

## SEX, A BOWL OF SOUP, AND THE NATURE OF ANGELS : PART 1

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Our Human Composition, Bodies Of The Angels, Marriage Unions, Woman With Seven Husbands And Levitical Law, A Sexual Desire Amongst Rebellious Angels, Free Will And Personal Choice In Heaven, Satan Azazel And Fallen Angels, Esau's Bowl Of Soup, Fallen Angels Give Birth To Giant Nephilim, Important Lessons From "City Of Angels", Forgiveness Of Sins Through Faith In Christ, We Don't Get What We Really Deserve, Wisdom Of God, Be Content With What We Have And Watch Out For Materialism, Judgement Of The Fallen Angels, Angels Share Some Traits With Humans, Angels Are Vulnerable To Temptation, Angels Possess A Degree Of Free Will, God Sometimes Purposely Chooses To Limit His Power To Achieve A Goal, God's Ways Are Past Finding Out

Some time ago, a Christian woman wrote to me regarding some questions she had concerning the spiritual hierarchy of the Angels. After sending her my response, in which I suggested that she read certain of my articles, she wrote back to me and asked the following interesting question:

----- Begin Quote -----

If angels do not have physical bodies, how do they experience sexual desires? I am hoping that when we are changed in Heaven, we will only feel the kind of pure, agape love that is God, and not be subject to the physical functions of our bodies.

----- End Quote -----

As I thought on this matter, the Lord was faithful to bring certain Scriptures to mind. It is always a comfort to me to know that I do not need to have all of the answers. God, by His Holy Spirit, will provide what is needed when the time arrives. Based upon the various Hebrew and Greek words which are used in the Bible, some Christians believe that we human beings are really comprised of three different components; that is, our physical body, our life-giving spirit, and last of all, our seat of emotions and desires, which constitutes our personality, or soul. Assuming that this is correct, if we consider the following verses, it does not appear that Angels possess the first component; that is, a body of flesh and blood:

"For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven."  
Matthew 22:30, KJV

"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."  
John 6:63, KJV

"Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption."

1 Corinthians 15:50, KJV

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

Ephesians 6:12, KJV

As you can see, not only are we told that Angels do not possess a body of flesh and blood, but we are also told that neither can they participate in marriage. Exactly what is meant by marriage? According to the Biblical definition, a marriage is not really consummated until a man and a woman are united in the flesh; that is to say, when they become one flesh through sexual union. This seems to be what Jesus was indicating in the following verses where He in fact is quoting from the Book of Genesis:

"And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

Matthew 19:4-6, KJV

"But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

Mark 10:6-9, KJV

"And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

Genesis 2:23-24, KJV

If there is no physical union -- or sexual relationship -- between a man and a woman following their actual marriage ceremony, then this can often, but not always, be indicative of a lack of spiritual, emotional and mental unity as well. As the old saying goes, if a marriage is on the rocks, quite often the rocks are in bed. At any rate, the reason why Jesus answered in this particular way in the previous verses, is because His Jewish enemies were attempting to trap Him in His words by presenting Him with the story of the Jewish woman whose husband had died. As you may recall, she then proceeded to marry each of the man's six brothers one by one as the previous one died -- and obviously engaged in sex with each one of them -- as was her right to do, and their obligation to perform, in accordance with the Levitical Law.

While this practice may seem strange to us today, you need to understand that the continuation of the Jewish race by way of

childbearing was very important to the Lord at that particular time in history. Jesus' answer must have both astounded and perplexed His crafty enemies, as it continues to do with many people today as well, due to its cryptic nature.

It makes perfect sense then, that if Angels do not possess a body of flesh and blood as we know it, then as Jesus said in the previous verses, they cannot possibly participate in the sexual union, or marriage. As I explain in such articles as "The Book of Enoch: Truth or Heresy", "Nephilim: The Giants of Genesis", and "The Judgment of Angels, Demons and Men", while Angelic Beings cannot normally engage in the act of sex as a result of the restrictions which God has instituted, it does not necessarily mean that none of them have never wanted to.

In fact, quite to the contrary, if you take the time to read the aforementioned articles, you will discover that certain rebellious Angels most certainly did. In other words, even though they may not possess a flesh and blood body as we do, because they apparently do possess the other two components which contribute to what makes us human, one of which is the seat of emotion and desire, it would seem that the longing to experience sexual pleasure does exist, as well as the ability and will to choose. You may also want to read "Free Will and Personal Choice" and "Love and Light, or Rod and Wrath?", in addition to the aforementioned articles.

As I make clear in some of the previously-named articles, just as we on Earth have the will to choose, the Angels in Heaven likewise have the same privilege to some degree. If this were not true, then our adversary Satan -- or Lucifer, the former lightbearer as he is also known -- would not have had opportunity to rebel, as we learn in the Book of Isaiah, as well as in the Book of Revelation. Neither would a third of the Angels decide to follow him in his rebellion against God, as we see happening in the Book of Revelation as well. Neither would Azazel and the rest of the rebellious Angelic horde have gone against the Lord, descended to the Earth on Mount Hermon, and then engaged in sexual intercourse with human women, as we find mentioned in the Book of Enoch, as well as in chapter six of the Book of Genesis.

