

## PRAYER STUDY #12

### ANGELS

*For He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep in all thy ways.*

Psalm 91:11

1. **How many angels are there?** Scripture is not clear about this except that there are multitudes. Early church father Thomas Aquinas believed every person on earth had an angel. That would be 5.5 Billion people today. Scripture does teach us that 1/3 of the angels were deceived and fell with Satan and became demons and evil spirits, etc. Daniel 7:10, Matthew 26:23, Revelation 5:11, Revelation 1:3-9
2. **What do angels look like?** Job 38:4-6, Daniel 10:1-18, Ezekiel 24:9-10
3. **Where do angels live and what do we mean by the third heaven?** 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 12:2, Jude 9
4. **Can we distinguish one heaven from another?** Genesis 1:26, Isaiah 13:10, Revelation 4:7
5. **Does the Bible teach the existence of guardian angels?** Yes, although it does not use that specific term. Psalm 91:11, Matthew 18:10
6. **Can we contact angels?** Yes. Jesus said to the companion who sought to protect Him from the soldiers of the high priest, "Put your sword back in its place...Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and He will...put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels" (Matthew 26:52-53). It is the Father in heaven who hears our cry for help, who commands His waiting angels to contact us. We can only contact angels through Him. They are His messengers, His servants, not ours unless He commands.  
We read in the Old Testament of Hagar's little son Ishmael crying, as he was dying of thirst in the parched desert. "God heard the boy crying and the angel of God called to Hagar from Heaven and said to her... 'Do not be afraid...' Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water..." (Genesis 21:17-19). She did not ask an angel to help her. God heard her cry for help and He sent an angel.

#### SOME BIBLICAL FUNCTIONS OF ANGELS

1. Adam and Eve kept out of Eden by an angel (Genesis 3:24)
2. Abraham entertained (Hebrews 13:2) & Restrained by the angel (Genesis 22:11-18)
3. Hagar consoled by an angel (Genesis 16:8)
4. Eliezer guided by an angel (Genesis 24:7)
5. Lot delivered by angels (Genesis 19:15-16)
6. Jacob directed by angels (Genesis 31:11-13, 32:1)
7. Moses given the law by angels (Acts 7:35, Galatians 3:19)
8. Balaam reproved by an angel (Numbers 22:22-23)
9. Joshua encouraged by an angel (Joshua 5:13-14)
10. Gideon commissioned by an angel (Judges 2:1-4)
11. Manoah instructed by an angel (Judges 13:15-18)
12. Israel chastened by angels (2 Samuel 24:15-17)
13. Elijah comforted and translated by angels (1 Kings 19:4-7)
14. Elisha defended by angels (2 Kings 6:16-17)
15. Assyrians destroyed by an angel (2 Kings 19:15, 35)

16. Daniel ministered to by angels (Daniel 6:21-22)
17. Zechariah enlightened by angels (Zechariah 1:14-16)
18. An angel delivers the apostles from prison (Acts 5:19)
19. An angel instructs Philip (Acts 8:26)
20. An angel sustains Paul in the storm (Acts 27:23)

#### CHRIST'S TEACHINGS CONCERNING ANGELS

1. Their solemn task as harvesters (Matthew 13:38-39)
2. Their guardianship of the young (Matthew 18:10)
3. Their likeness to resurrected saints (Mark 12:25)
4. Their joy over the salvation of sinners (Luke 15:10)

#### BEST SOURCES FOR INFORMATION ON ANGELS BESIDES SCRIPTURES

- *Angels: God's Secret Agents* by Billy Graham
- *All the Angels in the Bible* by Herbert Lockyer
- *War Beyond the Stars* by Joel and Jane French