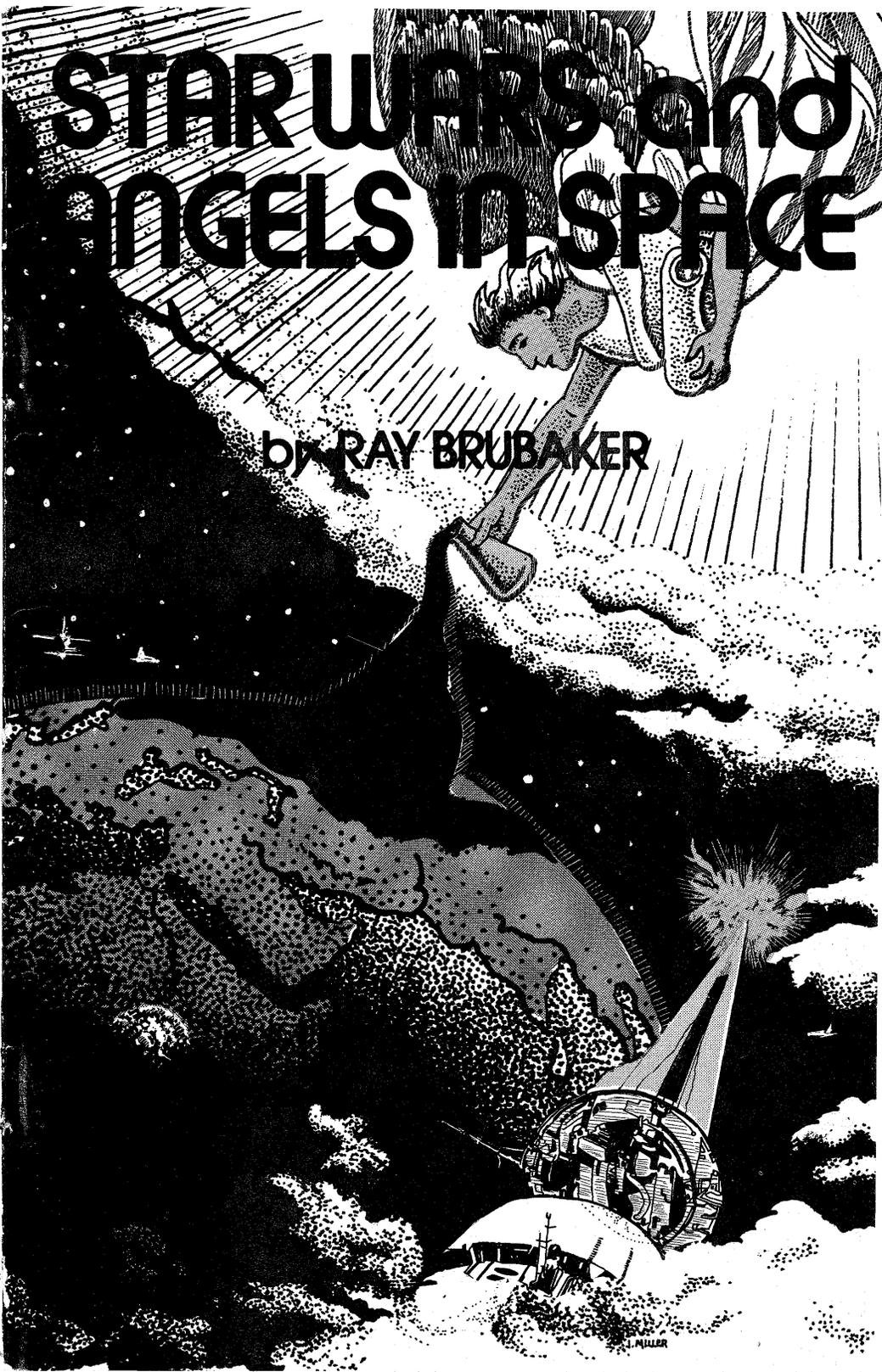


STAR WARS and ANGELS IN SPACE

by RAY BRUBAKER



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Ray Brubaker



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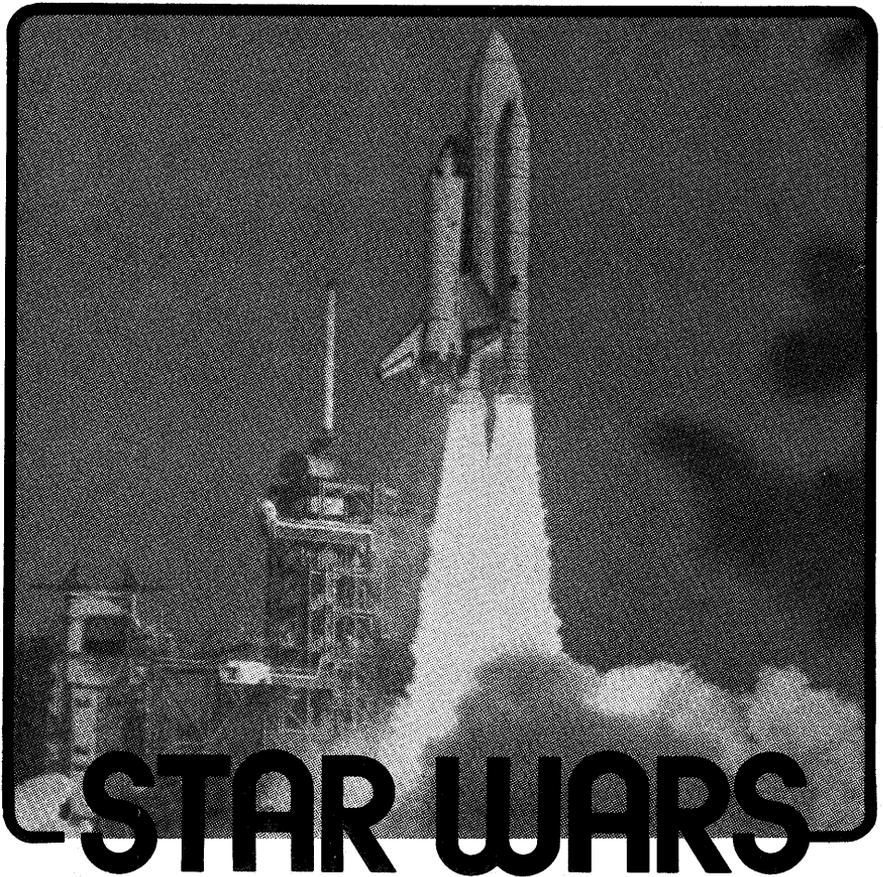
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GOD'S NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

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The successes and failures of America's space program were starkly brought to national attention with the disastrous final launch of the Space Shuttle Challenger. Johnson Space Center director, Jess Moore, called the in-flight explosion, which took the lives of seven astronauts, "a national tragedy."

In an emotion wrought statement from the Oval Office, President Reagan said this was not the end of the Shuttle flights and gave his support to continued space efforts. It was noted that the space shuttle program has proven to be a highly successful one. The Challenger disaster was the first loss of life in a total of 56 in-flight manned space missions.

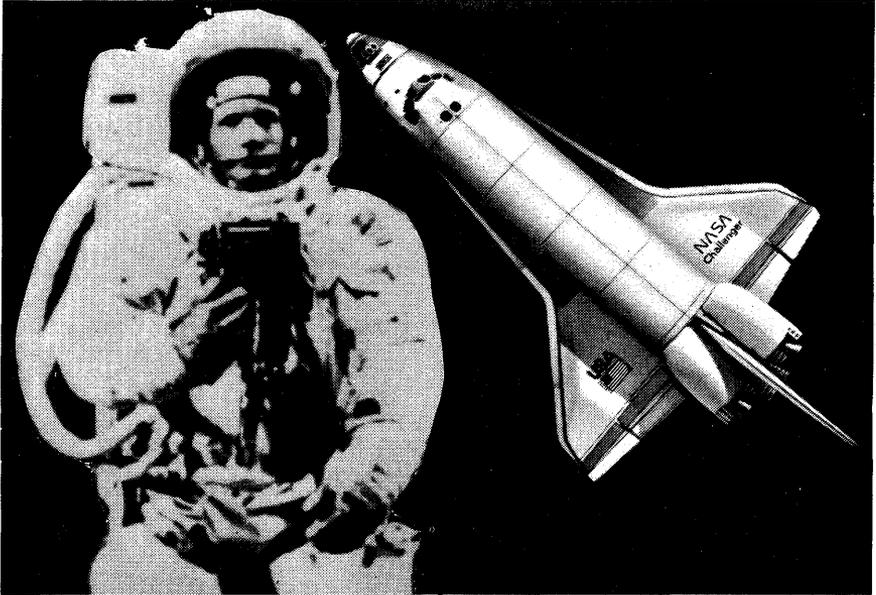
At the same time the nation mourned the deaths of the courageous American astronauts, scientists were "happily bewildered" by pictures sent back from another successful space venture, the Voyager II.

