SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON QUARTERLY

THE MINISTRY OF ANGELS

SENIOR DIVISION, No. 242, FOURTH QUARTER, 1955

INDIVIDUAL SABBATH-SCHOOL OFFERING GOAL

"As God hath prospered him."

MY WEEKLY GOAL (Check Amount)

		RECORD		
$5.00		1._____	7._____	13._____
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1.50	"God loveth a	3._____	9._____	_____
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DAILY LESSON STUDY PLEDGE

As one who greatly desires to improve his knowledge of the Scriptures, I pledge myself to the careful and prayerful study of some portion of my Sabbath school lesson each day of the week.

Name _____

Place a check mark in each space below for the days you have studied.

STUDY RECORD	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1st Day's Study													
2d Day's Study													
3d Day's Study													
4th Day's Study													
5th Day's Study													
6th Day's Study													
7th Day's Study													

"Let the Sabbath-school lesson be learned, not by a hasty glance at the lesson scripture on Sabbath morning, but by careful study for the next week on Sabbath afternoon, with daily review or illustration during the week. Thus the lesson will become fixed in the memory, a treasure never to be wholly lost."—"Education," pages 251, 252.

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Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly

THE MINISTRY OF ANGELS

Lesson 1, for October 1, 1955

Angels Created Beings; Disaffection and Conflict

MEMORY VERSE: "For verily He took not on Him the nature of angels; but He took on Him the seed of Abraham." Heb. 2:16.

STUDY HELP: "Review and Herald" Sabbath School Lesson Help; see "Index to the Writings of Ellen G. White" on angels.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

Sabbath afternoon: General survey of the lesson.
Sunday: Introduction; Ques. 1-3.
Monday: Ques. 4-7.
Tuesday: Ques. 8-10.
Wednesday: Ques. 11-14.
Thursday: "Review and Herald" Sabbath School Lesson Help.
Friday: Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction

II. The Family of God

1. In heaven and in earth. Eph. 3:14, 15.
2. Sons of God. Job 1:6; 1 John 3:1.
3. The heavenly part of the family. 1 Tim. 5:21; Heb. 1:5.

III. Orders and Titles of Angels

1. Cherubim and seraphim. Ezek. 10:19, 20; Isa. 6:2, 6.
2. Specific names of angels. Jude 9; Luke 1:19.

IV. Origin of Angels

1. Before creation of the world. Job 38:4-7.
2. Before death of any man. Gen. 3:24.

V. Lucifer and Evil Angels

1. Exaltation and disaffection of Lucifer. Isa. 14:12-14.
2. War in heaven. Rev. 12:7-9.
3. Reserved unto judgment. 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6.

VI. Man in Conflict With the Powers of Evil

1. Woe unto inhabitants of earth. Rev. 12:12.
2. A powerful enemy. Eph. 6:11, 12.
3. A more powerful deliverer. Luke 10:17-19.
4. Ministering spirits for heirs of salvation. Heb. 1:13, 14.

THE LESSON

Introduction

With this lesson we begin a series of studies on a phase of Bible truth the understanding of which will become more and more important as the days go by. As the great controversy moves on to its final stages, the interposition of superhuman agencies in the affairs of men will become increasingly apparent. To meet the issues intelligently, we need a clear understanding of the Scriptures dealing with the question of angels, both good and bad. In this lesson we deal with the primary facts involved in a study of angels.

The Family of God

1. By what term does the apostle Paul show the close relationship that exists between the inhabitants of heaven and the inhabitants of earth? Eph. 3:14, 15.

2. By what name are the members of this family called? Job 1:6; 1 John 3:1.

3. In the heavenly family who are mentioned along with the Father and the Son? 1 Tim. 5:21; Heb. 1:5.

Orders and Titles of Angels

4. Of what two orders of angels are we informed? Ezek. 10:19, 20; Isa. 6:2, 6.

5. What are some of the specific names of angels? Jude 9; Luke 1:19.

NOTE.—Michael is called the Archangel. "*Michael* means, 'Who is *like* God,' and hence is a fit title for Christ. *Gabriel* signifies, 'The *strength* of God,' an appropriate name for the angel or being who stands next to Christ."—*Bible Readings for the Home,* 1949 ed., p. 514.

Origin of Angels

6. How far back can the existence of angels be traced? Job 38:4-7.

NOTE.—"Before the creation of man, angels were in existence; for when the foundations of the earth were laid, 'the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy.'"—*The Great Controversy,* page 511.

7. What other fact shows that angels are not the spirits of men who have died? Gen. 3:24.

NOTE.—"Satan commenced his deception in Eden. He said to Eve, 'Ye shall not surely die.' This was Satan's first lesson upon the immortality of the soul, and he has carried on this deception from that time to the present, and will carry it on until the captivity of God's children shall be turned. I was pointed to Adam and Eve in Eden. They partook of the forbidden tree, and then the flaming sword was placed around the tree of life, and they were driven from the garden, lest they should partake of the tree of life, and be immortal sinners. The fruit of this tree was to perpetuate immortality. I heard an angel ask, 'Who of the family of Adam have passed that flaming sword, and have partaken of the tree of life?' I heard another angel answer, 'Not one of the family of Adam has passed that flaming sword, and partaken of that tree; therefore there is not an immortal sinner.' The soul that sinneth, it shall die an everlasting death—a death from which there will be no hope of a resurrection; and then the wrath of God will be appeased."—*Early Writings,* 1945 Christian Home Library ed., p. 218.

Lucifer and Evil Angels

8. With whom did disaffection among the angels originate? Isa. 14:12:14. Compare Ezek. 28:13, 14.

NOTE.—"Little by little, Lucifer came to indulge the desire for self-exaltation. The Scripture says: 'Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty; thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness.' 'Thou hast said in thine heart, . . . I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; . . . I will be like the Most High.' Though all his glory was from God, this mighty angel came to regard it as pertaining to himself. Not content with his position, though honored above the heavenly host, he ventured to covet homage due alone to the Creator. Instead of seeking to make God supreme in the affections and allegiance of all created beings, it was his endeavor to secure their service and loyalty to himself. And coveting the glory with which the infinite Father had invested His Son, this prince of angels aspired to power that was the prerogative of Christ alone." —*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 35.

9. In what did this disaffection result? Rev. 12:7-9.

10. Unto what have the evil angels been reserved? 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6.

Man in Conflict With the Powers of Evil

11. Why is woe pronounced upon the earth? Rev. 12:12.

12. Against what strong influence do God's children in this world have to war? Eph. 6:11, 12.

NOTE.—The American Revised Version reads, "For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."

REBELLION AGAINST GOD BEGINS WITH SELF-EXALTATION.

"The power and malice of Satan and his host might justly alarm us, were it not that we may find shelter and deliverance in the superior power of our Redeemer. We carefully secure our houses with bolts and locks to protect our property and our lives from evil men; but we seldom think of the evil angels who are constantly seeking access to us, and against whose attacks we have, in our own strength, no method of defense. If permitted, they can distract our minds, disorder and torment our bodies, destroy our possessions and our lives. Their only delight is in misery and destruction. Fearful is the condition of those who resist the divine claims, and yield to Satan's temptations, until God gives them up to the control of evil spirits. But those who follow Christ are ever safe under His watchcare. Angels that excel in strength are sent from heaven to protect them. The wicked one cannot break through the guard which God has stationed about His people."—*The Great Controversy,* page 517.

13. What comforting promise is given the child of God in this conflict? Luke 10:17-19.

14. What aid may we have in our warfare against the powers of darkness? Heb. 1:13, 14.

Lesson 2, for October 8, 1955

Angels a Higher Order of Being Than Man

MEMORY VERSE: "What is man, that Thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that Thou visitest him? For Thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor." Ps. 8:4, 5.

STUDY HELP: "Review and Herald" Sabbath School Lesson Help.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

Sabbath afternoon: General survey of the lesson.
Sunday: Introduction; Ques. 1-3.
Monday: Ques. 4-7.
Tuesday: Ques. 8-11.
Wednesday: Ques. 12-14.
Thursday: "Review and Herald" Sabbath School Lesson Help.
Friday: General review of the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction

II. The Creation and Dominion of Man, and His Mortality

1. Made in God's image. Gen. 1:26.
2. Man's assigned dominion. Gen. 1:26-28; Ps. 8:6-8.
3. Man's mortal state. Job 4:17; Rom. 6:12.

III. Superiority of Angels

1. Relative position of angels and men. Ps. 8:4, 5.
2. Gideon's fear in presence of an angel. Judges 6:21-23.
3. Daniel's attitude in presence of angel Gabriel. Dan. 8:16, 17.
4. Angels at the tomb of Christ. Matt. 28:2-4.

IV. Natural and Spiritual Bodies

1. Question concerning the resurrection. 1 Cor. 15:35.
2. Celestial and terrestial bodies. 1 Cor. 15:36-41.
3. The resurrection body. 1 Cor. 15:42-44.
4. Christ's nature while on earth. Heb. 2:9, 16.

