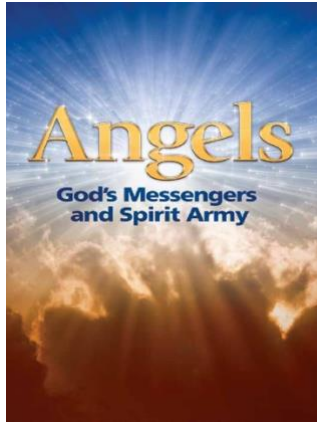


20190803 Psalm 91:11-12 Angels - God's Messengers - An Introduction Part 2



Angels - God's Messengers - An Introduction Part 2

Do angels exist? Last week we started our introduction to angels, and today we'll take a specific look at whether guardian angels exist. For those that don't know, the idea of a guardian angel is one specific angel that is assigned to each person here on earth.

Last week I introduced the subject of angels, and we learned that the Bible mentions them about 300 times. As we concluded last week, if you believe the Bible then you must believe that angels exist as they are part of God's creation. They are His messengers and warriors and guardians here on earth. They operate in the world even today. The

Bible tells us that they are part of God's ministry to believers.

GUARDIAN ANGELS

We've heard about guardian angels all of our lives. But, what does the Bible *really* have to say about guardian angels? Guardian angels are a popular idea in the world. People are fascinated thinking of the possibility that they might have a specific angel that is assigned to them. Some people are even convinced they can get in touch with their guardian angel. I did a Google search for "getting in touch with your guardian angel" and I got over 64 million hits! Below is a screen shot showing the result of that search. I read the Wiki article, and to get in touch with your angel, it suggests that you set up an altar in your home to contact them, and then it gives special prayers to get in touch with your own guardian angel. I would tell you DON'T DO IT! A demon will gladly step in as an "Angel of Light" and lead you down the wrong path away from God (2 Corinthians 11:13-15). As I said last week, Jesus tells us to "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you." If we needed to get in touch with our guardian angel, God would have made a provision for that in scripture. Guess what? He doesn't!

About 64,800,000 results (0.68 seconds)

4 Ways to Contact Your Guardian Angel - wikiHow

<https://www.wikihow.com/Contact-Your-Guardian-Angel>

★★★★☆ Rating: 82% - 27 votes

Tell them about your attempts at contacting your guardian angel and make sure that they are fine with you doing that. Consult a religious leader. Ask your parents if they will help you meet with a local religious leader to ask him or her about guardian angels. If you're old enough, you can go on your own.

People also ask

How do I ask my guardian angels for help?

How do you identify your guardian angel?

Who are the 7 guardian angels?

How Do You Talk to an Angel?

Feedback

How To Contact Your Guardian Angel - Power of Positivity

<https://www.powerofpositivity.com/contact-guardian-angel/>

Guardian angels like to communicate with us through physical sensations at ... time to get in touch with your guide, as this practice increases your own vibration, ...

The google articles instruct how to get in touch with your own guardian angel. I can tell you that if you will spend as much time getting in touch with God instead of getting in touch with angels, then you're headed in the right direction.

A 2011 CBS poll revealed that 77% of all adults in America believe angels

exist.¹ Many of those who believe answer that they are not religious, and half of these believe they have their own personal guardian angel.

From scripture, we do know that one of the functions of angels is to protect God's Children.

"¹¹ For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.¹² They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone." (Psalm 91:11-12, KJV).

Many of our old hymns talk about angels. Stories about angels are all so interesting to us. When we hear them we wonder, "Could this all be true?" In the Old Testament we are told that they are involved in our care and protection. We see God's promise of protection. So we know for certain that one of their functions is care and protection.

We learned last week that angels have an awareness of who we are and what we're doing. The Apostle Paul says we are being watched by the angels (1 Corinthians 4:9). They have an awareness of who we are and they are fascinated by the relationship between God and man. They have as one of their main charges to watch over God's people. Let's review how they've intervened in the lives of men in the Bible.

During the Babylonian captivity of the Jews, the prophet Daniel was thrown into a lions' den as a punishment for not obeying the king. He refused to engage in idol worship and refused to deny his Hebrew God. He was thrown into the den to be eaten by the lions, and the scripture tells us, "¹⁹ At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. ²⁰ When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?"²¹ Daniel answered, "May the king live forever! ²² My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty." (Daniel 6:19-22, NKJV).