Because of God's restrictions regarding experiencing sexual pleasure in Heaven -- why would procreation even be needed, being as they were already immortal? -- those Fallen Angels together -- which numbered two hundred -- made a collective choice to come to Earth and experience sex here. In a word, just as hungry Esau chose to sell his birthright to Jacob his brother for a bowl of pottage -- or lentil soup -- those foolish Angels likewise despised their birthright and unique status in Heaven, and forsook their Celestial Habitation for a pound of human flesh and a brief moment of lust and carnal fulfillment. Consider the following verses:

"And Jacob sod pottage: and Esau came from the field, and he was faint: And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage; for I am faint: therefore was his name called Edom. And Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birthright. And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me? And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he sware unto him: and he

sold his birthright unto Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentiles; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised his birthright."  
Genesis 25:29-34, 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."  
Jude 1:6, KJV

"And it came to pass when the children of men had multiplied that in those days were born unto them beautiful and comely daughters. And the angels, the children of the heaven, saw and lusted after them, and said to one another: 'Come, let us choose us wives from among the children of men and beget us children.' And Semjaza, who was their leader, said unto them: 'I fear ye will not indeed agree to do this deed, and I alone shall have to pay the penalty of a great sin.' And they all answered him and said: 'Let us all swear an oath, and all bind ourselves by mutual imprecations not to abandon this plan but to do this thing.' Then sware they all together and bound themselves by mutual imprecations upon it. And they were in all two hundred; who descended in the days of Jared on the summit of Mount Hermon, and they called it Mount Hermon, because they had sworn and bound themselves by mutual imprecations upon it. And these are the names of their leaders: Semiazaz, their leader, Arakiba, Rameel, Kokabiel, Tamiel, Ramiel, Danel, Ezeqeel, Baraqijal, Asael, Armaros, Batarel, Ananel, Zaqiel, Samsapeel, Satarel, Turel, Jomjael, Sariel. These are their chiefs of tens."  
Book Of Enoch 6:1-8

"And all the others together with them took unto themselves wives, and each chose for himself one, and they began to go in unto them and to defile themselves with them, and they taught them charms and enchantments, and the cutting of roots, and made them acquainted with plants. And they became pregnant, and they bare great giants, whose height was three thousand ells: Who consumed all the acquisitions of men. And when men could no longer sustain them, the giants turned against them and devoured mankind. And they began to sin against birds, and beasts, and reptiles, and fish, and to devour one another's flesh, and drink the blood. Then the earth laid accusation against the lawless ones."  
Book Of Enoch 7:1-6

While I do not agree with the vast majority of things which come out of Hollywood, or unHolywood as I prefer to call it, some years ago I did see a movie which appears to have been inspired at least in part by the aforementioned events. In the movie called "City Of Angels", actor Nicholas Cage stars in the leading role as an Angel who is enticed by the beauty of a human woman. Due to his curiosity, and his desire to know what it is like to be fully human, Cage makes the fatal choice to pay the price by forsaking his Heavenly Abode, and his state of immortality. Casting himself down from a tall building, his character plunges into the world of flesh and blood humans with a few scratches and bumps on his suddenly transformed body. From this point of the movie, he begins to explore his new feelings and sensations, which ultimately culminates in a sexual relationship with the woman who first caught his attention.

While I do not agree with everything which is contained in the movie, I do feel that the ending is quite appropriate, being as it conveys three important lessons. The first of these is that we will each have to account for and pay for our personal sins. Of course, if we have accepted Christ in our lives, there will be room for Forgiveness and Mercy will be shown. Consider the following verses which reveal God's great Mercy:

"And refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not."  
Nehemiah 9:17, KJV

"The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust. As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more. But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them."  
Psalms 103:8-18, KJV

"The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy."  
Psalms 145:8, KJV

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."  
Isaiah 1:18, KJV

"It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness."  
Lamentations 3:22-23, KJV

"The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet."  
Nahum 1:3, KJV

"And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil."

Jonah 4:2, KJV

"And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil."  
Joel 2:13, KJV

"Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins."  
Acts 5:31, KJV

"Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:"  
Acts 13:38, KJV

"To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me."  
Acts 26:18, KJV

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;"  
Ephesians 1:7, KJV

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."  
Ephesians 4:32, KJV

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:"  
Colossians 1:14, KJV

If there is one thing which is evident in the Scriptures, it is that as a result of Christ's Sacrifice, none of us really get what we truly deserve as a result of our sins. Consider the following verses and be grateful:

"And that he would shew thee the secrets of wisdom, that they are double to that which is! Know therefore that God exacteth of thee less than thine iniquity deserveth."  
Job 11:6, KJV

"He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities."  
Psalms 103:10, KJV

"If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?"  
Psalms 130:3, KJV

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."  
Ephesians 2:8-9, KJV

"Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not

according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:"  
2 Timothy 1:8-10, KJV

The second important lesson is that our Heavenly Father is both wise and just, and He always knows what is best for us, even when we don't know, but in our foolish pride think that we do know. I discuss this issue in "Beholding the Evil and the Good" and "Love, Mercy, Forgiveness and Chastisement". Following are some additional verses regarding God's Wisdom, and how He executed His Plan of Salvation:

"Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:"  
Daniel 2:20, KJV

"Therefore also said the wisdom of God, I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they shall slay and persecute:"  
Luke 11:49, KJV

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!"  
Romans 11:33, KJV

"For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe . . . But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God . . . But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:"  
1 Corinthians 1:21, 24, 30, KJV

"Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."  
1 Corinthians 2:6-8, KJV

"And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:"  
Ephesians 3:9-11, KJV

"Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen."  
1 Timothy 1:17, KJV

"To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen."

Jude 1:25, KJV

"Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen."

Revelation 7:12, KJV

The final lesson is that we should be content with whatever we have in this life and not desire more than what God deems we need to have. I discuss this latter point in more detail in such articles as "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God", "Do You Want Love and Light, or Rod and Wrath?" and "Parable of the Sower: Salvation and Service". This important lesson is apparent in such verses as the following:

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also . . . No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

Matthew 6:19-21, 24, KJV

"And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away."

