



# THE PROCLAIMER

ANGELS—Are they real or fiction? Everywhere we turn today we are seeing pictures, books and trinkets of angels. Even Hollywood movies and TV shows are about angels. On the national level, Time Magazine, Newsweek and USA today have devoted front-page cover stories to this current and rising interest. If you would ask most people today if angels really exist, they would give you an affirmative answer. Unfortunately, most Christians spend very little time thinking about angels. We may acknowledge their existence, but we are usually unaware of their power or their presence in our lives and why God has sent them here for us.

## Ministering Spirits

*Are they not all (angels) ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation? Heb.1:14*

*For He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. Ps. 91:11*

*They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. Ps. 91:12*

*Because he has set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: Ps. 91:14*

The word “angel appears more than 250 times in the Bible. Our English word comes from the New Testament Greek word “angelos”. The corresponding work in the Hebrew Old Testament is “mal’ak”. Both mean “Messenger”. Occasionally the words are used of a human messenger. (I Sam. 6:21, Luke 7:24,

James 2:25), but most often they refer to a heavenly being. Scripture uses several other terms as well each highlighting an aspect of the nature or work of angels. God’s angels are called His “army” or “host” (I Sam. 17:45). They are also called “the chariots of God” because of their swift power and disciplined organization.

## God’s Agents

Daniel describes angels as “watchers” who act as God’s agents in the affairs of human government (Daniel 4:13, 17, 23).

Final confirmation of the angels existence comes from the Lord Jesus. During His earthly life, angels ministered to Him in many ways and on several occasions. He repeatedly taught that they would be involved in the climax of human history. When

Jesus spoke of the events of the “end of the age”, He even claimed personal authority over a group of angels: “The son of Man will send out His angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. (Matt. 13:36-41) The witness of the Bible is that angels really do exist. Angels are not these little cherubs you see on valentine cards either. Sometimes they move in our behalf as unseen beings on assignment by the Lord God. In Hebrews 1:14, angels are all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation. The Greek word translated SALVATION in that scripture does not refer simply to the eternal, go to heaven when you die, new-birth kind of salvation.

The Greek word translated there is *soteria*. If you look it up, you'll find it denotes deliverance, preservation of material, and temporal deliverance. Real biblical salvation not only includes eternal protection, but also it includes protection from all the material dangers of life right here on this earth.

Just think about that. God has created vast numbers of gloriously powerful, spiritual beings for the express purpose of protecting us and delivering us from the evils of this world; hurricanes, plane crashes, gang violence to disease.

Angels haven't retired. They are involved in the lives of God's people today. And, if you're a child of God; if you're an heir of salvation, then you have a right to expect those angels to minister such deliverance.

If you want to make sure you'll receive their ministry when you need it, you'd better start exercising your faith and getting your words and your actions in line with God's Word. Why? Because, according to Psalm 103:20, His Word is what sets the angels in motion: "Bless the Lord, ye His angels, that excel in strength, that do His commandments, hearkening unto the voice of His word". Speak the Word over your problem not your circumstances. Give your angel something to respond to. Then after you've spoken the Word, stand fast and expect the angels to work in your behalf.

Angels are listening to your words, so the words you speak should be your will. You were designed in the likeness of God, in His image. The way you get angels involved in the affairs of your life is by keeping your words in line with God's Word. The ministering spirits of God are here to work for you.



### *God's Messengers Proclaim the Savior's Arrival*

That first Christmas the angels came to proclaim the arrival of the Savior of the world to the shepherds in the fields. God himself had come in the flesh as Jesus Christ to bring salvation to the world. The angels played an important part in that first coming and I believe that they are being seen and many are witnessing angels in their presence because the second coming of Jesus is very near and angels will have a major part in that.

Every time you see an angel from now on, whether it be a picture or a little figurine, just let it be a reminder that the second appearing or our Savior is very near!!

### **ANGEL ENCOUNTERS OF THE GOD KIND**

Many people have at one time or another had an experience with an angel or at least know someone who has. I want to share some instances that have been shared with me and my own. I do this because I hope it will increase your faith level and make you aware just how real angels are and how much God loves us to send His messengers in our behalf.

