

SYLVIA'S CORNER

WERE WE EVER ANGELS?

I think not. But what I think is not important. What is important is what the Bible has to say. I always make it a point to welcome the Mormon Missionaries into my home if they happen to knock on my door. The last two that stopped by asked me if I knew that we were angels in heaven before coming to earth. Thus began a talk about angels.

In the Bible, in 1Corinthians 15:46 it states, "Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural: and afterward that which is spiritual." From this we see that our life began here on earth, not in heaven. In Genesis 2:7 the Bible says, "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living soul." So then we need to ask ourselves just who angels are. What kind of beings are they? Our examination of scripture will prove that we were never angels.

2 Thessalonians 1:7 is one of the many scriptures that shows that God has angels. It reads, "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels." We know that there are huge numbers of God's angels. Revelation 5:11 talks about the angels around the throne. It talks about their numbers as being ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands.

Matthew 25:41 shows us that the devil, an angel himself, has his angels that followed him in his rebellion against God. This verse says, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." So we see that there are two types of angels—both good and bad.

God wants us to know that there is a distinction between men and angels. In Psalm 8:5, referring to man, it says, "For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and has crowned him with glory and

honor." Again in Hebrews 2:7, the Bible says again, "Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownest him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands." Continuing in Hebrews, talking about Jesus as a man in the ninth verse, it also says that he was made a little lower than the angels so that he could taste death for every man. So we can see from this that we as humans for now are lower than angels.

The good news is that it will not always be that way. It states in 1Corinthians 6:3, "Know ye not that we shall judge angels? How much more things that pertain to this life?" What do angels do, we might ask? Well, for one thing they protect us. Just check out Psalm 91:11. It says, "For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." Also referring to children it shows in Matthew 18:10 that they have angels assigned to them for their guardianship.

Another thing that they do is to bring people to the Lord at the time of death. In Luke 16:22, the Bible says: "And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom:" They also rejoice at each person's salvation—repentance of sin and acceptance of the Lord Jesus. Just look at Luke 15:10. There Jesus is talking and he says, "Likewise I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

In 1Peter 1:12 it shows that they desire to look into the plan of the gospel. Angels do not marry. In Mark 12:25 it speaks about that in God's word. The angels do God's bidding. In Revelation 7:1, four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, hold the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, or the sea, or on any tree.

Angels also worship and praise God. In Hebrews 1:6 referring to Jesus it reads, "And let all the angels of God worship him." Psalm 148:2 reads, "Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him all his hosts." Also in Revelation 7:11 all the angels fell before the throne on their faces and worshiped God.

Lastly they will assist the Lord in administering

justice. In Matthew 13:39, Jesus talks about the angels being reapers. In Matthew 13:49 angels are shown as the dividers of the wicked from the just. In Revelation the angels administer God's judgements.

So we can see that we are very different from angels. We never *were* angels, and we won't ever *be* angels. Humans and angels are two very different kinds of beings, both created by God.