1 Corinthians 7:31, KJV

"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Philippians 4:11-13, KJV

"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

Hebrews 13:5, KJV

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness."

1 Timothy 6:6-11, KJV

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the



will of God abideth for ever."

1 John 2:15-17, KJV

At any rate, just as Nicholas Cage's angelic character in the movie "City of Angels" eventually learns his lesson in a very tragic way, and must still pay the penalty for his sins against God by living out the rest of his mortal life in the flesh without the woman he loves, in the previous verse set we see that Jude tells us that those Angels which rebelled against the Lord by coming down to Earth in order to engage in sex with human women, also await their final judgment. In fact, the Apostle Peter appears to briefly mention the same point as well, as we see by the following verses:

"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water."

1 Peter 3:18-20, 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; And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;"

2 Peter 2:4-5, KJV

You will find this same topic discussed more at length in a few of the aforementioned articles. The main point I wish to emphasize from the aforementioned movie, as well as from all of the previous verses, is that while Angelic Beings may not possess a flesh and blood body in Heaven as we understand it, they obviously still possess at least some of the same desires and human traits as we do. It stands to reason that if we humans are made in God's image, as per the verses that are found in the Book of Genesis; and if Angels are likewise made in God's image and thus look a lot like us, then there must be some common traits between us. As I explain in such articles as "Satan: His Origin, Purpose and Future", "Satan: King of Tyrus, King of Empires" and "Leviathan: An Ancient Dragon of the Sea?", this clearly includes pride. Thus, it becomes apparent from the previous sources that Angels are vulnerable to temptation and sin. This includes temptation that is of a sexual nature.

As we have already discussed, in addition, Angels must have some degree of free will and personal choice, as otherwise, it would never have been possible for the Fallen Angels to make the foolish choice that they did when they knowingly chose to rebel against the Lord, and corrupted the people of the Earth with Angelic DNA. In similar fashion, the Book of Revelation confirms this very same point when it describes how Satan and a third of the Angels wage a war against the God of Heaven, and are thus cast out. We must conclude from the Scriptural evidence then, that similar to ourselves, the Angels must choose to remain faithful to the Lord; not as a result of being forced to, but because they actually want to do this. Tragically, as we have already seen, Angels do not

always do that. There are rebel Angels who have their own agenda.

As I have mentioned before, one thing which we can learn from all of the previous information, is that while God the Father is all-powerful, there are certain instances where He apparently chooses to not execute His full power. There are some things which He seems to let happen -- even wicked and evil things -- if they will in some way advance His Divine Program. Surely He could have prevented those Fallen Angels from making the choice that they did. Surely He could have prevented them from polluting the human gene pool. Surely He could have kept Adam and Even from making the wrong choice in the Garden of Eden. Surely He could have stopped the evil Jewish religious authorities from turning Jesus over to the Romans. He obviously let all of these events occur. However, when Satan starts causing too much trouble in the final Book of the Bible, He cast out him and his rebellious cohorts. So who knows the mind of God? Consider these verses:

"Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding."  
Isaiah 40:28, KJV

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."  
Isaiah 55:8-9, KJV

"Which doeth great things past finding out; yea, and wonders without number."  
Job 9:10, KJV

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!"  
Romans 11:33, KJV

Please to go part two for the continuation of this series.

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SEX, A BOWL OF SOUP, AND THE NATURE OF ANGELS : PART 2

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Materialization Of Angels In The Physical Realm, Entertaining Angels Unawares, Intervention By Angels In Human Affairs, The

Function Of Angels, Messengers And Scouts, Malak And Aggelos, Appearances Of Angels In Human History Is Quite Rare, Genuine Faith Does Not Require Signs And Manifestations, There Shall No Sign Be Given, Though One Rose From The Dead, The Reality Of Guardian Angels, Newborn Infants And Having The Faith Of A Little Child, Angel Gabriel Is One Of God's Mighty Celestial Messengers, Zacharias Mary And The Prophet Daniel, Gabriel's Status As An Archangel, Seven Angels Stand In God's Presence, Michael Is A Warrior Archangel Who Fights The Lord's Battles, Physical Nature Of Angelic Encounters, Abram's Three Angelic Guests, Before Abraham Was I Am, Lot's Two Dinner Guests And Escape From Sodom, Jacob's All-Night Angelic Wrestling Match, Did Jacob See God Or An Angel, No Man Has Seen God At Any Time

Let us return now to our discussion regarding the nature of the bodies of Angels. I will be the first to admit that I do not fully understand this topic. From everything that I have read in the Bible regarding this subject, it is my personal understanding that while Angels may be spiritual in nature, they do possess the ability to materialize in the physical realm of mortal men. Thus, the events which we discussed in part one. Furthermore, while it is not their natural state, they can appear so similar to ourselves, that they can even walk amongst us, and we would not even know it. As I mention in the series "Great Cloud of Witnesses: God's Holy Ghosts?", Celestial Beings are sometimes permitted by God to intervene in our lives, if it will help to promote His overall Plan in some way. Many of my readers will no doubt be familiar with the following verse that is found in the thirteenth chapter of the Epistle to the Hebrews:

"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."  
Hebrews 13:2, KJV

Based on the evidence which we find in the Bible, it appears that one of the primary functions of Angels is to serve as envoys -- or messengers -- and scouts, for the Lord. In fact, in the Old Testament, the word "angel" is translated from the Hebrew word "malak". Pronounced mal-awk', this word signifies a messenger or representative. In the New Testament, the word "angel" is translated from the Greek word "aggelos". It too means a messenger or an envoy.

