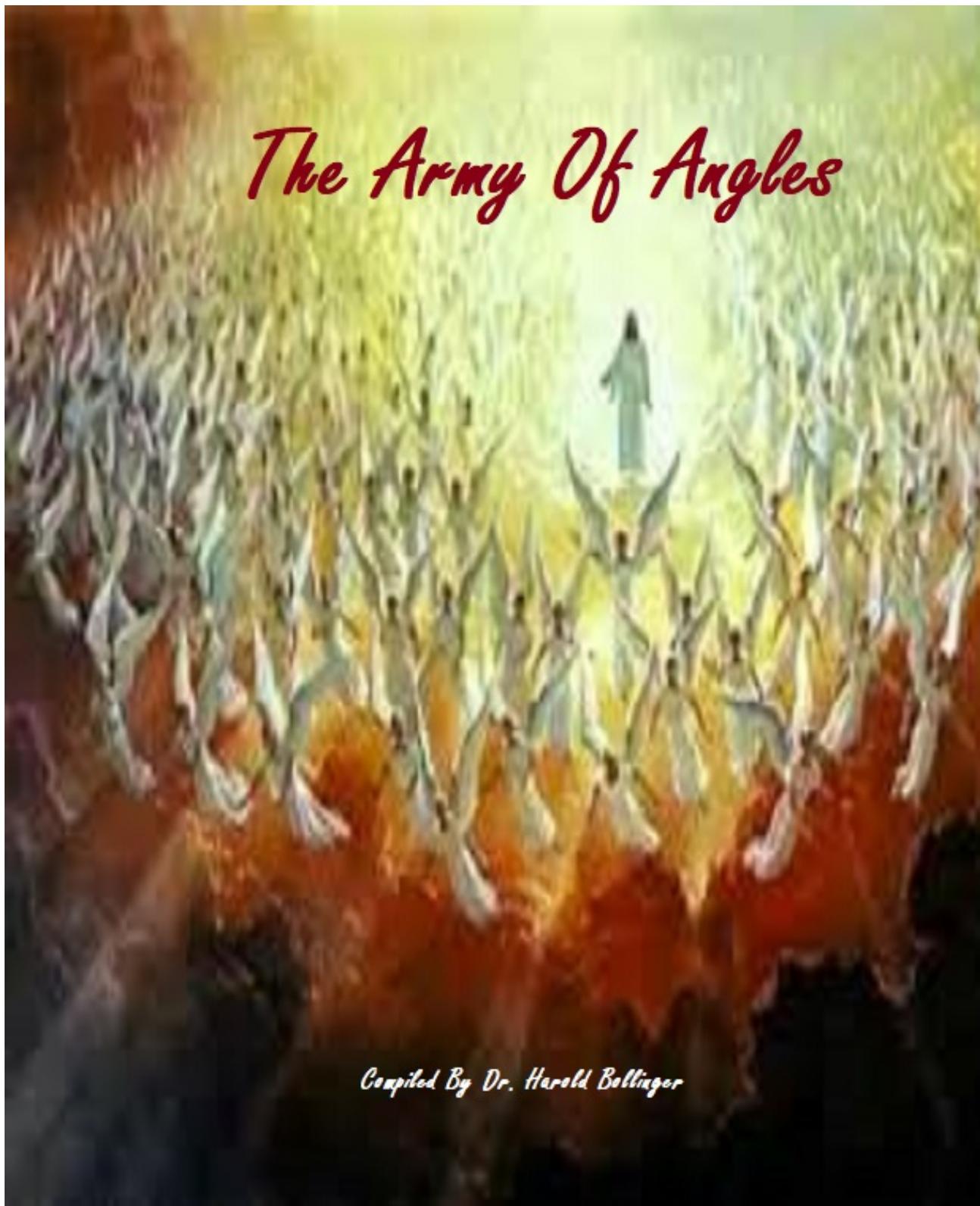


The Army Of Angels



Compiled By Dr. Harold Bollinger

The Army of Angels

Angels' actually comes from the word for 'messenger' in Greek (Angelos), and in a very literal sense, they are messengers, indeed. God sends them to protect us sometimes. After Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, angels were there to minister to Him (in this case, likely supplied Him with food - similarly to what they did with Elijah - and congratulated Him).

