

ANGELS

Dr. Brian J. Bailey



ZION CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS

“Angels”

©Brian J. Bailey April 2002

All Rights Reserved

ISBN 1-890381-90-X

All Scripture quotations in this book are taken from the
King James Version Bible unless otherwise stated.

Produced and Distributed by:

Zion Christian Publishers

Waverly, New York

Visit our List of Publications at:

www.zionfellowship.org/zcpublishers

This book is intended for personal use only. It shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, resold, hired out, or otherwise distributed for any purpose, in any format, without the publisher's prior written consent.

For further information please contact:



ZION CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS

P.O. Box 70 / Waverly, New York 14892

Phone (607) 565-2801 Fax (607) 565-3329

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

General Editor	Dr. Paul Caram
Editor	Joyce Aw
Assistant Editor	Caroline Tham
Front Cover Design	Peter Noah Sam

Table of Contents

Preface

Introduction i

Chapter One Angels—Their Ranks and Ministries 1

Chapter Two O. T. References to Angelic
Guidance and Protection 10

Chapter Three N. T. References to Angelic
Guidance and Protection 19

Chapter Four The Enemy—Fallen Angels 44

Chapter Five The Enemy—Demons 75

Chapter Six Closing the Door to Satan 96

Chapter Seven Conclusion 124

Preface

Good Angels

We are told by the Apostle Paul that angels are “*ministering spirits sent forth to minister for them who shall be the heirs of salvation*” (Heb. 1:14). Therefore, angels constantly surround and watch over us. Even in our unregenerate state these heavenly messengers protected us and sought to guide and move us into the ways of righteousness and salvation.

I well remember at the tender age of nine while playing in my father’s garden, a child’s angel appeared unto me. He held a trumpet in his hand. Not speaking a word, he made me to understand (by the sounds of the trumpet . . . cf Rev. 4:1) that God had a purpose for my life which would not be fully realized until my old age.

Evil Angels

Regretfully there are other angels who are not holy whom we refer to as “fallen” angels. These are the fallen inhabitants of heaven who followed Lucifer in the rebellion before time began. Fallen angels, along with a host of demons who were the former creatures of earth, seek to influence the sons of men into a life of sin and degradation.

The demons and fallen angels, already doomed to eternal judgment, wish to drag as many others with them as they can into eternal perdition. Having lost the blessings of eternal life, their objective is to keep all others from obtaining eternal life as well. Towards this end, they employ every means available to cause men to reject God and

the great salvation He provided through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, upon the cross of Calvary.

The Apostle John warns us in 1 John 4:1-3, *“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.”*

Introduction

Our prayer is that you, dear reader, will come to a deeper knowledge and appreciation for all the unseen hosts of holy angels that seek to help us through our life's journey from earth to heaven. One point we would stress is this: We are so precious in the sight of our beloved Heavenly Father that He has ordained for each of us, His children, our own angel who cares for and watches over us. Thus, as the Lord Jesus Christ Himself said, we are never alone (cf. Mt. 28:20b, Heb.13:5).

A personal experience may be helpful to illustrate this. Many years ago, when I was a student at one of the several Bible Schools that I attended, I was invited to be on the staff of a Christian camp during the summer months. One of my duties comprised taking the saints each week by coach to a cave in the mountains of Derbyshire. After the coaches had parked at the foot of the mountains, it was my responsibility to lead some sixty or more men, women, and children up a winding path to the mouth of the cave, about half way up the mountain.

On one occasion, as I was nearing the top (and being young in those days) I left the path and ran up the slippery grass to the entrance of the cave. Unfortunately, a lady in her seventies, who was considerably less agile, decided to follow my shortcut. As she came almost to the top where I was waiting, she lost her footing and started to slide down.

Quickly I stretched out my hand to grasp her but in so doing my foot dislodged a mound of rocks. These rocks started to roll down the mountain-side and cascaded toward the saints below. My spirit cried out, "Lord, You have sent me to save, not to kill." Immediately my

spiritual eyes were opened and I saw an angel behind every believer. These angels were of different sizes, with their size apparently dependent upon the spiritual development or maturity of the Christian.

The angels were so gentle and gracious as they cared for their charges. They waited with great patience and tenderness for the elderly to negotiate the turns in the path and seemed to be encouraging them as they made their way up what, in effect, were quite steep inclines. It was a beautiful scene. Incidentally, not one of those boulders hit the saints, nor for that matter, the coaches. To me, this was nothing short of a miracle of God's grace.

Before the Creation of Earth

In those days when time was yet to be, God the Father in His infinite wisdom created myriads of angels. They were not created equal for each one was made to perform specific duties in order that heaven might be inhabited and its various tasks and needs attended to by this host of beautiful beings. Clothed in garments of radiant purity, they filled heaven with the music of their praises to the Triune God.

Lucifer—the Chief Leader of the Angels

Their leader was Lucifer, whose name means “day star” or “son of the morning.” Being the highest of God's creatures, Lucifer's beauty was stunning, and his light dazzling. The Scriptures say some very extraordinary things about him. Ezekiel 28:12 states that he “*sealed up the sum, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.*” Every precious stone was his covering (Ezek. 28:13), “*the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of his*

tabrets and of his pipes was prepared in him in the day that he was created.” In addition to his extraordinary beauty, Lucifer was an excellent musician.

Ezekiel 28:14 tells us he was “*the anointed cherub that covered; and I [God] had set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.*” Lucifer was “anointed.” His anointing was a covering, with his influence and charisma extended throughout heaven. He sat upon the holy mountain of God on the sides of the north, the Mount Zion of Revelation 14. This is the place of God’s throne. Lucifer stood directly under the Deity upon the holy mountain and was responsible for the administration of all heaven, under God.

Ezekiel 28:3 states that he was “*wiser than Daniel.*” Lucifer was the very embodiment of wisdom. No secret of man or secret known to man can be hidden from him. However, this knowledge is limited as he knows only what God allows him to know. He is not deity and he is not omniscient. Since his fall, his wisdom has become perverted and cunning.

The Fall of Lucifer

In Ezekiel 28:15, we find he was “*perfect in thy ways from the day that thou was created, till iniquity was found in thee.*” Lucifer was created perfect but he fell grievously. What was that iniquity into which he fell? We are told in verse 17, “*Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness...*”

He admired himself (cf. 2 Tim.3:2,3:4) instead of admiring the One who created him and lavished him with every blessing imaginable.

Except for God Himself, there was no one greater than Lucifer. Yet for all that God had given him, these were not enough. He only wanted more, and he wanted to be God himself. He believed he could run the universe better than the One who made him.

Pride brings a terrible deception and darkness into the soul (cf. Rom. 1:21). Obadiah 1:3 states, *“The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee.”* Deception thrives in a proud heart. In the same way, all false religions were birthed out of pride. Each founder thought he had a better idea than anyone else or that he was a “special” messenger from God.

Lucifer then “set his heart as the heart of God” saying:

- I will ascend into heaven
- I will exalt my throne above the stars of God
- I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north
- I will ascend above the heights of the clouds
- I will be like the most High (Isa. 14: 13-14).

These are called “The Five I Will’s” of Satan. Lucifer wanted the position that was reserved for Christ alone from the beginning of time. It was the pre-eminent position in heaven reserved for the Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God and not for a created angel.

We read in Hebrews 1:13, *“But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?”* and in Hebrews 1:14, *“Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?”*

Jude 1: 6 tells us the eternal punishment these fallen angels received because of what they did, *“And the angels which kept not their*

first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.” It is a lesson to us all to be content with whatever place God has ordained for us.

We must be careful in the area of our wills not to exalt our own desires as Satan did. Self-will is a terrible thing. Many could be going on in God but because of their will they turn aside and miss the High calling of God in Christ Jesus for their lives.

The Lord once told my wife there was something greater than doing the will of God. She said in amazement, “But what could that be?” The Lord graciously replied in the words of King David, “*I delight to do Thy Will, O My God*” (Psa. 40:8).

If we will abide in the calling and vocation that God has chosen for us, we will have great joy and blessing. However, anyone who goes beyond that calling will go off into error. Peter tells us to be “clothed with humility.”

Humility is an actual garment. This means consciously putting on humility in all aspects of our behavior and demeanor like we would put on an actual garment. God gives grace to the humble but resists the proud (1 Pet. 5:5).

Lucifer was also utterly unthankful for all that God had done for him. All he wanted was more for himself. Unthankfulness is generally the first step to backsliding (Rom. 1:21).

May we take heed to this warning and be thankful to God in everything, for we are what we are by His grace and His grace alone. “*Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (Eph. 5:20).

One-third of the Heavenly Host Join in Rebellion

Not only did Lucifer rebel against God but he induced one-third of the angels to join with him in this insurrection as we see in Revelation 12:4, *“And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.”*

Here he is depicted as a dragon that drew one-third of the angels. The fact that he “drew” them reveals he was their leader for a leader is one who “draws” others. Our problem, therefore, lies not only with Satan but with all these other fallen angels as well, although some of them are already bound.

Satan’s tongue misled one-third of the congregation of heaven. Is there any wonder at all why God hates the sowing of discord among the brethren? (Prov. 6:16-19) Korah led an insurrection against Moses, God’s leader, but it led to his own destruction as well as the destruction of those who followed him (Num. 16:1-3,31-33).

God metes out strong judgment against all those who lead or participate in an insurrection against leaders. The Lord never blesses anyone for attacking a minister, even if the minister’s life is not right. The minister is God’s business, not ours.

The Faithful Ones Preserved

Nevertheless, two-thirds of the angels remained faithful to God when this rebellion swept through the kingdom of God. What was it that spared the other two-thirds from the persuasive powers of Lucifer to join him in the rebellion? It was God’s divine mercy. It is divine

mercy that keeps us faithful in tests when others rebel. *“When I said, My foot slippeth; thy mercy, O LORD, held me up”* (Psa. 94:18).

This truth of being preserved in times of insurrection is portrayed for us in the Tabernacle of Moses. Exodus 25:20 says, *“And the cherubim shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubim be.”*

These two cherubim represent Gabriel and Michael, the two who held onto the mercy of God when Lucifer started his uprising. They were clinging to the mercy seat in heaven above, therefore they did not fall.

Likewise, the faithful are enabled to stand in times of testing only by clinging to God’s mercy. In the Scriptures the faithful angels are termed “holy” because they have been tried and tested and found worthy but these angels who have rebelled are termed “wicked.”

Concerning the rebellious angels, Jude 1:6 says, *“And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.”* We have repeated this for greater emphasis so that we will remember to stay on the path and in the place that God has ordained for us.

All the angels were created good, but one-third of them became evil by choice. They “kept not their first estate,” and “left” their own habitation. The change of Lucifer’s name to Satan signifies a change of character—from good to evil, from light to darkness, from Lucifer (day star, son of the morning) to Satan (adversary, slanderer). Unlike God’s kingdom, Satan’s kingdom is one of darkness, hatred, and jealousy (Col. 1:13, Acts 26:18).

Lucifer's Rebellion Inexcusable

Because of the light Lucifer had, his rebellion was inexcusable. His uprising was done in the very face of God. For this reason pardon was not offered to the rebellious angels who joined him, either. Man, unlike the angels, is veiled from the light and still has the opportunity to repent. Paul, for example, was shown mercy because his many transgressions were done “in ignorance and unbelief” (1 Tim. 1:13, cf. Lk. 23:34).

People are judged according to the light they have, and some are more accountable to God than others. But for Lucifer and his fallen angels, their rebellion was unpardonable because they saw the very face of God and still went against him.

It is important to remember that repentance is a gift; it is a God-given grace. It is the ability for a hard heart to soften, and for an obstinate mind to change. Unless God gives us this grace, we cannot change and we cannot repent, for it is “the goodness of God that leads us to repentance” (Rom. 2:4).

Hell was later created for “the devil and his angels” as our Lord Jesus Christ declared, “*Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels*” (Mt. 25:41). Hell is also the destination of all the rebellious who follow Satan and his cohorts.

So let us remember Satan fell through pride desiring to be that for which he was not created. Solomon tells us pride comes before a fall. Let us therefore humble ourselves in the sight of God and be content like Queen Esther with those things that are appointed to us (Esther 2:15). Now let us consider the foundation of the world, as we know it. It is important whatever subject we study to begin at the genesis or

the roots. Thus in the study of this spiritual world there is no other place more appropriate than the book of Genesis.

The Creation

We are told in Genesis 1:1, *“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”* However in 1:2, *“And the earth was [became] without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.”* The earth became a cold, dead planet. Between verse one and two there was a long, undetermined span of time. The original earth of Genesis 1:1 was created perfect. It became dark and void through the sin and rebellion of its former inhabitants.

It appears that there had been an intelligent civilization, who along with the devil and one-third of the angels, rebelled against God. We believe demons are the disembodied spirits of that civilization, completely different from fallen angels. Although the Word of God has little to say about this subject, there are several facts to consider.

Fallen Angels and Demons Are Distinctly Different

These demons which were inhabitants of earth are entirely earthbound as distinct from the fallen angels. Fallen angels are able to leave this earth as they have wings and came originally from heaven above. Therefore, fallen angels and demons are two completely different orders. Demons are also quite inferior to fallen angels in size, strength, and rank.

When God restored the earth and created man during the six days of Genesis chapter one, he told man to “replenish” the earth. To replenish means to refill, clearly indicating that the earth had been inhabited before, although not by man. The earth was created to be inhabited

(Isa. 45:18), not desolate. Thus, the original earth of Genesis 1:1 was inhabited. Demons are without doubt the disembodied spirits of the civilization of the old earth. This is further substantiated by the fact that demons try to inhabit a body as they once lived in a body. Fallen angels never had a physical body, and therefore, do not try to dwell in a body.

The Temptation

After God restored the earth and created man in Genesis 1:3-31, the devil soon came to Eve in the garden in the guise of a snake. Persuading her to eat of the forbidden fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he brought about the fall of mankind.

Lucifer, son of the morning and resplendent in light became the devil, the accuser and slanderer. First he accused God of being unmerciful and having no love, then he became “the accuser of the brethren” as it says in Revelation 12:10. He is also called “the Tempter” in Matthew 4:3, for He came to Christ in the wilderness plotting His downfall. Yet our blessed Lord prevailed against him with the Sword of His mouth, for He spoke forth the anointed Word of God.

Paul also designates Satan as the Tempter when writing to the Thessalonian believers, saying, “*I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain*” (1 Thess. 3:5). God’s Spirit has ever sought to bring man into the Kingdom of Light, but the forces of evil attempt continually to lure him into the Kingdom of darkness.

It is such a comfort and encouragement to know that our God has already won the victory over sin and death, and we can overcome temptation through His grace. This is confirmed through 1 Corinthians

10:13, “*God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*”

The Function of God's Kingdom

Everyone is Created for a Different Task

To help us understand something of the structure of the Kingdom of God, I would like to recount an experience that the Lord gave me. One night when I was working until a little after eleven o'clock, I walked into my bedroom and there the Lord, as the personification of wisdom, stood at the foot of my bed.

The Lord communicated to me in the Spirit and then in a vision that He had a Kingdom to run, and His concern was that everyone in His Kingdom be happy and contented. He told me that He had not created everyone equal but that He had created each one to accomplish the particular tasks He had ordained for them. Of necessity, these tasks were varied so that the Kingdom ran smoothly and efficiently. Some were street cleaners, others were builders, scientists, teachers, etc.

When each one functions in those places of employment that God has ordained for them, they are happy and satisfied with life. The key to success lies in knowing God's purpose for our lives as we are content and fruitful when we enter into that position. We must seek the Lord to know specifically what He wants us to do and be.

After this visitation, I traveled to New Zealand and spent some time with certain friends of mine who were responsible for the operation of day care centers. One day they invited me to visit one of their centers. This particular center was for children who ranged in age from newborn

to 11 years. In the first room I saw a gray-haired grandmother contentedly rocking a baby who was just a few weeks old. In the next room there were two hot and red-faced teenage girls who were busy chasing the “terrible two’s.” Yet they were happy and contented! And so it went on through all the age groups.

As I was leaving the Lord asked how I felt and I quickly responded that I was very glad to leave. He replied, “Naturally, for I did not create you to look after children.” When we are fulfilling the purposes that God has created us for, we will be full of peace and contentment.

Every Angel is Created for a Different Task

A few months later I flew to the Philippines. Early one morning I was wakened by the Lord who visibly appeared to me. He was accompanied and surrounded by angels. Those nearest to Him were of smaller stature and I understood that these were angels who cared for children. Christ taught us that angels who protect children are always beholding the Father who is in heaven and thus substantiates the idea that they are nearest to Him. As it says in Matthew 18:10, “*Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.*”

Then as the angels were progressively further in proximity to the Lord, their height and stature increased immeasurably. By this I understood that their responsibilities were also much greater. One can conclude those furthest away were the ones responsible for cities and nations. The Lord then went on to say, by His Spirit, that an angel who had been created to rule over a nation would hardly feel satisfied if he were placed in charge of a child. Likewise, an angel who was created to care for a child would certainly feel inadequate to rule over a city. Every angel has been created for a specific purpose, and by flowing in

those particular duties for which each had been created, they are all supremely content and satisfied.

Points to Remember - Introduction

1. There are good angels and evil angels.
2. Good angels are ministering spirits sent forth by God to minister to those “who shall be heirs of salvation.”
3. We are so precious to God that He has appointed an angel to each believer. Each angel takes care of, watches over and protects their particular charge.
4. Lucifer was the chief leader of the angels and was responsible for the administration of all heaven, under God. He was full of beauty and wisdom.
5. Lucifer lost his place in heaven because he was full of pride and ambition – he wanted to be God. Isaiah 14: 13-14 gives “The Five I Wills” of Lucifer.
6. Lucifer, son of the morning and resplendent in light became the devil, the accuser and slanderer. He is also called “the Tempter.”
7. Lucifer’s fall is an extremely important lesson to us to be content with whatever place God has ordained for us.
8. Each one of us, like the angels are created for different tasks in order that the kingdom of heaven run smoothly and efficiently. When we are in the place God has ordained for us, we will be happy and satisfied with life.

9. We believe demons are the disembodied spirits of the civilization of the original earth of Gen.1:1.

10. Fallen angels and demons are two completely different orders.

Chapter One

Angels—Their Ranks and Ministries

There are two angels whose names have been specifically mentioned in Scripture. They are the archangels Michael and Gabriel.

Michael

- In the Epistle of Jude 1:9, Michael is called “the archangel.”
- In Daniel 10:13, he is “one of the chief princes.”
- In Daniel 10:21, he is “Michael your prince.”
- In Daniel 12:1, he is “*the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people.*” (i.e. of Israel). Therefore, we may say that Michael is the archangel who rules over Israel.
- In Revelation 12:7, Michael may be termed by rank as the first of all the angels, since it is he who leads all of them into battle during the great war in heaven that will cast the devil out of heavenly places.

Gabriel

By his own testimony he is next to Michael.

- In Daniel 10:21, “*But I will show thee that which noted in the scriptures of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince.*” This was Gabriel speaking, the same angel who made known to Daniel all interpretation of prophecy (Dan. 8:16, 9:21).
- In Luke 1:19, he was sent to Zacharias to give to him the promise of the birth of John the Baptist. Thus, we may say that Gabriel has the power to interpret the Scripture of truth and that certain future events are known to him.

- In Daniel 11:1, he is also involved in bringing to pass the will of God in that he strengthened Darius the Mede to enable him to take the city of Babylon.
- In Luke 1:20, he had the power to pass judgment upon Zacharias who was smitten with dumbness until the birth of John.
- In Luke 1:26, he was sent by God to the virgin Mary to apprise her she would be with child by the Holy Spirit.

