



*Fall Series 2015*

# Power of Angels

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# Outline

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Angelic citizens, Our Larger City

Descent of Satan, His Angels and Us

Angels and their Watchful Care of Israel

Advent and Saving Work of Christ.

Christians and our Angelic Guides and Protectors

Joining with Angels in worship and Prayer

Guides from One World to the Next

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# Primary Sources

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- ❖ *Lifted By Angels: Presence and Power of our Heavenly Guides and Guardians* by Joel J. Miller
- ❖ *The Holy Angels* by Mother Alexandra

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# Questions

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- ❖ Who are angels?
- ❖ How do you know them?

*Power of Angels*

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# Angels, Demons....

Session 1 - Our Larger City

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# Angels

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- ❖ What are angels?
- ❖ Angels are created natural being.
- ❖ *In Him all created things took their being, heavenly and earthly, visible and invisible...* (Col 1:16)

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# Angels

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- ❖ Scripture says: like **wind, fire, winged** and **many eyed**.
- ❖ Church says: “the honorable **bodiless powers** of heaven.”
- ❖ Gregory Nanzianzen: “**nimble intelligences**”
- ❖ Basil the Great: “**pure, intelligent, and other-worldly powers**” or “an ethereal spirit...an immaterial fire.”

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# Angels

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- ❖ Psalmist: *“Thou wilt have thy angels be like the winds, the servants that wait on thee like a flame of fire”* (Ps 103:4)
  - ❖ What is **“like a flame of fire”** ?
- ❖ Judges: *angel ascending to heaven in updraft of blazing sacrifice*
- ❖ Ezekiel & Daniel: *form of man but adorned with flames and lightning and gleaming like polished metal*



# Angels

- ❖ Are **not omnipresent** like God
- ❖ Have boundaries, are **in a place but not bound** by physical world.
  - ❖ What does this imply?
- ❖ Move rapidly and are not constrained by walls doors and distance has no meaning for them.
- ❖ Scripture repeatedly refers to angels as human and even mistaken for humans.



Annunciation of Mary in Catacomb of Pricilla in Rome, 2c



Catacombs of Via Latina, Balaam Stopped by Angel, 4th c.

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# Angels

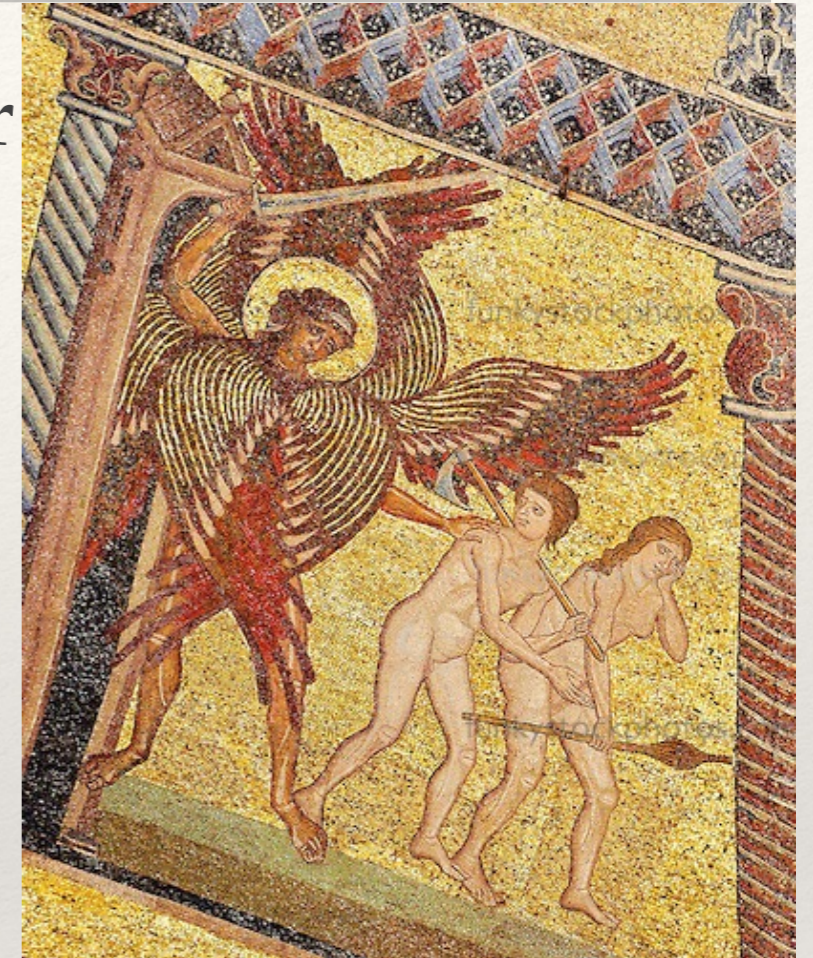
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- ❖ How would you describe their society?
- ❖ A unique society.
- ❖ Have **individual names**: Gabriel, Michael, Raphael
- ❖ Some have lesser authority and rank & others greater.
- ❖ Daniels and Zachariah see them talking to each other and coming to each other's aid.
- ❖ St Augustine refers to “a supremely happy society in heaven.”

# Angels

❖ How do we encounter Angels in first chapter of Bible?

❖ After Adam and Eve were cast out of Paradise God positioned Angels, cherubim, with blade of fire to prevent return.



❖ God *“posted his Cherubim before the garden of delight, with a sword of fire that turned this way and that, so that he could reach the area of life no longer.”* (Gen 3:24)

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# Angels

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- ❖ Complete beings but without material form.
- ❖ Saint Basil: “their substance is a breath of air or an immortal fire, and this is why they are localized or become visible in the shape of their own bodies to those who are worthy to see them.”
- ❖ What do they do?
  - ❖ The work of God.

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# Angels

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- ❖ *“The Lord has set up His throne in heaven, rules with universal sway.*
- ❖ *Bless the Lord, all you angels of his; angels of superior strength, that carry out his commandment, attentive to the word he utters;*
- ❖ *bless the Lord, all you hosts of His, the servants that perform His will;*
- ❖ *bless the Lord, all you creatures of His, in every corner of his dominion; and thou, my soul bless the Lord.”* (Ps 102:19-22)

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# Angels

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- ❖ John of Damascus
- ❖ *“In His exceeding goodness” God “wished certain things to come into existence which would enjoy his benefits and share in His goodness, [so] He brought all things out of nothing into being and created them. both what is invisible [such as angels] and what is visible [such as ourselves].”*
- ❖ Why did God create angels?

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# Angels

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- ❖ Scripture does not directly reveal God's motives for creating them.
- ❖ Scripture does not reveal when angels were created but neither does it clarify arrival of water, air and fire.
- ❖ What we know comes from theologians, hymn writers and iconographers.
- ❖ What must keep in mind?
  - ❖ limits of our intellectualization

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# Angels

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- ❖ **Saint Basil the Great**
- ❖ Angels were created **before** the physical world
- ❖ *“the mode of creation of heavenly powers is passed in silence”*  
Why?
- ❖ Writers only *“revealed to us the creation of things perceptible by sense.”*
- ❖ Others held visible and invisible created at same time.



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# Angels

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- ❖ **Augustine & Isaac of Syria** argue that angels came before stars.
- ❖ “thus the angels illuminated by the light they were created, themselves became light...by participation in the changeless light and day, which is the Word of God, through whom they and all other things were made.
- ❖ Isaac says, The angelic natures were created by verbal command and this was light.”
- ❖ In Genesis says light created before there were stars



# Angels

- ❖ Revelation shows angel standing in sun
- ❖ Often linked with stars
- ❖ Plausible to see them linked this way as they were created together
- ❖ Book of Job called morning stars.



# 1st Day of Creation

- ❖ 1st day of creation icon
- ❖ Christ aloft above the deep
- ❖ Extends hand in sign of Cross every act of creation is a blessing
- ❖ Above is beam of light which cannot yet be sun.
- ❖ Glowing circle symbol for angelic light.
- ❖ Angels fly within the disc.



# Angels

- ❖ Image from 5th century manuscript
- ❖ Christ creates light
- ❖ Two spheres appear: red & blue
- ❖ Red indicates uncreated light of God
- ❖ Blue its denial
- ❖ Angel stands behind red sphere partially red and blue



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- ❖ John of Damascus
  - ❖ Angels are “*secondary lights derived from that first light which is without beginning.*”
  - ❖ Why James calls God “*the Father of lights*” (James 1:17)

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# Angelic Order

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- ❖ **Dionysius the Areopagite: The Celestial Hierarchy**
- ❖ Developed a systematic classification based on Scripture
- ❖ Identified Levels or Choirs of angels

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# Angelic Order

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- ❖ 1st Choir: Seraphim, Cherubim, and thrones
- ❖ 2nd Choir: dominions, powers, and authorities
- ❖ 3rd Choir: principalities, archangels and angels
- ❖ The lowest rank are the ones closest to us and include our guardian angels who keep watch over us individually.

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# Seraphim

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- ❖ Seraphim are mentioned only in one biblical passage: sixth chapter of Isaiah.
- ❖ They are considered the **closest to God** flying above His heavenly throne.
- ❖ Are identified with **flame and fire** and they have **six wings**
- ❖ Isaiah says: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew





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# Cherubim

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- ❖ Cherubim as described in Ezekiel and revelation lead iconographers to show them with **four wings** and even with **four faces**
- ❖ Is 18th Psalm, God is mounted on a cherub and roaring through the air on the mighty gusts of it wings.



# Thrones

- ❖ Thrones are the carriers of the Throne of God,
- ❖ Usually shown as red-hot rings or wheels with small wings.
- ❖ Scripture describes God as enthroned on cherubim and they are said to move by means of many-eyed wheels.



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# Dominions, powers, authorities and principalities

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- ❖ Govern various aspects of God's creation.
- ❖ Daniel discusses angelic princes - overlords of Israel Persia and Greece.
- ❖ Clement of Alexandria (150ad) mentioned "*regiments of angels...distributed over the nations and cities.*"
- ❖ John Damascus says angels "*are the guardians of the divisions of the earth...they govern all our affairs and bring us help in time of need.*"

# Archangels

- ❖ Ones we are most familiar with and most frequently contact people.
- ❖ Initially depicted as men adorned with wings.
- ❖ Often shown with long hair bound by ribbons, beardless, gentle faces, and sometimes sport breastplates shields, swords, and staves.
- ❖ Who are some you know?



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# Angels

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- ❖ How do they know God?
  - ❖ Behold God directly
- ❖ Dionysius: *“They look on the divine likeness with a transcendent eye.... They have the first and most diverse participation in the divine and they, in turn, provide the first and most diverse revelations of the divine hiddenness.”*
- ❖ They reflect the divine light and in their act of revelation they get their name angels (messenger)
- ❖ Being God’s messengers they reveal to us what is beyond our comprehension. Examples?

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# Angels

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- ❖ Angel comes from Greek word ( ἄγγελος ángelos) meaning messenger.
- ❖ We find them in Scripture explaining mysteries, giving warnings, encouraging the fearful and passing on news.
- ❖ Isaac Syrian says, *“They are our teachers.... Our development and illumination cannot come to pass without the divine vision received of angels”*

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# Angels

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- ❖ Other functions:  
Exercising power over fire, restraining winds, stirring waters.
- ❖ Athenagoras of Athens (2nd c) says God uses angels “to exercise providence...over the things created and ordered by Him; so that God may have the universal and general providence of the whole, while the particular parts are provided for by the angels appointed over them.”
- ❖ Primary task is to **reflect the knowledge and glory of God on creation and point us towards the source.**

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# Angels

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- ❖ If invisible and bodiless how do they deliver their messages to creature like us?
- ❖ Noetically - through our thoughts
- ❖ Shepherd of Hermas (2nd c): *“the angel of righteousness is sensitive, modest, meek, and mild.... When he rises up in your heart, he immediately speaks with you about righteousness, purity, reverence, contentment, and every upright deed, and every glorious virtue.*
- ❖ *When all these things rise up in your heart, realize that the angel of righteousness is with you.”*
- ❖ Holy Spirit often communicates his love to us through angels. Experience?



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# Angels

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- ❖ Their appearances were not necessarily pleasant moments.
- ❖ They appear suddenly.
- ❖ Imagine such a surprise?  
Possible gusts of wind, fire, fear and horror.
- ❖ When Archangel appeared to Daniel he stunned him.  
*“I was frightened and fell on my face.”*



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# Angels

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- ❖ In another case he appeared like “a man clothed in linen whose loins were girded with gold...His body was like beryl,
- ❖ his face like the appearance of lightning,
- ❖ his eyes like flaming bronze,
- ❖ and the sound of his words like the noise of a multitude.”
- ❖ Gabriel had to reach down and retrieve Daniel from the floor as he had passed out at his sight.



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# Isaiah

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- ❖ Similar situation for Isaiah. *“I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high lifted up. and his train filled the temple.*
- ❖ *Above Him stood seraphim that were singing, Holy Holy Holy is the Lord of Hosts; The whole earth is full of his glory!*



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# Isaiah

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- ❖ *Hearing this Isaiah trembled.*
- ❖ *Their powerful voices shook the temple and smoke filled the room.*
- ❖ *Then God spoke and He cried out in despair, “Woe is me!” being overwhelmed by the experience of the holy.*



# Angels

- ❖ They are not always frightful as the Angelic visitors are not intent on fear.
- ❖ Their visitations are primarily about **revelation, knowledge, and insight** from God to the people He loves.
- ❖ When Gabriel comforted Daniel after nearly scaring him to death he softened his appearance and assured Daniel that he was “greatly beloved.”



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# Angels

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- ❖ Angels are not limited to noetic communication.
- ❖ Angels can make their presence tangible & know.
- ❖ Basil: they become “visible, appearing to those who are worthy in the form of bodies proper to them.”
- ❖ Scripture records many instances where angels have visible and physically interrupted human life.



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# Angels

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- ❖ Early writers were reluctant to write about angels because of concern that it would detract from contemplation and worship of God the Lord of the angels.
- ❖ **Ignatious of Antioch**, a disciple of Apostle John said his readers were “still infants.” He claimed knowledge of the angelic regions and hierarchies of the cosmic rulers, both visible and invisible.“
- ❖ These he witnessed as did John. He declined to explain because “**otherwise you may choke, not being able to swallow enough.**”

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# One City

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- ❖ Imagine a large city that includes visible and the invisible.
- ❖ Heaven and Earth are all part of one reality
- ❖ Angels periodically break this seeming shield between the two.  
But is it very porous even though it seems solid.
- ❖ God sends His angels to lift our fallen nature toward Christ.





*Power of Angels*

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# Angels, Demons....

Session 2: Descent of Satan,  
His Angels and Us

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# Evil

- ❖ Is there any doubt that evil is evident in this world?
- ❖ Who is responsible for evil?
- ❖ Ancient witnesses tell us evil began in a person in heaven.

- ❖ Can find vision of heaven in Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, John +
- ❖ They saw God surrounded by angels, circling



seraphim, cherubim, and others singing praise. Choir of upon choir offer antiphonal adoration.

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# Evil

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- ❖ God created angels as objects of His love but some rebelled.
- ❖ This forms the second kind of city: fallen angels, demons and evil spirits.
- ❖ Their mutiny is led by Satan an angel once called Lucifer (light bearer)
- ❖ Irenaeus: “ringleader of the apostasy.”

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# Evil

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- ❖ Angels were created as good but not all stayed that way.
- ❖ Satan and his followers corrupted themselves and **turned away from God.**
- ❖ In Job we find angels “**charged with error**” and the heavens declared unclean.
- ❖ Peter talks about angels who sinned. Those who “**did not keep their own position but left their proper dwelling.**”

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# Evil

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- ❖ John of Damascus:
- ❖ Satan was not made wicked in nature but was good, and made for good ends, and received from his Creator no trace whatever of evil in himself.
- ❖ But he did not sustain the brightness and honor which the Creator had bestowed on him, and of his **free will** was changed from what was in harmony to what was at variance with his nature,
- ❖ and became roused against God who created him, and determined to rise in rebellion against him: and he was the first to depart from good and become evil....

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# Evil

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- ❖ But along with him an innumerable host of angels subject to him were torn away and followed him and shared in his fall...they became wicked, turning away at their own free-will from good to evil.

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# Evil

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- ❖ While all early Christians believed in the reality of this angelic fall, not all saw it in the same detail.
- ❖ Origen said “What they are or how they exist is **not explained with sufficient clarity.**”

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# Evil

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- ❖ What does Genesis tell us about the fall of man?
- ❖ God created man and woman and placed them in the Garden of Eden.
- ❖ He gave them freedom to enjoy except for one tree whose fruit was not to be tasted.
- ❖ A serpent came to Eve and convinces her that its OK for her to eat of this forbidden fruit.
- ❖ She tasted it and then gave to Adam who also ate of it.



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# Evil

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- ❖ Their disobedience turned divine love to fear and communion with God to separation.
- ❖ Conscious of their sin they ran and hid.
- ❖ Failing to repent God cursed the serpent and sent Adam and Eve out of the Garden to suffer toil sickness and death of a mortal life.
- ❖ God protected them from eating from the tree of eternal life and being eternally separated from God.

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# Evil

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- ❖ In the Book of Revelation we see Satan as “that ancient serpent...the deceiver of the whole world.”
- ❖ Justin Martyr and other early Christian writers identified Satan with the snake making them interchangeable figures.

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# Evil

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- ❖ Why would Eve listen to the snake?
  - ❖ Snakes were not always feared but were seen as noble and attractive.
- ❖ The pseudepigraphical “The Life of Adam and Eve (Revelation of Moses),” widely read by early Christians, says that Satan employed the snake because Eve would believe the snake before any other creature.
- ❖ Serpents and seraphim are linguistic neighbors so maybe Eve’s snake was more like a dazzling angel before its curse. It was an upright creator in mind and stature.

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# Evil

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- ❖ What was Satan's motive?
  - ❖ He was jealous when God began making people in the divine image.
- ❖ Wisdom of Solomon says, "God created man for incorruption, and made him in the image of his own eternity [or nature],
- ❖ but through the devil's envy death entered the world. Envy of man, jealousy of his underserved immortality and divine image, drove the Devil to undermine him in the Garden." (Wisdom 2:23-24)

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# Evil

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❖ Irenaeus:

“Because of the many gifts of God [to man] the devil became jealous and looked on his with envy, and so ruined himself and made the man a sinner, persuading him to disobey the commandment of God.”

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# Evil

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❖ Cyprian of Carthage:

“When he beheld man made in the image of God, [Satan] broke forth into jealousy with malevolent envy—not hurling down another by the instinct of his jealousy before he himself was first hurled down in jealousy, captive before he takes captive, ruined before he ruins others.”

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# Evil

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- ❖ Augustine says the Devil “administered to man that cup of pride by which [he] was cast down.
- ❖ For this fallen [angel] said to man, envying his standing, ‘Taste, and you shall be as gods;’ that is, seize to yourselves by usurpation that which you are not made, for I also have been cast down by robbery.”

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# Evil

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- ❖ Paul indicates in his first letter to Timothy that pride caused the Devil's fall.
- ❖ Isn't Pride is the cause of all sin?
  - ❖ Envy flows from it like a foul smelling stream



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# Evil

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- ❖ How did Satan's sin begin?
  - ❖ by refusing to offer thanks and grace.
- ❖ Gregory of Nyssa explained it in his Great Catechism.
  - ❖ Satan "closed his eyes to the good and the ungrudging like one who in the sunshine lets his eyelids down upon his eyes and sees only darkness."
  - ❖ Shutting out the good, he "became [aware] of the contrary to goodness."

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# Evil

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- ❖ When one contemplates goodness what arises?
  - ❖ Thankfulness and gratitude.
- ❖ When we spurn goodness what is the result?
  - ❖ Nurtures ingratitude, sprouting many corrupting thoughts and emotions, especially envy.

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# Evil

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- ❖ As Satan nurtured envy in his heart, this set in motion his total corruption.
- ❖ How do we experience envy?

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# Evil

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- ❖ Gregory compared his fall to that of a rock from a mountain:
- ❖ “He dragged away from his original natural propensity to goodness and gravitating with all his weight in the direction of vice, was deliberately forced and born away as by a kind of gravitation to the utmost limit of iniquity.

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- ❖ Rejecting goodness Satan turned all his energies against what was good.
  - ❖ Gregory of Nyssa:  
He made his “better endowments...instruments in the discovery of contrivances for the purpose of vice, while by his crafty skill he deceives and circumvents man, persuading him to become his own murderer with his own hands...” the newly created image of God was given preeminence, appointed by God as “king over the earth and all things on it.”

