

Do Angels Offer Personal Protection?

By Mark Mayberry
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Introducing the parable of the lost sheep, Jesus said, “See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that **their angels in heaven** continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven” (Matt. 18:10-14; cf. Luke 15:3-7). The expression “their angels” of Matthew 18:10 parallels “his angel” of Acts 12:14-15.

Matthew 18:10-14 ... 10 “See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven. 11 [“For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.] 12 “What do you think? If any man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go and search for the one that is straying? 13 “If it turns out that he finds it, truly I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine which have not gone astray. 14 “So it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones perish. (NASB95)

Luke 15:3-7 ... 3 So He told them this parable, saying, 4 “What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? 5 “When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6 “And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’ 7 “I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. (NASB95)

*Matthew 18:10 ... 10 “See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that **their angels** in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven. (NASB95)*

*Acts 12:14-15 ... 14 When she recognized Peter’s voice, because of her joy she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter was standing in front of the gate. 15 They said to her, “You are out of your mind!” But she kept insisting that it was so. They kept saying, “**It is his angel.**” (NASB95)*

Nevertheless, does this imply some form of angelic guardianship or the promise of providential protection? No. Consider the context of both passages. While Peter was delivered from prison, James was put to death with the sword (Acts 12:1-13). Moreover, Matthew 18:6 implies that the little ones under consideration remained vulnerable: “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.” The passage focuses, not on celestial

guardianship or the promise of miraculous intervention, but rather upon angelic care and concern (Luke 15:7, 10; 1 Pet. 1:10-12).

Acts 12:1-13 ... 1 Now about that time Herod the king laid hands on some who belonged to the church in order to mistreat them. 2 And he had James the brother of John put to death with a sword. 3 When he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. Now it was during the days of Unleavened Bread. 4 When he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out before the people. 5 So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God. 6 On the very night when Herod was about to bring him forward, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and guards in front of the door were watching over the prison. 7 And behold, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter's side and woke him up, saying, "Get up quickly." And his chains fell off his hands. 8 And the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." 9 And he went out and continued to follow, and he did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. 10 When they had passed the first and second guard, they came to the iron gate that leads into the city, which opened for them by itself; and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel departed from him. 11 When Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I know for sure that the Lord has sent forth His angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting." 12 And when he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John who was also called Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying. 13 When he knocked at the door of the gate, a servant-girl named Rhoda came to answer. (NASB95)

Matthew 18:1-6 ... 1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and said, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" 2 And He called a child to Himself and set him before them, 3 and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 "Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 "And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me; 6 but 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. (NASB95)

Luke 15:7 ... 7 "I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. (NASB95)

Luke 15:10 ... 10 "In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (NASB95)

1 Peter 1:10-12 ... 10 As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, 11 seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. 12 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. (NASB95)

Angels serve the will of God (Ps. 104:4; Heb. 1:7), offering worship (Ps. 103:20-21; 148:2), and on various occasions, rendering service to the saints: protection (Exod. 23:20-22; 2 Kings 6:11-19; Ps. 34:7; 91:11-13; Dan. 3:28; 6:22; etc.), provision (1 Kings 19:5-7; Ps. 78:24-25), instruction (Gen. 16:7-14; 22:11-12, 15-18; Exod. 3:1-2; etc.), and judgment (Exod. 33:2; 2 Sam. 24:15-16; Ps. 35:4-6; 78:49-51; Isa. 37:36; 2 Thess. 1:6-8; etc.).

Psalm 104:4 ... 4 He makes the winds His messengers, Flaming fire His ministers. (NASB95)

Hebrews 1:7 ... 7 And of the angels He says, "Who makes His angels winds, And His ministers a flame of fire." (NASB95)

Psalm 103:20-21 ... 20 Bless the Lord, you His angels, Mighty in strength, who perform His word, Obeying the voice of His word! 21 Bless the Lord, all you His hosts, You who serve Him, doing His will. (NASB95)

Psalm 148:2 ... 2 Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts! (NASB95)

Exodus 23:20-22 ... 20 "Behold, I am going to send an angel before you to guard you along the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. 21 "Be on your guard before him and obey his voice; do not be rebellious toward him, for he will not pardon your transgression, since My name is in him. 22 "But if you truly obey his voice and do all that I say, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries. (NASB95)