The space probe which left earth in 1977, rendezvousing with the planet Uranus, will have chalked up some 3 billion miles. Think of it.

A most fascinating adventure is the \$2-billion "space plane" called Hermes which is scheduled to make its first flight in 1995. Hermes will be about half the size of the shuttle — 52 feet long and 32½ feet wide — with a smaller cargo bay.

"By the end of the century," predicts French President Francois Mitterrand, "Europe will be a major force in space."

Of greatest concern to President Reagan is his Strategic Defense Initiative program which has now received the approval of the Thatcher government in Great Britain, thus also joining the European continent with ours in this endeavor.



American astronauts, in the orbiting space shuttle, have been conducting top-secret experiments in developing a new weapons system in space. This includes orbiting weapons, that could destroy incoming missiles . . . also referred to as "Star Wars." Americans are researching and developing the use of laser technology which some see as having frightful consequences.

Think of anything from a space station to an orbiting satellite beaming television programs becoming the target of a laser war in the event Russia and the United States ever became involved in conflict again.

The key to President Reagan's space shield is the space shuttle program.

Could a permanent space station be the next step in establishing a "Star Wars" defense system? And would it be better to develop a lunar base which could be less vulnerable to laser weapon attack than orbiting weapons? Not only could it serve as a valuable military lookout post, but function as a mining operation for important raw materials as aluminum, titanium, silicon and iron which exist in quantity on the moon.

Today we might ask, does the Bible have anything to say about Star Wars? What is the position of the Soviet Union and the United States on this most important defense initiative.?

A poll by Arthur J. Finkelstein found 90% of Americans in favor of a

space defense against Soviet missiles. However, when asked whether they favored a "Star Wars" defense, only 37% answered in the affirmative. Yet these programs are both the same with the official name being that of Strategic Defense Initiative.

Secretary of State, George Shultz, said of S.D.I., it is "not a bid for strategic superiority; on the contrary, it would maintain the balance, in light of the rapid Soviet progress in both defensive and offensive systems."

As for similar projects in the Soviet Union, Defense Secretary, Casper Weinberger, said the Soviets operate more than six "major research and development facilities and test ranges" dealing with laser weapons, with 10,000 scientists and engineers assigned to the program.

Weinberger invited the 14 nations of NATO's Nuclear Planning Group, plus France, Israel, Australia and Japan to participate in "Star Wars" research.

Weinberger pointed to the Soviet laser development project as part of an anti-missile program, which he said is "much larger than the United States effort." He noted that the Soviets may be ready to deploy their own ground-based laser defensive system within the next decade.

In Moscow, TASS, the official news agency, called the report a "fantastic piece of fiction."

The Soviets are deeply suspicious of the "Star Wars" program saying it is designed to give the United States a "first-strike" capability — the ability to launch a nuclear attack and then have a shield which would protect American territory from retaliation.

To offset such a program the Kremlin is proposing a ban of all nuclear weapons by the year 2000.

The CHRISTIAN INQUIRER notes: "American liberals love Soviet dictator Mikhail Gorbachev's promises of peace and disarmament. But they ignore his actions. Gorbachev publicly advocates "peace" but prepares for world conquest."

James Kilpatrick, newspaper columnist for Universal Press Syndicate, uses the word "Millennium" to describe peace attempts made by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. He notes, "Millennium" carries two definitions, one literal, the other poetic. A millennium is "a period of 1,000 years." It is also "a period of great happiness or human perfection." He notes the peace proposal advanced by Gorbachev embraces both meanings.

Then he makes this observation, "It is truly remarkable to see the head of the Soviet state, whose troops lately have been killing the children of Afghanistan by bombs concealed in toys, wrapping himself in a messiah's mantle of peace on Earth, good will toward men."

Gorbachev opposes "Star Wars." And he wants all nuclear weapons banned by 1999.

Soviet officials have warned that the "Star Wars" program could lead to the militarization of outer space.

Will this happen?

The United States has planned to spend upwards to \$30 billions on building a shield that can shoot down incoming missiles. The big question is whether the Soviets can talk us into some kind of

compromise or elimination of nuclear weapons altogether.

One cannot read the Bible without realizing there will be wars and rumors of wars until Jesus comes.

In Rev. 12:7 mention is made of a future battle described as "war in heaven." A battle is described between the forces of God and those of the devil, with the result that Satan will be cast down upon the earth and will one day reign through his puppet we call the Antichrist. We read, "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."

We believe that time is near.

In fact this report in USA TODAY described a UFO sighted in the Soviet Union which appeared as a "large, unblinking star."

Likewise in China, an Unidentified Flying Object was sighted by a Chinese airliner and it was determined that it was 6 miles wide. Again, USA TODAY reported the plane was over a western province when the crew saw the object, and said it kept pace with the airliner.

Going back into the Old Testament we read in Judges 5:20, "They fought from heaven; the stars in their courses fought against Sisera." Isn't that interesting?

The UFO reported seen in Russia was described as a "large, unblinking star."

Over in Psalms 83 we read of the enemies of Israel who say in verse 4, "Come and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance."

In reply, we read in verse 9 where the Lord says concerning these enemies, "Do unto them as unto the Midianites; as to Sisera . . ." Remember, the stars fought against Sisera.

It was reliably reported that during the Six Day war, stars actually shot out of the sky and knocked out Arab tanks with no other explanation except God was coming to the aid of Israel.

In the book of Daniel it is believed a reference to the "little horn" in (Daniel 8:9) is a reference to Antiochus Epiphanes, and may also be representative of the coming rule of the Antichrist.

Here's what we read, "And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land. And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them."

The footnotes in my Bible read, "This passage . . . is confessedly the most difficult in prophecy . . ."

Not until the advent of space rockets and laser technology, has it been possible to offer an explanation as to what Daniel was saying. For he mentions a power who waxes great, even to bringing down some of the host of heaven, and of casting down stars to the ground.

We might ask, Is this not what is possible using the Star Wars technology?

It could never be understood as to why the Russians would oppose a defense that would utilize such space technology? Star wars is designed to prevent intercontinental missiles from striking our shores

and raining down death and destruction upon us. It's almost a dead giveaway that the Soviet Union is planning a program of global conflict that involves not only earth but heaven.

The "little horn" is seen moving south; therefore he must be located in the northern end of our hemisphere. And his expansion plans causes him also to move eastward, and toward the land of Palestine, or the "pleasant land."

It is generally assumed that this is a reference to the Antichrist who is seen coming from a united Europe—a revived Roman Empire. In Dar 9:26 there is a reference to "the people of the prince that shall come (and) shall destroy the city and the sanctuary." This was a prediction relating to the Romans who initially came in 70 A.D. and destroyed Jerusalem and the temple. So from this people a "prince" shall come which we believe is the world ruler we call the Antichrist.

For this reason we do not know whether the United States will share its space technology, including its laser program, with the European confederacy of nations that today we call the Common Market countries.

In all probability, if we have shared our missiles in a defense of western Europe, it is also quite possible we will share other space technology as well.

Of course, we know the future is uncertain. Addressing the United Nations General Assembly on the occasion of its 40th anniversary, President Reagan spoke of doing away with nuclear weapons altogether as a goal to be realized.

When the President speaks of destroying our nuclear arsenal he does not speak for himself. Rather, this is the heart cry of a world weary of war. It is the cry of those who fear nuclear disintegration will leave our world a bed of ashes and hot embers. The president is strong for self-defense.

What would happen were we to reduce our nuclear arsenal to zero?

Of course, the pacifists would rejoice and the antinuclear forces would celebrate with cries of "Peace, Peace." This is the news the world wants to hear!

But what this would ultimately do is to give to Russia and its satellites the signal to march. Their armies have been kept in check because of our nuclear shield and because of rockets poised to be launched were a Soviet invasion to take place.

Did you hear it?

We repeat — the Russians have not signalled their vast armies to march in final conquest of the globe, which is their established intention mainly because of our arsenal of nuclear weapons. Destroy those weapons and it's a signal to the Soviets that they can now take over the world.

Is this what we want? Are we ready to give our lives and the lives of our people to become slaves to a Soviet system that is barbaric and thrives on denying freedom?

Then all we have to do is to continue the philosophy of "peace, peace" regardless of the consequences.

It would come to pass as we read in the book of Jeremiah, Chapter 6,

where they say, "Peace, peace; when there is no peace." Then in verse 22 of this same chapter we read, "Thus saith the lord, Behold, a people cometh from the north country, and a great nation shall be raised from the sides of the earth. They shall lay hold on bow and spear; they are cruel, and have no mercy . . ."



