

Do Angels Protect You?

<u>Psalms 91:11</u>: (NASB) For He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways.



Angels! We have such varied perceptions of them. Sometimes they are viewed as little cupids, flying around shooting people with their arrows of love. Sometimes we think they are white, glowing winged creatures. Sometimes we think they take on human form and intervene in specific and dramatic ways, and sometimes we think that they are our companions with whom we can communicate about anything from the majestic to the mundane. Who are angels, what do they do and how do they do it? Can we - and should we - be seeing and talking with them?

PROGRAM DISCLAIMER: We will look at angels from a biblical perspective. By doing so, we will probably be disappointing some people with what we find as the role angels play in our lives.



))All people have them, Meet Your Guardian Angels, Doreen Virtue

• You, like everyone, have guardian angels with you right now who love you unconditionally. You don't have to earn your guardian angels. They're given to every child of God - which is every human - at birth and throughout your life. And these guardian angels are with you and they are your personal guardian angels. They'll always be with you no matter what, and they'll love you unconditionally no matter what.

This leads to several important questions in relation to the mass shootings in San Bernardino, California, this past week (and all previous and future tragedies). Did the murderers have guardian angels? Why weren't the innocent victims protected by their angels?

What does it mean to be a son of God? How is that different from an angel?

The first Old Testament use of sons of God as a description for spiritual beings:

Genesis 6:1-2,5: (ASV) ¹And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the ground, and daughters were born unto them, ²that the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all that they chose. ⁵And Jehovah saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Why are these spirit beings called sons of God and not angels?



In

Revelation 2:16.

Jesus calls himself

"the bright

morning star'

These are the only other Old Testament uses of sons of God and morning stars used to describe spirit beings:

<u>Job 1:6-7</u>: (ASV) ⁶Now it came to pass on the day when the <u>sons of God</u> came to present themselves before Jehovah that Satan also came among them. ⁷And Jehovah said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered Jehovah, and said, from going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

Notice Satan - even though a spirit being - is NOT one of the sons of God.

<u>Job 38:4-7</u>: (ASV) ⁴Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? Declare, if thou hast understanding. ⁵Who determined the measures thereof, if thou knowest? Or who stretched the line upon it? ⁶Whereupon were the foundations thereof fastened? Or who laid the corner stone thereof, ⁷When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

At this point in the story, Job's "comforters" have left him and God is now challenging Job by comparing His own greatness to Job's ignorance.

We know Lucifer was a very high and honored son of God at one time:

<u>Isaiah 14:12</u>: (ASV) How art thou fallen from heaven, *O daystar*, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground that didst lay low the nations!

As Lucifer fell from honor, he fell from son-ship and became the Deceiver. Sons of God are in harmony with God, so we see by Job 1:7, Lucifer no longer had this title.

So far we have seen spiritual beings referred to, not as *angels*, but as *sons* or *morning stars*.

Old Testament:

Angel: Strongs #4397 Kalm mal'ak mal-awk' to dispatch as a deputy.

A messenger or representative.



THE WORD 'ANGEL' IS A JOB DESCRIPTION!

What is the difference between Old Testament sons of God and angels?

- Sons of God are God's creations who dwell within the realm of God's will. Sons of God are not always angels.
- Angels are sons of God who are specifically tasked with representing the word, will and hand of God.



Does everyone who dies "turn into" an angel? NO!

NO! But there are some people - very few - who become *sons of God*. In the New Testament, this phrase describes the true individual followers of Jesus.

John 1:10-12: (KJV) ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. ¹¹He came unto his own, and his own received him not. ¹²But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

The secret to becoming a son of God is to truly receive God's calling:

Romans 8:13-14: (KJV) ¹³For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. ¹⁴For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

We, if true followers of Christ, can be looked at by God in the same way as He looks favorably upon the spirit beings in heaven.

The faithful are referred to as *sons of God* even though they are still alive on earth. They will become actual spirit beings (*sons of God*) when resurrected.

Only after death and resurrection could that small number of faithful be assigned to be an angel/messenger:

Matthew 25:31-32: (NASB) ³¹But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him; and he will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats;

For more background on this prophecy, please refer to the program from May 5, 2013 called, "Are You a Sheep or Goat?"