V. Will Men Ever Become Angels?

1. Mortal puts on immortality. 1 Cor. 15:49-53.
2. "Equal to angels" in one respect. Luke 20:36.
3. Man's final exaltation assured through Christ. Heb. 2:9, 14, 18; Phil. 3:21.

THE LESSON

Introduction

The majority of people have an entirely wrong conception of the nature of both man and angels. In this lesson we shall study a few of the many passages of Scripture that clarify this whole subject, even to the answering of the question as to whether men will ever be transformed into angels.

The Creation and Dominion of Man, and His Mortality

1. In whose image was man made? Gen. 1:26.

NOTE.—"Man was to bear God's image, both in outward resemblance and in char-

acter. Christ alone is 'the express image' of the Father; but man was formed in the likeness of God. His nature was in harmony with the will of God. His mind was capable of comprehending divine things. His affections were pure; his appetites and passions were under the control of reason. He was holy and happy in bearing the image of God, and in perfect obedience to His will.

"As man came forth from the hand of his Creator, he was of lofty stature and perfect symmetry. His countenance bore the ruddy tint of health, and glowed with the light of life and joy. Adam's height was much greater than that of men who now inhabit the earth. Eve was somewhat less in stature; yet her form was noble, and full of beauty. The sinless pair wore no artificial garments; they were clothed with a covering of light and glory, such as the angels wear. So long as they lived in obedience to God, this robe of light continued to enshroud them."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 45.

2. What dominion was given to man? Gen. 1:26-28; Ps. 8:6-8.

3. What is man's nature declared to be? Job 4:17; Rom. 6:12.

Superiority of Angels

4. In God's creative plan how did man compare with angels? Ps. 8:4, 5.

5. How did the angel's presence affect Gideon? Judges 6:21-23.

6. What was Daniel's attitude in the presence of Gabriel? Dan. 8: 16, 17.

7. What effect did the presence of an angel have upon the Roman guard at the tomb of Christ? Matt. 28:2-4.

NOTE.—"Clothed with the panoply of God, this angel left the heavenly courts. The bright beams of God's glory went before him, and illuminated his pathway. 'His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: and for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.'

"Now, priests and rulers, where is the power of your guard? Brave soldiers that have never been afraid of human power are now as captives taken without sword or spear. The face they look upon is not the face of mortal warrior; it is the face of the mightiest of the Lord's host."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 779, 780.

Natural and Spiritual Bodies

8. What questions do some ask regarding the resurrection? 1 Cor. 15:35.

9. What differences in bodies does the apostle Paul call to our attention? 1 Cor. 15:36-41.

10. What change of body comes to man in the resurrection? 1 Cor. 15:42-44.

11. When the Son of God was born in Bethlehem, was He born with a spiritual or a natural body? Heb. 2: 9, 16.

NOTE.—When Jesus came into this world, He came as a man. He did not take "the nature of angels," but He took the nature of "the seed of Abraham." Jesus, then, was made for "a little while" lower than the angels. Read carefully Hebrews 2:7, 9, 17, noting marginal readings of the verses.

"IN CHRIST THE FAMILY OF EARTH AND THE FAMILY OF HEAVEN ARE BOUND TOGETHER."

Will Men Ever Become Angels?

12. What change of body will be given to the righteous in the resurrection? 1 Cor. 15:49-53.

13. In what respect will the redeemed be "equal unto the angels" after the resurrection? Luke 20:36.

NOTE.—"Let us not forget that the promise is never given to man that he will at any time become an angel. We are assured, however, that in one respect we shall be made equal to the angels—we shall not be subject to death. Of those who are accounted worthy to have a part in the first resurrection, Jesus Himself said, 'Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels.' Luke 20:36. At that long-desired and triumphant day, the saved of earth will be made 'equal unto the angels.' Every longing of the heart will find complete satisfaction. The fear of death will be banished; and they will receive from the hand of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, the priceless gift of immortal life." —I. H. Evans, *The Ministry of Angels,* 1953 Christian Home Library ed., p. 45.

14. Through whom is man's final exaltation assured? Heb. 2:9, 14, 18; Phil. 3:21.

NOTE.—"God has adopted human nature in the person of His Son, and has carried the same into the highest heaven. It is the 'Son of man' who shares the throne of the universe. It is the 'Son of man' whose name shall be called, 'Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.' Isa. 9:6. The I AM is the Daysman between God and humanity, laying His hand upon both. He who is 'holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners,' is not ashamed to call us brethren. Heb. 7:26; 2:11. In Christ the family of earth and the family of heaven are bound together. Christ glorified is our brother. Heaven is enshrined in humanity, and humanity is enfolded in the bosom of Infinite Love.

"Of His people God says, 'They shall be as the stones of a crown, lifted up as an ensign upon His land. For how great is His goodness, and how great is His beauty!' Zech. 9:16, 17. The exaltation of the redeemed will be an eternal testimony to God's mercy. 'In the ages to come,' He will 'show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.' 'To the intent that . . . unto the principalities and the powers in the heavenly places might be made known . . . the manifold wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.' Eph. 2:7; 3:10, 11, R.V."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 25, 26.

If you are a Sabbath-school teacher, you will find the Teacher's Edition of the "Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly" a great help because a full blank page is provided for each page of printed lesson copy for recording answers and additional notes. Order from your Book and Bible House.

Lesson 3, for October 15, 1955

The Dominion of God and the Number and Glory of His Messengers

MEMORY VERSE: "Ye are come unto Mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels." Heb. 12:22.

STUDY HELP: "Review and Herald" Sabbath School Lesson Help.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

Sabbath afternoon: General survey of the lesson.
Sunday: Introduction; Ques. 1, 2.
Monday: Ques. 3-5.
Tuesday: Ques. 6-8.
Wednesday: Ques. 9-12.
Thursday: Ques. 13-15. "Review and Herald" Sabbath School Lesson Help.
Friday: Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction

II. God's Universal Kingdom

1. Lord of heaven and earth. Acts 17:24.
2. Vastness of His domain. Isa. 40:15, 17, 26.

III. God's Retinue of Couriers

1. The Lord attended by 10,000 holy ones. Deut. 33:2.
2. As revealed to Daniel. Dan. 7:9, 10.
3. As revealed to John. Rev. 5:11.

IV. Angels Appear as Chariots of Fire

1. Appeared at Elijah's translation. 2 Kings 2:11, 12.
2. Revealed to Elisha's servant. 2 Kings 6:17.
3. Composed of angels. Ps. 68:17.

V. Glory of the Angels

1. Cherubim at gates of Eden. Gen. 3:24.
2. Angel ascended in flame from Manoah's altar. Judges 13:19-22.
3. The angel who rolled away the stone. Matt. 28:2-4.
4. Daniel's description of angelic visitor. Dan. 10:5, 6.
5. The living creatures around the throne of God. Ezek. 1:13, 14.
6. The glory of the Archangel. Rev. 1:13-16.
7. Our privilege to share His glory. 1 John 3:2.

THE LESSON

Introduction

God is the ruler of the universe, the Lord of heaven and earth, the Creator and Sustainer of unnumbered worlds. Over this vast dominion He holds sway and commands an innumerable host of angelic messengers. In our lesson today we catch a little glimpse of this limitless dominion.

God's Universal Kingdom

1. To what great fact did Paul point the Greeks? Acts 17:24.

2. How is the vastness of God's kingdom emphasized? Isa. 40:15, 17, 26.

NOTE.—"In this wonderful description we obtain a glimpse of how this earth and its people appear in the eyes of heaven. In God's sight the earth is but as a grain of sand, the waters He can measure in the hollow of His hand, and all the inhabitants of the earth are but as grasshoppers. Looking up to the starry heavens, man can see with the naked eye something of the magnitude of God's creation. He beholds, and marvels—but his unaided eye cannot number those glitterings suns. Now let him bring to his aid the strongest telescope, and again gaze at some chosen spot in the heavens. What myriads of worlds, before unseen, are visible! Could he add to this telescope still greater magnifying power, there would be revealed still other worlds —worlds that have been hidden from the gaze of man during all the ages past. So great is the immensity of space into which we gaze, that man has never found the end. By the aid of photography, stars otherwise invisible have been distinguished; and astronomers tell us there are 18,000,000 worlds in a single system, and that the systems are beyond counting."—I. H. Evans, *The Ministry of Angels,* pages 50, 51.

God's Retinue of Couriers

3. How did Moses speak of the attendant host at the giving of the law? Deut. 33:2. Compare Acts 7:53.

NOTE.—"Speaking out of the thick darkness that enshrouded Him, as He stood upon the mount, surrounded by a retinue of angels, the Lord made known His law. Moses, describing the scene, says: 'The Lord came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; He shined forth from Mount Paran, and He came with ten thousands of saints; from His right hand went a fiery law for them.' "—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* pages 304, 305.