The Bible is so full of references to angels, we must know for sure that angels exist. But angels are not our guide, nor our god. Let us live holy lives, even holier than angels, that our Father in heaven will be pleased with us. Let us live such that Jesus Christ is glorified by our behavior.

Story taken from 2 Kings 6:18 – 23

Elisha, the great prophet faced a major crisis: He was surrounded by a foreign army that intended to take him captive. Elisha's servant went out one morning, looked up and saw this horde of soldiers, with horses and chariots. He rightly surmised they weren't paying a social call. So he ran back inside crying "Alas! What are we going to do?"

What seems strange is Elisha's cool, calm response. "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them. (6:16). Then he prayed that his servant's eyes would be opened. Suddenly the servant saw the unseen spiritual world that Elisha already saw: The Mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha!

He strolled out to greet the soldiers, calmly asked God to strike them blind, led them to the capital city 12 miles south, where they were then surrounded by Israel's army, and then asked God to restore their sight.

He then directed the Israelite king to feed them and send them on their way. He directed the Israelite king to feed them and send them on their way. For a while, the Arameans did not bother Israel.

Taste and See the Lord is good

Psalm 34:7-9

The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them. [8] O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him. [9] O fear the Lord, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him.

"Taste and see" does not mean, "Check out God's credentials." Instead, it is a warm invitation: "Try this; I know you'll like it." When we take that first step of obedience in following God, we will discover that he is good and kind. When we begin the Christian life, our knowledge of God is partial and incomplete. As we trust him daily, we experience how good he is.

You say you belong to the Lord, but do you fear him? To fear the Lord means to show him deep respect, reverence, and honor. We demonstrate this attitude by humility and genuine worship. Abraham (Genesis 17:2-4), Moses (Exodus 3:5, 6), and the Israelites (Exodus 19:16-24) showed this kind of fear of the Lord.

The angels came to meet Jacob.

Genesis 32:1

Now as Jacob went on his way, the angels of God met him.

Why did angels of God meet Jacob? In Bible times, angels often intervened in human situations. Although angels usually would appear in human form, these angels must have looked different, for Jacob recognized them at once. The reason these angels met Jacob is unclear; but because of their visit, Jacob knew God was with him.

Life Application Study Bible.

A hedge of angels around Job.

Job 1:10

"Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.

Satan attacked Job's motives, saying that Job was blameless and had integrity only because he had no reason to turn against God. Ever since he had started following God, everything had gone well for Job. Satan wanted to prove that Job worshiped God, not out of love, but because God had given him so much.

Satan accurately analyzed why many people trust God. They are fair-weather believers, following God only when everything is going well or for what they can get. Adversity destroys this superficial faith. But adversity strengthens real faith by causing believers to dig their roots deeper into God in order to withstand the storms.

How deep does your faith go? Put the roots of your faith down deep into God so that you can withstand any storm you may face

This conversation between God and Satan teaches us an important fact about God—he is fully aware of every attempt by Satan to bring suffering and difficulty upon us. While God may allow us to suffer for a reason beyond our understanding, he is never caught by surprise by our troubles and is always compassionate

The angels will guard you in all ways.

Psalm 91:11

For He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways.

One of the functions of angels is to watch over believers (Hebrews 1:14). There are examples of guardian angels in Scripture (1 Kings 19:5; Daniel 6:22; Matthew 18:10; Luke 16:22; Acts 12:7), although there is no indication that one angel is assigned to each believer.

Angels can also be God's messengers (Matthew 2:13; Acts 27:23, 24).

Angels are not visible, except on special occasions (Numbers 22:31; Luke 2:9). Verses 11 and 12 were quoted by Satan when he tempted Jesus (Matthew 4:6; Luke 4:10, 11).

It is comforting to know that God watches over us even in times of great stress and fear.

David was enclosed by the angels.

Psalm 139:5

you have enclosed me behind and before, and laid your hand upon me.