All the angels with him - referring to the truest followers of Jesus who are now in heaven with him. They are now messengers in this final separation process of the sheep and the goats. (Remember, the sheep and goats are descriptions for mankind resurrected on earth.)

Open your heart/invite, How to Hear Your Angels Clearly, devinemiracles.com

• But if you can actually open your heart up enough, just enough, the small crack that this makes is enough for the angels to enter and start becoming a part of your life completely. What we need to do is to open up your heart area, your heart chakra, is to start using rose quartz crystals for a start. You also want a healing rose wand, rose crystal. You can buy small ones, you can

buy rolled ones. Start holding the crystal and asking. You want your heart to be repaired. You want your heart to open so you can hear the angels talking to you clearly. You love the angels. You are inviting them into your life.



Warning! We are not to tap into powers the Bible does not authorize as accessible to us.



Painting (right)
"Abraham and Isaac"
By Harold Copping
(1863-1932)

What did angels do back in the day of Scripture?

God's spiritual beings serving in the capacity of angels intervene when necessary:

Genesis 22:9-13: (NRSV) ⁹When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. ¹¹But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham! And he said, here I am. ¹²He said, do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me. ¹³And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.

This act demonstrated Abraham's extreme faith in God. Abraham knew Isaac was the seed of promise, and he also knew God would not lie to him. Isaac could not be a seed if dead, so Abraham trusted God would somehow have a plan.



The angel was the reflected voice of God, stopping Abraham from doing what God only wanted Abraham to be willing to do.

This pictured our Heavenly Father sacrificing His son, the promised seed, on behalf of all mankind.

God's spiritual beings serving in the capacity of angels instructed and inspired when needed:

Judges 6:11-14: (ASV) ¹¹And the angel of Jehovah came, and sat under the oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites. ¹²And the angel of Jehovah appeared unto him, and said unto him, Jehovah is with thee, thou mighty man of valor. ¹³And Gideon said unto him, Oh, my lord, if Jehovah is with us, why then is all this befallen us? And where are all his wondrous works which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not Jehovah bring us up from Egypt? But now Jehovah hath cast us off, and delivered us into the hand of Midian. ¹⁴And Jehovah looked upon him, and said, go in this thy might, and save Israel from the hand of Midian: have not I sent thee?

The angel is the messenger delivering the exact will of God to humankind.

God's spiritual beings serving in the capacity of angels carried out God's judgments:

1 Chronicles 21:14-17: (NRSV) ¹⁴So the LORD sent a pestilence on Israel; and seventy thousand persons fell in Israel. ¹⁵And God sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it; but when he was about to destroy it, the LORD took note and relented concerning the calamity; he said to the destroying angel, enough! Stay your hand. The angel of the LORD was then standing by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. ¹⁶David looked up and saw the angel of the LORD standing between earth and heaven, and in his hand a drawn sword stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders, clothed in sackcloth, fell on their faces. ¹⁷And David said to God, was it not I who gave the command to count the people? It is I who have sinned and done very wickedly. But these sheep, what have they done? Let your hand, I pray, O LORD my God, be against me and against my father's house; but do not let your people be plagued!





A caller from Connecticut says: Before my husband passed away, he woke up and told me he saw angels on the ceiling. He thought that was a good sign. Were they coming for him? I believe in angels.

We will explain our thought on this throughout the program.

Unconditional Love, Meet Your Guardian Angels, Doreen Virtue

• Your guardian angels look past the surface. They look past all human errors, and they see within you your potential. They see within you that which God created perfect - your love and your light from heaven. You may have other angels come and go throughout your life according to what's going on around you. For instance, you may have healing angels during times of health needs. You may have angels help you with relationships. You may have angels to help you with support, and all of the issues that angels are assigned to help us with peace on earth. And all throughout this, your personal guardian angels never change.

Do we have access to this wide universe of angels to help us? We believe the Scriptures say something entirely different. Angels get involved in the workings of humanity only when God sends them, not when we think we need them.