The Role of Angels in Judgment

Another aspect of the ministry of angels is their role in judgment. Scripture brings forth clearly that angels report the deeds of mankind to heaven to be recorded. It appears that in severe cases of sinfulness the Lord Himself is informed. Such was the case with Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 18:20-21). There was also the case of the judgment upon Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, which was meted out to him by the command of “the holy watchers” because of his pride. Nebuchadnezzar had received a prior warning of this judgment in a dream of the night.

As we read in Daniel 4:13-17, *“I saw in the visions of my head upon my bed, and, behold, a watcher and an holy one came down from heaven; He cried aloud, and said thus, Hew down the tree, and cut off his branches, shake off his leaves, and scatter his fruit: let the beasts get away from under it, and the fowls from his branches: Nevertheless leave the stump of his roots in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth: Let his heart be changed from man’s, and let a beast’s heart be given unto him: and let seven times pass over him. This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to*

the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.”

Angels have the power to judge, and they sit upon thrones in heavenly places. This truth was forcibly impressed upon me when I was counseling a deacon who belonged to a church in Switzerland. An elder in this church had been notified by the deacon of a dream the latter had received a few nights before which was greatly troubling him. The elder called me asking if he could bring the deacon to me for counseling. In essence, the situation was that this deacon had a wife who was confined to a mental asylum. He had twisted the Scripture to his own destruction (2 Pet. 3:16) for he had started to live with another woman, having convinced himself he was free from his wife.

In his dream he was placed in a line of men who were standing in heaven before a throne occupied by an angel. As each one stood before the angel, their lives were revealed and they fell down in agony, and were then dispatched by an emissary from hell into the regions below. As the line became shorter, with only two men between the angel and this deacon, the man who stood in front of the angel did what all the others had previously done. He fell down in agony before the angel and was cast into hell.

The man immediately in front of the deacon turned around and said, “I do not have to worry, for I have done nothing wrong in my life.” But when his turn came he fell before the angel as all the others who preceded him, and was likewise hurled into hell. The dream ended and the deacon found himself awake in his bed on earth.

Naturally his heart was very troubled when he came to see me. The Lord graciously gave the interpretation of this dream to me. It was a direct warning: “The interpretation is clear. You are facing eternal

judgment unless you cease from your wicked ways. You are presumptuous in thinking that you are free from your wife and able to live with another woman.” He agreed and said that he would leave her and devote himself to his wife.

The end of this story, however, is tragic. Twelve months almost to the day of that dream the deacon died. I asked my friend the elder, “In what spiritual condition did the deacon die?” He replied, “After he had seen you, his life changed dramatically and he ceased to drink and he left the woman. Unfortunately, six months later he reverted to his old life and returned to the woman, and so it was when he died.”

That church deacon whom God solemnly warned, had been saved, baptized in water, and filled with the Holy Spirit, yet he is not in heaven today. He is in hell suffering the pangs of eternal judgment.

Clearly, being saved and even having a great ministry will not save us. Jesus taught us that if our eye [used for lust, adultery, and fornication] caused us to miss eternal life, it would be better to pluck it out. “*And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell*” (Mt. 5:29,18:9).

Samson was anointed mightily, but he wrongly assumed as God was continuing to anoint him and use him that he could continue to live an immoral life. In His mercy, God allowed Samson to lose both of his eyes to bring him to repentance and to save his soul (Judg. 16). We can say angels must have lent their might to help Samson push the pillars over so that, “*the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein*” (Judg. 16:30b).

Let us earnestly heed the warnings of Jesus in Matthew 7:21-23, “*Not*

every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

Angelic Judgments in the Book of Revelation

The supreme example of angelic judgment is surely to be found in the triple judgments of God in the last days as recorded in the Book of Revelation. This series of triple sevens are termed:

1. The Seven Seals
2. The Seven Trumpets
3. The Seven Vials

All of these triple judgments entail angelic involvement. In the first series of judgments (the Seven Seals) there are the four living Creatures, each riding upon a different colored horse (Rev. 6:1-8).

Then there is an interlude when we are told that four angels are standing on the four corners of the earth and that they hold the four winds of the earth (Rev. 7:1) This is followed by the opening of the seventh seal whereupon are seen seven angels standing before the throne of God with seven trumpets (Rev. 8:1-2). As these angels sound their trumpets, awesome judgments fall upon the inhabitants of the earth.

Finally, another seven angels who are to pour out their vials of God's wrath upon the earth come forth from the temple of God in heaven (Rev. 15:1, 6-8). These angels are the very essence of purity and

holiness, being clothed in white linen and having their breasts girded with golden girdles.

The Apostle Paul made an awesome statement in 1 Corinthians 6:3, *“Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?”*

There is, in a sense, a duality of judgment here. Angels sit upon the thrones in heaven and the unsaved are judged by them. However, we shall in our capacity of king priests (Rev. 20:6) be given the privilege of judging the fallen angels to execute upon them the judgment written (Psa. 149:9). To the degree one is purified, to that same degree one is qualified to execute judgment. Does that not create in us a hunger and thirst to be purified, to be filled with His righteousness and to be made a partaker of His holiness?

Roles of Angels in the Realm of Government

We have already mentioned that Michael is the chief prince who governs the nation of Israel. Now we will consider several other references concerning angels in rulership.

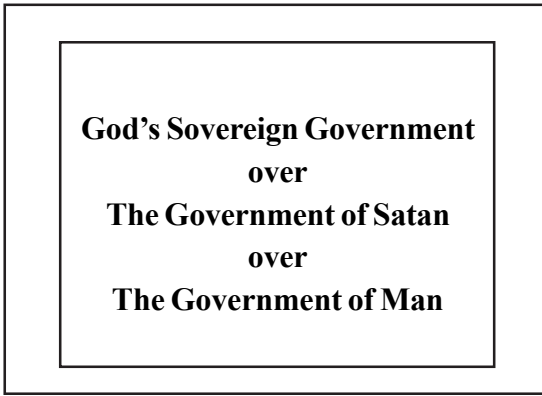
We are told in Exodus 14:19 that when Israel was leaving Egypt, *“the angel of God which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them.”* Furthermore, we are told that Israel was distinctly under angelic leadership and rulership in Exodus 23:20-21, *“Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared. Beware of him, and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions: for my name is in him.”*

In the last discourse before his death, Stephen, the first martyr of the Church Age, declared that Israel had “received the law by the disposition of angels” but had not kept it (Acts 7:53). This Angel and angels, although unnamed, were obviously of the highest order.

Over countries are both fallen angels and holy angels. At times, a country may seem to be on the brink of economic collapse, and its situation absolutely hopeless because of the incompetence of its politicians. To then see that same country rebound and recover later, one cannot help but believe there has been an angelic intervention sent from God.

Fallen angels also have a role in the governing of nations. I have personally seen and encountered some of these fallen princes in my travels to other nations. It would appear that according to the importance of the nation, so also is the majesty of the angel above that particular country. But we shall consider them in more detail in Chapter Four.

Because of man’s disobedience, God gives people over to bondage. Satan is the prince of this world (Lk. 4:5-6), and he controls man’s governments. Nonetheless, we know God controls Satan and only allows him to go as far as He says, and no further. God has the final word on everything for He is sovereign.



Above is an illustration of how governments work.

Points to Remember - Chapter One

1. There are many angels of different size, strength, and rank.
2. Each has a particular task to perform.
3. There is an angel appointed for everyone who is an “heir of salvation.”
4. Two faithful angels are mentioned by name in Scripture. Michael is the highest ranking angel who guards the nation of Israel and Gabriel reveals the secrets of God, understands mysteries, and announces events.
5. The good angels report the deeds of mankind to heaven. In cases of severe sinfulness, God Himself is informed (Gen. 18:20-21).
6. They have a role in judgment. The “holy watchers” are a council in heaven who, under God, determines events e.g. in the judgment of Nebuchadnezzar.
7. The good angels also execute judgment (Revelation).
8. We, as king priests, will have a role in judging angels.
9. There are holy angels and fallen angels over countries.
10. The Lord is sovereign. He is over the government of Satan and He decides how far Satan can go.

Chapter Two

Old Testament References to Angelic Guidance and Protection

From the earliest times in history there has been a conscious awareness of angelic protection afforded to the people of God, even in their everyday affairs. In the Book of Genesis alone there are eight such accounts, some of which we will now consider.

In the first recorded instance we find the angel of the Lord manifested himself to Hagar, a serving maid (Gen. 16:7-16). The angel of the Lord spoke and gave her a command to return to her mistress Sarah. He then promised that she would have a son whose seed would be innumerable.

It was again to Hagar that the angel appeared (Gen. 21:17-18). She had been put out of her master's house by the orders of Sarah. The angel assured Hagar that he would be with Ishmael her son, and make him into a great nation.

Next we have an account of an angel giving instructions to Abraham (Gen. 22:11-15). He called unto Abraham from heaven, commanding that he should not slay his son Isaac. After which he promised Abraham that God would multiply his seed as the stars of the heaven and the sand upon the seashore.

In the matter of choosing a bride for his son Isaac, Abraham specifically states that the angel of the Lord will be sent before his servant to guide him to the right woman (Gen. 24:7). The servant Eliezer acknowledges this when he was talking to Laban, Rebekah's brother (Gen. 24:40).

The angel of God spoke to Jacob in the matter of gaining the healthy cattle for his benefit, to the detriment of Laban the deceiver. Then the angel charged him to return to the land of promise (Gen. 31:11-13).

When Jacob returned from Mesopotamia and was about to enter the promised land again, he met an angel at Peniel, with whom he wrestled. This is recorded by the prophet Hosea, *“Yea, he had power over the angel, and prevailed: he wept, and made supplication unto him: he found him in Bethel, and there he spake with us”* (Hos. 12:4).

Furthermore in blessing the two sons of Joseph, Jacob remembers “the angel who had redeemed him from all evil” during his lifetime, and he asks the angel to bless Manassah and Ephraim (Gen. 48:16). The angel of the Lord not only watches over us to bless us, but sometimes he warns or chastises. We see this in the case of Balaam. Because of his perverse ways, his angel sought to stop him in his folly (Num. 22:22-35).

At times, an angel appeared to reprimand a whole nation, as in the case of Judges 2:1-5. On another occasion, an angel appeared to Gideon to announce his call to be a savior for the nation against the Midianites (Judges 6:11). Later on in Judges 13:3, we find an angel came to announce the birth of Samson to the wife of Manoah.

Angels minister to us in times of great discouragement in our lives when we feel perhaps that our life’s work has been in vain. Elijah was in the valley of depression when fleeing from the army of Jezebel.

1 Kings 19:4-8 states, *“But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my*

fathers. And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat. And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baken on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again. And the angel of the LORD came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee. And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God.”

It is not only people like Elijah who have such experiences. The Lord is able to give you and I amazing encounters too. Let me share a personal experience.

I was in France many years ago when a pastor’s wife shared this testimony concerning a sister who was a member of the local church. This particular sister was very poor. To make ends meet, she washed and ironed the laundry she obtained from hotels, hospitals, and individuals.

In those days it was very hard work because there were no washing machines. The washing and ironing had to be done by hand, and the linens had to be carried up to her attic to dry.

One afternoon, in weariness and deep despondency, she prayed and asked the Lord to help her as she was preparing to climb the steep stairs to her attic and gather the hotel sheets to iron them.

Imagine her utter astonishment as she opened her attic door and saw her entire week’s work all neatly folded and ironed. The angels do all things well! This dear lady not only had a testimony of the angel’s ministry, but she also had a glorious time rejoicing as the presence of the Lord fell upon her in the attic.

In a later period of Elijah's life an angel spoke to him to go and intercept the messengers of King Ahaziah (2 Kgs. 1:2-15). The king had been very sick, and instead of seeking direction from the Lord, he sent his messengers to enquire of a heathen god for direction. The message that the angel gave to Elijah for the king was that he would surely die.

King Ahaziah sent two captains with fifty men each to take Elijah prisoner, but both groups were consumed by fire that Elijah had commanded to come down from heaven. The king sent a third captain, with fifty soldiers, who wisely besought Elijah for mercy. This time the angel told Elijah he was to go and meet the king, fearing nothing. *“And the angel of the LORD said unto Elijah, Go down with him: be not afraid of him. And he arose, and went down with him unto the king”* (2 Kgs. 1:15).

King David was so conscious of the ministry of the holy angels that he wrote with great assurance about them, *“The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them”* (Psa. 34:7). Beloved, we are never alone. There are myriads of angels that are assigned by our blessed Lord to help the sons of men.

Moreover, King David prayed concerning those who afflict us, saying in Psalm 35:4, *“Let them be confounded and put to shame that seek after my soul: let them be turned back and brought to confusion that devise my hurt. Let them be as chaff before the wind: 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.”* In my experience as a leader, I have seen precisely this when those that had risen up against me admit they were being chased by the angels of the Lord to leave the church.

During the siege of Jerusalem by the armies of King Sennacherib of Assyria, the angel of the Lord went out one night and destroyed the

whole army of 185,000 men while they were sleeping in their tents. When the inhabitants of Jerusalem woke up in the morning they discovered their enemies were all dead. In other words, Israel did not even know the Assyrians were dead until they got up in the morning, looked down, and saw their dead bodies (See 2 Kgs. 19:35, 2 Chr. 32:21, Isa. 37:36).

Entertaining Angels Unawares

At this stage I would like to introduce a truth that the Apostle Paul has given to us concerning angels. It is found in his epistle to the Hebrews, *“Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares”* (Heb. 13:2).

The Angel Who Visited a Bible Study

Now I think we would all agree that if an angel presented himself at our door in his usual shining white garments and golden wings we would not be entertaining him “unawares.” Angels have the power to transform themselves so that they appear as men.

This is how it was one summer day in a cottage on the moors in Yorkshire, England where several ministers were meeting. They were discussing the book of Ezekiel and not getting very far as all who have studied that book will agree it is not the easiest of Bible books to comprehend.

Suddenly, there was a knock at the door, and when they opened it there stood a stranger. Invited to enter, he courteously asked what they were doing. When informed that they were Christians who were in the midst of studying the Book of Ezekiel, the “stranger” started to speak. To their amazement, he explained the book of Ezekiel with

such profound simplicity. Having finished, he rose and said he must be going. As they shut the door after him they realized to their consternation, being British, that they had not offered him a cup of tea. Quickly opening the door again, they looked out over the moors, but he had disappeared. This Scripture came to them, “some have entertained angels unawares.”

The Angel Who Helped a Missionary Cross the River

Another illustration of this truth occurred in the country of Nepal. A lady missionary was traveling in that country by foot. She came to a stream she wanted to cross, but the current was too swift and the stream too deep.

Stopping for a moment to ponder the matter, she heard a young man upstream call out to her. She looked and saw him crossing with ease, jumping from one submerged rock to another, as he beckoned her to come. When she reached him, he showed her how to cross using these same rocks as he indicated their position. She hesitated, but he offered his hand as he guided her successfully across the river. When she turned to thank him, she was astonished to find he had vanished.

The Angel Who Directed a Lady to a Church

A missionary lady was visiting a Central American country. She was walking along the streets as she wanted to go to a particular church, but she did not know the address of the church. Unexpectedly, a young man speaking perfect English came out of the crowd and asked if he could help her. She responded by telling him that she was trying to find a certain church. “Follow me,” he said, “I know exactly where it is!” He then led her through the teeming crowds and up sidestreets until they finally arrived at the church building. “This is the church you wanted,” said the young man pointing to the steps leading up to the

front door. She started to go up the steps, turned to thank the young man, and although there were no crowds there, he had disappeared. The Holy Spirit spoke to her heart that the young man had been an angel in disguise.

The Angel Who Directed a Minister's Itinerary

On several occasions, I have had the experience of an angel actually push me in a certain direction that I should have taken. Their assistance was a great help to me especially in foreign countries I was unfamiliar with.

I remember a story about one dear minister who was sitting in an airport musing over his itinerary. He had been invited to a number of countries in that part of the world, and was wondering aloud which country he should go to first.

As he spoke within hearing of a man who sat opposite of him in the airport, this man answered and told him what to do. He simply and clearly stated the order of the countries the pastor was to follow. After looking down at his tickets to see the feasibility of that itinerary, the pastor looked up again but the man was gone. Without a doubt, the pastor knew in his heart that an angel had indeed directed him.

Many Other Old Testament Examples

Before we leave the Old Testament, we should take note of the numerous occasions where angels spoke to the prophet Zechariah to give him understanding of the things that would come to pass. Zechariah cried out to the Lord, "*Then said I, O my lord, what are these? And the angel that talked with me said unto me, I will show thee what these be*" (Zec. 1:9). Following this verse, there are more than a dozen references of Zechariah interacting with angels as the Lord

graciously answered his request through his holy messengers (Zec. 1-12).

Therefore, the Old Testament is shining with angelic manifestations and interventions to further the purposes of God toward His redeemed. Numerous are the testimonies that we could give of angelic intervention, but suffice it to say that we are never alone. Be assured, they watch over us with much loving care.

Points to Remember - Chapter Two

1. From earliest times, the people of God had a conscious awareness of angelic guidance and protection even in their everyday affairs.
2. The first record of angelic appearance was to Hagar (Gen. 16:7-16, 21:17-18).
3. Abraham, Jacob, Elijah, and David were some of those mentioned in the Old Testament who had personal encounters with angels.
4. The angels watch over us to bless us e.g. Jacob recalls the angel who saved him from all evil during his lifetime (Gen. 48:16).
5. Angels are also used to warn and chastise us e.g. in the case of Balaam (Num. 22:22-35), Israel as a nation (Judg. 2:1-5).
6. They are sent by God to announce special events e.g. Gideon's calling to deliver the nation (Judg. 6:11), the birth of Samson (Judg. 13:3).
7. They encourage the saints e.g. when Elijah was discouraged, an angel brought him food and guidance.
8. Angels not only protect us, but they chase and afflict our enemies e.g. the Assyrian army that was slain (Isa. 37:36).
9. There are more angelic forces on our side than on our enemies' (2 Kgs. 6:16-17).
10. Angels can appear as men. This is why we can encounter angels and not know it (Heb. 13:2).

Chapter Three

New Testament References to Angelic Guidance and Protection

The New Testament tells of many angelic manifestations, more in number than in the Old Testament. We must understand that the angels are ministering spirits sent forth to minister to those who are heirs of salvation.

Therefore if there is a difference between the two testaments with respect to their ministry it would be that there is a greatly increased angelic participation in the church age than in the Old Testament era. The saints are now found in every country and remember, every congregation, however small, is carefully watched over and governed by their own angel.

Angelic Ministries in the Life of our Lord Jesus Christ

- The annunciation of Christ's birth that was first made by Gabriel to Mary.
- The angel who was later sent to Joseph, her espoused husband.
- The angelic interventions and visitations that took place at the birth of Christ.
- The angel who directed Joseph to flee to Egypt with the Child and mother.
- The angels who ministered to Christ after the temptation.
- The angel who stirred the waters at the pool of Bethesda for healing.
- The angel who strengthened Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane.

- The angel who rolled the stone from the tomb on resurrection morning.
- The angels who will accompany Christ at His Second Coming.

The Annunciation by the Angel

In Luke 1:26-31 it says, *“And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women... And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.”*

It is noteworthy that when events of prime importance were to take place, angels were used to make the announcement. This was true concerning the births of our Lord Jesus Christ and John the Baptist and it will be so in the last days when angels are used in significant fashion (Rev. 19:17).

Further on in Luke 1:35-37, *“And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible.”*

Here we have the angel Gabriel making the announcement but also offering encouragement to Mary concerning the greatness of God.

They are indeed our encouragers. Often when we think thoughts or scriptures come from our own mind, the angels speaking into our minds have put them there.

The Angel That Was Sent to Joseph, Mary's Espoused Husband

Matthew 1:19-21 states: *“Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”*

We must see here the power of the angels to appear unto us in dreams of the night. Thus we understand they care for us throughout the 24 hours of the day and choose the most propitious time to influence us. It was nighttime and Joseph's mind would have been at rest and able to receive clearly the message of God from the angelic messenger. Dreams of such significance remain with us. A point the Lord made to me when young was that when He spoke, the messages He gave me would remain in the spirit. Perhaps this truth will help some of us if we have difficulty in discerning the source of our dreams.