2 Kings 6:11-19 ... 11 Now the heart of the king of Aram was enraged over this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, "Will you tell me which of us is for the king of Israel?" 12 One of his servants said, "No, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom." 13 So he said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and take him." And it was told him, saying, "Behold, he is in Dothan." 14 He sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city. 15 Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" 16 So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." 17 Then Elisha prayed and said, "O Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." And the Lord opened the servant's eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. 18 When they came down to him, Elisha prayed to the Lord and said, "Strike this people with blindness, I pray." So He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha. 19 Then Elisha said to them, "This is not the way, nor is this the city; follow me and I will bring you to the man whom you seek." And he brought them to Samaria. (NASB95)

Psalm 34:7 ... 7 The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, And rescues them. (NASB95)

Psalm 91:11-13 ... 11 For He will give His angels charge concerning you, To guard you in all your ways. 12 They will bear you up in their hands, That you do not strike your foot against a stone. 13 You will tread upon the lion and cobra, The young lion and the serpent you will trample down. (NASB95)

Daniel 3:28 ... 28 Nebuchadnezzar responded and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, who has sent His angel and delivered His servants who put their trust in Him, violating the king's command, and yielded up their bodies so as not to serve or worship any god except their own God. (NASB95)

Daniel 6:22 ... 22 "My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths and they have not harmed me, inasmuch as I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime." (NASB95)

1 Kings 19:5-7 ... 5 He lay down and slept under a juniper tree; and behold, there was an angel touching him, and he said to him, "Arise, eat." 6 Then 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. 7 The angel of the Lord came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise, eat, because the journey is too great for you." (NASB95)

Psalm 78:24-25 ... 24 He rained down manna upon them to eat And gave them food from heaven. 25 Man did eat the bread of angels; He sent them food in abundance. (NASB95)

Genesis 16:7-14 ... 7 Now the angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur. 8 He said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from and where are you going?" And she said, "I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai." 9 Then the angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit yourself to her authority." 10 Moreover, the angel of the Lord said to her, "I will greatly multiply your descendants so that they will be too many to count." 11 The angel of the Lord said to her further, "Behold, you are with child, And you will bear a son; And you shall call his name Ishmael, Because the Lord has given heed to your affliction. 12 "He will be a wild donkey of a man, His hand will be against everyone, And everyone's hand will be against him; And he will live to the east of all his brothers." 13 Then she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, "You are a God who sees"; for she said, "Have I even remained alive here after seeing Him?" 14 Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; behold, it is between Kadesh and Bered. (NASB95)

Genesis 22:11-12 ... 11 But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 12 He said, "Do not stretch out your

hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.” (NASB95)

Genesis 22:15-18 ... 15 Then the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, 16 and said, “By Myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. 18 “In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.” (NASB95)

Exodus 3:1-2 ... 1 Now Moses was pasturing the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian; and he led the flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed. (NASB95)

Exodus 33:2 ... 2 “I will send an angel before you and I will drive out the Canaanite, the Amorite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Hivite and the Jebusite. (NASB95)

2 Samuel 24:15-16 ... 15 So the Lord sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning until the appointed time, and seventy thousand men of the people from Dan to Beersheba died. 16 When the angel stretched out his hand toward Jerusalem to destroy it, the Lord relented from the calamity and said to the angel who destroyed the people, “It is enough! Now relax your hand!” And the angel of the Lord was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. (NASB95)

Psalms 35:4-6 ... 4 Let those be ashamed and dishonored who seek my life; Let those be turned back and humiliated who devise evil against me. 5 Let them be like chaff before the wind, With the angel of the Lord driving them on. 6 Let their way be dark and slippery, With the angel of the Lord pursuing them. (NASB95)

Psalms 78:49-51 ... 49 He sent upon them His burning anger, Fury and indignation and trouble, A band of destroying angels. 50 He leveled a path for His anger; He did not spare their soul from death, But gave over their life to the plague, 51 And smote all the firstborn in Egypt, The first issue of their virility in the tents of Ham. (NASB95)

Isaiah 37:36 ... 36 Then the angel of the Lord went out and struck 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians; and when men arose early in the morning, behold, all of these were dead. (NASB95)

2 Thessalonians 1:6-8 ... 6 For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, 8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. (NASB95)

The Angel of the Lord

“The angel of the Lord” is repeatedly referenced in Holy Scripture (Gen. 16:7, 9, 10, 11; 22:11, 15; Exod. 3:2; Num. 22:22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 31, 32, 34, 35; Judg. 2:1, 4; 5:23; 6:11, 12, 21, 22; 13:3, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21; 2 Sam. 24:16; 1 Kings 19:7; 2 Kings 1:3, 15; 19:35; 1 Chron. 21:12, 15, 16, 18, 30; Ps. 34:7; 35:5, 6; Isa. 37:36; Zech. 1:11, 12; 3:1, 5, 6; 12:8; Matt. 1:24).