God's spiritual beings serving in the capacity of angels foretold miraculous, world-changing events:

<u>Luke 1:18-19</u>: (KJV) ¹⁸And Zacharias said unto the angel, whereby shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years. ¹⁹And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to show thee these glad tidings.

The angel spoke with Zacharias because they would have a son, John the Baptist, born in their old age. They needed the reassurance.

God's spiritual beings serving in the capacity of angels announced or delivered God's messages:

<u>Luke 2:8-12</u>: (KJV) ⁸And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. ¹⁰And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

This was an important announcement directly from God to humanity.

God's spiritual beings serving in the capacity of angels gave direction when necessary:

Acts 8:26-29: (KJV) ²⁶And 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. ²⁷And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an 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, ²⁸Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. ²⁹Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

This angel gave specific direction in terms of finding Christ so the Gospel could be spread. A specific mission needed to be accomplished through Philip.



(1))Don't be afraid, How to Hear Your Angels Clearly, devinemiracles.com

• This is another point: You want to make sure you are actually in a welcoming state with your angels, because if you're frightened, they're not going to come in and make you even more frightened. An angel is always gentle. You should always have an angel near you with any type of spiritual work, especially when you're cleansing your body or healing your body, dealing with other people, customers, clients, work people, people that are negative. In every situation, you need your angel stationed around you. This is the only way you'll constantly feel like you have a way forward in your life.

Scripturally, angels only come to accomplish the word and will of God, never under man's control for his personal benefit or advantage. They are not there so we can make better decisions.



Observation:

 The VAST majority of the experiences of biblical characters happened WITHOUT ANY noticeable intervention or mention of angels. This tells us that they are meant to be pretty much INVISIBLE to our eyes and our minds.

The role angels play in our lives appears to be far less than what we might like to believe.

Why do angels do what they do?



A CQ App user suggests <u>Psalms 91:11</u>: ...for He (God) will command his angels concerning you. God dispatches angels according to His will not our own! Thanks for this fascinating topic!

Angels showed up at key points when those who serve God needed specific direction - Philip again provides us an example:

PHILIP Acts 8:26-29: (KJV) ²⁶And 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. ²⁷And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an 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, ²⁸Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. ²⁹Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

This angelic direction was for the purpose of expanding the Gospel into another country, through a foreigner (one of great authority and influence) who was hungry for God's truth. This was not given for Philip's personal destiny; but rather, the angel came at the direction of God in relation to the big picture of the Gospel.

We get direction in our lives through God's Spirit - His power and influence, not angels.



• Most people have at least two guardian angels and in my experience, one of the angels is a comforting angel, a very quiet angel, who helps you during times of great need when you need emotional support, such as during a disappointment or grief. The other guardian angel tends to be more of a coach or a motivator and is more extroverted and easier to hear. This is the



angel that you can hear in your heart, in your mind and in your feelings urging you to do the right thing, to take good care of yourself and to live a healthful lifestyle that's true to your beliefs.

This description of angelic intervention is built on the concept of paganism, where the angel comes to you in the context of your beliefs. We all have "voices" inside our heads - our conscience - that are part of being human. We have to compare what we "hear" with the written word of God.

We do not control angels!

Angels showed up at key points when God's human messengers needed extra assistance:

ELIJAH after the standoff with Baal's prophets: 1 Kings 19:1-8: (NASB) ¹Now Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ²Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, so may the gods do to me and even more, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time. ³And he was afraid and arose and ran for his life... 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 my life, for I am not better than my fathers. ⁵He lay down and slept under a juniper tree; and behold, there was an angel touching him, and he said to him, arise, eat. ⁶Then he looked and behold, there was at his head a bread cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank and lay down again. ³The angel of the LORD came again a second time and touched him and said, arise, eat, because the journey is too great for you. ⁸So he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mountain of God.

Elijah was tired and discouraged but he had more work to do. The angel supplied his nourishment. Elijah was one of the most important prophets in the Bible and the angel assisted him to do God's specific will.



A caller from Connecticut suggests <u>Psalms 34:7</u>: (KJV) The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them. Angelic protection is conditional upon having a relationship with God. <u>John 9:31</u>: (KJV) Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth. There has to be a connection, a relationship, with God.

