

Russell Kelfer

**Guardians,
Choir Directors,
Judges and
Generals**

1344-A
Series: Angels

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Well, the side trip is over. We began this series looking at God's angelic host, and as we did, the problem of fallen angels fell our way. Once we began that somewhat perilous journey, it seemed only proper to take it to its conclusion. That conclusion included a picture of God's great enemy and his rebellious cohorts running headlong through the great tribulation into the lake of fire, where they will be living toast for all eternity. While we watch them burn in the future tense, we turn our attention once again to that heavenly band of Western Union messengers sent by God to keep order and demonstrate His love in the spirit realm.

It will be, I trust, a much more pleasant trip, for these angelic beings, who were created by God in eternity past for a specific set of reasons, are a living picture book of the believer in fellowship. We should, then, learn a lot from them, not only about what angels are all about, but what we as believers *ought to be about, as we are about our Father's business.*

We will have three goals, as we continue:

1- To learn from Scripture all we can about this heavenly band of worshipping servants.

2- To make the "spiritual switch" and see what we can learn about God's plan for us by watching them.

3- In the process, as always, we want to look for aspects of the nature of God that are revealed through the study, and when we find them, stop and praise Him *just because He is.*

With those goals in mind, we return to where we left off in the second lesson of the series to begin a look at the angelic host of holy angels. We will focus today's study on the basics: how they are structured, how many there are, what they look like, and hopefully, what God might be saying to us simply by the manner in which He made them. In future studies, we will take a serious look at what the angels do all day, and I believe we will be incredibly encouraged and excited by what we find.

The Scriptures give us much more information than we sometimes realize. This is the case with angels. We have 104 appearances of angels to men in Scripture. We have more than 100 facts about angels clarified in the Word. We know there are at least five kinds, and that not only do they not all look alike, they have different functions. God is a God of order, and the angelic hierarchy is no exception.

There are some basic similarities between us and them, and of course, there are some great differences. We will never be angels, and they will never be humans, but in both makeup and ministry, there are many, many similarities, and by making the “spiritual switch”, those common traits can teach us a great deal about God’s plan for us.

THE ANGELIC HOST: THEIR CHARACTERISTICS

Here are some very simple facts about the angelic host:

1- They have ***personal spirit bodies*** with bodily parts: hands, feet, eyes, heads, voices, mouths, hair, faces, etc. (Genesis 18:2,4,8, 19:1-22, Judges 13:6). We don’t know for sure what they look like. One day, we’ll find out. They do, however, apparently have many of the same features we have, and they have most of the attributes we will have in our spirit bodies in heaven. We know that they can sing. They can walk and talk, but they can also fly. They have arms and legs, but they also have wings (some have more wings than others). They probably don’t look like ET or some extraterrestrial creature. They probably look more like dear Aunt Susie with wings. Someday soon, we’ll find out, for sure.

2- They have personal souls with ***emotions*** (Luke 15:1-10).

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

This simple little poem explains it:

Sometimes angels are happy,
Sometimes they are sad;
But we ought to study
What makes them so glad.

Just think about it:
It really makes sense,
They are the most joyful
When someone repents.

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(Again, we can learn a lot from them about what ought to bring us joy in life.)

They have *appetites* (Genesis 18:8, 19:3)

And he took butter, and milk, and the calf which he had dressed, and set *it* before them; and he stood by them under the tree, and they did eat.

We don't know whether or not they eat angel food cake, but we do know that they *eat*.

Though he had commanded the clouds from above, and opened the doors of heaven,

And had rained down manna upon them to eat, and had given them of the corn of heaven.

Man did eat angels' food: he sent them meat to the full.

(Psalm 78:23-25)

Does that mean that manna is their regular diet? Do they eat in heaven? Where does the quail come in? Tune in to the food channel when you get to glory and find out. For now, you do know they get hungry, they eat, and that makes me feel a lot more angelic.

From Satan and his demonic host we learn that these inhabitants of the spirit world who fell show us the kinds of emotions that spirit beings out of fellowship can have.

