

TOUGH QUESTIONS . . .
ABOUT THE NATURE OF ANGELS . . .

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CHAPTER ONE

WRONG ATTITUDES

If we are going to obtain from the Lord a proper understanding of angels and the glory realm from which they come, the disposition of our hearts and motive must be pure. Being humble and teachable is a good place to start – especially when it comes to studying the Word of God. The Holy Spirit will not reveal His deep truths of Scripture to those who are prideful and vain. Maybe this is why there is so much misunderstanding regarding the angels and the heavenly realm. The questions regarding Heaven need not be as tough to answer as some think . . .

-- Freddy Hayler

Uninformed Scoffers . . .

A lot of professed Christians today seem to be proud of their carnality. These days I keep hearing people saying things like *“too many Christians have their heads in the clouds and are spending too much time dwelling on Heaven.”* These critics are quite *subtle* in their denigration of what is heavenly, supernatural and angelic. They try to make you feel like you are loopy or dopey if you truly believe in what the Bible says about these matters. Sure, everyone should be for scriptural accuracy and for balance, but still, it leaves one to wonder about their motives. The Bible plainly speaks about such scoffers proliferating in the church in the last days . . .

Nevertheless, these filthy dreamers corrupt the body and scoff at heavenly glories.

Jude 1:8 (amp. version)

I don't know about you, but I don't want to be classified by the Father as one who “scoffs at heavenly glories.” No doubt the angels are another aspect of God's heavenly glory. And one should never feel like they are on the defensive simply because they have experienced angelic ministry first-hand. Despite the fact that many New Age people and even some Christian sects have abused the biblical doctrine of angels by straying away from the Scriptures should not make a true believer recoil simply because one has had a heavenly or angelic visitation! Remember, a lot of the Bible involves the supernatural and the ministry of angels.

I don't quite understand why, but it seems today that a lot of Christians today simply do not want to have a discussion either about angels or Heaven. They feel that such subjects are too “pie in the sky” or out of touch with what is “relevant” or practical. For some it is because they are in bondage to dead traditionalism and are victims of nominal Christianity. For others it is because they are too worldly and carnally minded and too

unbelieving to accept such things. *And if you're unwilling to accept something of God by faith you will never experience it.*

No one has a corner on unbelief. The scriptural prototypes of unbelieving Thomas and the worldly-minded Demas exist in both the mainline denominations as well as the Pentecostal and charismatic movements. [2 Tim. 4:10] As a matter of fact, any movement can become dead and traditionalized if they do not stay in prayer, read the Word and walk in faith. The devil is quite subtle in his warfare and can fool people easily when they stray from private intercession and serious bible study. One thing for sure - the angels of God will not remain long in an atmosphere of unbelief and skepticism.

Pie in the sky?

The fact is, certain carnally-minded Christians don't like to dwell on Heaven's angels because they love this world *too much*. They always keep saying things like "I don't want pie in the sky" or "You can be so heavenly minded that you're no earthly good," etc. For sure there are some loopy flakes here and there but for the most part, the least thing Christian leadership has to be concerned with nowadays is their people being too holy, too heavenly or too spiritually minded. It is true that folks without Christ need to be reached in love and in practical ways – but this fact does not negate the call of God for Christians everywhere to fly upward to higher perches in their worship and knowledge of God.

Too earthly minded . . .

Some preachers have become too "relevant." They have lost their connection with Heaven and their private prayer life has all but vanished. The problem today with most people who claim to know Christ is *not* that they are too heavenly minded or spiritually minded but *rather they are so carnal and have become so materialistic and earthly minded that they have virtually become neither any earthly or heavenly good as far as the Kingdom of God is concerned*. Spirit-less, prayer-less and worship-less Christians – earthbound, carnally-minded Christians who are involved with Christianity for dubious reasons – are the real hindrance to true revival.

Wrong priorities . . .

It appears that some Christian leaders would more often rather stick their head down into the muck and mire of a seductive, ungodly movie (and then try to justify it!) rather than to soar into the heavenlies with prophetic vision and pure intercession. It seems that many of these same lukewarm church leaders have put the Lordship of Jesus Christ, world missions, soul-winning and discipleship on the back burner. They have sidelined the angelic army of God through their unbelief and private idolatries.

For many, their "triune god" has become the TV, the movie theater and the Internet! This is not to say that a Christian can never go to a movie or watch TV, etc. But some

folks are way out of balance and it seems that that's all they do in order to "relax" or "get inspired." They've forgotten the ancient art of prayer, practicing the presence of God and experiencing the presence of His angels. They no longer have time for it.

No disconnect . . .

Paul was a very "relevant" soul-winner and yet he had many visions of Paradise and Heaven. (II Cor. 12) He also experienced the ministry of angels on a continual basis. So there is no "disconnect" when it comes to relevant soul-winning. Simply because someone has experienced heavenly visions does not necessarily condition or prevent them from being a practical soul-winner as some have supposed. As some have supposed, actually, the best soul-winners and world changers are people who walk in the presence of God continually and who walk in the seventh dimension of faith.

The great awakener and revivalist, John Wesley said that his heart could not be prepared for a revival unless he constantly kept one eye on Heaven and one eye on earth, lest the devil get the better of him. One time Wesley even prayed for his dying horse and claimed that angelic ministry and the Lord had healed it!

At certain intervals in history even the presumptuous, audacious, vain, fallen, worldly, carnal and fleshly devil has ascended before the Throne in Heaven in an attempt to make some claim against God's people. [Job 1:6-7; Job 2:1-7; Ps. 100:6; Zech. 3:1-2] If the devil knows to ascend and if his demons believe in God and tremble why on earth would any Christian think it irrelevant to ascend to the God of Heaven on the wings of prayer and worship!

Heavenly visionaries . . .

The fact is, it is relevant to walk in supernatural power and heavenly authority in this time.

Principle: *Being connected to Heaven directly bears upon the defeat of satan and evil in this hour.*

Apostolic operatives such as the Apostle Paul and John Wesley understood that all true spiritual authority and power flow from the heavenly regions. Jesus said, "Thy will be done on earth even as it is in Heaven." So in order to do God's work on earth, Jesus expects each of us as believers to understand, comprehend and operate in the heavenly realm. Proactive angels and expectant believers are a powerful duo!

Angelic expectation . . .

Besides, until believers on earth respect and expect the ministry of angels and become more intensely connected and unified with the King of Heaven and with the laws of Paradise, there will never be the great Reformation which so many pray for. The fact is, there can only be a national revival when the moral laws of church, government, science,

medicine, education, business and theology become unified with the eternal and holy moral laws of Paradise. The Angels have been consigned to help us in time in this day of revival [Heb. 1:14].

Nowadays, everyone is talking about “destiny” but there is no prosperous “destiny” or future for a Christian or nation which will not live holy. [Proverbs 14:34, Hebrews 12:14] And it is “relevant” to know your power source. Contemplating Heaven and entering into spiritual states with Christ through intercession and worship will give great confidence and boldness to believers who seek to truly change the culture they now live in. Praying in the Spirit, singing hymns, psalms and spiritual songs in your heart continuously to the Lord will galvanize you and me in the presence of God. [Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Jude 1:19-20]

Embracing the vision . . .

Embracing a heavenly vision from the Lord and worshipping God this way will also give you discernment and vision in this hour. Without such a vision, most will remain weak, fleshly and earthly orphans, not understanding that their power and authority is limited to their comprehension of the fact that they are seated in heavenly places with all spiritual authority in Christ . . .

. . . even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:5-8

Heaven’s “earthly” purpose . . .

All About Angels is no “pie-in-the-sky” book. Like with all messages from the Lord, it is intended to mobilize the earthly army of God and send it forth with great spiritual vigor into the harvest before us. Too many Christians in the West are “too busy” fantasizing spirituality while they sit on the couch reading the latest Christian novel, surfing the channels on TV. Too many unbroken, prayer-less, unholy, un-consecrated, prideful, worldly, ambitious, spiritual lightweights who only talk the lingo, who feign spirituality are quenching the spirit of revival in this hour.

Angels are not couch potatoes . . .

Angels are not lazy. They are always diligently carrying out the will of the Lord. That’s not true with most believers today. One of the greatest sins in the body of Christ is the sin of *laziness*. The Lord wants you to get off that couch and stop watching Hollywood, celebrity-styled Christianity and begin to pray and to share the gospel of His love with others so you will reap the harvest of souls He has ordained you to reach before the

foundation of the world! He wants you to experience the powerful and supernatural ministry of angels first-hand!

But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

Hebrews 1:13-14

Angelic reapers . . .

And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Matthew 24:31

Reaping this harvest will mean different things for different people. The Lord has called each and every one of us in a variety of ways. But one thing is for sure, in this hour the Lord is opening up the heavens as never before and in opening the windows of Heaven, only then will you and I be able to receive the mind and heart of God and only then will we be cognizant of the real ministry of angels in our midst.

The ladder of revelation . . .

Jacob saw angels ascending and descending and Jesus prophesied that His disciples would also see angels with their own two eyes as well . . .

And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

Genesis 28:12

And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.

John 1:51-2:1

The Gnostics erroneously wanted to climb the “dialectic” ladder of knowledge and revelation through vain philosophy. But God has provided a way for each of us to ascend to His Throne on the wings of worship. And angels are attracted to true worship in the presence of the Lord . . .

Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his

soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

Psalms 24:3-6

Open our eyes . . .

My friend, God is no respecter of persons. [Acts 10:34] Do you really believe that? Do you truly believe that the Lord longs to open your eyes to the spiritual and Heavenly realm of angels? You see, visions and dreams are not just for a “chosen few” book authors [Acts 2:17]

And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. 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.

2 Kings 6:15-17

Again, God is no respecter of persons and longs to open our eyes even as He opened the eyes of Elisha’s servant. He wants to open our ears to hear the beautiful sounds of the song of angels.*

*See Chapter 11, *How to Hear the Angels Sing*.

It is the prophetic heart of the Father for every believer to now have both eyes open to behold the ministry of the beautiful and awesome creatures of God’s angels of Heaven who continually work on their behalf. Imagine for a moment catching a glimpse of the celestial, electro-luminescence of a zillion angels emanating forth a veritable rainbow of holographic multi-prismatic colors! There are literally a gazillion of such inhabitants in Heaven who incessantly sing their praises to the Godhead. Why would anyone not want to ascend through their own prayers and intercessions in order to worship in the very place where they live and operate? The apostle Paul says that we already legally dwell there through faith in Christ! [Eph. 2:5-7]

And the angel of the Lord protested unto Joshua, saying, Thus saith the Lord of hosts; If thou wilt walk in my ways, and if thou wilt keep my charge, then thou shalt also judge my house, and shalt also keep my courts, and I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by. . . Then I answered and said unto the angel that talked with me, What are these, my lord? And the angel answered and said unto me, These are the four spirits of the heavens, which go forth from standing before the Lord of all the earth.

Zechariah 3:6-7; 6:4-5

The doctrine of Angels . . .

You see Heaven and the angels are closely connected. Although the following material in this book will give the reader a glimpse into Paradise and the operations of its celestial, angelic inhabitants, it is an account which is based both on the *actual* visions and visitations of certain believers and on holy scripture. The visions recounted in this book are real time, real life experiences which not only confirm written scripture but bring them to life as well. They are prophetic in that they contain a sober and clarion message from Heaven for the Bride.

Approved for all audiences . . .

If you're going to stand for the Lord in the coming storm, watching Christian variety show television and reading Christian pop literature will not prepare you. It may be emotionally inspiring and entertaining at the time, but it won't sustain you spiritually for what is about to come.

Too many parents stick their kids in front of Christian television and think that they are preparing their children for a lifetime of service to Christ. But kids need more than Christian fiction and entertainment these days. Christian kids also need to experience the actual, tangible, real-time ministry of angels and understand their importance in the economy of God. The doctrines of Heaven and of His holy angels are wonderful studies for our children. It is my hope and prayer that the following book encourages both old and young in their quest to know God in a deeper and greater way.

Not a "casual" read . . .

As far as the bible is concerned *All about Angels* was not produced simply for a *casual read*. For some, their eternal destiny could possibly be determined by their response to the portrayal of the truths of scripture herein. Others will be held accountable for the knowledge they receive regarding Heaven, God's Angels and the coming of the Lord.

In any event, when one studies the Lord and His glorious angels, one should do so with the fear of the Lord. One should approach such subjects humbly and prayerfully so that God will cause your spirit to benefit the most.

CHAPTER TWO

DIVINE EXPECTATION

Frankly speaking, there is too much unbelief today in the Church amongst people who call themselves “Christians.” Even a cursory reading of the book of Acts should show anyone how far we have gotten from experiencing the supernatural presence of the Holy Spirit. What we need is a fresh understanding from God regarding God’s Heaven and His holy angels. I believe such knowledge will lead to believers having boldness to accomplish the great commission – at any cost!

All About Angels is a prophetic word given to the Church that will both warn and help prepare Her for the coming Reformation and holiness revival movement that God is raising up on the earth in this hour. It’s my prayer that the message, music and lyrics will stir your heart in a fresh way to seek the face of God. It is God’s desire that His bride become prepared in the beauty of holiness, ready to meet her Bridegroom upon His soon return.

In this revised, expanded and updated version, I have also included a more in-depth look at angels – their nature and especially their operations as they relate to the Bride of Christ. [Eph. 5:25-7] After all, isn’t that what the ministry of angels is all about?

Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

Hebrews 1:14

Primitive Roots . . .

We need to return to the firm spiritual moorings of the early church. This is true not only in the area of pure doctrine and holy living but it is also true in regards to returning to the supernatural roots in which the church was founded and birthed. [Acts Chapters 1-12] Hyper-dispensationalists and cessationists aside, the early church had a correct perspective of angels and even expected them to show up at their prayer meetings!

Thus, the question today is, do we have the same *expectation* that the early church had regarding the ministry of angels? Do we truly believe or expect angels to show up in glorious fashion and assist us in proclaiming the gospel? Do you truly believe in angels?

Divine expectation . . .

The Kingdom of God operates by the law of faith. If someone has no faith or has no expectation to believe in angels then it's highly unlikely that they will be open to receiving their ministry. However, unlike New Age religion, Christians should not seek after angels, not should they pray to them. According to the bible, it is only the Lord's word which they obey and perform. Even still, if we as believers were to believe God and expect God to utilize angelic ministry more often, it is most certain that in such an atmosphere of faith we would not only be more aware of their presence but also refreshingly experience their supernatural ministry more than ever.

You see, my friend, angelic ministry is all about faith and *expectation*. The truth is that if we do not expect God to do something, it probably won't happen. In Hebrews Chapter 11 the bible says that faith and holy expectation are essential if we are to truly experience the substance and supernatural power of God in these days.

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen . . . But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Hebrews 11:1, 6

Expectation leads to experience . . .

In our own corporate ministry meetings we have seen angelic ministry and sightings more and more and on an ever-increasing basis. Although Jesus is the sole focus of our worship (again, no Christian should ever seek after angels), there is something wrong when the modern church has so little understanding or expectation regarding angels and their ministry. But spiritual blindness regarding their reality will always prevent us from experiencing their actual and tangible ministry . . .

And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying. And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to

hearken, named Rhoda. And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate. And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, *It is his angel.*

Acts 12:12-15

We see from the above scripture that Rhoda and the others who had been praying for Peter did not think it strange to believe that Peter's personal angel would show up at the meeting.

In most churches today, Rhoda and her prayer team might be ostracized or even demonized by carnal Christian leadership. They would be considered by many in the modern church to be loopy or they may even be written off as nothing more than hyper-spiritual "flakes." This is because a lot of Christian religion today is too cerebral and unbelieving. The contemporary evangelical, Pentecostal and charismatic churches may be orthodox in their doctrines but all too often they adhere to what is essentially *dead orthodoxy*. But what we need is exactly what the early church possessed – live orthodoxy. You see, live orthodoxy embraces sound biblical doctrine but is also coupled with the divine expectation and desire for experiential, supernatural interventions of God and His mighty angels.

An angelic "fad" . . .

Christian fiction has its place but not when it borders on *theological fantasia*. It's not proper to talk about Biblical angelic characters and cast them in imaginary roles. This has the potential of confusing the truth of scripture with a Christian fiction writer's imagination thus changing the raw of God's Word. There is spiritual danger in this.

There's been a tremendous amount written about angels in the past several years. Some of it is outright error and New Age thought. But there also have been many informative books written from a Christian viewpoint. Although some of these Christian books are very informative and edifying, I thought it would be a good time to write about angels from a *new and fresh perspective*. You see, angels are not simply the stuff of children's cartoons, or a prime-time TV series! * It's time for you and I as believers to begin to experience more than ever their supernatural ministry!

Most books and manuals that teach about angels are primarily concerned with their characteristics, their names, titles, classifications and their purposes – sometime erroneously. For example, one well-known author has recently stated that according to the Bible, there is in fact no "angel song" because it is his belief that they do not sing at all! There are others who also have promoted some false conceptions of the nature and character of angels, which I hope this book will correct.

I think by now many in the church have (at least intellectually speaking) become thoroughly acquainted with angels – who they are and what they do. Although some of their characteristics will also be mentioned here, it has been my desire to talk more about

angelic dynamics – not only how they are interacting with the Lord but also how they interact with the Church in this late hour.

How to hear the angels sing (and not be deceived!) . . .

In their quest to understand the realm of Heaven and its angels, down through the ages too many well-meaning Christians have been deceived by the enemy into listening to the wrong voices . . .

There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification . . .

1 Corinthians 14:10-11

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God.

1 John 4:1-2

Avoiding deception . . .

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

Galatians 1:6-8

But how do you protect yourself from hearing false voices? How do you know when you're truly hearing the angel song? God is faithful and will protect His own. He is the Good Shepherd . . .

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

John 10:27

When a child of God sincerely seeks the Good Shepherd and humbly prays to the Lord, the Holy Spirit will protect him from false voices. The Holy Spirit of Truth will shield God's people from deception when they seek the Lord. God has provided the means where one can insulate him/herself from being spiritually deceived.

The most important thing a Christian can do in avoiding deception is to simply stick to the scriptures. But the condition of our heart (i.e., possessing the character qualities of

humility and teachable-ness) is also another extremely important aspect in preventing deception. There was a man of God who lived in the 1500s who wrote a small treatise entitled, *The Song of Angels*. It would be worthwhile for some of you to read it because it has to do with developing a humble and pure heart before God which offers the greatest protection from false angels of light and vain spirits of deception. [* See chapter 11.]

The conditions of angelic ministry . . .

There's too much easy believism and condition-less promise mongering in the preaching today. There is too much unconditional teaching regarding the promises of God and angelic ministry. As with all biblical blessings and precious promises – there are *conditional* aspects to receiving them . . .

The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them.

Ps 34:7

In other words, the Lord is warning us that there is simply no angelic protection guaranteed to those who choose the evil path . . .

For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord: They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.

Proverbs 1:29-31

The Bible is clear that there is no *good* “destiny” for anyone who doesn't fear God and who habitually and unashamedly enjoys worldliness and sin – regardless of how many promises they claim . . .

The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.

Ps 25:14

The angels of the Lord can carry blessings to the people of God or curses. It all depends on whether a professed believer is yielded and obedient to the Word of the Lord . . .

The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow. And the Lord shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the Lord thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them: And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the

right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them. But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

Deuteronomy 28:12-15

What is important here is that we come to understand the *conditions* in which God sends forth His angels and also discuss how actively they will be involved in the coming, end-time revival. Because God and His angels are holy, it is important that we understand these conditions. Depending on our heart attitudes, angels can bring forth blessings or judgment. It is my belief that our response, both individually and corporately, will directly impact the level of angelic activity on behalf of the Church. It is incumbent upon us, therefore, to walk in the commands of Christ and in holiness, forgiveness and in faith so that we all experience what God has intended for us all along – to make us the Church triumphant.

By reading this book it is our hope and prayer that you will realize that the true Angelic Hosts of Glory are alive, active and doing well and are far more involved in our everyday lives than some might think. As believers, it's time for us to reconsider the role of God's angels in the Church with a biblically accurate and refreshing perspective . . .

— *Golden Altar Publishing*

CHAPTER THREE

DO ANGELS SING?

Music is the gift of God given to the children of men, in the midst of their sorrows, in order to give them a joy worthy of their eternal destiny.

— J.S. Bach

If the great composer believed that God would so graciously grant men and women of the earth with the gift of song, why would he not do the same with His holy angels in Heaven, which he has created “a little higher than men?” [Heb. 2: 3-9] Although the Bible does not clearly state that angels do not sing some Christian authors actually teach their opinion as if it were bible doctrine. Recently, I read an article from a well known Christian magazine which talked about the “myths” of Christmas. One of the supposed myths was that the angels actually did not sing to the shepherds but simply spoke. The fact that someone would even raise the issue is silly if not outright stupid. To even raise the issue in the first place, one assumes that powerful angels don’t possess the ability to sing. This is an utterly ridiculous proposition yet one that seems to be faddy right now amongst desperate Christian authors and folks who want to hear some “new” thing.

Angel talk . . .

We know from the scriptures they talk intelligent language. We know they praise the Lord with great vocal strength. We know angels can speak a heavenly angelic language unknown to natural man. [1 Cor. 13:1] Some of them can speak so thunderously that the entire earth will shake when they speak. [Rev. Ch. 5-10] And there is little doubt that all the angels in Heaven continually sing their praises to God [Ps. 148:2].

Do angels sing?

It always amazes me when a Christian author who is overly eager to find a “marketing niche” makes his/her far-fetched opinion the gospel truth. Questioning whether or not angels sing may seem silly to some, but the fact is there has been a large amount of disinformation broadcast to the body of Christ regarding the erroneous opinion that angels do not sing.

Do angels sing? I believe they do. And I believe there’s enough evidence in Scripture that strongly *infers* that they do. It will be so refreshing when all of God’s people will be able to hear angels sing in the ages to come. This, of course, is not to say that at certain times, the Lord may choose to “peel back” the clouds of this realm and allow us to hear some of their sounds – even in our church services. Yet, it is a glorious thought to think that even the least saint in the Kingdom of God who is washed in the blood of Jesus will be able to sing the song of the redeemed with even greater dexterity and intensity than even the angels!

Do angels sing? This may seem like a ridiculous question to ask, but lately I have heard this question posed by all too many people after my meetings. There is some strange angelology circulating around out there. This is partially because some are deliberately trying to promote the idea. It saddens me when any of God’s people have become confused and bewildered by a teaching that is foreign to Scripture.

Specifically, there has been a lot of conjecture concerning a mischievous doctrine that claims that angels *do not sing*. This has caused some unnecessary and fruitless speculation since there is no clear scriptural basis for such “anti-angelic singing proponents.” Because they propose such a viewpoint based on their personal opinion, I should like to offer my opinion on the matter, which I think is more biblically and historically based.

Thus in a friendly way, I would like to take my friends to task on this since they have brought confusion to some who seem unacquainted with biblical and historical proofs that angels, in fact, do sing. In fact, angels have sung, do sing and will sing for all eternity! Man, who is made, “a little lower “ then the angels can sing – why cannot a higher order of angels do the same?

Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands . . .

Hebrews 2:7

Okay, for starters, for anyone to claim that God’s highest order of created beings (for man was made a little lower than the angels), do not have the ability to sing borders on silly. Of course, believing in something that is “silly” does not necessarily jeopardize a believer’s salvation! But the thing that concerns me most about this viewpoint is that it gives the body of Christ a “warped” view of Heaven where God dwells. You see, my friend, God’s Heaven is full of glorious music and has been since before the dawn of man.

Many eons ago, God created His angels to worship Him with glorious voice and instruments. It is obvious to me (and I hope to you as well) that anyone who would propose that angels do not sing has undoubtedly never been to Heaven! For of all of the genuine accounts I have read regarding believers who have been caught up into heaven, not one of them claim in any way, shape, or form, that angels do not sing. Quite the contrary, in most all the accounts, this seems to be one of the chief activities of what angels are doing even now.

The Song of Angels . . .