Who is it that cometh from the north? Is it Russia? Who is it that is cruel, and shows no mercy? Has it not been the communist countries? And what is the great nation raised up from the sides of the earth? Could that not be the United States?

In Jeremiah, chapter one, the Lord says of Jeremiah, "I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations."

His message is found in verse 14, "Then the Lord said unto me, Out of the north an evil shall break forth unto all the inhabitants of the land. For, lo, I will call all the families of the kingdoms of the north, saith the Lord; and they shall come, and they shall set every one his throne at the entering of the gates of Jerusalem . . ."

Today we have preachers who declare everything is lovely — the future is fine — and there will be peace. It would appear that we are approaching a Utopia.

However, Jeremiah again seems to refer to this in chapter 23, and beginning with verse 16, we read: "Thus saith the Lord of hosts, Harken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the Lord. They say still unto them that despise me, The Lord hath said, Ye shall have peace . . ."

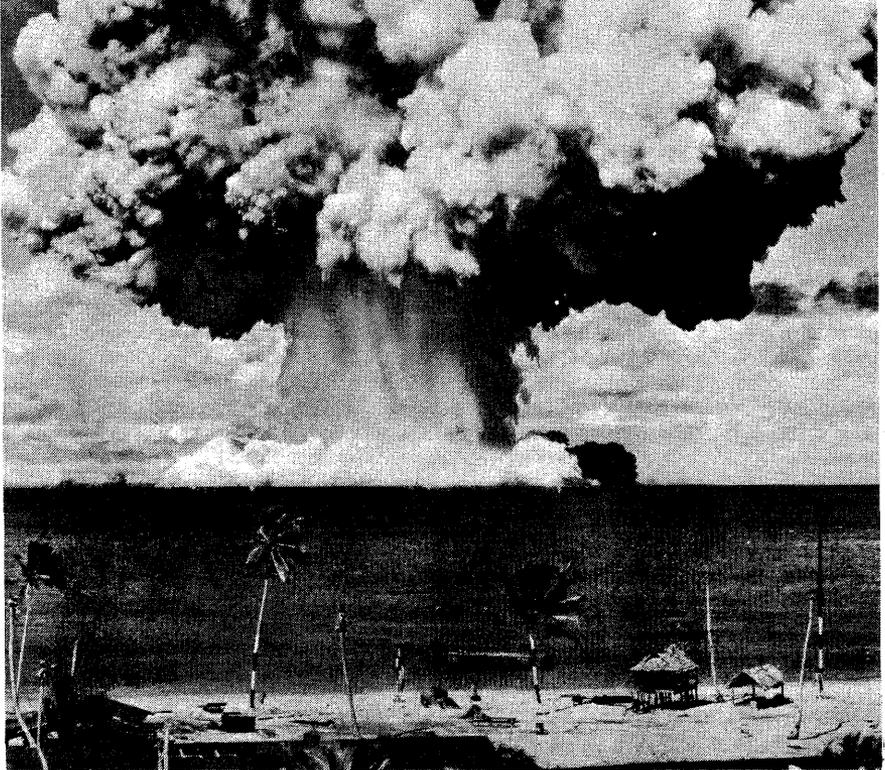
Did you hear it?

Again we read, "and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart. No evil shall come unto you."

Again we ask, Isn't that typical of much of preaching? While we praise God for the promises of His Word, there is a certain sense where when someone says, "thus saith the Lord," it is in reality their imagination. That is what this scripture says.

Then in Jer. 23:18 we continue to read: "For who hath stood in the counsel of the Lord, and hath perceived and heard his word? who hath marked his word and heard it? Behold, a whirlwind of the Lord is gone forth in fury, even a grievous whirlwind: it shall fall grievously upon the head of the wicked."

What is this whirlwind?



Could it be a nuclear blast? Is it a mushrooming atomic cloud?

We read verse 20: "The anger of the Lord shall not return, until he have executed, and till he have performed the thoughts of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly."

Would you not say these are the latter days?

Who would have thought at the beginning of this century there would be a diabolical weapon so powerful it could destroy our world? Yet this is the age of the atom. This is when destruction is possible on a scale man cannot fully comprehend.

Is it not a reminder of what we read in 1 Thess. 5:3, "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape."

So amidst all the talk of peace, the Bible's message is a warning of coming destruction.

But we would note that the coming whirlwind will fall upon the head of the wicked. So where are the righteous? Could it be they are gone

when this whirlwind strikes? Is the rapture to occur next?

As we understand the Scriptures our Lord is seen coming for his saints, and then after the tribulation he is seen coming with his saints.

Said Jesus, "Watch . . . and pray always that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." (Luke 21:36)

Would the Lord hold out the possibility of escape if there were no escape? Our Lord likens his coming as it was in the days of Lot . . . "it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed." (Luke 17:29-30)

As God rescued Lot and his family before the holocaust of fire and brimstone, will He not rescue us? That is, if we are ready to meet him when He comes?

Jeremiah laments those who prophesy peace falsely. He writes in verse 21: "I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings."

Beloved, if wanting to escape the nuclear holocaust that we expect will one day be unleashed upon this earth, then you better make preparation for our Lord's Return. His coming is the only escape from the coming awful tribulation which Jesus described as far worse than anything this world has ever seen.

So, if we'll stop hearing words of Peace, and hear the voice of God calling for men everywhere to repent and turn to Christ for forgiveness and salvation, we, too, can have the hope of rapture — when the dead in Christ shall rise first, and we who are alive and remain shall be caught up to meet our Lord in the air and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Is this what you want? Is this what you're looking for? As we see it, the coming of Christ for His own is the only hope of escape from the woes and the judgments that lie ahead, except one were to die. The rapture is "the blessed hope," and we are admonished, "wherefore comfort one another with these words."

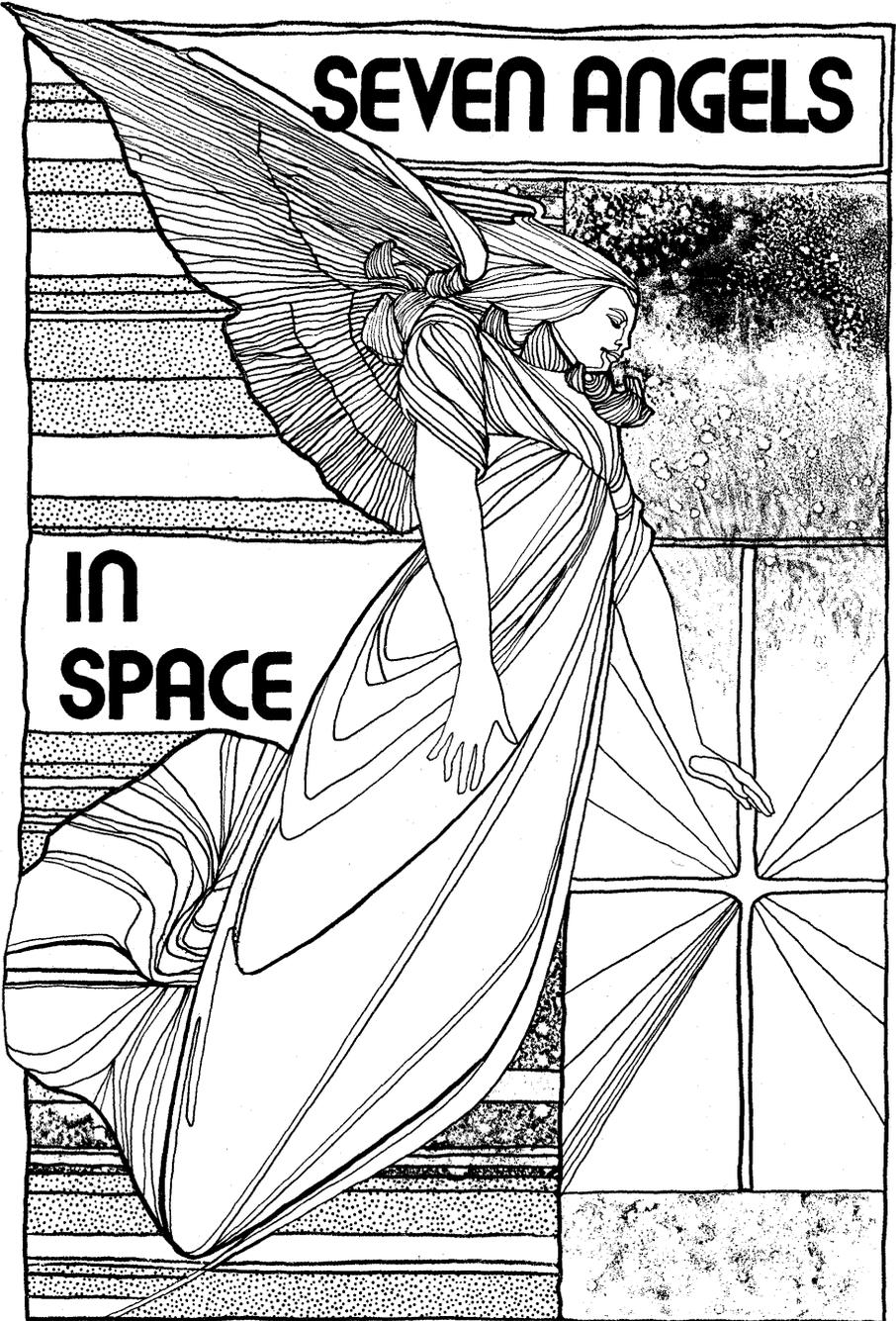
If you are saved and living for Christ this message should be one of joy and comfort.