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# Evil

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- ❖ For Early Fathers like Irenaeus, Cyprian, and Gregory of Nyssa, Satan was envious of humanity and fell following our creation.
- ❖ Why would he be envious?
- ❖ Others suggest that he first envied God and fell at some point prior to our Creation. Satan wanted all God's glory for himself.
- ❖ This latter view became the most common.

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# Evil

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❖ In Ezekiel

Eden's "anointed cherub" made his "heart [like] the heart of a god" and "corrupted [his] wisdom for the sake of [his ] splendor." So God "cast [him] as a profane thing out of the mountain of God." (Ez 28:1-19)

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# Evil

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- ❖ In Isaiah this self-vaunting figure claims to “ascend...above the stars of God” and make himself “like the Most high.” but is “brought down to Sheol, to the depths of the Pit.” (Isa 14:3-23)
- ❖ The name Lucifer and its identification with Satan come from this interpretation of Isaiah.



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# Evil

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- ❖ Agreeing on the precise moment that Satan fell is not as important as recognizing the fall actually happened and resulted in our own corruption through Adam and Eve.
- ❖ Do you find this hard to accept? I so why
- ❖ Our separation from God is the reason for the Incarnation, the Christ, to reunite man with God.

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# Evil

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- ❖ 2nd Peter says, “God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down.”
- ❖ Where in Scripture do we have images of falling flailing figures?
- ❖ In Luke 10 Jesus says he saw “Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”
- ❖ In Revelation we have a scene where Satan and a third of the angels are cast down.
- ❖ Important to note that these fallen angels are no longer in heaven but are existing in our earthly atmosphere.

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# Evil

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- ❖ John Chrysostom in his *Commentary on Ephesians* says,  
“Satan occupies the space under heaven, and...the incorporeal powers are spirits of the air, under his operation.”

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# Evil

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❖ John Cassian says:

“The atmosphere which extends between heaven and earth is ever filled with a thick crowd of spirits, which do not fly about in it quietly or idly, so that most fortunately the divine providence has withdrawn them from human sight.”

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# Evil

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- ❖ Cassian says, this is fortunate because they are terrible to behold.
- ❖ If God did not shield our eyes from them “men would either be driven out of their wits by an insufferable dread and faint away from inability to look on such things with bodily eyes, or else would daily grow worse and worse and be corrupted by their constant example and by imitating them...””



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# Evil

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- ❖ Archangel Gabriel informed Daniel about dealing with the demon princes over Persia and Greece.
- ❖ The Apostle Paul refers to dark Principalities and Powers.
- ❖ We have a picture of a hierarchy with levels of power. Unlike heaven's in that it is a hierarchy without humility.
- ❖ Beings motivated by pride are incapable of self-debasement and service.
- ❖ Only capable of self-vaunting. Coercion and evil is their only occupation.

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# Evil

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- ❖ Cassian says there is not a moment when they “desist from their wickedness.”
- ❖ Being bodiless they have no need of rest or food.
- ❖ Nothing “forces them...to desist from the purposes they have begun to carry out.

# Evil

- ❖ Fallen angels are usually depicted as spindly, scant figures with scrawny wings.
- ❖ Often depicted as shadowy bluish or blackened creatures indicating their separation from the divine light in which they were created.
- ❖ 1st century Epistle of Barnabas refers to Satan as the “Black One”.
- ❖ Gregory of Nanzianzus used the name “darkness.”





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# Evil

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- ❖ While we who are also fallen creatures have the opportunity for repentance this is not so for demons.
- ❖ Augustine says, “The Creator of all good has imparted no grace for the reparation of angelic evils.”

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# Evil

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- ❖ Angels are unlike us with weak bodies and they behold God constantly.
- ❖ So while man “comes to have repentance” because of “the weakness of his body” the angelic nature “is not capable of repentance because it is incorporeal, says John of Damascus

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# Evil

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- ❖ Demons are corrupted by envy and are unable and unwilling to have restoration of their own so they work intently to prevent ours.
- ❖ Satan who knows his fate endeavors “to make his situation our own” says Mark the Monk.
- ❖ He imagines Satan’s thought: Just as they have become my partners in evil, so too shall they be my companions in punishment....Just as [God] cast human beings out of paradise because of their one transgression and handed them to be punished eternally with me for the additional evils they do.”

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# Evil

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- ❖ Possession and Exorcisms  
What is your view?

*Power of Angels*

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# Celestial Stewards

Session 3: Angels and their  
Watchful Care of Israel

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# Celestial Stewards

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- ❖ What does it mean when we say Christianity is a religion of revelation?
- ❖ We are going to review OT and see how angels were revealed over time in support of Israelis.

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# A Fallen World

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- ❖ In the beginning we fell
- ❖ Basil the Great: *“You were appointed ruler of creation and you have renounced the nobility of your own nature.”*
- ❖ Worse he says, we made ourselves *“prisoners of the devil”* and let Satan take over our empty throne.
- ❖ Humanity surrendered itself to the Devil.

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# A Fallen World

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- ❖ Ephraim the Syrian : The Evil One “[wove] a *crown of lies*—and set his throne, as god in the world.”
- ❖ He, “possessed the world and all was subject to him, and there was no man able to escape the meshes of his *overwhelming might*:
- ❖ *he was worshipped by every one: everywhere he had temples and altars for sacrifice, and an innumerable multitude of worshippers.*”
- ❖ Jesus and Paul use the terms: **Ruler of the age, prince of the power of the air, god of this world.**



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# A Fallen World

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- ❖ Two points
- ❖ The devil **desires to be like God** and acts as if he is,
- ❖ but having rejected goodness, **he can only oppress and enslave.**
- ❖ Rather than pour out this grace on others, he seeks theirs for himself. **He craves worship.**
- ❖ Irenaeus says, *“he deceived and led astray the mind of man into disobeying the commandments of God, and gradually [darkened] the hearts of those who would endeavor to serve him, to the forgetting of the true God, but to the adoration of himself as God.”*

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# Angels in OT

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- ❖ We are fortunate - our subjection is **not permanent**.
- ❖ OT records that God **sent his angels to help us**.
- ❖ The Lord **charged angels with the care** of His chosen people and their story begins with Abraham.
- ❖ Then when the time was right, we will see later how the angels helped bring Christ for our salvation.

# Abraham

❖ Abraham's original home was Ur, Capital of Chaldean Empire in Mesopotamia ~1900 BC.

❖ What did God tell Abraham?

❖ *"Leave your country, your relatives, and your father's home, and go to a land that I am going to show you.*

*I will give you many descendants, and they will become a great nation. I will*

*bless you and make your name famous, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, But I will curse those who curse you. And through you I will bless all the nations."*

❖ He departed with father Terah and nephew Lot. (Gen. 11:31; Acts 7:2-4).



# Abraham

- ❖ His first stopping place was Haran in Mesopotamia.
- ❖ They lived here until after the death of his father Terah, and the Lord called again .

(Gen. 12:1-4; Acts 7:4).



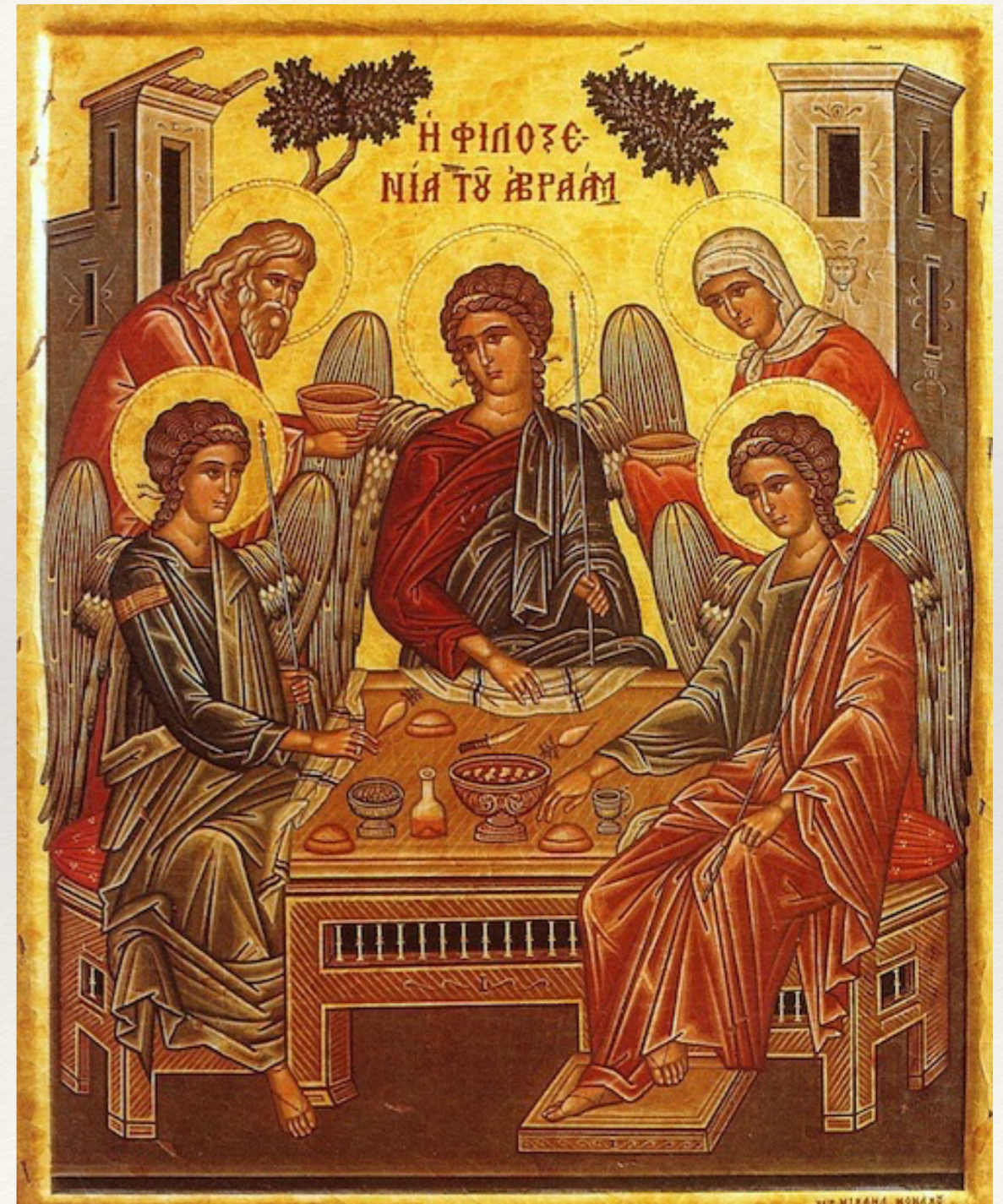
# Abraham

- ❖ Abraham and his nephew Lot departed Haran passing by the city of Damascus Aram (Syria).
- ❖ Shechem or Sicheem was the first place where Abraham came to in Canaan. The Lord appeared to Abraham again and confirmed his promises, and It was here at Shechem that Abraham built the first altar to the Lord (Gen. 12:6, 7).



# Abraham

- ❖ Once settled three angels came to visit him by the oak of Mamre.
- ❖ They appeared as men but he recognized them as divine appearance and called **the three Lord**.
- ❖ One prophesied that Sarah in her old age would give birth to a son.



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# Abraham

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- ❖ *And the Lord appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day.*
- ❖ *He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth and said,*
- ❖ *“O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree...*

# Abraham

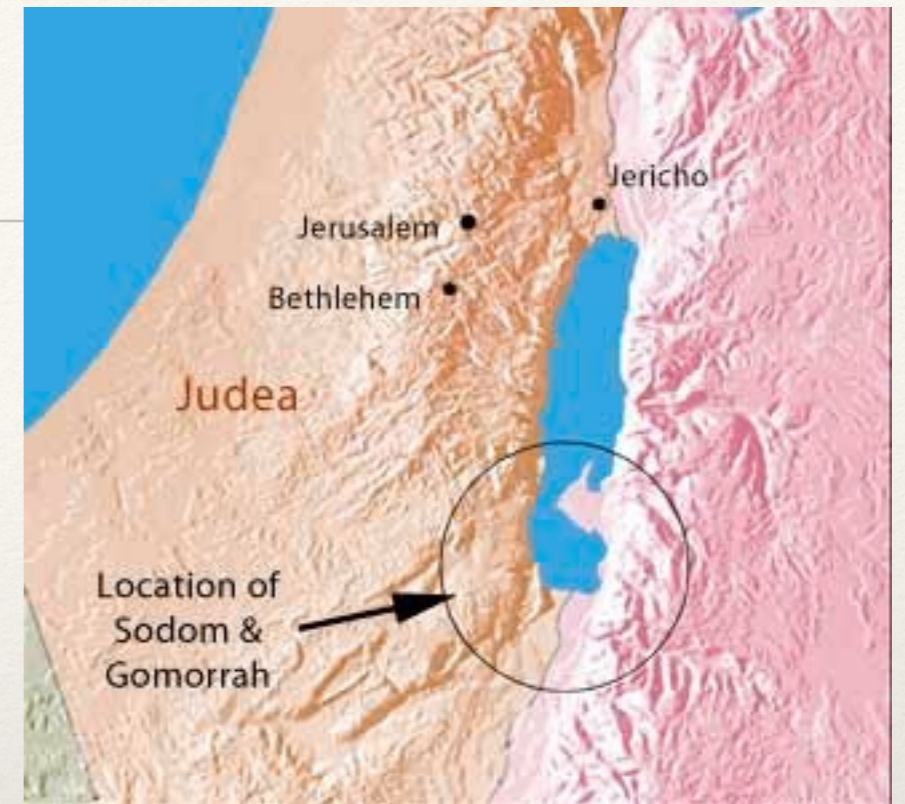
- ❖ He offers the best he has, shade and water for their feet.
- ❖ First revelation of the Holy Trinity.
- ❖ *“So God finished speaking to Abraham and left him, and Abraham turned and went home.”*





# Lot

- ❖ Here we have our first encounter with guardian messenger angels.
- ❖ Lot lived in Sodom nearby
- ❖ God sent two angels there to investigate the reports of great evil and protect Lot and family.
- ❖ Deals with one of man's greatest sins, Sodomy.



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# Lot

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- ❖ Angels appeared to Lot by the gate and he invited them to rest at his house.
- ❖ His house was then surrounded by men who wanted to misuse the visitors.
- ❖ Angels dragged Lot to safety in his house and smote the attackers with blindness.
- ❖ They led his family out of the city.
- ❖ They were saved because of the prayers of Abraham testifying to the power of intercessory prayer.
- ❖ The angels returned to destroy the city.      Message?

# Hagar

- ❖ Story of Hagar - Who was Hagar?
- ❖ Abrahams slave who had born him
- ❖ Sarah convinced Abraham to send Hagar and the boy into the wilderness.



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# Hagar

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- ❖ *When the water was gone, she put the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, “Let me not look on the death of the child.”*
- ❖ *As she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept.*



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# Hagar

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- ❖ *God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What troubles you, Hagar?”*
- ❖ *Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is.*
- ❖ *Up! Lift up the boy, and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make him into a great nation.”*
- ❖ *Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. And she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink. (Gen 21:15-19)*



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# Hagar

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- ❖ Hagar's angel was **both guardian and messenger** who revealed to her God's loving care for the outcast and the illegitimate.
- ❖ What is the son's name and what future role does he play?
- ❖ **Ishmael** - recognized by Muslims as the ancestor of several prominent Arab tribes and being the forefather of Muhammad.
- ❖ Muslims also believe that Muhammad was the descendant of Ishmael who would establish a great nation, as promised by God in the Old Testament.

# Abraham

- ❖ The promised child arrives: **Isaac**
- ❖ Abraham challenged to offer him as a sacrifice. What happens?
- ❖ **An angel intervenes** at last moment enlightening that true worship of the true God requires no human sacrifice. This was a sacrifice reserved for only God himself. Gen 22:1-12



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# Abraham

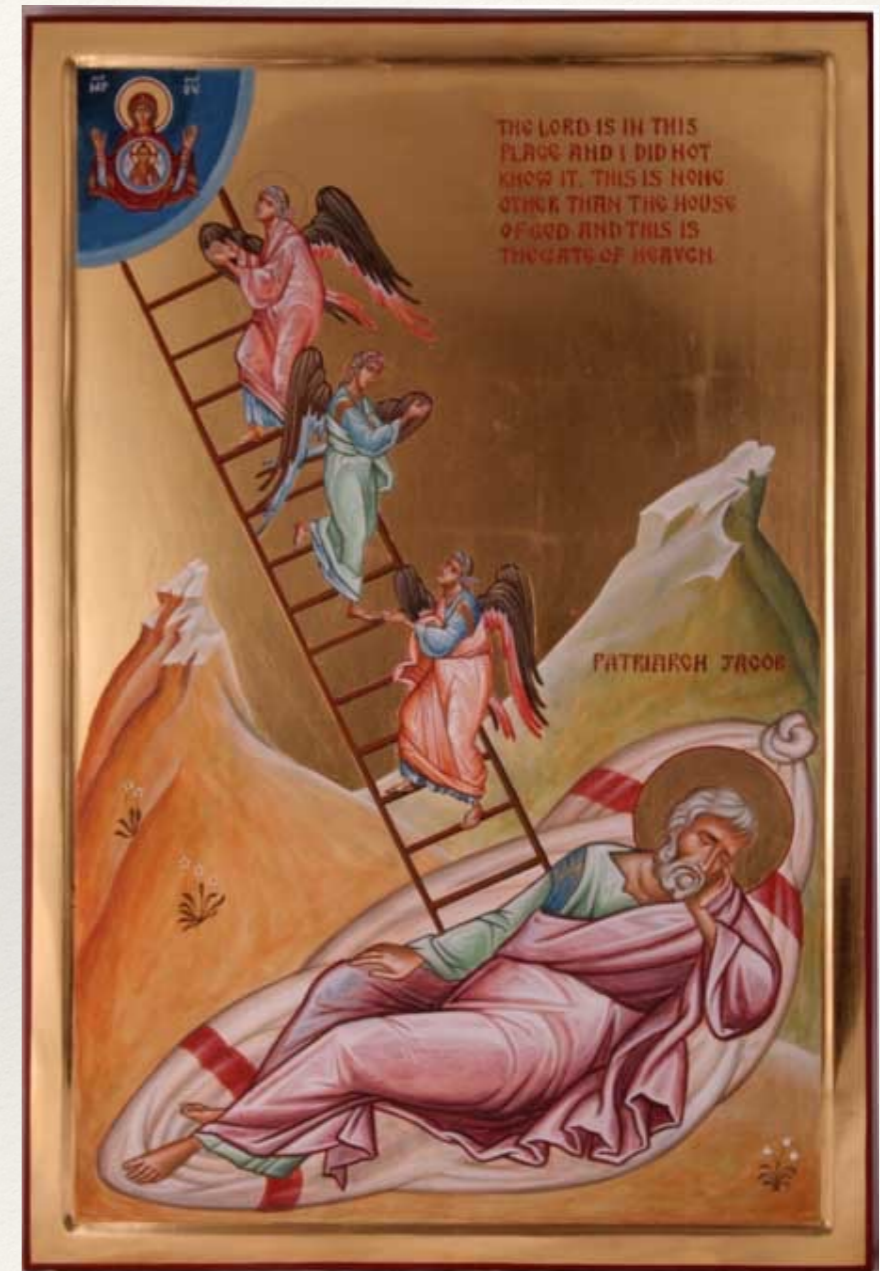
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- ❖ Isaac comes of age and Abraham seeks a wife for him.
- ❖ Sends his steward and then Abraham told him the Lord will “*send an angel with you and prosper your way.*” (Gen 24:7)
- ❖ Here the angel directs by inspiration.
- ❖ Isaac is led safely to Rebekah and they had two sons Esau and Jacob.
- ❖ Jacob later has intense experience with angels.



# Jacob

- ❖ Jacob was threatened with murder by his brother so flees.
- ❖ He laid down and had a dream of angels traversing a ladder that stretched from earth to heaven.
- ❖ First clear picture of the heavenly hosts.
- ❖ Promised again that all people would be blessed through his offspring.
- ❖ Latter an angel comes to him directing him to return home.



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# Jacob

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- ❖ Fearing an armed conflict with his brother Esau what happens?
- ❖ He meets up with an army of angels.
- ❖ An angel wrestled with him preparing him for conflict.
- ❖ He learned how weak he was as well as his strengths.
- ❖ In this way God developed his faith and gave him the name Israel.