4. How many angel ministers did the prophet Daniel see before the throne of God? Dan. 7:9, 10.

5. What similar vision was shown to the prophet John? Rev. 5:11.

NOTE.—"This language leaves us in a state of uncertainty concerning the precise number of the heavenly beings—'thousands of thousands ministered unto Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him.' We know that 'ten thousand times ten thousand' equals one hundred million, but we can form no idea of the number represented by 'thousands of thousands.' Nowhere in the word of God is given the exact number of the heavenly beings."— I. H. Evans, *The Ministry of Angels,* page 55.

Angels Appear as Chariots of Fire

6. How are the chariot and horses that took Elijah into heaven described? 2 Kings 2:11, 12.

NOTE.—"Elijah had walked with God. His work had been painful and trying, for the Lord through him had reproved the sins of Israel. Elijah was a prophet of God; yet he was compelled to flee from place to place to save his life. His own nation hunted him like a wild beast that they might destroy him. But God translated Elijah. Angels bore him in glory and triumph to heaven."—*Early Writings,* page 162.

7. What was the appearance of the horses and chariots that the servant saw about Elisha? 2 Kings 6:17.

8. How does the psalmist define the chariots of the Lord? Ps. 68:17. Compare Ps. 104:4.

Glory of the Angels

9. What is the first reference in the Bible to the glory of angels? Gen. 3:24.

"THEY THAT BE WITH US ARE MORE THAN THEY THAT BE WITH THEM."

10. How did the angel that appeared to Manoah reveal his glory? Judges 13:19-22.

NOTE.—"I was shown that when God sent His angels anciently to minister or communicate to individuals, and these persons learned that they had seen and talked with an angel, they were struck with awe and were afraid that they should die. They had so exalted views of the terrible majesty and power of God that they thought it would destroy them to be brought into close connection with one direct from His holy presence. I was referred to Judges 13: 21, 22: 'Then Manoah knew that he was an angel of the Lord. And Manoah said unto his wife, We shall surely die, because we have seen God.' "—*Testimonies,* vol. 1, p. 410.

11. What was the appearance of the angel who rolled back the stone from the Saviour's tomb? Matt. 28: 2-4. Compare Luke 24:4, 5.

NOTE.—"As night drew on, soldiers were stationed to guard the Saviour's resting place, while angels, unseen, hovered above the sacred spot. The night wore slowly away, and while it was yet dark, the watching angels knew that the time for the release of God's dear Son, their loved Commander, had nearly come. As they were waiting with the deepest emotion the hour of His triumph, a mighty angel came flying swiftly from heaven. His face was like the lightning, and his garments white as snow. His light dispersed the darkness from his track and caused the evil angels, who had triumphantly claimed the body of Jesus, to flee in terror from his brightness and glory. One of the angelic host who had witnessed the scene of Christ's humiliation, and was watching His resting place, joined the angel from heaven, and together they came down to the sepulcher. The earth trembled and shook as they approached, and there was a great earthquake."—*Early Writings,* page 181.

12. What description is given by the prophet Daniel of the glory of an angelic being? Dan. 10:5, 6.

13. How does Ezekiel describe the living creatures around the throne of God? Ezek. 1:13, 14.

14. How does the prophet John describe the glory of the Son of God? Rev. 1:13-16.

NOTE.—The Son of God is the "Archangel." See 1 Thessalonians 4:16. To no other being is given this exalted title. The glory of His presence surpasses that of the angels.

15. If faithful, what may we someday share in some degree? 1 John 3:2.

NOTE.—"Our Redeemer has opened the way so that the most sinful, the most needy, the most oppressed and despised, may find access to the Father."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 113.

Power and Speed of the Angels

MEMORY VERSE: "Bless the Lord, ye His angels, that excel in strength, that do His commandments, hearkening unto the voice of His word." Ps. 103:20.

STUDY HELP: "Review and Herald" Sabbath School Lesson Help.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

Sabbath afternoon: General survey of the lesson.
Sunday: Introduction; Ques. 1-3.
Monday: Ques. 4-7.
Tuesday: Ques. 8-10.
Wednesday: Ques. 11-14.
Thursday: "Review and Herald" Sabbath School Lesson Help.
Friday: Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction

II. Power of the Angels

1. Excel in strength. Ps. 103:20.
2. Illustrated in deliverance of Peter from prison. Acts 5:17-19, 22, 23.

III. Example of Angelic Power Over Armies of Assyria

1. Defiance of Assyria. 2 Kings 19: 10-13.
2. Hezekiah seeks God. 2 Kings 19: 14-19.
3. Lord's message through prophet Isaiah. 2 Kings 19:20-34.
4. Destruction of Assyrian army. 2 Kings 19:35; 2 Chron. 32:21.

IV. Speed of the Angels

1. Ezekiel's description of the swiftness of the angels' movements. Ezek. 1:14.
2. Daniel attests to swift flight of angels. Dan. 9:21, last part.
3. Jesus could immediately summon legions of angels. Matt. 26:53.

V. Examples of Speedy Intervention of Angels

1. Daniel's prayer. Dan. 9:3, 4, 18, 19.
2. The immediate response. Dan. 9:20, 21, 23.
3. Peter's imprisonment arouses church to prayer. Acts 12:4, 5.
4. Angel intervention on eve of proposed execution. Acts 12:6-9.
5. Church surprised that their prayers were so soon answered. Acts 12:11-16.

THE LESSON

Introduction

The power of the angels whom God sends forth to minister to the heirs of salvation, and the speed with which the angels can come to our deliverance at the command of God in the hour of crisis are facts that should bring great assurance to the people of God as we approach the time of trouble.

Power of the Angels

1. How does the psalmist refer to the power of the angels? Ps. 103:20.

2. How is the power of angels illustrated in the experience of Peter? Acts 5:17-19, 22, 23.

Example of Angelic Power Over Armies of Assyria

3. With what words did Rabshakeh, leader of the Assyrian hosts, taunt Hezekiah and defy heaven? 2 Kings 19:10-13.

4. What did Hezekiah do when he received the letter? 2 Kings 19:14-19.

5. What was the message sent by the Lord through Isaiah in answer to Hezekiah's prayer? 2 Kings 19:20-34.

6. That very night what did one angel do? 2 Kings 19:35; 2 Chron. 32:21.

NOTE.—"What a thrilling tale of deliverance from captivity wrought by God through the agency of an angel! Where, now, is the boasting of that proud, blasphemous monarch, who defied the Lord of heaven and said He was not able to deliver out of his hand? Before the Assyrians can shoot an arrow or throw a javelin, the God of heaven sends an angel to smite their sleeping hosts. In a single night, one hundred eighty-five thousand of Sennacherib's warriors are slain, not on the field of battle, but by this silent messenger from heaven.

"Was ever such victory won before in the history of nations?—a whole army gone down into the jaws of death, not in battle, not on the field of campaign and strife, but while they lay sleeping, dreaming perchance of the morrow, when they hoped to scale the walls of Jerusalem and satisfy their lust and appetite and greed in the plunder and spoils of a conquered city. From a study of this record, we must admit that the power of angels is limited only by the work which God designs they shall accomplish."—I. H. Evans, *The Ministry of Angels,* page 73.

Speed of the Angels

7. What description does Ezekiel give of the swiftness of the movement of angels? Ezek. 1:14.

NOTE.—Man has never attempted to measure the velocity of anything traveling faster than light. Light travels 186,000 miles a second—more than seven times around the earth in one second of time. Yet angels can travel faster than this. Ezekiel wrote of their movement that they "ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning." Men may move about by train, automobile, or airplane at what we consider an extremely high rate of speed; but when we compare such movement to that of an angel, it is as nothing. Faster than the telegraph message, these heavenly messengers speed on their errands of ministry to man.

8. How does Daniel speak of the speed of an angel? Dan. 9:21, last part.

9. In what words did Jesus indicate that legions of angels were at His immediate command? Matt. 26:53.

Examples of Speedy Intervention of Angels

10. In his burden for the restoration of Jerusalem what was Daniel constrained to do? Dan. 9:3, 4, 18, 19.

NOTE.—This prayer in its entirety cannot be considered a very long prayer. In connection with what follows we should mark

the comparative brevity of this prayer.

"Heaven was bending low to hear the earnest supplication of the prophet. Even before he had finished his plea for pardon and restoration, the mighty Gabriel again appeared to him, and called his attention to the vision he had seen prior to the fall of Babylon and the death of Belshazzar. And then the angel outlined before him in detail the period of the seventy weeks, which was to begin at the time of 'the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem.' "—*Prophets and Kings,* page 556.

11. How does Daniel speak of the immediacy of the response to his prayer? Dan. 9:20, 21, 23.

NOTE.—"Here a messenger from heaven, standing before the throne of God when Daniel began to pray, was commanded to come to the prophet, and to give him skill and understanding concerning the revelations of Jehovah. While the prayer was still on his lips, before he had closed his petition, a messenger from the throne of God was at Daniel's side, announcing, 'At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to show thee.' Verse 23. Surely one could not ask for a more speedy response to his supplication than this."—I. H. Evans. *The Ministry of Angels,* pages 82, 83.

