*

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

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.*

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)*

They were there, but human beings couldn't see them. Sometimes people ask, how many angels are there? In Revelation 5:11, John is saying, "I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne" and he said, 10,000 times 10,000 and 1000's of 1000's and you do that math and you come to at least 400 million. Around God's throne there could be many more. Hebrews 12:22 talks about an innumerable company of angels; we don't know how many there are. Remember Christ, on the night He was betrayed, He said in Matthew 26 that He could call for twelve legions of angels to rescue Him and take care of Him—that's 72,000 angels—He said He could just call right now and they would be there. The point in this third point is that there exist armies of angels, we have help we can't even comprehend—we can't even imagine. There exist armies of angels; unseen help is always there. It is unseen but it's always there.

The fourth point:

#### **4. What is the appearance of angels.**

The traditional views as we said earlier, pervert the truth. A little baby, they call him a little cherub, that counterfeits real cherubs. These little cherubs are depicted with wings—that's a perversion of the real cherubs, who as a special class of angels who do have wings. But the world view of angels is they are little naked babies and yet every biblical account of angelic intervention, they are always clothed or covered. Satan perverts the truth about everything Godly.

The fact is angels appear as humans when the Father wants them to. Christ had died and had been resurrected. Notice what happened.

**Acts 1:9** *And when he [referring to Christ] had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. (KJV)*

What a sight—what a miracle; can you imagine?

*10) And while they looked steadfastly 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)*

We see here that these angels have the appearance of men, they are in clean, white garments—they're not slovenly or bums. They appear like men but are clean and well dressed. Remember in the account of Steven when he was stoned in Acts 6, he was addressing the Sanhedrin and we are told his face looked like the face of an angel. Steven was probably in his twenties then, so did his face have a glow? Probably something happened—a shimmer or glow or something—to indicate that his face looked like people's understanding of how an angel appeared. My suspicion is, why they look like young men, is the Father created angels to look younger than He looks. That's just my speculation. If He is our Father, if He is God Almighty, He would

obviously be more mature and wiser than all of His creation and He would have that appearance. So, I don't think it's a stretch to say that the angels appear younger than God Almighty. The fact is angels can appear in glory when it's necessary. Revelation 10:1 shows that. Angels have a glory that we human beings cannot have, do not have and don't appreciate or comprehend.

**Revelation 10:1** *And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: (KJV)*

That's an angel who, we could say, is in full glory. Seen as the angel really exists—as it is. We also have examples of angels appearing in a kind of a partial glory—not in full glory. In is the account where the disciples went to the sepulcher and the stone was rolled away and they were looking for the body of Christ.

**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.*

*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 that the clothes were shining but not the angels. We could say they were in partial glory, not to scare people half to death but to indicate that they weren't normal human beings. If you put all the accounts together and there are dozens and dozens of them, we see the angels generally appear to mankind as young men and they can appear in glory or without any glory or partial glory, depending on the need of the moment and what the Father wants done.

The fifth point.

## **5. We're going to look at two specific angels mentioned by name because they have totally different jobs and you could say they have different personalities too.**

The first is Michael. He is the warrior angel. We see that in Jude 9. Notice what it says about Michael.

**Jude 1:9** *But even the archangel [the Greek means "chief angel"] Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not himself dare to condemn him for slander but said, The Lord rebuke you!" (KJV)*

We see Michael is in a dispute—a fight if you will—with Satan. That continues in Revelation 12:7, that dispute carries on from that time off into the future, which we have yet to see. Here is another war and it involves Michael and Satan again.

**Revelation 12:7** *And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels [so he had an army of angels] fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels ... (KJV)*

So, you have two armies of angels; one headed by Satan and the other headed by Michael.

*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)*

We see that Michael and his army of spirit beings defeated Satan and his army of demons. It's obviously done through the power of God Almighty—it was God's will that Satan be defeated.

Now in another account of Michel—Daniel 12:1--and this is again in the future. It is interesting because it relates to us as God's people. This undoubtedly has happened down through the millennia and obviously is going to happen as the end gets near.

**Daniel 12:1** *And at that time shall Michael [here he is again] stand up, the great prince which standeth for [or stand up for] the children of thy people: 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 people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. (KJV)*

As we know, there is coming a horrible time and an awful time and God's people would be destroyed if it was not for the intervention of God Almighty and Michael the archangel—the warrior angels--and those angels who are under his control. My strong belief is that this has happened down through the centuries and the millennia. We have to look no further back than World War II for God's intervention and help. Pearl Harbor, the Japanese were attempting to strike a knockout blow in the Pacific and as you know they destroyed battleships and the cruisers, but on that particular Sunday the three aircraft carriers were not in port. It would have been disastrous if they had been. They weren't in port; they were out. How did that happen? Then in the battle of Midway in June the following year of 1942, the Japanese wanted to have a knockout blow and get rid of those three carriers and take Midway Island which would be a gateway to invade Hawaii. They didn't know that we had partially broken their code but they sent the Japanese carrier fleet—they had four carriers and we had three and one of ours was damaged—so they sent out scout planes, looking for the U.S. carrier force and one of their scout planes found the carrier force. But his radio failed right at that moment. How did that happen? He could not relay the message back so, as you know, we destroyed all four of those carriers—we lost one of our own—but that was a turning point in the Pacific war.