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# Lessons from Genesis

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- ❖ What are two clear attributes of angels we have seen so far?
  - ❖ **Guardian and messenger.**
- ❖ The examples were all **servers of God.**  
We will only see angels when we are servers of God, fulfilling His commandment and reflecting God's will.

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# Moses

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- ❖ Jacob and family migrate into Egypt and become enslaved.
- ❖ Who was called to free them?
- ❖ What dramatic event gives Moses direction?
- ❖ Encounters God in the wilderness through angelic appearance of a flaming bush.
- ❖ **Speaking through an angel** God gave Moses directions.



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# Moses

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- ❖ Angels manifested as a pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night.
- ❖ Protected them as they crossed the Red Sea and blocked the advance of the enemy as they escaped.
- ❖ God gave him Ten commandments, the Laws and Ordinances, and finally a guardian angel.

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# Moses

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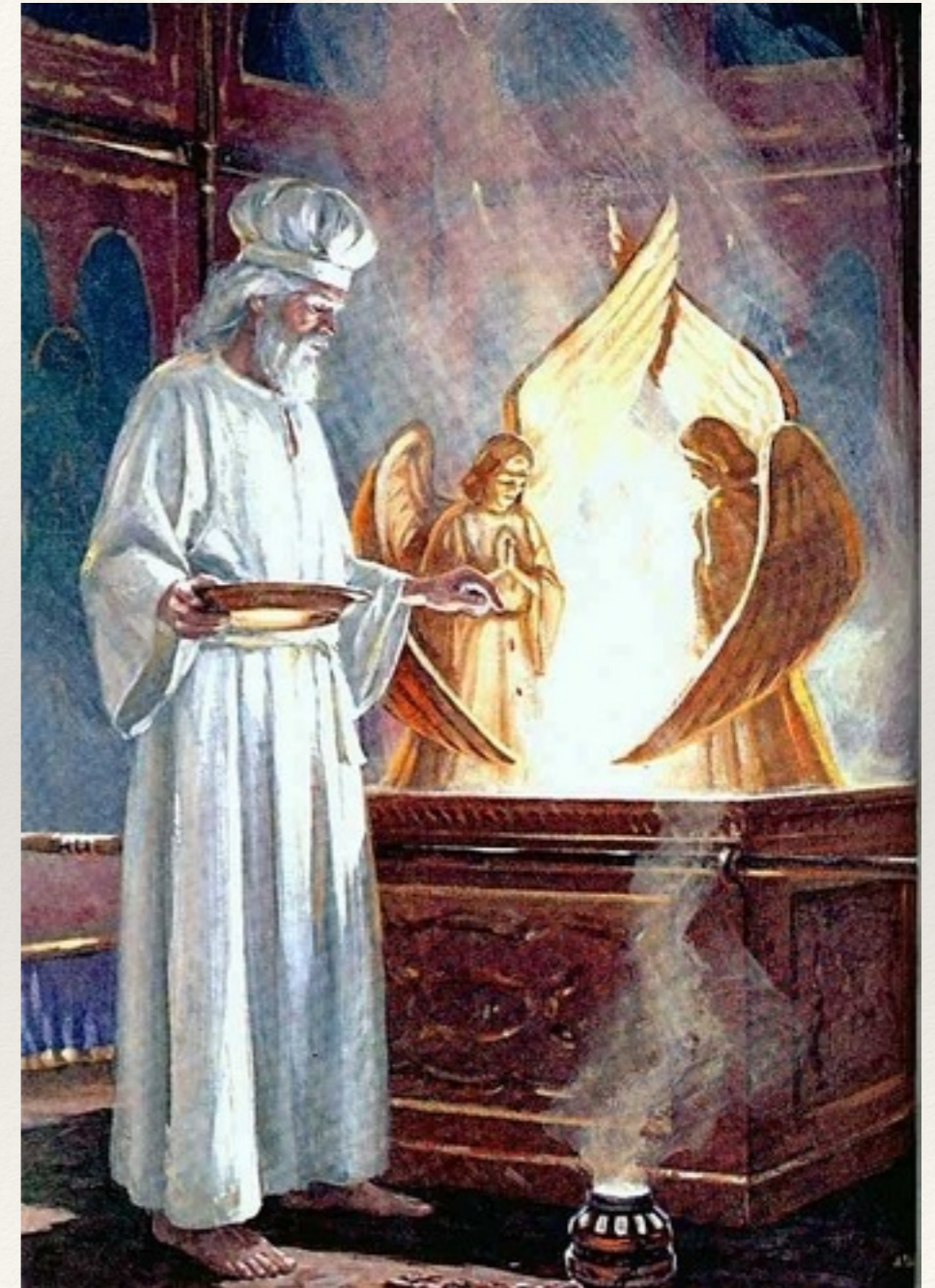
- ❖ *“Behold, I send an angel before you to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared.*
- ❖ *Pay careful attention to him and obey his voice; do not rebel against him, for he will not pardon your transgression, for my name is in him.*
- ❖ *But if you carefully obey his voice and do all that I say, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.* (Ex 23:20-22)

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# Moses

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- ❖ God gave Moses instructions as to how to make the Tabernacle.
- ❖ The mercy seat symbolizes the throne of God (like seat of government)
- ❖ Cherubim figuratively bear and uphold the throne being the closest to God
- ❖ The Tabernacle is called the “tent of meeting” its focal point where God meets His people in presence of angels.
- ❖ The same is true today around the altar of our church



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# Moses

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- ❖ Cherubim were also embroidered on the veil that was hung before the Holy of Holies.
- ❖ The closeness of angels to both God and man needed to be emphasized.
- ❖ Emphasizes this need today in our secularized society and desacralized civilization.





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# Joshua

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- ❖ Moses never reached the promised land.
- ❖ Joshua led the Israelites into Canaan aware of the **help from the guardian angel**.
- ❖ **What problem did they now face?**
- ❖ Obstacle of the fortified city of Jericho.
- ❖ How did they overcome it?

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# Joshua

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- ❖ *When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand.*
- ❖ *And Joshua went to him and said to him, “Are you for us, or for our adversaries?”*
- ❖ *And he said, “No; but I am the commander of the army of the Lord. Now I have come.”*
- ❖ *And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped (Jos 5:13-15)*
- ❖ **How did the Lord instruct him?**

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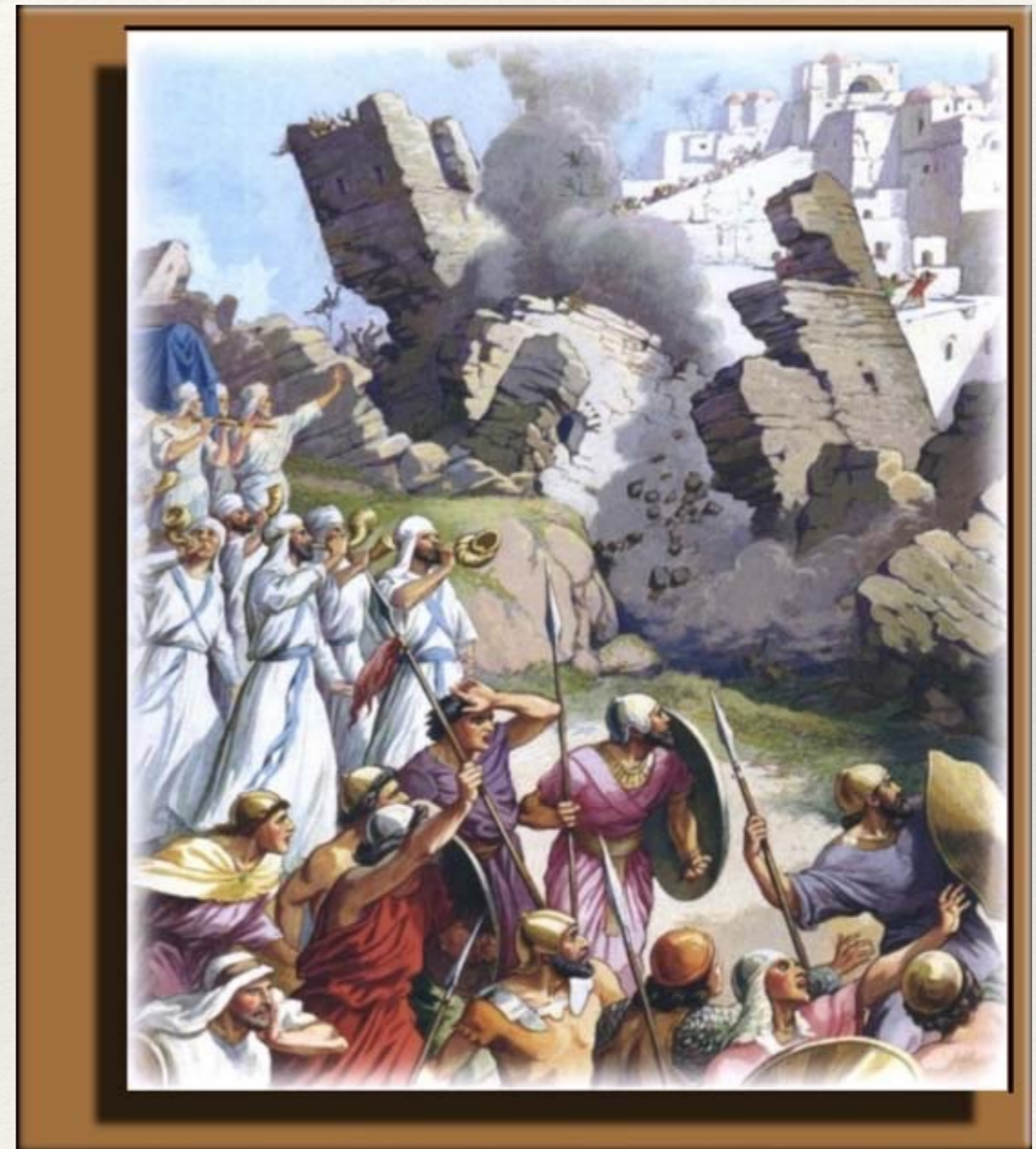
# Joshua

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- ❖ *The Lord said to Joshua, “See, I have handed Jericho over to you, along with its king and soldiers. You shall march around the city, all the warriors circling the city once.*
- ❖ *Thus you shall do for six days, with seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark.*
- ❖ *On the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, the priests blowing the trumpets.*

# Joshua

- ❖ *When they make a long blast with the ram's horn, as soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and all the people shall charge straight ahead."*
- ❖ And in this way the city was conquered.



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# Conception of Samson

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- ❖ The Lord's angels seemed to come to poor distraught faithful women who were humiliated by their barrenness.
- ❖ Who do you know?
- ❖ The best known is **Sarah** wife of Abraham, **Elizabeth** mother of John the Baptist, and nameless wife of Manoah, **mother of Samson**.

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# Conception of Samson

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- ❖ Manoah lived during the time when *“Once again, the sons of Israel defied the Lord, and for forty years he left them at the mercy of the Philistines”* (Jgs 13:1).
- ❖ His wife barren, sad and humiliated was visited by an angel who promised her a son who would be mighty in strength and deeds.

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# Conception of Samson

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- ❖ And the angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, *“Behold, you are barren and have not borne children, but you shall conceive and bear a son.*
- ❖ *Therefore be careful and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for behold, you shall conceive and bear a son.*
- ❖ *No razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb, and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines.”*

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# Conception of Samson

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- ❖ The revelation of the angel's true personality came like a flash
- ❖ A flame burning with pure love of God.
- ❖ We may presume this was Gabriel, God's special messenger.
- ❖ We don't know the names of angels but they are revealed by their function.



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# Conception of Samson

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- ❖ The couple was filled with fear to witness such a mystery.
- ❖ Manoah thought they would surely die. But by the deep faith of his wife he was assured.
- ❖ *But his wife said to him, “If the Lord had meant to kill us, he would not have accepted a burnt offering and a grain offering at our hands, or shown us all these things, or now announced to us such things as these.”*
- ❖ *And the woman bore a son and called his name Samson. And the young man grew, and the Lord blessed him. (Judges 13:23-24)*

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# Conception of Samson

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- ❖ Based on Samson's conception and vocation we can understand that God desires our good at all times and His angels are close at hand to help and guide, inspire, and sustain those who are faithful.
- ❖ *Apart from God, I have thee, Holy Angel, a gift from the Lord, to be my provider, advisor, helper, and defense; Therefore, I pray thee, do not cease to advise, admonish and direct me, teaching me to act worthy, enlightening my mind until thou bring me redeemed unto Christ.* (Canon to the Guardian Angel, Canticle VIII, Troparian I)

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# Gideon

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- ❖ Following Moses and Joshua the Israelites had no great leader to lead them
- ❖ Turned to local leaders called judges
- ❖ Were prone to an affluent life and became self-complacent.
- ❖ There were no longer feared or respected by their enemies.
- ❖ Israelites turned to worship false Gods.
- ❖ For 200 yrs they suffered wars, invasion, persecution and oppression.

# Gideon

- ❖ When enduring invasions by the Midianites **an angel came** to Gideon to stir up his courage to liberate his people.



- ❖ *The angel of Yahweh appeared to him, and said to him, "Yahweh is with you, you mighty man of valor!" Gideon said to him, "Oh, my lord, if Yahweh is with us, why then has all this happened to us?*
- ❖ *Where are all his wondrous works which our fathers told us of, saying, 'Didn't Yahweh bring us up from Egypt?' But now Yahweh has cast us off, and delivered us into the hand of Midian."*

# Gideon



- ❖ *Yahweh looked at him, and said, "Go in this your might, and save Israel from the hand of Midian. Haven't I sent you?"*
- ❖ *He said to him, "O Lord, how shall I save Israel? Behold, my family is the poorest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house."*
- ❖ *Yahweh said to him, "Surely I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man." (Judges 6:2-24.)*

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# Gideon

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- ❖ Gideon Was able to enter into battle with the power of the Lord and freed the Israelites.
- ❖ They asked Gideon to be their king but with great modesty and humility he replied:
  - ❖ *“Neither I nor any son of mine shall bear rule over you; the Lord shall be your ruler.”* (Judges 8:23)
- ❖ They did not heed the wisdom of Gideon and began to worship Baal and continued their tragic history.

# Prophets

- ❖ Prophets of the OT cover span of 600 years
- ❖ They were seers who could envisage God ruling over the universe.
- ❖ Their main message was *“God is in heaven and his Kingdom must and will prevail.”*
- ❖ Humble men, they heard and obeyed God who spoke to them directly using dreams or angels.



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# Prophets

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- ❖ Sometimes when we undertake a difficult mission to do what we think is God's will we find ourselves unsuccessful.
- ❖ We fail to stop and consider our reason for difficulty.
- ❖ Often it's God's way of telling us that we have taken the wrong turn.
- ❖ In Numbers 22 we have such an example in Balaam



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# Balaam

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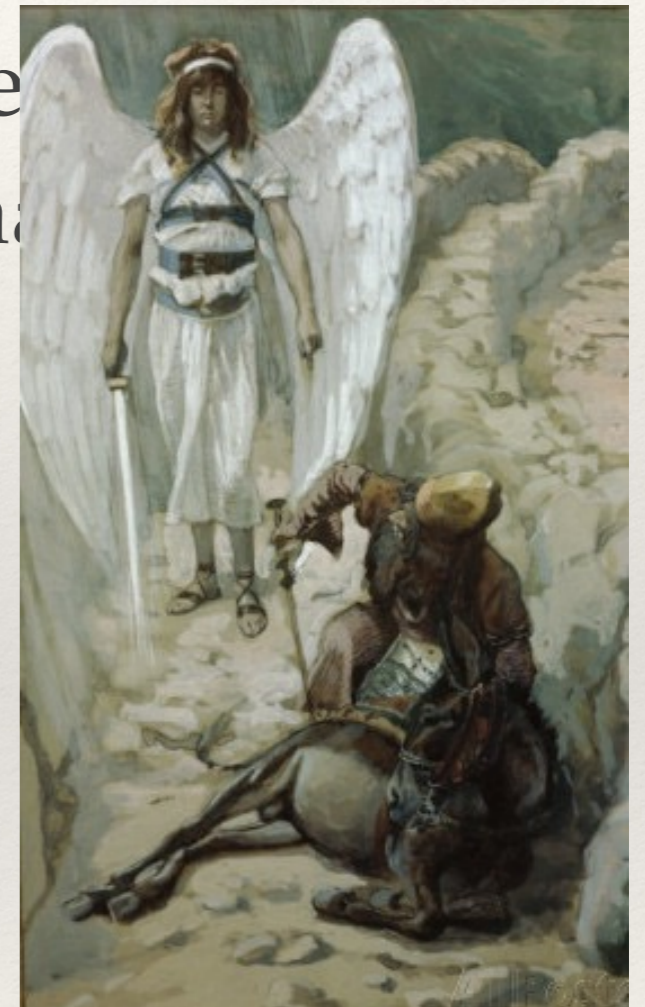
- ❖ Balaam was a minor prophet.
- ❖ Wasn't an Israelite but believed in God.
- ❖ He was called for a large sum of money by the King of Moab to curse the people of Israel.
- ❖ He at first refused.
- ❖ He took on the journey to see the king with hope of satisfying both God and the King.
- ❖ Whats the problem here?

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# Balaam

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- ❖ He made journey riding on a donkey
- ❖ Suddenly **the donkey saw the angel** of the Lord and he lay down under Balaam because he was afraid; so he struck the donkey against the wall; so he struck it.
- ❖ Then the angel of the Lord goes on ahead, and stands in a narrow place, where there was no way to turn either to the right or to the left.
- ❖ Seeing the angel the donkey lay down under Balaam kindling his anger. He strikes the donkey with his staff.



# Balaam



- ❖ The Lord opened the mouth of the donkey, and it says to Balaam, *“What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?”*
- ❖ Startled, Balaam says to the donkey, *“Because you have made a fool of me! I wish I had a sword in my hand! I would kill you right now!”*
- ❖ The donkey says to Balaam, *“Am I not your donkey, which you have ridden all your life to this day? Have I been in the habit of treating you this way?”* And he said, *“No.”*

# Balaam

- ❖ Then the Lord opened the eyes of Balaam, and **he saw the angel** standing in the road, with his drawn sword in his hand; and he bowed down, falling on his face.
- ❖ The angel said to him, *“Why have you struck your donkey these three times? I have come out as an adversary, because your way is perverse before me.*



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# Balaam

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- ❖ The donkey saw me, and turned away from me these three times. If it had not turned away from me, surely just now I would have killed you and let it live.” 34
- ❖ Then Balaam said to the angel of the Lord, “I have sinned, for I did not know that you were standing in the road to oppose me. Now therefore, if it is displeasing to you, I will return home.”
- ❖ 35 The angel of the Lord said to Balaam, “Go with the men; but speak only what I tell you to speak.” So Balaam went on with the officials of Balak. (Numbers 22:21-39)

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# Balaam and His Donkey

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- ❖ Speaking Donkeys???
- ❖ We know today through science that animals also possess extraordinary faculties.
- ❖ Or faith is not concerned about the animal world but we do have many of the characteristics of animals.
- ❖ Balaam was determined to do his own will and was aggravated by the action of his beast of burden who seemed to act as pig headed as his master.
- ❖ The **angel protected him** from doing harm to Israelis like the guardian angels we all receive at our baptism.

*Power of Angels*

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# Celestial Stewards

Session 4: Angels and their  
Watchful Care of Israel  
Continued

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# Elijah

- ❖ By 9th century BC, Kingdom of Israel, once united under King Solomon, was divided into northern Kingdom of Israel and southern Kingdom of Judah
- ❖ Omri, now King of Israel, continued policies encouraged building local temple altars for sacrifices, appointing priests from outside the family of the Levites, and encouraged temples dedicated to the Canaanite god, Baal.





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# Elijah

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- ❖ Omri achieved domestic security with a marriage alliance between his son Ahab and princess Jezebel,
- ❖ Who was Jezebel?
  - ❖ Priestess of Baal and the daughter of the king of Sidon in Phoenicia.
- ❖ Brought security and economic prosperity to Israel for a time, but did not bring peace with Israelite prophets.
- ❖ Ahab builds a temple for Baal, and allows his wife Jezebel to bring a large entourage of priests and prophets of Baal and Asherah into the country.