Angels showed up at key points when God's plan was in danger of being thwarted:

PETER Acts 12:5-11: (NRSV) ⁵While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him. ⁶The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. (The power of prayer vs. the impossible!) ⁷Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, Get up quickly. And the chains fell off his wrists. ⁸The angel said to him, fasten your belt and put on your sandals. He did so. Then he said to him, Wrap your cloak around you and follow me. ⁹Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. ¹¹Then Peter came to himself and said, now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.

This was a pure, unadulterated miracle and display of spiritual power! Why? Peter was a necessary tool of the Gospel!



How do angels do what they do?

Angels protect us by way of God's commands:

<u>Psalms 91:11-13</u>: (NRSV) ¹¹For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. ¹²On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone. ¹³You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

This is not about not stubbing your toe; it is about your foot doing what it is supposed to do - trample Satan. You might be hurt in the process, but angels help make sure God's will is accomplished.

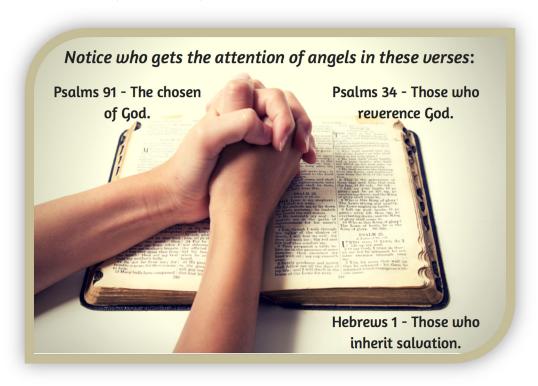
Angels are stationed around us - not managing our every movement - but guarding the perimeter of our lives:

<u>Psalms 34:7</u>: (KJV) The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear (revere) him, and delivereth them.

So, angels protect *them* - but who is the *them* in this Scripture? Is it everyone in the whole world? No, it is those few who truly seek the God of the Bible.

Angels minister to us by being that unseen spiritual protection that surrounds those in harmony with Him:

Hebrews 1:13-14: (NASB) ¹³But to which of the angels has He ever said, sit at My right hand, until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet? ¹⁴Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?



The reason they protect us is so we can accomplish the will of God.



Many people go to mediums to try to converse with angels. We strongly warn against this, as we know Satan can appear as an angel of light. If we believe the Scriptures are the inspired word of God, what are we really asking for if we ask for angels to get involved in our lives? This type of request is out of the realm of scriptural teaching.

Unlimited Supply, Meet Your Guardian Angels, Doreen Virtue

• It's been said that every time God thinks a thought of love, a new angel is created and since God thinks about love continuously, you can imagine how many legions of angels there are in the universe. Never worry that you're bothering your angels, for they're assigned to you full time and their express purpose is God's will for you, which is peace, joy, health and happiness. Your angels can help you with anything that brings you peace.

God's will for us is not necessarily peace. As a true follower of Christ, God's will is sacrifice, selflessness and often times pain and suffering so our characters can become more like Christ.

God's angels do not know all of the answers, but they do observe us:

Matthew 24:36: (NASB) But of that day and hour (of his return) no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

<u>1 Peter 1:12</u>: (NASB) It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven - things into which angels long to look.



A caller from California explains he was very interested in the Bible and God around age 19. He normally did not wear a helmet when he rode his motorcycle. But he thought of the Scripture, *Thou shalt not tempt the Lord*, and wore his helmet that day. He hit a car and flipped over it. He remembers saying, "I think God protected me" as he did not have one scratch or bruise. He asks if angels protect you in that way.

Did God protect him? Sure. Was it an angel who physically did it? We do not know - it could be - if he was seeking after God and applying that Scripture for his protection. What God showed him was to apply the Scriptures and you will be cared for. That seems to be the resounding message. Was it a guardian angel or God's overruling of the experience? We could not say. Clearly God did not prevent the accident from happening, but it was a positive, growing experience.

Good angels always carry out the will of God without changing it and - very importantly - leave when their mission has been accomplished:

<u>Galatians 1:8</u>: (NASB) But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! (He would be from Satan.)

