

Part 5 Angels 101 (Of Humans and Angels)

A sermon series by Pastor Byron Chesney Th.D.

† Hebrews 13:2

2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

This is our 6th and final study concerning angels. So far over the past 5 messages we have answered the following:

1. Do humans become angels when they die? – No - Angels are celestial beings and we are human beings. Two different types of bodies and beings.
2. Are there male and female angels? No – nowhere in the Bible do we find angels referred to in the feminine sense, it is always masculine.
3. What are classifications for angels? - Angels, Cherubims, Seraphim's, Archangel (only one, Michael), hosts, principalities, powers thrones, dominions.
4. What are common names of angels? – Only 3 mentioned in the Bible; Lucifer, Gabriel, and Michael.
5. Who is the Angel of the LORD used in the O.T. and Angel of the Lord in the N.T.? In the O.T. L-O-R-D, in all capital letters, it is being used for the Hebrew word "YHWY: Yahweh or Jehovah." In the N.T. this angel belongs to God and is being a spokesperson for Him.
6. Who are the "sons of God"? – "sons of God," in the O.T. was angels, but "sons of God," in the N.T. are those that have been saved and not angels.
7. Are we to worship angels? – No, we are in fact cautioned against ever worshipping angels.
8. And in our last study we looked entirely on the question, "do angels sing?" We discovered that it appears that the angels did indeed sing at creation of the world and they will sing again at the redemption of man, but nowhere in the Bible do we find them singing any other time. It doesn't mean that they don't or can't but we cannot biblically state that angels sing at the present time but we also concluded that this has no bearing on our salvation and should not be a stumbling block.

Tonight with the help of the Lord I would like for us to direct our attention to this question; what is the relationship between humans and angels? I want to cover the question, "Do we see angels today? And "Do we each have our own guardian angel?"

Let's read our opening text once again and kind of let that sink into our minds for a minute: **Hebrews 13:2: Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.**

The Hebrew writer, as he often does, reaches into the Old Testament and pulls those things over into the New Testament and uses them for application. No doubt in this verse he is referring to the occasions of Abraham and Lot which both entertained angels unaware.

Abraham - Genesis 18:1-2: And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day; 2 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,

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

We all know the story; three angels first appeared unto Abraham and announced the good news that Abraham's wife, Sarah was going to have a baby in her old age. Then later in the chapter the Lord pronounces judgment upon the Cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. All of that happens in Genesis 18 and then when Genesis 19 begins we see that the two angels enter into Sodom to carry out the sentence and to warn Lot to escape.

Obviously all of these angels appeared in human form, Genesis 18 calls them "men" but when one of them speaks it is the voice of the Lord. The Bible calls them "angels" in Genesis 19 but Lot calls them "sirs," so obviously they appeared to be men, albeit there was something about their presence that caused both Abraham and Lot to bow to the ground in front of them. So they recognized them as deities.

Angels have the ability to take on the appearance of any shape or form that they want. To Abraham and Lot these angels appeared to be men but we know that the Bible calls them angels. So, that is why the Hebrew writer makes the statement; "thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

Those are examples from the Old Testament, but what about the New Testament or our current time period?

For the New Testament we have numerous examples of angels appearing to men and women. Some of the most memorable are:

- Gabriel appearing to Mary to announce that she had been chosen to give birth to the Christ child.
- Angels appearing to the shepherds to announce the birth of Jesus.
- An angel at the empty tomb of Jesus.
- An angel that appeared to the soldiers guarding the tomb of Jesus.
- An angel breaking Peter out of prison.
- An angel appearing unto Cornelius and telling him to go find Peter.
- An angel appearing unto Paul during the storm on the ship and telling him that everything would be okay.
- And then we find numerous appearances of angels to men and women throughout the Book of Revelation.

Angels appearing unto men and women today in our present time. First let me say that to my knowledge I have never seen an angel. Perhaps I have entertained angels unaware such as Abraham or Lot did, but for me to tell you that I have personally seen an angel with my naked eye I cannot say that.

I have spoken to several people that have relayed stories to me about people in their life that have seen what they believe to be angels. Most of the time it was someone that was near death and before they died they spoke of seeing angels.

There are, of course, very famous accounts of people who have seen angels and have written books about it and went on talk shows and talked about it. Back in 1975, Preacher Billy Graham wrote a book titled, "**Angels.**" It contained several stories about people who had told real life experiences with angels. One was about his grandmother when she was passing away. He wrote: "**The room seemed to fill with a heavenly light. She sat up in bed and almost laughingly said, "I see**

Jesus. He has his arms outstretched toward me. I see Ben (her husband who had died some years earlier,) and I see the angels.” Then she slumped over, absent from the body but present “with the Lord.”

