

ANGEL GUARDIANS.

CONTROLLERS OF THE DESTINY OF THE HUMAN RACE.

REV. DR. TALMAGE'S FIRM FAITH.

Evils Warded off by the Timely Warning of These Celestial Visitors—Angels the Theme of the Great Washington Lecture—Angels Known to Move and Have Their Beings.

Washington, Oct. 29.—The brilliant beings supposed by some to be imaginary are by Dr. Talmage in his sermon shown to be real and to have much to do with every day life. The text is Judges xiii, 19, "And the angel did wonderfully."

Fire built on a rock. Manah and his wife had there kindled the flames for sacrifice in praise of God and in honor of a guest whom they supposed to be a man. But as the flames rose higher and higher their stranger guest stepped into the flame and by one red leap ascended into the skies. Then they knew that was an angel of the Lord. "The angel did wonderfully."

Two hundred and forty-eight times does the Bible refer to the angels, yet I never heard or read a sermon on angelology. The whole subject is relegated to the realm of mythical, weird, spectral and unknown. Such adjournment is un-Scriptural and wicked. Of their life, their character, their habits, their actions, their velocities, the Bible gives us full length portraits, and why this prolonged and absolute silence concerning angelology? Angelology is the theme of two nations of angels.

One is hostile to each other—angel of good angels and the nation of bad angels. Of the former I speak to-day. Their capital, headquarters, their grand rendezvous, is heaven, but their empire the universe. They are a distinct race of creatures. No human being can ever join their confraternity. The little child who in the Sabbath school sings, "I want to be an angel," will never have his wish gratified. They are superhuman, but they are of different grades and ranks, and all on the same level or the same height. They have their superiors and inferiors and equals. I propose to guess on this subject, but I will base the Bible for my own authority.

Plato, the philosopher, guessed and divided angels into supercelestial, celestial and subcelestial. Dionysius the Areopagite, guessed and divided them into three classes, the supreme, the middle and the last, and each of these into three other classes, making nine in all. Philo said that angels were related to God, as the rays to the sun. Augustine said that they were composed of body and spirit. Clement said that they were incorporeal. Augustine said that they had been in danger of falling, but now are beyond being tempted. But the only authority on this subject that I respect says that they are divided into cherubim, seraphim, thrones, dominions, principalities, powers.

Their commander-in-chief is Michael. Daniel called him Michael. St. John called him Michael. These supernatural beings are more thoroughly organized than any army that ever marched. They are swifter than lightning, more radiant than any morning star, and more powerful than any power on earth. They are ever ready to do with your destiny and mine and any being in the universe except God. May the Angel of the New Covenant, who is the Lord Jesus, open our eyes and touch our tongues and rouse our soul while we speak of their deathlessness, their intelligence, their numbers, their strength, their achievements.

Yes, deathless. They had a cradle, but will never have a grave. They are remembered when they were born, but no one shall ever see their extinguished or their momentary glow up or their existence terminate. The oldest of them has not a wrinkle, a decrepitude or a hindrance, as being over 6,000 years as at the day of their birth. Christ said of the good in heaven, "Neither can they die any more, for they are equal unto the angels." Yes, deathless are these wonderful creatures of whom I speak. They will see world after world go out, but there shall be no fading of their own brilliance. Yes, after the last world has taken its last flight, they will be ready for the widest circuit through immensity, taking a quadrillion of miles in one sweep as easy as a pigeon circles a dovecot. They are never sick. They are never exhausted. They need no sleep, for they are never tired. At God's command they smote with death, in one night, 185,000 of Sennacherib's hosts, but no fatigue can smite them. Awake, agile, multipotent, deathless, immortal!

There is only one thing that puts them to their wits' end, and that is the Bible says they have to study that. They have been studying it all through the ages, and yet I warrant they have not fully grasped it—the wonders of redemption. These wonders are so high, so deep, so grand, so stupendous, so magnificent, that even the intelligence of angelhood is confounded before it. The apostle says, "Which things the angels desire to look into." That is a subject that excites inquisitiveness on their part. That is a theme that strains their faculties to the utmost. That is higher than they can climb, deeper than they can dive. They have a desire for something too big for their comprehension. "Which things the angels desire to look into." But that does not discredit their intelligence. No one but God himself can fully understand the wonders of redemption. If all heaven should study it for 50 centuries, they would get no further than the A. B. C. of that inscrutable subject. But nearly all other realms of knowledge they have ransacked and explored and compassed. No one but God can tell them anything they do not know. They have read to the last page of the last line of the last page of the last volume of investigation, and what delights me most is that all their intelligence is to be of our disposal.

posals, and, coming into their presence, they will tell us in five minutes more than we can learn by 100 years of earthly surmising.

