

More Than Talk

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THE FINEST PROTECTION MONEY CAN'T BUY!

Page 1 When Angels Show Up

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

Unredeemed man's concept of angels is as futile as his picture of God. How are angels depicted? Usually as a little cupid flying around on Valentine's Day with a tiny bow and arrow, baby wings and a bare bottom. How different are God's true "ministering spirits" - mighty angelic beings who generally heralded great news or fought great battles. Their appearance could terrify mere humans, or they could disguise themselves as humans - angels unawares. The Old Testament often found them fighting for Israel, while the New Testament speaks of angels as God's ministering spirits guarding those who belong to the Savior.

I believe we will be stunned and thrilled in eternity to learn how many times we were rescued by angels from danger and death. It appears that every child of God has at least one angel watching over his life.

While the Holy Spirit guards us from within, God's angels camp around those who reverence the Lord, waiting for that moment of crisis.

How real can angels be? I recall driving through the night until I was exhausted. I fell asleep at the wheel but was suddenly awakened by a strong hand on my shoulder - just in time to turn from a high-speed, head-on collision. When I returned home, an elderly saint told me that God had awakened her with the order, "Pray for Frank Eiklor!" She described the very suitcase I carried, and the time she prayed was when I was jolted awake, I am convinced, by an angel. Ponder your own worst "close calls." And think how many times you have been rescued by God's intervening angels!

My prayer: "Thank You, Lord, for guarding me from within by Your Holy Spirit and from without by Your mighty angels. I revel in Your protection and reverence You as my greatest love."

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Page 2 The Name Behind Your Protection

"The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe." Proverbs 18:10

Our forefathers who settled this country had a better grasp of this scripture than we do. Their lives depended on their strong tower. Fields could be planted and errands carried out outside the walls, but when danger threatened, they ran to the fort for safety.

Lovers of the Lord have the greatest promise of safety. It is not found in a location, but in a name. There are many names in Scripture describing the Almighty God, but to me, the sweetest "name of the Lord" is "Jesus." The Father calls it the name above all names. Demons shriek in surrender at that name. Every knee will bend in submission to that name. Prayers are made, heard and answered when offered humbly "in Jesus' name." And when those storms of life engulf us with no seeming end in sight, sometimes the only word that makes sense and brings solace is the name that finds its way from our souls to our lips... "Jesus"!

It alone is that strong tower that God has given to His saints. And little wonder that the name of Jesus brings such a promise of hope and safety: the Hebrew is "Yeshua" and the word means "salvation." That is why Satan hates that name and the unrighteous take it in vain. For it is only the righteous - those cleansed by the blood of the owner of that precious name - that can appreciate its beauty and take advantage of its power.

"Jesus"! Love that name more and more. Use it often in prayer for others. Speak it boldly against all satanic threats. Run to that name above all names when times bring you delight - or terrible fright. It is your hiding place - your safe place - in every storm.

My prayer: "Thank You, my precious Lord Jesus, that You have given me Your name and Your presence as my strong tower of refuge. I run to You as my only eternal source of safety."

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Page 3 Through Many Dangers, Toils and Snares

"The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the Lord." Proverbs 21:31

How comforting it is to throw our lives away - right into the arms of the omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent God. We live in a world where there are dangers all around. Those who live in lands where martyrs die know better than to trust in the arm of flesh. Their only ark of safety is the Lord. But any Christian - anywhere - is wise to confess and believe the above scripture. Who but the Lord can keep us safe on the wild freeways or the asphalt jungles where everything lurks and anything goes?!

At times, God may let you virtually feel His presence. Like the time I was allowed to go into Lebanon for five days to minister to both Christians and Muslims. Just to the north of me, in Beirut, were hostages who had been kidnapped. And only five miles away, while I was out in open fields, an American missionary was brutally killed by terrorists. My only assurance was in the Lord; not a guarantee I would not die, but only that as long as I did my Father's will I was immortal until He called me home.

But what about the times we are not in some fearful foreign land but serving the Lord in our home towns? That verse holds true everywhere, even as we hold true to the Lord. The key is not to try to save our lives, but to daily lay them on the altar to be consumed by God. One man determines to selfishly look after only himself. He prepares elaborate defenses to hide himself from danger, locks his doors...and chokes to death on a piece of meat! Another man chooses to give his all to the Lord and finds himself singing, "Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come: 'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far; and grace will lead me home."

My prayer: "Take my life, oh Lord, and order my thoughts and steps in Your Word. I confess with trust and joy that You are my only safety."

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Page 4 Your Invisible Defender

"No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord." Isaiah 54:17

This promise has brought great comfort to many a saint who have been lied about or abused in different ways by evil people. It was given to Israel, and history proves its accuracy. Assaulted by world powers and devilish dictators, only Israel has survived, while her tormentors have vanished or been reduced to a state of humility. Assyria, Babylon, the Greek and Roman empires - all gone. The Herods, Hamans and Hitlers of earth reduced to dust. Other former powers left by God as a lesson to the wise (the foolish never learn!). Egypt lives on but only in prophesied weakness. Great Britain, having fought against the rebirth of Israel, has seen the sun set forever on her former world empire.

Yet this covenant of protection takes in more than God's heart for His ancient people. It takes in His loving heart for you and for me. Look at this scripture closely, believe it completely, and you will never end up trying to be your own first defender. You will let God defend you, with your only concern being that you are pleasing to Him.

Remember the saying, "Keep your character in mint condition and your reputation will take care of itself." No weapon formed against you will prosper - and that includes the most cutting weapon of all - a poisonous tongue. If someone throws a lemon at you, make lemonade rather than throw it back. If another hurls mud your way, don't try to rub it off. You'll only make it worse. Just love the Lord, allow no bitterness in your heart, let the mud dry, and shake it off. See? Hardly a spot! Truth will always win out. God will vindicate you in His way and in His day.

My prayer: "I trust You as my defender, Lord. Let my only concern be to please You."

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Page 5 When Life Is Like A Lion's Den

"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." Daniel 6:22

The lion is an incredible "king of the beasts." Scripture is full of "lion talk." Proverbs 30:30 says a lion will not back down for any; Amos likens the Lord's order for him to prophesy to a lion's roar - time to tremble! (Amos 3:8) Satan's hunger to devour souls reminds the apostle of a lion. (I Peter 5:8) However, Jesus is not only King of kings and Lord of lords, but also "Lion of lions." In fact, as "Lion of the tribe of Judah" (Revelation 5:5), He alone rules over all lesser lions - whether satanic spirits, two legged lions (evil men doing Satan's bidding 2 Tim. 4:17), or the actual beast that was turned into a kitty cat by one angel of the Lord.

That's what happened to Daniel, and his experience serves as a promise to you. Evil men, having manipulated King Darius into making a foolish decree, had an innocent man thrown into the den of lions that had been kept conveniently hungry. Even a pagan king recognized the beauty of Daniel's spirit when he said, "Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee." (v 16) No ten words could better give God's recipe for deliverance - summed up with "whom thou servest continually."

Lions that neither could nor would touch Daniel, devoured those who wished him harm. That's because when Daniel left the den, his angel left with him.

You, too, will know attacks from the world of evil. After all, if you're "serving the Lord continually," Satan would like to prevent you from hanging around. But he is powerless before the Sovereign Lion of Judah and his mighty angel assigned to guard you until "Graduation Day!"

My prayer: "What an incredible God You are, my precious Lord. Cause me to realize, like Daniel, that nothing on earth can harm me when I'm holding my Savior's hand."