The Angelic Interventions and Visitations at the Birth of Christ

We see in Luke 2:8-15, *“And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by*

night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.”

Heaven is a very wonderful place and it is filled with choirs of angels who sing around the throne of God. Their praises fill the heavenly dwelling places as well as all the glorious fields that form part of heaven's grandeur.

For this particular manifestation, one of those choirs was sent to the shepherds. It was necessary in the purpose of God for the shepherds were sent to fill that field of Bethlehem with their praises to the One who would be the Good Shepherd who would lay down His life for His flock.

The Angel Directs Joseph to Flee to Egypt With the Child and Mother

Out of envy Herod sought the death of the baby Jesus. Matthew 2:12-13 says, *“And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country*

another way. And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.” But the land of Egypt was again chosen to succor the beloved of the Lord as it had in the days of Joseph (Gen. 41).

The Angels Ministered to Christ After the Temptation

Now we come to the time of Christ’s manhood. After His baptism in Jordan, He was driven by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. The Lord ably withstood and overcame the temptation and *“the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him”* (Mt. 4:11).

Even as angels ministered to Elijah and fed him angels’ food (Psa. 78:25), so the angels ministered to Jesus after His long fast. Perhaps Elijah’s experience is a type of Matthew 4:11 of how the Lord could well sustain His people during the End Times when famine will indeed grip many nations.

The Angel Who Stirred the Waters at Bethesda for Healing

Angels, in the tender mercies of God, also ministered to Israel in healing. We read in John 5:4, *“For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had.”*

The Angel Who Strengthened Christ in Gethsemane

In the garden of Gethsemane, our Lord Jesus Christ, in His humanity, underwent a terrible struggle between His will and the will of His Father concerning the cup of iniquity He would have to take, “*And he was withdrawn from them about a stone’s cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him*” (Lk. 22:41-43).

Our heavenly Father, in His compassion, sent the mighty angel to strengthen and enable His Son to accomplish His will. Praise the Lord!

How Angels Strengthen Us

I have personally experienced angels strengthening us through the divine strength that emanates from them. During World War II, I lived in the home of my parents while my father was in military service with the British troops in Africa.

One night when my mother providentially took my brother and me to my grandmother’s, the Nazis bombed our neighborhood. A land mine that had been dropped by parachute hung upon a tree, and swinging in the breeze, its antennae hit the branches causing the land mine to explode. The effect was devastating. Most of the houses, including ours, were destroyed.

As a result of the explosion, the bricks of these houses became deeply embedded in the soil –and in particular, in the soil of our garden. After the war the government rebuilt those houses that had been destroyed by enemy action. My father, who by this time had been

discharged from the military service, was not strong by reason of an infection that he had incurred in North Africa.

At this time the Lord had called me into the ministry, and the date for my arrival at the Bible School was drawing near. However, the garden that my father so dearly loved was in a ruinous state due to all the bricks and debris that were embedded deeply into the ground. The Lord made it clear to me that I had to make a commitment to my parents to dig up the garden and rid it of all those bricks before I went to Bible school. So I did it in obedience to the Lord.

Not being a gardener, I will confess I did not relish having to dig quite a sizable tract of land. Nevertheless, I took the fork and started to dig, and as I did so, I was conscious of the visible presence of an angel standing in front of me. Strength emanated from this angel, and I felt so very strong that I was able to dig for long hours, finishing the garden in what I considered record time for an amateur. Thus, I arrived at Bible School on time to start the term.

The Angel Who Rolled the Stone From Christ's Tomb

At the tomb on that glorious resurrection morning, an angel came and rolled back the stone. Matthew 28:2 & 5 says, *“And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here for He is risen.”*

How very like our Heavenly Father to have His angel stay to assure the faithful women who came to take care of their Lord's body that His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, had risen from the dead!

The Many Angels Who Will Accompany Christ at His Second Coming

When we consider His Second Coming, Christ Himself assured us that He would come with an innumerable company of angels. In Matthew 25:31-32 we read, *“When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats.”*

Also in Matthew 13:41, *“The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity.”* At the Second Coming, it is also clear that the angels will be used to sort out the evil from the good. Later on in verse 49, *“So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just.”*

Angelic Manifestations in the Lives of the Apostles

- In the life of Peter
- Angelic judgments to spare Peter
- In the life of Paul
- Angelic direction for Philip
- Angels in the local churches

Angelic Manifestations in the Life of Peter

An Angel Frees Peter and Other Apostles From Prison

First we have an angelic manifestation to deliver Peter and the other

apostles from prison in Acts 5:17-19, *“Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with indignation, And laid their hands on the apostles [including Peter], and put them in the common prison. But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said...”*

Here we have an encouraging situation where the angel of the Lord is sent to bring physical deliverance by opening the prison doors and setting the apostles free. It should be noted that angels have complete command over obstacles like locked doors. They themselves have complete access to any place for they have the ability that was manifested by Jesus Himself after His resurrection to enter any room even though the door was closed.

I well remember being visited by an angel when young. I was in my bed although not asleep. An angel walked right through the door into the room. His progress was not impeded for an instant.

An Angel Visits Cornelius / Commands Him to Send for Peter

In Acts we read of the account of an angel being sent to the house of a Gentile named Cornelius. The angel instructed Cornelius to send for Peter to preach the Gospel unto them. Acts 10:3 states, *“He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.”* [who said] in 10:5, *“And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter.”*

Acts 10:21-22 says, *“Then Peter went down to the men which were sent unto him from Cornelius; and said, Behold, I am he whom ye seek: what is the cause wherefore ye are come? And*

they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee.”

Peter then went to the house of Cornelius and preached to those assembled there with the result that while he was still preaching, the Holy Spirit fell upon them and they started to speak in other tongues (Acts 10:34-48).

The Second Angelic Deliverance for Peter

King Herod, having killed James, then proceeded to put Peter in prison. However, the Lord sent an angel to intervene and deliver him. Acts 12:7-10 says, *“And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands. And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me. And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision. When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him.”*

Angelic Judgment Against Herod

This same Herod suffered terrible retribution at the hands of an angel because of the murder of James the Apostle, and his determination to do the same to Peter. We see this clearly revealed in Acts 12:21-23, *“And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon*

his throne, and made an oration unto them. And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man. And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.” Thus, we know that angels are used by God to judge.

Angelic Manifestations in the Life of Paul

While Paul was aboard a ship taking him to Caesar in Rome, a tremendous hurricane arose. In jeopardy of being shipwrecked, Paul gave this encouraging testimony to the 276 members on board, *“For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, Saying, Fear not Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and behold, God hath given thee [the lives of] all them that sail with thee”* (Acts 27:23-24).

Philip is Directed by an Angel

While Philip the Evangelist was holding revival meetings in Samaria, an angel of the Lord directed him to turn south and to go down to Gaza. Here he came in contact with an Ethiopian, whom he led to Christ. This Ethiopian is believed to be the first convert of that nation.

Acts 8:26 and 35 confirms this, *“And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip saying, Arise and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. And he arose and went: and behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship. Then Philip opened his mouth and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.”*

Angels in the Local Churches

In the Book of Revelation, the messages to the seven churches are expressly for the angels that oversee those churches, *“And to the angel of the church of . . . write.”* This gives us an understanding of the ministry of angels in the affairs of the congregations of believers. Firstly, we learn that God has appointed a specific angel to govern each church. Next, the ministry of the angel is dependent upon the hearts and faith of the believers in that church. The greater the spiritual maturity of the saints, the greater the angel.

We further learn that all angels are not equal in knowledge and power. This can be seen in Daniel 12:5-7, *“Then I Daniel looked, and, behold, there stood other two, the one on this side of the bank of the river, and the other on that side of the bank of the river. And one said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders? And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and sware by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.”*

In this passage in Daniel, one angel asked another angel a question. One angel did not know the answer, so he asked another angel who was able to give him the answer. Thus, it is quite clear that some angels have greater knowledge than others.

Angels Help Ministers Preach

The depth of preaching differs from church to church, due to the governing angel of each church. During a certain period in my

younger years I was invited to pastor an evangelical church. The former pastor had retired and was a member of the congregation. After a few weeks into my new position, he said to me, “When you are in the pulpit, do you feel him?” I knew exactly whom he was alluding to, because when I would stand behind the pulpit I was conscious of a godly angel coming up behind me. The experience was so real that I actually felt his garments move my clothes as he approached.

However, I have been in some churches where sin has reigned in the congregation. The people have tolerated a certain form of sin, not dealt with it and thus a fallen angel has ruled or governed that church. How important it is that we not only preach the gospel but practice it so that our spiritual covering comes from the Lord.

Angels Keep Records

Angels are in the pulpits, giving inspiration to the preachers, and are at work among the congregation. On one occasion a vision was given to a lady in a certain church of an angel who was not only recording the message of the pastor, but also recording the response of each individual member to that message. Were they embracing the message and making it part of their lives? Were they allowing the truth to go down deep into their hearts and take root so that later it would bring forth the peaceable fruits of righteousness? Some of the church members had hardened hearts, and the truth was as seed falling upon the wayside. Another angel was recording the church attendance, and another the amount that each placed in the offering box.

Angels with Gifts of Healing

Other angels have gifts of healing, and through the faith of the pastor and congregation, healings occur. I remember a vision that was given

to a certain person in a revival meeting. The evangelist was praying for those in the healing line, but on either side of him there were angels from whom the healing actually flowed to the needy. Many significant miracles took place in those services.

God Uses the Church to Teach the Angels

At times I have seen angels sitting in church services and observing how matters are carried out. Paul tells us that God's intention is to teach the principalities and powers the manifold wisdom of God through the Church for Eph. 3:10 says, "*To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God.*" Moreover, Peter says that the gospel that is preached is something even the angels desire to look into (1 Pet. 1:12).

Beloved, as we continue our study of angels, let us not become obsessed with them to the detriment of our love for our blessed Lord Jesus Christ, to whom all angels bow their knee.

In the Early Church, worship of angels was one of the heresies that had intruded and been accepted. Hence, the Apostle Paul had to warn the believers in his epistle to the Colossians about angel worship, "*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, And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God*" (Col. 2:18-19). We want to remember that no true angel will ever receive worship, but only false angels. There is no man or angel in heaven or earth who is worthy of worship. God alone is worthy, and all worship in heaven and on earth is to be directed to the Lamb, and to His Father.

Angelic Ministries in the Book of Revelation

Single angels are mentioned 51 times in this blessed Book of Revelation, and collectively angels are mentioned another 23 times. This is more than in any other book of the Bible. We may assume that at the end of this age there will be much angelic activity and that the believers will be very aware of their presence.

The Angel of the Lord—Who is He?

Revelation 1:1 says, “*The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John.*” The Revelation was sent to John by an angel specially chosen for the task.

Therefore, we understand the Lord has a personal angel in much the same way a president of a nation or a president of a company has a personal secretary or chief of staff. It is to this angel that the Lord turns when He requires matters to be handled on His behalf. This is the angel that guided the Apostle John through the events of the last days on behalf of the Lord.

We should note that it is the Father who has planned all things, and it is the Father who has given this Book to His Beloved Son so that He might know the things that must come to pass in heaven and upon earth.

The Angels That Govern the Churches in Revelation

The next mention of angels are those represented by the seven stars in the Lord’s hand (1:16), and we are told that they are the angels of the seven churches in the Roman province of Asia (1:20). In chapters two

and three there are messages to each of those angels concerning the condition of their churches.

***The Strong Angel Proclaiming -
“Who is Worthy to Open the Book?”***

In chapter 5:2, John the Beloved who has been taken by vision into heaven hears “a strong angel” proclaiming with a loud voice and asking, “Who is worthy to open the seals of the book in the hand of the Father who sits upon the throne?” Thus, we see that these seven seals that are the beginning of God’s judgments upon the earth are intimately connected with angels. Perhaps it could be better said that these judgments are in the hands of angels.

Myriads of Angels Who Worship the Lamb Upon the Throne

John’s attention is directed toward the glorious Lamb upon the throne. Around the throne are myriads of angels singing praises to the Lamb with a loud voice. We have here another revelation of the ministry of angels. They are worshippers, and they form the heavenly choir. Often we have heard testimonies from the saints here on earth who have been privileged to have their ears opened to hear the heavenly choirs singing. The music of heaven is so harmonious that the finest music on earth is utterly discordant in comparison.

The Four Angels Who Control the Four Winds

The opening of the seals sends forth the angelic horsemen of woe in chapter six. Then in 7:1 we are introduced to another ministry of angels - that of controlling the winds. These four angels who control the four winds also have the power to “hurt” or judge the earth, as seen in verses 2-3. However, before they are released to “hurt the earth,” they are charged by another angel in verse 2 not to do so until the

144,000 from the twelve tribes of Israel are sealed. The angel of verse 2 has the authority to set in motion the sealing of the twelve tribes of Israel.

***The Seven Angels With Their Trumpets /
The Angel With the Golden Censer***

Chapter 8:1-2 begins with the opening of the seventh seal where John sees the seven angels who stood before God receiving seven trumpets. These are the second tier judgments of the last days. But before they sound, another angel (verses 3-4) presents a golden censer filled with incense that he is to offer with the prayers of the saints.

The fact that the last days are filled with angelic activity should encourage us to know that all things are under the watchful care of a loving heavenly Father. Holy angels are sent at His command to fulfill His purposes that have been determined before the foundation of this world.

The Mighty Angel With the Little Book

In Revelation 10:1-4 we see another amazing incident in the unfolding revelation of last day events. Here we see a mighty angel who carries a little book containing “the seven thunders.” When these seven thunders utter their voices, John is forbidden to record their messages. Some things that John saw, he was not allowed to communicate with men. These seven thunders are an example of this.

Paul also saw things that were “not lawful to utter” (2 Cor. 12:4). Some things are not given to us to understand, “*The secret things belong unto the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong unto us...*” (Deut. 29:29). If God does not want us to know

certain things, we should not try to search them out. David said, *“I do not exercise myself in great matters, or in things too high for me”* (Psa. 131:1).

Michael and the Angels Prevail Against Satan and His Angels

Chapter 12:7 records the war in heaven when the angels, under the leadership of Michael, prevail against Satan and his angels. From this time forth Satan is cast down upon earth and his place is no longer in heaven.

Angels Help Us Preach the Gospel

As we mentioned earlier, angels also help us preach the Gospel. Here in Revelation 14:6 John records, *“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.”* Angels are present when we preach, and they inspire all the preachers of righteousness in the delivery of their messages.

The Angel’s Message—Fear God, Judgment Time is Here

The message of this particular angel in 14:7 is important for us to note: *“Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.”*

“For the hour of his judgment is come” is a message that should instill a sense of holy awe in each one of God’s children. God is a God of judgment, and we shall all have to give an account for the lives that we have lived here below. Therefore, we who are responsible for

preaching or teaching others should exhort the people that all must repent and come to the knowledge of God. We should never give false hope to our listeners but remind them that without holiness no man shall see the Lord.

Another Angel Announces the Fall of Babylon

Further announcements are made of coming judgments. This time another angel announces the fall of Babylon and those who receive the mark of the Beast will drink of the wrath of God and be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the Lamb and of the holy angels (Rev. 14:9-10).

Angels Control Natural Elements

Angels are the messengers of God, with varying responsibilities. However, we do need to note that in Revelation 14:18, an *“angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire.”* Likewise, in Revelation 16:8, *“And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire.”*

From these passages, we clearly understand that angels have specific duties that include looking after elements such as wind (7:1), fire (14:8), water (16:5), and the sun (16:8). To a certain degree all duties that men perform are identically performed by angels or are under their jurisdiction and authority. This should give us pause to reflect upon the perfect structure of our heavenly Father’s kingdom.

I would now like to give a testimony concerning the care and love that is shown forth upon mankind, in even the smallest details of our lives. I was in a certain large American city standing at the principal intersection where traffic was particularly heavy. Suddenly my spiritual eyes were opened and I saw a very large angel who evidently was responsible for not only the traffic at the crossroads, but every office building in

that vicinity. For a moment of time I could see (as with the eyes of this angel) into every office room in the large complexes of that surrounding area. It was as though all walls were transparent and everything that was taking place in those offices was open and exposed in the sight of the angel. This is in conformity to the teachings of the Apostle Paul who warned in Hebrews 4:13, *“Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”*

Angels Direct the Harvests of the Righteous and Wicked

With respect to the Second Coming of Christ, we understand from events such as those found in Revelation 14 that very large angels are used to give directions.

For example, one large angel is warning that the day of judgment is near. Another is announcing (and perhaps setting in motion) the fall of Babylon. While a different one is directing a world harvest of the righteous (14:14-16), and still another is directing a world harvest of the wicked and seems to be drawing them together into one place for slaughter (14:17-20).

While we are on this subject of large angels, I would like to give another testimony. When I was a young Christian, I was meditating upon the Second Coming as I walked along the sidewalk of a street near my home in London, England. The bank in which I had my somewhat meager savings was on the opposite side of the street.

Suddenly, a very large angel started to descend with alarming swiftness from heaven above and I understood that he was an angel of the Second Coming. In my ignorance I thought the angel was coming to take me into heaven to be forever with the Lord, not realizing that other events had to be fulfilled first. However, to my amazement, as

this large angel neared the other side of the road, he stopped and placed his hand upon my bank. In an instant the purpose of the vision was communicated to me. I was not going to fulfill God's purposes, and there was going to be no Second Coming for me if I continued to rely upon my bank balance or the mammon of this world.

There are some other angelic manifestations that I would like to consider before we turn to the subject of their counterparts—the fallen and wicked angels who owe their allegiance to Satan their king.

Angels Who War Against Satan's Hordes On Earth

We have already mentioned the armies of heaven, who under Michael (before the last three and half years of this Church Dispensation) will overthrow the armies of Satan and cast them out of heavenly places (Rev. 12:7-9, 12:12-13). Yet there is also the army of heaven that marches against Satan's hordes here on earth.

Angels Fought for King David While in Battle

We see in the battles of King David that he was commanded to wait for the heavenly army to move first before he went into battle. In 2 Samuel 5:22-25 it says, *“And the Philistines came up yet again, and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim. And when David inquired of the LORD, he said, Thou shalt not go up; but fetch a compass behind them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees. And let it be, when thou hearest the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt bestir thyself: for then shall the LORD go out before thee, to smite the host of the Philistines. And David did so, as the LORD had commanded him; and smote the Philistines from Geba until thou come to Gazer.”*

The “*sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees*” was the sound of the heavenly hosts of angels, and David had to wait until he heard them. Then he attacked and won the battle because the heavenly hosts were fighting with him and for him. In heaven we shall see angels who bear with honor the marks of battle encounters against the hosts of Satan whom they have turned back on behalf of the saints here on earth.

Angels Fought for Barak

The Lord told Barak, a general of Israel’s armies, to go to Mount Tabor and to take 10,000 men with him of the tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun. God said, “*And I will draw unto thee to the river Kishon Sisera, the captain of Jabin’s army, with his chariots and his multitude; and I will deliver him into thine hand*” (Judg. 4:7). After God gave him the victory there, Barak and Deborah sang a song of triumph together. In this song, they acknowledged the angels who helped them.

Judges 5:18-20 states, “*Zebulun and Naphtali were a people that jeopardated their lives unto the death in the high places of the field. The kings came and fought, then fought the kings of Canaan in Taanach by the waters of Megiddo ... They fought from heaven; the stars in their courses fought against Sisera.*”

While Barak and the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali fought against the kings of Canaan near Megiddo, the angels “*fought from heaven, the stars in their courses fought against Sisera.*” This battle at Megiddo (same word as Armageddon) is a type of the future battle that will be fought in this same place.

