

ANGELS - III

“The Ugly Angels”

I. CLASSIFICATION OF ANGELS.

A. *The good. God’s angels.*

1. Messenger.
2. Provision.
3. Guidance.
4. Encouragement.
5. Protection.
6. Rescue.
7. Warrior.
8. Guardian.

B. *The bad. Satan’s angels.*

1. Fallen angels; angels who left their first estate.
 - a. (Isa 14:12 KJV) How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!
 - b. (Rev 12:9 KJV) And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.
 - c. (Rev 12:4 KJV) And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.
 - d. (2 Pet 2:4 KJV) For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;
 - e. (Jude 1:6 KJV) And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.
 - f. (Rev 9:14 KJV) Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.
2. Demonic activity.

C. *The ugly. Satan’s angels who masquerade themselves as angels of light.*

1. (2 Cor 11:14 KJV) And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.
2. (Gal 1:8 KJV) But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

II. THE UGLY ANGELS.

A. Satan’s counterfeit.

1. When God moves in restoration, the secular world also somehow receives

the truth released into people's spirits.

2. Because nonbelievers don't have a personal relationship with Jesus, they translate the thoughts or influence of the Holy Spirit into secular terms.
3. Examples.
 - a. The spiritual movement to take us back to the basics of the faith has translated in the secular world as a "back to the earth" movement, back to one's roots in nature.
 - b. The spiritual move of breaking out of religious traditions became the Jesus Movement, but at the same time, hippies rebelled against all establishment, including God.
 - c. The charismatic movement emphasized the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit for the second time this century.
 - (1) This was translated by the world into interest in the occult.
 - (2) Satan never misses open doors. His trade is wildfire--or no fire at all.

B. *Satan puts a new twist on an old lie.*

1. Satan is using a new twist on an old lie, exploiting the current interest in angels to attract the untaught and the undiscerning.
2. Much of the current angel mania is simply New Age philosophy.

C. *You know you're around "ugly angels" when you see or hear these terms:*

1. Contacting or communing with angels.
 - a. There are now books available with titles like "Ask Your Angels" and "100 Ways to Attract Angels," but the Bible gives neither permission nor precedent for contacting angels.
 - b. When people start calling on angels, it's not the holy angels who answer. They're demons, disguising themselves as good angels to people who don't know how to tell the difference.
2. Loving our angels; praying to our angels.
 - a. Some self-styled "angel experts" instruct their followers to love their angels and call upon them for health, healing, prosperity, and guidance.
 - b. But angels are God's servants, and all this attention and emphasis and glory should go to God, not His servants. God says, "I will not share my glory with another" (Isaiah 42:8).
 - c. Scripture makes no mention of loving angels--only God, His word, and people.
 - d. And it never tells us to pray to angels, only to the Lord Himself.
3. Instruction, knowledge, or insight from angels, particularly ones with names.
 - a. Some angel teachers are proclaiming that angels are trying very hard to contact us, so they can give us deeper knowledge of the spiritual. Invariably, this "angel knowledge" is a mixture of truth and lies, and never stands up to the absolute truth of Scripture.
 - b. There are four angel names that keep popping up in the angel literature: Michael, Gabriel, Uriel, and Raphael.

- (1) Michael and Gabriel are the only angels mentioned by name in the Bible.
- (2) The other two show up in the apocryphal First Book of Enoch, which includes a fanciful account of the actions of these four beings.
- c. Those who report modern day angel teachings are actually channeling information from demons.
- 4. Special knowledge or teachings from angels.
 - a. Naomi Albright distributes teachings about the deep meanings of colors, and numbers and letters of the alphabet which she claims is "knowledge given from above and brought forth in more detail by the High Angelic Master Sheate, Lady Master Cassandra, and Angel Carpelous, and the Master Angel, One on High."
 - b. These same beings told Mrs. Albright to stress two main teachings: first, that God accepts all religions, and second, Reincarnation. These two teachings keep showing up in much of the New Age angel literature.
 - c. Other angel teachings are that all is a part of God (pantheism); the learner is set apart from others by the "deep" knowledge that the angels give (this is a basic draw to the occult).; and that eventually, the one who pursues contact with these angels will be visited by an Ascended Master or a Shining Angel (which is a personal encounter with a demon).
 - d. We need to remember that God's angels are not teachers.
 - (1) God's word says they are messengers--that's what "angel" means--and they minister to us.
 - (2) God has revealed to us everything we need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3), so any hidden knowledge that spirit beings try to impart is by nature occultic and demonic.

III. ANGELS AND NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCES.

A. *Unredeemed, sinful people.*

- 1. Satanic spirits posing as angels have been described in accounts of unredeemed, sinful people, in which they uniformly report having passed through a tunnel leading to an area of bright light with a welcoming figure who leads them to believe that all is well and will continue to be well eternally.
- 2. Those people reportedly have no further fear of death since they claim that beyond death is an existence of great peace and love.
- 3. Many never believe that they need a Savior for their sins and believe that living a "good" life will assure eternal peace.

B. *For the born-again blood-washed believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, this freedom from fear of death is legitimate and true.*

- C. For those whose sins have not been forgiven through the belief in God's perfect sacrifice, eternity will hold nothing but terror and never-ending regrets.

IV. HAZARDS IN FASCINATION WITH ANGELS.

- A. ***The biggest hazard in all this fascination with angels is that it can take people's focus off God.***
1. Angels should bring attention to God, not themselves or any other.
 2. Twice the angel messenger in Revelation tells John, "Do not [worship me]! I am a fellow servant with you and with your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God!" (Rev. 19:10, 22:9)..
- B. ***What we need in response to the angel craze is strong discernment built on the foundation of God's word.***
- C. ***We need to remember, and share with others, three truths about angels:***
1. The ministry of holy angels will never contradict the Bible.
 2. The actions of holy angels will always be consistent with the character of Christ.
 3. A genuine encounter with a holy angel will glorify God, not the angel.
 - a. Holy angels never draw attention to themselves. They typically do their work and disappear.
 - b. It's very true that many have "entertained angels unaware" (Hebrews 13:2). But we need to make sure we're entertaining the right kind of angels!
- D. ***Angels are a sign of God's interest in us, of God's desire to guide us.*** There is no reason to think that God has stopped guiding people that way.

V. ADVICE.

- A. ***Keep your eyes open for angels...***
1. Angels of all kinds.
 2. Do not confine yourself to wings and haloes.
- B. ***Just remember that, Biblically, the word we translate as ANGEL is just as correctly translated MESSENGER.***
1. One messenger might be your conscience.
 - a. "Ah, ah, ah." "Watch it." "Careful."
 - b. Listen for that inner voice that keeps you from straying from the right path.
 2. A second might be found in your dreams. Analyze your dreams and their symbols (if you remember them), to see what they might be saying to you.
 3. Third, look for angels in the people around you every day.
 - a. It could be the wife God gave you.
 - b. Don't be like the male chauvinist husband who says, "My wife is an angel...always up in the air harping about something."
 4. Finally, remain open to the idea of a visit from some celestial being.