

# THE ANGELIC HOST

## LESSON 4

### OUTLINE:

- 1) *The Angelic Host – Their Ministry*

### QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:

We took our first look at the varied ministry of the good angels in Lesson 3. We saw that God uses angels on certain occasions to convey a message to man. We then looked at their protective ministry which is being carried on to this day in behalf of all God's children. As we closed Lesson 3, we were looking at angels providing food for Elijah when he was in the desert.

### THE ANGELIC HOST – THEIR MINISTRY

#### Second: Their Protective Ministry (Continued from Lesson 3)

We are about to see that Elijah was not the only person given sustenance by angels. After Jesus was baptized He went into the desert to be tempted of the Devil. What is said of Jesus after He had fasted for 40 days?

Matthew 4:2 \_\_\_\_\_

What was the first temptation Satan placed before Christ?

Matthew 4:3 \_\_\_\_\_

What is seen to take place as soon as Satan finally gave up and left Christ alone?

Matthew 4:11 \_\_\_\_\_

It would not take much imagination to conclude that part of the aid given Jesus was in the form of food, for this was definitely one of His pressing needs.

One of the most amazing Old Testament stories concerns the feeding of the Israelites during their 40 year wanderings in the wilderness. What special food did they receive from God each morning?

Exodus 16:35 \_\_\_\_\_

What two descriptions did the Psalmist give of this food?

Psalm 78:23-25 \_\_\_\_\_

The protective ministry of angels is something that should bring comfort to us as we walk into the unknowns of each new day. God gives the angels instructions as to what must be done to safely guard us from fatal disaster. We should be thankful to God for this service. No doubt many are wondering, at this point in the study, just how it is that we are not protected in every instance.

We all know of Christians who have fallen victim to accidents, some even being killed. How can one account for such events in light of the angelic protection spoken of by the Bible? This is not an easy question to answer. In some cases, it is impossible to give an answer. But we must make some attempt. It must first be said that angels do only what they are told to do. In the second place it must be said that what they are told to do they cannot fail to do. So if protection seems to be missing on some certain occasion, then the problem does not lie in the lack of ability or willingness of the angel. Once commanded, they will always be successful in carrying out their mission, no matter how seemingly impossible. This truth is seen in their ability to protect the three from the fiery furnace, Daniel from the hungry lions, Elijah from being taken captive, and release of Peter from jail. The absence, at times, of protection goes beyond the angels. God's protection does not always mean a life free of any problems, pain or trouble. Though Peter escaped prison on one occasion, legend has it he was crucified many years later. What is promised the true followers of Jesus?

John 16:33 \_\_\_\_\_

The Bible does not say God will keep us always away from all trouble, but it does say?

Psalm 91:15 \_\_\_\_\_

God does promise relief and comfort to His children. If one is walking in the will and plan of God, and this is a very important, then what befalls him is permitted by the all-wise God. When the plan of God calls for protection, then that protection will not be withheld. It was God's will and plan for Daniel to escape the lions. Thus, God sent an angel to make it impossible for the lions to harm Daniel. Still it must be pointed out that God permitted Daniel to go through this horrifying experience. In the case of the early Christians in Rome, God did not give them protection from lions. Everything depends on God's plan for the person who finds himself in the lion dens of life. When we are in the plan of God then we are given a special promise about all things that take place, which is?

Romans 8:28 \_\_\_\_\_

All things would include both bad as well as good, sickness as well as health, adversity as well as prosperity, and disappointment as well as happiness. The promise of Romans 8:28 is made only to those who seek to do what? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The protection given us by the angels is real and valuable. When ordered by God, the angels can work a miracle, if need be, to guarantee our safety. There is no reference in the Bible to one holy angel who failed to do what he was instructed to do. In our day and times, an automobile can be as vicious, and as much a threat to our safety, as any lion. God's protection is still a blessed privilege for the Christian. We can have angelic protection without our ever seeing the angel at work.

### **Third: Their Worship Ministry**

We have been looking at how angels serve man. Now we will consider how angels serve God.

Worship is of primary interest to God. The angels were created first and part of their duties from the start was to worship God. This work is still taking place. To get some idea as to what this worship is like we will look at several references in the Bible.

What did Isaiah say he heard two bands of heavenly angels saying as they stood opposite one another near the throne of God?

Isaiah 6:2-3 \_\_\_\_\_

The Book of Revelation also speaks of some angels around God's throne. What were they heard of say about Jesus?

Revelation 5:11-13 \_\_\_\_\_

Revelation 7:11-12 \_\_\_\_\_

Some angels must have a special task to perform in their worship of God, for what is one seen doing?"

Revelation 8:3-4 \_\_\_\_\_

Worship, heard in the form of praise, was given God by a group of angels on what occasion?

Luke 2:8-14 \_\_\_\_\_

What did God instruct the angels to do when they saw His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, born into the world?

Hebrews 1:6 \_\_\_\_\_

A day is coming when angels will be heard to say what?

Revelation 11:15 \_\_\_\_\_

The worship of angels takes on the form of rejoicing when they see what takes place upon the earth?

Luke 15:10 \_\_\_\_\_

The Psalmist spoke of two things he felt angels should do which were?

Psalm 103:20 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 148:2 \_\_\_\_\_

Artists often paint an angel as carrying a stringed harp in his arms. There can be little doubt that angels sing praise unto God. But there is no direct reference to the angels playing harps, or any other instrument. In Revelation 14:2-3 we read of John hearing music in heaven, which he compared to harpists playing on their harps. This music seemed to accompany some group singing a new song before God's throne. It is not said who is doing the singing nor how the music is made.

#### Fourth: Their Judgment Ministry

When given the command, the angels of God could also carry out destruction upon those who resisted God and preferred a life of sin. Man was found to be no match for the power of angels when they carried out their work of judgment. The Bible contains many accounts of this special type of angelic ministry. We will consider only a few.

What were two angels able to do to a group of men living in Sodom who threatened the household of Lot?

Genesis 19:10-11 \_\_\_\_\_

The angels also seem to have a hand in bringing down the fiery destruction upon Sodom.

How did God defend the city of Jerusalem from the army of Assyrians during the reign of King Hezekiah?

2 Kings 19:32-35 \_\_\_\_\_

By what means was this destruction of the army accomplished \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2 Kings 19:7). (Blast refers to a hot, smothering wind.)

What did an angel do when King Herod accepted the people's claim that he was God and deserving of worship?

Acts 12:21-23 \_\_\_\_\_

One of the most unusual stories of the Bible is that of the fall of Jericho. What did the writer of Hebrews give as the reason the walls fell?

Hebrews 11:30 \_\_\_\_\_

Faith is seen as the reason for victory. The people believed God would give them the promised defeat and capture of Jericho. How did God bring down the walls of Jericho? From first appearances, it would seem that the shouting and blowing of horns caused the walls to crumble. This seems to be how Joshua 6:20 reads. A closer examination of the Scriptures will reveal that this was not the cause for the fall of the wall. Before the Israelites ever started their marching around the city, Joshua had a visitor. What is the description of this visitor? \_\_\_\_\_ (Joshua 5:13). This was the Lord. How did He identify Himself? \_\_\_\_\_ (Joshua 5:14).

The real battle for Jericho, including the fall of the wall, was waged and won by the unseen angelic host of the Lord.

What did David consider a work of angels upon those who persecuted him and were wicked in their lives?

Psalms 35:5-6 \_\_\_\_\_

There was an event in the life of David that brings out his belief in the help of angels to drive away his enemies. We will consider this story in our next lesson.