In any war, angels are fighting against angels at the same time men are fighting against men. Barak acknowledged that angels from heaven

were fighting against his enemies, and helped give him the victory. The key to victory in battle is to be in communication with heaven. There is a council in heaven. We must have the mind of Christ and declare what the council in heaven has said. If we try to move into battle without being in step with the armies of God, we will be fighting the battle by ourselves, and we will lose. But when we are allied with the council of heaven against the forces of Satan according to the predetermined will of God, we will go forth and gain the victory!

Angels Who Govern Colleges / Universities

As we close this section, I would like to consider centers of learning, another area where angelic influences abound. One day I went to prayer as I mused over the disdainful remarks a Christian young man had made against Spirit-filled Christian colleges.

As I prayed, the Lord opened my eyes and I saw many colleges within a range of several hundred miles from where I was at that time. Over each college I saw an angel. Governing the secular colleges I saw a fallen angel, while over the Christian colleges there was an angel of light who varied in magnitude and lumens according to the degree of Gospel light and truth each college embraced. It was a humbling sight to see that Pentecostal colleges had the angels of preeminence.

When I was a young man endeavoring to go to a certain Christian college, the Lord showed me the spirit that governed that school. The Lord said to me, "If you go to that school, this is the spirit that is going to be teaching you." It was an intellectual spirit. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance where you are trained. The governing spiritual powers of that institute are going to mold and shape you, not only for this life, but also for all eternity.

Points to Remember - Chapter Three

1. There were many angelic manifestations in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ.
2. They began with the announcement of His birth through the various stages of His life culminating with the presence of the angels who had the privilege of strengthening Him in the Garden of Gethesame.
3. There will be many angels who will accompany Christ at His Second Coming.
4. Scripture mentions the angelic encounters the Apostles, Peter and Paul, and Philip the evangelist had. How they were directed, rescued and informed as the occasion needed.
5. Angels are mentioned 74 times in the book of Revelation more than any other book in the Bible indicating there will be much angelic activity at the end of this age.
6. From the book of Revelation, we learn angels govern churches, angels control the four winds as well as natural elements like water, wind, heat, the sun, etc. When they sound the trumpets they bring the seven judgments. We are also informed that Michael and the angels will have the victory over Satan and his fallen angels (Rev. 12:7).
7. Angels have tremendous abilities. They help man fight wars and battles e.g. David, Barak. They will direct the harvests, both of the righteous and the wicked. They assist ministers to preach. They govern nations, cities, universities, colleges and much more.

8. God uses angels to make important announcements e.g. the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, the fall of Babylon.
9. One of their prime responsibilities is to record all that take place in the world noting even the smallest details in each believer's life.
10. At the same time, the Lord uses the Church to teach the angels His ways.

Chapter Four

The Enemy—Fallen Angels

One fact we must understand when considering the Kingdom of Darkness is that it seeks to *counterfeit* in the minutest detail the Kingdom of Light. Therefore, what we have seen in the Kingdom of Light we shall also see in the Kingdom of Darkness.

In the Kingdom of Light, our heavenly Father occupies the supreme position of honor, majesty, and glory. Then there is God the Son, unto whom every knee shall bow, and unto whom the Father gives all power in heaven and in earth. The third member of the Godhead (also called the Holy Trinity) is the Holy Spirit, against whom there is no forgiveness should one blaspheme Him.

Since Satan counterfeits everything, there is a counterfeit trinity in the kingdom of darkness.

This unholy trinity is composed of:

1. Satan.
2. The Antichrist or “the Beast” of Revelation 13 whose number is 666, and is a man.
3. The False Prophet. He appears in Revelation 13:1-16, 16:13, 19:20. This man, energized by Satan, will perform many mighty miracles in order to deceive people and draw attention and worship to the Antichrist and to his image.

In the wisdom of God, the unholy trinity is granted a three and a half year period to deceive those who do not love the truth and have pleasure in unrighteousness (2 Thess. 2:3-12).

When revival comes and the whole world is reaped, all of the churches will be filled and overflowing. This is like throwing out a net into the sea, but when it is drawn in, it is filled with good and bad fish that need to be sorted out (cf. Mt. 13:47-50). The Lord will provoke Satan to jealousy so that he will then move to produce an impostor (the Antichrist) who will draw all the wicked unto himself. Unfortunately, some of the wicked he draws to himself will come from the Church. These are the bad fish. In this way, the Church will be cleansed. It is important to understand that God needs the Antichrist for the purifying of the Church.

The Trinity:

1. God the Father - who gives all power unto His Son.
2. God the Son - (a Man) who should receive all worship and glory.
3. God the Holy Spirit - who draws all attention to the Son by means of miracles, signs, and wonders.

The Unholy Trinity:

1. Satan - who gives all of his power to the Son of Perdition.
2. Beast (or Antichrist) - (a man) who seeks all glory and worship for himself (2 Thess. 2:3-4).
3. False Prophet - who draws all attention to the Beast by means of miracles, signs, and wonders.

During the period when the Antichrist comes to power, there are all manner of angels in various forms who will afflict the earth and mankind when the three tiers of Seven judgments are released. Let us first

consider the manifold number of fallen angels who are associated with these judgments and the End Times.

The Fallen Angel Who Opens Hell for Spirits to Torment

In Revelation 9:1, as the fifth angel sounds the fifth trumpet judgment, a fallen angel comes from heaven and opens the bottomless pit. At this time, hordes of evil spirits like scorpions come out upon the earth.

These are sent for five months to torment those who do not have the mark of God upon their foreheads. They have the faces of men, but hair like women, teeth like lions, and their bodies are in the shape of horses. They also have wings. These spirits are probably fallen angels who have taken on another form. Their king is named Apollyon (Rev. 9:1-11).

Four Fallen Angels Who Unleash Spirits to Slay One Third of Men

In Revelation 9:15 it says, *“And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.”* Four fallen angels who are presently bound in the great river Euphrates, are then loosed to slay the third part of men ordained for a specific time.

The slaying of the third part of men is going to be achieved through an army of evil spirits numbering 200 million (9:16). These fallen spirits are described as having *“heads of lions and out of their mouths come forth the fire, smoke, and brimstone”* and through these three forms of judgment the third part of men are to be killed.

Three Unclean Spirits Who Lure All Nations Against Israel

In Revelation 16:13, we see that there are three unclean spirits like frogs that come out of the mouths of the Dragon, the Beast, and the False Prophet, *“For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty”* (Rev. 16:14). Frogs are representative of false prophecy.

In the natural, when it rains the “frogs” come out and become vocal. Even so, whenever God’s Spirit begins to fall, many other voices of false prophecy begin to sound. When God pours out His Spirit upon all flesh, so does Satan pour out his spirit. In Revelation 16:13-16 we find these frogs are a delusive spirit that come out of the mouths of the false trinity. Their purpose is to lure all the nations of the world to come together to oppose God and destroy Israel. Yet when they come, God will consume them in His fury. Therefore, we understand that God is simply using Satan and all of his evil spirits to accomplish His purposes.

Evil Angels Were Used to Judge Egypt

Thus, we see that a manifold number of fallen angels and evil spirits will be released upon the earth in the times of judgments in these last days. This is not a new happening by any means, it occurred in the time of the issuing of the ten plagues upon Egypt, as we can see in Psalm 78:49-51, *“He cast upon them the fierceness of his anger, wrath, and indignation, and trouble, by sending evil angels among them. He made a way to his anger; he spared not their soul from death, but gave their life over to the pestilence; And smote all the firstborn in Egypt; the chief of their strength in the tabernacles*

of Ham.” Hence, evil angels were responsible for the slaying of the firstborn in Egypt.

The context of this judgment upon Egypt was their refusal to obey God’s command to let Israel His firstborn nation to leave their territory. It is a shadow of the last days when the people of this world will refuse to repent of their sinful ways, their blasphemy of God, and their persecution of His people.

Fallen Angels Can Take On Grotesque Forms

Contemplating the manner in which evil angels will be released upon the earth in the time of the Apocalypse, we realize that they will take forms that are totally inhuman. Their bodies can only be described as beasts that are unlike any creature that exists upon the earth today.

When we consider evil spirits, or fallen angels, we must understand they take on not only human forms but also those of animals. They have the capability of transforming themselves into forms of mankind and of animals, as well as spiritual shapes that we have never known upon earth.

Some of these manifestations will strike terror into the hearts of mankind when they see them. In hell they have these forms, and they are used to torment those who go down into the nether parts of the earth where hell is situated. The forms of these creatures are terrifying, not only those that are described in the Book of Revelation that shall be released upon earth, but those who inhabit various parts of hell right now.

We cannot begin to describe for you the awesome torments these malformed spirits are allowed to inflict upon the disobedient after their death. Their disheveled wings are black as coal, their fingers are

grotesque, and their flashing cruel eyes are devoid of any sense of pity as they torment their charges at death.

***Unclean Animals and Insects on Earth
have Counterparts in Hell***

All unclean insects and animals on earth have their counterpart in hell, for these unclean creatures are all illustrative and symbolic of those that inhabit hell's dark, foreboding regions. When God created the clean and unclean animals in Genesis, He intended to use these to teach His people the difference between good and evil, the clean and the unclean (Ezek. 44:23). Everything God has made has a truth, a divine lesson for us to learn. This is clearly taught by Paul in Romans 1:20.

An understanding of these hideous forms that fallen angels and demons take on is reflected in creatures like geckos, lizards, and others which inhabit the subterranean areas under trees and so forth.

When I was in the tropics, they were uprooting a tree and there were all these awful ant-like creatures, which looked exactly like demons and other evil counterparts in hell. Some are great in height with their dimensions so terrible as to make the Jurassic Park representations seem almost friendly. Please do remember that these creatures have but one purpose and that is to torment those who are within their hellish domains. I have seen some people on their deathbeds, who have lived sinful lives, seeking to fend off their torturers as their eyes are opened to see these fiends, but to no avail.

At the same time, the fallen angels and demons know very well their own day of reckoning is coming when they must suffer the anguish of the pangs of eternal judgment that their own rebellion and consequent actions merit. Yet their rage against their victims knows no respite.

The punishment determined upon those who have rejected Christ and who have been placed in their domain in hell is carried out to the full. Their food is not that which is human but rather they feed upon the misery they are permitted to inflict upon the disobedient and unredeemed of the human race.

There are also evil angels who manifest themselves to the living in the form of other creatures. For example, when my spiritual eyes were opened by the Holy Spirit, I saw spirits of adultery in the form of black creatures that have inhabited and controlled church buildings, and as a consequence they have hindered the moving of the Holy Spirit. They have brought in other spirits of anger, jealousy, and bitterness that have all had their separate forms.

Some of these spirits actually inhabited church members who had given themselves over to such practices. I have also seen evil spirits in the form of grotesque creatures that control whole areas, either in cities or countries.

Evil Angels are Allowed to Govern Countries, Cities, and Buildings

In the following section I have sought to give either personal experiences, or those I have gleaned from others.

Thailand —

The first night that I spent in Bangkok, the nation's capital, the evil angelic prince that governs this country visited me in my room. The power and presence of this prince is indescribable. His appearance was that of a Thai man complete in the traditional costume of that country. Especially noticeable was his hat that came up to a point. It

was clear in this manifestation that God permitted me to receive, the character of this ruling angel dominated the population so much that they took on his personality. His character molded theirs. This experience gave me a greater understanding of how evil angels dominate the thought patterns and customs of the people in the country over which they rule.

This is brought out clearly by Paul in Ephesians 2:1-2, *“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins: Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, that spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.”* People walk, dress, think, and act *“according to the prince of the power of the air.”*

The governing principality over a nation or locality affects the behavior of the people, especially those who are not Christians. The character of the fallen angel envelops the people. In one city, the spiritual prince that ruled there was very brusque, and so were the people. They were very abrupt and rude and impatient with one another ... just like the prince over that city. Some fallen angels are religious, or sleepy, or competitive, but all of them are proud.

Yugoslavia —

When you are on the mission field and in other countries, you will experience thoughts that you never had before because of the oppression of the ruling spiritual powers there. We must be filled with the Word of God as all kinds of thoughts will enter into our minds. One day when I was walking down a main street in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, I was passing by a communist embassy. Suddenly a dark cloud came over my mind and voices spoke into my mind, saying: “Communism is right, communism is good. It has done a lot of good for the people.” This continued for a moment and I was very upset in

my spirit until the Holy Spirit spoke and said, “Where is the blood?” Immediately those thoughts dissipated.

These things are realities. We are going to have voices coming into our minds, the same voices the people hear in these countries. These voices are going to try to convince you to believe what they believe. Because you can hear these voices very plainly in your mind, you might not think it’s coming from those spiritual powers. In fact, you might think it is your own human spirit speaking. Therefore you must “try [or test] the spirits” as the Apostle John tells us.

Monte Carlo and Monaco —

Many years ago I was seated on a train that had stopped at the station of Monte Carlo which is on French territory. While I was sitting there my spiritual eyes were opened and I saw in a vision the evil angel that governs these twin cities of Monte Carlo and Monaco. He was of such great height that one foot was in Monaco and the other foot was in Monte Carlo. The angel had a sword in his hand, and I understood then that he was responsible for many suicides of those who had lost their fortunes gambling in the casinos.

United States

Salt Lake City —

When you go to Salt Lake City, your mind swims because of the power of the evil angel Moroni that is over that area. Many years ago I was driving through Salt Lake City and I actually saw the angel Moroni over the Mormon Tabernacle there. The true anointing makes your thoughts clear and alert, but coming under the canopy of this false angel, my mind went into a tailspin. There was confusion and an inability to connect my thoughts. I could feel the loss of spiritual clarity

and reasoning powers by being under his influence. It is a terrible delusive religious spirit.

New York —

While in New York I was at a convention in a certain college. The convener of the meetings invited all pastors from the city to come to the platform so that they could bind in prayer the fallen angel that governed the city. This angel was responsible for the spiritual opposition that the pastors were experiencing when ministering in their churches in that city. I was seated in the congregation, on an aisle chair.

As the pastors were praying and seeking to bind this angel, my spiritual eyes were opened and standing by my side was an immense angel. His helmet, wings, and garments were all black. I looked up at him, and with a belligerent face, he looked down at me. The Lord then spoke to me in my heart and said, “Do not touch him. First of all, you do not have the power to dislodge him, and second, it is not his time to go.” The fact that this city is governed by such an evil angel accounts for the fact that it is a city of great wickedness.

Las Vegas —

One of my senior overseers was in Las Vegas to minister at a church in that city. That night the two fallen angels who had rulership over the city visited him. This man spoke to the two angels and said, “You know that your time is short!”

The two fallen angels responded by respectively bowing. Demons and fallen angels all know that they have an appointed time for judgment (Mt. 8:29). They also know when they have to give up their territory. Let us, therefore, remember the Scripture that tells us that the devils “*believe and tremble*” (Jas. 2:19).

The Philippines —

This beautiful country that has experienced a revival in recent years was dedicated to Christ by the Spanish King Philip. The country was named Philippines (or “Philip’s Pines”) in his honor. It was intended to become a missionary nation that would take the Gospel to the other nations in Asia. However, in a prayer conference in which I was privileged to be, one of the speakers told us that the previous government had made a pact with a foreign country to permit certain religious activities in a particular area of the country. In a vision I saw an angel who had the characteristics of that foreign country standing upon that territory the Philippine government had allotted to them. This fallen angel was very grave and of solemn disposition.

India —

In my first visit to India over 30 years ago, the Immigration Service sought to deny me entry on the grounds that I was a pastor. As I was flying across that nation several days later the Lord opened my spiritual eyes to behold the skies of that land covered with all kinds of grotesque demonic forms as well as evil angels that sought worship from the inhabitants of this country. In my heart I said, “Oh Lord, if only these spirits did not inhabit the land, the people would be able to receive the Gospel light.”

Why God Gives Nations Over to Bondage and Delusion

The response of the Lord was very remarkable! His response to me came in a series of questions. First He asked, “Whose earth is this?” to which I responded, “Well, it is Yours, Lord.” Then He asked, “Who has all the power upon this earth?” Again I responded, “You have, Lord.” Then He caused me to understand that it was the Lord Himself who had smitten India with blindness and given them over to the

delusions of these evil powers because they had repeatedly refused the Gospel. The Lord said, “The Immigration Service in India has not rejected you. India had rejected Me, the only true and living God.” India wanted nothing to do with Christianity or its pastors. As a nation, India loves darkness rather than light.

This taught me a lesson that I have seen repeated many times over, and in diverse places, namely that evil powers reside in certain places only because the Lord permits it. When His purpose for them ceases He orders their removal and generally at that moment they are assigned to hell.

Fallen Angels and Demons Know Their Time of Judgment

To illustrate this truth, let me share a personal testimony. At one time, I was a faculty member of a certain Bible college. This college was bound spiritually by the conduct of one of the members of the faculty. During a school break my wife and I traveled some 2000 miles to visit other churches. We stayed for a few hours with a lady whom my wife had befriended. After lunch I excused myself to study and was given a mezzanine floor room.

At about three o’clock in the afternoon two angels appeared before me. The Holy Spirit made me to understand that these two evil angels were working through this faculty member to bind the school.

As they stood there, the Holy Spirit told me to command a chain to come up from hell and bind them and then to command that it take them down into the pit. I informed the angels of that command, and they simply respectfully bowed in recognition of the fact that this indeed was the Word of the Lord. As I spoke, a black chain came up through the floor. Then I commanded that this chain bind the angels. They made no protestation as the chain curled around their waists. Then I

commanded that the chain take them down into hell, which it did. Six weeks later that faculty member was removed from the school due to revealed sin in his life.

God is sovereign. He reigns over all and appoints the boundaries not only of nations, but the parameters and times evil angels are permitted to afflict mankind. God smites nations with blindness and bondage when they constantly reject the light (Isa. 66:3b-4). When man brings God down, God brings man down (Rom. 1:18-32). Yet when God is finished chastising a nation, he will remove the curse (Psa. 90:3, Psa. 107:10-14).

India is given over to bondage. This is illustrated even by the known names of some of these principal evil influences. The so-called goddess Kali is the goddess of violence that governs Calcutta and all of West Bengal. Bombay is governed by the elephant god, which produces a slowness and even somnolent lethargy among the population. Bombay is also the center of the Indian movie industry, which we will discuss when we come to Hollywood.

Various Academics That Are Under the Control of Fallen Angels

A. Psychology

I lived in Switzerland, one of the world's centers of psychology, for some time. At that time there were many who were devoting their lives and studies to psychology and principally these were women. Many of them were studying "Christian" psychology. These psychologists guided many of the young people in the churches of certain large cities of that country. But when the young people came to our conferences, we were finding that they were in dire need of

spiritual deliverance. Eventually, some of those who had guided them by psychology came to us.

I specifically remember two incidents. First there was a lady who came to listen to my teaching on the Book of Job. She was a Spirit-filled woman who was quite involved in psychology. When I had finished she said, “This is remarkable! Your conclusion of the Book of Job was that Job was wrong and that God was right. Our noted psychologist, Professor Jung, has written a large book on the same subject, but he declares that Job was right and that God was wrong.”

Our God is sovereign and does not make mistakes. Unfortunately, this lady was under such spiritual bondage that she could no longer discern between truth and error. A little later I was speaking to this same lady in the foyer of the Christian hotel in which we had our Bible School. She then began to challenge me.

As she spoke, God graciously opened my eyes and I saw a large angel clothed in garments that were off-white come across the foyer. Standing by her side, he spoke through the lady and said, “If something is truth, it comes from the Light, and it is right.” I replied, “No, it is not right.” But she insisted, “If I can shed light on a subject, then it is from God.”