12. What did Peter's imprisonment arouse the church to do? Acts 12:4, 5.

13. On the eve of Peter's proposed execution what deliverance came to him? Acts 12:6-9.

NOTE.—"With the prison doors securely fastened, and a strong guard before them, all chance of rescue or escape through human means was cut off. But man's extremity is God's opportunity. . . .

"It is the last night before the proposed execution. A mighty angel is sent from heaven to rescue Peter. The strong gates that shut in the saint of God open without the aid of human hands. The angel of the Most High passes through, and the gates close noiselessly behind him. He enters the cell, and there lies Peter, sleeping the peaceful sleep of perfect trust. . . . He feels the touch of the angel's hand, and hears a voice saying, 'Arise up quickly.' . . .

"They step over the guard, and reach the heavily bolted door, which of its own accord swings open, and closes again immediately, while the guards within and without are motionless at their post.

"The second door, also guarded within and without, is reached. It opens as did the first, with no creaking of hinges or rattling of iron bolts. They pass through, and it closes again as noiselessly. In the same way they pass through the third gateway, and find themselves in the open street. No word is spoken; there is no sound of footsteps. The angel glides on in front, encircled by a light of dazzling brightness, and Peter, bewildered, and still believing himself to be in a dream, follows his deliverer. Thus they pass on through one street, and then, the mission of the angel being accomplished, he suddenly disappears."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* pages 146, 147.

14. What surprise was expressed by the church at prayer? Acts 12: 11-16.

NOTE.—Thus again the Lord demonstrated the assurance that God is "a very present help in trouble."

Guardian Angels

MEMORY VERSE: "He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone." Ps. 91:11, 12.

STUDY HELP: "Review and Herald" Sabbath School Lesson Help.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

Sabbath afternoon: General survey of the lesson.
Sunday: Introduction; Ques. 1-3.
Monday: Ques. 4-7.
Tuesday: Ques. 8-11.
Wednesday: Ques. 12-14.
Thursday: "Review and Herald" Sabbath School Lesson Help.
Friday: Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction

II. Angelic Protection

1. "Their angels." Matt. 18:10.
2. "Charge over thee." Ps. 91:11, 12.
3. "Encampeth round about." Ps. 34:7.

III. Illustrated in Experiences of Job and Elisha

1. "My servant Job." Job 1:6-8.
2. "An hedge about him." Job 1:9, 10.
3. "Alas, my master! how shall we do?" 2 Kings 6:15.
4. "The Lord opened the eyes of the young man." 2 Kings 6:16, 17.

IV. Illustrated in the Experience of Daniel

1. Daniel accused. Dan. 6:10-13.
2. The king's reluctant order. Dan. 6:14-17.
3. The king's inquiry. Dan. 6:18-20.
4. Daniel's deliverance. Dan. 6:21-23.
5. Fate of Daniel's accusers.

V. In the Final Conflict

1. Promise for time of trouble. Ps. 27:5.
2. Saved out of time of Jacob's trouble. Jer. 30:7.

THE LESSON

Introduction

One of the most comforting assurances in the Bible is that every child of God has the protection of heavenly angels. As we study this lesson on guardian angels, may we commit the keeping of our lives anew to God's protecting care in a fuller appreciation of the fact that, "God's people, exposed to the deceptive power and unsleeping malice of the prince of darkness, and in conflict with all the forces of evil, are assured of the unceasing guardianship of heavenly angels."—*The Great Controversy*, page 513.

Angelic Protection

1. How is the personal interest of angels in human beings expressed? Matt. 18:10.

2. What charge does God give His angels concerning the care of His people? Ps. 91:11, 12.

"HEAVEN IS VERY NEAR THOSE WHO SUFFER FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS' SAKE."

NOTE.—"I have seen the tender love that God has for His people, and it is very great. I saw angels over the saints with their wings spread about them. Each saint had an attending angel. If the saints wept through discouragement, or were in danger, the angels that ever attended them would fly quickly upward to carry the tidings, and the angels in the city would cease to sing. Then Jesus would commission another angel to descend to encourage, watch over, and try to keep them from going out of the narrow path; but if they did not take heed to the watchful care of these angels, and would not be comforted by them, but continued to go astray, the angels would look sad and weep. They would bear the tidings upward, and all the angels in the city would weep, and then with a loud voice say, 'Amen.' But if the saints fixed their eyes upon the prize before them and glorified God by praising Him, then the angels would bear the glad tidings to the city, and the angels in the city would touch their golden harps and sing with a loud voice, 'Alleluia!' and the heavenly arches would ring with their lovely songs." —*Early Writings,* page 39.

3. What comforting assurance is given to those who fear God? Ps. 34:7.

NOTE.—" 'The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them.' God commissions His angels to save His chosen ones from calamity, to guard them from 'the pestilence that walketh in darkness,' and 'the destruction that wasteth at noonday.' Again and again have angels talked with men as a man speaketh with a friend, and led them to places of security. Again and again have the encouraging words of angels renewed the drooping spirits of the faithful, and carrying their minds above the things of earth, caused them to behold by faith the white robes, the crowns, the palm branches of victory, which overcomers will receive when they surround the great white throne."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 153.

Illustrated in Experiences of Job and Elisha

4. What question did God once ask Satan regarding Job? Job 1:6-8.

5. How did Satan complain of the protection about Job? Job 1:9, 10.

6. In time of peril how did Elisha's servant express his alarm? 2 Kings 6:15.

7. How were his fears allayed? 2 Kings 6:16, 17.

Illustrated in the Experience of Daniel

8. What accusation was brought against Daniel? Dan. 6:10-13.

9. What order did the king reluctantly give? Dan. 6:14-17.

NOTE.—"God did not prevent Daniel's enemies from casting him into the lions' den; He permitted evil angels and wicked men thus far to accomplish their purpose; but it was that He might make the deliverance of His servant more marked, and the defeat of the enemies of truth and righteousness more complete. 'Surely the wrath of man shall praise Thee,' the psalmist has testified. Through the courage of this one man who chose to follow right rather than policy, Satan was to be defeated, and the name of God was to be exalted and honored."—*Prophets and Kings,* pages 543, 544.

10. After a wakeful night, what concern did the king manifest? Dan. 6:18-20.

11. What was Daniel's reassuring reply to the king's inquiry? Dan. 6: 21-23.

NOTE.—"From the story of Daniel's deliverance, we may learn that in seasons of trial and gloom, God's children should be just what they were when their prospects were bright with hope and their surroundings all that they could desire. Daniel in the lions' den was the same Daniel who stood before the king as chief among the ministers of state and as a prophet of the Most High. A man whose heart is stayed upon God will be the same in the hour of his greatest trial as he is in prosperity, when the light and favor of God and of man beam upon him. Faith reaches to the unseen, and grasps eternal realities.

"Heaven is very near those who suffer for righteousness' sake. Christ identifies His interests with the interests of His faithful people; He suffers in the person of His saints; and whoever touches His chosen ones touches Him. The power that is near to deliver from physical harm or distress is also near to save from the greater evil, making it possible for the servant of God to maintain his integrity under all circumstances, and to triumph through divine grace."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 545.

12. Whose lives did the angels not guard? Dan. 6:24.

In the Final Conflict

13. In the final conflict what extra provision will be made for the protection of God's people? Ps. 27:5.

NOTE.—"Said the angel, 'List ye!' Soon I heard a voice like many musical instruments all sounding in perfect strains, sweet and harmonious. It surpassed any music I had ever heard, seeming to be full of mercy, compassion, and elevating, holy joy. It thrilled through my whole being. Said the angel, 'Look ye!' My attention was then turned to the company I had seen, who were mightily shaken. I was shown those whom I had before seen weeping and praying in agony of spirit. The company of guardian angels around them had been doubled, and they were clothed with an armor from their head to their feet. They moved in exact order, like a company of soldiers. Their countenances expressed the severe conflict which they had endured, the agonizing struggle they had passed through. Yet their features, marked with severe internal anguish, now shone with the light and glory of heaven. They had obtained the victory, and it called forth from them the deepest gratitude and holy, sacred joy."—*Early Writings,* pages 270, 271.

14. On what promise should the child of God rest in that hour of trouble? Jer. 30:7.

NOTE.—"The people of God will then be plunged into those scenes of affliction and distress described by the prophet as the time of Jacob's trouble. 'Thus saith the Lord: We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. . . . All faces are turned into paleness. Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.' "—*The Great Controversy,* page 616.

Angels and the Judgment

MEMORY VERSE: "Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon His name." Mal. 3:16.

STUDY HELPS: "Review and Herald" Sabbath School Lesson Help; "Index to the Writings of Ellen G. White" on Books of record in heaven.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

Sabbath afternoon: General survey of the lesson.
Sunday: Introduction; Ques. 1-3.
Monday: Ques. 4-8.
Tuesday: Ques. 9-12.
Wednesday: Read from Ellen G. White on Books of record in heaven.
Thursday: "Review and Herald" Sabbath School Lesson Help.
Friday: Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction

II. The Judgment

1. An appointed time for judgment. Acts 17:31.
2. Universality of the judgment. 2 Cor. 5:10.
3. Judgment scene described. Dan. 7:9, 10.