We learned from the devil and his fallen angels that they are capable of several other emotions. They include:

anger

Therefore rejoice, *ye* heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, (Revelation 12:12)

enmity

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. (Genesis 3:15)

lusts

Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. (John 8:44)

pride

Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. (Ezekiel 28:17)

I Timothy tells us that Satan tempts us to do the same:

Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. (I Timothy 3:6)

3- The godly angels have *personal spirits* with many of the qualities we desire:

They are creatures of *great intelligence and wisdom*.

To fetch about this form of speech hath thy servant Joab done this thing: and my lord is wise, according to the wisdom of an angel of God, to know all *things* that *are* in the earth.

(II Samuel 14:20)

We studied in an earlier lesson that angels are wiser than we are, but they are not omniscient. Whether or not they have varying IQ's or AQ's we don't know, but since Lucifer seemed wiser and more beautiful than some of the others, perhaps they do. We know they know things we don't, but some things we comprehend, such as grace and salvation are unknown to them.

They are creatures of patience. They possess God's longsuffering spirit when doing God's will. (Numbers 22:22-35) The story of the angel and Balaam is just one of many that demonstrate how angels take whatever time is necessary to accomplish God's plan. Oh, that we could learn from them. Granted, they do not live in this capsule called "time". That may give them an advantage. Transportation and crowded freeways don't slow them down quite as much, either.

They demonstrate a wonderful kind of meekness.

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

(II Peter 2:11)

The angels have a holy respect for the principalities of the evil one, knowing that their God can, in a moment, silence the Satanic soundtrack with one movement of His precious eye. They look at God and let Him take care of the enemy. Again, we can learn so much about worship and about warfare by watching them.

They are apparently creatures with a great regard for godly modesty and respect.

So a woman should wear a covering on her head as a sign that she is under man's authority, a fact for all the angels to notice and rejoice in. (I Corinthians 11:10 TLB)

They are called holy angels, (Mark 8:38) just as we are to be holy as He is holy (I Peter 1:15,16), so are they.

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Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels. (Mark 8:38)

What does it mean that they are “holy” angels? It means that they will do nothing to defile the absolute grief that sin causes to the heart of God. Their one desire is to have their fellowship with God undisturbed by disobedience. They are “set apart” ones, and they remain “set apart”. They don’t try to imitate us in our compromises. They don’t imitate this adulterous generation. They rather, no doubt, grieve over it the way God does.

They are best noted for their obedience.

(Psalm 103:20, Matthew 6:10)

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

(Psalm 103:20)

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if that’s what we were noted for? They never disobey the commands of God because they understand that any deviation from his perfect will constitutes a break in fellowship with Him, and their hearts are riveted in His direction.

So we know that angels have many of the personality traits that we have. You may not see why that is important, but it is. It means that the holy angels (those who did not follow Satan in the fall) demonstrate those qualities in a manner that pleases God, and thus we can visualize a great deal about meekness, modesty, holiness and obedience by watching these spirit-being friends of ours. We can learn a lot, indeed. It also means that these angelic beings can relate to us as they minister to us because the attributes of their personalities so mirror ours.

What else do we know about them? We know that:

They are glorious. (Luke 9:26)

For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and *in his* Father’s, and of the holy angels.

They are immortal. (Luke 20:36)

Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.

They are powerful. (II Thessalonians 1:7-8)

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

In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

They need no rest. (Revelations 4:8)

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.

They can appear visibly. (John 20:11,12)

But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, *and looked* into the sepulchre,

And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

And invisibly. (Hebrews 13:2)

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

They travel at incredible speeds. (Ezekiel 1, Revelation 8:13, 9:1)

They ascend and descend from heaven to earth.

(Genesis 28:12, John 1:51)

They are not to be worshipped. (Colossians 2:18)

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,

They are organized into principalities and powers.

(Colossians 1, Romans 8, Ephesians 6, I Peter 3)

They are too numerous to count. (Luke 2:13, Hebrews 12:22)

They are learning from us even as we are learning from them.

(Ephesians 3:10, I Corinthians 4:9)

They can cook. (I Kings 19:5-7) That's another godly quality I don't have. Maybe they grieve over the fast food fads of our day.