According to the Scriptures, the intervention of Angels in human affairs has for the most part been quite rare; or at least the written record of such encounters has been rare. While it may seem to the modern reader that appearances by Angels in the Scriptures were common, we need to take into consideration the fact that we are reading four thousand years of human history in compact form. In other words, it is very easy for us to lose sight of the fact that there are actually very great time gaps between many of the events we read about in God's Word.

My impression is that our Heavenly Father uses His resources very wisely, and that He only allows Angels to appear in our physical realm on very special occasions. For example, if we were to ask the Lord to reveal our personal Guardian Angel to us, I am doubtful that He would allow this to happen, because

there is really no need for it. Not only that, but it would probably totally freak us out anyway. Besides, as I explain in the article entitled "Faith and the Shroud of Turin", we Christians are supposed to walk by faith, and not by sight. In other words, we should not need or require Heavenly Signs and Wonders in order to confirm or strengthen our faith. The truth of the matter is that faith which requires signs is no faith at all. You may recall that the unbelieving Jews also demanded signs of Jesus, and He chided them for this. Please consider the following verses:

"(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)"  
2 Corinthians 5:7, KJV

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."  
Hebrews 11:1, KJV

"But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."  
John 20:24-29, KJV

"Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."  
Matthew 12:38-40, KJV

"The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven. He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times? A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed."  
Matthew 16:1-4, KJV

"And the Pharisees came forth, and began to question with him, seeking of him a sign from heaven, tempting him. And he sighed deeply in his spirit, and saith, Why doth this generation seek after a sign? verily I say unto you, There shall no sign be given unto this generation."

Mark 8:11-12, KJV

"And others, tempting him, sought of him a sign from heaven . . . And when the people were gathered thick together, he began to say, This is an evil generation: they seek a sign; and there shall no sign be given it, but the sign of Jonas the prophet. For as Jonas was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be to this generation."

Luke 11:16, 29-30, KJV

"Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things? Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

John 2:18-19, KJV

"Art thou the Christ? tell us. And he said unto them, If I tell you, ye will not believe:"

Luke 22:67, KJV

"Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe."

John 4:48, KJV

"And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead."

Luke 16:31, KJV

As Jesus clearly points out in that last verse that is found in the Gospel of Luke, most of the Jews would still refuse to believe, even "though one rose from the dead". As we know from the closing chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, that is precisely how the unbelieving Jews reacted too, once they had learned about Jesus' Resurrection from the dead. Consider the following verses which expose their hypocrisy and unbelief:

"Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done. And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers, Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you. So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day."

Matthew 28:11-15, KJV

But concerning Guardian Angels, it is evident from Jesus' own words in the Gospel of Matthew that our Heavenly Father has indeed assigned a Special Protector to each one of us, as we can easily determine by the following verse:

"Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven."

Matthew 18:10, KJV

We have all heard comments or read stories where it has been said that young babies can actually see their Guardian Angel, and that this is why they have that innocent glow to their faces. Is it possible that these infants are still capable of

peering through the veil, and beholding their former Home in Heaven? Being as their spirits have only recently departed from that Beautiful Place in order to take on a body of flesh and blood, is it possible that the spiritual link hasn't been completely severed yet? Is it possible that in His Mercy, the Lord may permit this to occur in order to comfort them while they make the transition from the Spirit Realm to this one?

Even young children sometimes talk about the funny "Stranger" who only they can see. The normal reaction of adults who hear such tales is to say that it is just their imagination. They will sometimes even scold their kids and tell them to stop all the daydreaming. But what if it is real? Who are we to say how a Guardian Angel of the Lord may appear to a young child so as to not frighten him by his majestic appearance? Is it possible that when we are still very young, we all have this ability to peer into the Spirit Realm, but that as we begin to get older, grow up in the world, and become hardened by the world, that we begin to lose our childlike faith, so that we can no longer see what is actually still there? Interesting thoughts indeed. I am reminded of the following verses:

". . . Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."  
Matthew 18:3b, KJV

". . . Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God."  
Mark 10:14b, KJV

Amongst people today -- Christian and non-Christian alike -- one of the most well-known Angels who appears in the pages of the Bible is Gabriel. Many people know that Gabriel appeared to Zacharias -- the father of John the Baptist -- as well as to Mary -- the mother of Jesus -- six months later in the Gospel of Luke. Consider the following verses:

"And it came to pass, that while he [Zacharias] executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course, According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense. And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb. And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years. And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew

thee these glad tidings. And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season."

Luke 1:8-20, KJV

"And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her."

Luke 1:26-38, KJV

However, a lot of people are not aware of the fact that the aforementioned incidents are not the only times that we find the Angel Gabriel performing special missions for the Lord. It was also through Gabriel's assistance that the Prophet Daniel received his wonderful visions and prophecies in the Old Testament, as we can see by the following two verses:

"And I heard a man's voice between the banks of Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision."

Daniel 8:16, KJV

"Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation."