I don't know of a better time to share this, than at this beautiful, blessed season we celebrate our Lord's birth. Each story is written as it was shared with me. I have only included first names. I hope these will bless you.

# ***ANGELIC ENCOUNTERS OF THE GOD KIND***



One night Sarah was walking to her car in a shopping mall parking lot. As she approached her car, she saw four men watching her. Her first thought was to turn and run back to the store, but she didn't want to panic if they meant no harm.

As she neared the car, she saw them move toward her. In an instant she said aloud, "Oh, God, help me"! Just then, she heard one of the men yell out, "Man, look at the size of those dudes. Let's get out of here". Sarah looked all around as the men ran away. She saw no one else in any direction, but apparently those men had seen someone they didn't want to tangle with.

Were those "big dudes" angels that came to Sarah's rescue? She certainly believes God sent them to protect her that night!

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It was raining very hard and as Tracy tried to stop her car at the stop sign, it hydroplaned across the road and into a telephone pole. Her face hit the steering wheel and blood poured from her mouth and nose. She was terrified and her head pounded with pain.

Just then, the drivers door opened and a man handed her a blue bandana and said, "Tracy, don't worry, you'll be fine, help is on the way". He told her to hold the bandana to her nose.

A store was directly across the street from where the accident took place. Two men witnessed the mishap and one went inside to call 911 and the other one came across the street to the car. As he came up to her door, Tracy asked him where the other man was. He didn't seem to know what she was talking about, because he had seen no one else.

When the rescue unit arrived, she asked the attendants about the man and they had seen no one liked she was describing with a pony tail and flannel shirt and jeans. This was what the man looked like that called her by name and no one else had seen.

After leaving the hospital that evening with only a broken nose, she insisted on going to the wrecked car to find her bandana. Everyone thought she was mistaken and had dreamed this man up. Upon arriving at the smashed car, Tracy looked in the front and then, in the back floor and there was a blue, blood stained bandana. Did she have a visitation? She believes she did. An angel bringing a word of assurance and leaving a token behind so others would believe too that she had encountered an angel!!

God had instructed me to have a tent meeting in August of 1994. All had went very well with the plans and the first days were perfect weather wise. On Friday of that week I awoke to a pouring rain. I was very anxious to say the least, because we were in a open field of grass and lots of red dirt. I went out to the sight that morning to let down the sides in hopes to , at least keep the insides dry.

I was very concerned because the field was already muddy and just walking to the tent from a McDonald's parking lot, my shoes had collected about an inch of mud. I was on a chair in bare feet, pulling the ropes to let the sides of the tent down when I saw a man crossing the field. He was dressed much like my husband dressed for work. He was wearing jeans, a colored tee shirt and black western boots. I wasn't alarmed, but felt a peace when he cam inside.

The first thing he said to me was that he knew this was my first tent meeting and the Father wanted me to know He was very pleased. He told me not to rebuke the rain because it was the Father's will and those who were to come to the meeting that night would not be hindered. He also said not to worry about the budget for the meetings for it would be met that night. I asked who he was and what kind of work he did and what kind of work he did and he simply said he went about doing the Father's business. He gave me some unlikely name and when I insisted to know where he was from he said a name of a place I've yet to hear of.

He then stretched out his hand and just spoke the Word of God over me and the meetings. He turned to go and stopped to remind me again how pleased the Father was with my obedience. He reached his hand out to mine and placed something in my hand and said the Father had requested he give that to me. He then turned and walked back across the field toward the parking lot. I looked intently, wanting to see what kind of vehicle he would get in, however, as he got to the edge of the field, he just simply vanished! I was awe struck. I then realized, in spite of the pouring rain, he was not wet when he came into the tent, nor was there a bit of mud on those black boots.