Good angels are never at the call or service of men! Never? What about Jesus?

Matthew 4:5-7: (KJV) ⁵Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, ⁶And saith unto him, if thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: (Satan knows his Scripture! Here he quotes Psalm 91:11 to Jesus.) and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time



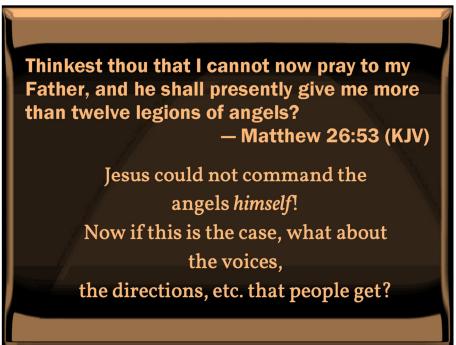
thou dash thy foot against a stone. ⁷Jesus said unto him, it is written again, thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

Here Jesus says he will not make God show himself. To throw himself off the pinnacle would be tempting the Lord to save him as a stunt or spectacle.

But how does that fit into this?

<u>Matthew 26:53</u>: (KJV) Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?





Can we interact with angels?

Tell us your names, Meet Your Guardian Angels, Doreen Virtue

• Each guardian angel has a vibration that translates in the human mind to that which we would call a name. Sometimes guardian angels have names that sound like human names. Sometimes their names are unusual. Sometimes they even sound biblical or they may even sound like a famous archangel's name. We don't worry about what name our guardian angel has; we just attune to the vibration of that name just like we would when meeting a new friend. As we breathe and tune in again: "Guardian angels, please tell us your names."

We cannot interact with angels, but they can protect us. Angelic interaction in the Bible was focused on the accomplishment of God's will by way of action, words or demonstrations. Angelic care and protection was promised only for those who truly and fully follow the will of God.



Whenever we claim insight into any spiritual realm, we need to be absolutely sure whose spiritual realm we are tapped into!

<u>2 Corinthians 11:13-14</u>: (NASB) ¹³For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴No wonder, for **even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light**.

How can Satan *disguise himself as an angel of light*? He is spiritual, he is a messenger, he is powerful and he is deceptive! He is a messenger of his own message - to follow him and not God.

Satan is disguised as an angel of light, yet his abode is in darkness:

<u>Jude 1:6</u>: (NASB) And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day.

This very darkness is what we fight against - for it takes away from the true light of God's will and God's Spirit.

The darkness promotes the worship of the created (in this case angels) and not the Creator! (That is paganism!)

Ephesians 6:12: (NASB) For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Do children have angels?

Is Jesus really talking about children in the following verse?

<u>Matthew 18:10</u>: (KJV) 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.

Context provides the answer! Who are these little ones?



Matthew 18:1-7, 10-11: (NASB) ¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus and said, who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven? ²And he called a child to himself and set him before them, ³and said, truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever then humbles himself as this child; he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

In other words, be humble like the child Jesus had before him.

Jesus now continues to speak of humble followers and calls them *children*:

⁵And whoever receives one such child in my name receives me; ⁶but whoever causes **one of these little ones** who believe in me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷Woe to the world because of its stumbling blocks! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to that man through whom the stumbling block comes!

These *children* are adult followers with childlike characters.

Jesus is clearly conveying the thought of his followers being like children:

¹⁰See that you do not despise one of these little ones (adult followers of Jesus) for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹¹For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.



Angels from heaven are given to protect the perimeter of the lives who are dedicated to following after Christ. Their interaction with humanity at this point should be limited because they work "behind the scenes" for God. Our main understanding of God's will comes from His written word and the Holy Spirit. Our input is not from angels.

Adam was called a *son of God* when he was in harmony with Him. Jesus came to restore Adam and his progeny to that loving title again. We are only permitted to see a glimpse of the part angels play in the accomplishment of that plan.

So, do angels protect you?

For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...

Think about it...!

And now <u>even more</u> to think about... only in the Full Edition of CQ Rewind!

Good angels always praise and honor God:

<u>Luke 2:12-14</u>: (NASB) ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. ¹³And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.

