

# **Angels**

**Entertaining Angels** by Henry Morris, Ph.D.

*"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares" (Hebrews 13:2).*

Angels are not human men or women; they are spirits-in fact, "Ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation" (Hebrews 1:14). Nevertheless, God has given them the remarkable ability to take on the actual appearance of men when the need arises.

The allusion in our text to some who have unwittingly played host to angelic visitors probably refers to Abraham, who entertained God and two angels, appearing as men, one hot day long ago, in "the plains of Mamre," and then to his nephew Lot, down in Sodom, who offered the hospitality of his home to the two angels that evening (Genesis 18:2; 19:1). Because of the wicked reputation of the Sodomites, and then their rapacious desire to abuse Lot's two guests, these angels the next day enabled Lot and his daughters to escape, when there came down "fire from the Lord out of heaven" (Genesis 19:24) to destroy that city.

Most of us have never seen an angel-that is, unless we, like Abraham and Lot, have unwittingly encountered them. But the fact is that they are there when needed! "The angel of the Lord encamped around them that fear Him, and delivered them" (Psalm 34:7).

In fact, the Bible records a number of miraculous occurrences, which actually involved the agency of one or more angels to bring them about. For example, the prophet Daniel passed an entire night in a den of hungry lions because, as Daniel reported the next morning: "My God hath sent His angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me" (Daniel 6:22).

God indeed is able to deliver us when we have a special need and when we call on Him in faith. HMM

**The Unseen Angels** by Henry Morris, Ph.D.

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

God has created "an innumerable company of angels" (Hebrews 12:22), and there are many references to them in both Old and New Testaments, but few living men or women have ever actually seen real heavenly angels-or, at least, recognized them as such. We may "have entertained angels unawares" (Hebrews 13:2), for they can assume the appearance of men on occasion, but normally they are invisible to human eyes.

Nevertheless, they are *there!* Furthermore, they are "all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation" (Hebrews 1:14). God has given them charge over us-that is, over each believer "that dwelled in the secret place of the most

High" (Psalm 91:1). They "excel in strength, that do His commandments, hearkening unto the voice of His word" (Psalm 103:20).

Wide is the variety of His commandments with respect to angelic ministry to believers. "The angel of the LORD camped around them that fear Him, and delivered them. . . . They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone" (Psalms 34:7; 91:12).

Not only physical protection but also guidance and encouragement are angelic ministries. When a believer dies, angels translate his spirit to the Lord's presence (Luke 16:22; II Corinthians 5:8), and we can look forward then to meeting and thanking them personally as we come to understand better all their ministries on our behalf during our lifetimes. They are keenly concerned with our salvation and spiritual progress, "which things the angels desire to look into" (I Peter 1:12). Finally, "when the Son of man shall come in His glory," He will bring "all the holy angels with Him" (Matthew 25:31) as He judges the world. HMM

#### **Angels Round About Ps. 34:7** by Henry Morris, Ph.D.

Since God's angels are normally unseen, we have little appreciation of how intimately they are involved in our lives. "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" (Hebrews 1:14). As in our text, there may well be a protecting angel embracing and delivering us in times of danger. "For He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone" (Psalm 91:11,12).

Angels are sometimes called on to rout the enemies of God and His people. "Let them be confounded and put to shame that seek after my soul . . . and let the angel of the LORD chase them. Let their way be dark and slippery; and let the angel of the LORD persecute them" (Psalm 35:4-6).

Angels are intensely interested in the salvation and spiritual growth of believers, "which things the angels desire to look into" (I Peter 1:12). "For we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men" (I Corinthians 4:9). There are even occasions when "some have entertained angels unawares" (Hebrews 13:2).

There is "an innumerable company of angels" (Hebrews 12:22); beings of great power and wisdom (II Kings 19:35; II Samuel 14:20). They are not omnipotent, omnipresent, or omniscient, of course, since they—like us—were created by God, simply to obey God. "Bless the LORD, ye His angels, that excel in strength, that do His commandments, hearkening unto the voice of His word" (Psalm 103:20).

Finally, we shall be "carried by the angels" (Luke 16:22) into God's presence. Then we can better understand and thank them for all the many services rendered to us here on Earth. HMM