God sent an angel and freed the apostles when they were in prison (Acts 5:19). Last week we studied Acts 12, and read about how God sent a special angel to free Peter from prison. The angel set him free and then disappeared. We discussed when Paul was a prisoner on a ship bound for court in Rome and an angel came to him in the night and told him everything that was going to happen (Acts 27).

There are many instances in the Bible where individual angels were helping individuals. But the real issue is whether God is still doing this today. I have been told that angels are not for today. They were for Bible times but not for now. I don't believe that there is anything in the Bible that is of sound scholarship that supports such a position. We all know that evil is on the rise, and I believe that demonic activity is on the rise. Why wouldn't God combat that increased demonic activity with the work of his "holy angels?" Let's take a look at scripture and figure out where this whole notion of guardian angels comes from.

¹ <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/poll-nearly-8-in-10-americans-believe-in-angels/>

Passages in the Bible that Have Supported the Belief in Guardian Angels

There are only two passages that give us reason to believe there are guardian angels.

The first passage is Jesus speaking in Matthew 18. He says, "¹⁰ *Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven.* ¹¹ *For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.*" (Matthew 18:10-11, NKJV).

You should note that Jesus says, "**their angels.**" Some feel that since Jesus says "their" angels, that we also have "our" angels. There is only one other scripture that some use to support the idea that guardian angels exist.

Last week we talked about Peter in prison. You will remember that Peter was in prison and when the angel came and released him, he went to Mary's house, and he knocked at the door. The saints in Jerusalem were having a prayer meeting, praying that he would be released. After the angel freed Peter, he went to the house. Scripture tells us that he was there knocking at the door, and a servant girl named Rhoda came to the door. "¹² *So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying.* ¹³ *And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a girl named Rhoda came to answer.* ¹⁴ *When she recognized Peter's voice, because of her gladness she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter stood before the gate.* ¹⁵ *But they said to her, "You are beside yourself!" Yet she kept insisting that it was so. So they said, "It is his angel."*" (Acts 12:12-15, NKJV).

So they were saying, "This isn't Peter, but it is HIS angel". Some read this and think when the scripture says, "his angel," it is saying that it was his "one and only specially assigned angel." I want to comment that at this time in the first century, many believed that when people died they remained on earth for a while as a ghost or an angel. They were more than likely sure that Peter had been killed and they might have thought that this appearance was his angel (or his ghost) that was there to announce it.

Many in the early church believed that everyone had their own angels. Some believed that an angel had been created for everyone on the earth. Thomas Aquinas believed that everyone was assigned an angel while they were in their mother's womb, and this is now an established doctrine of our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters. The Roman Catholic catechism states,

“Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life.... The Church venerates the angels who help her on her earthly pilgrimage and protect every human being.”

In the 1600's, Pope Clement X set aside October 2 as a feast day in their honor, celebrating their protection of human beings from spiritual and physical dangers, and their assistance in doing good.²

But, some reputable people with spiritual credentials don't believe we each have our own angel.

Protestant reformer John Calvin also believed that the words of Christ in that passage concerning children "do[es] not mean that a single angel is continually occupied with this or the other person; and such an idea is inconsistent with the whole doctrine of Scripture, which declares that the angels (plural) encamp around the godly (Psalm 34:7), and that not one angel only, but many, have been commissioned to guard every one of the faithful." I love what Calvin then goes on to say,

“But whether individual angels have been assigned to individual believers for their protection, I dare not affirm with confidence... Indeed, those who confine to one angel the care that God takes of each one of us are doing a great injustice both to themselves and to all the members of the church; as if it were an idle promise that we should fight more valiantly with these hosts supporting and protecting us round about!”³

Let's face it. We all want to have our OWN angel. Part of the danger of such a belief is that we might end up wanting to communicate with "our angel," and we might end up setting up an altar to worship and glorify it like the Wiki article suggests that we do. Well I'm not sure if I have my own guardian angel, but I do know that scripture says I have a host of angels that are available to minister to me. To me it is comforting to think that not just one angel, but ALL of the angels of the universe can wait on you and me, and they care about us and they can intervene in our lives. It doesn't matter what you believe on this. Neither side of the argument will send you to heaven or hell. You win either way you believe. I'm not certain how it all works, but I'm just thrilled that it could be either way, and that God is taking care of each of us.