So they have characteristics and abilities we will not have until we get our spiritual bodies, but the character qualities God wants us to have are often seen in them as beautiful portraits of how servants of the Most High God are to behave. As we will see later, our relative abilities and duties will change in the life to come; but for now, they are messengers of God, slaves of God, and worshippers of God in some of the very same ways that we will be

when we enter glory. Thus, we not only get a glimpse from them of how godly believers ought to behave, we begin to get a living photograph of what living in heaven will be like, and of what we will be like when our sin nature is gone, and we are clothed with God's presence and totally at home in God's fellowship.

THE ANGELIC HOST: THEIR DIVISIONS AND ORGANIZATION

I hope you are becoming a little more intrigued about this interesting part of God's great creation. There's much more to come. We cannot help but wonder, though, if there are so many of them, and their tasks are so varied, how does God organize and utilize them to do His bidding? They probably don't have the varied gifts of the Spirit, so they may not be as intrinsically different in their ministry makeup, but we do know that there are at least four different kinds of angels that we will study in this lesson: *the guardians, the choir directors, the judges and the generals*. (We will look at a fifth group I call the regular angels in the next lesson.) We don't know if there are more, but at least those classifications are made in Scripture. Though we don't have a lot of details about the differences between these groups, what we do have tells us a lot about how God uses them, and a little about why they aren't all alike. There is, I think, great spiritual truth wrapped up in that principle, as well. I think they are comfortable in their diversity, and not competitive. Let's take a look at what sets them apart from one another and at how God uses each group.

The Cherubim are the Guards

The cherub are mentioned in Genesis 3:23,24; II Kings 19:15; Ezekiel 10:1-22, 28:14-16. It was a cherub who guarded the entrance to the garden in Genesis 3:23-24:

Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

(Genesis 3:23,24)

The word "cherub" apparently means "to cover" or "to guard". Two cherubim were placed on top of the ark in the tabernacle and the temple. (Exodus 25:19, I Kings 6:23-28) Their likeness was woven into the fabric of the inner curtains and veil of the tabernacle (Exodus 26:1,31) and carved on the doors of the temple (I Kings 6:32,25). Because of their calling as "guards", they are

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represented as ones who “support the throne of God”. Look at how Psalm 18 describes them:

He bowed the heavens also, and came down; and darkness was under his feet.

And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: yea, he did fly upon the wings of the wind.

He made darkness his secret place; his pavilion round about him were dark waters and thick clouds of the skies.

(Psalm 18:9-11)

Psalm 80:1 adds:

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest *between* the cherubims, shine forth.

Psalm 99:1 says:

The LORD reigneth; let the people tremble: he sitteth *between* the cherubims; let the earth be moved.

Satan was probably a cherubim before he fell. (Ezekiel 28:14-16) So what do we know, then, about this mysterious, special group of angelic beings? They truly hold a special place as ones who “guard the way into the presence of the King”. They also appear to be described as ones who support God as His heavenly transportation system. We know God needs no one or no thing to transport Him, so the picture is one of those representing His Holy guards; His traveling secret service agents, if you will.

While God needs no one to protect Him, He has painted on the canvas of Scripture a picture of these very much alive creatures who were brought into being in eternity past to reveal the awesomeness of the privilege of coming into the presence of God. I believe part of their task is to allow no one into His presence who does not come in the Name of the Son. (John 14:13, 14, 15:16, 16:23, etc.) The way into the presence of God has been opened to all who come in that precious Name. To those who would come to God as though there were more than one way, He has to say,

I am the only way, the only truth and the only path to life. No one can enter the Father’s presence, but by Me.

(John 14:6 paraphrase)

So, when you think of someone espousing the new age philosophy that God is universal, meaning that you can come to Him in a multitude of ways, think about those cherubim who are guarding the entrance into His presence. They reflect His holiness and His love as they hover above the gateway into His heart. Whosoever will

may come, Beloved. Make no mistake about that. But whosoever would come, must come by the way. And Jesus is the way. Our friends, the cherubim, see to that.