*Genesis 16:7 ... 7 Now **the angel of the Lord** found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur. (NASB95)*

*Genesis 16:9 ... 9 Then **the angel of the Lord** said to her, “Return to your mistress, and submit yourself to her authority.” (NASB95)*

*Genesis 16:10 ... 10 Moreover, **the angel of the Lord** said to her, “I will greatly multiply your descendants so that they will be too many to count.” (NASB95)*

*Genesis 16:11 ... 11 **The angel of the Lord** said to her further, “Behold, you are with child, And you will bear a son; And you shall call his name Ishmael, Because the Lord has given heed to your affliction. (NASB95)*

*Genesis 22:11 ... 11 But **the angel of the Lord** called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” (NASB95)*

*Genesis 22:15 ... 15 Then **the angel of the Lord** called to Abraham a second time from heaven, (NASB95)*

*Exodus 3:2 ... 2 **The angel of the Lord** appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed. (NASB95)*

*Numbers 22:22 ... 22 But God was angry because he was going, and **the angel of the Lord** took his stand in the way as an adversary against him. Now he was riding on his donkey and his two servants were with him. (NASB95)*

*Numbers 22:23 ... 23 When the donkey saw **the angel of the Lord** standing in the way with his drawn sword in his hand, the donkey turned off from the way and went into the field; but Balaam struck the donkey to turn her back into the way. (NASB95)*

*Numbers 22:24 ... 24 Then **the angel of the Lord** stood in a narrow path of the vineyards, with a wall on this side and a wall on that side. (NASB95)*

*Numbers 22:25 ... 25 When the donkey saw **the angel of the Lord**, she pressed herself to the wall and pressed Balaam’s foot against the wall, so he struck her again. (NASB95)*

*Numbers 22:26 ... 26 **The angel of the Lord** went further, and stood in a narrow place where there was no way to turn to the right hand or the left. (NASB95)*

*Numbers 22:27 ... 27 When the donkey saw **the angel of the Lord**, she lay down under Balaam; so Balaam was angry and struck the donkey with his stick. (NASB95)*

*Numbers 22:31 ... 31 Then the Lord opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw **the angel of the Lord** standing in the way with his drawn sword in his hand; and he bowed all the way to the ground. (NASB95)*

*Numbers 22:32 ... 32 **The angel of the Lord** said to him, “Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out as an adversary, because your way was contrary to me. (NASB95)*

*Numbers 22:34 ... 34 Balaam said to **the angel of the Lord**, “I have sinned, for I did not know that you were standing in the way against me. Now then, if it is displeasing to you, I will turn back.” (NASB95)*

*Numbers 22:35 ... 35 But **the angel of the Lord** said to Balaam, “Go with the men, but you shall speak only the word which I tell you.” So Balaam went along with the leaders of Balak. (NASB95)*

*Judges 2:1 ... 1 Now **the angel of the Lord** came up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, “I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land which I have sworn to your fathers; and I said, ‘I will never break My covenant with you, (NASB95)*

*Judges 2:4 ... 4 When **the angel of the Lord** spoke these words to all the sons of Israel, the people lifted up their voices and wept. (NASB95)*

*Judges 5:23 ... 23 ‘Curse Meroz,’ said **the angel of the Lord**, ‘Utterly curse its inhabitants; Because they did not come to the help of the Lord, To the help of the Lord against the warriors.’ (NASB95)*

*Judges 6:11 ... 11 Then **the angel of the Lord** came and sat under the oak that was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite as his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the wine press in order to save it from the Midianites. (NASB95)*

*Judges 6:12 ... 12 **The angel of the Lord** appeared to him and said to him, “The Lord is with you, O valiant warrior.” (NASB95)*

*Judges 6:21 ... 21 Then **the angel of the Lord** put out the end of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened bread; and fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. Then **the angel of the Lord** vanished from his sight. (NASB95)*

*Judges 6:22 ... 22 When Gideon saw that he was **the angel of the Lord**, he said, “Alas, O Lord God! For now I have seen **the angel of the Lord** face to face.” (NASB95)*

*Judges 13:3 ... 3 Then **the angel of the Lord** appeared to the woman and said to her, “Behold now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and give birth to a son. (NASB95)*