III. Life's Records Consulted

1. "In Thy book." Ps. 56:8.
2. "The books were opened." Rev. 20:11-15.
3. "Book of remembrance." Mal. 3:16, 17.

IV. Detailed Record Kept of Our Lives

1. Words taken into account. Matt. 12:36, 37.
2. Even motives reviewed. 1 Cor. 4:5.
3. "Every secret thing." Eccl. 12:14.

V. The Angel Witnesses

1. "Before the angel." Eccl. 5:6.
2. Names confessed before the angels. Rev. 3:5.
3. Deliverance of those written in the book. Dan. 12:1; Rev. 21:27.

THE LESSON

Introduction

One of the outstanding teachings of the Bible is that all men must face a final hour of judgment. Along with this is also several references to the book of records from which man will be judged. The question might be raised, "Who has kept the records of men's lives?" While there is no direct statement in the Bible that angels are the divine recorders, there are indications that this is so. There are numerous references in the spirit of prophecy to this effect such as the following:

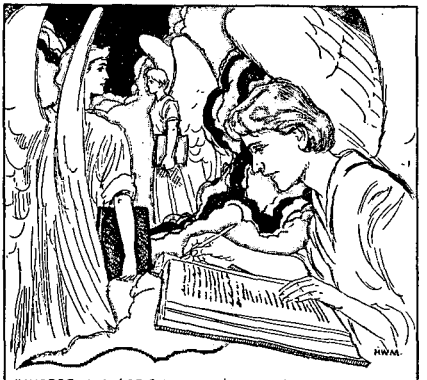
"How solemn is the thought! Day after day, passing into eternity, bears its burden of records for the books of heaven. Words once spoken, deeds once done, can never be recalled. Angels have registered both the good and the evil. The mightiest conqueror upon the earth cannot call back the record of even a single day. Our acts, our words, even our most secret motives, all have their weight in deciding our destiny for weal or woe. Though they may be forgotten by us, they will bear their testimony to justify or to condemn."—*The Great Controversy*, pages 486, 487.

The Judgment

1. For what event has God appointed a time? Acts 17:31.

2. How many must appear before the judgment bar? 2 Cor. 5:10.

3. What description of the judgment is given by Daniel? Dan. 7:9, 10.



"WORDS AND ACTIONS AND MOTIVES ARE RECORDED" IN THE BOOKS OF HEAVEN.

NOTE.—"Thus was presented to the prophet's vision the great and solemn day when the characters and the lives of men should pass in review before the Judge of all the earth, and to every man should be rendered 'according to his works.' The Ancient of Days is God the Father. Says the psalmist, 'Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God.' It is He, the source of all being, and the fountain of all law, that is to preside in the judgment. And holy angels, as ministers and witnesses, in number 'ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,' attend this great tribunal."—*The Great Controversy,* page 479.

Life's Records Consulted

4. Where did the psalmist indicate that his life record was kept? Ps. 56:8.

5. When all men finally stand before the "great white throne," what records will be opened? Rev. 20: 11-15.

NOTE.—"You who are slighting the offers of mercy, think of the long array of figures accumulating against you in the books of heaven; for there is a record kept of the impieties of nations, of families, of individuals. God may bear long while the account goes on, and calls to repentance and offers of pardon may be given; yet a time will come when the account will be full; when the soul's decision has been made; when by his own choice, man's destiny has been fixed. Then the signal will be given for judgment to be executed."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 165.

6. For whom is a book of remembrance kept? Mal. 3:16, 17.

NOTE.—"'A book of remembrance' is written before God, in which are recorded the good deeds of 'them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon His name.' Their words of faith, their acts of love, are registered in heaven. Nehemiah refers to this when he says, 'Remember me, O my God, . . . and wipe not out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God.' In the book of God's remembrance every deed of righteousness is immortalized. There every temptation resisted, every evil overcome, every word of tender pity expressed, is faithfully chronicled. And every act of sacrifice, every suffering and sorrow endured for Christ's sake, is recorded. Says the psalmist, 'Thou tellest my wanderings: put Thou my tears into Thy bottle: are they not in Thy book?'"—*The Great Controversy,* page 481.

Detailed Record Kept of Our Lives

7. What is taken into account in the judgment? Matt. 12:36, 37.

NOTE.—"Some talk too much; they stand in this position: 'Report, . . . and we will report it.' Miserable indeed is such a position! If all these gossipers would ever bear in mind that an angel is following them, recording their words, there would be less talking and much more praying."—*Testimonies,* vol. 4, p. 40.

"You all have an influence for good or for evil on the minds and characters of others. And just the influence which you exert is written in the book of records in heaven. An angel is attending you and taking record of your words and actions. When you rise in the morning, do you feel your helplessness and your need of strength from God? and do you humbly, heartily make known your wants to your heavenly Father? If so, angels mark your prayers, and if these prayers have not gone forth out of feigned lips, when you are in danger of unconsciously doing wrong and exerting an influence which will lead others to do wrong, your guardian angel will be by your side, prompting you to a better course, choosing your words for you, and influencing your actions."—*Testimonies,* vol. 3, pp. 363, 364.

8. *How inclusive is this record?* 1 Cor. 4:5.

NOTE.—"Words and actions and motives are recorded; but how little do these light, superficial heads and hard hearts realize that an angel of God stands writing down the manner in which their precious moments are employed. God will bring to light every word and every action. He is in every place. His messengers, although unseen, are visitors in the workroom and in the sleeping apartment. The hidden works of darkness will be brought to light. The thoughts, the intents and purposes of the heart, will stand revealed. All things are naked and open to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do."—*Testimonies,* vol. 4, pp. 589, 590.

9. What shows that the secrets of our lives are registered in heaven? Eccl. 12:14.

NOTE.—"Opposite each name in the books of heaven is entered, with terrible exactness, every wrong word, every selfish act, every unfulfilled duty, and every secret sin, with every artful dissembling. Heaven-sent warnings or reproofs neglected, wasted moments, unimproved opportunities, the influence exerted for good or for evil, with its far-reaching results, all are chronicled by the recording angel."—*The Great Controversy,* page 482.

The Angel Witnesses

10. What witness is there of our actions and words? Eccl. 5:6.

NOTE.—"I was shown that the recording angel makes a faithful record of every offering dedicated to God and put into the treasury, and also of the final result of the means thus bestowed. The eye of God takes cognizance of every farthing devoted to His cause, and of the willingness or reluctance of the giver. The motive in giving is also chronicled. Those self-sacrificing, consecrated ones who render back to God the things that are His, as He requires of them, will be rewarded according to their works. Even though the means thus consecrated be misapplied, so that it does not accomplish the object which the donor had in view,—the glory of God and the salvation of souls,—those who made the sacrifice in sincerity of soul, with an eye single to the glory of God, will not lose their reward."—*Testimonies,* vol. 2, pp. 518, 519.

11. What precious promise is made to the overcomer? Rev. 3:5.

12. Who are promised deliverance in the time of trouble? Dan. 12:1; Rev. 21:27.

Lesson 7, for November 12, 1955

Angels Agents in Divine Revelation

MEMORY VERSE: "He said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show unto His servants the things which must shortly be done. Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book." Rev. 22:6, 7.

STUDY HELP: "Review and Herald" Sabbath School Lesson Help.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

Sabbath afternoon: General survey of the lesson.
Sunday: Introduction; Ques. 1-3.
Monday: Ques. 4-8.
Tuesday: Ques. 9-12.
Wednesday: Ques. 13-15.
Thursday: "Review and Herald" Sabbath School Lesson Help.
Friday: Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction

II. Prophetic Messengers

1. Secrets revealed to prophets. Amos 3:7.
2. An angel enlightens Daniel. Dan. 8:15-19.
3. An angel signifies revelation to John. Rev. 1:1.

III. Gabriel the Chief Messenger of the Lord

1. Gabriel sent to Daniel. Dan. 9: 21, 22.
2. His honored position. Dan. 10:21.
3. The one who stands in presence of God. Luke 1:19.
4. "Thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren the prophets." Rev. 22: 6, 8, 9.

IV. Prophecy of Zechariah Example of Instruction by an Angel

1. An angel explains vision of red horse. Zech. 1:7-14.
2. Joshua and the angel. Zech. 3:1-7.
3. An angel interprets vision of candlestick and olive trees. Zech. 4:1-14.

V. Other Instances of Angelic Instruction

1. To Abraham. Gen. 22:11, 12, 15-18.
2. To Gideon. Judges 6:11, 12.
3. To Zacharias. Luke 1:11-18.
4. To Mary. Luke 1:26-35.
5. To the shepherds. Luke 2:8-15.