It's not a stretch to see that Michael and his angels, going back in time and going into the future, will assist in delivering God's people in very troublesome times going forward. We have the promise of angelic help when we need it.

The second angel mentioned by name is Gabriel and he has a different personality. He is the messenger; he is the announcer. He could be an archangel but the Bible doesn't specifically name him as such. He has a job that is different than Michael's. There is no record of him ever fighting. He is a spokesman and a very literary one. Gabriel gives understanding. Gabriel was involved back in Daniel's day. Daniel was praying and Gabriel made an appearance. How would you like that to happen? You're sitting on your knees in prayer and an angelic being makes an appearance.

**Daniel 9:21** *Yea, while I [referring to Daniel] was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning [that's in chapter 8], being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. 22) And he informed me, 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 [to Gabriel], and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore, understand the matter, and consider the vision. (KJV)*

What an honor, to have an angel say, "you are greatly beloved by your Father." Now in Luke 1 we see that Gabriel is a revelator; he reveals information. Referring to Zacharias, John's father.

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

Continuing in verse 11...

*11) And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. 12) And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. 13) But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias [we're going to see this is a characteristic of angels that they do not want to cause fear in us—those that God is dealing with]: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. (KJV)*

Their desire is not to make us afraid; they are there to pass on information.

Continuing 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. (KJV)*

How can we have children? How can I be sure?

*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 says that's how you know, because I just came from the throne of God Almighty. Could it be Gabriel, when the archangel sounds and the dead in Christ arise, could it be Gabriel's voice that makes that announcement? Some day we will find out. Was he the one who made the announcement for the church to flee? Or will he make the announcement if we are to flee? Is he the one to do that? Could well be.

The sixth and last point—we have seen two individual angels.

## **6. Let's look at two aspects of the nature of angels.**

Things we should consider. First, and this is highly important and it relates to us too.

### **6A. Angels want to glorify God and not themselves.**

What a concept. Humans want to glorify themselves. Humans in God's church want to glorify themselves. But angels want to glorify God. The record of scripture reveals that when angels interact with human beings, the visit is short, it is, to the point, they give a message, they take action and then they quickly depart. Angels do not hang out with humans; they just don't do that—that's not their purpose. They are task driven. So, if somebody has a visit with a spirit being and it's long and rambling, my guess is it's probably not an angel. I have been told in the past that this has occurred. Revelation 19:9 tells us very specifically that angels are not there to exalt themselves or to be worshipped, they are there to do God's will and to point everyone's attention to the Father.

**Revelation 19:9** *And he [referring to an angel] saith unto me [John; this angel is giving him instructions], 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 [John] fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, see thou do it not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. (KJV)*

There is no account of the Father's angels allowing humans to worship them. Remember Satan is just the opposite. Remember when Christ was tempted by Satan and Satan laid out all the kingdoms of the earth and said if you will worship me, I will give it all to you—he said that to Christ. What did Christ say? “Get behind Me Satan, you are only to worship one Being and that's God Almighty, My Father”. (Luke 4.)

Then Paul cautioned against the worshipping of angels in Colossians 2:18. Apparently that was going around and maybe some people were trying to worship Michael or Gabriel or some such other mystic angel. The point is, angels glorify God and not themselves. Of course, that is something we should learn as human beings. They are right at the throne of God and glorify Him and not themselves.

The second point of the nature of angels.

## **6B. Angels are concerned about our welfare.**

Think about it—here is a class of created spirit beings who are concerned about the welfare of human beings, of the likes of us. The early New Testament church was persecuted and the apostles and the disciples had their lives on the line in many cases. They needed help and they got help from beings who were concerned about their welfare. This out of the NIV.

**Acts 12:4** *After arresting him [referring to Peter], he [referring to Herod] put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover.*

5) *So, Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.*

6) *The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. (NIV)*

There was no way he was going to escape.

7) *Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter. (NIV)*

The Greek word for *struck* has a wide range; it can mean “striking something gently” or it can mean “a fatal strike” that is killing someone.

