

The Watchers and the Holy Ones NOTES

Psalms 34:7, “The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them.”

The stories of Scripture reveal a worldview largely foreign to us. For them, the line between the natural and supernatural, the visible and invisible realms was blurry—even indistinguishable. For us, a 21st century generation of cynical skeptics, this worldview is simplistic, baffling, naïve, childish. In truth, we are the ignorant, childish, short-sighted ones. We are the ones missing out.

What if we walked through life with the certainty of the personal, living, active, body-guard presence of powerful, wise, caring, compassionate companions—not to mention the personal companionship of the Holy Spirit. We live so alone—when we are in the company of a multitude of gracious helpers and companions!

The angels know what’s going on. These angelic warriors / companions / ministers are powerful and at work for the conquest of good / right. Be sure to live in such a way as to encourage their presence in your home and around you. Live with an eye for the greater, though invisible reality.

Examples of people encountering angels: Cornelius, Daniel, Manoah, Philip, Paul, Paul and Silas, Peter, Elisha, Elijah(1 Kings 19), Joseph, Zachariah, Jesus (Mark 1:13), Mary Magdalene, Jacob, Mary, Shepherds, Assyrian camp, etc.

-Job 38:4-7: They were present before creation

-Job 1:6; Daniel 7:9-10; Ezekiel 1 They are active in the governance of the universe

-Hebrews 1:7 They go on God’s missions (Think of Elisha in 2 Kings 6:8-23)

-Psalm 91:10-12 They protect and deliver (Think of Lot, in Genesis 19)

-Daniel 7:15, 16; 9:20, 21 They give insight to God’s people

-Luke 15:10 They find great joy in the salvation of human beings (Think of Cornelius in Acts 10)

-Acts 1:9-11-They comfort the grieving

-Matthew 18:10 take special interest in children

-Mark 1:12, 13; 1 Kings 19:5 They look after human needs

-1 Pet 1:12 They are fascinated by what’s going on here

Insightful Ellen White Quotes

“Every redeemed one will understand the ministry of angels in his own life. The angel who was his guardian from his earliest moment; the angel who watched his steps, and covered his head in the day of peril; the angel who was with him in the valley of the shadow of death, who marked his resting place, who was the first to greet him in the resurrection morning—what will it be to hold converse with him, and to learn the history of divine interposition in the individual life, of heavenly co-operation in every work for humanity!” *Education*, 305.

“Patmos, a barren, rocky island in the Aegean Sea, had been chosen by the Roman government as a place of banishment for criminals; but to the servant of God this gloomy abode became the gate of heaven. Here, shut away from the busy scenes of life, and from the active labors of former years, he had the companionship of God

and Christ and the heavenly angels, and from them he received instruction for the church for all future time.” *Acts of the Apostles*, 570.

“Though no miraculous deliverance was granted John, he was not forsaken. He had always the companionship of heavenly angels, who opened to him the prophecies concerning Christ, and the precious promises of Scripture. These were his stay, as they were to be the stay of God’s people through the coming ages. To John the Baptist, as to those that came after him, was given the assurance, “Lo, I am with you all the days, even unto the end.” Matthew 28:20, R. V., margin.” *Desire of Ages*, 224.

“Though the rulers of this world know it not, yet often in their councils angels have been spokesmen. Human eyes have looked upon them. Human ears have listened to their appeals. In the council hall the court of justice, heavenly messengers have pleaded the cause of the persecuted and oppressed. They have defeated purposes and arrested evils that would have brought wrong and suffering to God’s children. To the students in the heavenly school, all this will be unfolded. “ *Education* 305.

“God calls upon His creatures to turn their attention from the confusion and perplexity around them and admire His handiwork. The heavenly bodies are worthy of contemplation. God has made them for the benefit of man, and as we study His works, angels of God will be by our side to enlighten our minds and guard them from satanic deception.” *The S.D.A. Bible Commentary*, 4:1145

“In this speck of a world the whole heavenly universe manifests the greatest interest, for Christ has paid an infinite price for the souls of its inhabitants. The world’s Redeemer has bound earth to heaven by ties of intelligence, for the redeemed of the Lord are here. Heavenly beings still visit the earth as in the days when they walked and talked with Abraham and with Moses. Amid the busy activity of our great cities, amid the multitudes that crowd the thoroughfares and fill the marts of trade where from morning till evening the people act as if business and sport and pleasure were all there is to life, where there are so few to contemplate unseen realities—even here heaven has still its watchers and its holy ones. There are invisible agencies observing every word and deed of human beings. In every assembly for business or pleasure, in every gathering for worship, there are more listeners than can be seen with the natural sight. Sometimes the heavenly intelligences draw aside the curtain which hides the unseen world that our thoughts may be withdrawn from the hurry and rush of life to consider that there are unseen witnesses to all we do or say.

“We need to understand better than we do the mission of the angel visitants. It would be well to consider that in all our work we have the co-operation and care of heavenly beings. Invisible armies of light and power attend the meek and lowly ones who believe and claim the promises of God. Cherubim and seraphim and angels that excel in strength—ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands—stand at His right hand, “all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation.” Hebrews 1:14.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 176.

“The experience of Cornelius should bring great encouragement to those who are seeking the Lord with an earnest purpose to do His will. A heavenly messenger was sent to Cornelius for the express purpose of bringing him into touch with one who could teach him more about God. Today angels of God draw near to those who in humility of heart seek for divine guidance. Heavenly messengers are passing through the length and breadth of the earth, seeking to comfort the sorrowing, to protect the impenitent, to win the hearts of men to Christ. No one is neglected or passed by. God is no respecter of persons, and He has an equal care for all the souls He has created.

“To the worker for Christ, also, the experience of Cornelius should bring strength and courage. Angels of God are co-operating with His servants in their efforts to bring to the full light of truth those who are walking in all the light they have. They unite with men in sympathy and labor for the saving of the lost. We can not see them personally; nevertheless they are with us, guiding, directing, protecting.

“Angels protected Lot, and led him safely out from the midst of Sodom. So they protected Elisha in the little mountain city. When the encircling hills were filled with the horses and chariots of the king of Syria and the great host of his armed men, Elisha beheld the nearer hill-slopes covered with the armies of God,—horses and chariots of fire round about the servant of God.

“So in all ages, angels have been near to Christ’s faithful followers. The vast confederacy of evil is arrayed against all who would overcome; but Christ would have us look to the things which are not seen, to the armies of heaven encamped about all who love God, to deliver them. From what dangers, seen and unseen, we have been preserved through the interposition of the angels, we shall never know, till in the light of eternity we see the meaning of the providences of God. Then we shall know that the whole family of heaven was interested in the family here below, and that messengers from the throne of God attended our steps from day to day.

“The very angels who, when Satan was seeking the supremacy, fought the battle in the heavenly courts, and triumphed on the side of God; the very angels who shouted for joy over the creation of the world and its sinless inhabitants; the angels who witnessed the fall of man and his expulsion from his Eden home,—these very heavenly messengers are most intensely interested in the work of all who are seeking to restore the image of God in man.

“Heaven and earth are no wider apart today than when the shepherds listened to the angels’ song. Humanity is still as much the object of Heaven’s solicitude as when common men of common occupations met angels at noon-day, and talked with heavenly messengers in the vineyards and the fields. Angels from the courts above attend the steps of those who come and go at God’s command.

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“Therefore let us also, seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising shame, and hath sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” *Signs of the Times*, April 27, 1904.