The Source of a Revelation is Important

Something Christians often do not grasp is that Satan can also give light. Satan can heal and do miracles. He can give dreams, and he can quote Scripture, but it is always out of context. So I said to this lady, “No, the fact that you have revelation on a subject does not necessarily mean it is right. It depends on the source.” Satan can come as an angel of light. Somehow, this broke the power of that angel that was dominating her. Some of the other students of psychology came to

see us as well. They explained, “We are Spirit-filled. We have dreams, and we can see exactly what the needs are in our clients. We show them their problems and they have a release. Therefore, that which is light is right.” Again I firmly replied, “No, it has got to come from the right source.”

When we met some of their clients, we found they were very much under the domination of their counselors. Although they had received freedom from certain conflicts, in actuality they were so bound to the psychologists (and the spirit that worked through them), that they could not do anything without their permission. Some of the psychologists who came to see us were convicted by the Holy Spirit and stopped their studying.

Psychology is rooted in pride for it relies on the ability of the natural mind to work out man’s problems, rather than the Holy Spirit - the Spirit of Counsel (Isa. 11:2). It is, therefore, a counterfeit of the true anointing.

The Word of God can show us exactly what our needs are. God’s Word is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. It is able to divide soul (man’s feelings and thoughts) from spirit (God’s feelings and thoughts). *“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, ... and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart”* (Heb. 4:12).

Psychology, in effect, is a doctrine of Satan, who appears as an angel of light. The Apostle Paul warns us clearly that Satan appears as an angel of light: *“And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works”* (2 Cor. 11:14-15).

Satan's Ministers—Angels of Light

Some spirits desperately want to get back to the place they lost in God before the rebellion in heaven. Therefore, some of these spirits want to preach the Gospel, and some of them do preach the Gospel, but it is with wrong motives. They work through people who have wrong motives, as in the case of these psychologists who wanted to dominate and control their clients.

Some ministers who refuse to put things right with God eventually become instruments of Satan. They become his ministers. Satan has ministers who appear to be “ministers of righteousness” but in actuality he is using them to put people to sleep spiritually. This spiritual slumber causes them to think they are all right in their sinful conditions, when in fact they are headed toward judgment.

Why did Satan get into the Apostle Judas? He was a major apostle who performed miracles in the name of Jesus, just like the 11 other disciples. Something in his heart opened the door for Satan to get into him (Jn. 13:27). We find the answer in John 12:6 where we are told he was a thief.

Ananias and Sapphira were members of the church of Jerusalem. Undoubtedly, they were filled with the Spirit, and their leaders were the twelve apostles. Yet Peter had to say to Ananias, “*Why hath Satan filled thine heart?*” (Acts 5:3). Ananias and his wife had ulterior motives. They wanted to appear to be more generous than they really were, claiming they had sold their all and given it to the Lord.

Peter had to have his own heart examined before he could ask Ananias why the devil got into him, for just a few years earlier, Satan had been working through Peter. In Matthew 16:21-25, Peter “rebuked” His Master teacher for saying He had to go to the cross. This was a

deathblow to Peter's hopes of becoming famous. His hero was going to die and that would be the end of all his dreams and ambitions. *"But he [Christ] turned, and said unto Peter, Get behind me, Satan: thou art an offense unto me: for thou savorest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men"* (Mt. 16:23).

Why was Satan able to work and speak through Peter? Because his heart had self-seeking motives. He savored the things of men more than the things of God. Therefore, Peter had many crushing blows in his life in order to separate "the chaff from the wheat." Wherever there is "chaff" in our lives, Satan will try to gain control and work through us in that area (See also Luke 22:31-34).

Our Eyes Can Deceive Us

With respect to the transforming of an angel of darkness into an angel of light, I have literally seen this firsthand. As a young man I was in my parents' home in London. One evening when I had gone to bed early and it was still light, an angel in shining garments, perhaps a little shorter than me, walked into my room. Looking at him with my natural eyes, I thought he was a holy angel.

Yet as soon as he passed my bed, he turned and fell upon me with his hands and grabbed my throat. Seeking to defend myself, I used my hands to try to push him off, but my hands went right through him. I could not defend myself and life was ebbing from me, as I was unable to breathe. Then my spirit cried out, "Jesus, save me!" When I did so, the evil angel released his grip, got off my body, and walked out of my bedroom.

Even when our eyes are opened to see the invisible world of spirits, sometimes we cannot tell whether they are from God or from the adversary. Some of the fallen angels are very beautiful, and some

even have a good scent. It is only by the mercy of God that we can know the difference.

Joshua was well aware of this when he had a supernatural visitation from a majestic angelic leader. Quickly he challenged the angel and asked — “*Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?*” (Josh. 5:13-15).

Joseph Smith, founder of Mormonism, was visited by a fallen angelic prince named Moroni. This is the spirit that founded Mormonism. Paul warns in Galatians 1:8, that even if “an angel from heaven” comes and preaches any other Gospel, let him be accursed.

B. Philosophy

It is well known that nearly all of the Greek philosophers were homosexuals. The Word of God is very clear that philosophy is perpetrated by fallen angels. Worldly philosophy and thinking comes from “*the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience*” (see Eph. 2:2-3).

The battle is for our mind. What we think is so important, “*For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he*” (Prov. 23:7a). God warns us, “*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD*” (Isa. 55:8).

We find in 2 Corinthians 10:4, “*For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.*”

All the nations of the world have their own distinct characteristics and

lifestyles, and that is due to one main reason—the way they *think*. Their thoughts are influenced by the angelic princes that govern their country.

Let us allow our minds to be shaped by the Word of God alone, and not by worldly philosophies, which are in opposition to the truths of God's Word. Paul cautions us in Colossians 2:8, "*Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*"

C. Social and Economic Regression

It is estimated that Russia fell at least 50 years behind the Western world even in the realm of science because of the communist doctrine's refutation of theology, namely Christianity.

It is noteworthy that virtually all non-Christian countries are retarded economically and socially and are termed Third World Countries, with only a few exceptions like Japan. However, the evil angels who are responsible for the propagation of Buddhism and Shintoism govern that country. Decisions that business people and politicians make in Japan are hardly ever done without first consulting spiritist mediums who are under the control of evil angels.

Japan exalts the human mind, yet the human mind is the greatest blockage to faith and understanding the Gospel and true wisdom.

All of Satan's thrones (including the world's economies) are built on sinking sand, but "*blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord*" (Psa. 33:12). A nation's wisdom and blessing depend upon making the Lord her Ruler, and honoring all of His commandments (Deut. 4:5-8).

The Influence Evil Angels Have Over Individuals

A. In the Realm of Entertainment

1. Hollywood Movies

At the height of the charismatic revival a pastor friend of mine had a vision of Hollywood, the center of the movie industry of America. He saw a huge fallen angel standing above this town. It was made very clear to him that this angel was responsible for the producing and publishing of films, and that those who are actors, producers, and writers are in actuality controlled by him.

What is the purpose of the film industry? It was succinctly expressed by some writers and producers - to mold the thinking of the general public. Molding their thinking means to shape their character. What we *see* has a greater impact than what we read. I think that most of us have heard the truism that “a picture is worth a thousand words.”

Therefore, the movie theater is a tremendous force for evil in this world, since its Hollywood source is none other than an emissary of Satan. Christians should be careful not to indulge in watching these films or videos.

Another evil aspect of the film industry (and for that matter the entire entertainment industry) is that it robs men and women of precious time. We only have 24 hours in a day; how do we spend them?

Time cannot be bought or borrowed. Time is irreplaceable and it is ticking away. When we run out of time, we have run out of life. Paul told us to “redeem” or make the most of our time (Eph. 5:16). If we fritter away half the day, by the end of our lives, we will have frittered away half our lives! God is going to ask us how we used our time.

2. Sports

Another entertainment that steals the time of people is sports in all of its facets. The highest paid people in ordinary life are the sports personalities. Why is this? Because the entertainment received from sports is one of Satan's finest distractions. When sports consume our spare time and more, we are robbed of precious hours of our lives. These sportsmen and women themselves pay a tremendous price for indulging their lives in this pastime.

A pastor friend in another country told me of a famous football player that he knew personally. This ballplayer had suffered physically on the field because of the abuse his body had been subjected to, and his life and physical well being increased in misery as he aged. Nevertheless he told the pastor that he willingly paid the price to have the glory of those fleeting moments when he was young.

Besides paying a heavy penalty in health and physical well being, some of these athletes find themselves unqualified to enter the work force after their sporting days are over due to injuries they have sustained in their playing years. Satan's reward is fleeting glory, high pay, a suffering body, and perhaps even a shortened life, while they divert people's attention and affection from the real purpose of life. Sadly, many of those same sportsmen live a sensual lifestyle and lead their admirers into the same iniquity. The fallen angels who govern the entertainment world captivate the general public, taking their money, time, thoughts, and affections, which could have been devoted to the pursuit of things that are eternal.

3. Novels

Except for the Bible, the mystery authoress, Agatha Christie, has had more books published than any other writer. They number more than

two billion. Being a Christian, many of the plots for her mystery novels were taken from Scripture passages from the Bible. It is so regrettable that she did not choose, when putting pen to paper, to compose devotional books that would have helped and guided her readers from earth to heaven above. She acknowledged her purpose of writing had no importance but was simply to entertain. Likewise, Christian novels, which generally absorb the minds and time of young girls with romantic thoughts, are time stealers too.

B. By the Works of the Flesh

In Galatians 5:19-21, the Apostle Paul lists seventeen sins that separate us from the love of God (cf. Isa. 59:2). Those who commit such things [the Apostle says] will have no inheritance in the Kingdom of Heaven. These sins, when committed on a regular basis, open an individual to possession or being controlled by evil spirits. In some cases just one fall opens the door for the enemy's entry into a person's life. When that person is in a position of great responsibility in a nation, then these spirits can indeed influence that whole nation and rule over their affairs.

How well I remember the Lord leading me on one occasion to a certain airport in one of the western states of America. Here the former vice-president, who soon after became the president, was due to arrive. As he passed by, I stretched out my hand to shake his hand, and looked into his eyes. I had never seen such sad eyes. Looking into his heart by the Spirit of God I saw this word—compromise. Baptized at the age of fifteen, he danced with joy as he experienced salvation, but his young heart desired power and position at any cost. Every position he pursued, he gained.

I felt the spiritual power that emanated from him, and it was a tremendous spirit of deceit. The leader of a nation carries a tremendous

“presence” with him, and it covers the whole nation. In this case it was a blanket of deceit flowing from the president and it covered the country.

Another time while visiting the capital of the United States I came into contact with a certain speaker, the secretary of state. As the Lord opened my eyes, I saw him covered with the black garment of adultery.

When high-ranking officials of a nation are evil and adulterous, it affects the whole nation. In the 1970's I saw a large cloud of demons over Sacramento, and then I saw a former governor of California. As the governor signed legislation into action that promoted homosexuality, this large cloud of demons literally were released and dispersed throughout the state. How important it is for our elected officials to be godly, righteous, and holy so that the regions they govern can enjoy the protection of the holy angels of God!

C. In the Church

The Congregation of the Dead

Basically there are two churches—the congregation of the dead and the congregation of the righteous. Let us start with the first one. “*The man that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead*” (Prov. 21:16). This congregation does not enjoy the presence of the Lord in its midst. This is due to sin in various forms, which they allow and endorse, as we see in Job 15:34, “*For the congregation of hypocrites shall be desolate, and fire shall consume the tabernacles of bribery.*” Moreover, King David expressed his feelings clearly about those congregations when he said, “*I have hated the congregation of evildoers; and will not sit with the wicked*” (Psa. 26:5).

The Congregation of the Righteous

The other congregation is the gathering of those who are termed righteous in the eyes of the Lord. The congregation of the righteous is brought out in Psalm 1:5, *“Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.”*

However, even in the congregation of the righteous there are some serious problems, as King Solomon notes, *“And moreover I saw under the sun the place of judgment, that wickedness was there; and the place of righteousness, that iniquity was there”* (Eccl. 3:16). We will now consider some of the manifestations of evil angels and spirits in the congregations of the righteous.

4. False Doctrine

In his epistle to Timothy, the Apostle Paul warns of false doctrines coming into the Church in the last days. *“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;”* (1 Tim. 4:1). There is a reason the evil spirits who perpetrate these doctrines can gain entrance into the congregation of the righteous—through those who want to hear anything wild or sensational.

In 2 Timothy 4:3-4 Paul cautions, *“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”* Jesus warns, *“And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold”* (Mt. 24:12).

In the last days, the fervency even of many Christians to accomplish the will of God will wane. If we grow slack, the enemy will catch up

with us and ensnare us. If we do not keep moving on, Satan will apprehend us, or our children. We are warned against this very thing in Deuteronomy 25:17-18, “*Remember what Amalek did unto thee by the way, when ye were come forth out of Egypt; how he smote the hindmost of thee, even all that were feeble behind thee, when thou wast faint and weary; and he feared not God.*” It was those stragglers who were falling behind that were the first ones to be attacked by the enemy and destroyed.

A few weeks ago, I heard a Pentecostal preacher propagating a false doctrine. As I listened, I was amazed at his fluency, his command of words, and the apparent success that he had in persuading the convention crowd of his views.

We must never judge a message by its eloquence or diction, for we know the Antichrist himself will be a master of enticing words. He will be a mighty orator who is capable of swaying nations. Satan will give him “*a mouth speaking great things*” (Rev. 13:5a).

These preachers, under the influence of evil spirits, may sound very convincing. Yet if our hearts are honest and right with God we will have an inner witness of the Holy Spirit to discern their error, and we will be protected from following them into perdition. A Christian who is gullible could lose his soul for “*those who by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple*” (Rom. 6:18).

Beware of ministers who preach only part of Scripture rather than the whole Word of God. For example, I remember an evangelist saying, “*There is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus*” (Rom. 8:1a) but avoiding the rest of the verse. He was teaching that there is no condemnation in Christ, even when we sin. The rest of the verse qualifies what Paul was really saying, “*who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit*” (Rom. 8:1b).

5. Prophecy

Another area in which evil spirits operate in some of the congregations of the righteous is in the area of the spiritual gifts and particularly prophecy.

Let me share a personal experience to attest to this. We were invited to preach in the town of Klagenfurt, Austria, in the church of a godly pastor. During the worship service a lady prophesied, but as I looked up to listen more carefully (for I understood German), the Lord opened my eyes. I saw an evil spirit speaking forth from this lady. My friend, although not having that same experience, had the inner witness that this manifestation was not from the Spirit of God and knew that an evil spirit was working through her.

After the meeting we asked the pastor who the lady was and he replied that she was someone upon whom he depended greatly for guidance in the congregation, and in his own personal life. He was very surprised when we told him she was a spiritist medium. Later developments proved us correct. When I met her, I asked, "You know who I am, don't you?" and she replied, "Yes." Then I said, "And I know who you are. You're a spiritist medium." "Yes" she replied.

A number of years later in Sydney, Australia, I was invited to be a speaker at a convention with a pastor from New Zealand. In the morning service, I was sitting on the platform while he was ministering.

He suddenly stopped preaching and started to point to people in the congregation. He gave their names, although he had not seen them before. He then proceeded to recount many facts concerning their past. When he did so, he asked them to raise their hands if these statements were true. This they did, acknowledging that everything this pastor said was indeed the truth.

The congregation was in an uproar because of these amazing manifestations of the spirit of prophecy. He finished in each case by giving an incredible promise to these people of some extraordinary future ministry. Although they were attesting to the veracity of his statements, my heart was troubled.

It was then that the Lord graciously opened my eyes to see an evil angel clothed as an angel of light standing by this pastor. It was this angel that was giving the revelations, not the Lord. Regretfully, all those who listened attributed these manifestations to the Lord.

6. Prayer

Many years ago I was invited to hold a prayer meeting and to speak for a week to the congregation of a godly pastor in the town of Nimes in France. The subject was a call to prayer.

After the conclusion of my message, I invited the congregation to kneel or sit where they were and to pray. After some time had elapsed, the Lord opened my eyes and I saw entering the door of the church a fallen angel, and by his side was a demon. Together they walked down the middle aisle of the church.

Then at one of the pews the angel stopped and motioned to the demon who then went and touched a lady. As he did, she suddenly prayed a very short prayer, saying: "Lord, help our poor pastor." The presence of the Lord left the church, and the demon and the fallen angel also left. I closed the meeting and asked the lady to join us in the pastor's office.

The Lord showed me that this woman was organizing prayer meetings to pray for the pastor, but her motives and attitudes were wrong. The ladies, and especially this woman who was leading them, were belittling

the pastor and thinking they were more spiritual than their God-given spiritual leader. Thus, she had opened the door for a fallen angel and a demon to control their prayer meetings, and to a certain extent adversely influence the church.

7. Healing and Miracles

On numerous occasions I have seen ministers who were not living for the Lord in a righteous manner come under the influence of evil spirits. These spirits operated through the ministers, performing miracles of healings and other wonders. I will provide one account as an example.

My wife and I were in Switzerland many years ago and I was with a friend who was responsible for a Bible school and a convention center. One day we were informed that a certain German evangelist was holding evangelistic campaigns in Holland and performing tremendous miracles. Yet those who really knew this evangelist said that his personal life was not right with the Lord. Therefore, he had no authority from God to be doing those miracles.

Later this evangelist came to us and told us that he felt he should join us in ministry. We were very uneasy about the matter, and as we were seated and talking around a table, the Lord opened my eyes to see a large demon prince standing behind him.

Out of my lips, in German, the Holy Spirit quoted Hebrews 5:4, “*And no man taketh this honor unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.*” The demon prince replied right back in German through the lips of this evangelist and said, “What the Holy Spirit says is true.” Thus, he was acknowledging that he had not received the God-given authority to perform these miracles, although afterwards the evangelist tried to deny what the demon had said through his own lips.

This evangelist, at the beginning of his ministry, may certainly have been given the gifts of healing and miracles by God. Sadly, due to a life of sin, he had lost his God-given gifts and these had been replaced by the demonic powers of Satan, which sought to deceive the people. That this very thing will be prevalent in the last days is substantiated by the Apostle Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2:8-9: *“And then shall that Wicked [one] be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders.”*

Another time, I saw an evangelist who was entertaining the crowds with his preaching and humor, rather than preaching. Then I saw a large demon prince walking back and forth behind him on the platform, playing a violin. This was the spirit working through this preacher. Obviously, he was not living righteously in his personal life.

Points to Remember - Chapter Four

1. Satan is the leader of the fallen angels being the chief fallen angel.
2. Satan counterfeits everything God does to the minutest detail. He has his own Trinity which includes the Antichrist and the False Prophet. The Antichrist will have a three-and-a-half year ministry like Jesus did, and the False Prophet will do notable miracles to draw attention to the False Christ.
3. Satan can heal, give dreams, do miracles, prophesy and quote Scripture but out of context.
4. Fallen angels have power like their leader but not in the same magnitude nor do they have all of his powers. They can rule buildings, cities, and countries, which take on the particular characteristics of these ruling fallen angels. The fallen angels also control many areas of the academic world, like philosophy and psychology as well as Hollywood and the production of sensual novels, soap operas and other delusive dream worlds. Their control of the world of sports allow them to distract God's people from spiritual matters.
5. It is important to remember that it is God who allows fallen angels to rule over rebellious nations and people. It is His judgment on them. God used fallen angels to judge Egypt during the ten plagues (Psa. 78:49-51).
6. Many fallen angels are very beautiful. Or, they can take on many grotesque forms, as animals or hideous creatures. Even unclean

animals and insects are symbolic of creatures in hell that are much larger. They may also appear in the form of man and as spirits e.g. the spirit of adultery.