# Elijah

- ❖ Who was Baal?
  - ❖ Canaanite god responsible for rain, thunder, lightning, and dew.
- ❖ Enter Elijah
- ❖ Elijah not only challenges Baal on behalf of his own God, Yahweh, he challenges Jezebel, her priests, Ahab and the people of Israel.
- ❖ Elijah warns Ahab that there will be years of catastrophic drought and a 3 yr drought ensues



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# Elijah

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- ❖ What does Elijah do?
- ❖ Proposes a direct test of the powers of Baal and Yahweh. Which God will bring relief.

# Elijah

- ❖ Elijah told them to build an altar to Baal while he built one to God.
- ❖ They laid wood and a sacrificial calf on each.
- ❖ Priests of Baal called on Baal to send down fire but after hours there was no fire.
- ❖ Elijah mocks them says perhaps Baal sleeps and gives order to drench His altar with water so the wood was soaked.



# Elijah

- ❖ He speaks quietly to God asking Him to send down fire so the hearts of the people will return to Him.
- ❖ Instantly soaked logs burst into flames and in seconds all was burnt to ashes.
- ❖ Afterwards, sky darkened and rains fell.



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# Elijah

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- ❖ What does Jezebel do?
  - ❖ In vengeance planned to kill Elijah as she had done with other prophets. Elijah flees to the wilderness.
- ❖ Elijah feeling despair throws himself down under a juniper tree and prayed for release by death.
- ❖ *“I can bear no more , Lord, he said; put an end to my life; I have no better right to live than my fathers.”* (1Kings 19:4)

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# Elijah

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- ❖ Falling asleep **an angel** comes to him.
- ❖ *Unexpectedly, someone touched him and said to him, “arise and eat.” Then Elijah looked, and there by his head was a cake made of wheat and a jar of water. So he ate and drank and lay down again. Again the angel of the Lord came to him, touched him, and said, “arise and eat because the journey is a great many days for you.” So he arose, ate and drank*
- ❖ Lesson: God stands by all who do His bidding and his angels bring strength.

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# Elijah

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- ❖ Elijah saw God as the **Master of the angelic world**. Was first to call Him “*God of Hosts.*”
- ❖ He looked to God for all things.
- ❖ Elijah was not to know death, but was translated to heaven like Enoch.  
*“...a flaming chariot appeared, drawn by flaming horses and Elijah went up on a whirlwind into heaven.”* (2Kings 2:11)





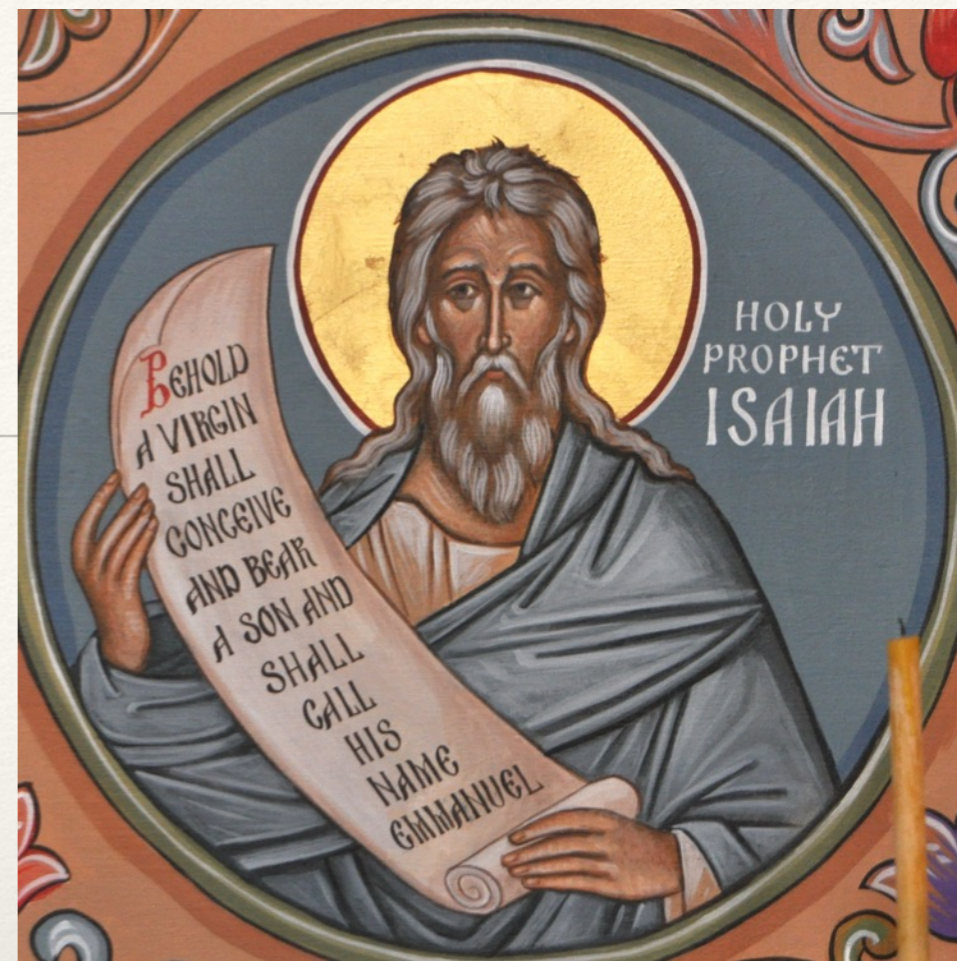
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# Elijah

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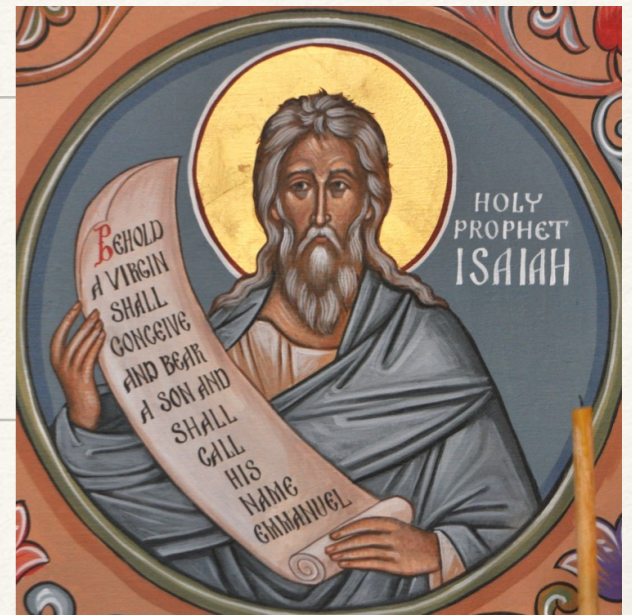
- ❖ Prophets could count on angelic protection.
- ❖ Psalmist declares,  
**God's angel** *“encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.”*
- ❖ What is basis for this protection?
  - ❖ Faithfulness and obedience.

# Isaiah



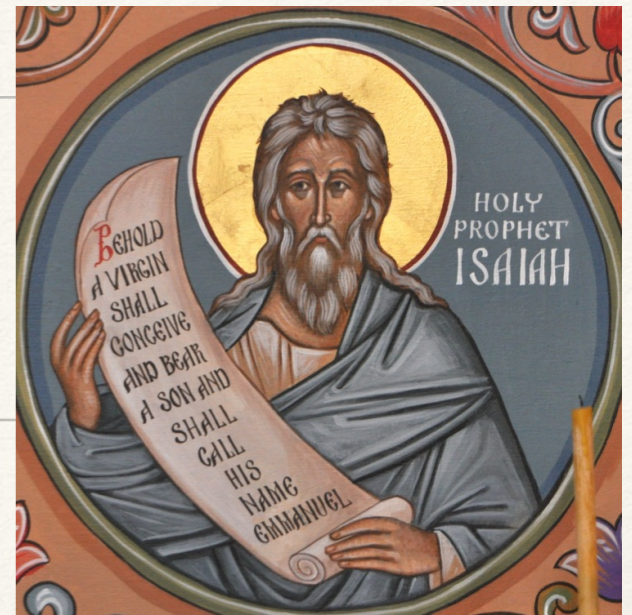
- ❖ Isaiah is one of the greatest prophets
- ❖ Isaiah prophesied during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, the kings of Judah (Isaiah 1:1).  
Uzziah's reign was 52 years in the middle of the 8th century BCE.
- ❖ He warned the people what would happen if they disobeyed God and told them of the coming of the Messiah.
- ❖ He has given us a vivid and detailed account of the heavenly realm. He *“saw the Lord sitting on a throne.”* (Is 6:1)

# Isaiah



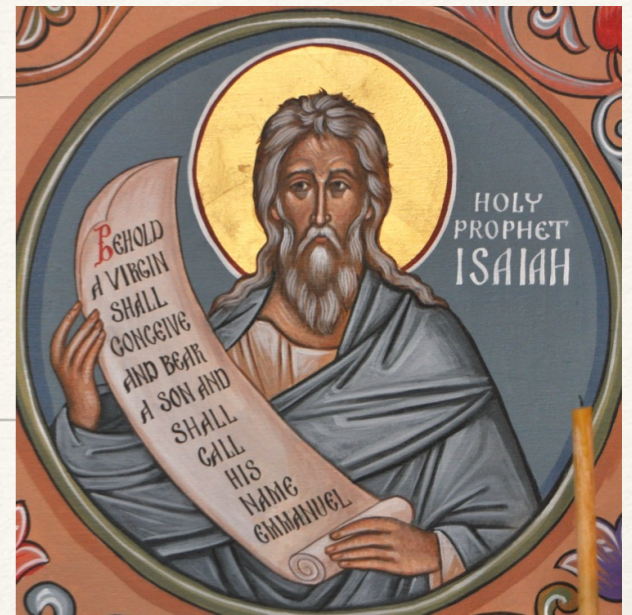
- ❖ *6:1 And it came to pass in the year in which king Uzziah died, that I saw the Lord sitting on a high and exalted throne, and the house was full of his glory.*
- ❖ *2 And seraphs stood round about him: each one had six wings: and with two they covered their face, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew.*
- ❖ *3 And one cried to the other, and they said, **Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.***

# Isaiah



- ❖ *4 And the lintel shook at the voice they uttered, and the house was filled with smoke.*
- ❖ *5 And I said, Woe is me, for I am pricked to the heart; for being a man, and having unclean lips, I dwell in the midst of a people having unclean lips; and I have seen with mine eyes the King, the Lord of hosts.*
- ❖ *6 And there was sent to me one of the seraphs, and he had in his hand a coal, which he had taken off the altar with the tongs:*

# Isaiah

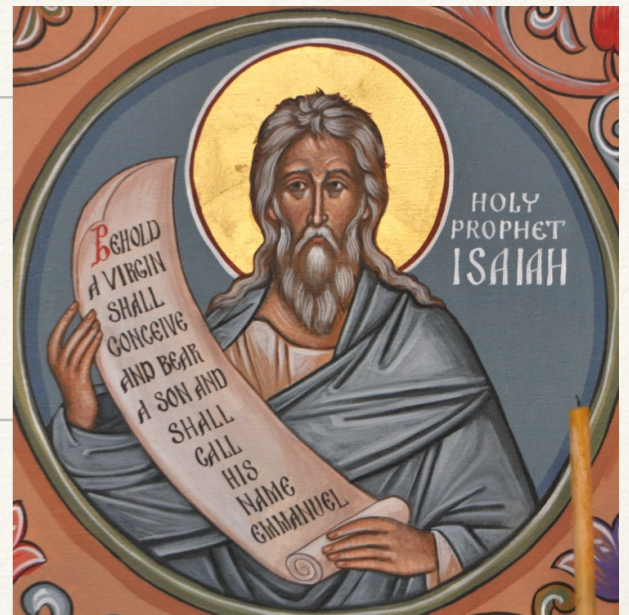


- ❖ *7 and he touched my mouth, and said, Behold, this has touched thy lips, and will take away thine iniquities, and will purge off thy sins.*
- ❖ *8 And I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go to this people? And I said, behold, I am here, send me.*

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# Isaiah

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- ❖ Isaiah fell to the ground beholding so great a glory.
- ❖ This purifying grace came to him by the **ministering hand of a seraph** of God.
- ❖ Only record we have that one of highest choirs came in contact with a human.
- ❖ His words are paraphrased in the liturgy when the clergy partakes of Holy Communion and says, "This has touched my lips; my iniquity shall be taken away, and my sin purged."

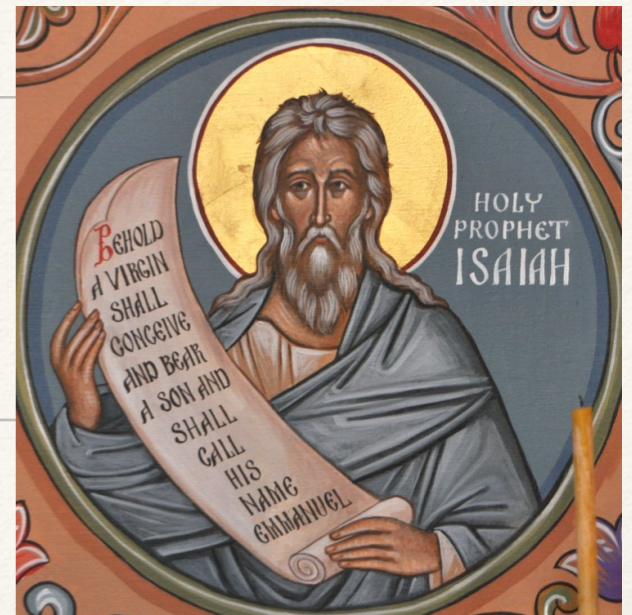
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# Isaiah

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- ❖ Our sin is taken away when we, like Isaiah, become aware of our dreadful moral uncleanness before our Lord, the king of Hosts.
- ❖ He also needs us to take action and to do **whatever** He commands of us.
- ❖ Can we too say, **“Hear I am, send me!”**?

# Isaiah



- ❖ Isaiah also gives us insight into the fallen angel Lucifer.
- ❖ *How has Lucifer, that rose in the morning, fallen from heaven! He that sent orders to all the nations is crushed to the earth.*
- ❖ *13 But thou saidst in thine heart, I will go up to heaven, I will set my throne above the stars of heaven: I will sit on a lofty mount, on the lofty mountains toward the north:*
- ❖ *14 I will go up above the clouds: I will be like the Most High.*



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# Isaiah

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- ❖ He gives us the image of the proud will of Satan.
- ❖ The Fathers connect this with the words of Christ, “...*I watched , while Satan was cast down like a lightning flash from heaven.*” (Lk 10:18)

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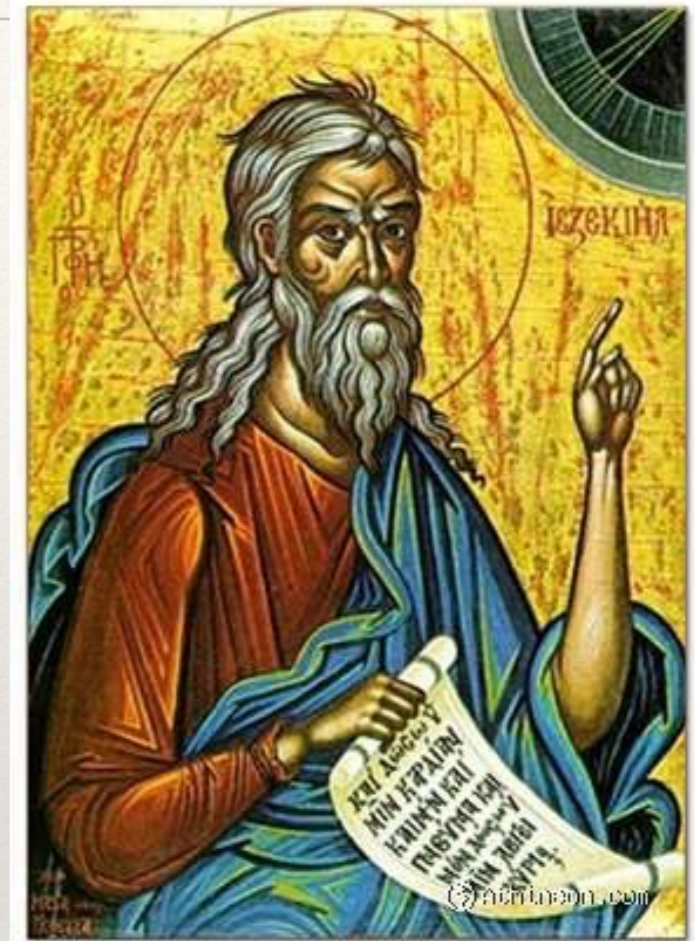
# Isaiah

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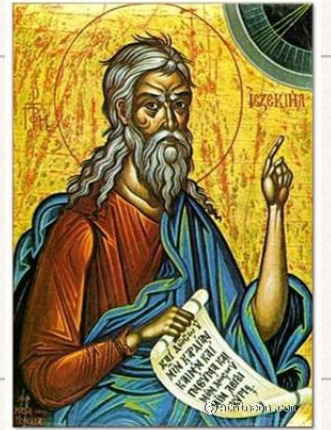
- ❖ Song Isaiah heard the angels sing re-echoes in our hymn of praise in the Divine Liturgy after we recite Creed:
- ❖ *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabbath, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Hosanna in the Highest! Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord; Hosanna in the Highest!*

# Ezekiel

- ❖ Ezekiel also speaks of glory of God in heaven.
- ❖ Ezekiel and his wife where exiles from Judah came to seek his prophetic insights.  
Born 622 BC
- ❖ Ezekiel saw God amidst the disaster that over took his nation in Babylonia.
- ❖ He sees God in a storm of glory and did not fear to face that storm. We too must be able to look into its midst and see the saving truth.