Yes angels sing – and gloriously! Charles Wesley need not change the title of *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* to *Hark the Herald Angels **Speak!*** To envision a dispensation where because of man's fall, the heavenly angels during this church dispensation only go about God's throne *declaring, saying, or speaking* their praise and worship to God is an embarrassing proposition when taken to its logical extreme. It paints a wrong picture of God's sense of beauty and artistry. Their premise goes something like this . . .

. . . the angels used to sing prior to the fall of Adam but because God was saddened by lucifer's treason and the sinful angels who followed after him, He kicked the angelic choirs out! He is now waiting for all the redeemed to sing their song of redemption when they are all gathered before Him on the Crystal Sea. The angels will only join in when all the redeemed reach their heavenly home in some future age. Heaven is now a strangely silent place waiting with bated breath for the arrival of the sons of God."

This is eschatological and angelological balderdash! The scriptures in no way support this viewpoint but they still hold fast to their opinion. And if this position is taken to its logical conclusion, that would mean that when Adam and Eve sinned, God would have taken mankind's gift to sing as well – even as He did the angels.

Although, it's true that angels will never sing the song of the redeemed (for the loyal ones who have never sinned will never be able to fully comprehend the grace of God regarding the redemption of mankind), that fact does not preclude them from the ability to be able to sing praises unto God even now. It is incredible that final destiny of the redeemed saints is to be elevated above angels in the order of creation, and that their ultimate destiny is to become the sons of the living God!

But this biblical fact does not mean that God has taken away (at any point in history), the angel's gift to sing. It sounds poetic to contrive a doctrine whose premise states that after the fall of Adam, there was a long silence in heaven and God told the angels not to sing until the redeemed were gathered on the Crystal Sea. Poetic but not biblical.

Sound doctrine needed . . .

To envision a dispensation where heavenly angels only go about heaven declaring, saying, or speaking worship to God, with little or no pitch, harmony or melody, is to have

reduced God's highest order or created beings to communicating like pitchless, cartoonish/monotone robots whose worship sounds lifeless and mechanical.

Heaven without the song of angels? Paradise without the voices of beautiful angel's singing? God not receiving beautiful praise? No harmony or melody there? The very thought of this is to charge the Lord with creating a music-less, somewhat boring world. These spiritual dabblers have unwittingly made heaven to be something it's not – without clear warrant from Scripture. Again, I think this is a little mischievous at best. Even though I love and admire some of the brethren who adhere to this position, I still think their position is rather trite. However, I still feel a clearer, more biblical position on the subject is long overdue.

Again, even though this might sound basic to some, I am still surprised when after ministering somewhere, a brother or sister approaches me with the question . . . “Do angels sing?”

The singing God . . .

Even common sense tells us that there is no “silent heaven” for the “singing God” loves a joyful noise!

The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.

Zephaniah 3:17

If God Himself is a singer, then why wouldn't He teach or impart the same gifting to his angelic sons? Do you really believe that the angels only make un-pitched, monotone declarations to God in their worship? Or are our songless angel friends just engaged in a playful game of semantics – a play on words and their meanings. What, should we consider such “spoofing” on the meaning of words simply a minor “irritant,” an insult to one's common sense – theologically speaking, that is. Thus, when their argument is taken to its logical conclusion, all human speech can be considered singing. You see, every form of speech on earth can be classified as “singing” if one speaks with different tones and places the voice in different locations within the larynx when they speak.

All about semantics . . .

Word games. All semantics aside, the concept of a songless angel not only doesn't make good sense, it doesn't even make “good nonsense!” For God relishes and delights in His myriads of angelic symphonies and choirs, an ongoing and never-ending song of praise, worship and adoration to Him. For the angel song is but a natural response to God's most sublime nature and beauty. It would be useful for those of the contrary view, to take a chariot ride into Heaven so that they can hear them sing firsthand.

Angel song . . .

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly host *praising* God and saying . . . Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.

Luke 2:13

Countless millions of believers have read this text and have historically understood this Scripture to describe that, in fact, angels were singing and praising God before the shepherds that night. The anti-angelic, singing brigade has been very fond to think that they have found something in the word *say*. However, if we study the original meaning of the word *say* we will find that the words sing, sang, declare and say are used interchangeably in the original language. In other words, in Bible language, an angel can “say” its song and still be considered *singing* it! At no place does the Bible conclude that one cannot *sing* and *say* simultaneously.

Language abuse . . .

Throughout the centuries, the church always gets confused when the meaning of language is obscured by false interpretations. The misuse of the original language of Scripture has always been the beginning point for serious doctrinal error. Although adhering to a correct *angelology* is not a prerequisite for salvation – nonetheless, as a minister of God, succumbing to a habit of subscribing to the tickling of other’s ears (with every new wind of doctrine), can lead to a slippery slope of error if not checked. And there tends to be a “cascading,” domino effect when it comes to a spirit of error.

It is vitally important to understand the unchanging and logical meanings of original Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic words if we are to have sound doctrine. For starters, every Bible student should always have a good reference study Bible, a Strong’s concordance and a Vine’s expository dictionary at their disposal!

Our “songless” angel friends seem to like to pick Scriptures out of context without comparing it to the rest of the Bible. Such skewed angelology has caused them to theologically “sing out of tune themselves.” Doesn’t even nature teach us that every creature in Heaven and on the earth and in the sea sing, “blessing and honor and glory forever and ever,” to the Father on the Throne?

And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

Revelation 5:13

The apostle John, who was translated into the presence of the Most High, witnessed these angelic hosts himself, engaging and singing to the glory of God, and he was not just illustrating a prophetic age where angels will sing with us . . .

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; Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

Revelation 5:11-12

The great Christian composer, Frederick Handel, after hearing the beautiful melodies of Heaven through the Holy Spirit, went on an extended fast in order to capture the glorious sounds he was hearing in his heart on paper. I can only imagine that Handel, during his 23 glorious days of anointed, transcendent “muse (inspired by the Holy Spirit), must have heard them singing the first stanza of the Hallelujah Chorus – apparently at the full range of their voices!

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, Saying, Amen: *Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.*

Revelation 7:11-12

Not only were the seraphic angels singing but also the four living creatures chanted their praise . . .

And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever.

Revelation 4:8-9

There is no doubt that singing is a vital part of what angels *do*. One of the greatest church theologians of all time is Matthew Henry and I shall quote him directly on the matter. . .

*“The angels doxology to God and congratulations of men upon this solemn occasion, the message was no sooner delivered by one than suddenly there was with that angel a multitude; sufficient, we may be sure, to make a **chorus**. That was heard by the shepherds, praising God; and certainly their **song** was not that of Revelation 14:3 which no man could learn, for this song was designed that we should all learn it . . . while the angels were **singing** their hymn . . . ”*

I wonder why this great Bible scholar did not make such a big deal as some of the contemporaries have over the word *say*. First of all, I surmise Matthew Henry was a holy and *humble* man. Secondly, Mr. Henry was a well-learned Bible scholar, knowledgeable of Greek and Hebrew. I have no doubt that he was also a devout man who engaged in continual prayer.

Again, the reason Matthew Henry and other great Bible expositors and commentators say the angels *sang* the doxology in Chapter 2 was because, for centuries, mankind has used the word *say*, *sing* and *sang interchangeably*. This is exemplified by a cursory review of other scripture texts in which singing/saying are mentioned as such. For example, in the song of Moses the text interchangeably uses the word, *sang* and *say* . . . :

Then *sang* Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the Lord, and *spoke, saying*, I will *sing* unto the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

Exodus 15:1

Without a context, it's a pretext . . .

In the above text of Scripture, we clearly see that in one verse alone, the words *sang*, *spoke*, *saying*, and *sing* are all used to mean the same thing! The Bible teaches that they both *spoke* and *sang* the song of Moses. This is why Matthew Henry didn't make such a big deal over the word *say*. It's so obvious to the plain meaning of any text that the words are used interchangeably.

For example, in Isaiah 6:1-6, the prophet uses the word *cry* (i.e., *krazo*) in describing the angel's worship of God. Again, in the original Hebrew the word *cry* connotes *singing*, *declaring*, and *saying*. We also saw above in Luke 2 and Revelation 5 that the word *praise* is also used interchangeable with the word "song" and "saying."

The proponents of a songless angel are systematically extracting words out of context without considering how God uses them in other Scripture texts. This violates the first rule of proper Bible interpretation which states that no Scripture can be interpreted apart from the context in which it was written. In addition it needs to be compared to other Scriptures regarding the same subject. In other words "any text without a context is a pretext."

It is utter nonsense for one to conclude that the song of angels ceased for a dispensation of time. Frankly, I do not understand why certain people have gone to extraordinary lengths to prove such an untenable position. There is no Scripture in the entire Bible that claims that angels will not be able to sing at any time in history. Bible language is always logical because Jesus is logical.

The apostle John tells us in John 1:1, that Jesus is the eternal *logos* (the word logic is derived from the Greek word *logos*) of the Father. The Great Mathematician created the exacting science of math. It represents His precise and unchanging nature. As two plus two equaled four in the time of Noah, so two plus two *still* equals four today! **vv. 87** Like good math, God's truth does not evolve! God's language, (God's truth is communicated through language) is very mathematical, immutable, precise and clear.

The stars of Heaven . . .

Thousands of years ago, the ancient prophet and patriarch Job had an incredible revelation of the glorious, angel choirs of Heaven . . .

. . . Or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?"

Job 38:6b-7

Here we see that the word *sing* and then *shout* are used interchangeably. Would the proponents of the songless angel have us believe that the word shout does not mean sing? And it is also clear from other parallel texts in the Bible, that the "sons of God" referenced here refers to angels. It is a well-established fact the Bible also refers to angelic creatures as "the stars of Heaven . . ."

The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

Revelation 1:20

And if the angels can play the trumpet, why would some not conceive of them being able to sing?

And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

Revelation 8:13

Falling stars . . .

Job speaks of a Heaven where all the *morning stars* were "good angels" who rejoiced with the Son at creation. However, in the book of Revelation, the apostle John informs us that a third of these "stars" (angels) fell from grace when they chose to rebel against God. [See Footnote 3.]

And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth . . . and there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought

against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

Revelation 12:4a, 7-8

Footnote 3.

With regular Hebrew usage, “sons of God” simply means “beings of the God class.” As we have seen in Job 38:7, the term “sons of God” parallel meaning is the “morning stars” as well. On page 426 of the *Interpreters Dictionary of the Bible*, the scholar is quoted as saying . . . “*This has been thought to foreshadow the later Jewish concept that every land and people is under the tutelage of a distinct patron angel . . .*” In one text, John not only refers to angels as stars but also as “the spirits of God.” **And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Revelation 3:1**

The ancient Old Testament authors used the *sons of God* and the *stars of Heaven* interchangeably as well as referring to them as angels. I ask, then, how can some today possibly question the fact that Job said the angels (stars) in fact sang? He wrote that the morning stars all sang to God together [i.e., the angels, the sons of God]. The fact that angels are referred to as the “sons of God” is made clear from other texts as well. [See Genesis 6:2-4; Psalm 148:3; Isaiah 14:13] [See Footnote 4.]

Footnote 4.

Again, I quote the venerable Bible commentary of Matthew Henry’s exegesis of Job 38:7.

“Let him repeat, if he can, the song of praise which were sung at that solemnity [creation] when the morning stars sang together, the blessed angels, the firstborn of the Father of Lights, who in the morning of time shone bright as the morning star, going immediately before the light of which God commanded to shine out of darkness upon the seeds of this lower world, the earth, which was without form and void; they were the sons of God, who shouted for joy, when they saw the foundations of the earth laid, for even though it was not for them but for the children of men, and though it would increase their work and service [Genesis 1:1-2; Hebrews 1:4,7,14] Yet they knew that the eternal wisdom and word whom they were to worship would rejoice in the inhabitable parts of the earth, and that much of God’s delight would be in the sons of men [see Proverbs 8:31; Hebrews 1:6] The angels are called the sons of God, because they fear much of His image and are with Him in His house above and serve Him as a son does his father. Now observe here 1. The glory of God as the creator of the world is to be celebrated with joy and triumph by all of His reasonable creature . . . 2. And the work of angels is to **praise God** and the more we abound in holy, humble, thankful, joyful, praise, the more we will do the will of God . . . even as the righteous angels do it; and whereas we as mankind are so barren and defective in praising God; it is comforting to think that the angels are doing it in a better manner. 3. The angels [i.e. stars] are unanimous in singing God’s praises: they sing together in one accord, and there is not a discordant note in their harmony; the sweetest concerts are in praising God alone . . .

— Matthew Henry

I must, therefore, tell you that angels (i.e., the stars, the sons of God, the good spirits of God above) in fact, do sing.

The **Song of Angels** project involves training believers to worship God and sing to God even more passionately than the angels. It’s my desire to prove that angels are much

more like us than we think. Although in Heaven, they are more passionate, zealous and pure in their singing their praises to God; however, one day, you, as a believer will excel them even in this. In fact, angels are not just monotone robotic creatures who chant declarations or sayings like the audio output of a computer-enhanced video game! Let us therefore no longer diminish the image of God and of Heaven by connoting that His highest order of creation lacks the ability to sing.

Singing whales?

Marine biologists and oceanographers have recently proven in scientific study how magnificent, blue whales are endowed by their creator to sing – for their low frequency utterances can be recorded throughout the earth’s oceans even as their *song* reverberates for hundreds of miles under water. It is hard to understand then, why anyone would conclude that if blue whales can sing, angels (a much higher creation) cannot. I tell you my friend, if whales can sing, angels can sing! Again, does even common sense tell us that a higher order of angelic beings can at least do what a lower order of animal creation can do?

Does not nature even teach . . .

In Colin Brown’s *Dictionary of New Testament Theology, Volume 3*, the Christian scholar shows that the English word *song* in both classical and koine Greek is derived from the word *ode* or *ado* which means to sing. Since the time of the Hellenistic Greek writer, Homer, the verb *ado* meant to sing or to produce all kinds of vocal sounds – from the hoot of the owl, the chirping of a cricket or the croaking of a frog. *Ado* also meant “to produce the sound of a plucked string (or vocal chord!) or any similar sound; to simply call, say and celebrate, to praise and honor. In the LXX Greek manuscript of the Bible, this verb occurs 66 times and the noun *ode* occurs 87 times as in the following text . . .

Then Moses *spoke [ode]* in the hearing of all the assembly of Israel the words of this *song* until they were ended . . .

Deuteronomy 31:30 [NKJV]

So again, from common sense and nature, to the Bible scholar’s study of words – the words singing, saying, declaring [as in a poem] are used interchangeably. [See Footnote 5.]

It is, therefore, a “stretch” to infer from the text of Luke 2:13, 14 that because Luke chose to use the word *say* that this meant that the angels only speak but do not sing!

Footnote 5. On page 674 of Dr. Colin Brown’s *Word Studies, Volume III*, he makes the following judgment . . . “*In Revelation the whole of creation – in heaven, on earth, and below the earth – acknowledges, as of right, the lordship of the lamb in their eschatological paean of praise. The song of Moses is in Revelation 15:3 and is transposed from the song of Moses in Exodus 15:1.*” In fact, angels are now currently singing in the Heavens to the glory of God. As Dr. Colin Brown suggests, singing is a pure expression of Christian joy. It is the edifying expression of believers of spirit-filled life. Should we not sing in scriptural verse the praises, which the angels sing themselves?

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Luke 2:13, 14

And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.

Revelation 15:3

A correct eschatology . . .

To quote from Dr. Kittel, *it is Israel and the Jewish people - not the “angels in waiting,”* that will sing a new song in the days when the Messiah returns to Jerusalem. It is the nation of Israel and the Jewish people who will praise Him for the wonder of His merciful redemption. It is Israel and not the angels, which the scriptures say that although a majority of them are not currently praising Yeshua (Hebrew name for Jesus), one day in the eschaton of a new age, they will be totally engulfed with the wonders of God’s grace and they too will sing His new song of redemption!

The early church perspective . . .

The early church’s Hellenistic chants were full of acknowledgments that angels sing. The monophonic singing and chanting of the early church (as illustrated by later versions of the Gregorian chant) limited itself to one primary melody line, yet such hymns of the early Church hymns (which were translated from the early Greek), clearly illustrates their belief that angels sing – even during this dispensation. A direct quote from one of their hymns is as follows . . .

*“ . . . all splendid creations of God . . . must not keep silent, nor shall the light bearing stars [i.e., angels] remain behind . . . all waves of thundering streams shall praise our Father and Son and Holy Ghost, **all power** shall join in [the song] Amen! Amen!”*

So I say with the early church Christians that “all powers” (including angels!), now join in a universal song to God’s glory.

John’s vision . . .

It is likely that in Revelation 5:11-12 that John saw a massive heavenly choir of countless millions worshipping God . . .

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; Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

Revelation 5:11-12

Even if the adoration of this heavenly choir sang in a Gregorian styled chant – they still were heard singing! Whether it was a poly-phonal or an antiphonal response of the angels – the fact is the apostle John heard them singing. It is also quite possible that the inner circles of their heavenly harmonies and melodies were even much more sophisticated in musical form than the apostle John was able to describe for us in human language. It is very difficult to imagine these angels worshiped without some sort of musical note or pitch in their musical declaration. Therefore, the genius composer, Handel, found it easy and doctrinally correct to put music to the doxology found in Revelation 5:11-12.

How to worship like an angel . . .

It would be obviously easier to worship like an angel after hearing them firsthand sing their praises to God. In the “Christmas” text of Luke 2:13-14, we see that the early church was first instructed how to worship and praise God by common shepherds (remember, that the shepherds had first been instructed by the angels!).

Could it be that the shepherds who heard the angels sing their praise later became some of the original praise and worship composers of the early Christian church? But remember, these shepherds had not been vocally or musically trained at the Berkeley or Julliard Conservatory nor had they attended any praise and worship conferences back then. Yet, they were pure worshippers who were advanced in their godly approach to God after having such an experience. I’m also sure that they sang their doxology in the early church with some pitch! And if they had been imitating the angels’ worship, why is it that they did not sing a “pitchless” song? Of course, the angels sing – and I believe they sing on pitch! I’m also sure the early shepherds joined and sang together with them with great joy as well!

Isaiah’s vision . . .

When Isaiah saw the Lord (after the funeral of Uzziah), high and lifted up with the train of God’s celestial robes filling the temple, he heard the angels cry, Holy, Holy, Holy! For even during this church age, all of the worshipful angels must respond with the word “Holy” in response to the ever-changing, glorious revelations of God’s nature even as they have done throughout all eternity . . .

And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

Isaiah 6:3

Consider that the word for “cry” here is the Greek word, *krazo*. According to Dr. Colin Brown, the word *cry* that Isaiah used in Hebrew connotes saying something with a sense of passion, or a sense of worshipful singing. It is certain that these burning Seraphim worshipped God with song. It is also just as certain that adoration and praise continuously flows from their lips [see Revelation 4:11, 5:9-14, 11:16-18, 19:4]

The singing angel kings? . . .

The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Revelation 4:10-11

Although, there is some conjecture concerning whom the 24 crowned elders are (some say they are twelve ancient Jewish patriarchs and twelve apostles, while other believers say that they are angelic beings – ancient and wise), most agree that the 24 elders mentioned in these passages do not refer either to the apostles or the Aaronic priests [1 Chronicles 24:5] – nor are they the founding fathers of the 12 tribes of Israel. When John, the apostle, saw this scene, he in no wise included himself as one of them. In other words, if the apostle John, himself, did not include himself in the vision, why should anyone else?

vv. 87 But, if these 24 angel kings are not the 12 patriarchs or the 12 apostles, then who are they? The best interpretation that I can see is that the 24 crowned elders are a unique, exalted, angelic order – an angelic class who serve and adore God as a heavenly counterpart to the 24 and Levitical orders of both the priests and the apostles. Regardless of your viewpoint, one thing is for certain, the number 24 symbolizes heavenly authority and justice. And another thing is for certain here – these 24 angel kings are singing!

Angelic Zoe sing . . .

In another prophetic text, we also have witnessed from John that the four beasts are also singing their praise to God. [See Footnote 6.]

And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

Revelation 4:8

Footnote 6.

Regarding the above text, I would like to quote from Matthew Henry again on the matter. “. . . hear then the anthem, or song of praise, which the angels sing to the honor of Him who sits on the throne 1. How the song was sung – with zeal and fervency they [krazo] cry aloud; with unanimity they cry one to another or with one another; they sang

alternatively but also in concert, without the least jarring voice to interrupt the harmony. 2. What the song was; it is the same with that which is sung by the four living creatures in Revelation 4:8 – praising God always was and will be to eternity, the work of Heaven and the constant employment of blessed spirits above.” Again, we see that Matthew Henry is saying what church scholars have said for the past two millennia – that angels sing and that the words for cry, say, sing and their counterparts *krazo*, *ode* and *ado*, are used interchangeably throughout Scripture. As we have seen above, Isaiah said that one angel after the other cries, Holy, Holy, Holy is Jehovah of Hosts; filling the whole earth with His glory. **And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. Isaiah 6:3** The meaning of all this is that the angels’ song above was a beautiful and endless cycle of singing and worship to the glory of God. *“The meaning is that this was a continuous and unbroken antiphonal song. One set commenced, and the others responded either repeating the Holy, Holy, Holy or following with ‘the whole earth is full of His glory.’ Isaiah therefore heard this antiphonal or “hypophanal” song of the seraphim not merely that he might know the uninterrupted worship of God was their blessed employment, but because it was with this doxology as with the doxologies of Revelation, it was to have a certain historical significance . . .”* From Keil-Delitzsch Commentary from the Old Testament, Volume7, page 192.

“When you see God” . . .

I believe when Moses saw the angel aflame in the burning bush, he was both seeing and hearing God himself. In short, Moses was communicating directly with God . . .

And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.

Exodus 3:2

Moses and Aaron saw the pre-carnate Christ on the mount. [Exodus 24] Peter, James and John saw the glorified Christ on the Mount of Transfiguration. [Matthew 17] God Himself is the Holy One [kadosh], that is, the separate one, the one who is wholly “other.” For God is in a class of being fully known only to Himself. He is the “beyond One” who dwells in unapproachable pure and spotless light. He is the perfect One who desires that His works of holiness are universally made manifest.

When Jesus said that no man could *see God* at any time [John 1:18; Timothy 6:16], He was primarily referring to the inability of man’s *physical eyes* to withstand the unveiled glory of the Father on His Throne. However, there is hope! Because of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross and through the shedding of His blood, all believers can receive an immortal body of light – even that which is greater than Adam’s before the fall. And through the eyes of this newly constituted spiritual body, we will be able to see Him, even the Holy Father, in all of His unmitigated glory. Even now, the Bible says that the eyes of our spiritual understanding should be opened to “see” Him . . .

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power . . .

Ephesians 1:18-19

Jesus also prayed that we, His people, would have spiritual eyes to see Him in all of His glory. In our prayer time, what we all need to do is get more in touch with God's Spirit and then listen to His sweet voice speak to us in our inner spirit man. [See Footnote 7] This requires practice . . .

And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was . . . and the glory which thou gavest me I have given them . . . Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

John 17:5, 22a, 24

Through the power of His Holy Spirit, many who have a pure heart have seen Him even in this dispensation.

Footnote 7

The Bible says in 1 Thessalonians 5:23 that we are made up of spirit, soul and body. The blood of Jesus has been applied to our inner spirit man and death and the devil cannot enter the inner sanctum there. Just as it was in the days of Moses and the Israelites in Egypt – when the head of the house applied the blood to the lentil posts and doorposts of the home, the spirit of death and judgment could not enter. However, many who are born again have still allowed evil imaginations and sinful ways to put their soul or bodies in bondage. It is now time for you to be set free and for the Spirit of God to flush the enemy out of your soul. By reading the Sword of the Lord (the Word of God), and by allowing the Spirit of Christ to form you into the image of the Son, you will be changed into His likeness. Those areas of bondage and sinful habits (that in some cases have plagued some of you for years and years) will be broken in an instant by the Spirit of grace! When you realize how much God loves you and how much His sacrifice cost Him for your salvation, you too will want to become more sensitive to God communicating heavenly things to your spirit man through prayer. And you will begin to joyously praise Him with purity of heart and live a life free from all condemnation and bondage and be “light as a feather” in the spirit with your worship.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Matthew 5:8

And when one does see Him in all of His glory, the response will be like that of the Seraphim. **VV. 88** They sing “Holy, Holy, Holy” even as the angels that Isaiah saw did. **vv. 88b** Isaiah had this vision while on his knees praying in the Temple. You yourself may have had a vision while praying in your own home or while lying on your bed seeking the Lord. There is nothing wrong with that. There is nothing abnormal in the Christian life about a supernatural encounter with God. Paul was so caught up into the glory realm in his prayer time that he didn't know whether he was in the body or out of the body – that's okay. [II Cor. 12:1-6].