The Seraphim are the Choir Directors

Well, so much for the guards. Now, come the choir directors. Our next group of angelic helpers are the *seraphim*. Though mentioned only once in Scripture, (Isaiah 6:2,6) they seem to be distinct in their location as well as in their duties. While God is said to be seated above the cherubim, the seraphim stand above Him. That passage in Isaiah, though it is a lone passage in describing these angels, says so much about them and what they stand for:

In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.

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

And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar:

And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here *am* I; send me.

(Isaiah 6:1-8)

We learn from this passage a lot about these special angelic beings:

1- *They stand above the throne of God.* Remember: their role is not to guard, but to lead in worship. They are calling attention, not to the righteousness of God, like the cherubim, but rather to the *holiness of God*. Is that not the attribute from which all others flow?

2- *Each one has six wings.* We don't need to know all of the reasons, but we do know enough. We know it's enough, because

it's all God told us, and the Word of God is perfect and complete. So all we need to know about those wings is that they each have six, and they use two to fly, two to cover their feet, and two to cover their faces.

Now think carefully about that. Don't just pass over it as a useless bit of information. *No information in Scripture is without purpose.* Ask yourself: "Why would they want to cover their feet?" and "Why would God want them to cover their faces?" This word "seraphim" apparently comes from a root word meaning, "to burn". It takes us to

Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire:
(Psalm 104:4)

And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,
In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God,
and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:
(II Thessalonians 1:7,8)

Perhaps the seraphim will be with Jesus at that time. More likely, though, is that these special called ones have been given burning hearts, hearts aflame with a passion for the worship of God. They are the heavenly worship leaders, perhaps those who will lead us when we get to glory and gather around the throne to sing and to praise His Holy and Precious Name.

But back to those wings. With two they covered their feet, a part of the body less honorable, (I Corinthians 12:23), and with two they covered their faces. There is something special about the face of an angel. We know that from Scripture.

And all that sat in the council, looking steadfastly on him,
saw his face as it had been the face of an angel.
(Acts 6:15)

Yet, even so, these creatures are so clothed with humility in the presence of God, that they do nothing to call attention to how they look, where they walk, or what they do. They cover themselves to hide themselves from drawing attention away from the only one worthy of worship, God Himself. Oh, that we could learn to come into God's presence, both personally and corporately with such humility and awe that we would do nothing to call attention to ourselves, our performances, our holiness, or even our worship itself. Only God is worthy of worship. To worship means to exalt Him. We exalt Him when we humble ourselves. We humble ourselves

when we get out of the way and let Him be not only on center stage, but the only one on stage at all.

In your quiet time, think about the seraphim. They come to announce the presence of God and lead us to adore Him and praise Him. But never do they get in the way. Never do they call attention to themselves. And we must approach God the same way. The purpose of our time with Him, both privately and as a body of believers, *is simply to draw us to focus on Him and Him alone.*

Those final two wings are, of course, to use to fly. With swiftness and ease they rush to meet our needs. These worship leaders not only teach us to humble ourselves and adore God, they are symbols of God's readiness to respond to our worship as He rushes to meet our every need.

3- They seem to have been created to call attention to the holiness of God. The cherubim called attention to the righteousness of God and the mercy of God. They were guarding the way into His presence, lest sin should intrude. The seraphim, however, are singing aloud, "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of His glory". They are calling us to sense the awesome purity of God. Now how should that holiness affect us? We should immediately be stricken by the presence of sin in our lives and our response should be:

Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I *am* a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

(Isaiah 6:5)

Is that how your heart responds to time alone with Him? Is that the result of your corporate worship? If not, then maybe something's missing. Maybe you have stopped seeing God's holiness as the base-line of His expectations. Maybe you have forgotten that "as He who has called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of behavior." We paint worship today as something that is designed by God to make us feel good. I don't think so. We ought to feel good about God, because of who He is and what He's done. But our times of worship ought to humble us. They ought to make us want to cover our faces and our feet and bow before His awesome holiness, seeing our sins as they are in the light of that holiness, and falling on our faces in adoration and worship and praise and repentance. The result of seeing God's holiness ought to be for us to see our sin.