If you do not know Christ, then right now open your heart to Him. For "as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." (John 1:12)

Pray this prayer. "Lord Jesus, I receive you as my Saviour and Lord. Be merciful to me, a sinner, and save me, I pray. I believe you died for my sins and rose again, and that you're coming again for those who are ready to meet you. Keep me ready, I pray. Amen."

And, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

SEVEN ANGELS



According to **WEEKLY WORLD NEWS**, three Soviet cosmonauts, Vladimir Solevov, Oleg Atkov and Leonid Kizin, said they witnessed the most awe-inspiring spectacle ever encountered in space — a band of glowing angels. This is reported to have happened during their 155th day aboard the orbiting **SALYUT 7** Space Station.

“What we saw,” they said, “were seven giant figures in the form of humans, but with wings and mist-like halos, as in the classic depiction of angels.”

Twelve days later, three other Soviet scientists, including a woman cosmonaut, also saw the angels. Said the woman, “They were smiling as though they shared in a glorious secret.”

What could be the angels’ secret? Could it be a reminder that our Lord is soon to come? In 2 Thess. 1:7 we read, “And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from Heaven with his mighty angels.”

While on many occasions too numerous to mention, angels are mentioned in the Bible, you’ll have to turn to the book of Revelation to read about “Seven” angels.

We are not saying that the seven angels seen by the Russian cosmonauts are these same seven described in the book of the Revelation, but simply stating mention is made of seven angels.

In fact, in Rev. 8 we read, “And when he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.”

Again, we read in Rev. 16 of seven angels; beginning with verse one: “And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.”

Some have asked the question as to what’s ahead for the world.

When Jesus was asked, “What shall be the sign of thy coming and of the end of the world,” he replied there would be wars, famines, pestilences and earthquakes, saying: “All these are the beginning of sorrows.”

These things we have seen and continue to see.

Our Lord went on to say, “And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold,” and we are seeing this happen. With crime, lawlessness and terrorism on the increase, it has also resulted in spiritual complacency, carelessness, and apathy.

Incidentally, more than 100 countries signed the Hague treaty of 1970, which calls for punishing or extraditing hijackers, but many countries fail to observe it.

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come,” said Jesus.

Well, through radio and television and the printed page, the Gospel is going forth to the ends of the world. What a day in which to live.

We repeat, this we have seen taking place in our time.

Now, as to what’s ahead, listen closely.

Declared Jesus, “For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.” (v 21)

Think of all the terrible things that have ever happened in the world, including the holocaust, and the coming great tribulation will be far worse.

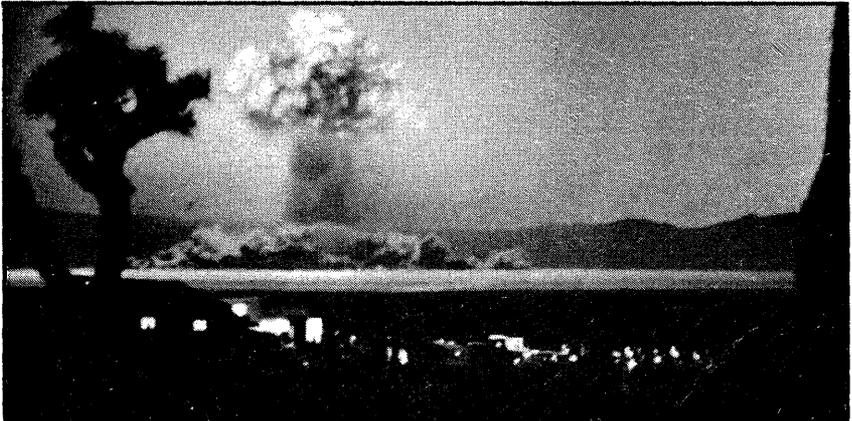
What happens next? We read in verse 29, “Immediately after the

tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken."

There are some biblical scholars who point out that the word for "heavens" here is "ouranoi," a reminder of uranium which is used to bring about a nuclear explosion.

Mention is made that the heavens will grow dark as the powers of the heavens are shaken, possibly by a nuclear blast.

A NEW YORK TIMES copyrighted article states: "The Pentagon accepted as valid (Friday) a theory that nuclear war could generate enough smoke and dust to blot out the sun . . ." The result we're told could be "severe climatic cooling."



An article in TIME magazine describes this event. "It is two weeks after a major nuclear war, and the searing white flashes of 25,000 bombs have faded into a black drizzle of radioactive fallout. Yet Armageddon is not complete: for miles above the earth, sunlight is blotted out by plumes of smoke from the vast conflagrations in which the major cities of the Northern Hemisphere have been consumed. This thick veil of soot and dust slowly circulates through various layers of the atmosphere, blanketing entire continents, creating a world of frigid darkness. As ground temperatures plummet by as much as 40° F and the sun is obscured, crops in Iowa, Nebraska and the Ukraine in the Soviet Union perish."

The conclusion reached by the National Research Council is, "This grim scene is a possible approximation of the aftermath of nuclear war."

Science adviser, George Keyworth II, sees this "nuclear winter" as further justification for developing the Star Wars defense system, which might employ space-based weapons to destroy incoming missiles. With such a system, he argues, neither side would be tempted to strike first. So the risk of a major nuclear war might be diminished.

On the other hand, there are nuclear strategists who insist that Star Wars would more likely force the Soviets also to build advanced weapons and thus increase the threat of a global holocaust.

In the event of a nuclear exchange, scientists have estimated as much as 225 billion tons of radioactive debris would be carried through the atmosphere. Vast clouds of dust and smoke could block 99% of the sun's light, wiping out crops and animals across the Northern Hemisphere, killing through starvation many who might otherwise survive a nuclear war.

The sun would be darkened, and the moon refuse to give its light, were such nuclear war to break out.

After describing the sun being darkened, with the powers of heaven shaken, our Lord notes: "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

We would certainly like to believe that this ingathering of saints will take place before a nuclear holocaust.

In Revelation 6 we have a similar picture of the sun becoming black as sackcloth of hair, and the stars falling from heaven, with the result that men everywhere, including kings and captains, speak to the mountains, saying, "Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; For the great day of his wrath is come: and who shall be able to stand."

So, after the great tribulation is the great day of wrath.

Turning to Rev. 16 we have seven angels pouring forth their vials of wrath.

We read: "And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth."

As the first angel pours out his vial, "there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image."

Are these sores produced by radioactivity, the result of a nuclear war? Or could they be the result of the AIDS epidemic?

As the second and third angels pour forth their vials, the seas and the rivers become as blood and all life in the sea dies.

We think of the Red Tide which results in the death of fish by a paralysis that affects their membranes, making it impossible for them to breathe.

As the fourth angel pours forth his vial upon the sun, men become scorched with great heat, and blaspheme the name of God on account of these plagues.

With the appearance of the fifth angel, great darkness comes upon men, and instead of repenting they too blaspheme the name of God because of their pains and sores.

William Barclay once said: "The most terrible situation in life is when Almighty God is powerless to gain an entry into the citadel of the human heart, for God has given men the terrible responsibility of being able to lock their hearts against Him."

The pouring forth of the vial by the sixth angel finds the waters of the

great river Euphrates dried up so that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared in their march toward Armageddon. We read, "the kings of the earth and of the whole world" will come to that battle of the great day of God Almighty.

Finally we read, "And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air . . . and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great."

Think of it.

Mexico is busy rebuilding following the devastating earthquake in September, 1985.

The earth shook, buildings collapsed, thousands died. Dozens of others were rescued from the rubble.

But the earthquake's reverberations left more than just the immediate physical cost of deaths, injuries and damage. They shook up the nation — the world's second largest debtor country. Rebuilding is costly especially in view of the failing economy and dwindling oil prices for without oil Mexico would be completely bankrupt.