Saul saw Jesus on Damascus Road . . .

And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

Acts 9:3-5

Over twenty years ago, I carefully listened to testimonies from missionaries to the Muslim world, telling me how many Muslims were being converted to Christ because they were having direct visions and dreams of Him.

Let me tell you, my friend, there is something very powerful that will happen to you when you see Him. All you need is to climb a ladder to Heaven with Jacob and see the angels ascending and descending. All you need is to be like Nathaniel and see the Heaven's open . . .

Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel . . . And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.

John 1:49-51

All of you need a burning bush. All of you need to climb Mount Sinai in prayer. All of you reading this book need to ask God for a "Damascus Road experience." When Moses and Aaron saw God, the experience in God's presence changed them forever. When Moses saw God, the experience established within him the plans and purposes of God. When God spoke to Moses through the burning bush, it gave him incredible confidence in the face of the enemy. The encounter forever changed the status quo of Moses' life but the status quo of an entire nation as well!

God told Moses to go to Pharaoh and say . . . "Let My people go!" Sounded simple enough but in the natural understanding, initially it probably appeared to Moses like a "suicide mission." After all, he was confronting the most powerful and deadly tyrant in the ancient world. With one command, the Pharaoh could have killed Moses and Aaron on the spot. Yet, a simple Hebrew herdsman, the son-in-law of Jethro, had been transformed through the presence of God into one of the greatest prophets and deliverers of all time.

Why? Because Moses saw God and the Angel of the Lord was with him wherever he went. Great things will happen to you, my friend, if you will seek the face of God and allow God to give you your own personal "burning bush experience." Of course, the enemy does not want you to "see" God or His holy angels.

The seraphs song and Isaiah . . .

I believe when Isaiah saw the Seraphim flying with six wings, prophetically speaking the angelic message was this . . .

*“You saints on earth will be able to see the Lord high and lifted up when you have purer eyes and hearts before God. For with two wings do we cover our own face, not caring whether we are recognized of others in our worship. Unlike man, we have no “Juvenile need” for recognition. We seek not the praises of other angels, other beings or any man or devil. We only seek to please the Father and to contemplate His face. For to see God one must first be of a humble heart. So when we cover our faces with two of our wings, this symbolizes our humble response to the awesomeness of the Father. For the covering of one’s face symbolizes that humility is the only way for any beholder to see the Lord. And with two wings do we cover our feet since we acknowledge that God owns all things in Heaven and earth. We acknowledge His Lordship over all things. * [See footnote.] With two wings also do we fly because at the revelation of His goodness and greatness, we are lifted by the celestial winds to a higher place in our worship. Through the healthy fear of the Lord we are able on the wings of praise and worship to soar upwards to view God from an ever-changing perspective, thus, we are free to travel with great velocity to carry out God’s perfect will in all things.”*

Seraphim sing!

Throughout church history, some Bible scholars have interpreted Isaiah’s vision of the Seraphic choirs to be a description of one angelic choir singing to the other in an

*In the ancient Hebrew culture shoes symbolized ownership, which is, why in Heaven (where God owns everything), nobody needs to wear shoes. Besides, there is no dirt in Heaven that one needs to protect his feet from!

“echoing” effect in which one choir sings to the other and then finally both join in together. All I know is they are singing. In Strong’s and in Wilson’s Old Testament Word Studies, the word *krazo*, the word *gara*, [i.e., to call for, to call out to, to say, to pronounce, to cry out to and proclaim together] all are used interchangeably with the Hebrew *shiyr* which in Hebrew means to sing. *Amar* and *ranan* have also been translated to the Greek New Testament passage of Revelations 5:9, 11-13 . . .

And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation . . . 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, saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and

power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

Revelation 5:9, 11-13

Both John and Daniel saw millions of angels praising and worshipping God around His Throne even while they ministered to Him . . .

A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

Daniel 7:10

In the *Expositors' Bible*, Volume 12, page 470. Dr. Gaebelien says the following regarding the passage of Revelation 5:11-12 . . .

“Now John sees a new feature in the vision . . . thousands upon thousands and ten thousand times ten thousand angels surrounding the throne . . . ”

And even before creation, eons ago, the angels have been shouting and singing forth their praises to the Son of God . . .

Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? Declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? Or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? Or who laid the corner stone thereof; *When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?*

Job 38:4-7

Specifically regarding Job 38:7, Dr. Gaebelien goes on to say that . . .

“ . . . no human being was present, for men was not yet created; the angels (stars) however, beheld with rejoicing the founding of the place of the future family . . . the “morning stars” however are mentioned in connection with them because the stars and the angels which are both comprehended . . . joy and light are reciprocal notions and the scale of the tones of joy is likened to the scale of the spectrum of light and color; therefore the fullness of light in which the morning stars shone forth altogether at the founding of the earth, may symbolize one grandly harmonious Song of Joy . . . the celestial song of Angels to the glory of God; and Jesus by and through all things are created . . . ”

Pre-carnate worship . . .

Jesus is, has and always will be the King of Angels and it is only natural and fitting that His brilliant and angelic subjects sang for joy upon His act of creating the earth, the

solar system and the entire universe. As a matter of fact, Christ and the angels existed in a glorious spiritual realm of song, praise and worship long before the earth was made. Jesus danced before His Father and was daily His delight before the worlds were made . . .

The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth: While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth: When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep: When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth: Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him . . .

Proverbs 8:23-30

And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

John 17:5

Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Colossians 1:15-17

Christmas Worship . . .

When the angels came in an epiphany, the shepherds heard them gloriously sing. In summary of the Scripture reference below, I would like to say that all the angels that Job referred to at the dawn of creation may also join the angelic choir upon the virgin birth of our Lord Jesus Christ . . .

Or who laid the corner stone thereof; *When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?*

Job 38:7

And angels were singing their praises to Christ in Heaven long before Jesus' humble birth in a stable in Nazareth. In the International Greek Testament on page 11, Dr. Harwood Marshall begins his description of Luke 2 by saying:

“ . . . when the angels came in an epiphany appearing to the shepherds...the angelic song is in effect a proclamation of the results of the birth of Jesus.”

Therefore, the vision of angels singing their praises to God is not only confirmed by Isaiah but by sundry other saints and Jewish prophets (such as Enoch) as well. And as we have seen, very gifted Bible scholars throughout history who are thoroughly acquainted with the original languages have concurred that in fact angels do sing. As Dr. Charles Simeon had stated in his chapter, “*The Angels Song*” [see Expository Outlines on the whole Bible, Vol. 12, page 234, Baker Book House] . . .

*“ . . . But raise your thoughts to heaven my brethren and consider . . . there are already millions of redeemed souls, that rest not day or night from their songs of praise. There is a chorus swelling louder and louder each day by the accession of saints whose spirits have been made perfect, everyone having tuned his heart to the heavenly song, and bursting forth at his first entrance into heaven into acclamations and hosannas that shall never end . . . me thinks, the visions of Mt. Tabor will be common upon earth and this **song of angels** will become the common tone of intercourse between man and God [and person to person!] throughout the whole world.”*

CHAPTER FOUR

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

The question of whether or not angels sing should not be difficult to answer. Are all the great Christian composers of music theologically wrong as well? I think not. God Himself is the essence of beauty and from eternity past created praise and worship with glorious music even prior to the creation of Adam and Eve. God is the wellspring of all song and Jesus is the eternally begotten One – the Song of all songs. [Song of Songs 1:1] John the Baptist has prophetically informed us that God can do anything. He can even cause inanimate stones to rise up and worship Him as sons of Abraham! Certainly God has empowered His highest order or pre-creation beings with the ability to sing. As my youngest daughter, Rebekah, once said, “I’m not letting some “dumb” inanimate rock out-worship me!”

And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.

Luke 19:40

From time memorial the Christian composers have had good angelology.

Lucifer had some pipes!

Like most Bible students, Christian composers were aware of lucifer’s (the chief worshipping archangel) ability to produce beautiful music . . .

Your might and power are gone; they were buried with you. All the pleasant music in your palace has ceased.

Isaiah 14:11a (NLT)

You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created. "You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you.

Ezekiel 28:13-15 (NKJV)

The traitor archangel lucifer had pipes built within his body which could literally emanate the sound of music. Remember, he was created with viols and pipes. Even today satan still remains a veritable musical song machine. Yet insidious pride, ambition, a love of fame and self-deception has ruined his song forever. He has now been reduced to a broken-down jukebox of raucous, rowdy, raunchy, bawdy, coarse, dirty, profane, nasty, foul, smutty, vulgar and squawky conglomeration of music, lyrics and sound.

Jesus told His disciples that because iniquity was found in him, lucifer was cast out of Heaven . . .

And he said unto them, I beheld satan as lightning fall from Heaven . . .

Luke 10:18

Many of the elements of music (i.e., rhythm, harmony and melody) he has tried to distort and pervert ever since.

A celestial church split!

A disgruntled and ambitious traitor archangel along with one third of his rebellious choir was kicked out of Heaven eons ago. For lucifer and his treacherous minions tried to storm the very Throne of God and take worship for themselves. Ever since they have been trying to “steal” the worship and praise due God the Father alone, even in the Church today. They have tried to devour and destroy true worship from arising upward to God. Through sinful pride and vanity, and through cheap, faddy, worldly imitations, they have tried to keep the praise of the Bride “earth bound.”

Luciferian praise always wears the same mask – it appears pious, and exalting of Christ while secretly stealing the praise for self. For luciferian praise is and always will be a mixture of worship with a spirit of self-exaltation, vanity, seduction, lust, self-promotion and vain ambition – it is always antichrist. However, when God kicked lucifer out of Heaven with a third of his dark angels, by my math calculations that still leaves two thirds of the anointed choir left. These are the loyal and faithful angelic worshippers and servants of the Lord, who would do nothing to “steal” worship due Jesus and Jesus alone!

And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth . . .

Revelation 12:4a

Despite lucifer's great fall from the heights, God's loyal angels continue to praise Him with their song – and so should we . . .

Praise Him all His angels, praise Him all His hosts!

Psalm 148:2

If the psalmist adjures the angels and saints to now praise Him, what could be clearer proof that if any choir was thrown out of Heaven, it was only the treasonous angelic choir – not the loyal angels of the Lord [See Footnote 8.]

Footnote 8.

And it is clear from the above texts in Ezekiel 28 that if lucifer could play musical instruments before the earth was formed, it is most difficult to understand why they would not be able to sing now – even if it is a “perverted” self-exalting song. Even now we see that lyrics can be sung with a correct gospel message but the spirit behind it is demonic and still leads to rebellion and sin. For the sounds of lucifer's song have never ceased but exist on the earth in both church and secular circles, manifesting themselves through a spirit, which is lusty and vain, boisterous, loud, hellish and raucous. In addition, in Revelation 8:7 the Bible says angels can play trumpets. And in 1 Thessalonians 4:16, angels will use shofars and trumpets to announce God's return. So then, why is it hard for some to understand that angels are able to sing “Glory to God in the highest!” even as they did when they announced the birth of Jesus? [Luke 2:14]

The stars sing . . .

Scientists have now estimated that the stars of the universe are more numerous than the grains of sand on every beach on planet earth. Yet, God says, that the angels are just as innumerable . . .

Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Job 38:5-7

Astronomers have now recorded the individual “songs” or multi-pitched emissions from physical stars in outer space. Scientists are now able to pick up their various sounds and “songs” on high-powered radio telescopes. And if inanimate physical stars can “sing” different pitches and tunes, why would anyone suggest that angels (who are living animate creatures and who are symbolized as stars throughout the Scriptures) do not have the God-given ability to sing as well.

In Revelation 1:20, the seven stars of the churches are represented as angels. As we have seen from Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28, lucifer possessed drums [tabrets] and viols that were

created within him. Also upon his creation, a lot of lucifer's beauty was considered to be derived from the colorful and anointed music and worship songs that he produced.

The whole earth sings His praise . . .

The Bible predicts that the whole earth will break forth into singing at Christ's return. Not only will the fig trees and cedars of Lebanon shout their praise at his return but the entire creation shall sing of His glory even as they troop their own colors! But the most beautiful and glorious music on the planet is about to usher forth from a combination of angelic hosts singing along with the saints of God in our public gatherings which will be heard by those who have ears to hear it. David had such ears that were spiritually in tune with the spirit of God . . .

When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, What is man that You are mindful of him and the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor.

Psalms 8:3-5 (NKJV)

I believe that when I go in my backyard at night and look up at the stars, I can claim them as part of my homestead. After all, every man, woman and child across the planet can do the same. I believe the starry night has been put there by God to show each of us our eternal destinies. This is why angels are often linked with stars. I believe one day soon many in the Body of Christ will be granted by the Holy Spirit the ability to hear a lot of angels singing in Heaven. David heard by the Spirit both the celestial and terrestrial creations of God singing their praises to the Lord . . .

Praise ye the Lord. Praise ye the Lord from the heavens: praise him in the heights. *Praise ye him, all his angels*: praise ye him, all his hosts. Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light. Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens. Let them praise the name of the Lord: for he commanded, and they were created. He hath also stablished them for ever and ever: he hath made a decree which shall not pass. Praise the Lord from the earth, ye dragons, and all deeps: Fire, and hail; snow, and vapour; stormy wind fulfilling his word: Mountains, and all hills; fruitful trees, and all cedars: Beasts, and all cattle; creeping things, and flying fowl: Kings of the earth, and all people; princes, and all judges of the earth: Both young men, and maidens; old men, and children: Let them praise the name of the Lord: for his name alone is excellent; his glory *is* above the earth and heaven. He also exalteth the horn of his people, the praise of all his saints; *even* of the children of Israel, a people near unto him. Praise ye the Lord.

Psalms 148:1-14

Abraham looked up at the stars and was amazed . . .

And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

Genesis 15:5

Could it be that the stars are a good Biblical reminder of the myriad of worshipping angels that are in Heaven? God wants to stretch our imagination so that we can receive great things from Him by faith – even as Father Abraham did. Might there be something that is way beyond your present vision of the glories of Heaven? Can you see that worshipping angelic hosts constantly surround Jesus in His glorified form? For Jesus Himself holds seven stars (angels) in His hand. Don't these stars represent the patron angels of the true Churches of Jesus Christ on the earth? Are not these "stars," the angels of glory who sing His Praise? Aren't the angels still doing the same today? Could it be that God desires for us to be the angel song while we as pilgrims sojourn here?

All of creation sings . . . including angels!

Everything in God's creation sings a creative song to the Lord in its own unique way. Everything in the universe (except in the driving, repetitive, monotonous, and perverted realm of satan) has its own creative way of sounding or moving to give glory to God. [Psalm 148, Psalm 69:34]. A few examples that we see on earth are when the leaves and the rivers clap their hands. [Psalm 98:8; Isaiah 55:12] The "singing" trees and the mountains [Psalm 96:12] and the skipping hills [Psalm 144:46] also worship Him in a universal song of praise. For didn't even John the Baptist say the stones would cry out and worship Him!

"The mountains and the hills shall break forth before you with singing, and all the trees of the fields shall clap their hands . . ."

Isaiah 55:12

We clearly see, therefore, from Scripture that objects in creation which are lower in creative order than the angels, that somehow God has given them an innate ability for to praise and worship Him in the spiritual realm (even though I haven't heard a rock or tree actually praising the Lord on this earth, yet, that doesn't mean God doesn't have ears to hear this!). If mankind, which has been created a little lower than the angels, has the ability to sing and worship God, certainly the angels can sing as well. And if the trees of the field can clap their hands to the glory of God; if the inanimate mountains and hills, and gurgling brooks sing and clap their hands to the Lord, why would anyone propose that angels do not sing?

vv. 89 Yes, as we have seen, although it is true that there is no Scripture that says directly that "angels sing;" however, there are many strong inferences and parallel texts of Scripture that prove their ability to sing far outweighs any conjecture that they do not!

Godly singing is but preaching to notes . . .

In the Church, preaching and singing when put to musical notes and pitch, are one in the same. Therefore, godly singing is nothing but “preaching to notes.” Again, let us not get into semantics here. Technically speaking, the phonating of the speaking voice with any alteration of pitch, is considered singing. Who wants to hear a preacher who preaches only in pitchless monotone like a sergeant of arms who cries, “Hear Ye, Hear Ye!” On the other hand, those who offer a songless angel perspective have absolutely no Scriptures that emphatically state that angels do not sing.

One of my favorite hymns is “*The Love of God.*” I heartily agree with his lyric when he says on his chorus . . .

The love of God;
How rich and pure
How measureless and strong,
It shall forever more endure
the saints and *angels song* . . . ”

How to sing like an angel . . .

Even if you don’t have the voice of an angel (certainly the shepherd boys in Luke 2 didn’t!), you can learn to worship more purely by their example. If we want to worship like the angels and shine even with the brilliance of a star, we too need to become more like the “sons of light.” We too must pledge loyalty and fidelity of heart like the faithful angels of Christ. We must forgive all and repent from sin and humble ourselves asking God to purify us through the blood of Jesus and through the fire of the Holy Spirit. Everyone who claims the name of Christ needs to stop grumbling and complaining. Therefore, the next time you see that starry night, think about angels and think about how they sing to the glory of God!

How *not* to sing like an angel . . .

We have seen how the fallen angel, lucifer, once sang a beautiful love song to the Lord. Sadly, the traitor cherub still sings a song but now it is a boisterous, haughty and raucous one. It is a song or repetitive harsh-sounding noise that is full of confusion, darkness, lust, self-exaltation, ambition, anger, conceit, vanity – proud and arrogant! Even if such a “song” is garbed in Christian language and message, because of the dark spirit which is behind it, it still remains a prideful and ambitious song, which is rejected by God and the hosts of Heaven.

How angels express their joy . . .

One of the ways angels express their joy is when a Christian wins a lost soul to Christ!

Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

Luke 15:10

I cannot imagine such joy and rejoicing in Heaven without the holy gaiety of glorious song. And if the apostle Paul states that in this current church dispensation God's people are able to speak with the language of angels of a higher creation order of beings, why would anyone question their ability to not only speak our language but to also sing in our language as well? The thought is inconceivable. Of course, all of His angels now worship Him . . .

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels . . .

1 Corinthians 13:1

**And again, when he bringeth in the first begotten into the world, he saith,
And let all the angels of God worship him. And that all of his angels worship
Him**

Hebrews 1:6

And if the angels are the ministers for the heirs of salvation, shouldn't we as believers be more open to their instruction in the school of worship?

**And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a
flame of fire.**

Hebrews 1:7

If the saints of old were able to eat the food of cherubs and the bread of angels we can also learn how to worship better by their example.

The Bible says that angels currently have greater giftings and powers than Christians who are living on earth as far as physical abilities. None of us, for example, can travel at the speed and velocity of an angel. We cannot pivot from one dimension to the other like they can, etc. One day we will. But we are not in that age yet. Sadly, when some of the fallen, rebellious angels intermarried with women on earth, their offspring (the *Nephilim* or giants) were very physically powerful . . .

**There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the
sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to
them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.**

Genesis 6:4

Because these super human, *nephilim*, were so powerful and strong it would take a heavenly-minded person full of faith like David to operate in the supernatural in order to slay both Goliath as well as his giant relatives. Nobody was going to "bully" David out of fulfilling God's destiny for his life . . .

And yet again there was war at Gath, where was a man of great stature, whose fingers and toes were four and twenty, six on each hand, and six on each foot: and he also was the son of the giant. But when he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimea David's brother slew him.

1 Chronicles 20:6-7

Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.

2 Peter 2:11a

As we have seen, angels are more like us than we think. However, until we get to Heaven, they are generally more powerful than us and more gifted in certain areas. And if angels have more ability and powers that we as believers presently possess and enjoy in this church age, who would dare to admit they do not have our ability to sing?

I must say, after each concert crusade, I am still perplexed as to why people approach me questioning me on this subject – for why on earth would anyone on earth try to prove that they cannot sing?

The “song” of angel wings . . .

John *heard* an angel flying . . .

And I beheld, and *heard an angel flying* through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

Revelation 8:13

In the Spirit, John *heard* an angel fly. Have you ever *heard* an angel fly? Their wings emanate beautiful vibratory tones as they resonate on the clouds of glory in many different tonal ranges. And doesn't the Lord command us to sing with loud instruments and to sing many songs glorifying Him? [2 Chronicles 30:21, Isaiah 23:16] Why then, would some have you to believe that all the angels been forbidden to sing of the majesty of God? [Isaiah 24:14] Doesn't God command all the hosts of Heaven to sing? [Isaiah 44:23 and Isaiah 49:13] Why would He exclude the holy angels from this command for any reason? Aren't we to sing in the heights of Zion along with the seraphic hosts? [Jeremiah 31:12] Since the foundation of the world, haven't the mountains been commanded to break forth into singing? [Isaiah 44:23]

The song of turtles . . .

Certainly, if God created blue whales, birds, monkeys, and dogs (and even turtles!) to sing, howl, siren with different pitches [and yes, even man], it is impossible to believe

that God's highest order of creatures do not possess the ability to sing as well. For singing is an integral part of what *angels do*.

If the birds can sing, who dare propose to God that He would not endow His angels to sing of His glory at all times? The Bible says that in some mystical and spiritual way even the turtles praise Him!

The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land . . .

Song of Songs 2:12

Some may attribute the verse above to sheer figurative or analogical speech *but for many who have been to Heaven, they have actually heard all of creation praising the Lord from the earthly regions.*

Does not nature teach? . . .

Nature, and the common sense that God has given each of us, loudly exclaims the truth that angels sing. We are without excuse in this for in all of creation, God's handiwork and inner nature is seen . . .

Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse . . .

Romans 1:20

Again, does not God Himself sing over us?

The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.

Zephaniah 3:17

For God is a singing God, why would angels who are made nigh to His image not be granted the same nature? For if the Lord is our strength and song, why would He not also be the strength and song of His angelic hosts? Therefore, why wouldn't He become the song of angels as He is for His people here on earth? [Exodus 15:2]

I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving.

Psalms 69:30

Now therefore write ye this song for you, and teach it the children of Israel . . .

Deuteronomy 31:19a

I, for one, will not teach any of the children of Israel a song of worship that would exclude the angels of Heaven from joining in. I don't know about you but I'll respect and cherish the biblical opinions of the great saints of the past. I'll take the "soul weight," pure character, and biblical scholarship of a Charles Wesley over any of the contemporaries I read today regarding the matter.

I will say, with the angels above and the prophets of old that Jehovah is my song and one day soon, I will sing the song of the Lamb on the Crystal Sea. [Isaiah 12:2; Revelation 15:3]

For as with Job, God has given me a song in the night, a song which will compliment the song of God's own morning stars. And I will be singing that song even when Jesus is revealed with His holy angels upon His return to earth . . .

And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels . . .

2 Thessalonians 1:7

With the celestial aid of God's angels, may our worship be carried to the Throne of God through the censer of pure Golden Altar worship . . .

And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

Revelation 8:5

As this age of history is about to draw to a close, we are at a transition point between two ages. I believe that soon we will hear the song of angels in our church services as the sounds of Heaven begin to invade our congregational revival meetings. It is very possible that in our church services the angels will add their voices to ours.

Angelic hums . . .

Everything that comes into your heart does not necessarily mean it's a creative sound from God. However, all lasting beauty is from God. Even famous secular song writers will testify that the famous melody came to them from "without." Some have even attributed their creative tunes to angels whispering in their ears. Some even keep a tape cassette player by their bedside so they can capture that creative moment. Regardless, as we as Christians know that all creativeness comes from the Holy Spirit and that even now, we can all "tune in" to the frequency of God and hear creative angelic melodies from on high.