*Judges 13:13 ... 13 So **the angel of the Lord** said to Manoah, “Let the woman pay attention to all that I said. (NASB95)*

*Judges 13:15 ... 15 Then Manoah said to **the angel of the Lord**, “Please let us detain you so that we may prepare a young goat for you.” (NASB95)*

*Judges 13:16 ... 16 **The angel of the Lord** said to Manoah, “Though you detain me, I will not eat your food, but if you prepare a burnt offering, then offer it to the Lord.” For Manoah did not know that he was **the angel of the Lord**. (NASB95)*

*Judges 13:17 ... 17 Manoah said to **the angel of the Lord**, “What is your name, so that when your words come to pass, we may honor you?” (NASB95)*

*Judges 13:18 ... 18 But **the angel of the Lord** said to him, “Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?” (NASB95)*

*Judges 13:20 ... 20 For it came about when the flame went up from the altar toward heaven, that **the angel of the Lord** ascended in the flame of the altar. When Manoah and his wife saw this, they fell on their faces to the ground. (NASB95)*

*Judges 13:21 ... 21 Now **the angel of the Lord** did not appear to Manoah or his wife again. Then Manoah knew that he was **the angel of the Lord**. (NASB95)*

*2 Samuel 24:16 ... 16 When the angel stretched out his hand toward Jerusalem to destroy it, the Lord relented from the calamity and said to the angel who destroyed the people, “It is enough! Now relax your hand!” And **the angel of the Lord** was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. (NASB95)*

*1 Kings 19:7 ... 7 **The angel of the Lord** came again a second time and touched him and said, “Arise, eat, because the journey is too great for you.” (NASB95)*

*2 Kings 1:3 ... 3 But **the angel of the Lord** said to Elijah the Tishbite, “Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria and say to them, ‘Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron?’ (NASB95)*

*2 Kings 1:15 ... 15 **The angel of the Lord** said to Elijah, “Go down with him; do not be afraid of him.” So he arose and went down with him to the king. (NASB95)*

*2 Kings 19:35 ... 35 Then it happened that night that **the angel of the Lord** went out and struck 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians; and when men rose early in the morning, behold, all of them were dead. (NASB95)*

*1 Chronicles 21:12 ... 12 either three years of famine, or three months to be swept away before your foes, while the sword of your enemies overtakes you, or else three days of the sword of the Lord, even pestilence in the land, and **the angel of the Lord** destroying throughout all the territory of Israel.’ Now, therefore, consider what answer I shall return to Him who sent me.” (NASB95)*

*1 Chronicles 21:15 ... 15 And God sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it; but as he was about to destroy it, the Lord saw and was sorry over the calamity, and said to the destroying angel, "It is enough; now relax your hand." And **the angel of the Lord** was standing by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. (NASB95)*

*1 Chronicles 21:16 ... 16 Then David lifted up his eyes and saw **the angel of the Lord** standing between earth and heaven, with his drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders, covered with sackcloth, fell on their faces. (NASB95)*

*1 Chronicles 21:18 ... 18 Then **the angel of the Lord** commanded Gad to say to David, that David should go up and build an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. (NASB95)*

*1 Chronicles 21:30 ... 30 But David could not go before it to inquire of God, for he was terrified by the sword of **the angel of the Lord**. (NASB95)*

*Psalms 34:7 ... 7 **The angel of the Lord** encamps around those who fear Him, And rescues them. (NASB95)*

*Psalms 35:5 ... 5 Let them be like chaff before the wind, With **the angel of the Lord** driving them on. (NASB95)*

*Psalms 35:6 ... 6 Let their way be dark and slippery, With **the angel of the Lord** pursuing them. (NASB95)*

*Isaiah 37:36 ... 36 Then **the angel of the Lord** went out and struck 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians; and when men arose early in the morning, behold, all of these were dead. (NASB95)*

*Zechariah 1:11 ... 11 So they answered **the angel of the Lord** who was standing among the myrtle trees and said, "We have patrolled the earth, and behold, all the earth is peaceful and quiet." (NASB95)*

*Zechariah 1:12 ... 12 Then **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?" (NASB95)*

*Zechariah 3:1 ... 1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before **the angel of the Lord**, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. (NASB95)*

*Zechariah 3:5 ... 5 Then I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with garments, while **the angel of the Lord** was standing by. (NASB95)*

*Zechariah 3:6 ... 6 And **the angel of the Lord** admonished Joshua, saying, (NASB95)*

*Zechariah 12:8 ... 8 “In that day the Lord will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the one who is feeble among them in that day will be like David, and the house of David will be like God, like **the angel of the Lord** before them. (NASB95)*

*Matthew 1:24 ... 24 And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as **the angel of the Lord** commanded him, and took Mary as his wife, (NASB95)*

Individual Angels

Gabriel is mentioned by name in both the Old and New Testaments (Dan. 8:16; 9:21; Luke 1:18-20; 1:26-28). So also is Michael the archangel (Dan. 10:13, 21; 12:1; Jude 9; Rev. 12:7-9).