Daniel 9:21, KJV

Contrary to what a lot of Christians believe, Gabriel is not specifically named as an Archangel in the King James Version of the Bible. I believe that this is an assumption that we make, because in the Gospel of Luke, Gabriel himself informs us that he stands "in the presence of God". Furthermore, in the Book of Revelation we also learn that there are in fact "seven Spirits which are before his throne", and that they are "sent forth into all the earth." As we have seen, this is exactly what the Angels do. They perform missions for God on the Earth. Thus, while Gabriel is not clearly referred to as an Archangel, there is strong Scriptural evidence to suggest

that this is indeed his actual status, and that he is one of the Seven Spirits -- or Seven Angels -- who stand in the very presence of the Lord, and before the Throne of Almighty God. Consider the following amazing verses:

"And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings."  
Luke 1:19, KJV

"John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;"  
Revelation 1:4, KJV

"And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead."  
Revelation 3:1, KJV

"And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God."  
Revelation 4:5, KJV

"And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth."  
Revelation 5:6, KJV

"And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets . . . And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound."  
Revelation 8:2, 6, KJV

"And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God . . . And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles. And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever. And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled."  
Revelation 15:1, 6-8, KJV

"And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth."  
Revelation 16:1, KJV

"And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:"  
Revelation 17:1, KJV



"And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife."

Revelation 21:9, KJV

In addition to Gabriel, undoubtedly another widely-known Angel of the Lord is Michael, who in fact is specifically described as being an Archangel, or a chief of the Angels. While the Angel Gabriel is primarily portrayed as an envoy of messages, Michael is definitely described as a warrior Archangel. For example, we see him fighting in the Spirit so that Daniel can receive his dreams and visions. We see him standing up for the Lord's children at the end of the age. We see him fighting with Satan in order to gain possession of the body of Moses. Finally, we see him fighting against Satan -- and defeating him -- in the Book of Revelation. Consider these verses which confirm these various points:

"But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia . . . But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince."

Daniel 10:13, 21, KJV

"And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book."

Daniel 12:1, KJV

"Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee."

Jude 1:9, KJV

"And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. 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."

Revelation 12:7-9, KJV

Some of the other Angelic Visitations which we find mentioned in the pages of God's Word include Abram's encounter with the three Unusual Visitors on the plain of Mamre, the rescue of Lot's family by two Angelic Messengers, Jacob's night vision of the Heavenly Ladder and his all-night wrestling match with an Angel, the Heavenly Envoy who informed Manoah and his wife regarding the birth of Samson, the Captain of the Lord's Host who visited Joshua during the pivotal battle of Jericho, the awe-inspiring dreams and visions of other Prophets such as the Prophets Ezekiel and Zechariah, the Angel who prepared a meal for the Prophet Elijah, the Angel who appeared to Joseph -- the stepfather of Jesus -- in several dreams, and several Angelic Rescues which we find in the Book of Acts.

Just as the Fallen Angels appeared in a very physical form -- quite necessarily so in order that they might impregnate the beautiful women of Earth with their offspring who would become known as the Nephilim; that is, the giant children of the Fallen Ones -- in similar fashion, most of the incidents that I mentioned above took on a very physical nature. These Angelic Messengers were not just wispy clouds of transparent Spirit. They were able to be seen, heard and spoken to. They were likewise able to eat and drink. Furthermore, they could be touched, as well as touch human beings. As the following Scriptures reveal, Abram in fact requested that his Angelic Visitors wait while his wife Sarai prepared a meal for them:

"And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day; And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground, And said, My Lord, if now I have found favour in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant: Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree: And I will fetch a morsel of bread, and comfort ye your hearts; after that ye shall pass on: for therefore are ye come to your servant. And they said, So do, as thou hast said. And Abraham hastened into the tent unto Sarah, and said, Make ready quickly three measures of fine meal, knead it, and make cakes upon the hearth. And Abraham ran unto the herd, and fetcht a calf tender and good, and gave it unto a young man; and he hasted to dress it. And he took butter, and milk, and the calf which he had dressed, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree, and they did eat."

Genesis 18:1-8, KJV

If you continue reading the previous story, you will discover that one of the three Unusual Visitors to Abram's tent that day was in fact the Lord -- meaning Jesus Christ -- while the other two individuals were apparently Angels who accompanied Him. If you doubt that this is so, then please consider the following verses, which we find in the Gospel of John, where Jesus confirms this very fact:

"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad. Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am."

John 8:56-58, KJV

At any rate, as you can see by the account in the Book of Genesis, Abram's special Guests from the Spirit Realm did in fact eat physical food. They could not possibly have done it unless they were in possession of physical bodies. Therefore, just as the Fallen Angels had done, we can only conclude that Abram's three Unusual Visitors must have materialized in real physical bodies of flesh and bone.

While the Lord apparently returned from whence He came after His visit with Abram and Sarai, this was not the case with the two Angels who accompanied Him. As we continue reading in the Book of Genesis, we discover that just prior to the awful

destruction of the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot and his wife also entertained some Unique Visitors, who were the same two Angels who had accompanied the Lord. As they had done with Abram earlier, the Angels sat down and had dinner with Lot and his wife and their two daughters. Not only that, but Genesis informs us that due to Lot's vacillation, the two Angels had to physically grab them by the hand and forcefully escort them out of Sodom, so that they would not perish in the destruction of that wicked city. Consider the following verses:

"And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground; And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night. And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat."  
Genesis 19:1-3, KJV

"And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city. And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city."  
Genesis 19:15-16, KJV

So once again we see that these Angelic Beings were able to eat physical human food, be seen, heard and spoken to, and touch and be touched. There was no wispy spiritual essence to them whatsoever.

In the case of the Patriarch Jacob, the Book of Genesis tells us that his Angelic Encounter became quite physical. In fact, for reasons which are not made clear to us, Jacob engaged in an all-night wrestling match with his Angelic Visitor, until the Angel was finally forced to subdue Jacob by injuring his thigh. It seems odd to me that a mere human would be able to overpower an Angel of the Lord, so that the Angel was forced to resort to trickery in order to subdue Jacob. It is also unclear why the Angel told Jacob to let him go because the dawn was about to break:

"And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed. And Jacob asked him, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there. And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved."

