

Protected by Angels

Carl H. Stevens Jr. is pastor of Greater Grace World Outreach located in Baltimore, Maryland. Pastor Stevens is also chancellor of Maryland Bible College & Seminary and host of the international Christian radio program "The Grace Hour." This booklet was created from a message preached by Pastor Stevens.

Pastor Stevens can be seen weekly on cable television stations throughout the United States. Call us for information regarding programming in your area.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

“And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do?”

“And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.

“And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha” (2 Kings 6:15-17).

This passage shows just what lengths God will go to in protecting His people. Elisha’s servant was fearful, but only because his eyes of faith were closed to what the Lord was doing.

Once God breathes life into us and our human spirit comes alive, He enters into a covenant with us. His promise is that He will

never leave us nor forsake us. He can never disown us. He protects us as His peculiar people, His personal and specific possessions.

This booklet will show how the Lord uses the angelic host by assigning them to specific duties, to serve Him in relationship to people. Because we dwell in the midst of a great invisible conflict, ministering angels are sent to keep and to guard us—even in those times when we are not obedient to His call and His Word.

Chapter One

GOD BREATHES LIFE INTO US

A.B. Simpson was a great minister for God. He founded the Christian Missionary Alliance. Every Wednesday night, A.B. Simpson prayed for the sick and people would come from miles around. Thousands were healed over the years. Then, Mr. Simpson suffered a heart attack and the effects left him in bed for four years. Many people, great prayer warriors, would come to A.B. Simpson's home and prayed for him, almost every day. Yet, he was not healed. The experience prompted him to write this poem:

*Once it was the blessing,
Now it is the Lord.
Once it was a feeling,
Now it is His Word.
Once the gift I wanted,
Now the Giver own.*

*Once I sought for healing,
Now for Him alone.
All in all forever
Of Jesus I will sing.
Everything is Jesus,
And Jesus everything.*

Do you what happened next? A.B. Simpson was healed. Four years he had spent in bed at home, a time that allowed him to be taken beyond his own concepts regarding Christian living to a place where he could love the Word first and lift up Jesus Christ above all else.

God was breathing upon A.B. Simpson's life, and He positioned His angels to keep him through the days of his illness. And though sickness was allowed to enter his life, God's purpose and plan was being served.

It is so crucial that we understand that God breathes on us. In Genesis 2:7, the Lord breathed into man the breath of life—the human spirit—and by that breath, man became a living soul. Then Adam sinned and the human spirit stopped functioning; thus he became a soulish person. As a result of the Fall, we all inherited that soulish sin nature.

Today God Almighty inspires every born-

again believer with His breath, and that gives us understanding (Job 32:8) and life (Job 33:4). The human spirit is God's candle, searching out the inward parts for us so we can live with God-consciousness instead of self-consciousness.

Dry Bones Come to Life

"Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:

"And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

"So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone.

"And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them.

"Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.

"So I prophesied as he commanded me, and

the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army" (Ezekiel 37:5-10).

The difference we see in preaching, in music, in planning, in living, and in marriage comes from receiving the breath of God. God breathed and the dry bones came together, and they became alive.

Psalm 150:6 says, "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." This speaks of everyone who has received doctrine and life in the human spirit.

Every moment we are either inhaling or exhaling. If we were to stop, we would drop dead. Spiritually, we should inhale and exhale the breath of God every moment. In failure, we must repent, rebound, and keep going—inhaling and exhaling. The reason God enables men of God to preach as they do is not because of some magical gift. Trust me, it is just that they simply inhale and exhale the breath of God.

Gifts of Laughter and Joy

Sure, there are times when we grow weary and tired. We are human. At these moments, God is very faithful to bring in joy and laughter. I am speaking of godly laughter—not the fool-

ishness that is being promoted in some circles today. I am speaking of laughter and joy that comes directly from living in God's breath and in His presence.