# Ezekiel

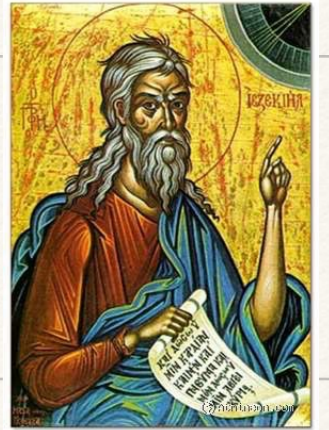


- ❖ *4 And I looked, and, behold, a sweeping wind came from the north, and a great cloud on it, and there was brightness round about it, and gleaming fire, and in the midst of it as it were the appearance of amber in the midst of the fire, and brightness in it.*
- ❖ *5 And in the midst as it were the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance; the likeness of a man was upon them.*
- ❖ *6 And each one had four faces, and each one had four wings.*
- ❖ *7 And their legs were straight; and their feet were winged, and there were sparks, like gleaming brass, and their wings were light.*

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# Ezekiel

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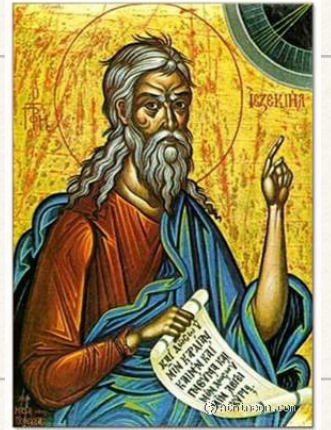


- ❖ *And the hand of a man was under their wings on their four sides.*
- ❖ *And the faces of them four turned not when they went; they went everyone straight forward.*
- ❖ *And the likeness of their faces was the face of a man, and the face of a lion on the right of the four; and the face of a calf on the left of the four; and the face of an eagle to the four.*

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# Ezekiel

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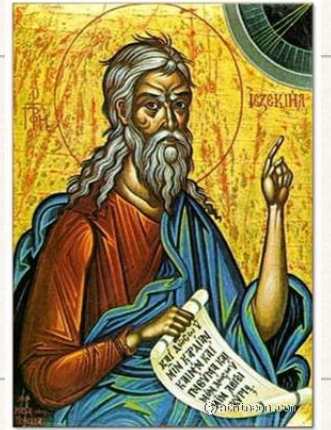


- ❖ *And the four had their wings spread out above; each one had two joined to one another, and two covered their bodies.*
- ❖ *And each one went straight forward: wherever the spirit was going they went, and turned not back.*

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# Ezekiel

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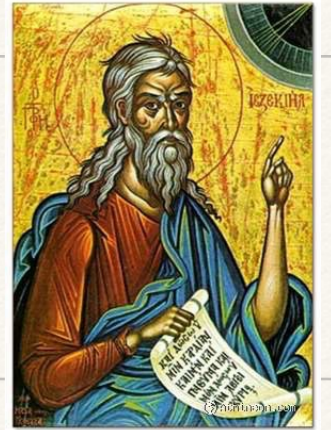


- ❖ *And in the midst of the living creatures there was an appearance as of burning coals of fire, as an appearance of lamps turning among the living creatures; and the brightness of fire, and out of the fire came forth lightning.*
- ❖ *And I looked, and, behold, the four had each one wheel on the ground near the living creatures.*

- 
- 
- ❖ *And the appearance of the wheels was as the appearance of beryl: and the four had one likeness: and their work was as it were a wheel in a wheel.*
  - ❖ *They went on their four sides: they turned not as they went; neither did their backs turn: and they were high: and I beheld them, and the backs of them four were full of eyes round about.*



# Ezekiel

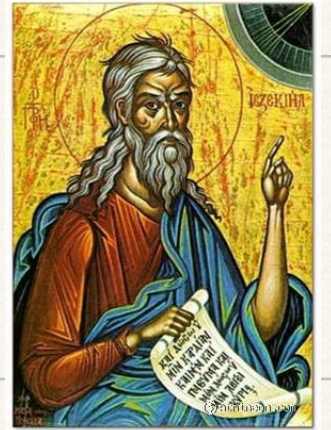


- ❖ *And when the living creatures went, the wheels went by them: and when the living creatures lifted themselves off the earth, the wheels were lifted off.*
- ❖ *Wherever the cloud happened to be, there was the spirit ready to go: the wheels went and were lifted up with them; because the spirit of life was in the wheels.*
- ❖ *When those went, the wheels went; and when those stood, the wheels stood; and when those lifted themselves off the earth, they were lifted off with them: for the spirit of life was in the wheels.*

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# Ezekiel

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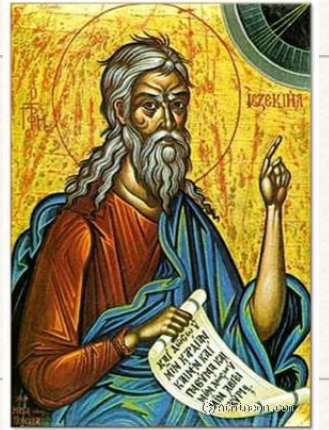


- ❖ *And the likeness over the heads of the living creatures was as a firmament, as the appearance of crystal, spread out over their wings above.*
- ❖ *And their wings were spread out under the firmament, reaching one to the other; two wings to each, covering their bodies.*
- ❖ *And I heard the sound of their wings when they went, as the sound of much water: and when they stood, their wings were let down.*

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# Ezekiel

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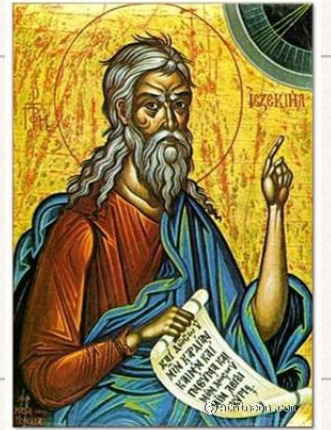


- ❖ *And lo! a voice from above the firmament that was over their head,*
- ❖ *there was as the appearance of a sapphire stone, and the likeness of a throne upon it:*
- ❖ *and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as an appearance of a man above.*

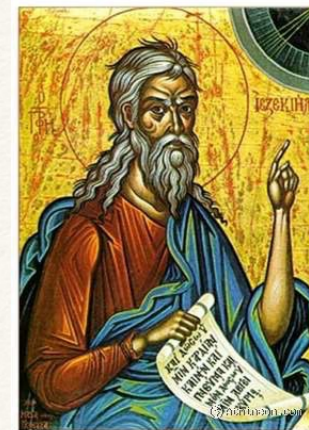
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# Ezekiel

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- ❖ *And I saw as it were the resemblance of amber from the appearance of the loins and upwards,*
- ❖ *and from the appearance of the loins and under I saw an appearance of fire, and the brightness thereof round about.*
- ❖ *As the appearance of the bow when it is in the cloud in days of rain, so was the form of brightness round about.*



- ❖ *This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord.*
- ❖ *And I saw and fell upon my face, and heard the voice of one speaking: and he said to me, Son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak to thee.*

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# Ezekiel

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- ❖ Wow???
- ❖ Must be cautious in interpreting these symbolic descriptions.
- ❖ Dionysius Says,  
*Theology in its scared utterance regarding the formless  
Intelligences does indeed use poetic symbolism, having regard to  
our intelligences...*
- ❖ *For it might be said that the reason for attributing shape, and  
forms to that which is beyond form , is not only the feebleness of  
our intellectual power which is unable to rise at once to spiritual  
contemplation...*

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# Ezekiel

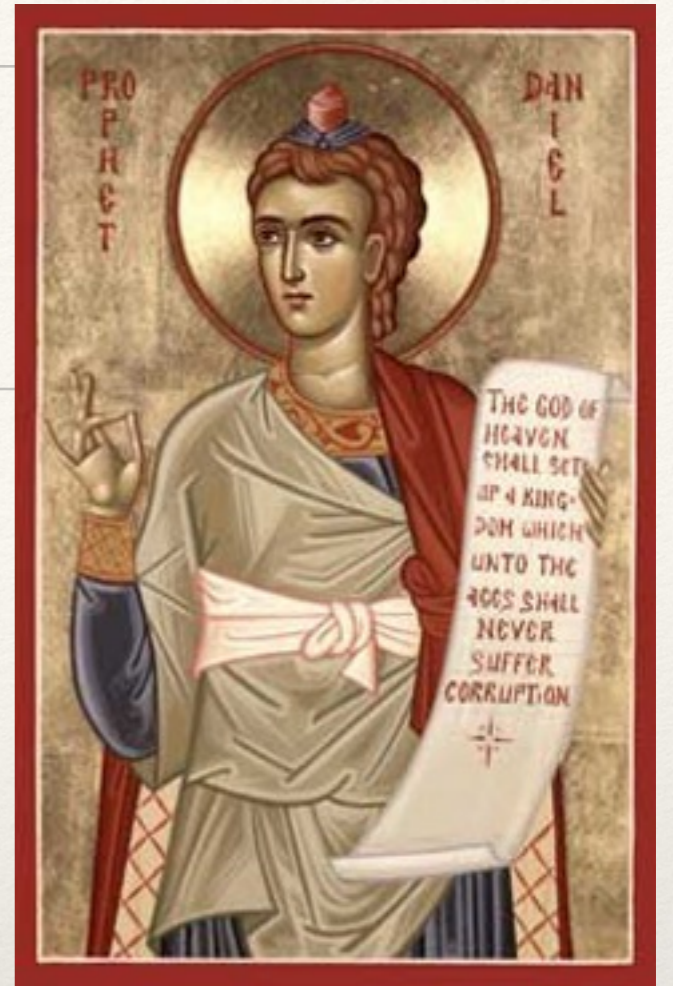
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- ❖ *but it is also because it is most fitting that the secret doctrines, through ineffable and holy enigmas, should veil and render difficult of access for the multitude the sublime and profound truth of the supernatural Intelligences.*
- ❖ *For as the scripture declares, not everyone is holy, not have all my knowledge.*

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# Daniel

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- ❖ The book of Daniel is about faith with which we can always have hope.
- ❖ Daniel showed an unswerving loyalty to God and a trust that the morrow is in God's loving care.
- ❖ His account of angels include names and defines their functions based on his direct contact with them.



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# Daniel

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- ❖ His story begins with the time he was taken to Babylon to live in the court of Nebuchadnezzar through the days of Cyrus the Persian who conquered Babylon.
- ❖ In Danile 3 we find the story of his three friends and followers Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.
- ❖ They refused to obey Nebuchadnezzar's command to worship a golden Image.
- ❖ What happened?



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# Daniel

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- ❖ They were bound and thrown into a furnace stoked to heat seven times its usual heat.
- ❖ The three young men put their faith in God and prayed for deliverance.



# Daniel



- ❖ *naphtha and tow, pitch and tinder must be heaped on the furnace, till the flame rose forty-nine cubits above the furnace itself...*
- ❖ *But an angel of the Lord had gone down into the furnace with Abednego and his companions;*
- ❖ *and he drove the flames away from it, making a wind blow in the heart of the furnace, like the wind that brings the dew.*
- ❖ *So that these three were untouched, and the fire brought them neither pain nor discomfort.* (Dn 3:46-51)

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# Daniel

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- ❖ The gratitude of the three men found expression is a beautiful hymn of thanksgiving that is used in the Church.
- ❖ *Blessed are thou, O Lord God of our fathers: and to be praised and exalted above all for ever....*
- ❖ *Blessed are thou that beholds the depth, and sites upon the Cherubim: and to be praised and exalted above all for ever....*
- ❖ *O all ye works of the the Lord, bless ye the Lord: praise and exalt him above all for ever....*
- ❖ *O all ye that worship the Lord, bless the God of Gods, praise him and give him thanks: for his mercy endureth for ever.*

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# Daniel

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- ❖ This miracle made a deep impression on Nebuchadnezzar. He no longer sought to persecute the Jews for their religious practices.

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# Daniel

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- ❖ **Daniel in the lions den.** Why was he thrown to lions?
- ❖ Nebuchadnezzar dies and the new rulers who had not heard of the miracle of the three boys in the furnace and issue of religious practice is renewed.
- ❖ Daniel continued to worship in the Jewish manner in defiance to a recent decree. Darius the king threw Daniel into lions den.
- ❖ There Daniel sat peacefully with the wild beast at his feet.



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# Daniel

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- ❖ The king was astonished and delighted. He questioned Daniel.
- ❖ Daniel answers: *“My God has sent his angel, and has shut the lions’ mouths, so they will not hurt me: for as much as before him innocency was found in me, and also before thee, O king, I have done no hurt.”* (Dn 6:22)



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# Daniel

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- ❖ Daniel received many visions which he was unable to interpret.
- ❖ Then Gabriel was sent to interpret.
- ❖ First time we see the use of a personal name for an angel.
- ❖ Gabriel means “Man of God.”





# Daniel

- ❖ Daniel perceived that **each nation had a guardian angel** and Saint Michael was the protector of Israel.
- ❖ One evening when he was deeply concentrated and steeped in prayer Gabriel visits him.



# Daniel



- ❖ *“I prayed and confessed my own sins...pouring out my supplication, there in the presence of my God...*
- ❖ *when the human figure of Gabriel, as I had seen at the beginning of my vision, flew swiftly to my side;*
- ❖ *it was the hour of the evening sacrifice when he reached me. And with these words he enlightened me:*
- ❖ *“Daniel, my errand is to instruct you and give you discernment.”* (Dn 9:20-22)

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# Daniel

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- ❖ Do you ever experience your angel touching you to give the gift of discernment?
- ❖ Too often we are too busy and distracted by worldly cares to hear the voice of Spirit.

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# Angels in OT Summary

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- ❖ In OT we find angels characterized by greatness, witness, strength, beauty, wisdom and love.
- ❖ They worship and glorify God and execute His commands.
- ❖ Their mission is to protect, guide and admonish man.
- ❖ They are present in prayer and in battle.
- ❖ They protect nations as well as individuals.

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# Angels in OT Summary

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- ❖ Do not commonly make their presence known
- ❖ They appear unexpectedly and bring a sense of awe.
- ❖ Abraham is given the mystery of the Holy trinity.
- ❖ Hagar is protected

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# Angels in OT Summary

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- ❖ Jacob is led to become father of a great people
- ❖ Balaam is protected from taking the wrong track
- ❖ Joshua was led in battle.
- ❖ Samson was cared for even before birth
- ❖ Gideon was given courage and support.
- ❖ Elijah was led and sustained physically and morally

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# Angels in OT Summary

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- ❖ Isaiah and Ezekiel set out on their mission because an angel made clear to them what was the will of God.
- ❖ Zechariah was encouraged and shown the invisible world
- ❖ David & Solomon saw angels as worthy of reverence
- ❖ Daniel was aided with the assistance of interpretation given by Gabriel himself

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# Angels in OT Summary

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- ❖ What is required experience angels and come into intimate contact with them?
  - ❖ requires the transcendent knowledge and spirit of mystical theology based on humility and actively pursuing to do the will of God.
- ❖ We must be humble minded with clear mind **free of theories and preconceptions.**



*Power of Angels*

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# Lord of Angels

Advent and Saving Work of  
Christ.

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# Lord of Angels

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- ❖ Story of Christ is filled with angels.
- ❖ He told Nathaniel *“You will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”* (Jn 1:51)
- ❖ Angels are the original evangelists.
- ❖ Move **from heaven to earth** to share the good news.

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# Lord of Angels

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- ❖ Luke records the appearance of an angel to Zachariah
- ❖ What is nature of the writings of Luke?
  - ❖ Careful and exact historian.  
How does he begin his story of Christ?
- ❖ Who was Zachariah?

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# Zachariah

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- ❖ Priest in the Temple in Jerusalem.
- ❖ He and his wife always prayed for a child as they were without in old age.
- ❖ It came his turn to burn the incense which was burned twice a day along with a sacrifice of a lamb on the great altar of burnt offerings outside the entrance.

# Zachariah

- ❖ Incense was offered inside the Temple on golden altar of incense which stood before the veil of the Holy of Holies.
- ❖ The officiating priest was by himself inside when offering the incense.
- ❖ It was the most solemn part of the day's service.



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# Zachariah

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- ❖ While performing his priestly duty Zachariah was in prayer watching the incense slowly ascend to heaven.
- ❖ Suddenly, *there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense.* (Luke 1:11)
- ❖ *The angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard.*
- ❖ *Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord.*



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# Zachariah

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- ❖ *Even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God.*
- ❖ *With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”*
- ❖ *Zechariah said to the angel, “How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.”*

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# Zachariah

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- ❖ *The angel replied, “I am **Gabriel**. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to...bring you this good news.*
- ❖ *What happened to Zachariah?*
- ❖ *Because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will **become mute**, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.”*



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# Zachariah

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- ❖ **Gabriel strikes Zachariah dumb** making firm the reality of his presence.
- ❖ When priest was finished he normally came out to make the blessing.  
Zachariah could only make the appropriate gestures.
- ❖ Everyone knew some revelation was given him and stage was set for our Salvation.  
What happens in six months?
  - ❖ A message is delivered to Mary.

# Annunciation

- ❖ Mary was alone after her betrothal to Joseph and was interrupted by an angel as she was weaving a new veil for the Temple.
- ❖ *“Hail full of grace. The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women”* cries out Gabriel.
- ❖ This title remains with her to this day.
- ❖ Can you imagine how she might have felt?



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# Annunciation

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- ❖ This greeting was hard to understand and she sought an explanation.
- ❖ She was comforted when he said *“Do not be afraid for you have found the favor of God.”*
- ❖ *And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High...and of his kingdom there will be no end.”*

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# Annunciation

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- ❖ *Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?”*
- ❖ *The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.*

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# Annunciation

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- ❖ How did she respond?
- ❖ She remained obedient and serene, bending her head and said, *“Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.”* (Lk 1:38)
- ❖ How about Joseph? What was he thinking?

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# Joseph

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- ❖ Being a law abiding Jew, he was troubled to find his bride whom he had not yet taken into his home was with child.
- ❖ Betrothal was almost like marriage and could not be broken of without formal divorce.
- ❖ The penalty for Mary's supposed fault was stoning.

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# Joseph

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- ❖ Matthew tells us that an **angel appeared to Joseph** in a dream.
- ❖ *“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him **Jesus**, for he will save his people from their sins.”* (Matt 1:20-21)
- ❖ *All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:*
- ❖ *“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”*

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# Joseph

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- ❖ Joseph understood the message brought by the angel.
- ❖ Role of guardian angel?
- ❖ Close to us when we sleep. But we unlike Joseph are seldom predisposed to prayer, and single minded in our desire for God.



# Nativity

- ❖ Nativity: When Christ was born the skies erupted and the angels came down giving praise.
- ❖ *“Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”* they sang.



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# Nativity

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- ❖ *There were **shepherds** living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.*
- ❖ *Then **an angel of the Lord** stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.*
- ❖ *But the angel said to them, “**Do not be afraid**; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:*
- ❖ ***to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.***

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# Nativity

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- ❖ Why did the angels appear to the shepherds?
  - ❖ Christ's message was for those of poor and lowly estate.
  - ❖ Shepherds are close to nature and closer to the wonders of heaven. They sleep under the open sky.
- ❖ What have you experienced when you go to a lonely spot on a still clear starry night?
- ❖ The shepherds could read the signs of the heavenly bodies with ease. They are naturally humble and aware of their smallness.

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# Nativity

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- ❖ The Incarnation of God is the most significant in human history. It's an incredible mystery
- ❖ If you believe in the Incarnation you should have no problem believing the heavenly hosts.
- ❖ Can science or philosophic talk change the reality of Jesus in history?

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# Nativity

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- ❖ What was the star that appeared to the wise men?
  - ❖ Was it possibly an angel?
- ❖ Being astrologers it would have been an appropriate way to reach them.
- ❖ In addition to the humble shepherds we have the educated wise men taking a journey to reverence the Christ child led by angelic powers.

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# Nativity

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- ❖ What happened after His birth?
  - ❖ King Herod reenacted ancient Pharaoh's mass infanticide and ordered the death of all male children.
- ❖ An angel came to warn Joseph (likely Gabriel) instructing them to flee to Egypt.
- ❖ *“Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.”*

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# Flight to Egypt

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- ❖ Joseph fled in obedience without fear, taking the Theotokos and Christ child to an unknown land in Egypt.
- ❖ They ventured without any protection through land filled with robbers and thieves but were protected by the angels
- ❖ Should have fear entering into new territory?
  - ❖ Aren't we protected by our guardian angel.
- ❖ More we carry Christ with us in our hearts like Joseph carried Christ himself, we need not fear
- ❖ *“Lo I am always with you, even unto the end of the world.”* (Mt 28:20)

# Baptism

- ❖ Jesus was baptized in the Jordan and led by the Spirit into the wilderness to fast and pray for forty days. (Lk 4:1)
- ❖ He did not need cleansing but as sign of humility put himself on level of all sinners.
- ❖ For Him it was an hour of dedication and consecration of his Father's will. The heavens opened and we hear the voice of the Father.
- ❖ Right after this what happens?





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# Encounter with Satan

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- ❖ Taking on all the weaknesses and sinfulness of mankind he goes into wilderness alone and meets Satan on Satan's own level.
- ❖ What was the goal of Jesus?
  - ❖ Claim victory over Satan.
- ❖ He came so “...he might **destroy** him that had the power of death, that is the Devil” (Heb 2:14).
- ❖ “For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might **destroy** the works of the Devil.” (1 John 3:8)

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# Encounter with Satan

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- ❖ Here we see Satan in his true colors, showing himself as a true personality, one who believed he was strong enough to tempt the Son of Man.
- ❖ Why would Satan choose this time to attack Jesus?
  - ❖ Knew that with the Incarnation his rule was in danger so he attacked Jesus at the beginning of his mission.
- ❖ Since prayer is the true weapon against Satan Jesus went to pray.

# Encounter with Satan



- ❖ He was tempted by Satan three times.
- ❖ 1st, *“If you are the Son of God command this stone to become bread.”*
- ❖ Jesus answers Satan, **“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.”**
- ❖ What is the lesson here?
  - ❖ We should not ignore our natural needs, but not trust in them alone.

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# Encounter with Satan

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- ❖ 2nd to **throw himself off the temple** knowing that angels would stop his fall.
- ❖ *Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him,*
- ❖ *“If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down;*
- ❖ *for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’*
- ❖ *and ‘On their hands they will bear you up so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”*
- ❖ Temptation for Jesus was to **accede to the desire to give proof.**
- ❖ What characteristic of Jesus does this highlight?

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# Encounter with Satan

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- ❖ *Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"*
- ❖ How often have we asked God to prove himself to us?
  - ❖ Or by taking for granted his forgiveness?

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# Encounter with Satan

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- ❖ 3rd Satan showed him *all the kingdoms of the world and their glory,*
- ❖ Satan said *“All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.”*
- ❖ Jesus answers: *“Away with you Satan: for it is written You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.”*
- ❖ Satan is beaten but no yet conquered.
- ❖ How often do we seek personal power and how?
  - ❖ To do so is to disregard God.

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# Encounter with Satan

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- ❖ *Then the devil left Him and behold, angels came and ministered to Him* (Matt 4:11)
- ❖ They cared for him with love, but why after?
- ❖ If we like Jesus learn to master the devil's temptations what can we count on?
  - ❖ We too will be cared for by angels.

---

# Encounter with Satan

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- ❖ Not end of the battle. Jesus constantly battles demons.
- ❖ He was not battling for the supremacy of God but for the salvation of mankind.