You may remember a few years ago a New York best-selling book written by a boy named, Alex Malarkey who had been in a horrific car accident that left him a quadriplegic that claims he died and went to Heaven and came back. The book's title was **“The Boy Who Came Back From Heaven.”** The book sold millions of copies and a movie was made about it as well. In the book, †Alex says that after the automobile accident, he saw his father fly out the window of his car, only to be caught by an angel and carried to safety. He says he was out of his body while he saw this happen. His body was taken to a hospital in an emergency helicopter. The book says that soon after that he felt an angel take him through the gates of Heaven, which he describes as being "tall," to meet Jesus and Satan, who appears through a "hole in heaven". After he woke up in the hospital, he told his family his account of his near-death experience. Tyndale House promoted the book as "a supernatural encounter that will give you new insights on Heaven, angels, and hearing the voice of God.

People by the millions flocked to read this book because they thought this was their chance to get an insight to heaven that they had never heard about. (GNOSTICISM) Well, on January 13, 2015, Five years after the book came out, Alex released an open letter to Christian publishers and bookstores via the Christian Apologetics blog known as *Pulpit and Pen*, confessing that the entire account of his journey to Heaven was fictional, and implored them to remove the book from their stores. His letter is as follows:

"Please forgive the brevity, but because of my limitations I have to keep this short. I did not die. I did not go to Heaven. I said I went to Heaven because I thought it would get me attention. When I made the claims that I did, I had never read the Bible. People have profited from lies, and continue to. They should read the Bible, which is enough. The Bible is the only source of truth. Anything written by man cannot be infallible. It is only through repentance of your sins and a belief in Jesus as the Son of God, who died for your sins (even though he committed none of his own) so that you can be forgiven may you learn of Heaven outside of what is written in the Bible... not by reading a work of man. I want the whole world to know that the Bible is sufficient. Those who market these materials must be called to repent and hold the Bible as enough. - In Christ, Alex Malarkey

My friend, we do not need any outside sources to tell us about heaven or angels. If it isn't in the Bible then we have no need to hear about it. God's Word contains everything that He wants us to know about Heaven and angels. That is why you must stick to Scripture for all of your doctrine and theology.

So, with that being said, what does the BIBLE say about angels? -- Turn with me to the Book of **Hebrews 1:13-14: But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? 14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?** Here in verse 14 we are told that angels are **“ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation.”** We know that **“heirs of salvation”** is referring to human beings that have been redeemed by Christ. In our way of saying it, **“those that are saved.”** So in other words, angels minister to us, the saved. We are told nowhere in the Bible that angels minister to the lost.

That fact is very important when it comes to people who claim to have seen angels. The first thing we need to find out is if that person has trusted Jesus as their Savior. If they do not profess Christ as Savior then they are either lying or they have seen a demon, one of Satan's angels. Paul warned the Corinthians of this in **2 Corinthians 11:14: And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.** He was warning about false teachers and false apostles when he said that.

But what about “guardian angels”? Where did this concept come from? Do we all have a “Clarence” such as George Bailey had in the movie, “It's A Wonderful Life” Is it from the Bible? Let me give you a few passages of Scripture that may well suggest that we each have our own personal guardian angel:

First of all the Scripture that we just read while ago in: **Hebrews 1:13-14: But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? 14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation? ==** This passage certainly indicates that those that are saved are to be ministered to by angels.

Then we have this verse of Scripture: **Matthew 18:10: Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.**

In this passage when Jesus speaks of **“little children”** he is referring to Christians. We are all called His children because he is our Father, we are dependent upon him. He was cautioning the disciples not to despise or offend any of his believers, especially the weaker ones that needed help. He says **“That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father.”** This statement has led many to believe that we all have our own personal guardian angel that watches over us.

One passage of Scripture that a lot of people use to indicate that everyone has their own guardian angel are these: **Psalms 91:9-12: Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; 10 There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. 11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. 12 They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.**

It is true that these passages indicate that the saved person is being watched over and cared for by angels but it does not indicate that it is one particular angel, in fact it uses the word in the plural form of **angels**, meaning more than one.

The Apostle Paul certainly saw an angel in **Acts 27:23-24: For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, 24 Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.**

All of these verses indicate that angels are very near and are working on behalf of the Christian, however, we do not see that there is one particular angel per person. That's not saying there isn't, because the Bible indicates an innumerable number of heavenly hosts, but nowhere do I find that we each have our own personal guardian angels such as Clarence. – **And no, every time a bell ring an angel does not get his wings.** === What I want you to take away from this study tonight is that we must rely on Scripture to give you all of the information needed concerning heavenly subjects. To add anything extra is adding to the Bible which is expressly forbidden.

† All Scripture from the Authorized King James Version

‡ Source – Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Boy_Who_Came_Back_from_Heaven