This may sound strange to some of you who are not musical composers but the fact is many melodies come to the heart in the middle of the night or as one awakes early in the

morning. I've learned to keep a tape recorder by my bed in order to record these whimsical tunes. I know the angels sing because through the Holy Spirit, they have inspired some of my songs. How? Sometimes through the Holy Spirit, I hear heavenly choruses and counter-melodies in my imagination. Other times, there are anointed and creative moments of luminosity when I least expect it. The time or place does not matter. As a matter of fact, most often when these songs come to me, I was thinking about something totally different. What matters is that the heart is "open" to the songs of the Spirit and of the angels . . .

One thing I do know, both the lyrics and the songs are coming from without – even from Heaven. All true beauty and lovely music comes down from above. It doesn't matter how one receives them – whether in a beautiful "symphonic" night dream or an early morning inspiration. You could even be driving in a car, etc. The main thing is that all of us through prayer and meditation on the Word should develop an "ear to hear" the sounds of Heaven so that they may become a symphony on earth.

Remember, many of the world's greatest hymns and worship melodies did not originate from the human mind and heart. Rather, they originated from the Lord who whispered them to the inner heart. We should, therefore, listen to God with a "ready pen" and an open heart. For when Heaven's sounds touch earth, people get healed and delivered. Dear one, begin to listen to the creative spirit of the singing God! David said he would bless the Lord at all times and His praise shall *continually* be in his mouth . . .

*Praise the Lord from the heavens;
Praise Him in the heights!
Praise Him, all His angels;
Praise Him, all His hosts!
Praise Him, sun and moon;
Praise Him, all stars of light!
Praise Him, highest heavens,
And the waters that are above the heavens!
And let them praise the name of the Lord!
For He commanded and they were created.*

Psalm 148:1-5

Everything in creation sings their praises to God. It is impossible to believe that such praise in heaven is not enjoined with music and singing!

To sum up . . .

Okay, enough. I've had about much as I'm going to say regarding this matter. But I have simply felt that something needed to be said regarding this point of doctrine, which has caused confusion to some. Regardless of what view you adhere to, obviously, this is not a doctrine that would keep anyone out of Heaven. Believing that angels don't sing might be *silly* but embracing such a view does not in any way jeopardize a person's salvation! I think it's good to have dialogue on subjects like

**these in these days – and hopefully, without compromising the unity of the brethren!
We can all agree to disagree in the Church in the love of Jesus.**

Reprise . . .

In short, even though, the Scriptures do not *pointedly* say that angels sing, they strongly *infer* that they sing. And, at no place in Scripture does the Bible emphatically say that *they do not sing*. The Scriptures strongly imply that the angels not only sing in this dispensation but that they have always sung and always will to the glory of God. My dear friend, if you could only hear one strain of the heavenly angelic choir, you would quickly know that angels sing!

Even though amongst Bible scholars and students there remains some conjecture and some friendly and spirited debate, I think we should feel very confident in the fact that angels do sing.

I leave you with this quote from Dr. Billy Graham in his book on *Angels*, which I think sums up the whole issue very well . . .

“Some Bible students insist that angels do not sing. This seems inconceivable. Angels possess the ultimate capacity to offer praise in their music. . . Music is the universal language, it is likely that John saw a massive heavenly choir [Rev. 5:11, 12] of many millions who expressed their praise of the heavenly land through magnificent music. I believe angel choirs will sing in eternity to the glory of God and the supreme delight of the redeemed. While it is partly speculative, I believe that angels have the capacity to employ heavenly celestial music. Many dying believers have testified that they have heard the music of heaven . . . The Bible tells us of many who sang: Moses [Exodus 15:1], David [Psalms], and many others. Thousands of worshippers at the temple continually sing praising the Lord. [2 Chronicles 5:12] Thousands of singers preceded the Ark of the Covenant. [1 Chronicles 15:27, 28] New Testament believers also sang with rapturous joy. Though the Bible does not say it, it implies that angels, who are of a higher creation order, are tuned to sing with no discordant note to God and the Lamb . . . though there has been much conjecture about angel choirs we can at least assume that angels can and do sing, even if scriptures do not pointedly say so . . .”

— Dr. Billy Graham
Angels
Word Publishing

CHAPTER FIVE

HOW TO HEAR THE ANGELS SING

Walter Hilton was a devout brother in Christ who lived over 500 years ago. He wrote a little treatise regarding angels and how one could hear them sing. His little treatise was entitled “Song of Angels.” Below is an excerpt from his work which I think you will find both edifying and enlightening . . .

Dear brother and sister in Christ, I understand by your own speech, and also by the word of another man, that you yearn and long to have more knowledge and understanding than you have of the angel’s song and the heavenly sound – what it is, how it is perceived and felt in the soul, how to be sure that it is true and not feigned, and how it is made by the presence of the good angel and not by the inputting of the evil angel. These things you desire to learn from me, but, truthfully, I cannot tell you with certainty the truth of this matter; nevertheless I will show you something of my opinion in a short word.

Perfect union with God . . .

Note well that the end and pinnacle of perfection is true union of God and the soul by perfect love. This union is truly made when the powers of the soul are reformed by grace to the dignity and the state of the first condition – that is, when the mind is firmly established, without changing and wandering, in God and spiritual things, and when the reason is cleared from all attention to worldly and fleshly things, and from all bodily images, figures, and fantasies of created things, and is illumined by grace to see God and spiritual things, and when the will and the affection are purified and cleansed from all fleshly, natural, and worldly love and inflamed with burning love of the Holy Spirit. This wonderful union may not be fulfilled perfectly, continuously, and wholly in this life, because of the corruption of the flesh, but only in the bliss of heaven. Nevertheless, the nearer that a soul in this present life may come to this union, the more perfect it is. For the more that it is reformed by grace to the image

and the likeness of its Creator here, in this way, the more joy and bliss shall it have in heaven.

Our Lord God is an endless being without changing, almighty without failing, supreme wisdom, light, truth without error or darkness, supreme goodness, love, peace, and sweetness. Therefore the more that a soul is united, fastened, conformed, and joined to our Lord, the more stable and strong it is, the more wise and clear, good and peaceable, loving and virtuous it is, and so it is more perfect. For a soul that has by the grace of Jesus and long, hard work of bodily and spiritual exercise, overcome and destroyed lusts, passions, and unreasonable impulses within itself, and without in the sensuality, and is clothed all in virtues, as in meekness and mildness, in patience and softness, in spiritual strength and righteousness, in continence, in wisdom, in truth, hope and charity – then it is made as perfect as it may be in this life. Much comfort it receives from our Lord, not only inwardly, in its own secret nature, by virtue of the union to our Lord that lies in knowing and loving God, in illumination and spiritual burning from Him, in transforming of the soul into the Godhead; but also many other comforts . . .

How to achieve true freedom . . .

Some souls, by virtue of the love that God gives them, are so cleansed that all creatures and everything they hear, or see, or feel by any of the senses, turns them to comfort and gladness . . . This is the freedom and the lordship, the dignity, and the worth that a man has over all creatures, which dignity he may so recover by grace . . . Also, our Lord comforts a soul by angel's song. This song cannot be described by any bodily likeness, for it is spiritual, and above all imagination and reason. It may be felt and perceived in a soul, but it may not be showed. Nevertheless, I will speak of it to you as I think.

The benefits of purification . . .

When a soul is purified by the love of God, illumined by wisdom, and stabilized by the might of God, then the eye of the soul is opened to see spiritual things, as virtues and angels (and holy souls), and heavenly things. Then, because it is clean, the soul is able to feel the touching, the speaking of good angels. This speaking is more often than not spiritual . . . For when the soul is lifted and ravished out of the sensuality, and out of mind of any earthly things, then in great fervour of love and light (if our Lord deigns) the soul may hear and feel heavenly sound, made by the presence of angels in loving God.

Note that this song of angels is the supreme joy of the soul; but because of the difference between a person's soul in flesh and an angel, due to uncleanness, a soul may not hear it except by ravishing in love, and it must be much purified and well cleaned, and filled with much love, before it will be able to hear heavenly sound. For the supreme and essential joy is in the love of God by Himself and for Himself, and the secondary is in communing with and beholding angels and spiritual creatures.

For just as a soul, in understanding spiritual things, is often touched and moved through bodily imagination by the work of angels, (as when Ezekiel the prophet saw in body the truth of God's hidden mysteries), just so, in the love of God, a soul by the presence of angels is ravished out of mind of all earthly and fleshly things and filled with a heavenly joy and enabled to hear angel's song and heavenly sound, according to the measure of its love.

Agape love is the answer . . .

I think that no soul may truly feel the angel's song or heavenly sound, unless it is in perfect love, though not all that are in perfect love have felt it, but only the soul that is so purified in the fire of love that all earthly savor is burned out of it, and all obstacles between the soul and the cleanness of angels are broken and put away from it. Then truly may he sing a new song, and truly may he hear a blessed heavenly sound, and angel's song, without deceit or feigning. Our Lord knows the soul that, for abundance of burning love, is worthy to hear angel's song.

Whoever would hear angel's song, and not be deceived by feigning of himself, or by imagination, or by the illusion of the enemy, should have perfect love. That is when all vain love and fear, vain joy and sorrow, are cast out of the heart, so that it loves nothing but God, nor fears anything but God, nor joys, nor sorrows in anything but Jesus, or for God. Whoever by the grace of God goes this way will not err.

Avoid vain fantasies . . .

Nevertheless, some are deceived by their own imagination or by the illusion of the enemy in this matter. Such a person, who may have worked long and hard, bodily and spiritually, in the destroying of sins and gaining of virtues, and perhaps received by grace a little rest, and a clarity in conscience, may soon leave prayers, readings of holy scriptures, meditations on the passion of Christ, and thoughts of his wretchedness. Before he is called by God, he tries, by his own skill and by violence, to seek and to see heavenly things, before his eyes are made spiritual by grace It is all vanity and a fantasy of the head, or else it is by the work of the wicked enemy that feigns such sounds in his hearing

Also, some people feel in their hearts what seem to be spiritual sounds and sweet songs in various manners, and this is often good, but sometimes it may turn to deceit. This sound is felt in this way. A person sets the thought of his heart only in the name of Jesus, and firmly holds it there, and in a short time he thinks that that name brings him great comfort and sweetness, and he thinks that the name sounds delectably in his heart, like a song; and this pleasure is so strong that it draws all the powers of the soul to it. Whoever feels this sound and this sweetness truly in his heart, knows that it is of God, and, as long as he is humble, he shall not be deceived.

Safety in humility . . .

. . . For when a soul offers himself to Jesus truly and humbly, putting all his trust and his desire in Him, and busily keeping Him in mind, our Lord Jesus, when He will, purges the affection of the soul, and fills it and feeds it with sweetness of Himself, and makes His name feel in the soul as honey, and as song, and as anything that is delectable; so that the soul evermore wants to cry Jesus, Jesus. And he has comfort not only in this, but also in psalms and hymns, and anthems of the Church; the heart sings them sweetly, devoutly, and freely . . .

This is good, and a gift of God, for the substance of this feeling lies in the love of Jesus, which is fed and illuminated by such songs. Nevertheless, in this manner of feeling, a soul may be deceived by pride – not while the affection sings to Jesus, and loves Jesus in sweetness of Him, but afterward, when it ceases and the heart cools down from the love of Jesus. Then pride may enter in

For note well that an abstract thought or imagination of Jesus, or of any spiritual thing, without sweetness of love in the affection, and without light of knowing in reason, is but a blindness, and a way to deceit, if a man hold it to be more than it is

— Brother Walter Hilton, 1521

CHAPTER SIX

THE QUESTION OF APPEARANCE

Angelic controversy . . .

There is some genuine disagreement amongst Christian friends as to the appearance of angels. Some argue that angels only appear in the masculine form because they claim the scriptures only refer to them by male names. But just because the Bible refers to Michael and Gabriel in the masculine gender, this does not negate the possibility that God has also created other angelic beings which are quite different in their appearances. Now I'm not accusing some modern authors and theologians of being "macho" to think otherwise. However, some have taken it upon themselves to misinterpret key bible texts in supporting their "male image only" angel theories.

Some have even gone so far as to propose that if one adheres to a non masculine view of angels, one has become too spiritually anemic to carry out effective spiritual warfare against the evil principalities. As far as spiritual warfare is concerned, adhering to a view of diverse, angelic descriptions/appearances (i.e., male or female in appearance) does not indicate that one embraces a weak and effeminate position - it in no wise indicates one's inability to war against the evil principalities which are arrayed against the church in this hour.

The fact is there is no scripture that emphatically states that "*thus saith the Lord, all angels are masculine, large, powerful and warlike in appearance.*" There is no scripture that anyone can quote which says "*thus saith the Lord, all of my angels are strong and macho in appearance and thou shall not conceive of any angelic being as existing in childlike, feminine or petite form!*"

Again, although it is true that the Bible only mentions the name of angels in the masculine (probably as a symbol of strength), the fact is in the above texts Zechariah saw two female like angels carrying away a wicked woman who had been stuffed in a large jar and sealed with a lead top. The jar was carried away by these feminine looking angels to wicked Babylon, the "land of Shin."

God likes diversity . . .

This should not be such a difficult thing to comprehend. Although it is true that some liberal denominations, new age religions (and even some colorful gift cards sold at organic food store chains) seem to solely describe angels as having a weak or overly effeminate appearance, this excessive viewpoint should not make a Christian back away from the possibility of diverse forms. For example, we see that on earth God created mankind in various and diverse forms. He made them different sizes, shapes and colors. He made them male and female – and in their life cycle, he made them to appear infant-like, childlike as well as mature.

God loves variety in Heaven as well as on earth. Conceiving of angels this way does not mean one has become some sort of a prayerless wimp who is no longer capable of warring against the evil minions of Hell. Jesus did say that in Heaven there would be neither male nor female but some form of a higher celestial race which lives on a higher plane of existence. But that does not necessitate that all angels on Heaven and in earth must look male!

Then the angel that talked with me went forth, and said unto me, Lift up now thine eyes, and see what is this that goeth forth. And I said, What is it? And he said, This is an ephah that goeth forth. He said moreover, This is their resemblance through all the earth. And, behold, there was lifted up a talent of lead: and this is a woman that sitteth in the midst of the ephah. And he said, This is wickedness. And he cast it into the midst of the ephah; and he cast the weight of lead upon the mouth thereof. Then lifted I up mine eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came out two women, and the wind was in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork: and they lifted up the ephah between the earth and the heaven. Then said I to the angel that talked with me, Whither do these bear the ephah? And he said unto me, To build it an house in the land of Shinar: and it shall be established, and set there upon her own base.

Zechariah 5:5-11

The flying ephah . . .

If one reads the above passage carefully, you will see that it was in the seventh vision in which the prophet Zechariah saw female looking angels – not wicked spirits as some have erroneously supposed. However, the central focus of this vision was not the female angels but a Hebrew *ephah*. In Hebrew this word designates either a quantity or a measure.

It seems that in this chapter, the ephah is being used for *quantity*. In ancient Jewish culture, an ephah was thought to be approximately the size of a five-gallon bucket. It also could be considered to be a large jar or pot. In verses 5 and 6, we see that this large jar or pot was moving about the land of Israel and Zechariah's messenger angel informed him that this jar represented the iniquity and wickedness of the backslidden people of Israel. Today one could consider this flying *ephah* (or flying jar) to be symbolic of the rampant wickedness putrefying the air of our own culture and backslidden nation.

The woman in the jar . . .

The fact that this mobile jar of wickedness moved about the land speaks of the prevalent and insidious private and public practices of evil and immoral activity which was rampant among God's people at that time. But there was something else that the prophets' angel wanted him to see. As the prophet looked closer, he noticed an unclean, unholy woman inside of it peeping out the top of the jar . . .

“Like a wicked genie in a jar, the woman is traversing in the land spreading her evil influence wherever she goes. The woman Zechariah is told, represents “wickedness.” Then the movement of the vision continues; the woman is thrust back into the pot presumably by the prophets accompanying angel and the heavy lid is firmly secured over her. Two female angels now enter the scene with wide wings like those of storks and lifting the pot, they fly off with it. Zechariah asks where it is being taken and is told that its destiny is the land of Shinar, or Babylon. There a house or temple would be built for it and it would remain in a remote place permanently.”

-- Dr. Craigie

God is no chauvinist . . .

What Craigie is saying above is that the general evil spirit of seduction, immorality and wickedness of an entire nation is personified in the woman in the pot. This is a Jezebelian spirit of wickedness as symbolized in the unclean woman. As a matter of fact, the Hebrew word for “wicked” in Hebrew is in the feminine. But *equally* it is also *female* angels (for God is neither a sexist nor a chauvinist!) For there is neither male nor female, Greek nor Jew for all are one in Christ! [Gal 3:28]

In other words, the two female angels Zechariah refers to above, represent God's righteousness and His wrath against sin. Again, as some have erroneously supposed, these two flying feminine looking angels *do not* represent wickedness.

Rather than representing evil, quite the contrary, the two female angels actually symbolize God's holy standard and are righteous heavenly agents who dispose of private and corporate wickedness and “carry it away.” This fact is clearly implicated in the imagery in the vision described in the above scriptures. In fact, the righteous act of the two flying female creatures was absolutely essential in doing away with evil.

Essentially, the evil, Jezebel “genie” demon was kept “bottled up” by the two flying women and they carried the ephah off to where it belonged – within the confines of the idolatrous and evil land of Shinhar (i.e. Babylon). You see my friend, evil will always “peep” its head out at you. It must be carried away; it must be gotten rid of entirely. The enemy is relentless.

Angels are the dispensers and administrators of the divine beneficence toward us; they regard our safety, undertake our defense, direct our ways, and exercise a constant solicitude that no evil befall us.

— John Calvin

The two female angels above not only speak of their diverse appearances but also gives us a behind the scenes look at how they deal with evil.

*. . . angels wherer' we go,
Attend our steps whater' betide,
With watchful care their charge attend,
And evil turn aside.*

— Rev. Charles Wesley

As believers, daily we are to eschew evil. After Jesus was tempted, the Bible says that satan only left him for a season. The enemy always has something up his sleeve. There is no need for anyone to gloat in the fact that a compatriot has fallen into the enemy's snare. The devil is conniving and has set his traps. He already has two snares prepared for each of your own feet! We need to walk in humility. We need to totally depend on His grace and trust that He will send angelic ministry to help us in time of need.

Put away evil . . .

The evil one is always flying around looking for a place to land. But there is safety in our submission to God. [James 4:7] When we surrender to God, the devil must flee. When we quote the Word as Jesus did, even though the devil would try to deceive us, he must flee in obedience to the Word of God. [Matt 4:1ff]

Also thank God that angels of flaming fire have been sent forth to minister to the heirs of salvation. (Hebrew 1:14) These guardian angels provided indispensable health to the heirs of salvation. Who cares whether or not they appear as male or female? Some come and go and we're not even aware that they have ministered on behalf of us. Thank God for their gracious and benevolent ministry.

But in the final analysis, the prophet Zechariah is warning all of us that the only way to deal with evil and sin is to thoroughly repent of it, give it no quarter and judge it in our own lives. In short, like the two female angels who carried away the demon in the jar, prove that the best way to deal with wickedness is to get rid of it entirely. A little "peep" from the spirit of Jezebel, a little acquiescence to the allure of evil, a little leaven could very well leaven the whole loaf! A little leaven if gone unchecked long enough, can ruin an entire nation and culture! Like the female women with stork wings, we too should put the lid on evil.

Toxic spirituality?

The biblical doctrine of holiness and consecration is a beautiful doctrine and is not as "toxic" as some contemporary authors have supposed. Evil is a boundless contagion

which can only be stopped through the name and blood of Jesus. It can only be gotten rid of through a sincere and humble spirit of repentance. We must never forget that sin, evil, immorality and vice cannot only ruin an individual but their poison is so toxic that an entire country can be destroyed!

Habitual sin by a professed believer will also grieve away God's holy angels and holy messengers. Without their presence, the lid cannot be secured unto the jar of evil spirits which has been unleashed against believers in this hour. If a proponent of macho angels happens to get spiritual help from "two women with stork wings" this shouldn't be a problem for them!

The "Gerber baby" stereotype . . .

Images of angels painted upon frescos which grace the elevated domes of historic European cathedrals are important aspects of art and culture. To some these "fat little cherubs" may even appear cute. But to conceive of angels *solely* in this way is certainly a misrepresentation of them. Many of God's angels are extremely powerful and substantial in stature. The Greek "Eros" image of an angel may be a nice image for the graphic designer of a Valentine's Day card – but one should not only conceive of angels only in this fashion.

Infantile concepts . . .

When the angels appeared to the shepherds, they weren't trembling in the fear of the Lord because they saw a bunch of fat little babies in diapers! What they must have seen is an awesome display of God's power and beauty through angelic hosts who had been sent to them by the Lord. Of course anyone at any time might tremble if they experienced a supernatural manifestation of any sort – including a bunch of babies supernaturally appearing in the mid Heavens to sing Christmas carols!

Obviously the prophet Daniel [Daniel Ch. 10-11] and the apostle John saw angels of great power and stature. They understood the power of the Lord. If some in the church do not then they have already admitted that their Gerber baby angels have been conceived exclusively for their weak, Gerber baby image! An infantile, worldly and backslidden church is a weak church which will not pray or fast for the saving of lost souls. It is a prayer-less church which refuses to war against the evil spirits and principalities which are arrayed against it. [Ephesians 6:8-12] This type of church is not the true church of the Holy Father and His glorious angels.

The fact that some medieval artists conceived of angels simply as fat, overweight little Gerber babies with stubby wings, should not dissuade us from the truth that God's angels in fact appear in a variety of forms and appearances.

The "Macho Only" Angel stereotype . . .

Some people have watched too many John Wayne, Clint Eastwood and Bruce Willis movies! God must like the gentler appearance of the woman otherwise he wouldn't have created them in the last order of creation. It would seem logical that there are angels that also could appear in gentler forms.

As mentioned above, the view that all angels exist in masculine form and that the feminine angels in Zechariah 5 are not angels at all but are actually "symbols of wickedness" is a false proposition. The reason why some contemporary authors have made such claims simply because their explanation of the scriptures was given through poorly executed exegesis. The first law of interpretation of scripture is to always look at the meaning of words and the actual context in which the particular scripture is derived. In Zechariah 5, the context clearly states that the bottle that is wicked. – not the two winged female angels which sealed the jar with a heavy led top and then carried it away.

Lucifer vs. Lucifer?

In the gospel, when Jesus was accused of casting out devils by demonic power, he answered his accusers by simply teaching them the principal that "satan" would not cast out satan. You see evil has an insatiable desire to satisfy itself and will never limit itself because by its nature it has no self-control. I mean, why would the devil carry away the devil?

The fact is, there is no scripture that emphatically states that the two women with stork wings "symbolized" wickedness. Another contemporary author says they symbolized the presence of evil spirits. I would ask why would one evil spirit seal up another and carry it away to where it could no longer cause harm? Again, when the Pharisees (who falsely claimed to be heirs of the prophetic lineage of great men of God such as Jeremiah and Zechariah, Jesus rebuked them sharply and related to them their ignorance of spiritual warfare. The famous maxim "A house divided against itself cannot stand" is all one needs to understand in order to see that these two winged female creatures were in fact doing the righteous work of God's judgment and were of an angelic class of heavenly beings who were on a holy mission from God. woman peeping out of the *ephah* (jar) represented wickedness. It is the Jezebel in the

The "feminine" stereotype . . .

When we contemplate angels, we must avoid the extremes. Jesus said that in Heaven we would neither marry nor be given in marriage but would be of a higher order of creatures -- much like the angels. When New Age artists, painters and authors solely depict angels as slightly built female like creatures, this is error as well. The fact that even though God's angels exist in the feminine form, so too, many of God's angels are extremely powerful and masculine in appearance. In the book of Revelation, the stratospherically tall angel was tall enough to reach up and touch the sun!