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# Encounter with Satan

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- ❖ Saint Paul: *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.*
- ❖ *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood,*
- ❖ *but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.* (Eph 6:10-12)

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# Demons

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- ❖ After picking His disciples Jesus goes to Capernaum where He encounters a demon-possessed man.
- ❖ The demons cry out, *“Let us alone! What have we to do with you, Jesus of Nazareth? Did you come to destroy us?”*
- ❖ Jesus did not respond but ordered them to be quiet and then exorcised them with one command: *“Come out of him!”* (Mark 1:21-28)
- ❖ *And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him.*

---

# Demons

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- ❖ There were other such events
- ❖ Gadarene demoniac when he cast thousands of demons into a herd of pigs.
- ❖ Much of the infirmity Jesus encountered and healed was the result of demonic activity.
- ❖ Jews twice accused Jesus of expelling demons by the power of Baalzebub or Satan the prince of demons.

---

# Demons

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- ❖ Jesus gave his disciple authority to cast out demons. (Matt 10:1, 7:18)
- ❖ After a time the disciples returned to Jesus and exclaimed *“even the demons are subject to us in your name!”*
- ❖ Jesus quickly told them to *“rejoice that your names are written in heaven,”* not because *“spirits are subject to you.”* (Lk 10:20)
- ❖ To protect them from great sin of **vainglory**.

---

# Demons

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- ❖ At this same time Jesus let them know the cosmic scope of His mission and the one he appointed for them.
- ❖ *“I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”* (Lk 10:18)

---

# Demons

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- ❖ We see this also in the book of Revelation
- ❖ *War broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.*
- ❖ *So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the devil and satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.* (Rev 12:7-9)
- ❖ The work of Him and His disciples was to destroy Satan's kingdom.

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# Angels at Death

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- ❖ At hour of death the **angels will accompany us to heaven.**
- ❖ He tells us this in the parable of Lazarus and the rich man.  
*“The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side.”* (Lk 16:19-31)
- ❖ Our guardian angel will pass us over to other angels as we cross the threshold of heaven.
- ❖ In the Church prayers we invoke the presence of **an angel of light** to accompany the departing soul.

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# Prayer in Preparation for Death

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- ❖ O Lord, look upon me, Your creature, and the work of Your hands. Take away my fear, and **send Your angel to comfort me** with the strength of Your presence, even as You were comforted in Your agony...O Lord, You know my sins; have mercy on me, and in Your wealth of love and compassion for mankind, let heaven be opened to me. **May I see the angels rejoicing over me**, an unworthy sinner, as I am received into Your Kingdom.



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# Angels as Reapers

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- ❖ In His explanation of the **parable of the tares** Jesus points out that among the good seeds of wheat evil thoughts and impulses are planted by Satan.
- ❖ The tares (weeds), the children of the Evil One, will be gathered together at harvest time and burned.  
*“the reapers are the angels.”*
- ❖ In speaking of the **Second Coming** Jesus depicts angels as follows:
- ❖ *“And the Son of Man shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”* (Mt 24:31; cf. Mk 13:27)

# Triumph

- ❖ Following his triumphal entry into Jerusalem Jesus declares, *“Now is the judgment of this world, now shall the ruler of this world be cast out.”* (Jn 12:31)



- ❖ Shows the rightful king has arrived to oust his pretender.
- ❖ But Satan fights back
- ❖ At the end of the episode of the temptations in the desert it says: *“And when the devil had ended all the temptation he departed from for a season.”* (Lk 4:13)

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# Triumph

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- ❖ As He neared the end of his life all the evil powers conspired toward a final distraction.
- ❖ There was no angel telling him to flee, He had to face this head on.
- ❖ He could have called on angels but He cast this thought aside. *“Do you think that I cannot now pray to my Father, and He shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?”* (Mt 26:53)

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# Triumph

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- ❖ After the Last supper Jesus goes into the Garden of Gethsemane and wrestled with His impending death.
- ❖ This was the opportune time for Satan. But angels rushed to his side as they had done in the wilderness.
- ❖ *Then an angel of the Lord appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him.* (Lk 22:43)

# Triumph

- ❖ We can understand His words at Gethsemane. *“Now my soul is troubled: and what shall I say? Father save from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour”* (Jn 12:27)
- ❖ For His death he had been born, led into Egypt and returned, tested, taught and ministered and healed all for the **salvation of man to break the power of Satan.**
- ❖ *“Now is the judgment of this world; now shall the prince of this world be cast out, and I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.”* (Jn 12:31-32)



# Triumph

- ❖ While there is no mention of angels at Cross surely they were present.
- ❖ Icons of the crucifixion show angels hovering above the Cross.
- ❖ Satan tried valiantly to reach Jesus through the taunts of the crowd.  
What was their cry?
  - ❖ *“Let the king of Israel decent now from the cross that we may see and believe.”* (Mk 4:6)



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# Triumph

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- ❖ Who rolled the stone from the tomb?
- ❖ No evidence of any human agent who could have rolled it away. Yet there is no argument that it was removed.
- ❖ The Jews insisted it be guarded and guards were established. It was these Guards who saw an angel roll it away.



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# Triumph

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- ❖ *“...There was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.*
- ❖ *His countenance was like lightning and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and become as dead men.”* (Mt 28:2-4)



# Triumph

- ❖ What was state of the women before and during their encounter with the empty tomb?
- ❖ They are comforted by the Angels  
*“Fear not”*
- ❖ *“He is risen...go quickly and tell His disciples.”* (Matt 28:6-7)



# Triumph

- ❖ After death Jesus “descended into hades.” as a victor over death and satan.
- ❖ He bound the strong man and liberated his captives.



# Triumph

- ❖ After His resurrection Christ stayed with the disciples for 40 days to prepare them for their work to come.
- ❖ Then He returned to be with His father.
- ❖ **Angels** carry him away while angels remain on earth to explain what is happening.



# Triumph

- ❖ *And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.*
- ❖ *And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said,*
- ❖ *“Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven?*
- ❖ *This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”*



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# Triumph

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- ❖ He ascends to be seated at the right hand of the Father
- ❖ *“He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places.”* (Eph 1:20)
- ❖ Because of His Ascension and redeeming power man is lifted up with and through Him to be set with the angels.

- ❖ Finally at the Parousia or Second Coming the angels will come to gather the elect.
- ❖ *Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*
- ❖ *And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.* (Mt



*Power of Angels*

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# Guardians of Soul and Body

Christians and our Angelic  
Guides and Protectors

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# Guardians of Soul and Body

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- ❖ Explore role of Angels as guardians
  - ❖ Marcus of Egypt
  - ❖ Elder Paisios
  - ❖ Baptism
  - ❖ Cornelius
  - ❖ Old Testament and Tobit
  - ❖ Apostles
  - ❖ Fathers



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# Macarius of Egypt

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- ❖ Macarius of Egypt (4thC)
- ❖ among most authoritative Desert Fathers of Egypt, and a disciple of St. Anthony the Great.
- ❖ one of founding fathers of monasticism,
- ❖ Forced into an unwanted marriage by his father
- ❖ Left home working as a camel driver. Kept him far from his unwanted bride and provided the material needs to support her.

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# Macarius of Egypt

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- ❖ While in wilderness he saw a vision,
- ❖ A Cherubim, with wings, took his hands, and ascended up to the top of the mountain, and showed him all the desert, east and west, and north and south.
- ❖ And told him, *"God has given this desert to you and your sons for an inheritance."*
- ❖ When he returned from the wilderness he found that his future wife, who was still virgin, had died, and Macarius thanked the Lord Christ.

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# Macarius of Egypt

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- ❖ Makarios prayed fervently for the Lord to send him a wise instructor.
- ❖ One day an ascetic of fair appearance, with long hair and a beard, with a body weakened by ascetic labors came to the church.
- ❖ Spent whole day in spiritual conversation in his cell
- ❖ Exhausted Makarios fell asleep with the approach of night; the elder, however, stood at prayer and had a prophetic vision.

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# Macarius of Egypt

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- ❖ There appeared to him a throngs of monks in white garments and with wings and began to walk around the sleeping Makarios, calling him to the service indicated to him by God.
- ❖ The elder then advised Makarios not to postpone his intention to devote himself wholly to the monastic life. Makarios accepted the advice and became know as one of the Fathers of Monastic life..

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# Macarius of Egypt

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- ❖ On the day of his death a Cherubim appeared to him with a multitude of angels and said:
- ❖ *"Arise, O follower of the Lord, and come with us into eternal life."* The Cherubim indicated to him the throngs of saints who had come out to meet him:

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# Macarius of Egypt

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- ❖ *"Behold the assembly of apostles, behold the throng of prophets, behold the multitude of martyrs, behold the choir of holy hierarchs, fasters, monks and righteous men.*
- ❖ *Give Unto me now your soul, which I was commanded by God to preserve during its earthly life."*
- ❖ *With the words, "Into Thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit," St. Makarios departed to the Lord.*

- ❖ Icon of Marcius shows him standing side by side with a red winged figure.
- ❖ The cherub guide and angelic guard.
- ❖ With spiritualness we too can see we are standing side by side with winged guides and guardians.



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# Saint Paisios

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- ❖ Saint Paisios, When Sick, Was Attended To By Angels For A Week
- ❖ *It was a harsh winter, and snow had fallen so that no tree looked like a tree. Everything was smothered in white, the trails were gone, the birds were quiet, clouds and fog obscured Athos.*
- ❖ *I had no contact with the Monastery of Stavronikita, and I could not live more than a few days since because of the illness I was completely paralyzed.*

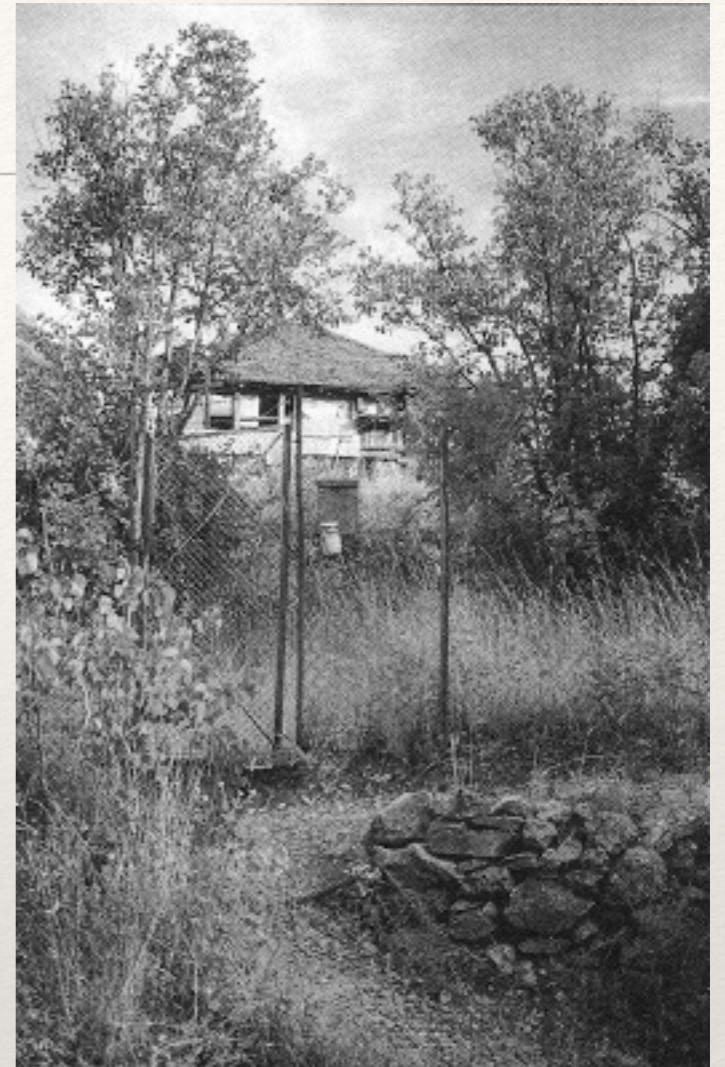


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# Saint Paisios

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- ❖ *I was expecting the Lord to take my soul and lead it to the mercy of His compassion.*
- ❖ *I could not even make one cup of tea, nor light the stove, no did I have water to drink.*
- ❖ *My life was at the mercy of God. I said: "Behold Lord, in Your mercy I hope. Do not forsake me!"*



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# Saint Paisios

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- ❖ *After a few prayers which I mumbled with great effort, I saw appear in my cell angels and saints, sent by God.*
- ❖ *The grace of God had visited quickly. I thanked and glorified my Savior. I cried.*
- ❖ *One of the angels took care of the stove, another was preparing warm food, they were also bringing fragrant breads. I was in Paradise. What else did I want.*



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# Saint Paisios

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- ❖ *The saints began to encourage me with words of consolation and prayers. And only their vision gave me rest, empowering me and giving me hope.*
- ❖ *They stayed with me until I was well and able to take care of myself. Then they left. They stayed with me for a week.*

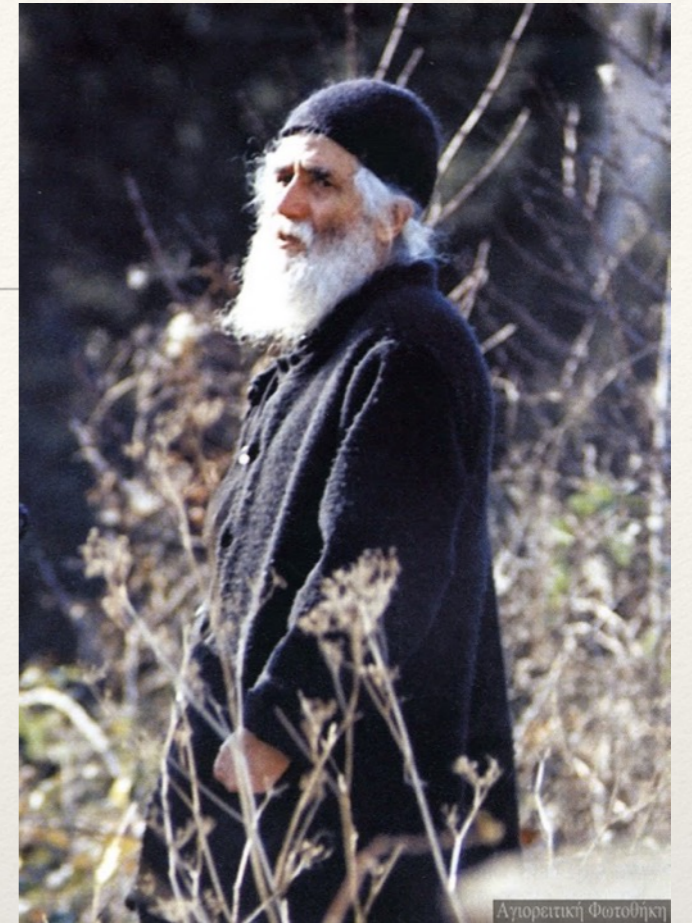


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# Saint Paisios

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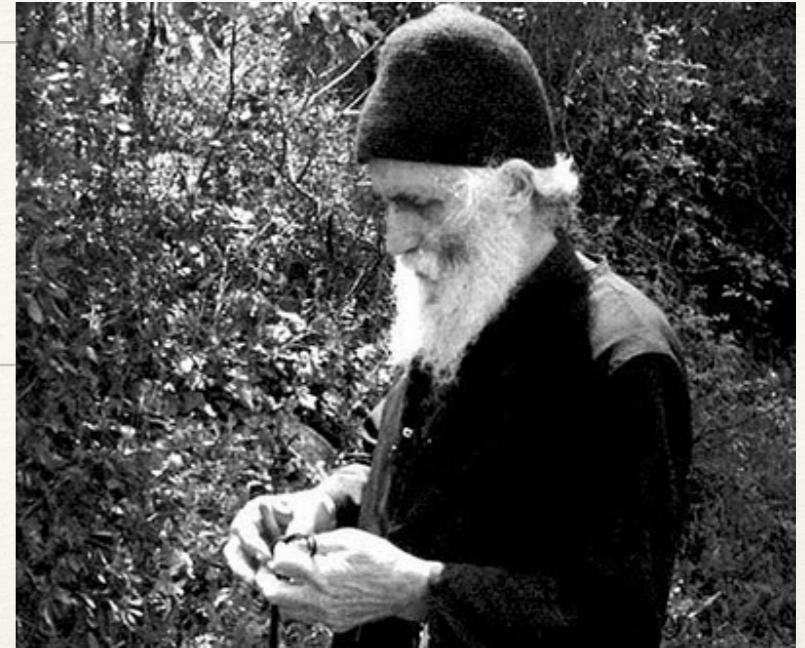
- ❖ *When after a time I arose and went outside my cell I looked around at nature with different eyes.*
- ❖ *Everything was illumined with the uncreated light of the Holy Spirit.*
- ❖ *I was not worthy, but the infinite goodness of God and his love manifested in this way.*



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# Saint Paisios

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- ❖ *In all I felt such grace filling me within that I would say: "Enough Lord. I cannot take anymore. I will burst."*
- ❖ *Either take me with You or dwindle the grace You have given me.*
- ❖ *If You give me so much grace now, imagine what is given in Paradise."*

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# At Baptism

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- ❖ What happens just before baptism?
- ❖ After the exorcism, the priest prays that God unite the catechumen with a **radiant angel**.
- ❖ *Accept this your creature into your heavenly kingdom, having redeemed (him/her) from the bondage of the enemy.*
- ❖ *Open the eyes of his mind, so that the illumination of your Gospel may shine upon him.*
- ❖ *Attach to their life a radiant Angel who will protect him from every plot of the enemy, from every adverse encounter from the demon of the noon-day and from evil visions.*

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# Guardian of our Soul

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- ❖ He is referred to in liturgical prayers as *“a messenger of peace, a faith full guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies.”*
- ❖ This prayer is included the daily evening prayer of Compline.

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# Prayer

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- ❖ Prayer to the Guardian Angel
- ❖ *O holy angel that stands by my wretched soul and my passionate life, forsake not me a sinner, nor shrink from me because of mine intemperance.*
- ❖ *Give no place for the cunning demon to master me through the violence of my mortal body, strengthen my poor and feeble hand, and guide me in the way of salvation.*





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# Prayer

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- ❖ *Yea, O holy angel of God, guardian and protector of my wretched soul and body, forgive me all wherein I have offended thee all the days of my life;*
- ❖ *and if I have sinned in anything this day, protect me during this present night, and guard me from every temptation of the enemy, that I may not anger God by any sin.*
- ❖ *And pray to the Lord for me, that he may establish me in His fear, and show me, His servant, to be worthy of His goodness.  
Amen.*

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# Ministering Spirits

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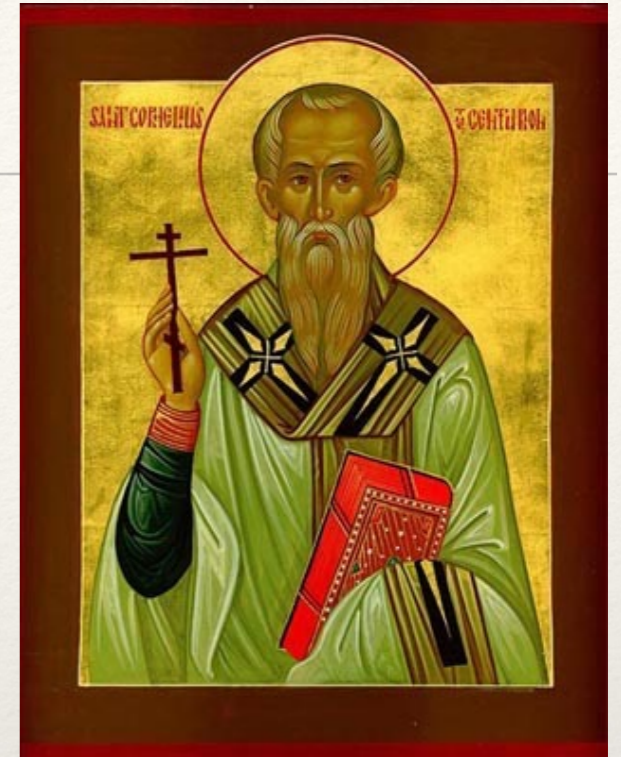
- ❖ As Paul indicates such angels are *“ministering spirits, sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation.”* (Heb 1:14)
- ❖ They are sent to serve for our sake.

