

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Red Bud, Illinois**

**Adult Bible Study**

***"Angels, Angels Everywhere"***

**VI. What About Guardian Angels**

Guardian angels are a favorite part of popular piety (see comic strip examples). People who want little to do with the Christian church and who will not speak of Jesus as their Savior still like the idea of having guardian angels to protect them. Often they consider this guardian angel to be a close relative who has passed away. Television and movies foster this idea that our late grandparent, parent, sibling or a spouse has hung around our lives to deliver us from harm and danger.

This is all very emotional and touching, but it has no basis in the Holy Bible. Following their death, God's saints live in His presence. Their blessedness is not tarnished by reminders of the trials and troubles of life in this sin-filled world. Angels, on the other hand, are a separate class of God's ministers who serve His people and worship Him.

However, the idea of angels as our guardians is biblical. Not only is God always with us through His Word and Sacraments, God's angels surround us in our daily lives. In this lesson we will see examples of angels protecting God's people. We also will consider the ways God's angels may be protecting us.

**Who are the objects of these examples of angelic protection?**

**Genesis 19:15-22** \_\_\_\_\_

**Exodus 14:19-20** \_\_\_\_\_

**Daniel 3:19-29** \_\_\_\_\_

**Daniel 6:19-23** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 12:5-11** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 27:21-26** \_\_\_\_\_

**What are the six conditions for angelic protection that God gives in Exodus 23:20-26?**

**v. 21: 1)** \_\_\_\_\_

**2)** \_\_\_\_\_

**v. 22: 3)** \_\_\_\_\_

**v. 24: 4)** \_\_\_\_\_

**5)** \_\_\_\_\_

**v. 25 6)** \_\_\_\_\_

**What are the six benefits of that protection in this same passage?**

**v. 22: 1)** \_\_\_\_\_

**v. 23: 2)** \_\_\_\_\_

**v. 25: 3)** \_\_\_\_\_

**4)** \_\_\_\_\_

**v. 26: 5)** \_\_\_\_\_

**6)** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is God's promise concerning angels in Psalm 91:9-13?** \_\_\_\_\_

**To whom does this promise of protection apply? (v. 9a)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Whom does Jesus say receives the benefit of angels in Matthew 18:10?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Who are these "little ones"? (see verses 3-6)** \_\_\_\_\_

## What is the purpose of angels according to Hebrews 1:14? \_\_\_\_\_

*“Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?”*

## Can we count on the guardianship of angels if we do not want first to have a faith relationship with Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

The Christian church in the Middle Ages taught the existence of guardian angels. Honorius Augustodonesis (died in AD 1151) popularized the belief that every person, during one’s earthly existence, has an angel assigned to him or her who will pray for, protect and guide that person’s steps throughout life. Pope Clement X (served AD 1670-1676) made the Feast of the Guardian Angels (October 2) a universal celebration in the year 1670.

### *Martin Luther on Guardian Angels:*

“That angels are with us is very sure, and no one should ever have doubted it. It is certain not only that they are waiting for our coming into our future fatherland but also that they are truly around us in this life, providing for and guiding our affairs, if we would firmly believe it. Therefore we should learn that our best and most loyal friends are invisible. They are the good angels, who by their faithfulness and benevolence and by their many services of friendship greatly excel our visible friends.”

(from a sermon on Matthew 18:1-11 that Luther preached on St. Michael’s Day, September 19, 1533): “The dear angels are not so proud as we human beings are. They walk in obedience to God, serve mankind, and take care of little children...A marvelous thing it is that the holy servants of God take care of eating, drinking, sleeping and waking children! It certainly seems to be insignificant work. But the angels do it with joy; for it is well-pleasing to God, who has commanded them to do it...For parents with the help of the prince and the government are far too weak to be able to help bring up children. If it were not for the protection of the dear angels, no child would grow to full age, even if the parents took all possible care.”

(from a sermon on Matthew 18:1-11 that Luther preached on St. Michael’s Day in 1532): “If you see that something has turned out well you should say: The man had a good angel; otherwise, the matter would have turned out worse. For instance, it should not be called luck but the special work of good angels when a man is saved from drowning or when a stone falls upon someone without inflicting any particular harm.”

### *The Gospel Aspect of Guardian Angels:*

“From our earliest life, to our journey into heaven, the guardian angels serve their Lord by protecting and directing us. This loving care is not for our own sakes. It is for the sake of the Gospel. God protects and directs our earthly lives so that everything that happens serves some good purpose toward our salvation.” (George Ferch and Reynold Kremer, *Angels, The Bible Speaks*, page 12)

### *Questions for Speculation if There Are Guardian Angels?*

Would a Christian have the same guardian angel(s) from birth to death?

Where are those guardian angels when Christians are hurt or killed?

Are there things that guardian angels would never do?

**Luther’s Morning Prayer: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

*Next Lesson: Angels and the Life of Christ*