

This and That About Angels

Q: Do each of us have guardian angels? Do angels respond to mankind? Do we gain direction from angels as we do from the Holy Spirit? Is there an angel, Raphael?

A: In 1 Timothy 5:21 Paul references angels. Since angels are created they are not omniscient. However, they are privy to much that transpires on earth, as the Lord deems necessary for them to conduct the work He assigns them. All angels that did not rebel with Satan exist for the highest purpose of glorifying their Maker. But most all of what is passed down and repeated about angels is false —because only the Bible reveals divine truth about these beings. Many people get their information about angels from extra-biblical sources. Sacred Scripture is only the sixty-six book canon —not the books of the Apocrypha or other books claimed as “lost” books of the Bible. In the Bible there is no reference to an angel “Raphael” —either in the Old or New Testament. This myth is an invention of Roman Catholicism and repeated by Judaism, Islam, and Mormonism. (See the “Life Worth Living” incorrect teaching on angels by the late Archbishop Fulton Sheen on YouTube. Link below.)

“Life is Worth Living” EWTN 7/12/14 “TWA” (travel with angels); Archbishop W.B. Fulton J. Sheen “Angels” (private, personal guardians for each soul; Archangel Raphael performs healing); see St. Barnard’s Institute, Rochester, NY.

Some links on correct teaching on angels:

<http://www.bible.ca/su-angels.htm>

<https://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20111203174319AAgAVk5> and

<http://www.gotquestions.org/guardian-angels.html>.

The Bible reveals at least these truths about angels: Angels are messengers from God to man; Angels are emissaries sent on specific missions throughout the universe; Angels are arranged in classes or ranks and have divinely appointed duties (cherubim and seraphim); Only two of these elect angels have been identified in Scripture: Gabriel and Michael; Angels can ‘appear’ in some form other than spirit beings to accomplish divine goals. In certain ways elect angels are superior to men now (power, mobilization, obedience, knowledge) yet these same creatures will be controlled by Christ’s body in eternity.

The Bible does not reveal these commonly held beliefs about angels: Angels are able to respond to man's requests/directions; Angels are female; Angels were created when Adam and Eve were created.

It is important to refute the error that angels are not able to usurp their created place — therefore, whatever they do must be good. One angel did usurp his authority and his actions caused many other angels to follow him —eventually to perdition. These fallen angels are no longer God's messengers. They do only demonic harm to man. But man is not to fear angels who are powerless to harm any soul saved in the name of Christ Jesus.

Finally, for the born again child of God —it is critical to not equate the place of angels in the lives of men —with the work of the Holy Spirit. Nowhere in the Bible does the triune God subvert His person and being to any of His created beings. It is false teaching to state that angels teach, guide or in any way play a role in sanctification of saved souls. We are to submit to the Holy Spirit and to listen to our conscience to do the will of God. Angels are agents of God, not co-regents with God.

A story we call “Pride Protection” demonstrates the best we believe about these invisible, mysterious creatures called angels. It is found at <http://www.nbcnews.com/id/8305836/ns/#.U71OMvldWen>.

It is the recycled story of a beaten, 12 year old Ethiopian girl guarded by three lions hearing her cries. (A re-broadcast of Larry King's telling of the story was on 9 July 2014.) This story may demonstrate how animals can have more sense than humans —along with the belief that God sent angels in the form of the lions to do His will to protect this girl. We have no need to judge God when He has not sent angels to protect other innocent victims. His ways are higher than man's ways. In eternity we will understand what we are not able to accept now.