

OUR MYSTERIOUS BODYGUARDS

TEXT: **Heb 1:14** Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

INTRO.: A. Someone has counted up to 273 references to angels in the Bible in at least 34 books of the Bible. There is thus more Scriptural information about angels than nearly any other subject or doctrine in the Bible. If nothing else this voluminous amount of material on angels shows their importance to God & implies that we as His children should devote some time & study to these interesting & mysterious beings. The only source for such information, of course, is the Bible.

B. Most of the references we have in the Bible detail the ministry & service of the angels to the Lord, not to the inhabitants of earth. They were primarily created to worship, glorify & praise the Lord.

Ps.148:1-2 *Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the LORD from the heavens: praise him in the heights. Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts.*

Rev.4:8 *And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.*

Is.6:3 *And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.*

C. But of course, man - the selfish being that he is - wants to know what possible value & service angels are to himself. And though the Lord created these beings to do what He knew man would be reluctant to do, He nonetheless caters to our curiosity & interest & states that the angels are also **"...ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation."** (text) And since the Lord is Himself focused on His children (even above His interest in angels!), we see that He has dispatched these beings to be **"OUR MYSTERIOUS BODY GUARDS"** and so gives us a glimpse into the ministry of angels toward we who are **"the heirs of salvation..."**

TRANS.: Today we will address the question as to the specific ministries of angels to the saints, using biblical examples to establish what the Bible says about **"OUR MYSTERIOUS BODYGUARDS..."**

I. THE 3 HEBREW CHILDREN'S BODYGUARD:

A. Angelic Firemen:

Dan.3:28 *Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.*

1. While we are focusing on angels in general, this story in Daniel speaks of "one like unto the Son of God" i.e., the "angel of the Lord" or Christ in a pre-incarnate state.

ILLUS.: Of course, Jesus only shows up in a KJV! All the other versions translate this as "a son of the gods" or as in the Living Bible, "a god." In the REAL Bible "gods" are always "DEVILS" (demons)! The new versions then make the Savior a demon!!!!

2. How comforting to know that God Who is not a respecter of persons, takes note of the plight of His children & often delivers them from disaster planned by our enemies.
3. It is especially comforting to know that when the occasion demands it, the Lord doesn't trust our deliverance to a mere angel, but personally delivers us.

II. DANIEL'S BODYGUARD:

Dan.6:22 *My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.*

A. Angelic Lion-tamers:

1. There is a definite prerequisite to expecting God to dispatch His angels to protect & deliver us from harm, i.e., that we are faithful to Him.
2. We cannot expect God to protect us when we deliberately place ourselves in harms way by engaging in unspiritual activity.

ILLUS.: In Daniel 6:4 God's Word declares of Daniel that "...he was faithful" & that there was no "error or fault found in him." In v.10 Daniel's faithfulness in spite of threats from the King is spoken of as Daniel prayed & praised the Lord "as he did aforetime." And in

Dan. 6:23 is says he was delivered because He trusted in the Lord - **"...and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God."** And then in the last verse in Dan.6:28 it says **"So this Daniel prospered."**

III. PETER'S BODYGUARD:

A. Angelic Prison Guard:

Acts 12:7-9 *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.*

1. Again if the "angel of the Lord" here is the Lord Himself, a very refreshing & comforting truth is taught, i.e., that the Lord takes a very personal interest in our welfare.
2. The passage also teaches the fantastic powers & abilities of angels...to cause chains to fall off & prison doors to be opened as well as to put the guards to sleep or to cloud their minds.

IV. PAUL'S BODYGUARD:

Acts 27:23-24 *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, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.*

A. Angelic Prophet:

1. This angel obviously knew the future - the outcome of this storm & shipwreck.
2. Hardheaded captains may refuse counsel, storms & winds may tear the boat to pieces, but God's man will get to Rome - because an angelic bodyguard will assist him on his way.

ILLUS.: I wonder how many times we avoid an accident by taking another route to our jobs or by making a "wrong turn?" I wonder how often our children are protectfrom harm when they do something stupid (like testing the ice on a partially frozen lake, or like falling down the steps, or like ?----).

You say, but I know of a child who was killed or harmed, what about them? Then for whatever reason, God decided to take them home to Himself. Who knows what the "outer limits" of our lifespan might be? Perhaps that child was only supposed to live to that age. Can we trust God for "daily bread" & not for these more major decisions? Will we let God be God?!

V. CHILDREN'S BODYGUARDS:

Mt.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.*

A. Angelic Representatives:

1. Mt.18 is called the "Children's Chapter of the Bible" because a child is mentioned 7 times (vss.2,3,4,5,6,10,15).
2. Jesus spoke of **"their angels"** meaning that they have representative angels in heaven.

ILLUS.: Jesus here declares that children have personally assigned angels. Both Jesus & Satan believed in protective angels.

Mt.4:6 *And 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: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.*

VI. JESUS' BODYGUARDS:

A. Angelic Protectors:

1. At every significant event in Jesus'life & ministry angels show up: at His birth, His temptation, His intercession in Gethsemane, His crucifixion & His resurrection.
2. The passage in Mt.4:6 reveals that angelic protection is not guaranteed when anyone performs a reckless, unreasonable act, defying normal & natural laws or God's written laws in His Word.

VII. BELIEVER'S BODYGUARDS:

Psalm 34:7 *The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.*

A. Angelic Deliverers:

1. I see this as a special promise to the trusting child of God.
2. This is a promise I read often for myself & others in the hospital, to shut- ins, etc.
 - a. God often delivers us by answering our prayers.
 - b. Angels specifically ministered to Cornelius in Acts 10:2,3,22,30.
 - c. Again, Peter's deliverance from jail by an angel of the Lord shows the place of angels & our prayers at times of special need.

CONCL.: Because we cannot see our Savior & His concern & care for us, we often doubt. Because we do not study the Scriptures & trust in what they teach us we often miss out on blessings. Our life is often plagued by fear & mistrust, when if we would simply believe the Bible & specifically it's teaching about "**OUR MYSTERIOUS BODYGUARDS**" - the angels of God, our fears would dissipate & disappear. We are to walk & live by faith. Not blind faith, but a faith based upon the teachings of God's holy Word. When we trust God & rely upon Him that pleases Him! Are you trusting or fretting?!