## Genesis 32:24-30, KJV

In the previous verses, the name Peniel is a compound Hebrew word which means to turn to or to face God. I also find it a bit confusing that the KJV Bible has Jacob saying that he saw God face-to-face. Personally, I am not really convinced that Jacob actually wrestled with God Himself. The notion of God being defeated by a mere human is even more ludicrous than an Angel being defeated by a human. More than likely, it was an Angel, and this is what Jacob actually meant. In my view, what makes it even more unlikely that Jacob actually wrestled with God, is the fact that for him to even make such a statement concerning seeing God face-to-face would clearly contradict verses such as the following, where we are plainly told that no man has ever seen God the Father and lived:

"No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him."  
John 1:18, KJV

"Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, [Jesus referring to Himself] he hath seen the Father."  
John 6:46, KJV

"No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us."  
1 John 4:12, KJV

"These words the LORD spake unto all your assembly in the mount out of the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of the thick darkness, with a great voice: and he added no more. And he wrote them in two tables of stone, and delivered them unto me. And it came to pass, when ye heard the voice out of the midst of the darkness, (for the mountain did burn with fire,) that ye came near unto me, even all the heads of your tribes, and your elders; And ye said, Behold, the LORD our God hath shewed us his glory and his greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire: we have seen this day that God doth talk with man, and he liveth. Now therefore why should we die? for this great fire will consume us: if we hear the voice of the LORD our God any more, then we shall die. For who is there of all flesh, that hath heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived? Go thou near, and hear all that the LORD our God shall say: and speak thou unto us all that the LORD our God shall speak unto thee; and we will hear it, and do it."

Deuteronomy 5:22-27, KJV

Please go to part three for the conclusion of this series.

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SEX, A BOWL OF SOUP, AND THE NATURE OF ANGELS : PART 3

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Elohiym Also Means Angels So Jacob Saw An Angel And Not God, Joshua And The Captain Of The Lord's Host, Moses And Burning Bush, Angels Ministering Spirits And Flames Of Fire, Manoaah's Angelic Messenger, Daniel And John Are Touched By Celestial Beings, Apostle Peter's Angelic Liberator, Joseph Receives Instructions From An Angel Who Speak To Him In His Dreams, Jesus Appears To Over Five Hundred Of His Disciples Following His Resurrection From The Dead, Thomas And The Risen Christ, More Blessed To Believe Without Having Seen, A Resurrected Jesus Partakes Of Food With The Apostles, Our Resurrection Bodies, Closing Remarks, Suggested Reading Resources List

So how can we reconcile what is written in the KJV Bible with what actually appears to be intended? This issue is not quite as difficult as you may believe. As I explain in the series called "Ken Maley's New New Testament and the Jesus Seminar", based on information in the Brown, Driver, Briggs, Gesenius Hebrew Aramaic English Lexicon, while in the King James Bible the Hebrew word "elohiym" is more often than not translated as "God", this is not its only definition. It likewise means, Divine Ones, Godlike Ones, and Angels. This seems to confirm my belief that what Jacob was really stating is that he saw and wrestled with an Angel that night, and not with God the Father. Common sense dictates that Jacob would not have been able to really win a wrestling match against the Creator of the Universe.

In other words, I believe that inserting "God" in that verse was a translational error. In my view, "elohiym" should have been translated as "Angel", or maybe as "Divine One" instead. I honestly don't know why the translators chose to use "God" in that verse, but as I said, it just confuses the reader.

In the case of Joshua -- the son of Nun who was the successor to Moses -- the Scriptures inform us that as he and his army were in the process of besieging the city of Jericho, Someone very significant stood near Joshua, appearing in the form of a regular man, with a sword drawn in his hand, and ready to do battle for the Israelites, as we see by these verses:

"And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant? And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so."  
Joshua 5:13-15, KJV

While at first glance we may be inclined to believe that this Entity was a great Warrior Archangel such as Michael, I have

my doubts about this. To my knowledge, nowhere in the Bible do we find Angels requiring worship. They always point to God instead. For example, I am reminded of the following verses which are found in the Book of Revelation where John attempts to worship the Angelic Messenger who has been sent to him:

"And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."  
Revelation 19:10, KJV

"And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God."  
Revelation 22:8-9, KJV

As you can see, John's Angelic Messenger absolutely refused to receive any kind of worship from the Apostle. So it is for this reason that I am not persuaded that Joshua saw an Angel, because Joshua's Celestial Visitor did the exact opposite. He said the ground was holy, and told Joshua to remove his shoe. If we consider the similarities between the story of Joshua and the account of Moses and the Burning Bush, I am inclined to think that this may have been another cameo appearance by Jesus in the Old Testament. With the previous verses in mind, consider now what was said to Moses as well:

"And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground."  
Exodus 3:2-5, KJV

What makes the previous verses difficult to understand is the fact that we are told that "the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire". However, then we are told that it is God who actually calls to Moses out of the midst of the bush. So was it really God the Father, or Jesus, or was it an Angelic Messenger who was simply speaking on God's behalf? If we consider that Angels do not demand worship, then it seems more likely that Someone greater than an Angel spoke to both Joshua and Moses. Yet at the same time, there still remains a possibility that it really was one of the Archangels of God who spoke to Moses on that day. After all, allow me to remind again how they are described in the Book of Revelation and elsewhere:

"And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God."  
Revelation 4:5, KJV

"And when forty years were expired, there appeared to him in

the wilderness of mount Sina an angel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush . . . This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:"  
Acts 7:30, 38, KJV

"And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire."  
Hebrews 1:7, KJV

As you can see, the Seven Archangels of God are described as "lamps of fire" and "a flame of fire", and that is precisely what Moses saw in the bush which did not burn. I will leave it at that, because I cannot provide you with a definitive answer regarding this issue.