I looked in my hand and there was a tiny rolled twenty dollar bill. I sowed it that night in the offering and told this story. Our budget was met just like he said. In spite of the mud and rain, we had the biggest crowd of all the meetings. I will never be convinced that I did not have a visitation from an angel that day. I believe he was a messenger sent by God to bring encouragement and blessing.

The next encounter is submitted by a minister and builder by trade. He writes this in the first person and I will print it that way. I can tell you that he and his family's lives have changed dramatically since this.

### THE STRANGER

It was a Tuesday night in the month of October, when several of my workers and I were at a local church doing a remodeling job. We had sensed a very heavy anointing there since beginning the job, and.....**then he came!**

While working, I heard some voices from outside and immediately one of the workers came to tell me that I should come outside because there was someone I needed to see. I assumed one of the guys wanted to ask a question about the work. As I came outside, I realized I was face to face with a man I did not know. This man stood about six feet tall. His brown hair hung almost to his shoulders and appeared to be wet. His beard was a bit untidy and his clothes seemed quite worn. I sensed something very different about this man. Across his shoulder and arm was draped a green blanket type garment that reminded me of how a shepherd would dress. As I looked into his eyes, they seemed very wise and very deep.

He told me his name was Brother Thomas and he was a weary traveler looking for a place to rest. As he extended his hand toward me, I couldn't help but notice on both of his hands there appeared to be some type of crimson colored stains. I invited him to come inside the church and told him he could rest in the back room we were not working in. As we walked inside the church I could tell by the look on the workers faces that they were uneasy about the stranger's presence, however, no one said a word. We all went back to work but I couldn't shake the feeling that I was suppose to help this stranger find a place for the night.

The stranger slept for about an hour and as we finished our work for the evening I told him I would like to find him a place to stay for the night. He said that he didn't want to trouble me because his needs were small, however, I insisted. I helped him into the car and we drove to at least five motels in the area and "there was no room in the inns". I couldn't believe that on a Tuesday night, with no special events in the area, there were no rooms! As we rode along he made a statement I can't ever forget. He said that every day should be like Christmas with Christ in it. Then he commented that maybe his work here was done and he was not to spend the night.

I told him the Lord had placed it on my heart to bless him and I would try one more place before giving up. The next motel had a room and the stranger agreed to stay the night. As he was about to leave the car, he told me that my family and the church we were working on would be tremendously blessed and then he left.

I cannot explain the feeling the stranger left me with. When I returned home, I told my wife the story, just as it happened. She looked at me with awe in her eyes and said, "That was Joseph, the stranger was Joseph". I had read a book about the same kind of man that came into a town and appeared to be a wanderer. Every town where he went was never the same. Every person he met on his journey and touched was completely changed. Joseph in the story represented Jesus, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords! (*Matt.24:44-45*) "*Then they also will answer Him saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you? Then he will answer them saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.*

After that visit with the stranger, my family has been blessed with abundance, full and overflowing. The church has been under the anointing of the Holy Spirit and the fire of God is falling. I know that I know, that I know, Jesus is real and I'll always believe that YES—we can entertain angels unaware!!!!

## OH, CHRISTMAS TREE!

One year while decorating the tree in my house, I began to wonder why I was doing this pagan thing. I knew it was what I had always done and if I didn't my children would certainly be disappointed. So I began to say, "Lord, what about this? Can there be anything in this that I can see you in?" Then like a TV screen, I began to see a picture before me and this is what I heard.

Trees that are used for Christmas are evergreens. This is symbolic that in Jesus we have everlasting life. The lights signify that He is the light of the world and as we plug our life into His, we are all branches of that light creating many lights. The decorations, varied and many represent the talents that He has put in each of us varied and many, yet all are beautiful in His sight and add great beauty to His Kingdom. The top of the tree represents that He is the Glory and the light of our life. He is the head and we are the body and altogether we are engrafted into Him, with our lights and talents from Him make a beautiful symbol for all to see.

I know the world doesn't see the Christmas tree that way, but every time I see a tree with its lights and decorations, that is what I think of. It's not wrong to celebrate Christmas if we celebrate it for the right reasons. I pray you keep Christ Jesus at the forefront of everything you do this year.