Volunteers worked night and day to rescue those trapped by the rubble. Teams of doctors stood by to treat those pulled to safety.

Many of those involved in the rescue remained to clear rubble at the end of their day's work.

There were rewards among the devastation. From the rubble of one of the two city hospitals wrecked by the quakes, came 60 newborn babies, some had survived eight days without food and water.

Estimates of the damage ran to four billion dollars — with less than half covered by emergency international credits, foreign assistance and insurance money. The rest has to come out of the nation's pocket.

The cost of recovery is enormous. In rebuilding there is the need to get essential services to the central residential district. The main water and gas lines and power cables were badly damaged.

Most of the severely damaged buildings were state buildings, supposedly built according to strict guidelines. But even before the quake it was feared government contractors were not following the code.

In all, some 700 buildings collapsed or were badly enough damaged to have to be demolished.

In a city with the world's largest population it could have been worse — much worse — for its 18 million people.

Even as our Lord predicted there would be earthquakes in divers places, so we are apt to hear most unusual reports such as the earthquake, Jan. 31, 1986 which rattled the nation from Illinois to Washington, D.C., and from Virginia to Canada.

Centered near Cleveland, Ohio, the quake registered 5.0 on the Richter scale. Mark Wilson, a professor of geology at the College of Wooster, said the earthquake "was significantly larger than previous Ohio quakes with the exception of one or two in the 1930s, comparatively minor when you think on an international scale."

No doubt the quake described as taking place during the sounding of the seventh angel, believed during the tribulation period, will be international in scope. It is described as "a great earthquake, such as

was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great."

If planning to remain on earth during the tribulation, make sure you have an earthquake shelter, for it is likely buildings will not survive such a devastating quake.

In Rev. 16:20 we have a further description of the cataclysm due to occur for we read, "And every island fled away and the mountains were not found." That has to be a powerful quake that will level mountains.

Doesn't that raise questions about edifices being built that cost millions of dollars? Would it not be better to use our money to send forth the gospel to the ends of the earth to evangelize the world, rather than to build buildings that will be demolished in a coming earthquake?

Of course, we need buildings — homes, factories, offices, churches, schools! But in view of these passages we have just read, we had better build structures that will withstand violent earth upheavals if we expect to be here during the tribulation.

I pray that the rapture will occur and that the saints will be gone, so that none will have to witness such a terrible earthquake as described here in the book of Revelation.

When I think of terrible tragedies that are ahead, I'm reminded of what Jesus said in Luke 21, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."

Then He added, "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth."

Think of the seven Astronauts taking off in the CHALLENGER space shuttle with everything going fine. Then suddenly, without notice, as all were watching, there came this gigantic explosion and seven souls were hurled into eternity.

So, it will be at the coming of the Lord. As a snare — a trap that is suddenly sprung without warning — will come this destruction, only it will come to all that dwell on the whole earth.

Then Jesus says, "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."

Some say this means that the Lord will offer escape on this earth so that we can go safely through this time of tribulation that is ahead. But seeing what's ahead for the whole world, would it not be better to pray that we may escape such catastrophes as we have described today?

Most people who believe in the rapture of the church take it for granted that they will escape the tribulation. But that is not the attitude our Lord had in mind here. We may have assurance of our salvation, and never be in doubt about our relationship with the Lord, but to escape the troubles and trials that are ahead in the period we call the tribulation, when Antichrist rules, and judgments fall, we are told to "watch . . . and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape."

It would appear as we've asked before, Is the rapture the reward of readiness? We are not saved on account of our worthiness, but we can

be accounted worthy to escape what's ahead.

Look at 2 Thess. 1:5 where we read, "that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer: Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you: and to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."

We could go on reading, but tribulation is here spoken of as coming to those who would trouble or oppress the saints while they await the return of the Lord with his mighty angels.

We began the broadcast today by recounting the episode of Soviet cosmonauts admitting seeing 7 angels during their stay aboard the orbiting SALYUT 7 Space Station.

We couldn't help but ask, could these 7 angels be a reminder of the Seven Angels of Revelation, or to the appearance of mighty angels who at the return of our Lord appear in flaming fire to take vengeance on two classes of people — those who know not God, and those who obey not the Gospel of our lord Jesus Christ.

Beloved, if listening today make sure you are not in any of those classifications.

The Bible says, "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." Yes, you can know God by coming to him and receiving Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord.

Notice again vengeance is promised those who "obey not" the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In 1 Cor. 15, Paul declares the gospel by which ye are saved, is "that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures." This you need to believe in order to be saved, that Christ died for you.

However, we are told we need to "obey the Gospel." Perhaps believing is obeying. But as Jesus died for our sin, God expects of us to die to sin and not walk anymore in a life of sin. As Christ came forth from the grave, even so we are to come forth in newness of life through the indwelling Holy Spirit whom God gives when we truly mean business with Him and invite Him into our heart and life.

As we understand the scriptures no one needs to be lost. God is not willing that any should perish but that all come to a knowledge of the truth.

So pray this prayer: "Lord Jesus, I do here and now receive you as my Saviour and Lord, to find forgiveness from all my sins through your blood shed on the cross for my sins. And, I receive the Holy Spirit into my life to lead me, comfort me, keep me 'til the day you come for me. Thank you for saving me, and keeping me ready for the day when you will come. Amen."

Pray that prayer and mean it.

And, "Be ye therefore ready also for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

ANGELS-



ARE THEY REAL?

Dr. Ralph Harlow, a scholar whose educational background has included both Harvard and Columbia, relates an unusual and strange phenomena — that of witnessing angelic beings such as no doubt appeared in a heavenly host that first Christmas day.

Walking through the woods in early Spring with his wife, Marion, from behind they could hear voices. Turning to his wife, Dr. Harlow said: "We have company in the woods this morning."

The voices came nearer although they saw nothing; until looking up what they saw was incredible. For about ten feet over their heads there came a floating group of glorious, beautiful creatures that glowed with spiritual beauty. There were six of them — young, beautiful women dressed in flowing white garments — still engaged in conversation. Their faces were perfectly clear and one who appeared slightly older than the rest, was especially beautiful. Her dark hair was pulled back in something of a pony tail — and she talked intently to the others — seemingly unaware of our presence. Although their voices were clearly heard the words were not. They seemed to float past so gracefully, and as gentle and peaceful as morning itself.

Says Dr. Harlow: "I have never been subject to hallucinations. Attorneys have solicited my testimony and I have testified in courts, regarded by judges and jury as a faithful, reliable witness."

He goes on to relate how he was once skeptical about the accuracy of the details of the birth of Christ — thinking the story of angels to be

merely legend or fantasy, but now he knew angels were real.

To be sure he had seen and heard correctly, however, he had asked his wife to relate what she had seen and heard. And her reply was identical in every respect so that he knew what he had seen was real.

This account, related in **GUIDEPOSTS** should certainly make all of us more aware of the reality of angelic beings and their presence with us today.

Angels have played a prominent role in the life of our Saviour. Even before his birth, the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to say that she was designated to be the mother of the Messiah. "Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name **JESUS**. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give him the throne of his father David . . . and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

What a remarkable visitation!

On three separate occasions an angel appeared unto Joseph — not in person as in the case of Mary, but each time in a dream. The first angelic appearance was to confirm Mary's announcement that she would give birth to the Saviour, and that he was not to put her away, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost; and furthermore, his name should be called **JESUS**, for he shall save his people from their sins. The second appearance to Joseph of the angel was to tell him to flee into Egypt, for soon after Jesus was born, Herod sought the child's life. And, finally at the death of Herod an angel of the Lord again appeared in a dream to Joseph to tell him to return back to Nazareth.

Throughout our Lord's life angels appeared . . . during his temptation to strengthen and comfort him; and in the Garden where he sweat drops of blood.

Following our Lord's resurrection, the angel of the Lord rolled back the stone and sat upon it. His countenance was as the lightning, and his raiment glistened as sun shining upon newly-fallen snow.

Angels appeared at his ascension who said: "this same Jesus which is taken from you shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven!" And just as a heavenly multitude of angels appeared to sing their 'hallelujahs' at Jesus' first coming, so we read "all the holy angels" will return with him when he comes in his glory. (Matthew 25:31)

At our Lord's betrayal we see the mob, led by Judas Iscariot, coming with swords and with staves, and as he willingly turned himself over to them he said, "Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?"

How many angels comprise a "legion" might be determined from the customs of that day which found in the Roman army, for example, a legion consisting of 6,200 men. Thus, twelve legion of men would be 84,400 men.

Are there that many angels? you might ask. John, in the book of Revelation, hears the voices of angels surrounding the throne of God, and he declares the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands?