When angels are mentioned in the Bible, they are mentioned with masculine names such as Michael and Gabriel. In the Hebrew language, their names are written in the

masculine gender most probably in order to denote strength, power and authority. But this fact alone does not preclude the possibility that there are classes of angels which exist in the form of women, or children. Regardless, one only has to look around the creation of God's earth to see that the Lord loves physical forms and has chosen to express Himself in this way.

Note: all quotes above excerpted from Dr. John C. Gibson: member of the faculty of Hebrew and Semitic Languages at the University of Edinburgh and Peter C. Craigie: Professor of Religious Studies of the University of Calgary. [book II of "The 12 Prophets" series – the Westminster Press © 1985].

We can see also in the scriptures that both Cherubim and Seraphim can have wings. [Isaiah 6:1-7] Some have two wings while others have four and still others have up to six wings! They have multiple vocations, offices and giftings. They dress differently. As with human beings each angel has its own individual appearance and personality. However, their appearance and personalities are perfect and lovely – beyond earthly description.

No doubt, angels can take on the appearance of men. This is why in Hebrews 13:2, Paul warns us to be hospitable and kind to others, since we may in fact be actually "entertaining" angels unawares! As we have said earlier, certain angels don't have wings while others have two, four or even six wings. Angels can also appear as wind or fire. [Ps. 104:4; Heb. 1:7]

Angels and prosperity . . .

Like Moses, some of you today need to have a fresh perspective from Heaven regarding God's desire to prosper you . . .

For the Lord thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills . . . when thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good land which he hath given thee. Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes,

which I command thee this day . . . but thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

Deuteronomy 8:7, 10, 18

Do some of you reading this book consider yourself “poor?” If so, then rejoice for your abundant God is about to pour out an end-times blessing upon you. God will equip you spiritually, emotionally, physically and financially to do His works in this hour – and the angels are there to help us. What is required is a more lively faith in the God of Moses!

All of us need to have the heart attitude that Hannah did after receiving her miracle from God . . .

He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the Lord’s, and he hath set the world upon them.

1 Samuel 2:8

Let Hannah’s confession be true and every man a liar, for God “maketh the poor rich!”

Again, real, lasting, eternal wealth (which adds no sorrow) comes down from Heaven. I tell you, the heavenly vault has now been opened. All the excited angels of God are ready to come from the four corners of the earth to bring you a blessing. They await God’s commands and are patient for your intercession . . .

Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

Hebrews 1:14

The Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all. Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word. Bless ye the Lord, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.

Psalms 103:19-21

The Lord, through His angelic hosts and through faith-filled saints is about to release the powers of a future *aión* (i.e., age) upon the earth. [See appendix A] Some of you reading this book need to taste more of the Word of God and the powers of the age that is to come . . .

. . . and tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the age to come.

Hebrews 6:5 (ASV)

Whatever your vocation is in this world, if you are a faithful, prayerful, patient and persevering believer, you are about to experience a transfer of heavenly wealth directly by God and His angels! Don't give up! God is about to bring you this wealth in a multitude of creative ways if you will believe Him for it – *but not for selfish or materialistic reasons – rather to fulfill the Great Commission.*

CHAPTER SEVEN ANGELS IN OUR MIDST

Many people ask if they have a guardian angel. The Bible infers that every true believer in Christ has a guardian angel and also has multiple angels to guide them through the vicissitudes of life . . .

And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is *his* angel.

Acts 12:15

It is obvious that the early Church believed in “personal” angels.

Every child has a ministry of angels. The angels of children have constant access to the throne of God in heaven. They always behold the face of the Father . . .

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.

Matthew 18:10

And if someone has lost a young child, be assured that it was that same angel that carried that child with him to Paradise with great joy!

The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart: and merciful men are taken away, none considering that the righteous is taken away from the evil to come.

Isaiah 57:1

Corporately speaking, it appears that every true New Testament believing church on earth has a special angel that protects and ministers to that particular body of believers . . .

The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and the seven golden lampstands is this: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches and the seven lampstands are the seven churches. "To the angel of the church in Ephesus, write the following: "This is the solemn pronouncement of the One who has a firm grasp on the seven stars in his right hand--the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands.

Revelation 1:20; 2:1 (NET)

As a matter of fact, every saved person has angels present to minister to them . . .

Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

Hebrews 1:14

Angels see us in our struggles and assist us when we comply and obey the word of God. Even though most believers seldom see angels, this does not mean they aren't present and aren't actively helping them in their work for Christ . . .

Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire.

Psalms 104:4

And even though many never actually see one, don't ever forget, my friend, they are always watching over all of us . . .

For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a *spectacle . . . and to angels . . .*

I Corinthians 4:9a

To those who may be skeptical, may I say this – whether you believe in the ministry of angels or not, your life has most likely already been protected and assisted by angelic hosts *many times*. Most all of you have already enjoyed frequent angelic interventions in your lives for the good, even if you have not been aware of them . . .

Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Hebrews 13:2

The messengers of Glory . . .

Angels are referenced to in the scriptures as the "*kadoshim*" (i.e., the holy ones) . . .

And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God . . .

Luke 1:19

Angels are created beings from the Glory realm. The Glory realm or Heaven is the home of both God and His angels. As we live more purely and pray more fervently we become spiritually attuned and more aware of this Glory realm. As a direct result of our increased spiritual cognizance, it is a given that we become more aware of angelic operations in our daily lives. Angels carry with them a message of God and can preach the Gospel.

Angels have many different functions in relation to the end-time Church. In fact, the message of the *Song of Angels* is very much about another aspect of the manifest presence of a holy God and the holy nature of God whom angels worship. In other words, if we could catch one note of their pure song of worship, we would have a holy frustration with some of the earthy worship and praise we participate in today.

Angelic yearnings . . .

I feel a sense of urgency to leave my listeners with what I feel is a “message” from the Holy Spirit that began with the vision of these angels. The supreme desire of all angels and the core of their message is to exalt Christ as Lord and Savior and to assist in the proclamation of the Gospel of salvation to the lost.

Angels, the prophet’s friend . . .

Angels ensure that God’s prophetic words for the nations are carried out. No apostate priest, pastor, or bishop; no backslidden, self-titled apostle or hypocritical evangelist; no ungodly political leader, judge, president or king; not even all the nations of the earth can prevent a sovereign God and His angels from carrying out the eternal plan of redemption. God is awesomely powerful and sovereign over all!

The fallen cherubs’ role . . .

It has been said that God wastes nothing. The devil’s rebellion with a third of the angels would somehow work within the economy of God. Even satan himself is considered by the Lord an un-hired “useful” player for God’s sovereign purposes . . .

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and satan came also among them . . . and the Lord said unto satan, Whence comest thou? Then satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it . . . Then satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? . . . And the Lord said unto satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So satan went forth from the presence of the Lord.

Job 1:6, 7, 9, 12

And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel.

1 Chronicles 21:1

God is in control over all and has given believer's authority in His Name because even the devil is used to accomplish the Lord's will in causing His chosen people to learn to overcome. In order to master the enemy, however, it is necessary that men and women of God engage in spiritual warfare and pray to the Lord Jesus Christ for angelic intervention in their lives and ministry. There is a real enemy to overcome out there . . .

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

John 10:10

As a matter of fact, life in this world is a training ground for the "spirits of just men and women made perfect;" it is on-the-job training in overcoming the devil and his evil minions – and we need God's angels to help us. When we learn how to abide in the Word and to practice God's presence, when we understand the power of His blood and the ministry of His angels, we will be able to pull down every stronghold of the enemy . . .

I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

1 John 2:14b

Angels confirm God's Word and appear to mankind in order to convey the will of God who sends them. Angels also assist us in prophecy as well as in preaching and are present in church services that are flowing in God's Holy Spirit . . .

But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth . . . For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels.

1 Corinthians 11:5a, 10

"Effortless" evangelism . . .

One thing for sure, no believer should ever become overly concerned if they have seen an angel. Besides, there are plenty of angels *unawares* and one can show up that another may see even if you don't!

For example, one evening I was preaching at a large congregation in New Hampshire when a man (who happened to be an unsaved, well-educated, well-mannered and prominent Bostonian attorney) stood up in the meeting, trembling and crying. He exclaimed that while I was prophesying, he could see a large, bright, white angel touching my tongue as I was speaking. Needless to say, this gentleman got born again and baptized in the Holy Spirit after the service!

A solemn word . . .

Later that night in our hotel room, God told me that if we were to walk in any sin or pride in our ministry, He would immediately withdraw not only His presence but the presence of angels as well. He also said that he had appointed a particular “power” angel to help us in our ministry and we would know when he shows up because things would begin to happen! Souls would be saved and filled with the Holy Spirit, bodies would be healed, emotions and minds would be healed, demons would be cast out, the blind would see and the lame would walk and the glory of God would be upon the worship. Then folks would get a vision for their specific calling in Christ. And after getting this vision, it would be so much easier to challenge so many to fulfill the call upon their lives and for some to enter the mission field.

Angelic vision . . .

Do you remember, when God visited Abraham in a vision of the night when He gave Abraham the very first great commission found in the Bible? [Genesis 12:1-3] You see, my friend, after God had supernaturally shown Abraham the stars of the Heavens would be as his offspring, it was easy for Abraham to answer the call. And with angelic help and heavenly intervention, evangelism will become a much easier task for all of us! Angels aren’t only partners of prophets, but they are also partners of all the saints in Christ.

There are many other instances in the Bible when angels showed up to “partner up” with believers in order to help them in time of need. [i.e., Lot, Genesis 19:17 & 29; Moses, Exodus 33:1-2; Elijah, 1 Kings 19:2-8; all the saints, Psalm 78:23; Jesus, Luke 22:43; Philip, Acts 8:26; Paul, Acts 27:23-24]

The angels of Mamre . . .

And the Lord appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day; And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground.

Genesis 18:1-2

The Lord and His angels appeared to Abraham amongst the trees in Mamre in order to confirm the prophetic word given to Abraham that Sarah would bear him a child. Shortly thereafter, those same angels destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah for refusing to obey the righteous word of the Lord.

Don’t get an angel angry!

That evening the two angels came to the entrance of the city of Sodom, and Lot was sitting there as they arrived. When he saw them, he stood up to meet them.

Then he welcomed them and bowed low to the ground . . . as they were preparing to retire for the night, all the men of Sodom, young and old, came from all over the city and surrounded the house. They shouted to Lot, "Where are the men who came to spend the night with you? Bring them out so we can have sex with them."

Genesis 19:14-5

The angels assisted Abraham in proclaiming the word of the Lord to the wicked inhabitants of the ancient metropolis of Sodom and Gomorrah. Remember, angelic intervention is *conditional*. When the homosexual and perverted citizens of Sodom attempted to rape one of the angels, God had had enough! The power that these angels exercised in the total destruction of these twin cities was greater than that of the most powerful nuclear bombs. When God withdraws His presence and His angels because of prolonged unrepentant sin, any person or nation faces extermination and eternal wrath! In short, angels don't hang out with habitual sinners. Nor will they stand by and protect a wicked nation for very long . . .

Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.

Proverbs 14:34

Various "power" angels . . .

The angels of God are awesome and powerful. In the Bible they are called "mighty ones . . ."

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: And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth . . .

Revelation 10:1-2

Some angels focus on worship while others attend God's Throne. Some comprise God's army while others are involved in administrative duties. Cherubim and Seraphim angels make memorable appearances in Ezekiel 1:4-28 and Isaiah 6:2-6. In Daniel 4:13, a certain class of angels is referred to as "Watchers," meaning a "Holy One come down over my bed." All of them are subject to Christ. [I Peter 3:22] The Bible is replete with examples of angels appearing to many men and women of God in both the Old and the New Testaments. To all of us who are covenant believers in Jesus Christ, we are entitled to the ministry of "power" angels. [Hebrews 1:14]

Angelic "shock and awe" . . .

Angels excel in strength. In Isaiah 37:36, one angel killed 185,000 Assyrians. Throughout the Old Testament, the angels of God were always busy keeping the Israelites from being destroyed by their enemies . . .

For I will defend this city to save it for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake. Then the angel of the Lord went forth, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand . . .

Isaiah 37:35-36

One thing is certain, angels hear your prayers and are sent by God to help you in your walk with Christ. [Luke 1:13] Even though you may not have barbarians such as the evil Amalekites and Assyrians physically attacking your home and ministry, there are certainly demons attacking you and your loved ones! But they are no match for Jesus and His angels if we pray and take our rightful authority over them.

A ministry of love and care . . .

God loves you and me very, very much. God is your friend. He delights in you and is the best friend you'll ever have! The ministry of angels illustrates another aspect of God's love for His saints (by the way, I believe a "saint" is any genuine believer who has sincere faith in Jesus Christ and obeys Him). God is no respecter of persons. God wants to spare your home [Acts 16:31] and save your life, even as He did for Paul in Acts 27:20 . . .

For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.

Acts 27:23-24

I believe God sent an angel to cause an earthquake, which shook the very foundations of the prison where Paul was held prisoner. After the angel divinely intervened to rescue Paul from prison, notice the conversions that took place . . .

And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled . . . Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

Acts 16:26-27, 29, 30

Again, evangelism becomes almost effortless when we allow God to express Himself supernaturally the way He desires to in our midst.

Unbelief puts God in a box, but our responsibility is to obey God with a pure heart and confess like Mary did, "*May everything You say to me come true.*" [Luke 1:38]

Innumerable angels . . .

The amount of angels God has created is as "innumerable as the stars above." When Elijah was taken up into Heaven, he was taken up by an angelic chariot of fire. [2 Kings 2:11, 12] The Bible says the fiery, angelic chariots of God are twenty thousand, thousands upon thousands and some Bible scholars estimate this to be approximately 100 trillion angels!

The chariots of God are twenty thousand, thousands upon thousands . . .

Psalms 68:17a (Darby)

Scientists now tell us there are more stars in the universe than all the combined sand granules from all the oceans and beaches of this entire planet. And to think that there could very well be more angels than this!

As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured.

Jeremiah 33:22a

The prophet Jeremiah also said that the total number of angels is *innumerable*. Not even the largest computers ever built or that ever will be built will be able to count them. There are more than enough of them to protect and help every believer in his or her walk with the Lord.

Memorable *seraphic* quotes . . .

I would like to quote the opinions regarding angels and their interactions with believers from more "recent prophets" of God in this church age . . .

Angels . . . have a greater influence on this world than men are generally aware of. We ought to admire the grace of God toward us sinful creatures in that He has appointed His holy angels to guard us against mischiefs of wicked spirits who are always intending our hurt both to our bodies and to our souls.

— Increase Mather,
(the great Puritan preacher)

The founder of the Salvation Army vividly described angels in the vision he had . . .

. . . white and dazzling . . . every angel was surrounded with an aura of rainbows so brilliant, that were it not withheld, no human being could stand the sight of it.

— General William Booth

“The angels act for God, for us and for themselves. For God: they reflect the great mercy with which He encompasses us . . . then for themselves: they eagerly desire to see us fill the places that were made empty in their ranks, for the lips of children, but lately fed with milk and not with solid food, are to perfect the choir destined to celebrate His divine majesty . . .

— St. Bernard

Angels beyond the veil . . .

There is a particular book of the Bible that clearly reveals how responsive angels are to a believer’s fervent prayer. In the book of Zechariah, (which I call the “angel’s book” of the Bible), it was as if God chose to “peel back” the curtain in order to “un-shroud” the glory realm of angelic activity so that we could not only see how angels minister to God but also how they minister on behalf of the saints . . .

And they answered the angel of the Lord that stood among the myrtle trees, and said, We have walked to and fro through the earth, and, behold, all the earth sitteth still, and is at rest. Then the angel of the Lord answered and said, O Lord of hosts, how long wilt thou not have mercy on Jerusalem and on the cities of Judah, against which thou hast had indignation these threescore and ten years? And the Lord answered the angel that talked with me with good words and comfortable words. So the angel that communed with me said unto me, Cry thou, saying, Thus saith the Lord of hosts; I am jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with a great jealousy.

Zechariah 1:11-14

I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.

Joel 3:2

It is important for both church and political leaders to understand the fact that God has sovereignly determined what the borders of Israel are to be . . .

And this shall be the border of the land toward the north side, from the great sea, the way of Hethlon, as men go to Zedad; Hamath, Berothah, Sibram, which is between the border of Damascus and the border of Hamath; Hazar-hatticon, which is by the coast of Hauran. And the border from the sea shall be Hazar-enan, the border of Damascus, and the north northward, and the border of Hamath. And this is the north side. And the east side ye shall measure from Hauran, and from Damascus, and from Gilead, and from the land of Israel by Jordan, from the border unto the east sea. And this is the east side. And the south side southward, from Tamar even to the waters of strife in Kadesh, the river to the

great sea. And this is the south side southward. The west side also shall be the great sea from the border, till a man come over against Hamath. This is the west side. So shall ye divide this land unto you according to the tribes of Israel.

Ezekiel 47:15-21

Any leader or nation who would deliberately cause the division of the land of Israel – anyone who would even attempt to change the borders that God has ordained (even under the guise of “land for peace”) risks the wrath of God and will find themselves facing a legion of angels. These angels control everything from famine, plagues and disease to hurricanes, tornadoes, tsunamis, floods and earthquakes. [Ex. 8-12; Rev. 8-10]

Pro-Israeli angels . . .

God has said in His word that Israel is the apple of His eye. [Gen. 12:1-3; 13:14-17; 15:18; 17:7] Remember, angels exist in order to perform God’s word . . .

Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.

Psalms 103:20

We know from God’s word that Michael the Archangel protects the nation of Israel. Although not in the bible, many Jewish scholars believe that the Archangel Ariel also protects Israel. I cannot tell you how many times I have seen once-prosperous and flourishing ministries and nations literally go down the path of destruction by putting the nation of Israel on par with the gentile nations.

Sure, God is no respecter of persons. But the bible says that He has a special plan and in revealing His Son through the tiny nation of Israel. Anyone who has a beef with this needs to take it up with Michael and according to Jewish scholars, Ariel. I for one do not want to find myself fighting the curse of God and the Archangels of Heaven!

And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

Zechariah 12:9

No land for “peace” . . .

Any person or nation that wittingly or unwittingly seeks to divide the land or in any way hurts security and preservation of Israel will have to deal with the unseen righteous forces of God’s angelic Hosts . . .

O ye seed of Israel his servant, ye children of Jacob, his chosen ones. He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth. Be ye mindful always of his covenant; the word which he commanded to a thousand generations; Even of the covenant which he made with Abraham, and of his oath unto Isaac; And hath confirmed the same to Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant, Saying, Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan, the lot of your inheritance.

1 Chronicles 16:13-18

This Scripture clearly reveals God’s special plan for the nation of Israel in the end times. It also shows the influence angels have regarding this tiny nation’s future destiny. Not only does this passage of scripture show how the angels would disdain a doctrine such as “replacement theology,” it also teaches us something about their supernatural activities regarding the Church in this late hour.

Angelic dynamics . . .

As an illustration of such encounters with the celestial realm, consider that most dialogue in the book of Zechariah, recorded by the prophet, are either God speaking to angels, angels speaking to God, angels speaking to men, or men speaking to angels. As an example, the prophet heard and recorded, angels talking to God [Zech. 1:12-13], angels talking to each other [Zech. 2:3-5], angels talking to the prophet [Zech. 1:1], Zechariah talking back to the angels [Zech. 1:19 & 2:2), and, of course, the Lord speaking directly to Zechariah throughout the entire book! This brother sure had some glorious experiences in intercession and in his prayer time.

Angels for all nations . . .

And why shouldn’t there be modern-day Zechariahs in this hour? Why can’t we have ministers under the new covenant that operate in the same angelic realm that Zechariah did? Why can’t prophets and apostles in this day operate with at least as much power as the great old covenant prophets like Elijah and Zechariah? Apparently, they were very consecrated and very anointed brothers. Yet, they were men of like passion who were made of the same mental and physical constitution as believers in the new covenant today.

Still, you may ask why these brothers and sisters experience so much angelic activity. Some will attribute this to sheer “dispensationalism” but the Bible makes no such claim.

What was their spiritual secret to unlocking the supernatural realm of God? Possibly, they exercised their spirit man in the simplicity of intense intercession. Or maybe it was because they were more spiritually advanced in their sensitivity to the glory realm. In the soon to be released book, *Golden Altar™ Worship*, we have attempted to go into greater detail in explaining how a New Testament believer can begin to worship God more effectively by simply revisiting this old covenant “power zone.”

Too many shy away from the supernatural realm because a few have abused such blessed doctrines. Because of this, many have put a “religious spin” on the subject relegating all such powers to the past. No matter what the reason, James, the brother of Jesus, said that the prophets of old were still made of the same “stuff” that we are . . .

Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

James 5:17

God is no respecter of persons. [Acts 10:38] Zechariah was simply more focused in prayer and lived in the heavenlies – much more than the majority of the “high speed,” modern day, high-tech believers today. He was a holy man, consecrated unto God – a man of great prayer and faith. Zechariah was not as distracted with many of the things that plague modern believers today.

Spiritual dumbness . . .

Of course there are spiritual repercussions whenever a believer discounts or questions God’s plans or purposes administered through an angel. This is especially true if the angel has been sent from God to fulfill purpose in ministry and as long as the angelic messenger has not contradicted Scripture in any way. For instance, because Zacharias didn’t immediately receive the ministry of Gabriel and he was stricken with temporary dumbness by the angel . . .

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. And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season. And the people waited for Zacharias, and marvelled that he tarried so long in the temple. And when he came out, he could not speak unto them: and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple: for he beckoned unto them, and remained speechless.

Luke 1:20-22

All too often, many believers have been made spiritually “dumb” by their own unbelief in the capabilities of a supernatural God. *They are not able to speak to men for God because they have spent so little time speaking to God on behalf of men.* Sadly, because so many contemporary believers are full of unbelief and prayerlessness, Christianity has virtually become a religious form of entertainment or a pastime for some. For others, Christianity has become solely an intellectual exercise, whereby the will voluntarily clings to certain dogmas or doctrines. Some even treat their faith like a hobby, or even act like it’s a full time “career.” Few are actually being disciplined and trained to lay hands

on the sick, cast out devils and win the lost. Few are living the life that is described in Mark chapter 16 . . .

. . . Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Mark 16:15-18

Angels and a “religious” spirit . . .

If you aren't fervent for the Lord Jesus Christ and or if you are simply going through the motions while “playing church,” you may miss your day of visitation or at the least, you may “bungle it up.” You see, Zacharias was a *religious* man. He was always at church. He hung out with the religious crowd at the Temple. But in his private life, he wasn't spiritually “in tune” with God's voice or with God's supernatural ways. Thus, when the angel surprised him with his awesome appearance and his burning message, he was unprepared in his heart and was reticent to believe.

Thus, we see the example of one man who received the ministry of angels, (the prophet Zechariah) and one who did not (Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist) – and we also see the results! We shouldn't be surprised as we begin to see more and more of God's angelic visitations in this end-times reformation.

As for me, I would be very careful not to dismiss all claims of genuine angelic encounters lest the angel of the Lord be displeased, and bring spiritual barrenness and curse upon our lives. Remember, Zacharias was so “busy” serving the Lord and being religious that he didn't have faith to immediately receive angelic instruction. A good way to avoid becoming “spiritually dumb” is to be always open to the supernatural power of God and His angelic activity.

There was another person in the Old Testament who refused the instruction of angels – remember Lot's wife?

CHAPTER SEVEN ANGELS AND SPIRITUAL CAPACITY . . .

And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place: For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the Lord; and the Lord hath sent us to destroy it. And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the Lord will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law. And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven . . . But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

Genesis 19:12-15, 24, 26

Simply knowing a lot about angels isn't enough. Lot's wife was haughty and unteachable. Pride, arrogance, worldliness and vanity will always take the path straight to destruction.

Remember Lot's wife . . .

Luke 17:32

Lot's wife would rather have the cosmopolitan lifestyle and belong to the country club of Sodom than to follow the ministry of angels. It was her pride and vanity that would not let go of the things of the world.