But once we see our sinfulness and confess it, God does not want us to remain that way. The next thing we see these angelic seraphim doing is coming to us as God's agents of cleansing and purification. They take hot coals, burning coals, if you will, from the fire of God's holy presence, and use it to cast our sins from Him, as far as the east is from the west. As it touches our lips, we hear, "Thine iniquity is taken away. Thy sin is purged". These precious angels are His agents of restoration and renewal.

But there is one more thing we know. They draw us to His holiness so we can see our sin. They draw us to see our sin, so we can confess it and be cleansed. They cleanse us for one basic reason: to go out and be ambassadors in a kingdom that is not of this world.

As soon as the cleansing takes place, rather than have us stay and build three tabernacles, God speaks:

I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here *am* I; send me.

(Isaiah 6:8)

The bottom line of worship is God-sent servitude. And these seraphim, gathered around the throne of God, leading in worship and adoration, calling attention to His holiness, are there to assist Him in sending us. The church today has misunderstood, in many cases, the purpose behind worship and praise. It is not to satisfy us; it is to satisfy God. It is not to meet our needs; it is to equip us to meet the needs of others, and the seraphim are God's agents of record to assist in that process. Oh, to learn from them the blessed purposes of adoration, praise, and worship.

The Living Creatures are the Judges

So we have met the guardians and the choir directors. What other groups do we know about? Well, we haven't met the judges yet. We know very little about them, as well, but it is obviously all we need to know. They are referred to in Scripture, simply as "*the living creatures*".

This grouping of angels is found in Revelation 4:6-5:14, 6:1-8, 7:11, 14:3,9-11, 15:7, and 19:4. Though they participate in the process of worship, their primary task seems to be to carry out the judgments of God. They are active around the throne of God, worshipping and praising, and they witness the worship of the 144,000. Little is known about them, and some theologians fail to group them as a separate category, but most seem to indicate

that these “judges”, if you will, are a special called-out group who assist God in meting out the judgments of the last days.

The Archangels are the Generals

Our final group is one we are more familiar with, and yet there is still not a lot to tell us just what all of their tasks are. We know them more personally, because they have names, and because they have been a part of some of the key events in Biblical history. I am referring, of course, to the *archangels* .

The term “archangel” appears only twice in Scripture.

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel , and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

(I Thessalonians 4:16-18)

It is also found in Jude, verse 9:

Yet Michael the archangel , when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

There are, however, other references to Michael.

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.

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

(Revelation 12:7-9)

It is likely that Gabriel also qualifies, though he is not specifically called an archangel. The apocryphal book of Enoch lists six other such angels, but the Scriptures are the only sure word we have, and they do not name anyone else. The duties of the archangels are probably many. They are the *generals of the angelic host*. As you can see, Michael leads the armies of heaven against Satan’s host and prevails. Michael was victorious in claiming the body of Moses over the objections of Satan, as well. We will see in future lessons other things they have done or will do. They announced the birth of Jesus (Luke 1:26-38) and will herald the return of Christ for his own (I Thessalonians 4:16-18). We will be looking at

each of those instances in detail in a later lesson. We don't know all that they do, but we do know that the army of angels needs leaders, and these generals are assigned that task by God. They have names, and that makes them much more real to us, but they are no more real than all of the millions of servants and soldiers who guard the throne, lead in worship, send forth judgments, or simply meet the day to day needs of the saints.

These four categories, of course, do not cover them all. The majority of the angelic host seem to be in a general category just called "angels" or "sons of god", and their duties and activities will be the source of future studies.

For now, let us simply stop to praise God for the miracle of his angelic creation. He did not, of course, *have to create such a complex and well-organized group of servants*, but He did. He did so for several reasons, and we will look at more of them in our next lesson. I did, however, want to go back to an issue we discussed in our first lesson on this subject, and remind you of perhaps the basic thing we learn from angels:

God wanted us to see a living picture of how those who serve Him can do so *transparently*. One great need of our day is for believers to stop crowding in front of God in the marketplace. The world today cannot see God because of the church, and that is not the way it was meant to be. They see denominations, buildings, programs, political agendas, social agendas, and moral indignation. None of those things are bad. But the Cross! Oh, that wonderful Cross! The Cross seems hidden behind a flurry of activities and organizations. Sin is no longer the issue; human need is the issue. And the exchanged life, where men and women die to self so Christ can live a supernatural, transforming life through them has been replaced by the harried, hurried life, where men and women are trying to do naturally, what only God can do supernaturally. The sum of it all is that a seeking world sees us rather than Christ, and they are not at all impressed.