God knows when a person needs to laugh. Joy is expressed many times in the Bible as a synonym for laughter. See Proverbs 15:13, Proverbs 17:22, and Nehemiah 8:10. God loves to have His people relax, even though we are in the midst of this world's system.

God's provision of laughter is better than medicine. For some people, laughter has taken away arthritis pain. People get healed because of what the breath of God is doing within them.

"And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy [Spirit], and they spake the word of God with boldness.

"And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.

"And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all" (Acts 4:31-33).

But with all the provisions that God has

made available to His people to get us through hard times—the breath of life, wisdom, healing, and joyful godly laughter—we still have a need. There are battles being waged all around us, battles that we cannot see, and an enemy who wants to destroy us. So God in His perfect wisdom has set up armies of angels to do His bidding in our lives and to minister His life to us. Indeed, on many levels that only eternity will reveal, we are being protected by angels.

Chapter Two

ANGELS KEEPING CHARGE

“For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways” (Psalm 91:11).

There exists an entire organization of demons that would love to provide material success to certain individuals. Satan knows that for some, it would become a distraction to prayer, to soul winning, and to Bible study. Those demons are trying to bring into unsuspecting lives success from Satan’s kingdom. They would like couples to get divorced and seek out other marriages that carry the promise of being better. By allowing material success to come in to some believer’s lives, the ultimate design of the enemy’s attack is to curse our Christianity.

In response to these strategies of Satan, God sends ministering spirits—angels—to each of us (Hebrews 1:4). Since the work of Christ is finished, and because we are seated in heavenly

places in the dispensation of grace, seated far above principalities and powers, God has sent an angel to each of us. Our angels are under us, in terms of our heavenly position, and their whole purpose is to minister to us in the plan of God.

There is also a group of angels that minister during our times of backsliding. When we are not walking in the Holy Spirit and not obeying the Word of God within, God sends angels that minister from without. He does this very strategically with a purpose.

In His marvelous grace and mercy, God sends angels to us when we are not living right. They minister grace even while we are grieving the Holy Spirit by not following God.

Angels in Action

“And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.

“And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city.

“And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed” (Genesis 19:15-17).

Who rescued Lot from Sodom? Angels. Was Lot living right? No. At first he hesitated when given the chance to escape, and the angels physically grabbed him and his family and got them out of the way of destruction.

Angels ministered to Elijah when he became depressed and wanted to die (1 Kings 19:4-7). An angel woke him up and cooked him a cake—angel food cake!

These angels excel in strength. They are so important because they are stronger than the demons that are after you.

In Daniel 10, one messenger angel serving Daniel was weaker than the demonic angels sent to attack him. As a result of the strategic warfare, Daniel’s prayers were held up for three weeks. So, Michael, “a chief prince,” among God’s angels, was sent in to overcome Satan’s forces.

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

“Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye minis-

ters of his, that do his pleasure" (Psalm 103:20-21).

Picture this: A man and a woman try to go out on the town for a season of sin. But God's hand is on them, and He sends in precise angels, specially selected for the task, in keeping with His commandments. Think of a teenager you know who is going through a time of loneliness, rejection, or rebellion. God's hand is on the teenager whose family is praying up a storm. It may look as though he is far from the shore and ready to drown, but God made a promise and He has a plan. Philippians 1:6 says that He who began a good work in you will also perform it.

Perhaps you are thinking, "How can angels help someone who is using his volition to sin?" The angels destroy the darkness of night that surrounds a person, spiritually speaking. God sends His angels to keep charge over us. They go with us along our ways, and they will lead us into a prepared place.

Moses went into Midian where a priest and a family were waiting for him there. Moses was backsliding, but God prepared a place for him so that he would not get into serious trouble. That is the wonderful reality. God is so faithful to provide protection for us.

Chapter Three

THE GUARDIANS OF GOD'S MERCY

“Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word” (Psalm 103:20).