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

1 John 2:15-16

Worldly and academic knowledge in and of itself does not impress God as much as childlike faith and trust. Loyalty of heart is important to the Father and when someone is double minded about His Kingdom, they've already disqualified themselves from participating in the supernatural ministry of the Holy Spirit and His angels . . .

And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

Luke 9:62

More often than not, what stops the flow of God's truth regarding the operation of angels (and what prevents us from operating in our supernatural authority in Christ) is quite frankly a lack of humility in our own hearts. All too often the voices of worldliness, the cares of this life, self-ambition, bitterness, unforgiveness, pride and competition have crowded out His sweet, small voice. If we're going to understand more about God and His heavenly realm, we need humility. It has been said that humility is the "beauty of holiness" – that humility is the glory of the creature because humility empties the soul of pride and self and allows God to be all and all.

What is humility?

Humility is teachable. Humility has child-like faith. Humility makes the human heart receptive to the light rays and beams of God's glory and makes it possible for God to willingly share His glory and power with us. Only humility can see God's angels and experience their anointed ministry. Some might think that His glory refers only to His earthly life and ministry, His death and resurrection. But I believe that Jesus is referring to far more than this, for Christ desires His people to get a clearer Heaven's-eye view of how beautiful and glorious He truly is.

But only the humble can see His glory. And when believers, by the Spirit and through prayer, see Him in all of His glory, such a revelation will embolden our witness to the world and will make our evangelistic efforts that much more powerful . . .

And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

John 17:23-24

Humility is the divine disposition of the heart that allows God to impart Himself into our lives. It gives us capacity to handle the holy. Humility makes room in the soul of God's servant so God can manifest His power and deliver others through us and so do without such gifts and supernatural manifestations "going to our heads." In fact, humility (and its twin virtue, meekness) is simply knowing that God is all in all and we are nothing without Him and that we are only complete when we abide in Him and when Christ becomes our all in all. Humility is all about our hearts in sync with the meek and lowly heart of Jesus. *It is only through humility that we can be carried to a place where God can trust us with His virtue, truth and power. Humility is God's power under control.*

Walking in pride is both stressful and dangerous for if God's power were to fall upon a vain and conceited soul, that person's life would explode!

Humility, Mary and angels . . .

It's important to know if you're humble. We've all heard the joke that says something like . . . "I'm so humble and I'm proud of that!" This isn't the kind of humility I'm talking about. The kind of humility that God looks for is more *God-conscious* than *self-conscious*.

For example, Mary, the mother of Jesus, was chosen for an angelic encounter precisely because of this trait. Because of her humility, God knew that her calling to give birth to the very Son of God would not "go to her head . . ."

For He has looked favorably on his *humble servant*. From now on, all generations will call me blessed . . .

Luke 1:48 (ISV)

Mary wasn't bragging to her contemporaries or to posterity here. Mary knew she was humble before the Lord and He knew it too. Mary didn't care for the applause of men nor for her social status or even her reputation. Even though she wasn't married, she was willing to admit that she was made pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. Remember, in her day and age having a child out of wedlock would have been considered an extremely shameful rebellious criminal act. She could not help the fact that God had uniquely chosen her to become impregnated by the Holy Spirit with the very DNA of God. The Virgin birth is one of the greatest miracles of the bible. Of course, the humble always experience miracles and angelic intervention – even if it is at different levels.

Remember the times in which she lived. It would not be good if she appeared to be pregnant with a child if she were not married. In some cases adulteresses were even stoned to death! But because she was humble, she didn't care about public opinion polls. Tabloid-like gossip could not get to her spirit. Since she was dead to self and alive to God it was no big deal to her if people thought she was ungodly, crazy or even a harlot! She was willing to suffer for Christ's sake, and the angels were greatly attracted to her. Are you willing to humble yourself and be of no reputation for the cause of Christ? [Phil. 2:1-12]

Jesus was kind and humble and endured cruel mocking and slander from unjust sinners. At one point in Jesus' ministry, the jealous religious crowd even went so far as to falsely accuse Jesus of being born of a fornicator. Some liberal, secularist, historical revisionists and DaVinci-ites today are still accusing Him in the same manner!

Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.

John 8:41b

The envious folks maligned her and her Son, but it didn't matter. She knew her God. She was humble. Mary knew the Lord was her all in all and that apart from Him, her life would be meaningless. She knew she could not give birth to anything without humility.

Her son was her Lord . . .

She was like her Lord – even the Son of Man. The Lord knew and Mary knew that such a historic visitation from an angel wouldn't go to her head nor would she brag about it to others. She was confident in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. She was confident in the God of her fathers and did not need the shallow, fleeting praises and recognition that comes from men. This is why she could ponder such an event in her heart and not disclose it to others. *God trusted her.*

Angels, humility and trust . . .

The Lord trusted her with revelation and power from on high. He knew that pride wasn't in her heart for if it were, the "mission" would have crushed her. Like father Abraham before her, she was a humble and true friend of God. She could "handle" an angelic visitation from the Lord. Mary could also receive angelic help in her life and ministry. Because she was such a friend of God, the angels considered her their friend as well and appeared to her at a crucial point in her life.

I wonder today how many 21st-century believers would be sincerely open to receiving such supernatural ministry of angels. Could you "handle" an angelic visitation from God? I know God judged that in my wife because she pondered the whole thing in her heart for many years and never boasted regarding the experience.

God was well acquainted with Mary's thought and prayer life and knew that she was humbly open to the supernatural realm. So He felt very comfortable sending the angel Gabriel whom He knew she would not refuse. Are you open to God? Are you humbly anticipating a supernatural intervention of God in your life? Jesus said, Blessed are the meek and humble!

Angels – not to be worshipped or mocked . . .

Paul wrote to the Colossians not to become overly fixated on angels. He warned them not to worship angels . . .

Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind.

Colossians 2:18

But Paul also warned believers not to take for granted the ministry of authorities – including angels. In other words, we as believers are to have a healthy respect for

their ministry in God. This is especially true since they are powerful and righteous creatures . . .

Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.

Jude 8

All angels fear God and respect godly authority. They understand delegated authority and are submissive to those who are above them in the Lord. One of the great sins of our carnal age is a lack of respect for all authority . . .

But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.

2 Peter 2:10-11

If, then, we are to experience the ministry of angels, it is important that we learn to submit to God and have a healthy fear of the Lord regarding their ministry.

All too many believers today are not capable of giving “birth” to anything that is from God and that is supernatural. They live in too much pride and skepticism. They lean more to a false sense of security based on their own strength, will power and self-reliance. We must not trust too much in scientific and empirical observation which is derived solely from our five physical senses. [Hebrews 11:1-8] All the great Bible saints of the past learned to live and walk in the fourth dimension of faith. They learned to exercise the faith that God has given them as a gift.

And I’m not suggesting to you that anyone practice some of the weird New Age techniques regarding angels. God forbid! No Christian should ever call an angel by name nor should they try to talk with them. Historically, Christianity has never been about practicing some form of flaky, mystical Gnosticism, or hyper-spiritual, practice of pietism. What I’m talking about is practicing the presence of God through the simple application of humble prayer and obedience to God’s Word.

A divine contrast . . .

Again, divine expectation and perspective are also vitally important if the Christian is to experience the supernatural ministry of the Holy Spirit and His holy angels. In the Bible there’s the story of a priest and a prophet – two Jewish men who had very different perspectives. The prophet Zechariah gladly received and embraced the ministry of angels while Zacharias the priest did not gladly receive the message and ministry of the angel Gabriel.

So too, many of us are all too religious and self-reliant like Zacharias. Although many believers mean well, they just don't practice God's presence with humility and pray consistently enough to even attract the possibility that the Lord would visit them in this way. And because of pride, most cannot receive anything from God – let alone from an angel!

The father of John the Baptist, Zacharias, (unlike the prophet Zechariah) was at the opposite end of the spectrum as far as his own pride and unbelief are concerned. As a result, the angel smote him with dumbness.

Let us look again at the text from the gospel of Luke regarding his response . . .

And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense. And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him . . . And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years. 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. And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.

Luke 1:10-12, 18-20

Notice Zacharias' prideful response . . . "How shall I know this? For *I* . . ." This statement is full of ego, self-doubt, fear and unbelief. James says that a person in such a prideful, unstable state is "double minded" and cannot receive anything from God. Therein is the problem. Rather than saying, "According to Your will be it unto me," Zacharias' response was full of self and unbelief. He couldn't help but look at his natural circumstances and failed to believe the messenger from Heaven upon his initial response. This was because his heart wasn't tender and humble before the Lord.

I, me, my . . .

Since the beginning of time, man has suffered from the sin of pride and self-exaltation. Many professed Christians are infected with an immature spirit which wants to be noticed. They are addicted to a juvenile need of recognition. God's angels do not like pride or juvenile vanity. They should know, for they saw first-hand what evil a self-exalting spirit of pride attempted to perpetrate in Heaven. Through pride, they saw how quickly one-third of their favored angelic friends could fall from the heights. Being overly self-conscious will keep you from experiencing the supernatural realm.

There's a bevy of positive-thinking preachers and false profiteering prophets out there today who are not speaking the whole counsel of God. They withhold truth. **vv. 39** They utilize psychology, combined with a gospel which has been "sanitized" with their exclusive positive thinking message.

As a result, the supernatural power and truth of the scripture has been severely stunted. These sort of folks are always engaging in eccentric histrionics, affectations and slick gospel language to entice their followers with promises without *condition*. There's a plethora of best-selling, positive-thinking, success in life, self-help books out there right now telling you how to "rediscover" yourself and how to fulfill purpose and destiny. But despite their large congregations and followings, most of it does not reside within the Kingdom of God but is no more than religious hype – positive pap and entertainment.

On the other hand, some in the "prophetic" movement now only talk about Jesus as if He were some overly effeminate, pining-away Eros god who is weeping in passionate grief over people who do not want Him but rather love sin. They also solely talk about Him like he was some worldly newlywed lover. They want you to believe that He swoons over you with passionate love as His heart flickers with a longing heartbeat -- even while some participate in evil deeds which He is not pleased with! But that's ok, some preach, because you're still trying to "find" yourself in your long journey to acquire some self esteem. Hell, repentance, sin, the Cross, etc. are all but omitted from their contemporary, "prophetic" vocabulary.

But what the folks really need to do is stop trying to "find themselves" and understand that it's when they repent of worldly thinking and meditate upon the Word and obey the Word, they will become God conscious and only then will they find their true fulfillment in Christ. The Lord wants us to "die to the old self" and walk in the newness of His resurrection life. [Rom. 6] Jesus is our divine master psychologist and knows what's best for each of us . . .

He that findeth his life shall lose it; and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

Matthew 10:39 (ASV)

In other words, we need to lose more of *our* presence in order to have more of *His* presence. There is nothing like the sweet presence of God to fill the heart and mind. We need less of our presence and more of God's presence. I believe that if John the Baptist's father had esteemed this principle more, he would have avoided some difficulties.

The perils of pride . . .

As I've said before, many believers border on becoming "spiritually dumb" because of their latent pride and unbelief in the God of the supernatural. Pride leads to a lack of discernment in the spiritual realm. Pride and unbelief have taken their toll through the ages and have kept multitudes from entering the heavenly regions.

The fallen cherub . . .

For example, consider lucifer's prideful, five "I wills" in Isaiah 14:12-16 and the harmful, devastating effects the spirit of pride and self-exaltation has had throughout the universe ever since. (Ezekiel 28:11-19) Pride will always lead to self-reliance which eventually

crumbles, sooner or later. Ambition can be good if one is ambitious *to serve the Lord*. But if one seeks to exalt himself, ambition has devastating effects. One only needs to see the effects of pride on King Nebuchadnezzar . . .

But when his heart was lifted up, and his mind hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him: And he was driven from the sons of men; and his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild asses: they fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven; till he knew that the most high God ruled in the kingdom of men, and that he appointeth over it whomsoever he will.

Daniel 5:20-21

If you want to fall from the heights like Nebuchadnezzar and lucifer, go ahead and remain unteachable. Go ahead and continue to walk in pride. Instead of eating the luscious bread of angels at the King's table, you may end up in the outskirts of Heaven eating hay with the oxen!

Self-titled egocentrics . . .

Have you been inflicted with a spirit of *self-importance*? Believe me, the Lord and His Kingdom will carry on with or without us. We need God more than He needs us. Some folks will try to teach otherwise, but don't listen to them, because they are full of pride, too.

The angels saw what pride did to lucifer and will not hang out at meetings with a bunch of spiritually self-justifying egocentrics. Sure, there have been a few great Pentecostal leaders of late – men like Derek Prince, Costa Dier, Brother Andrew, etc. but these kind of saints unfortunately show up on the scene too rarely. Spiritually shallow people today will always claim such spiritual pedigree but the proof is always in the pudding.

God has no grandchildren . . .

False legacies. Just because a modern televangelist tells you that they and their cohorts represent the legacy of Azusa Street doesn't make it so. Remember, angels showed up and performed miracles in Jesus' Name at Azusa Street mainly because the leaders there were so humble. They were so concerned not to grieve the Holy Spirit's presence (through materialism, covetousness and pride) that they developed the practice of sticking their heads in apple baskets when they prayed so that no man or woman visiting the meeting would ever think to give them glory! They certainly wouldn't want anyone to "commercialize" their encounter with God under the guise of "celebrating" their revival – (primarily for the purpose of marketing and advertising religious relics and products.) Lets face it, a lot of what's being celebrated is nothing but a ruse for raising money. The real founders of Azusa Street prayed for seven years without any funding or fanfare and they certainly wouldn't want anyone to "commemorate" their heart earned encounter

with God. The holy angels of God are not nearly as close to the modern day marketeers of religious relic and products!

No, my friend, the angels will only feel welcome when the folks' presence are humble and holy. They visited Azuza Street with miracles and signs and wonders mainly because of the humility, intercession and passion of its leaders. The fact is, leaders in the early charismatic renewal were not overly materialistic nor were they as obsessed with raising money primarily to "make a name for themselves." [See Footnote 1.]

Footnote 1.

A recent national and international convocation of modern-day charismatics which pretends to celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit near the turn of the century (i.e., Azuza Street) has virtually been reduced to a money-raising pep rally of shallow TV celebrity preachers who falsely claim that honorable legacy. Although there are some sincere saints who will attend and a few godly leaders present, the gist of it will be to raise money or to expose their religious products to a wider audience. Religious emotionalism aside, the true power of God will not visit that place as it did at Azuza Street, because of pride, greed and ambition.

Such conventions have been reduced to nothing but big marketing campaigns for the purposes of raising money for the elitist backslidden leadership. Most of the leaders who attend are self-titled egomaniacs who are anointed with the spirit of their own self-importance. They lack the humility, holiness, purity and life of prayer that was the hallmark of the Azuza Street participants. As far as the consecration and spirituality of the early Church Christians who gathered in the upper room at Pentecost, they are not even on the same charts!

In fact, a majority in the full gospel movement today is *not* fulfilling the legacy of either Pentecost or Azuza Street. Its leadership is full of overly-ambitious, materialistic people who nauseatingly feign a fake religiosity. All too often many of them cannot even be faithful to their own wives or they have fallen victim to greed, lying, deception, arrogance, doctrinal error, pornography, etc.

Yet despite all this they act like they're spirit-filled but in fact they are simply baptized in a religious spirit. Angels hate religious demons! Christians need to stop giving their time, resources and money to such vainglory ministries or they will be judged for being a poor steward and for empowering nepotistic celebrities who are basically in the ministry to make money.

Let's be frank – virtually anyone today can self-title themselves "apostle" or "reverend" or "bishop" or "prophet" or "prophetess," etc. Sadly, all too many of these false, self-titled ministers are really spiritual buffoons masquerading as the true. Style is everything to them and if they appear to flourish it is simply because they are good salespeople and put up a good facade. It seems that such preachers are primarily rated by how well they communicate and by how many people view their programming. If their ratings are good, they are seen as a "Christian superstars." And for their live meetings, they will always carefully select a prominent singer or celebrity to fill in the gaps of their histrionic preaching.

Angels love substance – not style!

Tragically, such meetings have very little spiritual substance. Very few who attend ever really change. It's basically ninety percent *emotionalism* and ten percent substance. Few leave the meeting absolutely changed to live for Christ. And there will always be little supernatural power present because the angels don't like to hang around luciferian, egocentric pride-aholics.

Silliness, seduction and scintillation . . .

The prideful are adept at religious manipulation. They are quite experienced with using entertainment and preaching which hypes the people in order to get them to give money. What they cannot achieve through hard-fought prayer and intercession and holy consecrated living, they have supplanted with silliness, seduction, slick manipulation, scintillation and hucksterism. The saddest thing about all of this is that they actually believe they are serving God and winning souls through their machinations.

Thank God, a move of God is coming where the evil spirit of Egypt, Babylon, and Hollywood – the self-exalting spirit of celebrity, the lust for stardom and worldly fame, the insatiable desire for human applause, the lustful garb and painted faces of Cleopatra and Jezebel will be banned forever. “Barnum and Bailey” circus-styled Christianity may show you tigers “jumping through hoops” but you will never hear an angel sing or see the power of God!

It's no wonder that so many question the power of God today. It's no wonder that revival tarries. It's no wonder that such silly ideas are now circulating in the Body of Christ. Too many Christian leaders have willfully grieved away the presence of the Holy Spirit and God's angels and have become partakers of evil and worldly compromise. If you want to see an angel, it's important that you ask God to give you pure eyes and pure hearts.

Hollywood is a fallen angel . . .

“Hollywood” has been around since ancient times because it's an ancient evil principality which causes men to worship men, women to worship women and men and women to worship the creation more than the creator. It is in fact, a clever spirit of idolatry which manifests itself through the love of celebrity. Celebrity in and of itself is a spiritual disease. Celebrity-itus has grieved away many of God's holy angels in this hour.

In her deliverance ministry, my wife has actually encountered the demon personality named Hollywood. In fact, Hollywood is a fallen spirit which exalts men, talent and appearance above God and causes men to worship men.

The circus and the circuit . . .

There is an entire circuit of churches and conferences which feature pretty much the same preachers year in and year out. These congregations have been baptized in a Nicolaitan

spirit of greed, materialism and positive-thinking mentalities. They tend to feature Christian celebrities and certain CCM singers who “put on a show.” However, this prideful and vain “Barnum and Bailey,” variety show, style of Christianity is about to be stymied by the Lord Himself.

Our Lord has grown weary and His patience is at an end. He is grieved that His “faithful” have been virtually reduced to the same level as a circus crowd – always conditioned to be entertained, always paying ticket prices and always wanting to hear of a “new thing.” It seems that the whole contemporary Church only desires to follow the latest “faddy” celebrity preacher.

Recovering pride-aholics . . .

Someone with *religious* pride and arrogance will never be able to receive the ministry of angels. If you are struggling with pride and unbelief, that’s okay, if you are open to change. It’s no big deal for God to visit a life with His Spirit of grace and to forgive you of your sins. Just be honest with the Lord. Humble yourself right now and yield your heart to God like you may have done when you were a little child. Life may have been hard for you and people may have hurt and rejected you. You may have failed Him a million times. Others may mock you and gossip about you. That’s okay, too! Jesus knows this and yet He still loves you. He longs to pour His spirit of forgiveness and healing upon you.

The enemy doesn’t want you to take down the walls of pride and insecurity that you have built in order to try to protect yourself. The adversary doesn’t want God Almighty to visit you in prayer. The enemy doesn’t want God and His angels to minister on your behalf. Satan doesn’t want you to know the power of God. He doesn’t want the Holy Spirit to fill your life so that Christ is formed in you. The enemy doesn’t want you to do the works of Christ.

The solution is so simple. If you will sincerely pray to God for help, God *immediately* hears your humble prayer of faith and He sends forth healing, deliverance, prosperity, forgiveness and redemption to you.

Fallen kings . . .

The once haughty king of Babylon had finally realized that pride and unbelief only led to spiritual blindness and failure . . .

Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

Daniel 4:37

Thus, the way up in the Kingdom of God is always down. He that is first shall be last. He that is a servant is the greatest of all and “promotion comes not from the east to the west,” but from God alone . . .

For God resisteth the proud and gives grace to the humble. Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God that He may exalt you in due time.

1 Peter 5:6

If you have lost favor with God through pride, the first step to regaining favor is to simply humble yourself before Him. Then, the Holy Spirit and His angels will draw near to you for they love a broken and contrite heart . . .

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Psalms 51:17

For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Isaiah 57:15

So then, what are the conditions for experiencing angelic ministry? Humility. Humility. Humility. Some of you right now need to get on your knees before God and humbles yourselves and pray to your heavenly Father, asking Him for child-like faith. Without a doubt He will answer your prayer and will bless you with His very presence and the presence of His heavenly “kadoshim.”

CHAPTER EIGHT DANCING WITH THE ANGELS

Not only do angels play musical instruments, but they also praise God with their mouths and feet! Many great saints have seen angels dancing before God's Throne. In a vision I have seen them even doing cartwheels – not to mention their lofty and dynamic aerobatics! The apostle Paul told the church at Corinth that angels were present at their services. Do you know angels are present in glorious church services? Along with all of God's people, they sing their praises to the Lord in the congregation of the righteous . . .

Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts.

Psalms 148:2

God's angels also rejoice before Him with exuberant joy! There is a universal way of worshipping God correctly and all creatures who love God rejoice before Him. In Psalms, the Word says that part of this rejoicing includes dancing . . .

Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp.

Psalms 149:3

Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs.

Psalms 150:4

The Bible says all of creation rejoices before God's presence. The Bible says that even God Himself rejoices over us and that there is a time to dance . . .

The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.

Zephaniah 3:17

A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance . . .

Ecclesiastes 3:4

Since the Word also infers that dancing is part of praising the Lord, I believe angels also express their praise through dance. God loves it when we rejoice over Him along with His holy angels, even as He rejoices over us.

Jeremiah prophesied that God's Spirit will raise up a pure, holy chaste virgin (i.e., the Bride of Christ which is the Church), who will once again rejoice and dance unabashedly and exuberantly before the Lord . . .

Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, both young men and old together: for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow.

Jeremiah 31:13

There's something very powerful when the people of God joyously dance before the Lord. The joyous stomping of their feet can be felt even in the deepest depths of Hell. Now, when I speak of the dance I am speaking about it more in a joyful or Hebrew context rather than some of the more suggestive forms we've seen in the Church of late. These suggestive dances have been patterned after the world and not after the Tabernacle of David.

David danced mightily before the Lord, as did Miriam and Moses. Dancing before God is an outward expression and natural response of a person in love with his/her creator. It is also an external symbol of our victory over the evil one and our deliverance from his bondage and tyranny. But the only way we can join in the "dance of the angels" is to be totally surrendered to Christ.

And if we want to dance with the angels, all of us need to plunge ourselves underneath His all-powerful blood . . .

. . . and without shedding of blood is no remission.

Hebrews 9:22b

Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

1 Peter 1:2

We need to consecrate our lives afresh before God this very hour . . .

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Romans 12:2

A life of true worship means not allowing sin to have dominion over you! A life of true worship means the worshipper will yield their life to the enabling power of the Holy

Spirit of grace who works within you the enabling power to do what He's called you to do and to be what He's called you to be in Christ . . .

For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

Romans 6:14

Just think, living a life of holiness means freedom from sin, freedom from depression, freedom from oppression, freedom from a troubled conscience, freedom from inner turmoil, freedom from guilt, freedom from sleeplessness and insomnia – holiness is a great joy to the soul! God wants to make you happy and the angels want you to be happy. But you will never be happy in sin.

In fact, living in a state of holiness is “fun” as well as liberating, because holiness gives you *capacity* to be used of God. And when you walk with capacity, many wonderful adventures in Christ await you.

“Holy fun” . . .

It's fun to serve God and to dance before Him mightily with a spirit of joy and exuberance. It's fun to have His divine life and health flowing through your body because sin and unbelief cannot take up residence there. Christians need to stop giving excuses for sinning for God's grace is sufficient . . .