The following are a few scriptural examples of angelic visitations. As you read them, notice how they fit in with the previously drawn conclusions about whom angels focus on and why.

ZACHARIAS (the father of John the Baptist) <u>Luke 1:5-17</u>: (NASB) ⁵In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zacharias... and he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶They were both righteous in the sight of God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord. ⁷But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both advanced in years. ⁸Now it happened that while he was performing his priestly service before God in the appointed order of his division... ¹¹And an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. ¹²Zacharias was troubled when he saw the angel, and fear gripped him. ¹³But the angel said to him do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will give him the name John. ¹⁴You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. ¹⁵For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb... ¹⁷It is he who will go as a forerunner before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

MARY Luke 1:26-35: (NASB) ²⁶Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to... Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin... and the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And coming in, he said to her, greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you. ²⁹But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. ³⁰The angel said to her, do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give him the throne of His father David; ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will have no end. ³⁴Mary said to the angel,



"How can this be, since I am a virgin? ³⁵The angel answered and said to her, the Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy child shall be called the Son of God.

Common denominators: The angelic visit was unexpected. There was a personal, life-changing message delivered that would also alter humanity. The message was not about the recipient but about their children.

DANIEL <u>Daniel 9:20-23</u>:(NASB) ²⁰Now while I was speaking and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God in behalf of the holy mountain of my God, ²¹while I was still speaking in prayer, then the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision previously, came to me in my extreme weariness about the time of the evening offering. ²²He gave me instruction and talked with me and said, O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you insight with understanding. ²³At the beginning of your supplications the command was issued, and I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed; so give heed to the message and gain understanding of the vision.

Notice Daniel's attitude, focus and posture. He was such a man of God that as soon as he started praying, the command for an answer was issued!

Around about the same time that Daniel was laboring in prayer and prophecy, there was another who was searching for the same answers...

ZECHARIAH He recounts an angel in communication with God and himself:

Zechariah 1:12-17: (NASB) ¹²Then the angel of the LORD said, O LORD of hosts, how long will You have no compassion for Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, with which You have been indignant these seventy years? ¹³The LORD answered the angel who was speaking with me with gracious words, comforting words. ¹⁴So the angel who was speaking with me said to me, Proclaim, saying, thus says the LORD of hosts, I am exceedingly jealous for Jerusalem and Zion. ¹⁵But I am very angry with the nations who are at ease; for while I was only a little angry, they furthered the disaster. ¹⁶Therefore thus says the LORD, I will return to Jerusalem with compassion; My house will be built in it, declares the LORD of hosts, and a measuring line will be stretched over Jerusalem. ¹⁷Again, proclaim, saying, Thus says the LORD of hosts, My cities will again overflow with prosperity, and the LORD will again comfort Zion and again choose Jerusalem. What would follow would be the prophecy of the 70 weeks.

THE APOSTLES Acts 5:17-21: (KJV) ¹⁷Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with indignation, ¹⁸And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison. ¹⁹But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said, ²⁰Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life. ²¹And when they heard that, they entered into the temple early in the morning, and taught.

This is a very literal application of "freedom with responsibility" for all of the Apostles.

PETER and CORNELIUS <u>Acts 10:1-5</u>: (NASB) ¹Now there was a man at Caesarea named Cornelius... ²a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, and gave many alms to the Jewish people and prayed to God continually. ³About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had just come in and said to him, Cornelius! ⁴And fixing his gaze on him and being much alarmed, he said, what is it, Lord? And he said to him, your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God. ⁵Now dispatch some men to Joppa and send for a man named Simon, who is also called Peter.



Acts 10:17-20: (NASB) ¹⁷Now while Peter was greatly perplexed in mind as to what the vision which he had seen might be, behold, the men who had been sent by Cornelius, having asked directions for Simon's house, appeared at the gate; ¹⁸and calling out, they were asking whether Simon, who was also called Peter, was staying there. ¹⁹While Peter was reflecting on the vision, the Spirit said to him, behold, three men are looking for you. ²⁰But get up, go downstairs and accompany them without misgivings, for I have sent them myself.

Both men were obedient to the vision without question as the Gospel was about to transform.