Date: 8/23/05 Text: Matt.18: 10-14 File: D050823

GUARDIAN ANGELS

Request: During your presentation of Mephibosheth at the Springville camp, you mentioned that children are assigned a guardian angel until faith in Christ. Could you do a Tuesday study on it?

In theology, the study of angels is called angelology. The Hebrew word for angel is (malak) and the Greek word is (aggelos).

One classification of angels is guardian angels. This lesson will study five aspects of guardian angels being assigned to babies.

1. Angles are supernatural being who serve and execute the will of the principal to whom they represent.

There are five books in the Bible that I am aware of that doesn't mention angels (Ruth, Esther, and Nehemiah, John, and James).

There are few religions in the world that doesn't accept angelology. One religious group that didn't believe in angels is mentioned in the Bible as the Sadducees – "For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor an angel, nor a spirit; but the Pharisees acknowledge them all." (Acts 23:8)

2. Jesus taught that guardian angels were assigned to babies.

Jesus spoke of it in our lesson text: "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you, that their angels in heaven continually behold the face of My Father who is in heaven." (Matt.18:10)

"Guardian angels are not exclusive for children, but for people in general (Ps.34:7; 91:11; Heb.1:14)." (NIV, Matt.18:10)

This means that children are assigned guardian angels through God-consciousness and gospel hearing.

3. Once the individual believes that Jesus Christ died for his sins and was buried and raised from the dead on the third day, Jesus Christ becomes the guardian and bishop of his soul.

"For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd (bishop) and Guardian of your soul." (1 Per.2:25)

The church age believer is indwelled by the third member of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit, forever. (1 Cor.6: 19-20; John 14:16-17).

It is this Holy Spirit that seals every church age believer until the day of redemption (Eph.1: 13-14; 4:30). "In Him you also who have heard the Word of Truth, the glad tiding (Gospel) of your salvation, and have believed in and adhered to and relied on Him, were stamped with the seal of the long-promised Holy Spirit. That [Spirit] is the guarantee of our inheritance [the firstfruits, the pledge and foretaste, the down payment on our heritage], in anticipation of its full redemption and our acquiring [complete] possession of it – to the praise of His glory." (Eph.1:13-14)

4. In OT, the believer was assigned a guardian angel until escorted to phase III (eternity).

"For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone." (Ps.91:11-12)

Satan quoted this verse to Jesus during the mountain temptation – "Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down. For it is written: He will command His angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.' Jesus answered him, 'It is also written: do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" (Matt.4:5-7; Ps.91:11-12)

"The time came when <u>the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side</u>. The rich man also died and was buried. In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus by his side." (Luke 16:22-23)

5. Every church age believer is superior to angels because of their position in Jesus Christ (Heb.1: 1-14).

"So He became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs." (Heb.1:4)

The spiritual mature believer becomes the teacher and judge of angels (Eph.3:6-11; 1 Tim.5:21; 1 Pet.1:10-13; 1 Cor.6:3).

"It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. <u>Even angels long to look into these things</u>." (1 Pet.1:12)

"Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? Do you not know that <u>we will judge angels</u>? How much more the things of this life!" (1 Cor.6:2-3)

"Paul views believers as fully competent to judge cases where Christians have claims against each other, because they view matters from a godly vantage point. In comparison with their future role in the judgment of the world and of angels, judgments concerning things of this life are insignificant." (NIV, 1 Cor.6:2)