Why so many? Again the reason reveals the wonderful love and grace of our God for the Bible, would indicate that each of us has a guardian angel. These angels are for the purpose of keeping watch over the saints and ministering to those who are the heirs of salvation. (Heb. 1:14) The reason why you were spared in that accident may have been due to your guardian angel. Heaven will, no doubt, reveal the marvelous manifestation of angels such as those which ministered in the Bible. An angel of the Lord appeared to Daniel to shut the Lion's mouth, and to Elijah, to cook him a meal and feed him on food that gave him strength for forty days. An angel appeared on several occasions during the time of Abraham, later to Joshua and to Gideon, and others.

The Scriptures are filled with such angelic visitations. And does not the Psalmist say: "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them." An angel delivered Peter from prison, and stood by the Apostle Paul.

Your guardian angel may be there with you in your room or he may be in heaven where he has immediate access to the throne of God. With television, we can capture the magical pictures that form electronically in the atmosphere, but no camera has yet been invented to show the marvelous angelic beings that inhabit space and eternity.

Jesus said of little children that "their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven." In many homes there still hangs the celebrated picture of two small children watched over by their guardian angel who hovers near and guides through life's storms.

The angel's greatest joy is to see a sinner saved. Music fills heaven with anthems of praise when a soul discovers salvation in all of its glorious dimension. A person who truly turns from his sin, repents of wrong-doing, and surrenders to the Saviour is real reason for rejoicing. As Jesus said, "there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." (Luke 15:10)

C. M. Ward, Revivaltime speaker, relates the story of a missionary couple who were living at the time in Switzerland, and who were in dire need. With not a cent in the house, the wife went to the Lord in simple prayer, saying: "Jesus, I need: 5 pounds of potatoes, 2 pounds of pastry flour, apples, pears, a cauliflower, carrots, veal cutlets for Saturday and beef for Sunday."

When she finished listing her requests she said, "Thank you, Jesus!" and went about her work.

About 11:30 that morning, a knock at the apartment door was answered by the wife who saw a man standing there with a basketful of provisions who said: "I am bringing you what you asked for."

He was dressed like a groceryman with his long blue apron over his work clothes. Thinking there was some mistake, the wife said she hadn't ordered anything, and then called her husband. The husband tried to explain that there were some 25 apartments and surely there must be a mistake, only to be interrupted by the voice sweetly saying, "I have brought you what you asked for."

Taking the groceries, they discovered the exact list of foodstuffs the wife had ordered in prayer that morning, even to the BRAND OF PASTRY FLOUR in the amount she had requested.

The missionary says, I stood by the window to see him leave the building but though I watched, and my wife checked the hallways, there was no trace of him anywhere!

Do you believe in angels?

One of the most incredible stories of recent times as related by Paul Harvey, newscaster for the ABC network, is supposed to have taken place during a United Nations conference at Lake Success.

Among those present at this committee meeting were Mr. Dulles and Mr. Austin representing the United States, Vishinsky of the Soviet Union, and Jebb of the United Kingdom.

No photographers, and only the recording secretaries were permitted to occupy a glassed-in translation loft.

The meeting had barely been called to order by the chairman, Sir Bengal Rau, when to their consternation and amazement a stranger stood in their midst. He was a tall, lean man clothed in the attire of the East, not uncommon at Lake Success, with sandals and beard — the beard well groomed, and his lips parted.

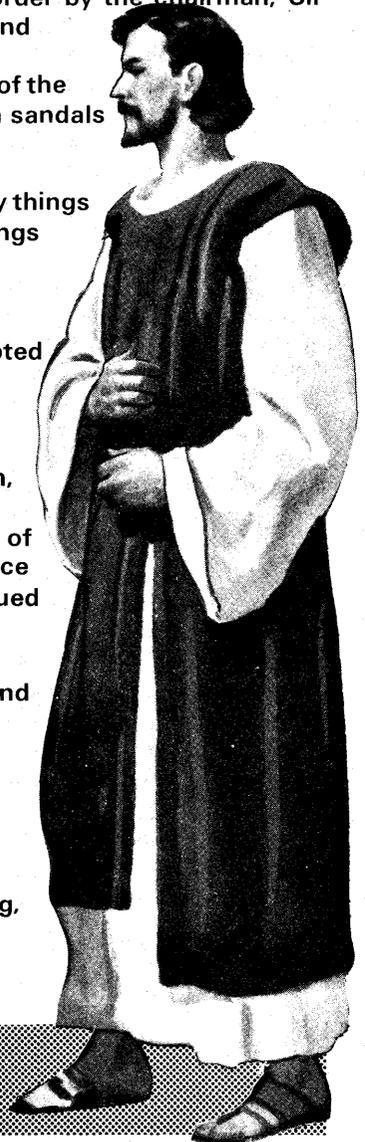
And then the stranger spoke: "I have many things to say and to judge of you, I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundations of the world. And ye shall know the truth."

Mr. Rau, the presiding chairman interrupted to ask, "Why are you here, Sir?"

The soft-compelling voice, without the benefit of the microphone, replied: "There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, and it is common among men. With their tongues they have used deceit, the poison of asps is under their lips. And the way of peace have they not known." The stranger continued in the well-known words of Scripture:

"Everyone that doeth evil hateth the light. They make clean the outside of the cup and platter, but inside they are full of extortion and excess . . . The axe is laid to the root of such trees."

The Russian representative at first demanded to question the witness, but when the translation of the stranger's remarks came through, stern and unsmiling, he declared . . . "The Soviet Delegation will not listen to the ravings of this warmonger."



Looking squarely at the Soviet delegate, the STRANGE FIGURE spoke more sharply to say: "The day shall come upon thee that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee on every side, and shall utterly destroy thee."

Mr. Austin, representing the United States, waving a small flag which marked his place, was given recognition and he spoke as follows: "In the United States," he said, "we are hosts to enemies within our own house, agents of another government who plead mercy, saying that they are loyal to our government as well."

Raising his hand as if to end the question, the stranger replied: "No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other: or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation."

"But," protested Mr. Austin of the United States, "these among us say they intend only to alter our government by peaceful means . . . to better our economic system . . . to . . ." And again there was an interruption as the speaker turned to the United States delegates, Austin and Dulles to say: "There is none righteous among you; no not one."

Mr. Rau, the Chairman arose and turning to the stranger, said, "We came here to place the blame for our unrest . . . and you have given each of us our share. But what should we do? Abandon our efforts to seek peace?"

The reply was this — "Be sober, be vigilant. Depart from evil and do good. Execute ye judgment and righteousness. Deliver the spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor. seek peace and pursue it."

"But you make this all sound so simple," said Chairman Rau, to which the reply came, "Many righteous men have desired to hear these things which ye hear and have not heard them."

Sir Bengal Rau then stated, "It is not customary for us to hear wisdom outside our churches. We are inclined, I fear, to feel that all the world is assembled here."

The strange guest did not smile, but only replied: "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers for hereby some have entertained angels un-awares."

Following this, the meeting was adjourned as the chairman spoke quietly yet solemnly, and turning to the unannounced visitor, he said: "And you, Sir . . . thank you. If only . . . if . . . you could write these things in a book . . . that men of all ages might read them . . ."

The eyes of the stranger flashed as though in anger, indicating his words were already written in a Book . . . Then the anger faded as the tall figure turned and left the assembly room, leaving all behind in wonderment.

Are angels fact or fancy? The Scriptures would have us to believe that angels are very real. The word for angels is used 108 times in the Old Testament, and 165 times in the New.

Angels, though exalted beings should not be worshipped. When John saw the heavenly Jerusalem and the glory of God he fell down to worship the angel who had shown him these things. But the angel forbid him, saying, "See thou do, it not . . . worship God." Revelation 22:8-9

Although our curiosity is aroused by this study of Angels, it is more thrilling and exciting to know that one day we shall dwell with the angels in the presence of our blessed Lord. For that day we should live so that at Christ's coming we shall be greeted by all of the holy angels who will welcome us to eternal glory.



D.M. Panton suggests: Angels will play a part in the removal of the saints at the rapture. Referring to the exodus of Lot from Sodom, he draws a parallel to the coming of Christ to ask — "How are the godly to be removed?" answering, "By ANGELS!" He quotes Matt. 13:39 which says — "The reapers are ANGELS."

Matt. 24:31 also testifies — "And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

"Indeed, be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh." Matthew 24:44



Are Angels God's secret agents?

Soviet scientists searching for life in outer space report no evidence of intelligent extraterrestrial beings.

According to the LITERARY GAZETTE, "Among the numerous signals from the most remote corners of the universe, there have been none which could be considered as signals sent by beings with some specific intelligent purpose."

TASS, the official Soviet news agency, said that "radio signals have been sent from Earth" by scientists at Kharkov for many years, "and are being sent now, with a hope that they will be heard by intelligent beings."