A further characteristic of these immortals is their velocity. This the Bible puts sometimes under the figure of a flowing garment, sometimes under the figure of naked feet. As these superhumans are without bodies, these expressions are of course figurative and mean swiftness. The Bible tells us that Daniel was praying and Gabriel flew from heaven and touched him before he got up from his knees. How far, then, did the angel Gabriel have to fly in those moments of Daniel's prayer? Heaven is thought to be the center of the universe. Our sun and its planets only the rim of the wheel of worlds. In a moment the angel Gabriel flew from that center to this periphery. Jesus told Peter he could instantly have 60,000 angels present if he called for them. What foot of antelope or wing of what bird could equal that velocity? Law of gravitation, which grips all things else, has no influence upon angelic momentum. Instantaneous before them open and shut like fan. That they are here is no reason why they should not be quittance of miles hence the next minute. Our bodies hinder us, but our minds can circle the earth in a minute. Angelic beings are bodiless and have no limitation. God may with his finger point down to some world in trouble on the outmost limits of creation, and instantly an angelic cohort is there to help it, or some celestial being may be standing at the farthest outpost of immensity, and God may say "Come!" and instantly it is in his bosom.

Another remark I have to make concerning these illustrious immortals is that they are multitudinous. Their census has never been taken and no one but God knows how many they are, but all the Bible accounts suggest their immense numbers—companies of them, regiments of them, armies of them, mountain tops haloed by them, skies populous with them. John speaks of angels and other beings round the throne as ten thousand times ten thousand. Now, according to my calculation, ten thousand times ten thousand is 100,000,000. But these are only the angels in one place. David counted 20,000 of them rolling down the sky in chariots. When God came away from the river banks of Mount Sinai, the Bible says he had the company of 10,000 angels. They are in every birth, in every exile, at every birth, at every pillow, at every hour, at every moment, the earth full of them. They outnumber the human race in this world. They outnumber ransomed spirits in glory. When Abraham had his knife uplifted to slay Isaac, it was an angel who arrested the stroke, crying, "Abraham, Abraham!" It was a stairway of angels that Jacob saw while pillowed in the wilderness. We are told an angel led the hosts of Israelites out of Egyptian serfdom.

The angel that shut the mouth of the hungry monsters when Daniel was thrown into the caverns. It was an angel that shut the mouth of the monster when Daniel was thrown into the lions' den. It was an angel that announced to Mary the approaching nativity. They were angels that chartered wisdom to Christ born in a manger. It was an angel that strengthened our Saviour in his agony. It was an angel that encouraged Paul in the Mediterranean shipwreck. It was an angel that burst open the prison gates after gate, until Peter was liberated. It was an angel that stirred the pool of Siloam, where the sick were healed. It was an angel that John saw flying through the midst of heaven, with a angel with foot planted on the sea, and an angel that opened the book, and an angel that sounded the trumpet, and an angel that thrust in the sickle, and an angel that poured out the vials, and an angel standing in the sun. It will be an angel with uplifted hand swearing that time shall be no longer. In the great final harvest of the world the reapers are the angels. Yes, the Lord shall be revealed from heaven with mighty angels. Oh, the numbers and the might and the glory of these supernatural hosts of them, squadrons of them, host beyond host, rank above rank, millions on millions, and all on our side if we will have them!