7. Fallen angels and demons know when their time of judgment has come. On our part, we cannot bind a fallen angel until it is his time to be judged.
8. Those who do not live right become instruments of Satan. They may be heads of state and other leaders, even ministers. These ministers (preachers) appear as “ministers of righteousness.” They are usually wonderful orators. The gullible believe them (Rom. 16:18). We need discernment to know if the source /revelation/ person is from God or from Satan. Even Joshua challenged the heavenly messenger, and did not assume anything.
9. Scripture identifies two congregations in the Church – the congregation of the dead, and the congregation of the righteous (Prov.21:16; Ps.1:5). Satan gets into Christians who do not love the truth, but have pleasure in unrighteousness. Stragglers (Christians whose hearts are backslidden or unsundered) are the first ones Satan attacks and destroys (Deut. 25:17-18).
10. During End Times, a fallen angel will open hell and allow many spirits to come out and torment men while four fallen angels will release other evil spirits to slay one-third of mankind.

Chapter Five

The Enemy—Demons

Our prime consideration in writing this small volume was to encourage the saints to be aware of the holy angels of God who are sent forth everywhere to care for them, and also to make them aware of the forces of darkness. Apart from the fallen angels, there are demons (or devils). They were not formerly angels of God, and are earthbound.

Demons have some of the same characteristics as fallen angels, but have less power and rank. They are often directed by the fallen angels who appear to be their masters and superiors. Demons are spoken of frequently in the New Testament, but were also known in the Old Testament. We learn this in the life of Saul who was tormented by one. *“But the spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him”* (1 Sam. 16:14).

Deliverance was understood in the Old Testament, though it only gave partial and temporary relief from evil spirits. The passage in 1 Samuel 16:15-23 bears out this truth, *“And Saul’s servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee. Let our lord now command thy servants, which are before thee, to seek out a man, who is a cunning player on an harp: and it shall come to pass, when the evil spirit from God is upon thee, that he shall play with his hand, and thou shalt be well. And Saul said unto his servants, Provide me now a man that can play well, and bring him to me. Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold,*

I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, that is cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD is with him. Wherefore Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said, Send me David thy son, which is with the sheep. And Jesse took an ass laden with bread, and a bottle of wine, and a kid, and sent them by David his son unto Saul. And David came to Saul, and stood before him: and he loved him greatly; and he became his armourbearer. And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favour in my sight. And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.”

Anointed Music Brings Deliverance

As David worshipped the Lord and ministered to Him with his harp, the anointing came and the evil spirit could not abide in God’s presence. The fact that David was able to bring deliverance from evil spirits with anointed music affords us some guidance. For when we are endeavoring to minister to those who are afflicted or possessed by evil spirits, it is wise to prepare the spiritual atmosphere. This is done by worship unto the Lord, either with or without music, but preferably with it.

Possession Can Be From Birth

Possession or affliction can be since birth, or it can be inherited, as we see in the following New Testament account in Mark 9:17-21, “*And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spoke to thy disciples that they*

should cast him out; and they could not... And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tore him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming. And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child ” [or since a baby].

Demons Can Inhabit People for Many Years

The truth that devils can remain in a person for a very long time is illustrated by Luke 8:27, “*And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and wore no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs.*” Also, demon possession resulted in this man wearing no clothes and living in graveyards.

A Person Can Have Many Demons

A person can have many devils, which is proven by the following accounts: “*And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him*” (Luke 8:30). “*And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils*” (Luke 8:2).

Demons Have Many Forms

These devils or demons take many forms. We have seen in the cases we have already mentioned that some of these devils were manifested as deaf and dumb spirits. Others that had great power could bring a person to the borders of insanity, nudity, or to the point of fierceness that even chains could not restrain him. As we continue with our discourse on demons together with a few personal testimonies, we would remind you, dear reader, the purpose of this book. As we

previously mentioned, it is to bring one into a consciousness of the holy angels of God of whom the psalmist speaks, “*The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all. 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 ministers of his, that do his pleasure*” (Psa. 103:19-21).

Demons Have Different Character and Emphasis

Demons have a specific character. Some are demons of jealousy, some are demons of anger, or lust, or confusion. Some are religious, and some are sleepy. Whatever their character, this is manifested through those they either influence or inhabit. Most demons have two legs and desire to inhabit a body, for they once lived in a body. But angels never lived in a body, and they do not wish to inhabit one. Angels overshadow and influence people, but they do not dwell in them. They would rather have a throne or rule a territory.

We must understand demons desire a dwelling place as we see in the teaching of our Lord in Matthew 12:43-45, “*When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first...*”

The demons who inhabited the man of Gadara (Lk. 8:30-32) pleaded with Christ that they might enter into the swine. Because they once lived in a body they always want to inhabit one. Hence, if they could not dwell in the man, they wanted to live in the swine. The reason for

the devil being able to return to the man who had been delivered in Matthew 12:43-45 was simply that his house (or body) was empty. It was not filled with the Holy Spirit. Whenever a person is delivered, he must quickly fill that void with the Word of God and with the Spirit. Otherwise, those former inhabitants will come back in and bring more with them.

Therefore, let us be [continually being filled] with the Spirit as the Greek states in Ephesians 5:18, *“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit. Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.”*

Obviously when we consider demon possession in individuals, the first antidote is that we “give no place to the devil.” Paul admonishes those of his day in Ephesians 4:26-27, *“Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil.”* There are many ways in which people give place to the devil.

To “give place” means people literally give him a place in their life or give him an opportunity to gain a stronghold in their life. When people look at pornography, they are inviting Satan into their life. When they hold bitterness toward someone, they are giving Satan a place, an advantage in their life.

In James 4:7, we are commanded first of all to submit ourselves to God, to make things right in our lives. Then we are able to resist the devil and he will flee from us. It is not the other way around. We cannot resist the devil first if things are not right in our hearts.

Unforgiveness is one of the key ways Satan gets a foothold in people’s lives. If we have not forgiven someone, we will give Satan an advantage over us. Paul stresses this truth in 2 Corinthians 2:10-11, *“To whom*

ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ; Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."

Satan himself is very bitter and unforgiving and he dwells in those of like nature. We have no power over Satan if we act like him. Through this passage, we can see that someone who does not forgive opens his heart for the devil to come in. He manifests as the spirit of unforgiveness, followed by bitterness, rage, anger, and sometimes jealousy. Not only have I seen this to be the case with individuals, but also with whole congregations.

In one instance a congregation refused to forgive their pastor who had committed a form of immorality, although he had repented and publicly confessed. The result was that a spirit of anger ruled in the congregation and actual fistfights broke out among members of the congregation. After being made aware of their sin, the congregation repented. Then the whole church experienced a cleansing, and the presence of the Lord returned in a powerful way.

I cannot overemphasize the need to forgive. We will be destroyed if we do not (Mt. 6:15). I am thinking of heartbreaking situations where the wife is betrayed by an unfaithful husband. The unstable husband has repented and been restored spiritually, but the wife never forgets and remains resentful.

In one such case, the wife died in a spirit of bitterness and hardness of heart, cursing God and blaming Him for permitting such unfaithfulness on the part of her spouse. The husband ended up in heaven but the wife ended up in hell. May the Lord be so gracious as to grant us a forgiving spirit, as we avail ourselves of the grace of God for each situation.

Let us remember that forgiveness is rooted in the holy blessing of forgetfulness. Joseph, the son of Jacob is known above all things for a forgiving spirit (Gen. 45:4-8, 50:20-21). Joseph understood that God used injustices to promote him. Therefore, he could forgive his brothers and thank God for all his troubles.

What is equally important is that he was also able to forget the wrongs done to him. After being betrayed by his own brothers and suffering years of frustration and loneliness in a strange land, God blessed him and gave him two sons. The first son he named Manasseh, which means “forgetting.” God had made him forget all his troubles and all that his brothers had done to him.

Then he had a second son whom he named Ephraim. Ephraim means “fruitful” (Gen. 41:50-52). We are able to forgive when we stop remembering old offenses. God had dulled Joseph’s memory to the offenses his brothers committed against him, and he was able then to be fruitful. Remember the two sons of Joseph. It is Manasseh first (forgetting), then Ephraim (fruitfulness). Let us give no place to the devil by continually remembering and rehearsing the past and holding on to old grudges. Ask God for special grace to forget offenses.

Another aspect of our personal lives that we must guard is the area of complaining, even as King David describes in Psalm 144:14, *“That our oxen may be strong to labor; that there be no breaking in, nor going out; that there be no complaining in our streets.”* God hates complaining, and it is one of the major reasons people do not receive any favor in His sight. Numbers 11:1 makes this clear, *“And when the people complained, it displeased the Lord; and the Lord heard it; and his anger was kindled ...”*

I knew a man who was stationed at a certain mission field. The other missionaries of that region told him that the national pastor was known

as “Mr. Complainer.” What a terrible testimony! What a horrible reputation!

I once had the privilege of traveling with Stanley Frodsham, a dear saint who has since gone on to glory. Psalm 144:14 which states, “*that there be no complaining in our streets,*” was one of his favorite Scriptures and he was constantly quoting it to his daughter as she was growing up.

How wonderful it would be if all fathers would encourage their sons and daughters to live in such a way of holiness and joyful service unto the Lord. With a thankful spirit there is no room in such a household for Satan to do his mischief. Yet in the household of Mr. Complainer, the devil entered with glee and caused poor Mr. Complainer to ever see the dark side of life, giving him even more reasons to complain.

This reminds me of an episode that happened in Canada a few years ago among some Canadian Indians. A particular group of Indians were intoxicated one night, and while they were under the influence of alcohol the demons in them were speaking. The demons were talking about the food they enjoyed most. They said, “We feed on misery, bitterness, sorrow, regret, criticism, complaining, and self-pity.” These spirits are intangible and they feed on food that is intangible as well.

In the same way that a dump attracts vermin, or a putrefying carcass draws vultures, so these undesirable works of the flesh lure all these demons. Complaining is food for them. Rather, when we are filled with thankfulness and songs of praise, there is no food for the demons and they go away.

I cannot overemphasize the importance of having the garment of praise instead of the spirit of heaviness. We do not want to give Satan a welcome or any food. This is our choice, and it is by grace. A joyful,

rejoicing spirit will bring God's presence into our homes, and it will also bring the presence of the holy angels of God who delight to worship with us. How important it is to have the attitude of the saintly King David who said to his soul when he was being pursued by the superior forces of Absalom, "*Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God*" (Psa. 43:5).

Our attitudes determine whether the devil comes in or stays out. Worship and praise offered out of a thankful heart brings in the presence of the Lord and gives no room for the demons. Thus, we have been given truths and shown a way of life that will ensure that sin does not have dominion over us. Listen to David's prayer in Psalm 19:13, "*Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.*" The key to victory over sin is a thankful, rejoicing spirit. Therefore, let us offer the sacrifices of praise, joy, and of thanksgiving continually as did David.

Deliverance

Now we come to another aspect of this subject of demons, and that is how to get them out once they have entered in and possessed a soul. Society in the Old Testament and New Testament days was well aware of demonic oppression and the need for a ministry of deliverance for those so afflicted.

Old Testament Saints Understood the Reality of Satan

We have previously cited the case of King Saul, but there was also an incident in which King David was provoked by Satan to number the

people of Israel: “*And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel*” (1 Chr. 21:1). Likewise, the Old Testament saints understood that Satan was involved in Job’s trial. We read in Job 1:7-12, “*And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and [shuns] evil? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.*”

When we come to the New Testament we find it shows clearly both the religious leaders and the common people recognized demon possession and the need for deliverance as a reality and a fact.

Mark 3:22 says, “*And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils.*” From this and other passages, there is no mistaking the scribes believed in Satan and that Jesus did indeed cast out devils from people who were tormented. However being so blind and hardened in their hearts, they did not accept the truth; they attributed the power of the Holy Spirit to that of Satan.

The casting out of demons was practiced by many in those times. This is shown by the challenge Jesus gave them when they accused Him of casting out devils through Satan’s power. “*And if I by*

Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your sons cast them out? therefore shall they be your judges” (Luke 11:19).

Servant of God to be gentle unto all men

In this realm of demonic possession and affliction, we have the Apostle Paul’s counsel: *“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will” (2 Tim. 2:24-26).*

We will notice for those who are taken captive at the will of Satan, their deliverance hinges upon God giving them the gift of repentance to be able to acknowledge their wrong doing. This is often dependent upon sound teaching and the persuasion of the godly ministers who reason with them, after which the power of Satan is broken in their lives. When sin is glossed over, men and women will continue to be held captive in their bondages.

Another point to note is that people can be “loved” into hell and kept in their bondages by comforting them with humanistic comfort. How often do we hear counselors and friends tell a wounded brother or sister that they have a right to be angry and offended. This is encouraging them to hold on to their bitterness and resentment.

Yet bitterness is the direct result of rejecting available grace when injured, and choosing to harden the heart instead (Heb. 12:15). Denial of wrongdoing will keep a person locked in his prison house. It is only by acknowledging the truth about ourselves, and our wrongdoings and venomous attitudes that the power of Satan is broken and we are released from his clutches (Jer. 3:13a, Prov. 28:13).

At this juncture I would like to emphasize that Satan and all of his cohorts are the sworn enemies of God whom they obviously cannot attack directly. Therefore, they attack mankind, those made in God's image. Their purpose is to deceive, afflict, and oppose human beings so that they will not only have lives of misery, but also that their end will be hell.

It seems incredible but some of God's people do not believe in hell or eternal judgment. For that reason I would like to recount a problem that we had soon after World War II in Germany. We were having meetings in Germany and one day a young lady came to us for counsel. She said that for a number of weeks she would be wakened each night by fallen angels and demons asking her to preach the Gospel to them. Her reason for coming to us, she explained, was the difficulty she was experiencing in trying to persuade them to believe the message of salvation.

We promptly told her that there is no salvation for demons and fallen angels since Christ became a man and only died for man. This means there is no sacrifice available for them, and by consequence, no atonement for their sins. *"For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham"* (Heb. 2:16).

False Doctrine of Ultimate Reconciliation

There is a doctrine called "Ultimate Reconciliation" which teaches that everyone will be reconciled, including Satan himself and all of the other fallen angels and demons. This doctrine is propagated by the evil spirits. Though they know they cannot return to heaven, we can see they desperately want to be saved.

In Acts 16:16-17, a girl possessed with an evil spirit followed Paul and Silas around saying, *"These men are servants of the most high*

God which show unto us the way of salvation.” The evil spirit in her was telling all the other evil spirits, “these men can show us the way to salvation.” Yet there is no chance for their salvation, and they know only too well there is an appointed time for their doom as the following Scriptures reveal. Matthew 8:28-29 says, “*And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way. And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?*”

Thus, all the demons are conscious there is an appointed time for their judgment and they tremble at the thought of it. They realize the time is short before their judgment.

Ways Jesus Brought Deliverance

Let us now look at the ways that Jesus brought deliverance from demon possession. He always addressed the demons as “persons,” a point that we should remember. When dealing with demons, we are dealing with a definite entity, not spurious influences. On some occasions He demanded the demons to give their names, demonstrating again that they are very real personalities. He then pointed to the possessed person and commanded the demons to come out of him. This He did through the power of the Holy Spirit that was upon Him.

The following Scriptures illustrate these truths. Matthew 12:28-29 states, “*But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. Or else how can one enter into a strong man’s house and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.*” Sometimes there

are a number of demons in a person, but there is a king demon among them. Unless you bind the strong man first (the king), you cannot get the rest of them out.

Mark 5:9 bears out this truth best, *“And [Jesus] asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion, for we are many.”* Here was the king demon speaking for all the others. Luke also records the same account, *“And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and wore no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not. (For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.) And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him”* (Luke 8:27-30).

A few personal testimonies may help us understand how deliverance is gained. First of all, a person must be willing to be delivered.

In a certain setting many years ago there were a number of ministers praying for the deliverance of a lady who had many demonic bondages. About 60 demons were in her, and after identifying themselves, they left her body. Yet there still remained one which we identified as a familiar spirit. As we prayed, the demon wanted to leave because of the power of the Holy Spirit that was present, but amazingly this spirit could not leave because the woman would not allow it to go. She wanted to keep that spirit. The spirit within her screamed, “I want to come out but she won’t let me.” The real problem is not Satan, or his demons, or fallen angels but man’s heart. The reason for Satan residing

in a person is usually because the person wants him there. The strength of an evil habit is in the love for that habit.

A spirit of lust gets into a person because that person wants him to be there. This is also true of other spirits. Unless a person allows God to cleanse his heart from the love of a particular sin, the demon will keep coming back. The demon is usually there at the person's invitation.

All of the examples we have used about fallen angels controlling and working through men and women show us one main principle—that when a heart is not right it will open the door for Satan to enter. Christ said, *“The prince of this world comes, but he has nothing in me”* (Jn. 14:30b).

Christ gave Satan no place in Him. Remember Ephesians 4:27, *“Neither give place [or opportunity] to the devil.”* We should pray and cry out to the Lord to create in us a clean heart (Psa. 51:10), and ask Him to give us a holy hatred for the sin we love. May we allow the Lord to wash us from all vanity, from all filthiness of the flesh and mind (2 Cor. 7:1).

The Spirit beckons us and says, *“My son, give me thine heart”* (Prov. 23:26a). Many people desire to walk on the highway of holiness, yet they feel they cannot because it is too hard. Although it is not easy, it is possible, by His grace. We must put our heart into His hands. It is God who works in us both to will and do His good pleasure (Phil. 2:13).

Now let us return to the story of the woman with 60 spirits. The woman would not let go of that spirit, but God gave her a choice at that moment. The Lord said, *“My power is here to deliver you, but you must be willing to let that sin go.”* The woman was not willing, and because of that decision, reinforcements came from Satan to strengthen

this spirit. As we continued to pray a fallen angel entered the room to strengthen the demon. He spoke through the woman, and actually quoted a Scripture: “I respectfully remind you that man was made a little lower than the angels.”

I think the fallen angel did this to show us that we were no longer dealing with just the demon, although God had opened our eyes to see him. After this we felt we could do nothing more for the woman since she was unwilling to let the spirit go. When she left with her friends who had brought her, she remarked, “I could have been delivered tonight if only I had been willing.” We can see, then, that sometimes it is necessary to bring a person to repentance before prayer for deliverance is offered.

All Demons Are Not Equal

All demons are not equal. They have different characteristics and strengths. Some demons are very small, only several inches in height, but some are much larger. Some demons are very intelligent while others are violent. The demon inhabiting the boy at the foot of the Mountain of Transfiguration was very violent.

We see this brought out in Mark 9:17-26, “*And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not... And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tore him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming... When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him. And the spirit cried, and rent*

him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead.”

This reminds me of the experience some of us had when casting a demon out of a man in Austria. The man became so violent that it required four men to pin him to the ground to protect the others from being attacked by the demon in the man. But after persevering in prayer, the demon came out with a mighty cry.

Another time we were praying for a girl who had been involved in much immorality. This girl was quite petite, but still we needed the help of two sisters to hold her down. Unfortunately, she did not get delivered, for she wanted to remain in her unlawful and immoral relationship with a man who was not her husband. Here we clearly see the problem of the will.

Some demons are not violent, as was such a case in Switzerland. As I prepared myself to preach in a certain church, I began walking down the aisle toward the pulpit. As I made my way to the front, the Holy Spirit constrained me to look along a particular pew toward a lady who had her head bowed down. He opened my eyes and I saw a dark cloud over her head. As I moved nearer to her I saw that the cloud was composed of a large number of very small demons. The Holy Spirit prompted me to point my finger at them and say, “In the Name of Jesus” and they all dispersed. Apparently these demons had been oppressing this lady for some time with all kinds of thoughts, and she felt immediate relief. She was so happy that she knitted me a pair of socks.

Sometimes God Has a Specific Time to Deliver

These illustrations are perhaps sufficient to let us know that we face a very real enemy who appears in all manner of forms, sizes, and

temperaments. The key in some cases is to lead those dear ones who are so oppressed into repentance, and then encourage them to believe for deliverance. Then the fervent prayer of faith will bring deliverance. However, God's timing is sometimes a factor. God is sovereign at all times and He moves in ways that we do not understand because of our very limited human knowledge and wisdom. There are situations when God has a particular time to deliver a person. However, as we wait upon Him, He will most graciously give us knowledge of His ways in these situations.