Sometimes we don't let people get to know us completely because we are afraid they will discover something about us that they won't like. But God already knows everything about us, even to the number of hairs on our heads (Matthew 10:30), and still he accepts and loves us.

God is with us through every situation, in every trial—protecting, loving, guiding. He knows and loves us completely.

The angel delivered the Hebrew Children.

Daniel 3:28

Nebuchadnezzar responded and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, who has sent His angel and delivered His

servants who put their trust in Him, violating the king's command, and yielded up their bodies so as not to serve or worship any god except their own God.

God's deliverance of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego was a great victory of faith for the Jews in captivity. They were protected from harm, they were comforted in trial, God was glorified, and they were rewarded.

Let us determine to be true to God no matter how difficult the pressure or punishment. God's protection transcends anything we could imagine.

These young men had been completely untouched by the fire and heat. Only the rope that bound them had been burned. No human can bind us if God wants us to be free.

The power available to us is the same that delivered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and raised Christ from the dead (Ephesians 1:18-20). Trust God in every situation. There are eternal reasons for temporary trials, so be thankful that your destiny is in God's hands, not in human hand.

Nebuchadnezzar was not making a commitment here to serve the Hebrews' God alone. Instead, he was acknowledging that God is powerful, and he commanded his people not to speak against God. Nebuchadnezzar didn't tell the people to throw away all the other gods but to add this one to the list.

The angels shut the lion's mouths for Daniel.

Daniel 6:22

"My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths and they have not harmed me, inasmuch as I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime."

The person who trusts in God and obeys his will is untouchable until God takes him or her. To trust God is to have immeasurable peace. God, who

delivered Daniel, will deliver you. Do you trust him with your life?

The angel of the LORD encamps round about them that fear him, and delivers them.

0 **The Lord will give his angels charge over you.**

Zech. 9:8

And I will encamp about mine house because of the army, because of him that passeth by, and because of him that returneth: and no oppressor shall pass through them any more: for now have I seen with mine eyes.

Several centuries after Zechariah's day, Antiochus IV Epiphanes would invade Israel; and in A.D. 70, Titus, a Roman general, would completely destroy the Temple. This promise, therefore, may have been conditional upon the people's obedience. The day will come, however, when God's people will never again have to worry about invading enemies (Joel 3:17).

Illustration:

I read of a Norwegian missionary, Marie Monsen, who served in China in the 1950s. She testified to the intervention of angels when Christians were in great danger. They had taken refuge in the mission compound only to be surrounded by looting soldiers and they were astonished to find that they were left in peace. A few days later the hostile men explained that they were ready to break down the flimsy wall when they noticed tall soldiers with shining faces on a high roof in the compound. Marie Monsen wrote, "The heathen saw them, it was a testimony to them, but they were invisible to us.

The angels will reap the final harvest.

During the time of final harvest, the angels will actually do the reaping but that Christ is supervising the work. At the end of the parable of the wheat and the tares in Matthew 13, we are told: The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

Mat 24:31 and he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

Then an angel comes out of the temple and makes an announcement:

vs. 15 "Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe."

An angel tells Jesus that it is time to harvest. He has been given the message by God.

Jesus said in Mat 24:36 "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

We are told in vs. 16 that Christ swings his sickle over the earth and the earth is harvested. That makes it seem that the reaping is done in one quick act, but the details of the reaping will be given in chapters 19-20.

Another angel came out of heaven. He also had a sharp sickle. And still another angels calls out to this angel. This angel comes from the altar and is in charge of the fire. The cry for vindication had come from the saints who had been martyred who were under the altar. The fire showed their prayers had been lifted up to God. The announcement by this angel shows that now their prayers are being answered.

He tells the angel with the sickle to "Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because its grapes are ripe." And the angels carries out this command

The Angels harken unto the voice of God's word

Psalm 103:20

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

Psalm 103:21

Bless ye the Lord, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure

Rev. 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

To ask Jesus to come into your heart, please pray this Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

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Additional comments and charts are taken from: *Life Application Study Bible*. Illinois: Tyndale House 2007. Print