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# Cornelius

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- ❖ It is necessary to have been baptized to have a guardian angel?
- ❖ Example of Cornelius the centurion.
- ❖ He feared God but had not yet heard the Gospel.
- ❖ Directed by an angel to send for the Apostle Peter so Peter could share the Gospel and baptize him.



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# Cornelius

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- ❖ *In Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion... One afternoon at about three o'clock he had a vision in which he clearly saw an **angel of God** coming in and saying to him,*
- ❖ *"Cornelius." He stared at him in terror and said, "What is it, Lord?"*
- ❖ *He answered, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. Now **send men** to Joppa for a certain Simon who is called Peter; he is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the seaside."*

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# Cornelius

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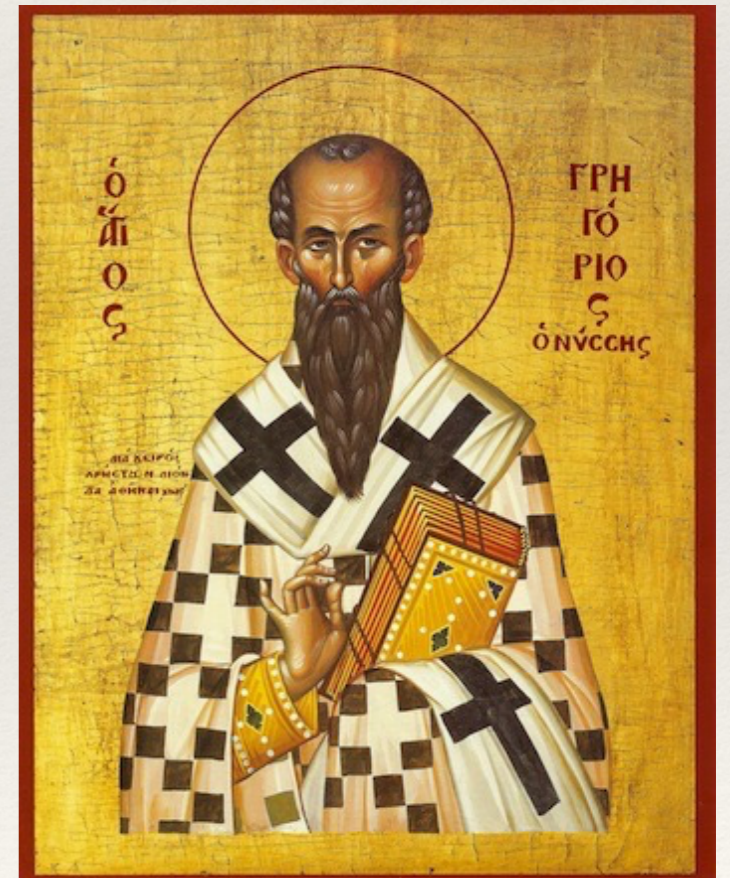
- ❖ *When the angel who spoke to him had left,*
- ❖ *he called two of his slaves and a devout soldier from the ranks of those who served him, and after telling them everything, he sent them to Joppa.*
- ❖ What happened?
  - ❖ He is Baptized and become the first convert.
- ❖ What are we to do if we get an instruction from God?

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# Cornelius

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- ❖ Even before baptism the angel was looking after the Centurion
- ❖ Gregory of Nyssa says that angels are *“manifested and made known whenever we apply ourselves to diligent training and the higher life.”*



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# Old Testament

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- ❖ This protective role of angels is also seen in the OT
- ❖ **Jacob** referenced *“the angel who has redeemed from all evil.”*
- ❖ **Psalm 34:7** *“The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him and delivers them.:*
- ❖ **Psalm 91** promises that God *“will give his angels charge of you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.”*

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# Old Testament

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- ❖ **Book of Tobit** we find archangel Raphael traveling with Tobias.
- ❖ Tobias was only child of a blind holy man named Tobit and wife, Anna, who were Jews from Nineveh circa 700 BC.
- ❖ Tobit sends his young son Tobias on an errand to a distant land to collect monies that were owed to him.
- ❖ As he started on his journey Tobias was met by the angel, Raphael, disguised as a man named Azarias.



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# Book of Tobit

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- ❖ Tobit sent Tobias off with the words; *“May you have a good journey, and God be with you in your way, and his angel accompany you.”* 5:21
- ❖ There is a long journey guided a man named Azarias.
- ❖ Tobias said: *“He conducted me and brought me safe again, he received the money of Gabelus, he caused me to have my wife, and he chased from her the evil spirit, he gave joy to her parents,*

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# Book of Tobit

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- ❖ *he delivered me from being devoured by the fish, also he enabled me to see the light of heaven, and we are filled with all good things through him. What can we give him sufficient for these things?" 12:3.*
- ❖ When Tobit and Tobais approached Azarias to tell him that they wanted to give him half of what they have Azarias reveals himself as the **angel Raphael**.
- ❖ He explained that he had been sent by God because Tobit has been such a holy man.

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# Jesus

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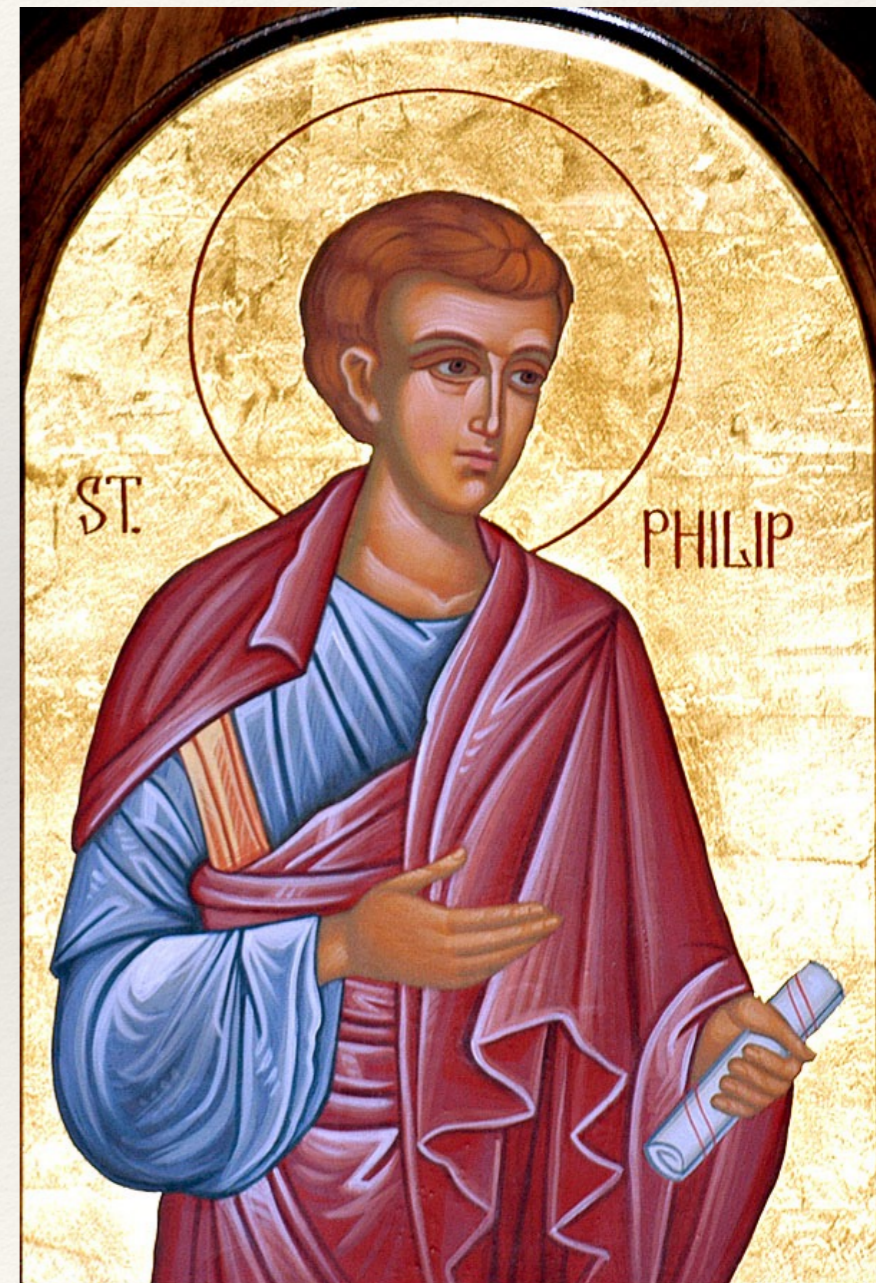
- ❖ In the Gospels Jesus pulls a child to him in a dispute with his disciples about who is the greatest in heaven.
- ❖ What does He tell them?
- ❖ *“Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven.”* (Matt 18:10)
- ❖ Every child has an angel in heaven that watches over him and has the ear of God.
- ❖ Again see, God sends his angels to guide, deliver and protect.

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# Apostles

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- ❖ Apostles were continually guided and protected by angels.
- ❖ Philip was led to a place to meet a court official from Ethiopia by verbal command of an angel.
- ❖ What happens?



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# Philip

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- ❖ *Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.)*
- ❖ *So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury.*

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# Philip

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- ❖ *He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.*
- ❖ *Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.”*
- ❖ This led to the eunuch’s conversion and baptism who returned to evangelize His country. (Acts 8:26-38)

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# Apostles

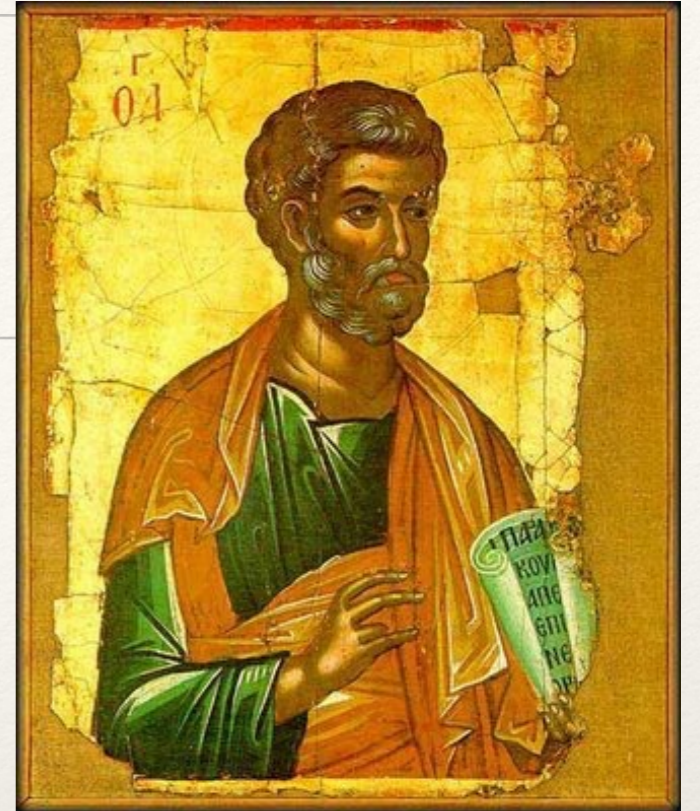
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- ❖ At the beginning of Acts the apostles are arrested that put in jail for their preaching.
- ❖ What happens to them?
- ❖ *“At night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, “Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.”*
- ❖ *And when they heard that, they entered the temple early in the morning and taught.”* (Acts 5:19-20)

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# Peter

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- ❖ *Then [Herod] killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also.*
- ❖ *He put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover.*
- ❖ *Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant[a] prayer was offered to God for him by the church.*
- ❖ *What happens to Peter?*



# Peter

- ❖ *And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison.*
- ❖ *Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, “Arise quickly!”*



# Peter

- ❖ *And his chains fell off his hands. Then the angel said to him, “Gird yourself and tie on your sandals”; and so he did. And he said to him, “Put on your garment and follow me.”*
- ❖ *So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision.*



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# Peter

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- ❖ *When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord;*
- ❖ *and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.*
- ❖ *And when Peter had come to himself, he said, “Now I know for certain that **the Lord has sent His angel**, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people.”*

# Peter



- ❖ What happened after this?
- ❖ Peter went of the house of the mother of Mark, writer of Gospel.
- ❖ Knocked on the door and out of the crowd a young woman Rhoda came to answer and recognized his voice.
- ❖ She didn't open it but ran to tell the others who didn't believe her. Why?

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# Apostles

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- ❖ They all thought he had been killed like James.
- ❖ They told her **it must only be his angel.**
- ❖ Peter continued to frantically knock.
- ❖ *“and when they opened the , they saw [Peter] and were amazed.”* (Acts 12:12-16)
- ❖ What does this demonstrate?
  - ❖ That people believed that people have specific angels assigned to them.



# Paul



- ❖ Paul was also assisted by angels.
- ❖ When he sailed to Rome the voyage was met with fierce storms and they feared for their lives.
- ❖ *But after long abstinence from food, then Paul stood in the midst of them and said,*
- ❖ *“Men, you should have listened to me, and not have sailed from Crete and incurred this disaster and loss.*



# Paul

- ❖ *And now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship.*
- ❖ *For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, saying,*
- ❖ *'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.'*



# Paul

- ❖ *Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me. However, we must run aground on a certain island."*
- ❖ Without angelic intervention what do you imagine would have happened?
- ❖ The Gospel would not have gone forward.



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# Apostles

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- ❖ What was a universal belief of early Christians?
- ❖ That our **angels are present in our lives**
- ❖ They attend to our needs, encourage us, pray for us, protect us, even implant godly thoughts in our hearts and minds.
- ❖ While the Holy Spirit speaks to our hearts, assistance also comes from our **guardian angels**.



# Fathers

- ❖ Clement of Alexandria (150 – c. 215) writes: *“The thoughts of virtuous men are produced through the inspiration of God”* adding *“Particular divine ministers”* contribute to *“the divine well being conveyed to human souls.”*
- ❖ These are angels assigned to us to encourage our growth in knowledge and incline our hearts and minds to divine understanding and wisdom.

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# Fathers

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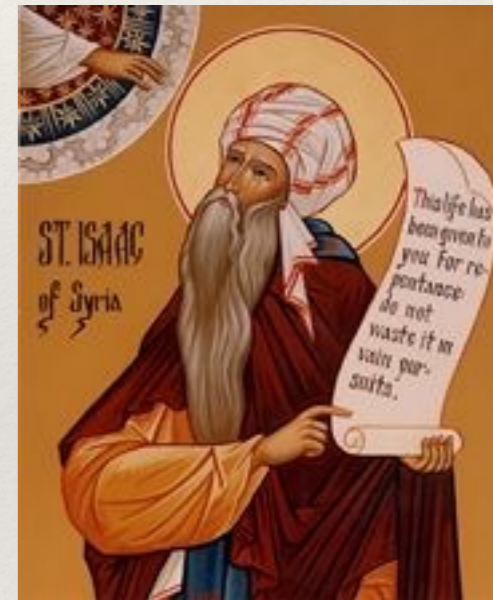
- ❖ Gregory Thaumaturgus (213) said *“of those beings who are not even visable, but yet are more godlike, and who have a special care for me.”*
- ❖ He said he was *“allotted to [an angel] from my boyhood to rule, and rear, and train.”*
- ❖ This divine teacher *“fed me from my youth and still at the present time sustains and instructs, and conducts me.”*

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# Fathers

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- ❖ Angels are also used by God to orchestrate certain events.
- ❖ Isaac the Syrian says that angels take part in managing the so-called “*accidental occurrences*” of our lives.
- ❖ *“There is a guardian with each one of us , whose notice nothing escapes and who never weakens. But all occurrences are very carefully managed by this appointed guardian.”*



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# Fathers

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- ❖ They are like coaches
- ❖ If we seek to do God's will we will *"have angels from heaven as our guide."*

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# Fathers

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- ❖ Good and bad angels
- ❖ Epistle of Barnabas (2nd Century): *“There are two paths of teaching and authority, the path of light and the path of darkness.*
- ❖ *And the difference between the two paths is great. For over the one are appointed light-bearing angels of God, but over the other angels of Satan.”*
- ❖ John Cassian: *“Scripture bears witness that two angels, a good and bad one, cling to each one of us.”*



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# Fathers

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- ❖ John Climacus in *The Divine Ladder* says that we come under attack when we are prideful and are negligent of responsibilities, and when demons turn their envy on us.
- ❖ The first two we can avoid by cultivating **humility and self-discipline.**
- ❖ The last we must call on the **help of our guardian angel** for strength.



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# Fathers

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- ❖ Demons cannot read our thoughts but what are they good at?
  - ❖ leveraging our weaknesses.
- ❖ When we are tired or ill what do they do?
  - ❖ they prompt us to be angry.
- ❖ When distracted by wealth or ease what do they do/
  - ❖ they prompt us toward indulgence, gluttony and fornication.
- ❖ When separated from loved one they prompt us with doubts, carelessness and despondency.



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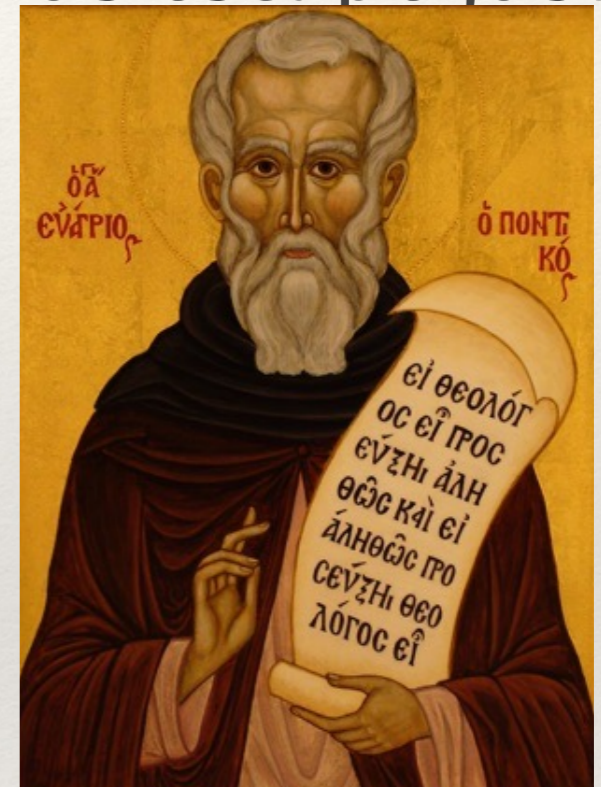
# Fathers

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- ❖ How do we draw angels to us?
  - ❖ Drawn and encouraged by our prayers and our efforts to lead an Orthodox way of life.
- ❖ What do they desire?
  - ❖ nothing but to protect us from our spiritual foes.
- ❖ Isaac the Syrian says, *“The Devil cannot withstand the angel who strengthens and helps the man.”*

# Fathers

- ❖ When we are weak our angels may help us escape just like Apostles.
- ❖ Evagrius is an example.
- ❖ Because of his arrogance he was subject to lustful thoughts.  
Was sent to the city to make purchases
- ❖ What kind of temptations would he encounter?
- ❖ Enticed by a lustful woman.



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# Fathers

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- ❖ His guardian angel staged an intervention.
- ❖ That night he had a vision of angels and one assumed the likeness of an friend who told him that he was in grave danger and to flee the city and if he did so he would help him.
- ❖ He woke up, packed his bags and immediately left from the city.

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# Guardian Angels

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- ❖ Beware, Our sins offend our guardian angels.
- ❖ If we are unrepentant they withdraw.
- ❖ They are humble and holy and prefer the company of those who are likewise **humble and holy**.
- ❖ To strengthen our bond with our guardian angel we must **grow in humility and holiness**.

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# Angels as Models

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- ❖ Jesus said that in heaven we will be like angels and this is our goal.
- ❖ Chrysostom: *“Let us employ the life of angels, the virtue of angels, the conversation of angels.”*
- ❖ What is nature of model they present to us?

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# Angels

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- ❖ Bebe (8th c) *“It is no secret that the angels are frequently present, invisibly, at the side of the elect, in order to defend them from the snares of the cunning enemy and uphold them by the great gift of heavenly desire...”*
- ❖ *Nevertheless we should believe that the angelic spirits are especially present to us when we give ourselves in a special way to divine service.”*
- ❖ What can we do to give ourselves to Divine Service?

*Power of Angels*

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# Voices Ascending

Joining with Angels in  
worship and Prayer

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# Voices Ascending

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- ❖ In worship and prayer we offer our praise and prayers amid angels and archangels.
- ❖ Psalm 137:1: *I will acknowledge you, O Lord, with my whole heart...Before angels I will make music to you.*



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# Tabernacle of Moses

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- ❖ When God directed Moses to erect the tabernacle, he instructed weaving ten curtains and a veil of blue, purple and scarlet thread.
- ❖ What did he command to put on them?
  - ❖ With other imagery, Cherubim.
- ❖ The ark of the covenant was also to be decorated with twin cherubim of gold, statues fixed on either side of the ark's lid, the mercy seat.