However, thus far there has been no report from extraterrestrial creatures.

The newspaper TRUD did report the crew and passengers on a Soviet airliner flying at night over Minsk spotted an unidentified flying object shooting beams of green light to the ground.

And, we reported how six Soviet cosmonauts on the 155th day aboard the orbiting Salyut 7 space station, reported seeing "seven giant figures in the form of humans, but with wings and mistlike halos, as in the classic depiction of angels" . . . Twelve days later, the figures returned and were seen by other Soviet cosmonauts.

Billy Graham, more than any other evangelist, has spoken on angels and has written a book entitled — "Angels, God's Secret Agents." He reported a tremendous vacuum on the subject after preaching a TV sermon and receiving more than 200,000 requests for copies of his message.

The NATIONAL ENQUIRER quotes Graham as saying, "At various times in their lives people come close to a brush with death. They may escape from an auto crash and it might look like a miracle. But I believe it was because an angel was sent to protect them. And I believe that when you eventually die, an angel takes you into the presence of

God," said Graham.

Then referring to sinister forces of evil, Graham declared: "I truly believe that what we are seeing in the world today — crime, violence and war — is due to tremendous demon activity."

In another publication (NATIONAL TATTLER, Nov. 30, 1975) Graham linked some unidentified flying objects as heavenly angels of the Lord. "These bear striking resemblances to angelic aircraft described thousands of years ago in the Old Testament," he explains.

In his book, Graham relates the story of the Rev. John G. Paton, a missionary in the New Hebrides Islands, who tells how hostile natives surrounded his mission headquarters one night, intent on burning the Patons and killing them. The missionaries spent the night in prayer that God would deliver them. In the morning they were amazed to discover their attackers had fled, and they thanked God for delivering them.

A year later, the chief of the tribe was converted to Jesus Christ, and the Rev. Paton, remembering the incident of how the chief's men threatened to burn down his house, asked what had happened. What prevented them from fulfilling their evil plans?

The chief replied in surprise, saying "Who were all those men you had with you?" Paton answered, "There were no men there; just my wife and I."

The chief argued that they had seen many men standing guard — hundreds of big men in shining garments with drawn swords in their hands. They seemed to circle the mission station so that the natives were afraid to attack. Could it be that God had sent a legion of angels to protect his servants?

In the book of Hebrews, Chapter 12, Verse 22 we read: "But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels."

There is hardly a subject more thrilling in all of the Bible than that dealing with heaven, the city of God, and the host of angels that stand ready to perform His bidding. The Bible is an unexcelled source of knowledge when it comes to both the supernatural and the spiritual.

You may be surprised to learn that in 34 of the 66 books of the Bible specific mention is made of angels. We would discover they are created beings with various orders of angels like the cherubims and the seraphims. Although they may be described as spirit beings, they are real persons, able to take on the appearance as men. For we read in Hebrews: "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." Hebrews 13:2. Their number is described as an "innumerable company." John beheld around the throne "ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands" — so there are a lot of them.

The ministry of angels is to guard little children who love Jesus. Our Lord said of these angels that they behold the face of God who is in heaven. (Matt. 18:10) A devout minister was sitting at his desk when one of his children fell from a second story window. Without moving from his chair he calmly ordered his daughter who was standing nearby to pick up the child. On doing so, she found the child was entirely uninjured.

A neighbor heard the commotion and came to see what had happened. She remonstrated to the minister for not showing more concern, when she suddenly was told one of her own children had broken his arm from falling off a bench. "Do you see," said the minister, "if you imagine yourself to be the sole guardian of your child, you must ever carry it on your arm? I commend my children to God, and if they fall, they fall into the arms of angels."



Angels protect and deliver from harm. An angel appeared to Peter when in prison, and loosening his chains, led him forth from the prison. Angels are sent at death to escort the saints to heaven. Lazarus, you'll recall, was carried by the angels to paradise. Angels are also sent to those who are heirs of salvation. They do not preach the Gospel, for God has not given to them this responsibility — that is your and my responsibility. But an angel did appear unto Cornelius to tell him what to do in order that he might be saved, saying: "Send for one Simon, whose surname is Peter . . . he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do."

We're told in Burntisland, Scotland you'll find the first church built after the Reformation. In that church there still stands the inscription which reads: "Though God's power be sufficient to govern us, yet for man's infirmity He appointeth His angels to watch over us."

Guy Van Dyke, whom I once met, tells of an experience he had. His wife, who was getting ready to retire for the night, told of having great pain in her hip that she had broken a year ago. After she had retired, I looked over to her and prayed, "Lord, please give her a special touch tonight." He then went to sleep but sometime in the night awoke and there bending over his wife was a heavenly being dressed in a beautiful silken garment that rustled like the leaves of a tree when the wind blows gently through them. The gown came to within an inch of the floor, and I wondered why he did not get his feet caught in it. Fully conscious and awake, he noted the angel had a beautiful crown on his head. He did not get to see his face for his back was turned to him. He says: "I was so surprised that I did not know what to do, but finally I spoke and the angel left. As the angel departed I could hear the gown

rustling as he went down the hall." His wife, upon awakening, was so much better.

Another true incident relates to a family living in Ohio some years ago. A revival meeting was on and one night the parents thought the children should remain at home. They protested saying they were afraid, but the mother told them not to be afraid, for God and the angels would take care of them. After the parents were gone, the children lowered the blinds and locked the doors. They had their devotions and read from Foster's "Child's Stories of the Bible." Looking at the pictures they came upon an angel, whereupon one of the children said: "Oh, I wish I could see an angel." The rest said, "I wish I could, too." They had hardly uttered these words, when they heard a sound on the porch as the rustling of silk garments, and then came the knock at the door. Without opening the door an angel suddenly appeared and stood before them. His presence did not frighten them for he looked pleasant and began to talk to them. The children noticed the angel was barefoot while outside the weather was cold and the ground covered with snow. They invited their guest to sit by the fire. He stroked their hair and laid his hands upon their heads as though he were blessing them. Then he walked around the room looking at the pictures on the wall. He was beautiful; his hair fine and wavy, and on the top of his head there appeared a crown. His feet were white and glistening. His voice was tender. After he had bidden them to be good and always to pray to the Lord, he left as he had entered. As they raised the curtain and looked out they saw a bright cloud gathering around him. The cloud seemed to roll and fold itself about him in a most unusual manner. With wings that were large and glistening, he took off, as one of the children exclaimed: "I wonder how long it will take him to get to heaven." The parents, on arriving home, could hardly believe their children's story—it was too fantastic. But their shining faces, exuberant spirit, their positive declarations, and the unison of their assertions, soon convinced them their home was visited by an angel. Praises ascended, glorifying God for his goodness.

Christian Life magazine reports on the night of June 13, 1967, a young man by the name of David Stuart was driving on one of the highways in British Columbia. Stopping at an intersection, he was approached by a stranger who inquired; "Going to Mission City?" Stuart, who never picks up hitchhikers, was suddenly 'frozen with fear' as he looked in his rear-view mirror, after driving about a half mile, to see this stranger sitting in the back seat directly behind him. He knew his rear car doors were locked so there was no way for anyone to have climbed into his car. Gradually he gained enough courage to ask: "Are you a stranger here?" The reply came: "I am a stranger to many!" Then just as quickly as he had entered the car he suddenly vanished, but not until he exclaimed, "I just want you to remember one thing: Jesus is coming soon!"

Could this have been a visitation by an angel?

Indeed, it may have been. And at least the message given is worth repeating. We might add: "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."



Battle of the Angels

The subject of ANGELS has ever been a thrilling and exciting one.

“Everything material is ruled by the angels” wrote Thomas Aquinas in the 13th century, emphasizing that man is controlled by powerful beings from other worlds.

Thomas Aquinas emphasized further this was “not only the teaching of the holy fathers but also that of all the philosophers.”

So today it is believed the world is subject to the control of angels — whether fallen angels which we call demons, or to good angels or spirits from God as they are sometimes called.

That the universe is made up of strange and wonderful creatures can soon be realized from reading the Bible, of seraphims and cherubims — of bodies celestial and bodies terrestrial, as described by the Apostle Paul. (1 Cor. 15:40)

Whether angels are pure spirit or whether they have a body has often been up to conjecture with arguments heard both ways.

Aquinas held the view that angels were pure spirit as we read in Hebrews where it says — “Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.” (1:7)

On the other hand, other church fathers attributed material form to angels. Among these was Origen.

St. Bernard, too, declared: “The nature of God is the only one that does not need the help of a body . . . but this assistance is necessary for

all other created beings."