Another group of angels hearken unto God's Word. This is an interesting phenomenon that is clear from the correlation, revelation, and explanation of Psalm 103:20. These angels do anything they can to get a Christian to focus on the Word of God. Since they are subject to the will of God, they may allow sickness to come in, or a fever that puts a person in bed. These angels help backslidden Christians to recognize their condition. In the case of A.B. Simpson, it was not overt sin but a form of legalism that was binding him. So these specific angels probably helped to get him in a place where Jesus and His Word truly became his all in all.

These angels have one job, and that is to de-

feat the demons that are distracting a Christian and to get him to hearken to the Word of God. When they get their job done, the Christian will be heard to say, "I went away from God, but now I am hungry to hear His Word." The angels did that. These people were going away from the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, but the angels ministered from the outside and got their attention back on the Word.

There are also angels whose specific job is to keep us from supernatural infections. If I go through a trial, God sends His angels. So even when I am weary, tired, and hurting, those angels protect me and keep me from developing satanic infections, such as wounded emotions. Angels cause me to focus, though I am weary, in those times when I have unintentionally grieved the Spirit.

"In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old" (Isaiah 63:9).

The angel of God's presence is a very important part of our lives. This refers to our personal angel. Whatever angels are needed to help with my situation, my angel calls upon the provision

of God for my particular situation.

Safe in the Midst of the Conflict

“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 3:24).

“And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel” (Exodus 25:22).

Adam and Eve sinned when they partook of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, against the clear commandment of God (Genesis 2:16-17). If they had eaten of the tree of life, they would have to spend eternity in a godless, sinful condition, with no possibility for redemption. So because of the holiness, justice, righteousness, and integrity of God, the cherubim and a flaming sword were specifically placed to keep Adam and Eve from the tree of life.

In Exodus, however, as the plan of God was unfolding, the cherubim were made of gold, attached to the Mercy Seat, and placed on top of the Ark of the covenant. Inside the ark was a

scroll containing the law of Moses, but the lid of the mercy seat could not be removed. Those angels now protected the availability of God's mercy. Before, they were keeping people out; now, they were keeping people in. This was now the role of God's angelic host.

The invisible host of angels and demons are at war. And when we are not paying attention to God's plan for our lives, He sends angels to keep us safe.

God will continue to try to guide the backslidden or wandering mind with His Word, yet so often we will not listen. He will always try to lead us by His Holy Spirit, yet many times we continue to grieve Him. So, because He said He will never leave us nor forsake us, He makes sure that the angels have charge over us.

Who Can Stand against Us?

“What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? “He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

“Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

“Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ

that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us" (Romans 8:31-34).

The "whos" in these verses are speaking of Satan and his demons. Satan cannot condemn us. Christ died and was resurrected in victory. Once we have been born again, washed in the Blood of Christ, *nothing* can separate you and I from the love of God. Not even our own thoughts of condemnation can defeat us. Circumstances arranged by demons cannot separate us from God. People cannot separate us from Him.

We belong to God, and we are His forever. He sends His angels to protect us and to make sure it stays that way.

CONCLUSION

Oh, how powerful are God's angels! The angelic contest is real, and God wants us to understand and be aware of the warfare, though we are not to be occupied with it. Still the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit want us to know all that we have going for us.

Think about this: One angel of God killed 186,000 Assyrians in one night. Satan sends his angelic beings to confuse and kill and destroy, but God sends specific angels that excel in strength, and they protect and keep us in the midst of the battle.

In Exodus 14:14, God declared that He would fight for us. He knows that our greatest challenges come in the conflicts that we cannot see. David slung one stone in the name of the Lord. Who do you think made sure it smacked Goliath right in the forehead?

Even Jesus, after being viciously attacked in the desert by Satan's wisest demons, was minis-

tered to by the angels when it was all over (Matthew 4:11).

I believe that in eternity, God will reveal just how many times His angels have protected and kept us and our children when we were going through something difficult—as well as the many times we were not even aware of the battle. The Lord does it all, because He must remain faithful to His promise to never, never, *never* leave or forsake us.