



Stop, Look , Listen – June 21, 2022

The Lord be with you.

Do you ever think about angels? About the role, the part that angels are playing in your life? Of course, as Christians, we do not worship angels as the Bible commands us against that, but what role are angels playing in your life?

As you and I live in a secular, materialistic culture that seems ignorant of spiritual realities, we might need to be reminded today of the angels that are in our lives. I don't think that I really thought about angels, that I really took angels seriously until the night that my father died. That was years ago. It all happened in the front yard of my parent's house with my father dying and later that night after we returned home from the hospital our little four-year-old son Wyatt he told me that he had seen two angels in the front yard when my father died. Wyatt said that the two angels were standing by his grandmother, and I asked Wyatt what the angels looked like, and he said that they didn't look like a man or a woman, but he said that they were bright and shiny. Wyatt is many years older today, and Wyatt stands by that story of seeing two angels standing by his grandmother.

And that night, as a person who believes the Bible, I began to think about angels and their role in our lives. And then when I was a chaplain for hospice, not infrequently, not infrequently, I would talk with a patient who was seeing angels. I think of a time when there were about four or five of us people. We were standing around a patient's bed, and the patient motioned for me to move as I was standing at the foot of his bed and a patient motioned for me to move saying, "You're standing in front of an angel."

As I said, we do not worship angels, but as a Christians, we are mindful of the role of angels in our lives. As a new testament book of Hebrews chapter 1 verse 14 says that "angels are God's ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit South Asia."

That means that God does send angels to serve you and me, to protect us, to guards, to help us. We read in the Book of Psalms, Psalm 91 Verse 11, it says that God will command His angels concerning you in all your ways. I can't help but think here of the Prophet Elisha. The Second Kings chapter 6, as Elisha is surrounded by an army ready to attack, and it says that Elisha's servant is afraid.

But Elisha is well aware of God's angels that are with them. And Elisha says to a servant, "Do not



water from rock

be afraid, for there are more with us than there are with them.’ Then Elisha prayed, “Oh Lord, please open My servant's eyes that he may see.” And it says, “so the Lord opened the eyes of the servant and he saw. The mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.”

My prayer for you, for me, in whatever situation we find ourselves today, that God might open our eyes that we might see that... Yes, God's angels are with us. As you and I today, we are in a great spiritual battle. As the Apostle Paul says “our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil. And God has sent his angels to be with us.”

One of my favorite moments in worship...One of my favorite moments in our Sunday worship services is when we stand to sing the doxology right after the offering and we sing, “Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise Him all creatures here below, praise Him above ye heavenly hosts.” Those are the angels. Those are the host of angels with whom you and I worship as we worship.

I like how David prayed in Psalm 103, verse 20. “Bless the Lord. Oh, you, His angels, you mighty ones who do His bidding will beat it to His spoken word. Bless Lord, all His host, His ministers that do his will.” Here's how the Message version translates David's verses, “Bless God, you angels. Ready and able to fly at his bidding, quick to hear and do what He says, Bless God, all you armies of angels alert to respond and do whatever He wills”.

Remember that angels are a a book of Hebrews reminds, angels are God's ministering spirits sent to serve those who inherit salvation. My wife and I like to spend some time in prayer each night before we go to bed. And one of the prayers we like to pray is from The Book of Common Prayer, it goes like this: “Visit this place, oh Lord and drive, far from that all snares of the enemy. Let your Holy Angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace, and let your blessing be upon us always through Jesus Christ, our Lord.”

And I pray for you today, tonight, the Lord visit you and drive far from you all snares of the enemy, and that his only angels be with you to preserve you in peace.

I'm Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thank you for listening. Until next time.



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