This leads me to speak of the offices of these supernals. To defend, to cheer, to rescue, to escort, to give victory to the right and overthrow the wrong—that is their business—just as alert to-day and efficient as when in Bible times they spread wing or unsheathed sword or rocked down penitentiaries or filled the mountains with horses of fire and driven by raiment of Job. They have turned your steps a hundred times, and you know it not. You were on the way to do some wrong thing, and they changed your course. They brought some thought of Christian parentage or of loyalty to your own home, and that arrested you. They arranged that some one should meet you at that crisis and propose something honorable and elevating, or they took from your pocket some ticket to will amusement, a ticket that you never found. It was an angel of God, and perhaps the very one that guided you to this service and that now awaits to report some holy impression to be made upon your soul, tarrying with one foot upon the doorstep of your immortal spirit and the other foot lifted for ascent into the skies. By some prayer detain him until he can call of repentance and ransomed soul! Or you were some time borne down with trouble, bereavement, persecution, bankruptcy, sickness and all manner of troubles, and they came to your heart and life. You gave up. You said: "I cannot stand any longer. I believe I will take my life. Where is the rail train or the deep wave or the precipice that will end this torment of earthly existence?" But suddenly your eyes brightened. Courage came surging into your heart like oceanic tides. You said, "God is on my side, and all these adversities he has made turn out for my good." Suddenly you felt a peace, a deep peace, the peace of God that passeth all understanding. What made the change? A sweet and mighty and comforting angel of the Lord met you. That was all.

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Yes, we are to have such a guardian angel to take us upward when our work is done. You know, we are told an angel conducted Lazarus to Abraham's bosom. That shows that none shall be so poor in dying he cannot afford angels to escort him. It would be a long way to go alone, and up paths we have never trod, and amid blazing worlds, swinging in chaos, out and out, and on through such distances and across such infinitudes of space we should shudder at the thought of going alone.

But the angelic escort will come to your languishing pillow or the place of your fatal accident and say: "Hail, immortal! All is well. God hath sent me to take you home." And without a tremor or with him. When he suggests the upward, farther on and farther on, until after awhile heaven heaves in sight and the rumble of chariot wheels and the roar of mighty harmonies are heard in the distance, and nearer you come, and nearer still, until you are at the goal. Many mornings suffused into one, and you are inside the amethystine walls and on the banks of the Jasper sea, and the angel that shut the mouth of the monster when Daniel was thrown into the caverns. It was an angel that shut the mouth of the monster when Daniel was thrown into the lions' den. It was an angel that announced to Mary the approaching nativity. They were angels that chartered wisdom to Christ born in a manger. It was an angel that strengthened our Saviour in his agony. It was an angel that encouraged Paul in the Mediterranean shipwreck. It was an angel that burst open the prison gates after gate, until Peter was liberated. It was an angel that stirred the pool of Siloam, where the sick were healed. It was an angel that John saw flying through the midst of heaven, with a angel with foot planted on the sea, and an angel that opened the book, and an angel that sounded the trumpet, and an angel that thrust in the sickle, and an angel that poured out the vials, and an angel standing in the sun. It will be an angel with uplifted hand swearing that time shall be no longer. In the great final harvest of the world the reapers are the angels. Yes, the Lord shall be revealed from heaven with mighty angels. Oh, the numbers and the might and the glory of these supernatural hosts of them, squadrons of them, host beyond host, rank above rank, millions on millions, and all on our side if we will have them!

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Men and women of all circumstances, only partly appreciated or not appreciated at all, never feel lonely again or unguarded against angels all around; angels to approve, angels to help, angels to remember. Yes, while all the good angels are friends of the good, there is one special angel your bodyguard. This idea until this present study of angelology I supposed to be fanciful, but I find it clearly stated in the Bible. When the disciples were praying for Peter's deliverance from prison and he appeared at the door of the prayer meeting, they could not believe it was Peter. They said, "It is an angel. So these disciples, in special nearness to Christ, evidently believed that every worthy soul has an angel. Jesus said of his followers, 'Their angels behold the face of my Father.' Elsewhere it is said, 'He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.' Angel shielded, angel protected, angel guarded, angel canopied, art thou! No wonder that Charles Wesley hymned these words:

Which of the petty kings of earth Can boast a guard like ours, Encircled from our second birth With all the heavenly powers?

Valerius and Rufinus were put to death for Christ's sake in the year 287, and after the day when their bodies had been whipped and pounded into a jelly, in the night in prison and before the next day when they were to be executed, they both thought they saw angels standing with two glittering crowns, saying, "Be of good cheer, valiant soldiers of Jesus Christ! A little more of battle, and then these crowns are yours." And I am glad that before many of those who have passed through great sufferings in this life some angel of God has held a blazing coronet of eternal reward.