***From my heart to yours:*** In our day and time the emphasis on the real meaning of Christmas has diminished and the world celebrates it as a time to give presents and feast and look good to others. Every year people try to outdo the year before and many get themselves in a real bind when it comes to shopping and charging items they can't afford, but they buy anyway. They think it's expected by those they are trying to please. If we would all try as hard to please Jesus as we try to please the world, we would be much better and so would our world.

The real meaning behind our celebrating the Christmas season should be looking at others through the eyes of Jesus. How would He see others and what would He have us to do for them. People hurt all the time, but at Christmas, it seems to be many times worse. The expectations of men upon us seems so great and we dare not disappoint anyone. The thing is, so many people have no means to buy gifts and keep up with the worldly expectations. Many are alone and have little family or friends to care if their basic needs are met.

Any problem we have seems to be greater during this season. We all would like every situation in our lives and the lives of our families to be perfect with the blink of an eye, or to wake up on Christmas morning with every problem solved and the world a better place. Life just doesn't go that way. In spite of the holidays or anything else, life goes on, however, it's how we celebrate and where we place our focus that determines our attitude and how we handle situations. When we take our eyes off self and put them on others, we soon see that our problems aren't as terrible as we thought. There is always someone else that has a greater one than we do and it's then we see how thankful we should be.

The spirit of giving always seems to be greater during the Christmas season, but that should be just an example of how we should live the other eleven months of the year. There are people hungry and needy every day of the year. People just like to feel good at Christmas time so they open their hearts to others and do a good deed. We must remember that we are the hands and feet of Jesus to others. We must be willing to be used by the Lord to meet the needs of those who need help.

No matter what you are going through now, be thankful this Christmas season that you have been given the gift of salvation for the taking. If you don't know Jesus as your Savior, accept Him today. All of your problems will become less significant when you have Him to talk to.....Merry Christmas

## What Will You Give Jesus for Christmas?

There is no gift a store holds that your money can buy. No matter how big your bank account and no matter where you shop you can't solve the situation that easy.

Most of us are always looking for the easy way out or certainly the quickest solution in order to get on with the next item on our "to do" list. Anything that takes time and prayer must be put on the end of the list so we can finish the other things first.

Could you possibly give Him some time for prayer? Could you find the time to let Him speak to you about His plans for your life? Would you have time to help a needy family meet their needs and find an everlasting friend in Jesus/ If possible, would you visit a nursing home and just shed a little love to those who never have visitors, and just maybe you would like it so well you would go back next month and the month thereafter?

The best present we could ever give Jesus is the gift of ourselves. Our gift should include total surrender of our lives and our talents to Him and making Him first on our "to do" list every day. Spending time with Him should be before any job agenda of the day or certainly before any decision to be made.

Jesus doesn't demand anything of us. He never overrides our will or forces Himself upon us. He lovingly waits upon us to come willingly to Him and then He will give us the desires of our heart when we totally surrender our all. Jesus is the reason for this season. We must never forget that.

I pray each of you will have a very blessed holiday season and remember the greatest gift we can give is love and the author of love is Jesus Christ. God Bless each of you and your families.

# ***Go Light Your World***

*(This is a song by Chris Rice and I think it has a message for each of us this season and throughout the coming year.)*

**There is a candle in every soul  
Some brightly burning, some dark and cold.  
There is a Spirit who brings fire, ignites a candle]  
And makes his home**

**Carry your candle, run to the darkness  
Seek out the hopeless, confused and torn  
Hold out your candle for all to see it  
Take your candle and go light the world**

**Frustrated brother, see how he's tried to  
Light his own candle some other way  
See now your sister, she's been robbed and lied to  
Still holds a candle without a flame**

**Cause we are a family whose hearts are blazing  
So let's raise our candles and light up the sky  
Praying to our Father, in the name of Jesus  
Make us a beacon in darkest times**

**So carry your candle, run to the darkness  
Seek out the hopeless, confused and torn  
Hold out your candle for all to see it  
Take your candle and go light your world**