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Romans 6:1-2

Young person, if you want *real fun*, enter the atmosphere of Golden Altar worship! Let God's divine virtue flow through your hands to heal others of their infirmities. Learn to worship purely and soar high into the heavenlies – worship and dance mightily before the Throne of the Father on the Crystal Sea with the Holy angels of His presence!

The Dawn Treader . . .

Lucifer will always try to “tread” down and oppress the spirit of freedom and liberty in our worship. He hates it when the angels are drawn to our worship. The enemy would like to keep the dawn of Christ's Light from rising in your soul. He would like to tread down the dawn in order to keep your soul in darkness. True prayer and worship will always bring in the presence of God and His angels, and will always cause the Son to rise in our hearts.

Evil-doers love darkness. This is why folks with an evil, pharisaical, religious spirit (usually the same people who think they're saved but they're not!) hate it when a brother or sister in Christ affectionately displays their love and passion for the Lord in public.

They don't like the Light. And make no mistake about it is not simply that they are concerned about things being done "decently and in order." The fact is, they simply don't want anyone dancing or expressing genuine exuberance and joy before the Lord in their praise and worship. They don't like the raising of hands, clapping, and joyous singing in the church. The religious demons in them cannot stand the sounds of glory and joy.

However, some of these church-going folks feel quite comfortable drinking a beer while jumping up and down when their favorite football team scores a touchdown. These professed Christians wrongly judge the hearts of others and usually claim that someone is "being out of order" or is trying to "wear religion on their sleeve" or being overly zealous or emotional, etc. It's true that at times someone can draw attention to themselves by acting flaky or disorderly in a church service. But that's not what we're talking about.

Through a self-righteous and mean religious spirit, the devil desires to tread underfoot all expressive praise and worship because it reminds him of what goes on in Heaven. When Christians succumb to the oppressive spirit of the fear of man, it makes God's angels sad because they're always dancing before the Father on the Crystal Sea. Let's face it, the devil doesn't want you or I to dance with joy in the assembly of the saints . . .

The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.

Proverbs 29:25

Pastor, do you want the angels to dance with you and your people in the house of the Lord? Then cleanse your house of demonic strongholds! Learn to exercise dominion over the devil, in Jesus' name! The evil spirit that possessed Michal is still lurking around in the rafters of many of our churches today. And take heed my friend, for there is no one in Heaven with an anti-joy, anti-Christ spirit like Michal.

As you might recall, Michal, was the jealous wife of David . . .

And as the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal, Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and *she despised him in her heart.*

2 Samuel 6:16

Remember, that demon in her knew what it was once like in Heaven to dance mightily before the Father. They can no longer join in that dance and they are sick with envy. The evil spirits of Hell do not want you to dance for joy before the Throne of God and amongst the stones of fire either . . .

Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

Ezekiel 28:15

And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

Luke 10:18**Image breakers . . .**

You see, fallen lucifer is envious of the power that Christ may delegate to you from on high. In the dawn of man, the evil serpent, the “treader-down,” the devil – satan defiled the pure image of God, the fair vision of Christ. For hasn’t the fair image of innocence been restored through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ? Hasn’t He shown us how to walk in His steps and in His image? Didn’t the second Adam surpass the first Adam in perfection and holiness? The enemy and many a false preacher has defiled the holy image of the Lord through compromised preaching, licentiousness, and by failing to give God’s precious sheep the full Bible account of how holy, powerful and pure, He truly is. Woe to them!

And whosoever shall offend one of *these* little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea.

Mark 9:42

But Jesus is calling us to sweet fellowship. For those of you, who like Michal, have despised exuberant worship; to those of you who have sinned or failed miserably in your life, He is now calling you to Himself and will cleanse you from an evil conscience if you will come to Him.

All of us need to begin to humbly go to Him in prayer and only but seek to rest in His lap like little children. The Kingdom of God is for such. And let us look up into the face of our loving Heavenly Father like little children – and receive a purer image of who He truly is!

And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:3

At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight.

Matthew 11:25-26

And he took a child, and set him in the midst of them: and when he had taken him in his arms, he said unto them, Whosoever shall receive one of

such children in my name, receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me.

Mark 9:36-37

Only innocence can dance freely before the Lord with childlike joy.

Principle: *Only innocence can possess Paradise. Only innocence will attract angels. Only with childlike faith that is pure and holy will we see and experience the supernatural power that God longs to manifest in the Church in this hour.*

Only with humility and total yielded-ness to God can we ever expect to hear the angels sing. Only by practicing His Presence and by loving Him supremely out of a pure heart can we experience the supernatural power of God that we have read and heard so much about. It's that simple. Spend more time with God and less with men and you too will hear the angels sing and will be able to dance mightily before the Lord even as God's holy angels are doing this very moment!

The whole world is waiting. They are hungry to see the true and living God on full display with the love, holiness, power, and truth of God radiating from your life.

Foot shackles . . .

Sadly, there are no longer many angels dancing at some religious services these days. This is because some religious folks have shackled the church services by not creating a godly and holy atmosphere for them to enter into worshipping with the people present. Some churches have even banned Christians from dancing during the praise and worship time. They have a Michal spirit – they would deny the Miriams' and Davids' from exalting the Lord in the dance. Sure, every true Christian should want things done “decently and in order.” But these Michals have a different agenda than that.

Because of moral mixture in the camp, angels don't feel quite welcome in many services today. As we have seen above, angels are repulsed when Christians fear man rather than God. They are repulsed when a soul commits willful habitual sin and lives in a spirit of unforgiveness, bitterness, unbelief, murmuring, complaining, anger, compromise, lust, gossip, etc. But God's angels always have a “free hand” to work on your behalf even as they were able to freely work on behalf of the prophet Daniel.

We have seen the effects of purity and innocence in the life of Daniel. Daniel trusted God completely – no matter what circumstance he was in. It didn't matter if he was in the king's courts or the lion's den. He was a pure worshipper. The angels are also pure worshippers and are strongly drawn to holy and pure worship. Like God, they also love purity and innocence even as they are innocent and pure. Spiritually, like attracts like. For innocence is unimpaired integrity. The Bible doesn't say whether Daniel danced before the Lord but I'm certain that he did. No one could have that great of ministry without living in a life of joyful worship.

Handcuffed!

Willful and habitual sin and iniquity, deceit, crookedness, perverseness, moral distortion and the bending and perverting of God's moral laws, means a person is no longer innocent and therefore, it is impossible for them to partake of liberating worship unless they humble themselves and repent before a loving God who is willing to restore them on the spot.

IF my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin . . .

2 Chronicles 7:14a

It is impossible to joyously dance before the Lord with a heart full of vice. When a person is not dwelling in a state of innocence, the promises of God seem unattainable because evil thought patterns and wicked imaginations of unbelief have clouded their eyes to God's miracle-working power. *The angels are handcuffed!* They are not able to work on their behalf and there is no shelter or sure protection from evil.

But through childlike faith in the Word and by walking in humility and purity before God, the Lord has given us the keys to unlock angelic intervention in our generation. And yes, you too can dance with the angels.

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need

Hebrews 4:16

We hope the previous chapters have cleared up some common misconceptions on Heaven and its angels.

APPENDIX A

ANGELIC INTERVENTION FOR THE HERE AND NOW

Heaven's provision here and now . . .

The angels of glory are now posed to invade planet earth and to depose wicked evil principalities, which have throughout history kept the nations in bondage. They are answering the righteous prayers and intercessions of a newly restored warrior Bride. But if we are going to experience angelic ministry and walk in the power of the glory realm, we must become men and women of faith and purity.

Despite what some may say, living holy is a joyful and *liberating* thing! We must consecrate ourselves to prayer and stop “taking in so much depression and evil from a spiritually debauched and destitute culture. Christianity is not an oppressive religion – it’s a “recovery” religion. Jesus is a God of recovery and restoration. The power to live holy, the power in Jesus’ name to perform restorative, healing and miracles to others in need, will be readily available to those who not only believe in God but also take seriously the ministry of His holy angels and who stand fast in the power of the Holy Ghost. But we must receive ever-increasing faith from God. If we do, some of the powers that are to be, will become the powers of today!

Heaven's future glory will meet earth's present needs if we become men and women of holy faith. The Bible talks about various saints of the Church who not only experienced angelic ministry but through faith developed prophetic vision so that they could see into the future and literally bring the blessings of a future age into their present situation. Because of such heavenly faith, they were able to do great things for God while living as pilgrims here on earth . . .

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city. By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

Hebrews 11:13-19

Heavenly powers for this present “aion” . . .

When pure, Golden Altar worship arises corporately from God’s people, the angels will carry this sweet incense before the Lord’s Throne in Heaven, releasing armies of angelic powers, which will come to the aid of the Church in this hour . . .

Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. Another angel holding a golden censer came and was stationed at the altar. A large amount of incense was given to him to offer up, with the prayers of all the saints, on the golden altar that is before the throne. The smoke coming from the incense, along with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand. Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it on the earth, and there were crashes of thunder, roaring, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

Revelation 8:2-5

Under the old covenant, if the young prophet Daniel learned to walk in the heavenlies through prayer, so can we. If an Old Testament prophet learned to unleash the full might of the archangel Michael to defeat the evil principalities and fallen dark angels through prayer and worship, so can a New Testament believer! If Daniel could operate in the powers that are to come in his day so can we through faith in Christ reach ahead to a future aion and bring into our present such mighty delivering power! [See Footnote 9.]

Footnote 9.

In the Greek, the word for age is “*aion*.” In English, it is sometimes translated to the word “world.” It can mean a period of time, determined or un-determined. Dr. W.E. Vine has said this about the Greek word *aion* . . . “*The force attaching to the word aion is not so much that of the actual length of a period, but that of a period of time marked by spiritual or moral characteristics*” . . . What Dr. Vine is saying here is that there will come a time or age in the Church that will experience a markedly changed spiritual or moral climate. Miracles and signs and wonders were not just for the first century! For example, the word itself can signify a period of time in history, where God works in a certain way on the earth or in Heaven. It can refer to the generations and epics of a future earth or a past age already consummated. God has moved at sundry times and places in the realm of history. I believe in every segment of history, God has allowed *His people* to taste of His supernatural power, which is soon to come in greater measure than ever in history. In the first century, there was an *aion* of miracles where the apostle Paul had enough faith to shake a viper from his hand and not become poisoned. An unforeseen tragedy was turned into a miracle through the faith that Paul had in the Kingdom of God and the age to come. You see, Paul was reaching forward into a future age, into another *aion*, where miracles are common place and are of a heavenly origin. So should we! There exists a dimension of reality where Heaven’s powers flow unrestrained. There is

an age that exists where there is no sin, sickness, disease, calamity, accident or death. There exists an age where there is unlimited power over all the forces of evil!

There is much practicality in understanding the supernatural and heavenly realms and how they operate. I believe the Church is living in a “transitional age” where we as believers will experience increased heavenly and angelic interventions and where the heavenly powers of God will be put on display, as the world has never seen. Increasingly, we have experienced in our own meetings, a drastic increase in the miraculous and have especially noticed the invasion of the very atmosphere of Heaven. The people are hungry for a true move of God. Get ready saints for a mighty revival of power and holiness!

The Bible says we as believers have tasted of the heavenly gift and of *the powers of the world to come* (aion). The question is, do we truly *believe* that we have?

And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come . . .

Hebrews 6:5

Faith from another aion . . .

The Syro-Phoenician woman reached out to Christ with faith that was from another age. The centurion preached himself into another age by believing that Jesus could heal his servant without Him even being there! In Luke 1:37, the Bible says “All things are possible with God.” It is fallen man that puts limits on God. It is only the unbelief of some that put boundaries on Him. In Mark 9:22, a father’s demonized son was cast by devils into both fire and water. He cried out to Jesus, “Have compassion on us!” Jesus replied, “If you can believe, all things are possible.” The father, who in one moment was helpless, in the next moment became a demon slayer who reached into another aion and received a powerful and heavenly deliverance for his child from God.

My friend, a heavenly-minded faith is a powerful and practical thing! It will help you in this life and the next. Corrie Ten Boom needed more vitamins to sustain her life in a Nazi prison camp and God supernaturally provided it. The 5,000 hungry and weary who listened to Christ preach were supernaturally fed a heavenly diet that day. You see, in a sense, faith is a *divine connector*. Faith is a practical power that originates from the heavenly realms.

The connection . . .

In short, faith “connects” an earthbound current-day believer to a future heavenly *aion*; a future age where all is perfect and whole. This is a place where sin, sickness, imperfection and death will not exist. Therefore, any “ordinary” believer (i.e. one who

does not consider themselves a super-apostolic, high-octane, prophetic visionary!) can reach right now into the Heavenly realm and receive provision from God through sincere faith.

Just think, Abraham, through faith, was able to reach into a future heavenly aion (i.e., age) where there were no boundaries for the miraculous. Through faith, he was able to call those things that be not as though they were . . .

. . . even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

Romans 4:17b

God's down payment . . .

*Since God is not bound by time; since He is not bound by past, present or future events in history; since He exists outside the realm of time, space, and dimension, it is no problem for Him to take a believer through the gift of faith, into a future aion of glory and power. He gave us the foretaste or "pledge" – the very earnest of the Holy Spirit to seal our redemption! In the business world, earnest money means to pledge something of value for a future benefit. In other words, the Holy Spirit has been given to every believer as a "down payment" toward a future existence in an aion of perfection. We now live in an imperfect world full of vice, but we also are privileged to live in the *golden age of grace*. We now live in the glorious aion where faith can operate and receive substance of things not seen . . .*

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1

Obviously, we have not yet arrived as believers in the finally consummated heavenly age. But I will say that we are very close to walking in the power of God that the world has not yet seen!

The book of Genesis records the life of a prophet named Enoch who for 365 years walked so close with God that God took him . . .

By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

Hebrews 11:5

The "translation generation" . . .

God is raising up many Enochs in this hour. He is raising up many sons and daughters that are walking close with Him. There are many in our current age who God considers His friend. Enoch was such a believer. You see, Enoch was a very prophetic soul who was full of faith. He could see into a future age where the power of the resurrection would prevent death and where there would be no evil present upon the new earth. Enoch had so much faith that through the power of the Holy Spirit, he was *translated* so that he did not see death.

The Rapture of the Church is sooner than you think. God must prepare the world's future leaders in Heaven who will return to earth with Him to rule and reign during a 1,000 year Millennium Kingdom. These are those who will judge dark angels and even the unbelieving secular leaders of this world . . .

Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? And if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? How much more things that pertain to this life?

1 Corinthians 6:2-3

In Jude verse six, the brother of the apostle James, writes about dark angels which kept not their first estate but who are imprisoned under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. In the same book, Jude tells us that Christ will return with ten thousands of His saints to bring righteous judgment upon the earth. Many believers in this hour do not fully comprehend the powerful things that are about to come in this age. They are living in a pivotal point in history – a spiritually transitive point in God's unfolding plan! Like Enoch, we need prophetic vision more than ever before! For only the prophetic have the heavenly perspective that can see into the future which will give meaning to this current generation. For a prophetic word of Scripture and heavenly faith will become as an anchor to their souls . . .

And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed . . .

Jude 1:14, 15

Enoch, Abraham and God were friends. Because of this, they knew what God would do – not only in the present but also in the future. Generally speaking, a friend will always tell another friend what they are going to do. He told Abraham that He would even raise Isaac from the dead if necessary . . . he told Noah of the impending flood and judgment upon a wicked world. *You see, my friend, faith reaches down through the centuries to see the future. Faith can go anywhere and do anything!*

APPENDIX B

ANGELIC INTERVENTION IS *CONDITIONAL*

Yes, this project is not only about the song of angels but about how the angels love us, protect us, and care for those who truly love God. However, their ministry to the saints is in a biblical sense, *conditional*. Psalm 34 tells us that the angel of the Lord is a help and a shelter to those who fear (trust) and obey God . . .

The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

Psalm 34:7

The Scripture above simply means there is no shelter or protection for someone who is constantly and habitually sinning against God and who does not fear God. Notice the emphasis is on the words, “fear Him.” There is simply no protection from sin or evil for this type of “professed” believer. If you want to experience angelic help in your everyday walk with Christ, *you must ask God to help you develop a holy awe of Him.*

You must learn to approach the King of the Universe with a humble and respectful heart. Thus a person who considers himself knowledgeable and who is puffed up with pride, a person who is hardened by habitual sin and who is full of unbelief, will most likely *not* be the one to experience much angelic intervention. It’s true that God is so merciful that He even uses angels *minimally* to protect even evildoers for a season . . .

. . . for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Matthew 5:45b

Of course, He will graciously do this until someone can reach them with the saving knowledge of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Spiritual terrorism . . .

The original terrorist of all time was lucifer. We saw how easily he was cast out of Heaven by the power of Jesus Christ. It is he who continues to motivate evil, murderous terrorists, and tyrants on earth. Listen, my friend, we are in a very real and serious battle here. It's a battle where we have been given all the spiritual weapons that we need to win. But without Christ, folks are, quite frankly, helpless to stand up against him. The devil is the ultimate terrorist and destroyer of the innocent. The adversary, satan, would obviously kill everyone in an instant and take them to Hell with him if it were not for the Holy Spirit and the precious angels of God restraining him . . .

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly

John 10:10

For those who love Jesus Christ, we have been given the authority to bind and rebuke this spiritual terrorist so that he has no place in our lives whatsoever . . .

Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.

John 14:30

And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Matthew 16:19

Anyone who continually loves to sin and loves the things of the world is living in a very precarious lifestyle. For at some point (even as with Sodom), when the judgment of God comes suddenly, even God's angels look away. When God knows that someone will never fear Him, will never forsake sin, and will love evil all the way to the end of their life – even God's grace can be frustrated!

And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city . . . then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven; and he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.

Genesis 19:15, 24-25

Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly; suddenly shall he be broken without remedy.

Proverbs 6:15

But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord: They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.

Proverbs 1:26-30

God will not waste the precious resources of Heaven for long on someone who wants to serve Hell. God will not wait forever for a soul who loves evil, chaos and the ways of the devil. Yes, God is patient and will use every means possible to reach the lost through a multitude of ways. For God causes the sun to shine and the rain to fall on the just as well as the unjust . . .

That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Matthew 5:45

God will always give the hypocrite or unsaved person “space to repent.” Obviously, Heaven’s angels do not like pride, sin, or rebellion. They know first hand of the loss and devastation it can bring. Although two-thirds of the holy angels have never experienced evil personally, they have seen the devastating effects the contagion brought to even Heaven’s ranks.

Have you ever considered that angels intensely dislike looking upon evil and will not “hang with” evildoers for long? This is why there is so much calamity and hardship in a life that doesn’t fear God – the good angels just aren’t around. That’s not a good situation to be in for the devil is far more murderous and evil than the worst global terrorist ever could be.

Without the blood of Jesus and the Holy Spirit; without the grace of God and His Word; without angelic protection – you are *dead* man! A person who doesn’t fear God and continues to love evil may tragically wind up becoming a crime or accident statistic. The devil will end up killing you if you let him. He is the father of lies. Jesus said he is a great destroyer – a serial killer!

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy . . .

John 10:10a

God is gracious for even his most ignorant children are ultimately protected when they are taken to Heaven by angels. Tragically, many believers have died prematurely in their ignorance . . .

Where *there is no vision, the people perish* . . .

Proverbs 29:18a

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge . . .

Hosea 4:6a

Although the following Scripture refers to the Lord's Supper, the Bible makes it clear that believers have responsibility for their well-being in the Lord. An untaught, unsanctified life can stymie angelic intervention and give place to the devil . . .

For this cause many *are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.*

1 Corinthians 11:30-32

James has told us that we are to give no place to the devil. While on earth, Jesus walked in a place where the devil had absolutely no influence on Him. There is a place where the believer will learn to war against the enemy with success. We must learn to plead the blood of Christ in Jesus' Name, invoking the grace of God and His angels to minister on our behalf and we must do this more frequently. We must pray in the Spirit and speak and declare the Word of God to abide safely in Christ.

The council of angels . . .

The Bible says there is a high and lofty council of angels. These are the "*kadoshim.*" These are the holy ones and judges who greatly fear God and who execute God's justice . . .

A God greatly feared in the council of the holy ones.

Psalms 89:7 (NASB)

God, the Father, is an awesome, beautiful, all-consuming fire. [Hebrews 12:29] But He is fire that heals even while He consumes evil. And Moses took off his shoes before Him. [Exodus 3:11ff] If Moses and the mighty angels fear Him, how foolish it is for any man, woman or child, not to! It's no wonder the Bible says those who love to do evil, do not fear God. The following text clearly illustrates their fate . . .

And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory.

Acts 12:23a

And when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the Lord repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people, It is enough: stay now thine hand.

2 Samuel 24:16a

And God's anger was kindled because he went: and the angel of the Lord stood in the way for an adversary against him.

Numbers 22:22a

Christians need to realize that prolonged sin and disobedience can bring the judgment of God upon themselves through the ministry of angels. Folks need to take God, His commandments and the angels who enforce them, more seriously. A lot of professed believers who are sick or who die before their time seem to always want to credit God with such actions when, in fact, this isn't the case. Nevertheless, the child of God who abides in Christ need not ever fear the angels of the Lord, for they are ministers for him.

Angels and the fear of the Lord . . .

Sadly, even in God's presence some folks have so much pride that they will never find a place in their hearts to truly respect or honor God. Some will never stand in holy awe of Him. For example, take the seventy elders of Israel, along with Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu. They didn't even bother to sanctify themselves before they ascended the mount with Moses to see God Himself!

Then went up Moses, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel: And they saw the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness. And upon the nobles of the children of Israel *He laid not his hand*: also they saw God, and did eat and drink.

Exodus 24:10-11

According to Bible interpreters, Kiel and Delietsch, the words "lay not his hand" in the original Hebrew connoted that God did not "slay them" for their lack of the fear of God and because of their prideful, unsanctified state. Were it not for Moses' intercession, God would have wiped them out right then and there! God is merciful and gracious, but He will not tolerate open and willful rebellion in His midst for long . . .

And the Lord said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves . . . and the Lord said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiff necked people: Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them . . . therefore now go,

lead the people unto the place of which I have spoken unto thee: behold, mine Angel shall go before thee: nevertheless in the day when I visit I will visit their sin upon them. And the Lord plagued the people, because they made the calf, which Aaron made.

Exodus 32:7, 9-10, 34-35

And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

Genesis 6:5-7

As with our walk with Jesus, we have responsibility in partaking of angelic ministry. We must consider our actions – whether or not they attract the Holy Spirit and His angels or whether or not they repulse them and/or attract their judgment or wrath. For example, if the speed limit on a highway is 55 miles an hour and on a lark, you decide to speed at a 100 miles an hour, it's questionable whether God's angels will protect you in your rebellion. Christian husband, if you are abusing your wife, your angels are not as close to you as you think. Let's be painfully honest, sinner, if you keep cheating on your spouse or if you continue bullying and hurting others, somewhere down the road soon you are about to get whacked by something . . .

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Galatians 6:7

Again in Psalm 34:7, the Bible says the angel of the Lord encamps around them that *fear* Him. The fear that the Bible speaks of, does not mean (in popular usage) just to "bow one's head in reverence." I'm sure when Moses received the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai he didn't simply fold his hands and "politely" bow his head momentarily!

The healthy fear of the Lord really means to fear and tremble for one's life at the sight of an awesome Creator who is brighter than a trillion sun stars. Although we are to have a healthy fear of God, this does not mean that He is unapproachable because we can relate and have fellowship with God the Father through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. However, it is not the fear of the Lord appears pious in public "for religious display," while in private holds on to habitual, unrepentant, rebellious sins.

Listen, my friend, you need to stop messing around with sin and with your casual treatment of angelic protection. Remember, in the last days, it will be the angels of God who put the seals of the Lord upon the chosen of Israel and who will designate which parts of the earth are not to be cursed or destroyed until they were sealed . . .

And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: *and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.*

Revelation 7:1-4

What fear of God should we all have regarding God Almighty and His legions of heavenly hosts? You may ask again, what is the fear of the Lord? The Bible plainly tells us that the fear of the Lord is to simply *stop sinning*. The Word says that the fear of the Lord is to “depart from evil . . .”

Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and *depart from evil.*

Proverbs 3:7

By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the Lord, *men depart from evil.*

Proverbs 16:6

Unfortunately, today's popular definition of the fear of the Lord has been watered down and reduced to something like . . . “bowing one’s head in reverence.” But having the fear of the Lord is much more than just “reverence.” We need to fear God in our lifestyle and in the way we treat others. We need to understand that He is the holy King of the Universe. Without His holiness imputed to us, we cannot see Him.

So then, if I err, I myself would feel much more comfortable *erring on the side of holiness* than erring with the numerous friends of sin who are in partnership with Mr. Immorality and Mr. License. Do you want more power of God and more of God’s angelic hosts present in your life? For a lot of you reading this book, the solution is simple – stop sinning! Stop sinning and start seeking!

Practicing God’s Presence . . .

As with Mary, we shouldn't be surprised that God trusted John with angelic ministry. Like the servant girl, Mary, John was humble and passionate in his love toward the Lord. On earth, John was loved of the Lord because Jesus knew his precious heart would do nothing to offend Him or the Holy Spirit. Thus, in his old age, when Jesus appeared to him in His glorified form, John's passionate and humble response was natural . . .

And when I saw Him I fell at His feet as dead . . .

Revelations 1:17a

The reason why John was slain in the Spirit is because he had developed a healthy fear of the Lord in his devotional life. Through prayer and ardent worship, His spirit had become so sensitized to the Holy Spirit and to God's angelic powers that He was constantly aware of the presence of the Lord. No "faking it" here! He practiced God's presence daily. He was sensitized to the supernatural realm and his spirit man was trained in the weightier things of the Spirit. Therefore, he could be receptive to visions and dreams from the Lord and angelic intervention.

John had been familiar with Jesus on earth but after seeing Him in His glorified form, he truly realized how important a healthy fear and awe of God is! In fact, John, who was the closest to Jesus on earth, feared with trembling at the sight of His awesome, holy presence when he saw Him in His heavenly body! Like John, believers truly need to understand and practice God's presence with a holy awe and healthy fear. Next time you pray, why not prostrate yourself before the Lord and like a dead man cry out from the deepest parts of your heart. Say "Jesus, You know I love you!" Pour out your love to Him from the deepest part of your being.

Spiritual "melt-down" . . .

Some folks just like to invite *angelic wrath*. Many today fail to remember how God sent angels to smite Sodom and to prosecute God's judgments against Gomorrah. Because of Sodom's wickedness, God told Lot's wife not to look back at its destruction. Like the seventy unsanctified elders of Israel noted above, evidently she didn't fear God. However, unlike the 70 elders, God wasn't predisposed to give her any more "space" to repent. Because of this, she committed a sin unto death and lost her life. Unlike John on the isle of Patmos, it was obvious she hadn't developed a holy habit of fearing the Lord and practicing His presence in private . . .

And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city. And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the Lord being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city. . . Then the Lord rained upon Sodom

**and upon Gomorrha brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven . . .
But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.**

Genesis 19:15-16, 24, 26

Lot's unsanctified and materialistic wife had also keenly developed an unhealthy love affair with the things of this world. It seems the only thing this country-clubbing, socialite was concerned about was "keeping up" with the Snodgrasses next door. But John has this to say about the matter . . .

Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

1 John 2:15-17

In fact, while a holy, warring angel was destroying every wicked inhabitant of that wicked city, she still longed for it. Maybe she was longing for that nice home overlooking the country club of Sodom and Gomorrah. [Genesis 19:1-26] And God forbid that her workout center, hair salon and tanning booth burned down! It's not that some of these things are evil in and of themselves but when they become so much the focus of our attention and affection; they will be cursed of God as an idol.

Jesus said in the last days that it would be as in Sodom and Gomorrah. God is saying to us, if you live in a nice home, drive a nice car or live in a nice, subdivision or country club, don't like it too much. It's fine that God has blessed you this way but it's not good if these things become *idols*. We must be willing at all times to give up everything in an instant, if Christ so commands.

Flee for your lives . . .

Many reading this book today may be unprepared in their hearts to flee for their lives and to leave everything like the angels required of Lot's wife. When the Lord cracks the eastern sky, many will not be morally prepared for the Rapture and quite frankly will not go up. God wants the souls of just men and women made perfect in Heaven. He desires souls that are of a heavenly character in Heaven who will not quench or grieve the sweet peace and bliss that abides there.

Too many today are not even open to angelic intervention in their lives. Like some of the citizens of Sodom, they are so worldly-minded that they wouldn't know an angel if they saw him! In short, they are "so worldly-minded, they are no heavenly good." This is a warning to all of us today. All too many have an unhealthy and unholy alliance and love affair with material things, idols, ungodly television, movies, occult novels, magazines, music, and unclean Internet sites.

Many need to immediately make a clean break from such things through the power of the Holy Spirit. We need to plead the blood of Jesus and cleanse our homes and lives of such things before it is too late! Jesus is coming and the Bride must be ready . . .

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

“Cad” world . . .

There are far too many pastors and “apostles” today who through their words and own actions are sanctioning divorce and justifying adultery. Ministry scandals are now too common place and God has had enough of it! Hell-bound pastors and false shepherds, who are laden with lust and greed, divorce their wives and destroy their children in order to fulfill their own selfish fantasy. They are greedy whore-mongers who one day will be cast into Hell by the angels of glory. They are full of deception and lies, even while they justify themselves and refuse to remove themselves from the ministry and the public limelight. For all the innocent sheep they have stumbled, their torments in Hell will be all the more intense. It would be better if a millstone was tied around their neck and they were cast in the deepest part of the sea!

Soft-peddling holiness . . .

For fear of becoming “unpopular” (and for fear of diminishing book sales of course) many contemporary, charismatic, and evangelical pastors, authors and bible teachers have adopted an unbiblical view of God’s standards of holiness. They have lowered the standard of His mandates for entrance into Heaven. Jesus has said the way to Heaven was straight and narrow and *few* there would be who would find it. [Matt. ch. 7] But they have made the way to Heaven crooked, broad and easy with virtually “anybody” able to get in – of course, as long as they verbally “profess Christ” as “Lord and Savior.” Spurious and false conversions abound and false messages have become the rule rather than the exception these days.

The soft peddlers of scriptural holiness are always trying to popularize their message. They are always teaching the subject of holiness from a “new angle.” They want you to feel good about yourself and have adopted catchy metaphors, common analogies, and word etymologies, secular psychology (mixed with promises from scripture) in order to make their message “receivable.” They want to win the world, but wind up losing their own soul in the process. They have become the blind leading the blind. If left unchecked, they will lead a whole generation of souls into Hell with them. In the purer eyes of angels, they have become weak and hellish compromisers.

The false prophets in this new age of media-christianity have become hooked on faddy words such as “purpose,” “favor,” “destiny,” etc. It seems they always want to produce a

movie with just a little seduction in order to appeal to a “broader base.” Even though such movies carry a Christian theme, inevitably, they wind up compromising the scriptures. They always feature some young female actress in skimpy clothing. They always involve an occultic CGI’s and spooky scenes. It took a secular actor to do a more biblical view of Christ’s passion. Although his movie utilized many non-Christian male and female actors and actresses at least featured them in a wardrobe which in no way seduced the audience!

Revivalists or opportunists?

Along with the Holy Spirit, the angels of God have all but left many ministries today. There are some who are once anointed revivalists, but TV and the limelight has corrupted their hearts and message. They follow the money flow and have become merely spiritually opportunists. They are the Elmer Gantry’s of our generation. They have taken on the unethical ways of the proverbial, greedy and deceptive used car salesman. Yet the inner circle of the Christian media establishment has deified them as “venerable big hitters.” They have become big time professional fund-raisers and have become adept at subtly manipulating an audience.

The angels fly away from the spirit of adultery unless, of course, God orders them to judge such a spirit as he did with Sodom. With no fear of God, many ministers have become entangled with adultery and scandal--yet they refuse to remove themselves from the public arena, even though the scripture admonishes them to do so! [1 Tim. 3:7] They would rather stumble the whole world with their well-known hypocrisies, materialistic excesses and broken homes than to truly repent and serve the Lord quietly doing missionary work or helping the poor. Their egos cannot stand not being in the public view! They must have a television audience to satisfy their juvenile need of recognition. They must continue to “hog” the funds of believers which support their large television budgets.

False, prophetic “wind bags” . . .

Inevitably, these false, prophetic wind-bags wind up appealing to the selfish carnal desires of folks because they want them to experience “good feelings” when they preach. They are crowd pleasers, not God pleasers. They are money chasers, not God-chasers. “You can make it,” they say. “There’s a new place of favor for you where God wants you to succeed and prosper.” “God wants to pull you into your destiny and unique purpose.” Yet they fail to list the specific conditions of obedience to the commands of Christ. However, they *do* like to sell a lot of books, CDs, and DVDs!

In other words, what they truly teach is that a person should live a Christian life so God can get you “all this stuff”. What ever happened to simple obedience to the commands of scripture? What ever happened to taking up your cross daily and following Him? Has the quest for “self-esteem” replaced the scriptural admonition that we, as believers, should reckon ourselves dead to the old sinful man?

Jesus would not be welcomed . . .

If Jesus were to disguise Himself in order to come down from Heaven and preach in one of these type ministries today, his ministry and message would not be welcomed. His message would not be deemed “positive” enough. If literally preached, a majority of Matthew chapters 5, 6 and 7 would be most likely banned from the pulpit. And if Jesus was on Christian television, his producers would more than likely pull the plug on Him.

The Christian media establishment has left its first Love. They would now treat Jesus even as the religious Pharisees did. You see, Jesus messed with the money-making religious establishment of his day and would do the same today. He would disrupt the religious mafia. He would disrupt their money-making system. He would recognize that they are incorrigible and were part of the problem, not part of the solution. He would cast the money-changers from His Temple!

I ask therefore, if Jesus were to come back today and visit a bible book fair or CBA/NRB convention would He turn over their sales of merchandise? Would He break in two those who would merchandise His most precious blood and sacrifice – who would sell so cheaply his anointing and grieve His Holy Spirit by doing so. While brother takes brother to court and sues another Christian for greed and for self-justification, the Lord’s wrath is all the more kindled against such.

Overturing tables . . .

Had they been in the Temple the day Jesus overturned the tables of the merchandisers, many contemporary authors and preachers and Christian TV producers would have accused Christ Himself of being dysfunctional, bipolar, and incendiary! God forbid, some of them back then went so far as to call Him a devil!

So too today, some would write Him off as nothing more than a frustrated and mean-spirited preacher. Because of His sure word, Jesus would not have been considered a good shepherd, but would be labeled a “sheep beater” by those who He would reprove. This would be solely because He would preach the raw truth of His Father rather than bow to the manipulative, ambitious, money-grubbing, ladder-climbing religious establishment of His day. Jesus probably would have been spared a lot of their wrath but He dared mess with the religious leader’s nepotistic financial holdings, and they became like a religious Mafia towards Him. Jesus messed with the money-making establishment of the Pharisees and paid the ultimate price for it. Of course all of this was in God’s sovereign plan.

But Jesus told one sinner to repent or a “worse thing” would come upon him. In Revelation, He told lukewarm believers that He would “spit them out of His mouth” if they did not repent of their compromise. He reproved the church for their secret love of evil, for idolatry, for loving to look upon wickedness, for vanity, for ambition, for lying, for pride, for love of recognition, for adultery and divorce, for spouse abuse, for selfishness, for greed, for prayerlessness, for unfaithfulness, for not respecting spiritual

authority, for cynicism, for bitterness, for laziness, etc. [Matt. 7: 12-15, 20-24; 8: 11-12; 24: 37-38; 25: 29-46]

You see, lordship entails a total submission of the will to obey the specific commands of Christ. It also means that a believer is to daily obey the initial promptings of the Holy Spirit. The angels of Heaven are holy. Angels love to hear the truth preached. Quite frankly, most sermons preached on Christian television and which are uttered from pulpits today they abhor.

Religious cliques . . .

Angels are always *inclusive*, not exclusive. They are not cliquish beings. They always welcome people into the society of Heaven. They love holiness and purity and are attracted to it. They intensely dislike the hypocrisy that resides in the heart of many professed Christians today. They don't like it when believers are subtly persecuted for trying to live righteously. They hate it when those who live righteously are falsely labeled "religious" or "legalistic".

They are grieved when Jezebel is exalted on the platform and when the humble are "put down" for trying to live genuinely and humble lives before the Lord. The angels of God will bring God's judgment to such hypocrites who falsely claim to be worshippers. Calamity and plagues shall be their reward. It is a sad thing in Heaven when Christians who are trying to live holy are subtly mocked or ostracized by the "inner circle" of a congregation.

A divine contrast . . .

Angels do not like to hang around morally dirty people, who act as if they are righteous. It doesn't matter whatever their claims may be. They may even claim to be baptized in the Holy Spirit! Even as holy angels don't like to hang around hypocrites for long, most lukewarm believers today do not want to be around godly folk because their own worldly standard of living is unflatteringly contrasted to that of a scriptural standard for godly living. They see a consecrated Christian as more of a *nuisance* than blessing.

Tragically, most churches in Western culture today have evolved into nothing more than a bunch of booze sipping, spiritually shallow, self-centered, movie-watching, Hollywood-loving, ladder climbing, egocentric, materialistic suburbanites who live worldly and who desire that no one or nothing convict them of their comfortable, lukewarm status. Most churches have become nothing more than small-minded "bless me" clubs who are always excited to receive the "latest revelation" from popular ministries and sing the latest praise and worship songs. Yet their members lack real love and are unable to sincerely reach out in love to newcomers. They have become spiritually myopic and shortsighted and cliquish and cannot see past their own self-centered friendships and social relationships. Ambition and materialism has become their god, even though they attend church two or three times a week. If they ever were to make it to Heaven, they would feel

uncomfortable in the company of angels anyway, because angels, by their nature, are all-loving and inclusive.

The “show me” religion . . .

Some people absolutely refuse to believe in angels and the supernatural power of God. It seems that most everyone nowadays wants scientific proof before they believe. Like Herod, they sit on their spiritual do-nothings, requesting that Jesus “perform” a miracle for them. There is a state in our country that is nicknamed the “show me” state. That’s the problem with most believers in the body of Christ. They won’t believe until they see the power of God with their own eyes. That was Thomas’ problem, too. He was a “show me” Christian. Are you a “show me” Christian? Or do you take Christ at His word by faith.

The religious leaders of Jesus’ day mistreated Him. Some even taunted Him and pejoratively asked Him to perform miracles for them. They disdainfully treated God as though He were some kind of magician. So too, today, through pride and unbelief, all too many folks have based their religion on what they intellectually discern. Materialism, unbelief, worldly ambition, staying “busy” with ministry, etc. have all distracted many of God’s leaders in this hour. The devil and a horde of religious demons have dulled the minds and spirits of many believers so they no longer believe they can experience the supernatural ministry of angels.

In this empirically based culture with its *deductive* mindset; in an age where science and technology are idolatized, the Church more than ever needs to become a supernatural, “counter balance” so that a skeptical world will see the power of a supernatural God manifesting Himself to them. Getting a music award or having your mug shot plastered on the front of a retailing magazine is not what it’s all about. Ministries that endeavor to get their image in front of a few million “couch potato” Christians is not what Christ is about either. Preaching clever sermons and entertaining folks with good expository preaching, stories and humor will not get the job done in this hour.

The next time the lethargic army of professed believers sits there “amen-ing” you while you preach, think about the time you are wasting. Think about all the powerful angels of God that are idly standing by awaiting the declaration of the Lord.

Think about how you could equip and mobilize these same folks if they were disciplined and trained for the coming Reformation. Why not train them to exercise godly authority and to do the supernatural works of God? The angels of Heaven would rejoice at this. The coming Reformation would see tremendous supernatural power and angelic ministry released. The very thunders and lightning of God flow through God’s people who believe that He has empowered them to do the same works He did while He was on this earth . . .

. . . because as he is, so are we in this world.

1 John 4:17 b

The dawn is rising on a new generation of believers who will do the works of Christ where the needs are the greatest. The era of “celebrity” preachers is on the wane even as God raises up a whole new army of lions who will go forth and through the power of the Holy Spirit will overcome the evil one!

“Tee-totaller” angels . . .

Why on earth would any minister today go out of their way to encourage his/her people to drink alcoholic wine or beer? If they’re arguing that people should drink wine because it’s good for them, the ingredient in the wine that is good for them is also found in grape juice. Grape juice is just as good for your cardio-vascular and digestive system as alcohol/wine yet it has no bad side effects. Grape juice does not damage the liver nor does it kill brain cells like the nitrogenous bacteria waste and yeast do when you drink beer or other alcohol. What’s the deal? If you disagree with them they call you a legalist.

No strong drink allowed . . .

Strong drink is a beverage which has been fermented to a certain percentage of alcohol content. Most modern wines and other forms of alcohol today would be considered by the bible to be “strong drink.” Such alcohol damages brain cells and can even permanently alter the biochemistry in a person’s brain. But God wants you and I to be under the influence only of His Holy Spirit. He wants us to be drunk only with His Spirit. [Acts 2:13-18]

We need to fear God in the area of drinking. When an angel appears to men and women in the Bible, it immediately inspires the fear of the Lord to those who have seen them. In Judges 13:6, the Bible says they are terrible and awesome in appearance – pleasant to look upon but fearful and exceedingly magnificent creatures. In addition, it’s interesting to note in this account that the angel instructed the Old Testament believer not to drink wine or strong drink. Can you who drink strong alcohol honestly say you fear the Lord when the Lord through an angel has already said not to do so? [See Judges 13:1-21; 1 Samuel 1:14, 15]

And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? Put away thy wine from thee. And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the Lord. Count not thine handmaid *for a daughter of Belial*: for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto.

1 Samuel 1:14-16

Angels will not hang out with professed Christians who are backsliders. They’ll not be around a supposed Christian who is drunk. In the absence of God’s protective angels, it’s no wonder there is so much hardship, tragedy and curse in the life of a rebellious person.

But Jesus can break these generational curses if we ask by faith. Why so many of today's Christians want to do things which they know grieve the Holy Spirit is an enigma to me. Many Christians, especially European, ask me if it's okay to drink modern alcoholic wine as opposed to grape juice (which by the way is far healthier for your heart!). Obviously Hannah knew the difference between what God considered "good wine" (i.e., sweet grape juice with low fermentation), and *belial* or "satan's" wine which throughout the Bible is considered as highly fermented, "strong drink."

You see, modern-day wine has much higher fermentation and alcoholic content than the "fruit of the vine" that Jesus drank with His disciples. Plainly speaking, God doesn't want the poison of bacteria excrement to defile your temple. God doesn't want the intricate bio-chemical makeup of your brain, liver or kidneys to be chemically altered by potent, man-made alcohol in any way. On the Cross, Jesus refused any kind of drug-induced painkiller.

"Just say no" angels . . .

If you want to attract God's Presence and His holy angels in your life, you need to repent of all so called "junk Christian psychology." Basically, most Christian psychology is a watered-down version of secularist theories. For example, most psychiatrists today are virtually hired salesmen for the big drug companies and are always pushing mind altering, depressing, demon-attracting, psycho-tropic drugs at their clients.

Tragically, all too many have been wooed (even by Christian counselors) into taking over the counter drugs. In the old days, a saint would pour out their heart to God in prayer with weeping and the Lord would restore a proper balance in the mind by His Spirit. The Holy Spirit always heals His people without any side effects. But there must be desperate and diligent seeking in a believer.

Righteous Anger . . .

Jesus said not to be angry.... *without a cause* that is. Anger is only a problem if its allowed to linger. Paul said "Not to let the sun go down on your anger." But when it comes to evil and wickedness God is no Harvey Milktoast.

Arise, O Lord, *in thine anger*, lift up thyself because of the rage of mine enemies: and awake for me to the judgment that thou hast commanded.

Psalms 7:6

Some liberal preachers will tell you God loves you "in your sins and iniquities." It's true that He is patient and merciful and like the Prodigal's father waits patiently for his sons to return to Him. But there is a point where the neck will be broken without remedy. I, for one, would not teach that God loves a professed Christian even though they drink, do

drugs and sleep with someone who is not their spouse. Don't believe these false preachers. They are subtly lulling you into a spiritual death! Remember, the Bible has this to say about those who love wickedness and evil . . .

God judgeth the righteous, and God is *angry with the wicked* every day.

Psalms 7:11

Be cautious of anyone who likes to make fun of "old-time holiness preaching." There is a whole generation of worldly-minded, professed Christians who only want their ears tickled with light and fluffy teachings. It's now time for Christians to repent and to utter out a deep cry like a helpless child or infant. Watch God move on your behalf when you do. God will do His part but a saint must repent and meet God in the middle through prayer.

Too many Christians in this hour have become addicted to every thing from cough medicine to powerful, OTC (over-the-counter), physician-prescribed painkillers. But the angels and God's Holy Spirit stand ready to supernaturally heal many of you who are reading this book. God is about to set many free in this hour from addictions to alcohol and mind-altering drugs! God and His angels only want you to depend on the Holy Spirit for all your needs. You will experience joy unspeakable and full of glory if you begin to consecrate yourself this way . . .

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Romans 4:17

There is great excitement and joy when one begins to love what Jesus and His angels love and hate what Jesus and His angels hate . . .

Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

Hebrews 1:9

Angels and the armor of God . . .

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Ephesians 6:11-13

God longs to free us from bondage and demonic oppression but we have a responsibility too. [Matthew 8:17; Ephesians 6:8-12; 1 Peter 2:24] The moment we wake up in the morning, every believer must begin to surrender his life to Jesus anew each day. We must wake up with a song of praise and worship on our lips. Pure praise and worship attracts the Holy Spirit and putting on the whole armor of God makes your guardian angel's job a lot easier!

It's time to put on the armor of God – to slay the enemy with the Word of God, to pray in the Spirit continually and to be vigilant and aware of angelic help at all times. God has begun to deal with us as sons and daughters, preparing us for His soon-coming return while scourging our carnal natures with the purifying fires of heaven. He wants us to walk in covenant with Jesus in joyful fellowship, not in habitual, unrepentant sin. He wants to free us from the bondage of sin and from the depression and loss of joy it brings. Total surrender, abiding in His Holy Spirit, meditating upon the Word and walking in the straight path of Jesus Christ by the grace of God, is the most liberating and joyful experience a soul could ever have on this earth. And walking in total submission to the Lord is a sure way to attract God's angels to your life like a magnet!

“Anakrino” protection . . .

God's holy angels do not care to “hang with” unsanctified, undiscerning believers in this hour. Real Christians can discern the times. In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus said to “judge not.” But let's look at the real meaning of what Jesus said. Many well-meaning but ignorant secularists as well as uninformed Bible students have misused the word “judge” to fend off any righteous rebuke of their hidden, wicked deeds. When a sin is pointed out to them, they vainly cry in defense . . . “The Bible says you're not to judge!”

I have a serious problem with this. The Greek word He used there was the word “krino” which means do not try, execute and condemn another in your heart. However, in 1 Corinthians 2, the apostle Paul wrote that the spiritual man “judges all things.” Are they contradictory? Absolutely not. The Greek word that Paul used for judge is the Greek word “anakrino” which means, “to discern between good and evil . . .”

But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

1 Corinthians 2:15

It's okay to call something evil if the Bible says that it is. If a person who claims to be a Christian *actively promotes* evil through outward acts, words and deeds, it's even okay to call *them* evil. For example, if a Christian preacher is preaching that there is no Hell, he is basically calling the Word of God not true. It's perfectly biblical to tell your children this is a false preacher. People need to start calling good “good,” and evil “evil.” Christian leaders and parents have become too timid in calling sin, “sin.” Listen, my friend, it's okay to inspect fruit and to call a tree “good” or “bad . . .”

Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by *his* fruit.

Matthew 12:33

The liberating spirit of anakrino . . .

As a matter of fact, the apostle Paul relates Christian maturity to a believer's ability to divide good from evil. The fact is, operating in the Spirit, *anakrino* is a means of protection in this hour for all believers . . .

But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Hebrews 5:14