



The Good Angels

"What did our preacher tell us in his sermon today?" Mrs. Lloyd asked her three children, Mary, Jeremy, and Michelle, as they drove home from church.

"He preached about the angels" said Jeremy.

"Can you tell me some things he told you about them?"

"He told us such a lot that I hardly remember any of it," said little Michelle.

"After lunch we will take our Bibles and see if we can find who the angels are and other things I'm sure you would like to know about them," said Mother.

"All right, Mother," said the children. They had learned that they always had a good time when their mother could study the Bible with them.

In the afternoon, when all were seated around her with their Bibles, Mother said, "Can you tell me what the word angel means?" "I think the preacher said it meant a messenger or servant," said Mary.

"Yes, the angels of God come from heaven to tell us something God wishes us to know or to do something that He wants to have done for us. Let's turn to Psalm 103:20." Jeremy read, "'Bless the Lord, he his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.'"

Mother continued: "Then the angels are mighty in strength, and they do what God tells them. We know it must be pleasant for them, and it makes them happy to do as God says. Because the verse says that they 'hearken' to hear what He says, and they are careful to obey it just as He says it. We can all learn a lesson from their willing obedience."

"Now let's read Hebrews 1:14," Mother said. Mary read, "'Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?'"

"But, Mother, what does 'minister' mean?" asked Michelle. "To minister means to serve or help someone. You are my little minister, Michelle, when you help me wash the dishes or straighten up your room."

"What is a spirit, Mother?" was the next question. "The verse says they are ministering spirits. From what we can learn in the Bible, spirits are beings whom we cannot see unless they wish us to see them. Please turn to Luke 24:39." Jeremy read this text. "'Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.'" "Then, you see," said Mother, "that a spirit does not have a body of flesh and bones as we do. Michelle, will you read Hebrews 1:7?" Michelle read, "'And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.'"



Mother continued, 'Yes, and as they fly, it is said that they Van and y returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning.' When an angel came to wake Jesus when He was dead, it is said that 'His face was like the lightning, and His raiment white as snow.' Angels are in the room now. They hear what we say; they see what we do and help us when we need them. Please read along with me the last part of Hebrews 1:14 again. 'They minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation.'"

"When a little batty is born into the world," Mother explained, "God tells one of His holy angels to go and take care of it. Then the angel will 'fly swiftly' to this dark world and become its servant. Just think of it. These mighty, heavenly beings come to wait on us, poor and sinful as we are, to go wherever we go and be with us every moment of our lives. I should think they would much rather stay in heaven. But they are so obedient that they listen to what God tells them and delight to do whatever He wishes. You have a bright angel with you always, Jeremy; so does Mary and little Michelle."

"Do they go to school with us?" asked Michelle. "Yes, they are with you at school and at home; when it is light and when it is dark. When you try to do right, it makes them glad; if you are naughty, they are sorry." "It almost makes me afraid to think that an angel is with me all the time," said Jeremy. Mother replied, "But it should not, for he is with you as your friend and helper. He watches over you for good all the time. We will read only one more text, Psalm 91:11,12." Mary read, "'For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lestthou dash thy foot against a stone.'"

"So you see," said Mother, "that God sends His holy angels to keep us when we are in danger. They keep us in all our ways. That is their work as long as we live. Let us not grieve them, but thank our heavenly Father every day for giving us such servants." ❖