

HIDDEN TREASURES

WHO ARE THE ANGELS

By J. A. Huffman, D.D.

An agelong, oft-asked and fascinating question! A subject which charms the young and the old, the learned and the unlearned of all races, who hear about these beings who transcend the human.

First of all, it is evident from what we know about angels, little or much it may be, that angels are not redeemed human beings. In other words, angels were never men and redeemed men will never become angels.

As a child, this writer entertained the much-cherished but mistaken hope that, if he should succeed in being a real good boy and grow up to be a noble man, he might some day become an angel. This was the result of childish, wishful thinking, plus the influence of a little song which his father sang to him and his twin brother as he held us on his knees. The song had lines like the following:

"I want to be an angel,
And with the angels stand;
A crown upon my forehead,
A harp within my hand.
Then right before my Saviour,
So glorious and so bright,
I'd make the sweetest music,
And praise Him day and night."

There was only one thing misleading about this little song: Its angelology was wrong. Despite this fact, the song did lift our little spirits heavenward, and make us to desire greatly to be good boys. It was rather a sad day in my life when the disillusionment came and I became aware of the fact that, be as good as I might, I should never become an angel.

It is the name or designation of these creatures as we meet that name in the Greek New Testament which may help us in our quest to the answer to the question: "Who are the angels?"

Many of the surnames which present-day families of people bear have been, we are told, derived from some characteristic of the group in its very early history. Where they lived, what their occupation, some physical feature, or even their relative complexion or the color of the clothing which they wore has marked them with family names. The "Woods," the "Fords," the "Mountains" may have come a long way on the trail, but their names tell from whence they came. The "Smiths," the "Millers," the "Carpenters" may be of other occupations now, but the trademark is still on them. The "Shorts," the "Longs," the "Stouts" have no trouble in discovering the characteristics which gave them their family appellations. Even the "Whites," the "Blacks," and the "Browns" reflect something of color, in their realm of life, which left its mark upon them.

The word "angel" is one of those little Greek words which we have never translated into the English but have just transliterated it—spelled it out into our language. It is too beautiful to translate.

The Greek word is angellos, which means a Messenger, a Herald, an Envoy, or even a Minister. It is the noun form of the Greek word angello, which means to announce or to herald. Upon the meaning, therefore, of the name by which these beings are called, they are the Messengers of God, carrying on His errands to the ends of the earth, whatever the nature of these errands may be. The name

given them in the Hebrew Old Testament is malakim, which also means messengers.

From what we gather about angels, in both the Old and New Testaments, with particular reference to their name as angels (Greek plural, Angelloi), the following facts may be deduced about them:

1. They are God's created intelligences, separate and distinct from the human race, and of a higher order.
2. They were created long before man, even before the creation of the world (see Job 38:7).
3. There are various ranks of angels: Archangels, Angels, Cherubim, Seraphim.
4. Three angels (rather, archangels) are mentioned by name: Michael, called the "prince," mentioned three times in the Old Testament and twice in the New Testament. Gabriel, whose errands appear to have been the announcement of good news, named twice in the Old Testament and twice in the New. Lucifer, the "shining" or "brilliant one," mentioned only once (Isa. 14:12), who has become Satan.
5. Angels are also God's ministers to men: Psalms 34:7, 91:11; Matthew 18:10; Hebrews 1:14.
6. Angels must, of necessity, have had a period of angelic probation, such as man now has. Otherwise angels could not have fallen. Both Peter and Jude write of fallen angels, reserved in chains until the day of judgment (2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6). That angelic probation has long ceased, as human probation will sometime have ended, is evident, and there is no longer any danger of an apostasy in heaven.
7. So far as we have any knowledge, or even intimation, there has never been offered to fallen angels a plan of redemption such as is proffered to manind. (All rights reserved).

LETTERS FROM OUR PASTORS

Seal Cove, N. B.

Dear Highway Family,
We would like to report from this corner of the vineyard.

Since last writing another Christmas season has passed into history, at which time we were remembered by cards and gifts. Our church at Seal Cove made a gift of money to each of us, for which we are indeed grateful.

Starting on New Year's night we began a series of revival meetings with Rev. N. M. Israelson, of Berry, Alabama, as our evangelist. He laboured faithfully with us in message and song through January 25th. During this campaign in Seal Cove, God blessed the ministry of Brother Israelson to the strengthening of the church, the salvation of sinners, and the sanctification of believers. On the closing Sunday Brother Israelson took a fine love offering for us.

Brother Israelson then laboured with us on Wood Island from January 28th to February 15th. Again the Spirit of God was mightily felt with much interest and conviction present in the services. Souls prayed through to definite victory, with our church receiving a great uplift.

We found Brother Israelson in these campaigns a faithful servant of God. His fine spirit and devotion to Christ were such that we enjoyed the best of fellowship.

A good spirit and interest is present in all our services, and we are looking to the future for even greater victories.

Yours in the Master's service,
RONALD T. and MRS. SABINE.

Moncton, N. B.

Dear Friends,
"My soul shall make her boast in the Lord: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad."

To the glory of God we wish to report victory and progress in the work here at Moncton. During the past few months we have enjoyed the presence of the Lord and have seen many souls finding spiritual victory through faith in our Lord and Saviour.

Our special campaign with Dr. D. E. Wilson as evangelist, was truly successful. Attendance was splendid, the preaching was par excellent, and the Holy Spirit came graciously upon the services. Dr. Wilson laboured under a physical handicap, suffering from an attack of the 'flu which greatly weakened him, but his messages were splendid indeed. We have never heard the doctrine of holiness more clearly expounded. The appeal to sinners was presented with equal clarity. The blessing of God was upon His servant in copious measure and many seekers knelt at the altar for pardon and purity. There were twenty-two at the altar in the closing Sunday evening service. We consider this the most outstanding and fruitful campaign of our ministry here. We found Dr. Wilson an excellent co-worker. Our fel-

The first phase of our building project was completed last fall at a cost of approximately \$7,000. The enthusiasm and consecrated spirit of the people will be appreciated when we state that we expect to have this amount in full by early spring. The church will then be able to go forward to finish the building programme and make other necessary improvements. Naturally the heavy expenditure for these undertakings reduces the church's giving power to some denominational projects but we believe we are preparing ourselves for more generous assistance toward every worthy effort of our denomination.

We face the future with hope and confidence. May God bless all our pastors and people and graciously guide us in all matters vital to the work of the Kingdom.

Yours in Christian love,
B. C. and MRS. COCHRANE.

PERFECT TRUSTING

I cannot understand
The why and wherefore of a thousand things;
The burdens, the annoyances, the daily stings,
I cannot understand;
But I can trust,
For perfect trusting, perfect comfort brings.

I cannot see the end,
The hidden meaning of each trial sent,
The pattern into which each tangled thread is bent,
I cannot see the end;
But I can trust,
And in God's changeless love I am content.
Sel.

Love seeks no limits but outlets.—Anon.

Opportunity with ability makes responsibility.—Bishop Hunt.