Release for a church and a whole city

Before we close this section, I would like to encourage our hearts with a story of how God can release not just individuals but whole churches and cities, when the strong man is bound.

A friend of mine was appointed pastor over a church that had a membership which fluctuated (for some 20 years) between 50 and 150 members. He sought the Lord in prayer as to the reason for the inconstancy and size of the congregation.

The Lord told him to pray in the church for 45 minutes in the early morning each day. This he did and then he received a vision of a large black demon over the lake that was in the city. The Lord then told him to call his elders to pray with him each morning. This they did and a few weeks later he had another vision in which the demon had sunk into the lake to his waist.

They persevered in prayer and after another week or two, the pastor had another vision in which the demon had now disappeared into the lake. The following Sunday, the church was full. A week later, it overflowed until they had to build a very large church that has become the key church of the city. Praise the Lord!

As pastors and leaders, we need to seek the Lord to see if there are reasons for slow growth in our churches. Next we need to ask God for the key to victory in our specific areas and if there are spiritual powers that first have to be removed.

Points to Remember - Chapter Five

1. Demons are different from fallen angels, although they share many of their characteristics. They are the disembodied spirits of a former civilization of earth. We know they are creatures of the earth for they are earthbound and very affected by the moon.
2. Most demons have a form, and two legs. Because they used to inhabit a body, they still seek to inhabit a body.
3. Fallen angels are the fallen inhabitants of heaven. They were created with wings and therefore are not earthbound. Fallen angels did not dwell in a body, and do not want to dwell in one today.
4. Fallen angels overshadow and dominate people and regions. Fallen angels prefer thrones rather than people, and desire to have dominion over a region. Therefore, you do not cast fallen angels out of a person, you bind them in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
5. Demons are smaller than angels. Their size may range from several inches to many feet in height. Fallen angels are much larger, and demons appear to be their subordinates.
6. Demons cannot reproduce themselves. If they could, they would accuse God of giving their “children” no chance for salvation. There is no salvation for demons or fallen angels.
7. The desire of demons is to occupy. They inhabit buildings, trees, waste places, graveyards, objects, animals, and most of all, human beings. What they inhabit depends on their desires.

8. Some demons wear crowns and are kings or queens. To deliver people, you have to identify the king or queen demon. The other demons are there by their authority.
9. In the case of possession which is rare, a host of demons are there at the invitation of the king or queen demon who gathers other demons of like character. If you cast out a little demon, the king or queen will invite him back. You must locate and bind “the strong man” first. Under the anointing, you must demand who the king is, and how many there are. They will lie about all things and only tell the truth when you are anointed.
10. Some demons affect the body, some the emotions, and some the spirit. Some demons specialize in certain organs, the eyes, ears, liver, and so forth. Some demons cause cancer.
11. Demons can appear in the form of animals. Sometimes people act like animals because of the demon spirits that are in them. Demons have specific personalities—they can be religious, lazy, fear, lust, confusion, covetous.
12. The devil’s kingdom does not run smoothly. His demons and fallen angels are jealous of each other and crave glory, so they strive among one another.

Chapter Six

Closing the Door to Satan

Satan has a right to accuse us if our life is not right

During the restoration period when the temple was being rebuilt, Jeshua (Joshua) and Zerubbabel were the two main leaders. On one occasion, Joshua the high priest was taken in a vision to heaven and here he stood before the Lord with filthy garments.

Zechariah 3:1-3 reads, “And he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. And the Lord said unto Satan, The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan: even the Lord that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire? Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel.”

“Filthy garments” represent uncleanness in Joshua’s personal life and this gave Satan occasion to find fault with him. When King David fell into an adulterous scandal with Bathsheba, the prophet Nathan said, “*Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme*” (2 Sam. 12:14).

The enemy has a right to condemn us when our life is not right. We are called to judge angels (1 Cor. 6:3), and we are called to take what Satan forfeited by his disobedience. Therefore, we must pass the tests that he failed. But if we act just like the devil, he has a right to point the finger at us and say we are no better than he is.

Satan can accuse us if we serve God with the wrong motives

Satan accused Job of only serving God for the blessings. He said to God, *“Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast thou not made a hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou has blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land”* (Job 1:9-11).

It is interesting that Satan accused Job of the very thing of which he was the most guilty. The only reason Lucifer served the Lord was for what he could get for himself. When God had to demote him for his folly, Satan cursed God to His face.

We will all be tested on this point. Are we serving God for a great ministry or position, or are we serving God because He is worthy? When Job lost everything he had in one day, he fell down and worshipped God (Job 1:20-22). He proved that God was first and foremost in his life even above his family, possessions, and reputation. He had passed the tests that Satan failed.

God also tested Abraham. He wanted to see if the promises and blessings were more important to Abraham than He was. All the promises of God to Abraham were found in Isaac. When Abraham willingly offered Isaac back to God, it was not only a testimony to God but to Satan as well.

Paul says we are *“a spectacle of men and angels”* in 1 Corinthians 4:9. There are many unseen eyes watching us all the time for we are surrounded by *“so great a cloud of witnesses”* (Heb. 12:1). Elijah had assured Elisha that *“they that be with us are more than they that be with them.”* And when the Lord opened Elisha’s eyes, he saw round about him *“the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire”* (2 Kg. 6:16 - 17).

The spirit world knows if we are real. The unseen principalities and powers (good and evil) know if we are serving God out of love or with ulterior motives.

***God wants us to supply Him
with an answer to give to the Accuser***

Proverbs 27:11 says, “*My son, be wise, and make my heart glad, that I may answer him that reproacheth me.*” God wants us to supply him with an answer to give to the accuser. Satan accused Job of only serving God for the benefits. So when Job fell down and worshipped God after losing everything he had, Satan had no grounds to attack God. Job had given God the right response with which He could answer Satan’s accusations.

Right responses to injury are a blow to Satan

We overcome Satan “*by the word of our testimony*” (Rev. 12:11). It is not only by the blood of the Lamb that we overcome Satan but by the word of our testimony, especially when we are hurting. Many people become bitter and unforgiving when they are injured, but that is reacting like the Bitter One, and we can have no power over him when we act like him.

When Job lost everything, he fell down and worshipped, saying, “*The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord.*” He delivered a blow to Satan by his right confession. The “sacrifice of thanksgiving” won the victory for Job.

Remember, when we have a huge problem, a huge amount of grace is offered to us. His grace is sufficient (2 Cor.12:9, Heb. 4:16). However, if we harden our hearts we cut off the supply of grace and we become bitter (Heb. 12:15, 3:8-15, 4:7).

We have power over Satan only if we live right

As a man, Christ defeated Satan in every aspect. Yet every saint needs to gain a personal victory over Satan as well, by the power of Christ in them. Christ gives us authority over Satan as we walk in wisdom and humility. The truth is that we cannot have authority over Satan unless we are moving in the Spirit and we have the mind of the Lord in each situation. We must also be living a life of obedience or the adversary will declare we have no authority over him as we are disobedient like him.

I would like to share a story that would show clearly how knowledgeable the demons are concerning whether we are in right standing with God.

There was a certain missionary who had great authority over demons. One day the missionary was offered a large sum of money that he accepted, but the matter was not honest. That night when he was having a deliverance service and he commanded the demons to come out from the people they were inhabiting, the demons responded, “We had the utmost respect for you until you took that money this afternoon. We are not afraid of you, and we are not coming out.” The missionary had to repent and return the money. After that, when he commanded the demons to come out, they said, “we are leaving.” The unseen forces know if we are real or not. We do not fool them (Acts. 19:13-16).

Satan has a right to accuse us if we have pride in ourselves

Satan has a right to challenge us if we are not genuine. Peter boasted that he was more dedicated to Christ than his brethren that, “*Though all men shall be offended because of thee [Jesus], yet will I never be offended*” (Mt. 26:31-33). As he bragged of his superior ability

to stand under pressure, he was inviting Satan to attack him. It was like waving a red flag to a bull. Satan saw the chaff in his life, and desired to sift him as wheat (cf. Lk. 22:31-33).

Jesus warned Peter of his coming failure, and prayed for him that he would not lose his faith. Peter was trusting in his own strength and gave no heed to the warning of Jesus that he would deny his Lord three times. Therefore, Satan put Peter to the test, striking fear into his heart and inducing him to curse and swear and deny the Lord. This account is a caution to us. Because of pride and self-strength Peter was not protected by God and he was attacked by Satan. We must walk in wisdom and humility in order to have power over Satan.

Satan is necessary for our refining / and to test mankind

The main reason God still has Satan on the loose is that He needs him to test the hearts of men. This is seen immediately in the Garden of Eden. God has set His heart upon man, and is testing us every moment (Job 7:17-18). We are here to make a choice—either to go God’s way, or our own.

Satan is here to draw all the wicked unto himself. His lies are *loved* by all those who love darkness rather than light, by all who have pleasure in unrighteousness (2 Thess. 2:8-12). God prolongs Satan’s kingdom and authority for one reason—that His Church might be perfected and His own plans brought to pass. Without Satan and his fallen angels and demons, God could not purify and perfect His Church. These are an integral part of His program.

However, Satan was created and thus he is not divine and has limits. Satan cannot be everywhere at once. He can only be in one place at a time. Nor can he do anything unless God allows it for all power belongs to God. There was a hedge of protection around Job and

everything he owned (Job 1:10). Satan could not touch Job without God's permission. And when God did give him permission, he could only go as far as God said, and not an inch further (Job 1:12, 2:6). In the last days, Satan will present the Antichrist to the world. This is exactly what God wants him to do, for then all men will be brought to a decision—for Christ or the Antichrist.

Man was created on the sixth day, and six is the number of man. The fact that the number of the Antichrist is 666 means he embodies all that appeals to the flesh, in body, soul, and spirit. Thus, he represents the fullness of fallen man. He is the one all the false religions of the world are waiting for. They will absolutely adore him because they absolutely love what is false. The lake of fire is the final destination for all those who love a lie (Rev. 21:8, 22:15). Unfortunately, some of those who flock to this man will come from the Church. Yet, when the wicked are drawn out of the Church, those who remain will be holy.

Satan knows his doom is sure

Perhaps the two books of the Bible that Satan hates most are Genesis and Revelation. This is because in Genesis, the serpent's judgment is pronounced, and in Revelation it is executed. Satan releases all of his evil spirits against Genesis and the creation account, for if he can cast doubt upon Genesis he can undermine all the rest of God's Word. No one believes in judgment more than the devil and his followers. They all "*believe and tremble*" (Jas. 2:19).

When Satan is bound, man still has a fallen nature

When the day of the Lord comes, He shall be king over all the earth (Zech. 14:9). Sadly, we learn that even with Satan being bound for a 1,000 years and all of his evil spirits put away, man still has a selfish, stubborn and rebellious nature with which to contend. There will still

be those who will not come unto Jerusalem to worship Him (Zech. 14:16-21). This is the reason we cannot blame everything on Satan.

We have an old nature as well as a new one

When we become a believer, Christ is born in us as a seed, yet He must be allowed to grow and develop within our lives. The new nature Christ gives us at new birth must become stronger and stronger and it must overcome the old nature with which we are born. When Paul taught that a Christian should be “dead to sin” in Romans 6:2-10, he did not mean that the nature of sin is eradicated from us. If the nature of sin were totally eradicated from us, we could never be tempted.

What did the Apostle Paul mean when he taught us about being “dead to sin?” It is clear that Paul never taught eradication of the sin nature. Paul experienced being “dead to sin” in his own life, yet he taught that the old nature of sin in a believer could revive and thus had to be kept nailed to the cross.

He declared, “*I die daily*” (1 Cor. 15:31). The old nature must be “arrested” and contained, still we will never be exempt from all propensity to sin and from the sin nature in the members of our bodies until the resurrection.

Problems in the heart that invite Satan in:

The real problem is the human heart. Satan gets into people because of sin or an area of weakness. Therefore, we need a new heart and wisdom. Some areas of weaknesses that allow Satan a foothold:

- *Pride*—This invites the Proud One into the heart. Pride brings deception (Obadiah 1:3). God resists the proud but He gives grace to the humble. The Lamb defeated Satan by humility.

- *Love for an evil habit*—the strength of a bad habit is in the love for it. Unless our heart changes and we learn to hate what we are doing, the enemy will keep coming back in. Ask God to apply Philippians 2:13 to your heart, “*For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*” Demons will not leave if the person wants to hold on to the habit.
- *Unforgiveness*—Satan inhabits bitter, unforgiving people, for he is bitter and unforgiving. Paul warns that Satan will gain an advantage over us if we do not forgive (2 Cor. 2:10-11). Actually, our salvation depends upon forgiving others (Mt. 6:14-15, 6:12).
- *Covetousness*—Satan entered Judas because he was covetous, and a thief (Jn. 12:6,13:27). Satan himself is a thief and a robber; he finds a comfortable residence in those of like nature.
- *Hypocrisy, False Representation*—Satan filled the heart of Ananias (Acts 5:3). Ananias and his wife claimed they sold their all and gave it to God, seeking to deceive the brethren. Satan is hypocritical and a deceiver, and he dwells and works through those with a compatible nature.
- *Wrong motives*—Ministers in Acts 20:30 drew disciples to themselves instead of God. Satan seeks his own glory as well, and wants to draw men from God unto himself (John 7:18). Satan worked through Peter when he savored the things of men more than God (Mt. 16: 23).
- *Boasting, bragging*—Satan attacks us when we make rash, bold declarations as did Peter. Peter claimed he could take pressure better than his brethren (Mt. 26:33). Satan saw the chaff in him and wanted to sift him as wheat (Lk. 22:31-34). Satan is allowed to test us when we make unwise declarations. Let us not invite unnecessary attacks.

- *Denial*—Satan is very proud; he will never concede to any fault or sin. He is able to keep men and women bound until they will admit and honestly confess their sins (2 Tim. 2:25-26).

- *Offended, and then rejecting grace.* When people harden their hearts, they cut off grace. Many evils get into the heart of an “offended brother.” Grace is offered to us when we are injured. To reject grace allows the heart to fester with bitterness and hatred, thus opening the door to Satan.

- *Criticism, Complaining, Self-pity, Regret, Worry*—All of these are “food” for demons. Demons are attracted to those who are full of misery, regret, fear, bitterness, and resentment as they feed off these undesirable emotions, thoughts and words. Demons desire what is unsavory (e. g. the demons who wanted to live in the swine).

- *Rebellion*—is as the sin of *witchcraft*. Many evil spirits get into rebellious hearts (1 Sam.15: 23). Satan is most rebellious and he inhabits those who cast off all authority and go their own way. The prodigal son gave Satan much place in his life when he left his father’s house to live without any restraints (Luke 15: 12-13).

- *Stubbornness*—When people are unteachable, they endanger their souls to the enemy. Israel “*ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn way*” (Judg. 2:19b). Thus, we see that the real problem is not Satan. The real problem is a heart that gives him territory.

- *Disobedience*—breaks down the hedge of protection. Ecclesiastes 10:8b says, “*and whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him.*” God’s laws are given to protect us. When people disobey, they are vulnerable to attack. Alcohol and drugs open one’s spirit for many demons to enter..

- *Wrong confession*—Satan is overcome by a right confession (Rev. 12:11). People lose the battle when they confess, “We are never going to make it, God is taking too much time, God is not fair, God hates us.” (See Deut. 1:27). In doing so, people are speaking Satan’s confession. Job won the battle as he fell down and worshipped, saying, “*The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord*” (Job 1:21-22; cf 1 Tim. 6:12; 2 Tim. 4:7).

- *Love of the world*—Demas was a fellow minister of the Apostle Paul. Demas forsook Paul and the ministry because he loved the world (2 Tim. 4:10). We cannot blame Satan for Demas backsliding. His heart was never cleansed from the love of the world. Paul told Timothy to “flee youthful lusts” (2 Tim. 2:22).

- *Imaginations*—Jacob had a spirit of depression because he thought Joseph his son was dead, but Joseph was not dead (Gen. 37:31-35). People suffer much in their minds over things they imagine. Jacob had the spirit of heaviness for 22 years, all because of something he assumed to be true but was not.

Ask God to renew your mind and to give you victory over imaginations. We need the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness (Isa. 61:3). We should also remember that Satan is the accuser of the brethren and he will magnify imaginations against our brethren (Zech. 7:10b).

- *Insecurities*—Numbers 5:12-14 is an example of the spirit of jealousy coming upon a man because he thought his wife had been unfaithful to him (v14). Sometimes insecurity is an open door, a weakness for the enemy to get in and make havoc.

- *Lovers of self*—Most sins stem from self-love, self-will and self-exaltation (2 Tim. 3:2). If we ever want to gain the victory over the Selfish One, we have to die to self. Today, men are lovers of their own

selves. There is a deification of self that much resembles the days of Noah. Satan has a huge ego and he thrives in men and women who are in love with themselves, not Christ.

- *Laziness*—Some people cannot break out of their bondages and Satan continues to have dominion over them until they are aggressive and “shake” themselves and “loose” themselves, as it says in Isaiah 52:2. The Kingdom life is only for those with *violence* of spirit (Mt. 11:12).

- *Being out of divine order*—Rebecca was not in order with her husband. She taught her favorite son Jacob to lie to his father. This divided the home. We cannot blame Satan for this marriage having problems. Satan was able to bring division because of Rebecca’s deceit (Gen. 27:5-13).

- *Jealousy*—This is the demand to be number one. Satan demanded to be number one, and he will work mightily through anyone else who has that kind of heart. The Jews felt that they were number one and could not tolerate seeing God bless the Gentiles. Therefore, they opposed the preaching of the Gospel and would do all manner of evil to stop it (Acts 13: 44-45). When our only desire is to see God glorified, not ourselves, we will never have Satan’s spirit tormenting us and working through us to hinder what God is doing.

- *Wrong music*—If our heart loves Satan’s music, he will gain a stronghold in our lives.

- *Wrong friends*—If we walk with the wrong people, we will also be in the wrong places, and Satan will ensnare us. Dinah had worldly girl friends, and ended up in an immoral relationship with a worldly fellow. This enraged her brothers, who murdered the young man and the village. One sin leads to another (Genesis 34). Let us “*give no place*

to the devil” as Paul says in Ephesians 4:27. In the context, Paul was referring to holding grudges, stealing, gossip, or bitterness, wrath, anger, arguing, and malice that are other evils that grieve the Holy Spirit and give Satan an opportunity to gain an advantage in and through our lives. Let us rather be able to say by the grace of the Lord, “*for the prince of this world cometh, and [he] has nothing in me*” (John 14:30).

Keys for Discernment in the Area of Deliverance

The adversary and his allies are determined to destroy us. We are in a warfare right to the end and we cannot be gentle or show mercy to the enemy. Therefore, we must realize the power that is in the blood of Christ, our own capabilities, and that of our enemy.

We will be attacked in three areas—in body, soul, and in spirit. In order to fight Satan, we must be sure we are cleansed from every spirit that is not from the Holy Spirit. Our spirit, soul, and body must be “sanctified” and blameless (1 Thess. 5:23).

Areas in our body Satan attacks

Any part of our body which is an opening (ears, eyes, nose, mouth) is a place through which Satan can enter. Thus they need to be covered by the blood of Jesus Christ.

THE EARS - The ear can be used by Satan. Demons can sit on your shoulder and speak into your ear and you may think it is your own thoughts.

THE EYES - Spirits get into us through the eyes. We allow them in whenever we look at things that are ungodly or in an ungodly manner.

There are spirits in books and from the television. We need to keep our eyes in the Word of God and have them cleansed with the blood of Christ.

A Christian has two sets of eyes. There are natural eyes and spiritual eyes. When God opens our spiritual eyes we can be made to see visions. We can even see into other nations, and into heaven.