*Daniel 8:16 ... 16 And I heard the voice of a man between the banks of Ulai, and he called out and said, “**Gabriel**, give this man an understanding of the vision.” (NASB95)*

*Daniel 9:21 ... 21 while 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. (NASB95)*

*Luke 1:18-20 ... 18 Zacharias said to the angel, “How will I know this for certain? For I am an old man and my wife is advanced in years.” 19 The angel answered and said to him, “**I am Gabriel**, who stands in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. 20 “And behold, you shall be silent and unable to speak until the day when these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their proper time.” (NASB95)*

*Luke 1:26-28 ... 26 Now in the sixth month **the angel Gabriel** was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. 28 And coming in, he said to her, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” (NASB95)*

*Daniel 10:13 ... 13 “But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, **Michael, one of the chief princes**, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia. (NASB95)*

*Daniel 10:21 ... 21 “However, I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth. Yet there is no one who stands firmly with me against these forces except **Michael your prince**. (NASB95)*

*Daniel 12:1 ... 1 “Now at that time **Michael, the great prince** who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. (NASB95)*

*Jude 9 ... 9 But **Michael the archangel**, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!” (NASB95)*

*Revelation 12:7-9 ... 7 And there was war in heaven, **Michael and his angels** waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, 8 and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. (NASB95)*

Rival Princes

The book of Daniel describes Michael as “the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people,” (Dan. 12:1-3), who struggled with the prince of the kingdom of Persia and Greece (Daniel 10:10-21).

*Daniel 12:1-3 ... 1 “Now at that time **Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people**, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. 2 “Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt. 3 “Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. (NASB95)*

*Daniel 10:1-9 ... 1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belshazzar; and the message was true and one of great conflict, but he understood the message and had an understanding of the vision. 2 In those days, I, Daniel, had been mourning for three entire weeks. 3 I did not eat any tasty food, nor did meat or wine enter my mouth, nor did I use any ointment at all until the entire three weeks were completed. 4 On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, while I was by the bank of the great river, that is, the Tigris, 5 **I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, there was a certain man dressed in linen, whose waist was girded with a belt of pure gold of Uphaz. 6 His body also was like beryl, his face had the appearance of lightning, his eyes were like flaming torches, his arms and feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a tumult. 7 Now I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, while the men who were with me did not see the vision; nevertheless, a great dread fell on them, and they ran away to hide themselves. 8 So I was left alone and saw this great vision; yet no strength was left in me, for my natural color turned to a deathly pallor, and I retained no strength. 9 But I heard the sound of his words; and as soon as I heard the sound of his words, I fell into a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground. (NASB95)***

Daniel 10:10-14 ... 10 Then behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. 11 He said to me, “O Daniel, man of high esteem, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you.”

And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. 12 Then he said to me, “Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words. 13 “But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia. 14 “Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet future.” (NASB95)

Daniel 10:15-17 ... 15 When he had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless. 16 And behold, one who resembled a human being was touching my lips; then I opened my mouth and spoke and said to him who was standing before me, “O my lord, as a result of the vision anguish has come upon me, and I have retained no strength. 17 “For how can such a servant of my lord talk with such as my lord? As for me, there remains just now no strength in me, nor has any breath been left in me.” (NASB95)

*Daniel 10:18-21 ... 18 Then **this one with human appearance** touched me again and strengthened me. 19 He said, “O man of high esteem, do not be afraid. Peace be with you; take courage and be courageous!” Now as soon as he spoke to me, I received strength and said, “May **my lord** speak, for you have strengthened me.” 20 Then he said, “Do you understand why I came to you? But **I shall now return to fight against the prince of Persia**; so I am going forth, and behold, **the prince of Greece is about to come**. 21 “However, I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth. **Yet there is no one who stands firmly with me against these forces except Michael your prince.** (NASB95)*

Members of the satanic/angelic host are referred to as “princes,” namely, “the prince of the kingdom of Persia” (Dan. 10:13), the corresponding “prince of Greece” (Dan. 10:20), and also “Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people” (Dan. 12:1-2).