Yes, we are to have such a guardian angel to take us upward when our work is done. You know, we are told an angel conducted Lazarus to Abraham's bosom. That shows that none shall be so poor in dying he cannot afford angels to escort him. It would be a long way to go alone, and up paths we have never trod, and amid blazing worlds, swinging in chaos, out and out, and on through such distances and across such infinitudes of space we should shudder at the thought of going alone.

But the angelic escort will come to your languishing pillow or the place of your fatal accident and say: "Hail, immortal! All is well. God hath sent me to take you home." And without a tremor or with him. When he suggests the upward, farther on and farther on, until after awhile heaven heaves in sight and the rumble of chariot wheels and the roar of mighty harmonies are heard in the distance, and nearer you come, and nearer still, until you are at the goal. Many mornings suffused into one, and you are inside the amethystine walls and on the banks of the Jasper sea, and the angel that shut the mouth of the monster when Daniel was thrown into the caverns. It was an angel that shut the mouth of the monster when Daniel was thrown into the lions' den. It was an angel that announced to Mary the approaching nativity. They were angels that chartered wisdom to Christ born in a manger. It was an angel that strengthened our Saviour in his agony. It was an angel that encouraged Paul in the Mediterranean shipwreck. It was an angel that burst open the prison gates after gate, until Peter was liberated. It was an angel that stirred the pool of Siloam, where the sick were healed. It was an angel that John saw flying through the midst of heaven, with a angel with foot planted on the sea, and an angel that opened the book, and an angel that sounded the trumpet, and an angel that thrust in the sickle, and an angel that poured out the vials, and an angel standing in the sun. It will be an angel with uplifted hand swearing that time shall be no longer. In the great final harvest of the world the reapers are the angels. Yes, the Lord shall be revealed from heaven with mighty angels. Oh, the numbers and the might and the glory of these supernatural hosts of them, squadrons of them, host beyond host, rank above rank, millions on millions, and all on our side if we will have them!

WINTER COATS.

Sacks, Jackets and Tailor Made Gowns.

For autumn and winter wear many straight sacks, descending to the middle of the skirt, are seen. They are bordered with a neat circular source, plain or cut in scallops, and have two or three graduated peleries over the shoulders. These sacks are seen in peau de sole as well as in cloth, in black and colors, and a great success is predicted for them.

The jacket is less in favor as a separate wrap than the long sack. When it

does appear, it usually forms a part of the costume and has a very short basque cut in tabs. This tailor made style must be very simple, the only fanciful part being the lining. For the skirt lining a choice of a bright, contrasting color is chosen, while the jacket is lined with brocade silk to match.

Tailor made costumes of all kinds will be greatly worn all winter, but their severity will be softened by the addition of chemisettes, vests and large, soft cravats of lace, net, gauze or silk.

Today's sketch shows a variety of the winter sack. It is a mastic cloth, curved a little under the arms, but otherwise quite straight. It closes with two rows of pearl buttons and has three graduated peleries and a velvet collar. All the edges are finished with rows of stitching, and stitching also follows the seams. The lining is of mastic satin. The black felt hat is trimmed with black satin, black plumes and a steel buckle.

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DRESS ORNAMENTS.

Metallic and Jeweled Decorations Still to the Fore.

Elaborate buttons, clasps and ornaments are to be worn in greater profusion than ever this winter. Even those composed of imitation precious metals and jewels are carefully made and very expensive, while, of course, the genuine are quite beyond the reach of any except the wealthiest persons. One of the most favored class of designs is characterized by the introduction of a cameo head, large or small. Buckles of this sort are enlarged.

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WINTER STYLES.

Great Revival of Fringe as a Trimming.

The wide brimmed hat of gray or white felt, the crown encircled by a band of silk and a long, straight feather stuck in the side, will continue to be worn late in early winter.

Fringe, that revival of an antique fashion, promises to enjoy a great success. It is already employed, on some of the models of winter costumes, in very striking ways, one method being to dip the hands of trimming, to design tunics, ingates, etc., on skirts. It is also placed over boucles, used as a finish to scalloped basques and employed for berberes.

For tartan cloaks the twisted fringe continuous with the goods itself, is the

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