7 continued) *... on the side and woke him up. [So, he hit him hard enough to wake him up from a sound sleep and notice what the angel says, notice his demeanor] Quick, get up!” he said, and the chains fell off Peter’s wrists.*

8) *Then the angel said to him, Put on your clothes and sandals.” And Peter did so. Wrap your cloak around you and follow me,” the angel told him. (NIV)*

Let’s stop here and analyze this. Here is a spirit being who is waking up Peter in a dead sleep and what is his concern? He says, wake up—just like a mom would with a little kid—get your shoes on, get your coat, it’s cold outside, because I want you to follow me. Notice their concern for our welfare. Going on in verse 9.

9) *Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision.*

10) *They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him. [Just disappeared]*  
11) *Then Peter came to himself and said, Now I know without a doubt that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's clutches and from everything the Jewish people were hoping would happen.”* (NIV)

We have intervention like that if we look back in our lives. I remember one time, we had our business and it was in the '90's and I was traveling all the time, Monday through Friday and I would get home on a Friday and have to get a sermon ready and speak the next Sabbath. I rolled into Sea Tac airport from California and I had a commuter flight to Yakima and it was about 10:30 at night and snow was falling in Seattle. Yakima and the airports were closed so I got a hotel nearby. I had to get home—had to get home—the passes were closed; I had a sermon on the Sabbath so I went to the airport at about five in the morning and it was just jammed. There were people everywhere, there were lines everywhere and I just said, what are we going to do? God, I need some help. I saw a young girl in an Alaska Airlines uniform behind a counter and she looked like she was directing traffic. I walked over and told her my tale of woe and she looked at me and had this very sweet, humble look on her face—but she kept looking over my head. I told her my story and she was not looking at me, she was looking over my head. I looked and she was very calm and tranquil and she says, “Just follow me”. So, she led me over to a counter, dug around behind there, popped up with two tickets, boarding passes, everything and says, “if you go down here and take this you can get right to the head of the line and make your flight”. The flight was going to leave very quickly. She kept looking and talking up here and I don't know—who knows—but the fact is that here she was, she was very peaceful, very tranquil, right to the point and it was like she was being told what to do and she did it. I will never forget that. The point is, examples in the Bible, examples in our personal lives, show angels are involved and they are committed to our welfare. They glorify God and not themselves and they are committed to our welfare and we can't ignore that. When we get down and think there is no hope and that things are impossible, just look at all these examples. We are just scratching the surface here. This special class of spirit beings are here for our benefit.

Let's summarize, let's go back to Psalm 91 as a closing scripture and begin in verse 1 and hopefully if we put all of these scriptures that we've read up to this point together, maybe this Psalm will have a deeper meaning for us—I know it does for me.

**Psalm 91:1** *He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most-High [there's only one Most High so we know who is being referred to] shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.* (KJV)

Most High and Almighty are synonymous.

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



Not in men, in Him.

- 3) *Surely, he shall deliver thee 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; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; (KJV)*

With the increasing violence in this country, it is upon all of us and will be so as time goes on.

- 6) *Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness [we're right in the middle of that]; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.*
- 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;*
- 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)*

I can remember one of our widows in the Yakima church back in the '70's, she's deceased now but she was in her eighties and she called me in a panic—her name is Ardis Fowler. She said, “I can't explain it, I was out taking a walk and I tripped on a crack in the sidewalk” She was a little overweight and she said “I went face first right on the concrete sidewalk.” Then she said, “but you know what (I wrote her words down) I felt a gentle settling down. I tumbled forward and then I just eased gently onto the concrete, a gentle settling down and I don't have a scratch.” God is merciful. God's angelic host. He designed and created a group of beings, in part to take care of His children. These beings guided the animals into the Ark—no question about that. As we've read, pulled Lot out of Sodom and Gomorrah, protected Israel when they came out of Egypt, opened jails, kept the truth alive after the death of the apostles, probably kept Germany from getting the bomb in World War II. The point is these angels are still alive today—they are still with us—armies of angels. It demonstrates our Father's love for us and it demonstrates His power.

As we get closer to the end, this group of spirit beings is going to become increasingly important to us—not that we worship them—but they are going to be important to us, as God's people, for our welfare, our protection and our safety. We don't have to worry about the future. Protection, safety, what we eat, where we go, what we wear. Look what happened to Peter in the jail. That can happen to us too. All of that has already been provided for, because the Father created experienced, spiritual help with powers

that we cannot comprehend, to take care of us. It all points back to God Almighty; we have this incredible Father in heaven Who has provided for our every need. One of the ways He does that, is through the angelic host. Someday, the Father is going to say, to His angels, these you protect and these you do not. That's going to happen one of these days. Therefore, our duty now is to draw nearer to Him and His Son and if we please God Almighty, our loving Father, we will receive all the help we need from our Father's angelic host.