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DR. F. T. UNDERHILL

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Oct. 12th 1934

Dear Mr Vance,

I had hoped to have had an opportunity of personally expressing the deep sympathy we feel for you and your family in the brutal attack and painful injuries you received.

My wife and family join with me and also Mr Wood who asked me to forward you the enclosed teaching, which he thought would be a comfort to you and your wife in the perilous times you are passing through.

Believe me

very sincerely yours

*L. J. Eccerbill*



## THE FEAST OF ALL ANGELS.

"Jacob dreamed, and behold a ladder was set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven; and behold the Angels of God ascending and descending on it". (Gen. 28. 12).

We gather, from Holy Scripture, that the Angels were created by God before our world was made; because when He "laid the foundations of the earth", to be the abode of man, "all the sons of God shouted for joy".

These were the Holy Angels. Their number must be very great. They were created as holy and blessed spirits; but many of them revolted and fell.

Much has been written and spoken regarding the cause of the fall of the disobedient Angels; but we can only draw our knowledge on this solemn matter from the hints given in Holy Scripture.

God made various distinctions in rank among the Angels, for variety and manifoldness is a necessity for life in all its forms. It is only in the very lowest forms of life, and especially in dead matter that uniformity and sameness are found.

The Bible speaks of "one out of a thousand" (Job 33, 23). We are told that among the Angel hosts there are Angels and Archangels, Cherubim and Seraphim, and Thrones, Dominions, Principalities and Powers.

Most likely, besides disobedience and envy, pride was the chief cause for the fall of the Angels; for Satan is called "the king over all the children of pride."

We know that Satan, the leader of the fallen hosts, is filled with envy and pride against his Creator; and seeks to usurp



His place and power.

Enticement to disobedience, envy, and pride was the poison with which he deceived Eve; from which, according to his own experience, he expected a great success.

We see, from our own experience, and observation, how the word is being constantly fulfilled, "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall". Pride and vain-glory is the character of man in his Fall.

The chief work of the Holy Angels, in heaven, is the worship of God. They stand ready to fulfil His commands, with regard to the service of man, and in the supervision of the vast creation in all its parts.

Many passages of Scripture speak of their constant readiness to help and defend man; and of their holy reverence in the worship and praise of God; but the order and manner of their worship is not revealed to us.

We know more about their fulfilling of the commands of God in their work and service towards mankind.

Let us think of some examples of this. Angels delivered Lot out of Sodom. They protected Daniel in the lion's den; and preserved Shadrach, Mesach, and Abed-Nego in the fiery furnace.

An Angel delivered Peter from the prison.

These are only some of the numerous occasions when they brought special help and deliverance to the servants of God.

Since the Day of Pentecost, they have ministered especially to "those who shall be heirs of salvation".



In this their service they have been, for the most part, invisible; but there have been many instances where they have visibly appeared, either in their glorious heavenly forms, or as ordinary men, as they appeared to Abraham.

We know that there have been instances of this among those who have followed the Lord in His Apostles, in the various lands of Christendom.

Besides their work of love and compassion, which they joyfully fulfil towards men, they have to fulfil commands which may seem hard to them, and which call for their unquestioning obedience.

We think, for instance, of the slaying of the first-born in Egypt, and the other terrible judgments which have been inflicted, because of disobedience and rebellion against God, when many thousands had to perish.

Moreover, at the time of the end, and especially in the reign of Antichrist, the Angels will have to pour forth fearful judgments upon apostate men.

The Angels constantly take part in the carrying forward of God's purpose with mankind, and especially in His purpose with the Church.

After men had fallen, God appointed Cherubim, with a flaming sword, to stand guard over the entrance to Paradise, so that man might not try to eat of the Tree of Life, and thus hinder his redemption.

What painful duty this was for the Holy Angels, and yet how merciful it is in the light of the great Redemption that was to come.



But the Angels did not know this, at that time, and therefore we see how necessary unquestioning obedience is to the commands of God, even when we are perplexed and bewildered as to His purpose in giving such commands.

Dear brethren, do we not see how this applies to our present position and outlook, and to the way in which God is leading His gathered people?

Our duty and privilege is to follow in unquestioning faith and obedience, and with complete trust and confidence in the unerring wisdom of our God.