*Daniel 10:13 ... 13 “But **the prince of the kingdom of Persia** was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia. (NASB95)*

*Daniel 10:20 ... 20 Then he said, “Do you understand why I came to you? But **I shall now return to fight against the prince of Persia**; so I am going forth, and behold, **the prince of Greece is about to come.** (NASB95)*

*Daniel 12:1-2 ... 1 “Now at that time **Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people**, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. 2 “Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt. (NASB95)*

Satan is described as “the ruler of this world” (John 12:31), “the prince of the power of the air” (Eph. 2:1-2), who leads “the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Eph. 6:12).

Yet, the outcome of this cosmic struggle is predetermined (Gen. 3:15; Matt. 8:28-29); the devil and his angels are doomed to destruction (Matt. 25:41; Rev. 12:7-17).

John 12:31 ... 31 "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. (NASB95)

*Ephesians 2:1-2 ... 1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to **the prince of the power of the air**, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. (NASB95)*

Ephesians 6:12 ... 12 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. (NASB95)

Genesis 3:15 ... 15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel." (NASB95)

Matthew 8:28-29 ... 28 When He came to the other side into the country of the Gadarenes, two men who were demon-possessed met Him as they were coming out of the tombs. They were so extremely violent that no one could pass by that way. 29 And they cried out, saying, "What business do we have with each other, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?" (NASB95)

Matthew 25:41 ... 41 "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; (NASB95)

Revelation 12:7-17 ... 7 And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, 8 and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. 10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. 11 "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death. 12 "For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time." 13 And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child. 14 But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. 15 And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood. 16 But the earth

helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon poured out of his mouth. 17 So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. (NASB95)

In comparison to the illegitimate and limited power of Satan, Jesus Christ possesses real and rightful authority (Matt. 28:18-20), being the Prince of Peace, the Lord of Lords, and King of Kings (Isa. 9:6; Rev. 17:14; 19:16). God the Father is described in similarly regal terms (Dan. 8:11, 25; 1 Tim. 6:13-16).

Matthew 28:18-20 ... 18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (NASB95)

*Isaiah 9:6 ... 6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, **Prince of Peace**. (NASB95)*

*Revelation 17:14 ... 14 “These will wage war against **the Lamb**, and the Lamb will overcome them, because **He is Lord of lords and King of kings**, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful.” (NASB95)*

*Revelation 19:16 ... 16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, “**KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS**.” (NASB95)*

*Daniel 8:11 ... 11 It even magnified itself to be equal with **the Commander of the host**; and it removed the regular sacrifice from Him, and the place of His sanctuary was thrown down. (NASB95)*

*Daniel 8:25 ... 25 “And through his shrewdness He will cause deceit to succeed by his influence; And he will magnify himself in his heart, And he will destroy many while they are at ease. He will even oppose **the Prince of princes**, But he will be broken without human agency. (NASB95)*

*1 Timothy 6:13-16 ... 13 I charge you in the presence of **God**, who gives life to all things, and of **Christ Jesus**, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, 14 that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our **Lord Jesus Christ**, 15 which **He** will bring about at the proper time—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, **the King of kings and Lord of lords**, 16 who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen. (NASB95)*

Conclusion

While God's people often experienced divine deliverance (Heb. 11:32-34), the faithful frequently faced suffering and sorrow even in Biblical times (Heb. 11:35-38). Furthermore, divine providence and power do not alter the reality that we live in a world of sin and suffering, and that it is appointed unto man once to die (Heb. 9:27).

Hebrews 11:32-34 ... 32 And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, 33 who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. (NASB95)

Hebrews 11:35-38 ... 35 Women received back their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection; 36 and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated 38 (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground. (NASB95)

Hebrews 9:27 ... 27 And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, (NASB95)

Accordingly, angels should not be viewed as some sort of talisman, i.e., "an object held to act as a charm to avert evil and bring good fortune, or something producing apparently magical or miraculous effects" [Webster]. The doctrine of guardian angels goes far beyond divine revelation, entering the mystical realm of human speculation. On this and every other subject, let us contentedly abide in that which is written (Deut. 29:29; 1 Cor. 4:6; 2 Tim. 3:14-17).

Deuteronomy 29:29 ... 29 "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law. (NASB95)

1 Corinthians 4:6 ... 6 Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that in us you may learn not to exceed what is written, so that no one of you will become arrogant in behalf of one against the other. (NASB95)

2 Timothy 3:14-17 ... 14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. (NASB95)