THE LESSON

Introduction

One of the functions of the angels is to reveal God's will to men. "Adam, in his innocence, had enjoyed open communion with his Maker; but sin brought separation between God and man. . . . Man was . . . cut off from direct approach to his Creator, but God would communicate with him through Christ and angels."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 67. In this lesson we will study about angels as God's messengers.

Prophetic Messengers

1. To whom does God reveal His secrets? Amos 3:7.

2. What agency did God use in enlightening the prophet Daniel? Dan. 8:15-19.

3. What part did an angel serve in making plain God's message to John? Rev. 1:1.

NOTE.—"In the past, God has revealed to man many of His plans and purposes. Again and again, in different ages, He has spoken to men in various ways, through His Holy Spirit, by vision, and by sending angels to bring His messages to those through whom He would reveal His will. Almost from the earliest records of God's dealings with His chosen people, to the closing book in the Bible, we find that God has repeatedly spoken to His prophets and His people through the agency of angels."—I. H. Evans, *The Ministry of Angels,* page 127.

Gabriel the Chief Messenger of the Lord

4. By what name was the angel sent to Daniel identified? Dan. 9: 21, 22.

NOTE.—"It was Gabriel, the angel next in rank to the Son of God, who came with the divine message to Daniel. It was Gabriel, 'His angel,' whom Christ sent to open the future to the beloved John; and a blessing is pronounced on those who read and hear the words of the prophecy, and keep the things written therein. Rev. 1:3."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 234.

GABRIEL BROUGHT THE WONDERFUL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SON OF GOD TO A HUMBLE MAIDEN.

5. How did Gabriel indicate his honored position? Dan. 10:21.

6. In his announcement to Zacharias how did Gabriel reveal his relation to God? Luke 1:19.

7. How did the angel who appeared to John refer to himself? Rev. 22:6, 8, 9.

NOTE.—"Christ sent and made known the Revelation to John by 'His angel.' A particular angel seems here to be brought to view. What angel could appropriately be called Christ's angel? May we not find an answer to this question in a significant passage in the prophecy of Daniel? In Daniel 10:21, an angel, which was doubtless Gabriel (see Daniel, chapters 9, 10, and 11:1), in making known some important truths to Daniel, said, 'There is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince.' Who Michael is we easily learn. Jude (verse 9) calls him the 'Archangel.' And Paul tells us that when the Lord descends from heaven, and the dead in Christ are raised, the voice of the Archangel shall

be heard. 1 Thess. 4:16. And whose voice will be heard at that amazing hour when the dead are called to life? The Lord Himself replies, 'Marvel not at this; for the hour is coming in the which all that are in the graves shall hear *His voice*' (John 5: 28); and the previous verse shows that the one here referred to, whose voice will then be heard, is the Son of man, or *Christ*. It is the voice of Christ, then, that calls the dead from their graves. That voice, Paul declares, is the voice of the Archangel; and Jude says that the Archangel is called Michael, the very personage mentioned in Daniel, and all referring to Christ. The statement in Daniel, then, is, that the truths to be revealed to Daniel were committed to Christ, and confined exclusively to Him, and to an angel whose name was Gabriel. Similar to the work of communicating important truth to the 'beloved prophet' is the work of Christ in the Revelation of communicating important truth to the 'beloved disciple;' and who, in this work, can be *His* angel but he who was engaged with Him in the former work, that is, the angel Gabriel?"—*Daniel and the Revelation,* 1918 ed., pp. 353, 354. See pages 340, 341 in *The Prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation.*

Prophecy of Zechariah Example of Instruction by an Angel

8. Who came to explain to Zechariah his vision of the red horse and his rider? Zech. 1:7-14.

NOTE.—"Zechariah had a series of visions regarding the work of God in the earth. These messages, given in the form of parables and symbols, came at a time of great uncertainty and anxiety, and were of peculiar significance to the men who were advancing in the name of the God of Israel. . . . 'And the Lord answered the angel that talked with me,' Zechariah declared, 'with good words and comfortable words.

" 'So the angel that communed with me said unto me, Cry thou, saying, Thus saith the Lord of hosts; I am jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with a great jealousy. And I am very sore displeased with the heathen that are at ease: for I was but a little displeased, and they helped forward the affliction. Therefore thus saith the Lord; I am returned to Jerusalem with mercies: My house shall be built in it, . . . and a line shall be stretched forth upon Jerusalem.' "—*Prophets and Kings,* page 580.

9. What comforting message did the angel bring to the accused Joshua? Zech. 3:1-7.

10. What interpretation did the angel give to the vision of the candlesticks and olive trees? Zech. 4:1-14.

Other Instances of Angelic Instruction

11. In what direct way does God sometimes communicate with man? Gen. 22:11, 12, 15-18.

12. How did God once reveal His purpose to Gideon? Judges 6:11, 12.

13. Who appeared unto the priest Zacharias, and what message did he deliver? Luke 1:11-18.

14. What did this special heavenly messenger announce to Mary? Luke 1:26-35.

15. What medium did heaven use in bringing glad tidings to the shepherds? Luke 2:8-15.

Angel Ministry to Men

MEMORY VERSE: "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." Heb. 13:2.

STUDY HELP: "Review and Herald" Sabbath School Lesson Help.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

Sabbath afternoon: General survey of the lesson.
Sunday: Introduction; Ques. 1-4.
Monday: Ques. 5-8.
Tuesday: Ques. 9-12.
Wednesday: Ques. 13-15.
Thursday: "Review and Herald" Sabbath School Lesson Help.
Friday: Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction

II. Abraham's Heavenly Visitors

1. Abraham's reception of three strangers. Gen. 18:1-8.
2. Previous promise of posterity. Gen. 15:5; 17:1-8.
3. Promise to be realized through Sarah. Gen. 18:9-15.
4. Mission of messengers to Sodom. Gen. 18:16-22.

III. Angels Visit Sodom

1. Lot welcomes angel visitors. Gen. 19:1-3, 5, first part.
2. Supernatural power of Lot's guests. Gen. 19:9-11.
3. Warning of destruction. Gen. 19:12-14.
4. Deliverance of Lot's immediate family. Gen. 19:15-17.
5. As a result of Abraham's intercession. Gen. 18:23-32; 19:29.

IV. An Angel Comforts Hagar

1. Angel questions Hagar. Gen. 16:6-8.
2. The angel's message to Hagar. Gen. 16:9-13.
3. Hagar again in distress. Gen. 21:14-16.
4. God again provides angel ministry for Hagar. Gen. 21:17-19.

V. An Angel Intervenes in Abraham's Supreme Test

1. Abraham's great test of faith. Gen. 22:2, 9.
2. An angel stays Abraham's hand. Gen. 22:10-12.

THE LESSON

Introduction

One of the most important functions of the angels is their ministry to man. "We need to understand better than we do the mission of the angel visitants. It would be well to consider that in all our work we have the co-operation and care of heavenly beings. Invisible armies of light and power attend the meek and lowly ones who believe and claim the promises of God. Cherubim and seraphim and angels that excel in strength,—ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands,—stand at His right hand, 'all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation.' "—*Christ's Object Lessons*, page 176.

Abraham's Heavenly Visitors

1. Who were the "three men" entertained by Abraham in the plains of Mamre? Gen. 18:1-8. Compare Gen. 19:1.

NOTE.—"God conferred great honor upon Abraham. Angels of heaven walked and talked with him as friend with friend. When judgments were about to be visited upon Sodom, the fact was not hidden from him, and he became an intercessor with God for sinners. His interview with the angels presents also a beautiful example of hospitality."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 138.

2. What promise had previously been made to Abraham regarding his posterity? Gen. 15:5; 17:1-8.

3. How did the Lord at this time tell Abraham the promise concerning his seed was to be fulfilled? Gen. 18: 9-15.

4. What was the mission of the angels to Sodom and neighboring cities? Gen. 18:16-22.

Angels Visit Sodom

5. Although referred to as "angels," what indicates that the identity of these visitors to Sodom was concealed? Gen. 19:1-3, 5, first part.

NOTE.—"In the twilight, two strangers drew near to the city gate. They were apparently travelers coming in to tarry for the night. None could discern in those humble wayfarers the mighty heralds of divine judgment, and little dreamed the gay, careless multitude that in their treatment of these heavenly messengers that very night they would reach the climax of the guilt which doomed their proud city. But there was one man who manifested kindly attention toward the strangers, and invited them to his home. Lot did not know their true character, but politeness and hospitality were habitual with him; they were a part of his religion,—lessons that he had learned from the example of Abraham. Had he not cultivated a spirit of courtesy, he might have been left to perish with the rest of Sodom. Many a household, in closing its doors against a stranger, has shut out God's messenger, who would have brought blessing and hope and peace."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 158.

6. In what way was the real character of Lot's guest revealed? Gen. 19:9-11.

7. What did the angels then tell Lot regarding the object of their visit? Gen. 19:12-14.

8. While these angels had been sent to destroy the wicked inhabitants, what was their work in behalf of Lot and his family? Gen. 19:15-17.