In the vision given to Jacob, of the ladder reaching from earth to heaven, on which he saw the Angels of God ascending and descending, there was shown to him the plan of salvation, whereby heaven and earth are connected together, that is, the union of the Godhead with the manhood, which was to find its fulfilment in the Person of the Son of God.

It was by "the disposition of Angels" that the Law was given, to be "our schoolmaster (tutor) to lead us to Christ".

Angels announced the birth of Christ, and of John His Forerunner. They watched over our Lord continually, during all His life and conflict on earth.

They ministered to Him, at the end of His temptation in the wilderness; and strengthened Him in His agony in Gethsemane.

An Angel rolled back the stone from His tomb. Angels brought the first tidings of His Resurrection; and confirmed the Hope of His Coming again, to the disciples who witnessed His Ascension.



Much of what is recorded in the Book of Revelation was communicated to John by Angels; and we have only to read this wonderful Book in order to see what a great part the Angels will have in the final mighty acts of God's purpose, both in the works of mercy and judgment.

God's will should be done on the earth, as it is done in heaven; that is to say, we should be constantly as willingly and joyfully ready to serve God as the Angels are; for our Lord points to them, as examples to us, in our attitude and service towards God.

In the Archangel Gabriel we have a pattern of prompt readiness to the fulfilling of the commands of God. His words to Zacharias were, "I am Gabriel who stands in the presence of God", show the assurance and resoluteness which we should exercise in the service of God.

We have been called to intercede for our brethren, and to represent and defend them against the assaults of the powers of darkness.

In all the work and service of the Angels, there is seen their love, compassion, humility, resoluteness, and self-control. All this calls upon us to follow their blessed example, in this and in all other ways.

The Angels protect and defend the little children, especially against bodily dangers. They protect and defend those who are grown up against both bodily and spiritual dangers.

They defend us in the terrible conflicts which often arise through the malignant assaults of the powers of darkness, concerning which we are so often ignorant and unprepared, just as



little children are with regard to bodily dangers.

Dear brethren, we are unable to realise how many bodily and spiritual dangers we have been preserved from, by the Ministry of the Angels.

However, we can be assured, that, if we desire and pray for the help and protection of the Angels, that they will "encamp around us", and defend us.

What would have become of us, during all the years, without the help and defence of the Angels, when we did not know it, yea, even when we did not pray for it!

Our eyes are still holden, and we do not see the hosts of the Angels that surround us, not only in the stress and conflict of our present life, but also in the Services of the Church, where they seek to learn the manifold wisdom of God. We are told that they "desire to look" into these things.

Like them, we should rejoice to worship God in His Sanctuary, for there we join in the worship and praise of the Angels before the Throne.

Oh that we were humble, obedient, and pure of heart, like the little children, to receive the Ministry of the Angels, and to ask in child-like faith for their help and protection; from Him Who has received power over all flesh, that we may be defended in this evil world, until His brings us into His Kingdom!

People who do not fear God, and who do that which is evil, cannot expect the help of the Holy Angels, for the promise is not for them.

The Angels do not seem to have received authority to



defend us and help us forward to final victory, unless we are earnestly fighting the good fight against sin and the powers of darkness, in the fear of God.

On the other hand, the hosts of darkness have power over us only when we turn away from God, and fall into sin. Where sin abounds the Holy Angels depart, and the evil spirits have free access.

Dear brethren, it may come into the minds of some to ask, "why do we need the help and protection of the Angels, when Almighty God is our Father in heaven, and our Saviour, Jesus Christ, is our Helper and Intercessor"?

We reply to this by reminding you that so long as we are in the darkness of this world, we are exposed to many bodily and spiritual dangers from which the invisible hosts of Angels are sent to protect and defend us.

Besides this, from our earliest years, God has appointed it that we need the help and protection of our fellow men, and especially of those who stand near to us.

Furthermore, think of the many prayers that have been made for us, and are still being made, mostly when we know it not. We cannot realise the mighty effect which the answers to these have had on our lives.

Moreover we have the help of the Ministries, Ordinances, and appointments of God, in our spiritual warfare.

Let us then constantly pray to God for the Ministry of the blessed Angels, and give thanks for it; and constantly keep in mind their unseen presence with us; and so think, speak, and act, that we show ourselves ready and worthy for their loving help and protection.

Amen.

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J. H. C. M. Lacey

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