Maybe We Are Ministered to By a Host of Angels and Not Just One

God has a history of coming with hosts of angels to the rescue of his people. Remember in 2 Kings chapter 6 when Elisha was in the city of Dothan and the King of Syria (name Aram) was getting tired of Elisha's ability to predict and know where the Syrian Army was. When Elisha knew where Aram was, the armies of Israel kept creating strategies to beat them in battle. So King Aram decided he was going to go get Elisha and put an end to all this.

Verses 14 to 15 describe what happens next: *"Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city. When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the*

² <https://reformedperspective.ca/on-angels-and-guardian-angels/>

³ <http://www.johncalvinforeveryone.org/chapter-14-parts-1-4.html>

city. 'Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?' the servant asked." Being surrounded by a large army with no escape terrified the servant, who at this point could see only the earthly army there to capture Elisha.

A Heavenly Army Appears for Protection

The story continues in verses 16 and 17: *"Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. 'Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.'* And Elisha prayed, 'Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.' Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha." Guys, I believe what the servant was seeing was Michael the Archangel and all of his warrior hosts!

When Jesus was confronted in the Garden of Gethsemane, Peter cut off the ear of one of the people coming to get Him. Jesus tells him, *"Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will ^{li}perish by the sword. ⁵³ Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? (Matt 26:52b-53, NKJV).* So at this point you're just wondering, "Pastor Faber, what can I learn from this?" Well, I'll tell you.

If God wants to intervene in my life with the appearance of an angel, that is fine, but I will not rest my hope of heaven and my belief in salvation on an experience with an angel. Seeing an angel won't get me to heaven and it is not needed for salvation else all who come to the Lord would experience it. However, the Bible does give us clues as to the of kind of situations in which angels intervene.

1. When we are in times of confusion they might give us direction. Remember in Acts when God was trying to show Peter that salvation was also for the gentiles. God sent an angel to Cornelius the Roman Centurion as well as to Peter to get them in touch with each other. In Acts 11:13-14 Peter was telling the saints in Jerusalem about the rendezvous that had happened. He told how Cornelius, the Centurion, has seen an angel that told him to go get answers. Peter explained, *"¹³ He [Cornelius] told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. ¹⁴ He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.'*"

Angel means "messenger." All throughout scripture angels are bringing messages. "Fear not." "Arise and go." "Arise and flee." They are the messengers sent by God to sometimes communicate with believers on earth. Angels are never sensationalized in the Bible. The messenger is never more important than He who sent them.

2. When we are in times of crisis, angels can be sent to strengthen us. Remember in Gethsemane, Jesus said, "Let this cup pass from me...Thy will be done." In His agony, He sweat drops of blood, and when it was over scripture tells us that an angel appeared and strengthened Him (Luke 22:43).

Also, when Jesus was tempted in the wilderness and went through the horrific ordeal with Satan, scripture tells us, *"¹¹ Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him." (Matthew 4:11, NKJV).*

When the war is intense, God just might send an angel to strengthen us.

3. Angels sometimes minister to us in sickness. So many of the accounts involving angels happen in hospitals. John tells us of the story of the stirring water (John 5:1-9). God used an angel to bring about healing in the lives of people who got into a pool. Maybe they intervene in times of sickness. I have told you the story of my sister when she was having chemotherapy, and an angel came to comfort her in the hospital.

4. Angels of the Lord might appear in a times of danger to protect us. My same sister was walking one day in Denton, Texas and suddenly she saw a pack of dogs coming at her. She told me that they were vicious and they were about to take her down. They had broken free from their master's leash. She covered her eyes and screamed, "Help me Jesus." When she removed her hands there was a car right in front of her and a man was motioning her to get in to a door that was opened for her. She got in and he drove two blocks. All she said to him was, "This is fine here." He stopped, let her out and never said a word. She was so shaken she didn't even thank him. I want to close with the words of the great theologian John Calvin.

Whether there is one angel that looks over us or many, God is taking care of you and me. I just again want to say that I love what John Calvin has to say. He gives a comforting answer to the whole guardian angel question. "If any one does not think it enough to know that all the orders of the heavenly host are perpetually watching for his safety, I do not see what he could gain by knowing that he has one angel as a special guardian."⁴

You and I do indeed have a heavenly Father that watches over us and cares for us in ways that we don't even know or understand. Part of that care is through the ministry of spiritual beings – angels - that He has prepared, designed, and created to once again show us how much He loves us.

Let us pray.

Union Grove is one of the oldest Baptist communities of faith in the State of Texas dating back to 1844. Pastor Faber McMullen may be reached by email at uniongrove362@gmail.com or by

⁴ Ibid (John Calvin)

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