The angelic host serves invisibly. So in awe are they of their God that they bow in total surrender at the mention of His name. Nothing He asks them to do is too menial or too hard. And as they serve, the one ministered to only knows that God has done something. They give no glory to angels, for angels take no glory.

As they lead in worship, they do not call attention to themselves but to God. As they guard the entrance to the Way, they do not call attention to themselves, but to the Righteous One who has made

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the Way possible. As they rush to meet our every need, we do not even know they have been there. So often, they become angels unawares. Clothed in humanity, they minister and then vanish as quickly as they came, and no one even knows an angel came.

Oh, dear God, teach us to be angelic in our worship; angelic in our service; angelic in our witness. May we be so clothed in the nature of God that men and women, seeing us, see Him instead. May we serve with such humility and love that never would they think to glorify us. May we humble ourselves that He may be exalted.

God has created a wonderful thing in the angelic host, but then everything God has ever created is wonderful. But only when we make the “spiritual switch” and see why He has done so, do we stand in awe of His creation as we ought. Dear God, make us angels this week, not in substance, but in behavior; that we, too, might be servants whose only goal is for the Master to be seen.

MAY WE LIKE ANGELS BE

Oh, dear precious God,
May we like angels be
Quietly about Your work
Not for eyes to see.

But rather that
The eyes of those receiving living bread
Might look at us to but see
The Face of Christ instead.

That as we go about our days
Honoring Your Word,
Like the angels may we just
Dissolve into the Lord.

So that a hungering longin world
Might not our service see
But rather Jesus living in us
Transparently.

Let's pray.

Our Father and our God,

Clothe us in Your presence this week. Create in us, Father, that supernatural grace that transparently allows You to be Yourself in us. And may we be so dead to self and so alive in Christ that

Guardians, Choir Directors, Judges and Generals

that as we watch You work, we will be amazed, and that as the world sees us, they will see Him.

And every morning, Father, as we awaken, may we see and hear the seraphim that gather around the throne singing, "Holy, holy, holy! The Whole world is filled with His glory." As we hear them sing, may we fall to our knees in quietness and humility. And may You purge us of our sins. And as You send us on our way, may we be rejoicing to be sent ones.

Dear God, make us like the angels for Your glory,

Amen.

For Focus and Application

1- What do you think, based on Scripture, angels must look like? Why do you think God has not given us more details as to their appearance?

2- What is the significance to you that angels have so many of the emotions we share? Why do they get so filled with joy over someone's salvation if they have never experienced saving grace themselves?

3- Do you think angels eat in heaven? On earth? At all? On what do you base your answer?

4- Are angels inhabited by the Holy Spirit? If not, where do you think the godly qualities they demonstrate come from?

5- Angels are best noted, perhaps, for their obedience. Why do you think that is so important? Do you think a holy angel is ever disobedient?

6- Angels can appear both visibly (in human form) or invisibly (either as an unknown person or by ministering without being seen at all). Do you think you've ever experienced an "angel unaware"?

7- What do you think angels are learning from us? Why is it important that we learn from them?

8- Read Genesis 3:23,24 again as well as Psalm 18:9-11. How would you describe the work of cherubim based only on those two passages? Does God need angels to protect Him? Then why does He place them where He does?

9- Read Isaiah 6:1-6 again. Based solely on this passage, describe the work and purpose of the seraphim. Why do you think they have six wings? Why do you think they use them the way they do?

10- How many archangels are named in Scripture? Do you think there are more? If so, why aren't they named?

11- Write out in your own words an explanation of the transparent ministry of angels. Ask God to give you passages of Scripture that demonstrate how we can become more transparent in our service and worship, as well.

dtm DISCIPLESHIP TAPE MINISTRIES, INC.

10602 Mossbank, San Antonio, TX 78230-3422

210-226-0000 or 1-800-375-7778

www.dtm.org • dtm@dtm.org • © Russell Kelfer

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