9. Who had especially intervened for Lot and his family? Gen. 18:23-32; 19:29.

NOTE.—"Though Lot had become a dweller in Sodom, he did not partake in the iniquity of its inhabitants. Abraham thought that in that populous city there must be other worshipers of the true God. And in view of this he pleaded, 'That be far from Thee, to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked; . . . that be far from Thee. Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?' Abraham asked not once merely, but many times. Waxing bolder as his requests were granted, he continued until he gained the assurance that if even ten righteous persons

could be found in it, the city would be spared.

"Love for perishing souls inspired Abraham's prayer. While he loathed the sins of that corrupt city, he desired that the sinners might be saved. His deep interest for Sodom shows the anxiety that we should feel for the impenitent. We should cherish hatred of sin, but pity and love for the sinner. All around us are souls going down to ruin as hopeless, as terrible, as that which befell Sodom."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* pages 139, 140.

An Angel Comforts Hagar

10. When Hagar fled from her mistress, who found her in the wilderness? Gen. 16:6-8.

11. What message did the angel give to her? Gen. 16:9-13.

NOTE.—"She made her way to the desert, and as she rested beside a fountain, lonely and friendless, an angel of the Lord, in human form, appeared to her. Addressing her as 'Hagar, Sarai's maid,' to remind her of her position and her duty, he bade her, 'Return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands.' Yet with the reproof there were mingled words of comfort. 'The Lord hath heard thy affliction.' 'I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude.' And as a perpetual reminder of his mercy, she was bidden to call her child Ishmael, 'God shall hear.' "—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* pages 145, 146.

12. What distressing experience again came to Hagar? Gen. 21:14-16.

13. How did God again provide for Hagar in her banishment? Gen. 21: 17-19.

NOTE.—"Thus it is that heaven ministers to man's needs. These poor exiles were hopeless and friendless. No more could they return to the abundance of Abraham's house. Moreover, He to whom the future is as an open book, knew that Ishmael would not choose to walk in the paths of righteousness; yet, notwithstanding all this, He sent an angel from heaven to this sorrowing mother and her suffering child to supply their needs.

"In this dark world there is many a mother whose heart aches as did Hagar's; many a one who, like the outcast Egyptian, knows not what to do. Often her heart is too full for utterance. There may be no true human friend to whom she can tell her sorrows, none from whom she may seek counsel. In utter hopelessness, she may feel that life is too bitter to be borne, and long for the time when she may rest from her troubles. But there is not one such who may not find comfort and help in God."—I. H. Evans, *The Ministry of Angels,* pages 168, 169.

An Angel Intervenes in Abraham's Supreme Test

14. What supreme test of faith came to Abraham? Gen. 22:2, 9.

15. As Abraham was about to sacrifice his son, by what divine intervention was his hand stayed? Gen. 22:10-12.

Lesson 9, for November 26, 1955

Angel Ministry to Men (Continued)

MEMORY VERSE: "Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not." Gen. 28:16.

STUDY HELP: "Review and Herald" Sabbath School Lesson Help.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

Sabbath afternoon: General survey of the lesson.
Sunday: Introduction; Ques. 1-3.
Monday: Ques. 4-7.
Tuesday: Ques. 8-11.
Wednesday: Ques. 12-14.
Thursday: "Review and Herald" Sabbath School Lesson Help.
Friday: Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction

II. Ministry of Angels Revealed to Jacob

1. Jacob's dream. Gen. 28:10-12.
2. Divine assurance. Gen. 28:13-15.
3. Bethel—The House of God. Gen. 28:16-22.

III. Angels Appear to Jacob on His Return From Padan-aram

1. "God's host." Gen. 32:1, 2.
2. Jacob's prayer. Gen. 32:9-12.
3. Preparation to meet Esau. Gen. 32:13, 21.
4. Jacob's night of wrestling. Gen. 32:24-30.

IV. An Angel Ministers to Elijah

1. Jezebel's threat against the prophet. 1 Kings 19:1, 2.
2. Elijah's flight and despondency. 1 Kings 19:3, 4.
3. An angel awakens Elijah. 1 Kings 19:5, 6.
4. Angel again appears and strengthens Elijah. 1 Kings 19:7, 8.

V. Angel Ministry in Resisting Enemies of God's People

1. Balaam hired to curse Israel. Num. 22:5-7.
2. Angel intercepts Balaam. Num. 22:22-26, 31-35.
3. Angel influence in Persian court. Dan. 10:13.

THE LESSON

Introduction

The examples of angel ministry on behalf of God's people are so numerous that we have the privilege of a second lesson on this subject. How grateful we should be for this ministry! "God commissions His angels to save His chosen ones from calamity. . . . Again and again have angels talked with men as a man speaketh with a friend, and led them to places of security. Again and again have the encouraging words of angels renewed the drooping spirits of the faithful. . . .

"It is the work of the angels to come close to the tried, the suffering, the tempted. They labor untiringly in behalf of those for whom Christ died. . . .

"The principalities and powers of heaven are watching the warfare which, under apparently discouraging circumstances, God's servants are carrying on. New conquests

are being achieved, new honors won, as the Christians, rallying round the banner of their Redeemer, go forth to fight the good fight of faith. All the heavenly angels are at the service of the humble, believing peopeople of God; and as the Lord's army of workers here below sing their songs of praise, the choir above join with them in ascribing praise to God and to His Son."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* pages 153, 154.

Ministry of Angels Revealed to Jacob

1. In Jacob's dream at Bethel whom did he see ascending and descending between earth and heaven? Gen. 28: 10-12.

NOTE.—"Heaven is brought near to earth by that mystic ladder, the base of which is firmly planted on the earth, while the topmost round reaches the throne of the Infinite. Angels are constantly ascending and descending this ladder of shining brightness, bearing the prayers of the needy and distressed to the Father above, and bringing blessing and hope, courage and help, to the children of men. These angels of light create a heavenly atmosphere about the soul, lifting us toward the unseen and the eternal. We cannot behold their forms with our natural sight; only by spiritual vision can we discern heavenly things. The spiritual ear alone can hear the harmony of heavenly voices."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 153.

2. What message did God speak to Jacob? Gen. 28:13-15.

3. What are some of the indications of the deep impression this dream had upon Jacob? Gen. 28:16-22.

Angels Appear to Jacob on His Return From Padan-aram

4. Who met Jacob as he was returning to his father's land twenty years later? Gen. 32:1, 2.

NOTE.—"Again the Lord granted Jacob a token of the divine care. As he traveled southward from Mount Gilead, two hosts of heavenly angels seemed to encompass him behind and before, advancing with his company, as if for their protection. Jacob remembered the vision at Bethel so long before, and his burdened heart grew lighter at this evidence that the divine messengers who had brought him hope and courage at his flight from Canaan, were to be the guardians of his return. And he said, 'This is God's host; and he called the name of that place Mahanaim'—'two hosts, or camps.' "—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 195.

5. When in distress for fear of Esau, for what did Jacob pray? Gen. 32:9-12.

6. What preparation did Jacob make to meet his brother? Gen. 32: 13, 21.

7. What experience did he have with an angel during the night? Gen. 32:24-30.

NOTE.—"The struggle continued until near the break of day, when the stranger placed his finger upon Jacob's thigh, and he was crippled instantly. The patriarch now discerned the character of his antagonist. He knew that he had been in conflict with a heavenly messenger, and this was why his almost superhuman effort had not gained the victory. It was Christ, 'the Angel of the covenant,' who had revealed Himself to Jacob."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 197.

An Angel Ministers to Elijah

8. What threat did Jezebel make against Elijah? 1 Kings 19:1, 2.

9. For what did Elijah pray when in utter discouragement at the threat of Jezebel? 1 Kings 19:3, 4.

10. In this dark hour of despondency who ministered to the weary prophet? 1 Kings 19:5, 6.

11. At the second appearance of the angel how did he minister to Elijah? What was the result of that ministry? 1 Kings 19:7, 8.

NOTE.—"Into the experience of all there come times of keen disappointment and utter discouragement,—days when sorrow is the portion, and it is hard to believe that God is still the kind benefactor of His earth-born children; days when troubles harass the soul, till death seems preferable to life. It is then that many lose their hold on God, and are brought into the slavery of doubt, the bondage of unbelief. Could we at such times discern with spiritual insight the meaning of God's providences, we should see angels seeking to save us from ourselves, striving to plant our feet upon a foundation more firm than the everlasting hills; and new faith, new life, would spring into being."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 162.