Moving forward in the Old Testament, the next Angel story we are going to discuss concerns Manoah and his wife, who were the parents of Israel's strongman and judge, Samson. As with the previous accounts, in this case, the Angel refused to be worshiped by the couple. Rather, he told them that if they were going to offer a burnt offering, then they should offer it unto the LORD. While Manoah offered to prepare a kid for their Angelic Guest, for reasons which are not made clear, he refused to eat. Keeping in mind the previous verses regarding how Angels are referred to as "lamps of fire" and "a flame of fire", consider the amazing feat which was performed by this Angel as he disappeared from their sight:

"And Manoah said unto the angel of the LORD, I pray thee, let us detain thee, until we shall have made ready a kid for thee. And the angel of the LORD said unto Manoah, Though thou detain me, I will not eat of thy bread: and if thou wilt offer a burnt offering, thou must offer it unto the LORD. For Manoah knew not that he was an angel of the LORD. And Manoah said unto the angel of the LORD, What is thy name, that when thy sayings come to pass we may do thee honour? And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Why askest thou thus after my name, seeing it is secret? So Manoah took a kid with a meat offering, and offered it upon a rock unto the LORD: and the angel did wondrously; and Manoah and his wife looked on. For it came to pass, when the flame went up toward heaven from off the altar, that the angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar. And Manoah and his wife looked on it, and fell on their faces to the ground. But the angel of the LORD did no more appear to Manoah and to his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was an angel of the LORD. And Manoah said unto his wife, We shall surely die, because we have seen God."  
Judges 13:15-22, KJV

No doubt you will notice again that just like Jacob, Manoah says "we have seen God". However, throughout this story, we are clearly told that Manoah and his wife are visited by an Angel of the LORD. In fact, in every case where "angel" is used in the previous verses, the Hebrew word that is used is "malak", which we know means messenger or envoy. It is only in the final verse where "elohiym" is used. Thus, once again the KJV translators translated it as "God", when in reality Manoah and his wife saw an Angel, and not literally God.

We have already seen how God's Angels possess the ability to fully materialize in flesh and bone bodies. They can eat and touch and be touched as well. They have physical substance. With the Prophet Daniel and John the Revelator, we are told that they had to be physically touched and helped to their feet by their Messengers, because the experience was simply too overwhelming for their weak mortal flesh. Consider these verses:

"Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength. Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground. And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands."

Daniel 10:8-10, KJV

"And when he had spoken such words unto me, I set my face toward the ground, and I became dumb. And, behold, one like the similitude of the sons of men touched my lips: then I opened my mouth, and spake, and said unto him that stood before me, O my lord, by the vision my sorrows are turned upon me, and I have retained no strength. For how can the servant of this my lord talk with this my lord? for as for me, straightway there remained no strength in me, neither is there breath left in me. Then there came again and touched me one like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me,"

Daniel 10:15-18, KJV

"And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:"

Revelation 1:17, KJV

Please notice that in Revelation 1:17 above, this is not an Angel. It is in fact Jesus Himself who is appearing to John in His true Celestial Body. This is made evident by the fact that He states "I am the first and the last". This point is confirmed by the surrounding verses as well. Even though the Lord is in His true Celestial Form, He is able to physically touch John. Exactly how such Beings can be in the Spiritual Realm, and yet still physically interact with objects and people on our own earthly plane is beyond my comprehension. Perhaps someday we will all come to understand it.

We find another clear example where Angels can physically interact with our own plane of existence in the Book of Acts. In this particular case, the Apostle Peter has been thrown into prison by evil King Herod. If you take the time to read the opening verses of Acts chapter twelve, you will see that Herod has already beheaded James, the brother of John, and that he apparently has Peter scheduled to be his next victim. However, contrary to wicked Herod's plans, God is not quite done using Peter yet. Thus, we are told that as Peter lay sleeping in his prison cell, an Angel suddenly appeared in the presence of a light, hit Peter on his side in order to wake him up, got him to his feet, and told him to get his clothes on. Having safely led Peter out of the prison, the Angel then causes the iron gates of the city to open so that



Peter can enter therein, and then the Angel disappears:

"And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands. And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me. And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision. When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him."

Acts 12:7-10, KJV

As I mentioned earlier, it seems that our Heavenly Father has sparingly used Angelic Messengers throughout human history. Physical manifestations of Angels is not a common everyday occurrence, as far as I can tell. Peter was a central pillar of the First Century Church. That is why God chose to spare him in this manner. In short, if someday you find yourself in a prison cell because you were boldly preaching the Gospel on a city street, and raised the ire of nearby business owners, please don't expect an Angel of the Lord to arrive to set you free, as occurred with Peter, because more than likely, it probably will not happen. Just try to remain positive, and be thankful that you have been found worthy to suffer persecution for His Name's sake. I encourage you to read my series called "Civil Disobedience and Christian Persecution".

Concerning Joseph -- the stepfather of Jesus -- the Gospel of Matthew seems to indicate that he had Angelic Visitations on at least three different occasions: once when he was told to take Mary to be his wife; once when he was warned to flee to Egypt in order to escape the wrath of King Herod; and once when he was informed that it was safe to go back to Israel because wicked King Herod was dead. Consider the following verses:

"But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost . . . Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:"  
Matthew 1:20, 24, KJV

"And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him . . . But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,"  
Matthew 2:13, 19, KJV

"For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falleth upon men, in slumberings upon the bed; Then he openeth the ears of men, and sealeth their instruction, That he may withdraw man from his purpose, and hide pride from

man."