Ridiculing the idea that angels were necessary creatures of substance an obscure monk, Denys the Areopagite wrote in the 5th century this analysis. "We must not," he said, "be so impious as to believe, as the masses do, that heavenly and deified spirits are provided with a large number of feet and faces . . . and that they have been given the form of eagles with a curving beak or wings with rough plumage." And he added, "neither must we imagine them as fiery wheels (discs) in the sky."

However, in the book of Ezekiel a relationship is established between angelic beings called cherubims, and wheel-like devices which appeared to be some form of conveyance.

Before we look at the Ezekiel account let it be known that the word angel is from the Greek word — ANGELOS — and means messenger. That there are heavenly messengers that may on occasion visit the earth is not hypothetical but indeed scriptural. In Hebrews, for example, we read: "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

With a reported visitation of space beings to our earth in recent times it is again a thrilling and important observation to note that we may be under the constant surveillance of angels — of superior intelligent beings. And lest it be supposed that angels are not beings superior to man we would again quote from Hebrews where we are told man was made a "little lower than the angels." (1:7) So angels are a superior race of beings if beings they are.

Athenagoras, philosopher of the 2nd century, surmised angels to be some kind of heavenly keepers of this earth. Said Athenagoras: "The Creator has made and ordained the angels so they can look after the elements, the skies, the Universe and everything that is in them."

So, with the abundance of sightings in our skies of unusual heavenly phenomena we cannot help but wonder whether we are being subjected to close scrutiny by an invading host we may call "angels," or "messengers," or beings from other worlds both good and bad.

Mel Noel, a former Air Force jet pilot who changed his name upon leaving the service in order to continue research on UFO's, relates his assignment in the Air Force was to track down these unidentified flying objects. Instead of guns mounted in the turret there were cameras and on several occasions he photographed these strange objects being seen in our skies.

As a result of these sightings there have been questions raised such as — are these space crafts under intelligent guidance? Are these creatures aboard these crafts from other planets? Are these people or angels? If angels, could both good and bad angels be operating these?

Mr. Noel, the Air Force pilot, relates an incident that happened in Los Angeles. According to Noel two men walked into the office of the Los Angeles Times, biggest newspaper in that city, and asked for a job.

The city editor, who was on duty at the time, asked them — What can you do? They replied, "We can do anything!" The editor responded, "Maybe in other lines but not in the newspaper business." What are your credentials? What is your experience?" They replied, "We don't

have any but whatever you want done we can do it."

The editor replied, "That's kind of nonsense. Where are you from?" And they said, "We are from VENUS."

Skeptical, the newspaper editor told them. "Sorry, Gentlemen, but I don't have anything for you."

The two men, however, were insistent, asking — "Can't you help us anyway? We need work!"

"Why do you need work?" asked the editor. "We need money for food" was their reply.

"How did you get here?" inquired the reporter. They replied, "We came in a space craft. You call them FLYING SAUCERS."

"Where did you land?"

"About 100 miles from Los Angeles, in Barstow."

"How did you get into town?"

"We hitchhiked."

By now, the story sounded too incredible to believe so the newspaperman said, "I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll send you to a friend of mine and maybe he has something for you. He's the County Sheriff."

The Sheriff asked the same questions and got the same answers and then told these men he believed he had something for them to do. "Do you see those files over there?" he asked. "Those are missing persons we have been chasing for 3 years or more and cannot locate them. Take a half dozen apiece and check them out."

They said, "Fine." Each took a half dozen files and left.

Next morning when the Sheriff got to his office these men were waiting for him. They went into his office and sat down. They went on to relate — "We've located this one in Springfield, Mass. at such and such an address; that one you'll find in Kansas City, this one in New York, etc."

The Sheriff called the reporter and told him what happened. The reporter thought it a practical joke, and so asked them to come back so he could talk with them.

One of the men returned while the other said he had other things to do.

The reporter again began his questioning: "You say you are from Venus. Are you any different than we are? You look pretty much the same except for your eyes and skin. Are you the same construction?"

The man replied, "Well, we don't have skeletons."

"If you don't have skeletons," observed the newspaper reporter, "then you can't be very strong! Do you have any strength?"

And the fellow reached over and put an 8 inch groove in a solid oak desk— across the grain. The Venetian got up, walked out, and let the reporter gasping at his desk, staring at the deep groove. It was indeed incredible.

In the meantime, these fellows who claimed to be from Venus continued to investigate and found people who were missing, or had died.

The reporter checked out this information and found it all to be correct.

Then the reporter got a steel plate, and when the Venetian came in to

see him again he offered it to him, saying — “What can you do with this?”

This man, who claimed to be from Venus and claimed no skeleton took the plate of steel, bent it, and handed it back again.

Later at a laboratory it was carefully examined and discovered it would take 17,000 pounds per square inch of pressure to do what this man had done. And it was discovered that 17 minerals were in the rest of the plate.

Fantastic? Indeed, unbelievable? Before the police could pin him down, take a blood sample, and take this man apart — he left the country.

Now, this is all supposed to be documented so that we can't help but wonder about these beings said to be visiting our earth — some which claim to be from Venus, Mars, Jupiter or some other planet.

In our study of angels we would note that they do have great strength. For instance, it was an angel that came and rolled away the heavy stone that guarded the tomb of the Saviour.

And in 2 Kings 19:35 we read where just one angel slew 185,000 Assyrians.

Dr. Scofield says of angels that their “chief attributes are strength and wisdom.”

And the Psalmist notes: “Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength.”

Look at the visitors who came to see Abraham. We read they are called “angels” but also referred to as men. We read where Abraham lift up his eyes, and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him. And Abraham invites them to stay for dinner. He orders Sarah to make cakes upon the hearth while he gets a young man to dress a calf from his herd, and sets butter and milk before them while they did eat.

The Bible specifically says, “The Lord appeared unto him.” So it is believed that this was an appearance of Christ with these two men who came to see Abraham. (Gen. 18)

We read how they reported to Abraham and Sarah that they would have a son. Since Abraham and Sarah were elderly we read, “Sarah laughed within herself.”

And the Lord said unto Abraham, “Wherefore did Sarah laugh? Is anything too hard for the Lord?”

Then Sarah denied saying, “I laughed not,” for she really didn't laugh out loud, and she was afraid.

And the Lord said, “Nay; but thou didst laugh.” You see, our Lord knew that inside she laughed even though outside there was no audible sound, and no indication of laughter.

Now, angels have been used on several occasions to herald announcements of the birth of certain individuals — John the Baptist and Jesus, for example.

Concerning good angels we are told they themselves are sexless and that they “neither marry, nor are given in marriage.”

However, concerning fallen angels it is believed by many Bible Scholars that they fell through pride and by committing fornication.

JUDE compares the angels which kept not their first estate to

Sodom and Gomorrha, as those "giving themselves over to fornication and going after strange flesh." Jude 6-7

And the proof of this seems to be found again in the book of Genesis where we read: "the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose." And as a result of this mixing of men with angels we read: "there were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came into the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown. (Gen. 6:4)

Now, Dr. James M. Gray, noted Bible Expositor points out: "the phrase "SONS OF GOD" is used everywhere in the Old Testament of angels not of men."

Notes Dr. Gray, "The large physical proportions, the superhuman strength and evil disposition of the offspring of the union between fallen angels and evil women, the giants — men of renown of Gen. 6:4, would be accounted for by the power thus imparted by the former."

JUSTIN MARTYR speaks of angels as having violated their class or order by coming down and mingling with the human race. He refers to the Greek word PARABAINO, which means — "to step beyond, to transgress" when describing the act of these angels in their act of fornication with these women. It was a mingling of two different orders of beings," says Justin Martyr.

ALFORD, another Greek scholar refers to Jude's reference of "going after strange flesh" as a "departure from the appointed course of nature and seeking after that which is unnatural, to other flesh than that appointed by God for the fulfillment of natural desire." Rom. 1:27

Dr. Kenneth Wuest, noted Greek writer says: "In the case of angels the forbidden flesh refers to the intercourse with women, in the case of Sodom, to the departure from the natural use."

In 2 Thess 1:7 we read of the return of Christ — where he is seen coming from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Could it be there are angels, both good and bad, influencing our world? Ultimately the Bible describes a clash in the endtime which is in reality — the battle of the angels. We read: "There was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels."

So, this endtime battle may now be beginning. The Bible says, "Woe, to the inhabitants of the earth," for Satan and his angels will actually be cast down to the earth.

We would submit this warning — to be protected be sure you are in Christ, having accepted his sacrifice on the cross for your sins. For John writes concerning those who are protected from these evil angels and Satan, saying: "They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony."

You must decide on which side we are on. Will we serve Christ or Satan?

Choose you this day, whom ye will serve. Trust Christ as Saviour and Lord, and be ready for Him when He comes. God grant it. Amen.

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