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# Solomon's Temple

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- ❖ When king Solomon built the temple described in the 7th & 8th chapters of Kings<sup>1</sup> he had craftsmen carve **cherubim** in olive wood and covered them with gold for the the doors and placed them all over the walls.
- ❖ He also had two massive olive wood **cherub statues** created, each ten feet high with ten foot wing spans, covered them with gold and placed them over the ark in the Holy of Holies.



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# Voices Ascending

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- ❖ Why would they depict such images?
  - ❖ To declare the unseen reality that living cherubim populate the place of worship.
- ❖ These were icons meant as window to heaven.

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# Voices Ascending

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- ❖ Book of Revelation portrays the struggle of the church in the world at the end of the age.
- ❖ John opens this book saying this revelation was given to him by an angel of God.



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# Voices Ascending

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- ❖ John found himself mystically present in the midst of a heavenly worship service.
- ❖ *“I looked and lo, in heaven an open door!...At once I was in the spirit, and lo, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne!....*
- ❖ *From the throne issued flashes of lightning and voices and peals of thunder, and before the throne burn seven torches of fire, which are the **seven spirits of God.**”* (Rev 4:1-2, 5)

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# Voices Ascending

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- ❖ *Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back...*
- ❖ *The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying:*
- ❖ *“Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!”*

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# Voices Ascending

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- ❖ These seven spirits are angels who stand at the foot of God's throne.
- ❖ In book of Tobit, Raphael announces himself as *“one of the seven holy angels who present prayers of the saints and enter into the presence of the glory of the Holy One.”* (Tobit 12:15)
- ❖ John stood in the presence of God. Around him were *“many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands.”* (Rev 5:11)

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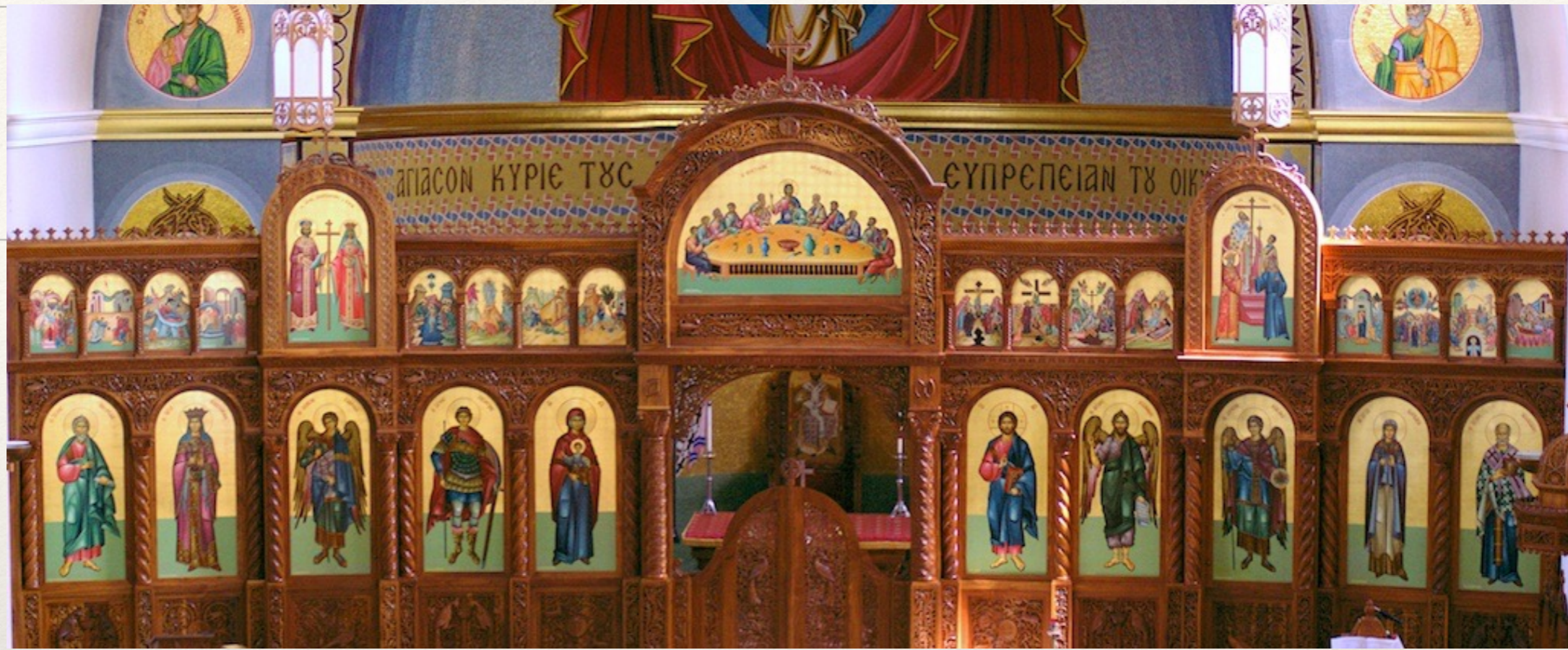
# Voices Ascending

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- ❖ When we bring the Gospel Book in procession a prayer is read calling on the angels to join us.
- ❖ By midservice we are surrounded by countless angels and the saints praising and hymning the Creator.
- ❖ In the Liturgy we are elevated to the throne of God







- ❖ This is why from the early days of the Church Christians insisted on adorning their churches with frescoes, mosaics and other icons of angels who are present with us.

# Voices Ascending

- ❖ On iconostasis Michael and Gabriel are painted on the two side doors
- ❖ They are never shown as children or placed based on artistic fancy.
- ❖ Cherubim and seraphim have stern uncompromising faces, their six red and blue wings deployed in many angles. Seen only in scene of heaven and paradise.
- ❖ They always face towards us showing that we are never excluded but always drawn into their activity.



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# Voices Ascending

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- ❖ Every Monday is dedicated to angels
- ❖ In Orthros on Mondays we offer this prayer
- ❖ *O commander of the heavenly hosts, We who are unworthy beseech you ceaselessly that you would encompass us with the shelter of your prayers and cover us beneath the wings of your immaterial glory. We fall down before you crying out:  
“Protect us from all harm, O prince of the powers on high.*

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# Gabriel

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- ❖ 3/28 is feast of St. Gabriel & all angels
- ❖ Gabriel is Leader of Heavenly Hosts, and faithful servant of Almighty God.
- ❖ He announced the future Incarnation of the Son of God to those of the Old Testament;
- ❖ he inspired the Prophet Moses to write the Pentateuch (first five books of the Old Testament),
- ❖ he announced the coming tribulations of the Chosen People to the Prophet Daniel (Dan. 8:16, 9:21-24);



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# Gabriel

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- ❖ Appeared to St Anna (July 25) with the news that she would give birth to the Virgin Mary.
- ❖ Remained with the Holy Virgin Mary when She was a child in the Temple of Jerusalem, and watched over Her throughout Her earthly life.
- ❖ Appeared to the Priest Zachariah, foretelling the birth of the Forerunner of the Lord, St John the Baptist.

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# Gabriel

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- ❖ The Lord sent him to St Joseph the Betrothed in a dream, to reveal to him the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God from the All-Pure Virgin Mary,
- ❖ Warned Joseph of the wicked intentions of Herod, ordering him to flee into Egypt with the divine Infant and His Mother.

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# Gabriel

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- ❖ When the Lord prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane before His Passion, the Archangel Gabriel, whose very name signifies “Man of God” (Luke. 22:43), was sent from Heaven to strengthen Him.
- ❖ Myrrh-Bearing Women heard from the Archangel the joyous news of Christ’s Resurrection (Mt.28:1-7, Mark 16:1-8).

# Michael & Synaxis of Angels

- ❖ November 8th we celebrate **St. Michael** and all the heavenly host.
- ❖ Lord appointed the Holy Archangel Michael as Chief Commander over all the Nine Ranks.
- ❖ He cast down from Heaven the arrogantly proud Lucifer and the other fallen spirits when they rebelled against God.
- ❖ Summoned the ranks of angels and cried out, *“Let us attend! Let us stand aright before our Creator and do not consider doing what is displeasing unto God!”*





# Michael & Synaxis of Angels

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- ❖ During the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt he went before them in the form of a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.
- ❖ Through him the power of the Lord was made manifest, annihilating the Egyptians and Pharaoh who were in pursuit of the Israelites.
- ❖ The Archangel Michael defended Israel in all its misfortunes.

# Michael & Synaxis of Angels



- ❖ Appeared to Joshua Son of Navi and revealed the will of the Lord at the taking of Jericho (Josh 5:13-16).
- ❖ Manifest in the annihilation of the 185 thousand soldiers of the Assyrian emperor Sennacherib (4/2 Kings 19:35);
- ❖ Smiting of the impious leader Heliodorus (2 Macc. 3: 24-26);
- ❖ Protection of the Three Holy Youths: Ananias, Azarias and Misail, thrown into the fiery furnace for their refusal to worship an idol (Dan 3:22-25).

# Michael & Synaxis of Angels



- ❖ Transported the Prophet Habbakuk (December 2) from Judea to Babylon, to give food to Daniel in the lions' den (Dan. 14:33-37).
- ❖ Disputed with the devil over the body of the holy Prophet Moses (Jude 1:9).
- ❖ He miraculously saved a young man, cast into the sea by robbers with a stone about his neck on the shores of **Mt Athos**. This story is found in the Athonite Paterikon, and in the Life of St Neophytus of Docheiariou (November 9).

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# Synaxis of Angels

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- ❖ **November 8** along with Saint Michael we celebrate the Synaxis of Angels
- ❖ Archangel Michael and the Other Heavenly Bodiless Powers: Archangels Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Selaphiel, Jehudiel, Barachiel, and Jeremiel
- ❖ Established at the beginning of the fourth century at the Council of Laodicea,



# Synaxis of Angels



- ❖ Established in November because its the **9th month** after March (when year began in ancient times) representing the Nine Ranks of Angels:
- ❖ Seraphim, Cherubim and Thrones; Dominions, Powers, and Authorities; Principalities, Archangels, and Angels
- ❖ The **8th day** was chosen since the Day of the Last Judgment is called the Eighth Day by the holy Fathers.
- ❖ After the end of this age (characterized by its seven days of Creation) will come the Eighth Day, and then *“the Son of Man shall come in His Glory and all the holy Angels with Him”* (Mt. 25:31).

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# Divine Liturgy

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- ❖ What is the role of Angels in our Divine Liturgy?

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# Divine Liturgy

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- ❖ In the Little entrance the Gospel Book is carried and placed on the Altar.
- ❖ The Book is carried raised in front of the face of the deacon
- ❖ The deacon represents the Forerunner and the altar boys the angels.



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# Divine Liturgy

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- ❖ Just before the entrance a prayer is read by the priest calling the angels to join us:
- ❖ *Master and Lord our God, You have established in heaven the orders and hosts of angels and archangels to minister to Your glory.*
- ❖ *Grant that the holy angels may enter with us that together we may serve and glorify Your goodness...*



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# Divine Liturgy

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- ❖ Following this entrance the choir sings the Trisagion hymn derived from the angelic praise in Is 6:3:  
*Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.*
- ❖ It is sung 3x and then with power 4th time.
- ❖ While being sung priest prays:
- ❖ *Holy God, You dwell among Your saints. You are praised by the Seraphim with the thrice holy hymn and glorified by the Cherubim and worshiped by all the heavenly powers.*

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# Divine Liturgy

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- ❖ *You have brought all things out of nothing into being. You have created man and woman in Your image and likeness and adorned them with all the gifts of Your grace.*
- ❖ *You give wisdom and understanding to the supplicant and do not overlook the sinner but have established repentance as the way of salvation.*
- ❖ *You have enabled us, Your lowly and unworthy servants, to stand at this hour before the glory of Your holy altar and to offer to You due worship and praise.*

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# Divine Liturgy

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- ❖ *Master, accept the thrice holy hymn also from the lips of us sinners and visit us in Your goodness.*
- ❖ *Forgive our voluntary and involuntary transgressions, sanctify our souls and bodies,*
- ❖ *and grant that we may worship and serve You in holiness all the days of our lives...*

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# Divine Liturgy

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- ❖ The angels having joined us we read from Scripture.
- ❖ There is an Alleluia sung between the readings which is an echo of angelic praise meaning “Praise the Lord”



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# Divine Liturgy

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- ❖ The angels gather around the Altar Table and kneel before the Holy Sacrifice.
- ❖ The angels fill the sanctuary with their invisible presence.

# Divine Liturgy

- ❖ With the beginning of the Liturgy of the Faithful, the Great entrance.
- ❖ While this is taking place the choir sings the Cherubim Hymn:  
*“Let us who mystically portray the Cherubim, sing a holy hymn unto the life-creating Trinity, lay aside our sins, so that we may receive the king of all, escorted invisibly by the Holy Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.”*
- ❖ In the procession the ripidions (ριπιδιον) are carried. Two metal discs representing the seraphim surrounded by six wings.



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# Divine Liturgy

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- ❖ The procession is humble, but it is to encourage us to grasp a fuller and truer reality that the angels stand with us to serve the King.
- ❖ There seems to be a great divide between earth and heaven but our worlds overlap.
- ❖ In worship we draw them closer together.

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# Divine Liturgy

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- ❖ As the gifts are placed on the altar the angels press in and crowd about it.
- ❖ Chrysostom: *“Angels stand by the priest and the whole sanctuary, and space around about the altar is filled with the powers of heaven, in honor of Him who lies thereon.”*



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# Divine Liturgy

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- ❖ Earthly care should not be far removed from our consciousness and heaven should feel close.
- ❖ The gifts are presented and set on the Altar lead by angels.
- ❖ Heaven come even closer when the gifts are transformed in the Body and Blood of Christ.

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# Divine Liturgy

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- ❖ The priest gives thanks:
- ❖ *...We give thanks to Thee for this ministry which thou doest vouchsafe to receive our hands, even though there stand beside Thee thousands of Archangels, the Cherubim, the Seraphim, six-winged, many eyed, soaring aloft, born of their pinions, singing the Triumphant Hymn shouting, calling aloud and saying,*

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# Divine Liturgy

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- ❖ Choir breaks in with:
- ❖ *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory; Hosanna in the highest; Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord—Hosanna in the highest.*

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# Divine Liturgy

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- ❖ Before the Lord's prayer there is a litany of supplication where we ask for things most needful to us: a peaceful day, holy and sinless, pardon for our sins, and Christian ending to our life and we also ask for
- ❖ *"An angel of peace, a faithful guardian of our souls and bodies."*
- ❖ During the recitation of the Lord's Prayer the deacon crosses his orarion over his back symbolizing the folding of the angel's wings in adoration before God.

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# Divine Liturgy

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- ❖ The Holy Spirit descends upon the gifts transforming them into the Body and Blood of Christ.
- ❖ Many priests and others with the gift of seeing revelations report the presence of angels at this time.



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# Divine Liturgy

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- ❖ We participate in the life of God through Communion just as the angels do directly.
- ❖ John reports Christ identifying Himself with the bread from heaven.
- ❖ *I am the living bread which came down from heaven, and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh.... Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink His blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood has eternal life.” (John 6:51, 53-54)*



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# Divine Liturgy

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- ❖ In the wilderness the Israelites were fed by manna, the bread of angels.
- ❖ Now we live by the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist. We take wine and bread which are mystically changed by God's power and we dine with angels.
- ❖ The daily bread in the Lord's prayer is also commonly linked with Holy Communion by ancient writers.

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# Divine Liturgy

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- ❖ When we fail to receive Holy Communion our guardian angels are saddened. But when we participate *“The angel who is always by us is consoled, because he also partakes.”*
- ❖ By faith the believers join with the angels in a common labor of worship of God.



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# Divine Liturgy

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- ❖ Central act of divine liturgy is the Eucharist when the church commemorates and participates in the eternal, once-and-for-all sacrifice of Christ.
- ❖ Bede: *“We are not permitted to doubt that where the mysteries of the Lord’s body and blood are being enacted, a gathering of citizens from on high is present.”*
- ❖ He adds that these are same beings who kept such careful watch over Christ’s tomb before His resurrection.

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# Divine Liturgy

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- ❖ Primary function of angels is to relay our prayers to God. They represent and advocate for us in heaven.
- ❖ From John's book of Revelation: *"And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer; and he was given much incense to mingle with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar before the throne; and the smoke of the incense rose with the prayers of the saints from the hand of the angel before God."* (Rev 8:3-4)

*Power of Angels*

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# Final Companions

Guides from One World to the  
Next

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# Final Companions

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- ❖ When Moses died at age of 120, Satan and Michael argued over his body.
- ❖ What does this show?
  - ❖ Satan has interest in the Lord's departed.
  - ❖ Angels are with us through death and guard us even then.

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# Final Companions

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- ❖ Jesus tells the parable of Lazarus and the rich man.
- ❖ What happened when Lazarus dies?
  - ❖ He “was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom.”

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# Final Companions

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- ❖ Bede recounts the passing of a beloved nun.
- ❖ She saw a vision of white-robed men entering the monastery looking for her.
- ❖ On that very night when , a dawn drew near, she left entered the light of heaven.
- ❖ Many who lived in the monastery said they heard Choirs of angels singing and a sound like that of a great throng entering the monastery.
- ❖ They ran out to investigate and saw a great light from heaven carrying away the soul of the nun.

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# Final Companions

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- ❖ For many, death is frightening and we can be comforted that **angels will guard us** on this journey.
- ❖ Remember the three youths who were protected in the Babylonian fire and said at death,
- ❖ Chrysostom writes, *"saints walking through the river of fire shall suffer no pain, nay they will even appear joyous."*
- ❖ For the wicked who do not believe in Christ will find a *"flame of torment."*
- ❖ For those who believe and worship Christ will find dew and refreshment and *"angels wafting aside the flame."*

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# Final Companions

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- ❖ When we are about to die we should take Holy Communion.
- ❖ Chrysostom says *“If they happen to be partners of the mysteries, with a pure conscience, when they are about to breath their last, angels keep guard over them for the sake of what they have received, and bear them hence.”*
- ❖ Often see in icons angels stooping over the body of a dead saint. with they hand wrapped in their cloaks ready to receive the soul of the deceased.



# Final Companions

- ❖ Dormition of the Theotokos.



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# Final Companions

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- ❖ Bishop Nephon experienced a vision where he saw angels *“ascending and descending like bees, transporting the souls of people who had died.”*
- ❖ Ambros of Milan expressed regret in his eulogy for Acholius that this *“veteran...of Christ”* had departed, but *“freed from the bands of the body,”* he was *“carried by the ministry of angels to the intimate presence of Christ.”* Leaving grieverers on earth he was met by angels with jubilation, rejoicing *“that such a man had come among them.”*
- ❖ Angles rejoiced when God entered this world and they rejoice when we enter His.

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# Final Companions

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- ❖ We can think of death as a passage conducted by angels whose arms will shelter and protect us. They carry us to be united with the throne of God.

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# Final Companions

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- ❖ At the time of the Final Judgment the angels will appear at a trumpet's blast and then gather God's people *"from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."* When this day comes is unknown but when it does angels will play *an active role.*" (Matt 24:31,36)

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# Final Companions

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- ❖ Jesus says that when the harvest is ripe the angels are charged with separating the wheat from the weeds, the children of God from the Devil.
- ❖ *“the angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them [the evil] into the furnace of fire.”*
- ❖ This is a fire *“prepared for the devil and his angels”* but will torment those who refused to serve Christ. (Matt 13:37-43, 49-50; 25:41)

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# Final Companions

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- ❖ Angels serve as witness to our lives validating the judgments of God.
- ❖ Recall that the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah were known to God and validated by His angels.
- ❖ They testify to our good and evil for they like God have seen all. They are also watchers.

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# Final Companions

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- ❖ The Last Judgment will also include the angels
- ❖ Ignatius: *“Let no one be deceived. Judgment is prepared even for the heavenly beings, for the glory of the angels, and for the rulers both visible and invisible. Those who stayed loyal will rejoice and those who turned to Satan will be tormented in the fire.”*

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# Final Companions

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- ❖ *When our mourning shall have passed away, we all with one voice, in one people, in one country, shall receive comfort, thousands of thousands joined with angels playing upon harps, with choirs of heavenly powers living in one city.*

Saint Augustine