Job 33:14-17, KJV

While there are other examples in the Scriptures which I can present in this series, allow me to conclude with the example with which most people are probably familiar; and that is the Resurrected Christ. As I mention in the series entitled "Ken Maley's New New Testament and the Jesus Seminar", following His Resurrection from the dead, Jesus appeared to more than five hundred of His followers at various times, for a period of forty days. This important fact is confirmed for us by the testimonies of Mary, of the Apostles, of the Apostle Paul and of over five hundred other of the Lord's Disciples. Not only did they speak to the Lord, but some of them also touched Him and ate with Him. In addition to Jesus' multiple appearances which are recorded in the Gospel of John chapters twenty and twenty-one, consider the following additional verses which reveal the resurrected Christ:

"The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me . . . And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight."  
Acts 1:1-4, 9, KJV

"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time."

1 Corinthians 15:3-8, KJV

As you may recall, the Apostle Thomas was not present during Jesus' initial appearance to the Apostles. As a result, being human like the rest of us, he doubted that Jesus had really risen from the dead. Thus, Thomas required physical proof in order to be convinced that the Lord had actually risen as He had promised He would do. Of course, only eight days later, Jesus again appeared to the Apostles, and Thomas was present this time, and learned a valuable lesson in the process, as we see by the following verses:

"But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus,

the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."  
John 20:24-29, KJV

Following the famous walk on the road to Emmaus which we find in the last chapter of the Gospel of Luke, Luke relates the following incident where Jesus first appeared to the Apostles. From these verses we can see that not only did the Lord allow His followers to touch Him, but He even ate fish and honeycomb before their very eyes. This again demonstrates that there is still something very physical regarding Spirit Bodies. As we discussed earlier, in some way they are able to materialize in our physical plane of existence, function exactly as we now do -- including by eating -- and then vanish as if they are made out of thin air. Exactly how this works is totally beyond me:

"And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet. And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. And he took it, and did eat before them."  
Luke 24:36-43, KJV

Whether or not Jesus' resurrected body is of the same exact composition as the body which is possessed by Angels, I am not certain. As I point out in the series "Is Jesus the Only Begotten Son of God?", we need to remember that Jesus is the Firstfruits of the Resurrection, the Firstborn among many brethren, the Firstborn from the dead, and the First Begotten of the dead. In a word, Jesus is the first in His class. He is the Progenitor of a new race of people, and a new nation of people. As you will see in just a moment, transhumanism is really nothing compared to this. Humanity may use science and technology in order to try to create a super breed of human beings, even so-called "immortal" humans, but no matter what they create, it will still be weak and pitiful compared to what our Almighty God has done through His Son Jesus Christ.

Exactly what has God done through Jesus? Brethren, this is the most exciting part of the entire story. As I already told you, Jesus was not risen from the dead for Himself alone. He in fact became the Progenitor of a new race, a new species, and a new class of people. This is where God's saved children enter the picture. For us, death is not the end of the story by any means. It is actually the beginning of the real story, as well as eternity for us. Our death, regardless of how it comes, or when it comes, will be swallowed up in victory, as I explain in the article entitled "Death: Final Battle, Final Victory"

So what do we Believers have to look forward to? What will we each be like when the day of our graduation finally arrives? What kind of bodies will we possess? As the following verses make perfectly clear, we will inherit new bodies which are just like Jesus' body. Exactly what that means, I don't know, but it will no doubt be very exciting and wonderful, because there will be no more sorrow, sickness or death. Read on:

"And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."

Daniel 12:3, KJV

"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:"

Romans 6:4-5, KJV

"For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body . . . For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."

Romans 8:22-23, 29, KJV

"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

1 Corinthians 2:9, KJV

"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming . . . There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of

the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."

1 Corinthians 15:19-23, 40-52, KJV

"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life."

2 Corinthians 5:1-4, KJV

"Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

Philippians 3:21, KJV

"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature . . . And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."

Colossians 1:12-15, 18, KJV

"To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,"

Hebrews 12:23, KJV

"Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures."

James 1:18, KJV

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."

1 John 3:2, KJV

"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood . . . I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."

Revelation 1:5, 18, KJV

"These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men,

being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb."  
Revelation 14:4, KJV

With these inspiring verses I will bring another series to a close. I trust that you have found it informative, and I pray that it has been an inspiration and a blessing in your life. Keep an eye out for Angels, because you just never know when one may appear in your life. If you happen to have an account with Facebook, Twitter or Google+, I would really appreciate if you would take the time to click on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were also mentioned in this series, or which are related to this series, and which are likewise located on the Endtime Prophecy Net web server:

Beholding the Evil and the Good  
Civil Disobedience and Christian Persecution  
Death: Final Battle, Final Victory  
Do You Want Love and Light, or Rod and Wrath?  
Faith and the Shroud of Turin  
Free Will and Personal Choice  
Great Cloud of Witnesses: God's Holy Ghosts?  
Is Jesus the Only Begotten Son of God?  
Ken Maley's "New New Testament" and the Jesus Seminar  
Leviathan: An Ancient Dragon of the Sea?  
Love, Mercy, Forgiveness and Chastisement  
Nephilim: The Giants of Genesis  
Parable of the Sower: Salvation and Service  
Satan: His Origin, Purpose and Future  
Satan: King of Tyrus, King of Empires  
Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God  
The Book of Enoch: Truth or Heresy?  
The Faith of a Little Child  
The Judgment of Angels, Demons and Men

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