THE NOSE - Our nose is very important. Satan can turn us off course by our noses. There are good and bad smells of evil spirits. There are sweet scented demons, and others with terrible odors, such as the smell of the brimstone of hell. We can smell demons as well as the gracious fragrance of the Lord (cf. Psa. 45:8).

THE MOUTH / TONGUE - The mouth is a place where demons lodge and perhaps speak. They perch on the tongue and vocal cords, two of their favorite resting places. Let God use your tongue to speak for His glory (2 Sam. 23:1-2). David prayed, "*Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips*" (Psa. 141:3).

David said in 2 Samuel 23:2, "*The Spirit of the Lord spake by me, and his word was in my tongue.*" There are times when we can feel God's Word in our tongue; other times in our heart, in our stomach, or in our mouth. Sometimes our tongue cleaves to the roof of our mouth and we must be silent. In the tongue is the power of life and death. Let us ask God to help us use our tongue to speak life only.

Discerning the source of our thoughts

Thoughts in our minds come from:

1. The Holy Spirit
2. The human spirit
3. Satanic spirits

We must know whether our thoughts and impressions come from the Holy Spirit, our spirit, or from Satanic influences. One can be perfectly sincere and yet be guided by another spirit. We must know the motives of our heart as well. It is not easy to distinguish the three, especially when we are so persuaded that something is of God that we will nottest it. Paul warns, “*Prove all things, hold fast that which is good*” (1 Thess. 5:21).

Three Sources of Spiritual Manifestations

There are three categories of spirits operating:

1. The Holy Spirit
2. Our human spirit
3. Satan’s spirit (demons, fallen angels, etc.) (1 Cor. 2:11-12).

These three “sources” of spiritual activity will manifest themselves. We must discern whether it is man’s spirit, an evil spirit, or the Holy Spirit in operation, and we must not confuse them. The only one that ever accomplishes anything is the Holy Spirit. Our human spirit has no power. It is only by the Holy Spirit working through us that we have any power over Satanic influences. We must never try to come against Satan with our human spirit because there is no power in the human spirit. The Holy Spirit must do the work.

Be God-conscious, not devil-conscious

Many who move in the area of casting out demons are very “demon-conscious.” Instead of being God-conscious, they try to tomove against the forces of the adversary with their human spirit and fail. We must be very God-conscious and not devil-conscious, and covered with the anointing at all times. Never be overwhelmed with the need, beoverwhelmed with the Spirit.

The true anointing comes upon the blood

When we recognize demon power we must first go to God to be covered with the true anointing. This anointing will then direct us to the key to the situation. Do not be hasty or move quickly but seek God and wait for guidance. The anointing will come upon us when we are covered with the blood for the anointing comes upon the blood.

The priests, the Lord's ministers had to be consecrated by the blood first and then they were anointed (Exodus 29:20-21, and Leviticus 8:23-24,30; 14:14-18; 14:25-29).

The true anointing comes upon those who are first covered with the blood of Jesus. Before you attempt to move in the realm of the Spirit, and before you speak the Word, be sure everything in your life is under the blood and in order with God.

The reason people get a false anointing

When a minister does not put things right and asks for the anointing, he will get another spirit directing him. The Word must be anointed by the Holy Spirit, but we must first be covered by the blood to use the Word by the Holy Spirit. Satan's spirits (working through ministers who have not put things under the blood) can preach very beautifully, but the effect on the hearers is terrible.

Our spirit must be at rest

Until our human spirit is at rest we will not be able to tell the difference between the Holy Spirit and Satanic influences. We must practice getting our spirit under control and at rest so that the Holy Spirit can come unhindered upon us. (Prov.16:32).

The Holy Spirit is likened to a *dove* which is a symbol of peace. The Dove is easily disturbed; similarly it is easy to quench or grieve the Spirit (cf. Eph. 4:30, 1 Thess. 5:19). He will not stay where there is strife or trouble. Since people are like sheep and lambs, they are easily frightened as well. Sheep will not feed if there is turmoil. It is important to bring the church flock into rest. We must have discernment to know the difference between the human spirit, evil spirits, and the Holy Spirit. Yet we can only discern which spirit is in operation by the help of the Holy Spirit and when our own spirit is at rest.

The human spirit is not Satanic; it is our very life. However, it is at war with the Holy Spirit. Our fleshly mind is at enmity against God (Rom. 8:7). In preaching we can move under the influence of all three spirits. Yet when we are at peace, we can discern more easily which spirit is in control. Peace is the key to victory! *“The God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet”* (Rom. 16:20a). Seek for the peace of God.

Major in knowing what is real

Major in knowing what is real. We must know the Holy Spirit. When a teller in a bank is learning to recognize the counterfeit, he is shown only the real, not the false. If we are to know the true from the false, we must know the Holy Spirit and become very acquainted with the real. One of the cardinal mistakes of those who operate in the realm of deliverance is to major on demons, not the Lord. The secret to discernment is to walk in the Spirit and know the ways of the Lord. In knowing God’s ways, we shall be quick to sense the other two spirits (human spirit or Satanic).

When we wait upon God, there should be manifested the fruit of the Spirit in our heart and life. There should be a deepening peace, and

this peace is one way of determining the moving of God. If we are anxious, it is not the Spirit of God.

There are three kinds of peace:

1. Peace from God, a fruit of the Spirit.
2. Slothfulness—some people have no needs, no troubles; it is a false peace.
3. A peace that Satan gives is often based upon presumption and pride - “I am alright as I am.”

We should discern which peace we have. Those who wait upon God become very quiet. The more we wait upon God, the quieter we become and the less inclined to speak.

Be healthy in order to fight the enemy

We must be healthy in order to battle against demons and evil spirits. What we eat is important because food is a weapon Satan can use against us. Certain foods have an adverse affect upon our bodies. I used to love Swiss chocolate, and everyone used to bring me these chocolates when I was a young man in Europe. I did not pay attention to my diet, and spent six months in bed because of it. A weakness in our body can be an open door for demon power. When we are stressed or anxious, we should know to rest for Satan attacks us when we are weary (cf. Deut. 25:17-18).

Other Evil Manifestations

Apparitions

Apparitions come from two sources. Obviously, they can come from demons, but also they can come from the departed spirits of men and women.

There are incidents in many countries of people being awakened and seeing people dressed in clothing of past ages and periods. People have heard chains rattle at night, or seen heads without a body, or headless figures walking about. When people tell you these things, do not tell them they have eaten too much cheese before going to bed. These things are actualities.

There are places and houses that have been given over to demons. If there is a grave sin in a house, demons often have authority or dominion over that house. We must be careful about saying it is just someone's imagination. Demons do move about, and especially at night.

Some ghosts are demons manifesting themselves as people. Always plead the blood of Jesus against such things. Some people, through demon activity, have the power to transform themselves into animals. One African chief, through witchcraft, was able to turn himself into an antelope. Unfortunately, someone shot him one day. When an investigation was made, it was learned that the man had shot an antelope, but then the antelope turned back into a man as it was dying. This incident is well documented.

Demons can appear in other forms, not only as black shadowy things. Sometimes they will appear as animals. Also, certain animals are more susceptible to having demons enter them. Cats are more easily inhabited by spirits because their nature is crafty a reason why spiritist mediums often have cats around. Pray and plead the blood over the pets in your house.

Spirits of unredeemed men and women after death

What happens to the dead who are not redeemed? It is often assumed that the unsaved go to hell immediately, but this is not always so. Some are allowed to roam about for a time before they finally go into

hell. Hell is located in the lower regions of the earth and there are many entrances and exits to and from hell. There are also different levels in hell and some places are far worse than others. Some people are much further down in hell than others. Some are continually tormented, others intermittently and others wander about in the caverns of hell. In hell, likes go together. For example, the extremely wicked are in company with their own kind.

The death of the unredeemed

At death a person's spirit leaves his body (Jas. 2:26). When the righteous die, the angel of the Lord or the Lord Himself comes for the person, helps them out of their body, and takes him or her to heaven. It is very glorious. Yet for the lost soul it is a very different situation.

At death the spirit may leave the body instantaneously. There are times when a person dies in his sleep and does not know he is dead until he tries to get up. Looking down at his body he then realizes that he is dead. Sometimes the spirit does not leave his body immediately. He may stay around for the funeral.

Then there are times when the spirit of the unredeemed is brought out before death. Nearing the time of death, the spirit is liberated. Prior to death, perhaps miles away, a person's spirit can be seen and moving outside of the body. This accounts for the fact that prior to death the spirit can appear in human form to relatives or others. Each case is different.

Some people are tormented by demons before death, and on their faces you can see the look of death. The demons are there tormenting the person, preparing to drag the person down into hell through the assigned entrance. Then they go back for someone else. When the

unsaved die, some fall directly into hell immediately, without any demon activity. But then there are those who are allowed to wander around and do not immediately go into hell. Some of these are people whom we think should be in heaven, but they did not make it.

Suicides

It is a fact that those who commit suicide do so to escape unhappy situations or consequences of their acts. Regrettably, such was the case of my senior pastor many years ago. Sometime after I had left the church, he fell into adultery. This affair continued apparently for about three years. When the matter was discovered he had to resign and sit in his church as a member of the congregation under a new pastor. Seemingly he was not able to overcome his remorse and one morning his wife found him hanging dead by a rope from a beam in the ceiling.

Several years later I passed through that city and I saw his spirit mournfully looking at me from the place where he had committed suicide. Far from escaping from his predicament, he had to stay there and hear throughout the years the grief and sorrow he had brought to his wife and family as well as the testimonies and comments of others concerning his failed life and ministry. Suicide is not an escape, but rather a perpetual bondage to the problem and sin one has sought to escape.

Haunted Houses

It is not always clearly understood what happens at the death of the wicked. One assumes that they all go directly to hell, but this is not necessarily true as we can see from the following account.

In England there are many haunted houses. One house in particular

was for sale and two Christian ladies were endeavoring to buy it. The real estate salesman tried to dissuade them from doing so on the grounds that there had been a murder in that house, and on many occasions the spirit of the murdered man had been seen in the house by several witnesses. However, the Christian ladies were not deterred, thinking they could cleanse the house with Christ's blood. Thus, they bought the house and took up residence there.

Late one night the ghost of a man appeared to them. Quite unafraid, the ladies spoke to him and said, "We understand that you were murdered here. We are sorry but you cannot remain in the house since we now own the house." The man replied, "You are mistaken. I am not the murdered man, I am the murderer. Part of my judgment is that I must remain at the scene of my crime and experience the grief and sorrow which I have caused others by my act."

Therefore, they were unable to cleanse that house because that man was sentenced by God to stay there. We can clearly see the importance of asking God for direction when we are looking for a house or building.

Spirits of innocent murder victims

In southern Africa, the churches of a certain community had rented a dance hall in which to have a convention. When the worship leader started to encourage the congregation to sing it became very clear that there was an unusual heaviness in the place. Soon it came to our knowledge that ten days earlier there had been a dance in that hall.

Several mischief-makers on the outside had broken a window and tossed in a live grenade which had killed 10 people in that same room. The Lord revealed to us that the spirits of these 10 innocent murder victims were still in the hall and this was the cause of the heaviness.

We all joined in prayer and asked the spirits to leave whereupon the heaviness lifted and the presence of the Lord came down. Obviously, these 10 people were not saved. When a Christian dies, he immediately goes to heaven and does not linger here on earth any more. Paul said to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord (2 Cor. 5:6-8).

As we mentioned previously, not every lost soul goes immediately to hell. There are those who wander around after death. Often they are “good” people who thought they were good enough without the Gospel.

One day I was visiting a pastor and I sat down in an old antique chair in the parsonage. After sitting there for several minutes I got out of the chair and said, “Where did you get this chair?” He replied, “Relatives gave it to us.” I said to him, “There is someone sitting in that chair!” Evidently someone had died in the chair and was still sitting in it. I told the pastor to give it back to the owners.

Why do some lost souls bother us?

Some disembodied spirits of lost men and women can bother us.

At death their eyes become wholly spiritual, and they come to those who have the light of God in them, hoping to partake of that light and find shelter in it. Just as moths are attracted to light, these lost spirits are attracted to those who have the light of Christ in them. There is a literal light in each Christian. Christ is the Light of the world, and He is within each one of us.

One day I was visiting a hospital and a woman opposite the patient I was visiting collapsed and died. One of the nurses asked my assistance in lifting the dead woman back into bed. But that night the spirit of this

deceased woman came and troubled me. I then realized that Numbers 19:11-22 had a present day application because there is a certain defilement for touching a dead person, especially for a minister. A priest was not permitted to touch the dead, except for immediate family members (cf. Lev. 21:1-3).

Not only is there the problem of demons, but the problem of departed spirits of the dead at times. It can be that a person deep in spiritism at certain hours of the day or night leave their body and go wandering off. Therefore, we have problems with the spirits of dead people, and the spirits of some people who are alive. Usually demons are let in by consent. The problem, as we have said repeatedly, is the will. In casting out demons, some people want to hang on to a spirit. For security, they may want another spirit in them, such as the spirit of the mother or father.

The woman we mentioned who had 60 demons in her is a classic example. That last spirit in her was actually a familiar spirit, it was the spirit of her grandmother. Possessing a familiar spirit would not happen to sound, happy, healthy people. Thus, in casting out demons, sometimes there are departed spirits of lost men and women that have to be asked to leave.

The Haunted School Cleansed

As a student I attended a Bible college in England which was situated in a house that had formerly been owned by a noted spiritist medium. He had brought many artifacts and in particular a glass table in which was a row of idols upon their pedestals. The place was eerie and at night when we ascended the main staircase to our respective dorm rooms we could feel the presence of demons. Many nights we would hear an iron chain being dragged along the basement floor and up the stairs, stopping, but not entering the doors of our rooms.

One evening we had a Holy Ghost prayer meeting and one student in particular was heavily anointed. He then went over to the glass table and with Divine authority he commanded that those demon powers be broken. Instantly, all the idols fell from their pedestals and the house was cleansed.

*The Horror of Treating Eternal Things Lightly /
Let us Lay Hold of Eternal Life*

Lest some may have difficulty with these subjects, I would like to quote two very well known and documented cases. Pope Pius XI, poisoned on the orders of Adolf Hitler because of his treatise ‘*Miá Brunnen Sorge*’, which pleaded the cause for the Jews, was also well known for his statement that he had no time to be holy.

The spirit of this pope has often been seen walking in the corridors and rooms of the Vatican by Vatican officials. This means he is not in heaven today. As a reminder to Christians of all denominations, may we say that we should remember the old adage “Take time to be holy; speak oft with thy Lord.”

Then there is the very well known case of Abraham Lincoln, assassinated by John Wilkes Booth, whose spirit has been seen in the White House and attested to by people of renown like Harry S. Truman and H. R. Queen Juliana of the Netherlands, among countless others. Why would his spirit remain in the White House?

Before his election, Abraham Lincoln sat in a revival meeting and listened while the evangelist preached the Gospel. When he finished his message he gave an invitation to all the people and said, “All those who want to go to heaven, please stand up.” Everyone stood up except Abraham Lincoln. When asked by the evangelist, “Mr. Lincoln, don’t you want to go to heaven too?” He replied, “No, I do not want to go to heaven,

I want to go the White House.” His request was granted, but his spirit remains there until Judgment Day.

Where do you want your spirit to dwell, dear reader, in heaven or confined to hell, or temporarily within the confines of some earthly building? Many good people do not go to heaven because they take the Gospel message lightly. Please, I invite you to lay hold of eternal life today!

Points to Remember - Chapter Six

1. Satan has a right to accuse us if our life is not right.
2. We have power over Satan when we live right and have the power of Christ in us.
3. God uses Satan to refine and test us to prepare us to be the Bride of Christ. When Satan presents the Antichrist man will have to decide if he is for Christ or the Antichrist.
4. Satan's power and time is limited by God. He and his fallen angels know their doom is for sure.
5. We must know the problems of our heart which allow Satan a foothold in our lives.
6. Do not be ignorant of the enemy's plans and strategies of attack.
7. It is important to discern the source of the spiritual manifestation whether it be the Holy Spirit, our human spirit or Satan's spirits.
8. There is no power in the human spirit. The anointing and power lies with the Holy Spirit.
9. Do not be misled by concentrating on the demons, but be God-conscious.
10. We need to enter God's rest to allow the Holy Spirit to overshadow us.

Some Guidelines For Deliverance

1. When trying to deliver people from demonic powers, you must be sure you have that ministry and authority.
2. It is not advisable to do this in public because these spirits will enjoy causing a real show and disturbance to the meeting.
3. Anointed music and worship can help bring deliverance from evil spirits.
4. Some bondages or possessions can be hereditary, or since birth.
5. A person can have many demons, even as the maniac of Gadara in the Gospels. You must identify the king demon.
6. Demons can inhabit a person for many years.
7. Demons also have a different emphasis—causing the person to be deaf, dumb, blind, insane, shameless, fierce, and others.
8. Sometimes God has a specific time for deliverance.
9. There is usually a reason demons have authority in a person—often because of a ruling sin.
10. A demon will have his rights in a person until sin is repented of.
11. The power of an evil habit is in the love for it.
12. We must be cleansed of Satan and all of his friends if we are to

have authority over them.

13. Unforgiveness is a major reason spirits get into a person. Forgiveness is rooted in forgetting.
14. Complaining, bitterness, regret, and self-pity are food for demons. We must starve them out.
15. Remember the true anointing we need comes from being covered by the blood of Jesus for the anointing of the Holy Spirit comes upon the blood.

Chapter Seven

Conclusion

It is always good to end on a positive note, for the subject and purpose of this study was to encourage you to believe and understand how precious you are in the sight of God. His angels continually watch over you. This is true not only here upon earth but in heaven as well. Just to encourage us and make us aware of the unseen world, a little story of heaven might indeed be helpful as we close.

It had been one of those difficult periods in our lives when the Lord was testing our hearts. My wife and I were temporarily pasturing a church in Florida, and the living quarters we were provided with was in the back of the church.

The church itself was a beautiful brick building, but where we were living was actually a garage. It was a wooden shack with holes in the walls through which we could see people passing by. If they were curious and looked intently through the cracks, they could see us in our bed.

It was not only stifling because of the intense heat in Florida, but the mosquitoes had a profitable time being able to enter at will. Finally, this test came to an end and we were preparing to move on by the will of God to another place.

We were thanking God for the grace that He had given us to triumph in this situation without murmuring. My wife never murmured and was always an encouragement to me in times like this.

As we were on our knees praising the Lord, I was carried in the Spirit upwards to heaven. There I found myself at the beginning of path that led to a beautiful house. Several angels were there, and they were beckoning me to walk down the path to the house, which I understood to be my eternal home.

However, I told them, “I am not interested in my house, I just want to meet Jesus.” They were so very gracious, and they simply continued to smile as they encouraged me to walk down the same path. Somehow, I lost the ability to resist, and so I walked in company with the angels down the path. As we approached the house, I once again told the angels, “I am only interested in seeing the Lord.” Yet they did not change their direction and so when we arrived at the house I thought I might as well enjoy taking a closer look at it.

Walking around the house, I looked in through one of the windows, and there to my utter delight was Jesus sitting in a chair in my house, smiling and waving to me, and waiting to welcome me. The angels had known all along.

We see in the life of John Wesley the way the Lord gave His angels charge to watch over him. John Wesley was an anointed instrument of revival who often had to face tremendous opposition from the enemy. One time as he was travelling, there were two men pursuing him who intended to do him bodily harm. Finally he came to an inn where he registered and went upstairs to his room. The two men came in and demanded the innkeeper tell them which room he was in. After rushing upstairs, they came down just as quickly with a look of terror in their faces. Horrified, they said to the innkeeper, “You did not tell us about those two big friends with wings standing outside his door.”

So you see, from earth to heaven the angels watch over us to bring us to our appointed home of which Jesus said, “I go to prepare a place

for you.” Only trust Him for He cares for you and has given a charge to your angels to watch over you for good and not for evil.

Praise the wonderful name of the Lord!