Angel Ministry in Resisting Enemies of God's People

12. Whom did Balak, the enemy of Israel, hire to curse God's people? Num. 22:5-7.

13. How did an angel intervene, and what restrictions were placed upon the mercenary prophet? Num. 22:22-26, 31-35.

14. What other instance is recorded of angel intervention on behalf of God's people in the time of Daniel? Dan. 10:13.

NOTE.—"While Satan was striving to influence the highest powers in the kingdom of Medo-Persia to show disfavor to God's people, angels worked in behalf of the exiles. The controversy was one in which all heaven was interested. Through the prophet Daniel we are given a glimpse of this mighty struggle between the forces of good and the forces of evil. For three weeks Gabriel wrestled with the powers of darkness, seeking to counteract the influences at work on the mind of Cyrus; and before the contest closed, Christ Himself came to Gabriel's aid. 'The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days,' Gabriel declares; 'but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.' All that heaven could do in behalf of the people of God was done. The victory was finally gained; the forces of the enemy were held in check all the days of Cyrus, and all the days of his son Cambyses, who reigned about seven and a half years."—*Prophets and Kings,* pages 571, 572.

Angel Ministry to Jesus

MEMORY VERSE: "Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He shall presently give Me more than twelve legions of angels?" Matt. 26:53.

STUDY HELP: "Review and Herald" Sabbath School Lesson Help.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

Sabbath afternoon: General survey of the lesson.
Sunday: Introduction; Ques. 1-4.
Monday Ques. 5-8.
Tuesday: Ques. 9-12.
Wednesday: Ques. 13-16.
Thursday: "Review and Herald" Sabbath School Lesson Help.
Friday: Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction

II. Angels at the Birth and the Temptation of Christ

1. Angels announce the birth of Christ. Luke 2:8-14.
2. Wise Men follow the "star." Matt. 2:1, 2, 9, 10.
3. Angel appears to Joseph. Matt. 2:13.
4. Angel ministry to Christ in the wilderness. Matt. 4:1, 11.

III. Angels in Gethsemane and at Trial of Jesus

1. Angel strengthens Christ for His hour of agony. Luke 22:39-44.
2. Mob struck to the ground. John 18:4-6.
3. Legions at His command. Matt. 26:52-54.
4. Warning to Pilate in the judgment hall. Matt. 27:2, 19.
5. Cruel treatment in spite of angel warning. Matt. 27:26-30.

IV. Angels at His Resurrection and Ascension

1. Angel at the tomb. Matt. 28:1, 2.
2. Effect upon the soldiers. Matt. 28:3, 4.
3. Angel's message to the women. Matt. 28:5-7.
4. Luke mentions two angels. Luke 24:3-5.
5. Christ's ascension. Acts 1:9.
6. Angels' message of comfort. Acts 1:10, 11.
7. Angelic choir receives Christ. Ps. 24:3-10.

THE LESSON

Introduction

In the angels' ministry to Christ while upon earth we have an example of their loving solicitude for all His followers. Christ availed Himself of no divine assistance that is not at the disposal of His people.

"The angels of God are ascending, bearing the prayers of the needy and distressed to the Father above, and descending, bringing blessing and hope, courage, help, and life, to the children of men.

"The angels of God are ever passing from earth to heaven, and from heaven to earth.

The miracles of Christ for the afflicted and suffering were wrought by the power of God through the ministration of the angels. And it is through Christ, by the ministration of His heavenly messengers, that every blessing comes from God to us. In taking upon Himself humanity, our Saviour unites His interests with those of the fallen sons and daughters of Adam, while through His divinity He grasps the throne of God. And thus Christ is the medium of communication of men with God, and of God with men."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 142, 143.

Angels at the Birth and the Temptation of Christ

1. Who announced the Saviour's birth with joy and song? Luke 2:8-14.

2. How were the Wise Men from the East guided to the birthplace of Jesus? Matt. 2:1, 2, 9, 10.

NOTE.—"The Wise Men had seen a mysterious light in the heavens upon that night when the glory of God flooded the hills of Bethlehem. As the light faded, a luminous star appeared, and lingered in the sky. It was not a fixed star nor a planet, and the phenomenon excited the keenest interest. That star was a distant company of shining angels, but of this the Wise Men were ignorant. Yet they were impressed that the star was of special import to them."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 60.

3. What message did an angel bring to Joseph? Matt. 2:13.

4. How did the angels show their interest and sympathy when Jesus was tempted in the wilderness? Matt. 4:1, 11.

NOTE.—"After the foe had departed, Jesus fell exhausted to the earth, with the pallor of death upon His face. The angels of heaven had watched the conflict, beholding their loved Commander as He passed through inexpressible suffering to make a way of escape for us. He had endured the test, greater than we shall ever be called to endure. The angels now ministered to the Son of God as He lay like one dying. He was strengthened with food, comforted with the message of His Father's love and the assurance that all heaven triumphed in His victory."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 131.

Angels in Gethsemane and at Trial of Jesus

5. What ministry did an angel perform for Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane? Luke 22:39-44.

NOTE.—"The worlds unfallen and the heavenly angels had watched with intense interest as the conflict drew to its close. Satan and his confederacy of evil, the legions of apostasy, watched intently this great crisis in the work of redemption. The powers of good and evil waited to see what answer would come to Christ's thrice-repeated prayer. Angels had longed to bring relief to the divine sufferer, but this might not be. No way of escape was found for the Son of God. In this awful crisis, when everything was at stake, when the mysterious cup trembled in the hand of the sufferer, the heavens opened, a light shone forth amid the stormy darkness of the crisis hour, and the mighty angel who stands in God's presence, occupying the position from which Satan fell, came to the side of Christ. The angel came not to take the cup from Christ's hand, but to strengthen Him to drink it, with the assurance of the Father's love."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 693.

6. What experience came to a band of men in Gethsemane when Jesus answered them, "I am He"? John 18: 4-6.

NOTE.—"No traces of His recent agony were visible as Jesus stepped forth to meet His betrayer. Standing in advance of His disciples He said, 'Whom seek ye?' They answered, 'Jesus of Nazareth.' Jesus replied, 'I am He.' As these words were spoken, the angel who had lately ministered to Jesus moved between Him and the mob. A divine light illuminated the Saviour's face, and a dovelike form overshadowed Him. In the presence of this divine glory, the murderous throng could not stand for a moment. They staggered back. Priests, elders, soldiers, and even Judas, fell as dead men to the ground."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 694.

7. In His rebuke to Peter to what potential aid did Christ refer? Matt. 26:52-54.

NOTE.—"Peter in his anger rashly drew his sword and tried to defend his Master. . . . He then said to Peter, 'Put up again thy sword into his place. . . . Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He shall presently give Me more than twelve legions of angels?'—a legion in place of each one of the disciples."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 696.

8. What warning was sent to Pilate from his wife during the trial of Jesus? Matt. 27:2, 19.

NOTE.—"From the first, Pilate was convicted that Jesus was no common man. He believed Him to be an excellent character and entirely innocent of the charges brought against Him. The angels who were witnessing the scene marked the convictions of the Roman governor, and to save him from engaging in the awful act of delivering Christ to be crucified, an angel was sent to Pilate's wife, and gave her information through a dream that it was the Son of God in whose trial her husband was engaged, and that He was an innocent sufferer. She immediately sent a message to Pilate, stating that she had suffered many things in a dream on account of Jesus and warning him to have nothing to do with that holy man."—*Early Writings,* page 173.

TWO OF THE GRANDEST ANGEL MESSAGES EVER GIVEN TO MAN.

9. In spite of the angel's warning what cruel treatment was meted out to Jesus? Matt. 27:26-30.

NOTE.—"The multitude were clamorous for the blood of Jesus. They cruelly scourged Him, and put upon Him an old purple kingly robe, and bound His sacred head with a crown of thorns. They put a reed into His hand, and bowed to Him, and mockingly saluted Him, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' They then took the reed from His hand and smote Him with it upon the head, causing the thorns to penetrate His temples, sending the blood trickling down His face and beard.

"It was difficult for the angels to endure the sight. They would have delivered Jesus, but the commanding angels forbade them, saying that it was a great ransom which was to be paid for man; but it would be complete and would cause the death of him who had the power of death. Jesus knew that angels were witnessing the scene of His humiliation. The weakest angel could have caused that mocking throng to fall powerless and could have delivered Jesus. He knew that if He should desire it of His Father, angels would instantly release Him. But it was necessary that He should suffer the violence of wicked men, in order to carry out the plan of salvation."—*Early Writings,* page 170.

Angels at His Resurrection and Ascension

10. What work was given an angel the morning of Christ's resurrection? Matt. 28:1, 2.

NOTE.—"A heavenly host surrounded the sepulcher. Angels that excel in strength were guarding the tomb, and waiting to welcome the Prince of life.

" 'And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven.' Clothed with the panoply of God, this angel left the heavenly courts. The bright beams of God's glory went before him, and illuminated his pathway. 'His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: and for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.'

"Now, priests and rulers, where is the power of your guard? Brave soldiers that have never been afraid of human power are now as captives taken without sword or spear. The face they look upon is not the face of mortal warrior; it is the face of the mightiest of the Lord's host. This messenger is he who fills the position from which Satan fell. It is he who on the hills of Bethlehem proclaimed Christ's birth. The earth trembles at his approach, the hosts of darkness flee, and as he rolls away the stone, heaven seems to come down to the earth. The soldiers see him removing the stone as he would a pebble, and hear him cry, Son of God, come forth; Thy Father calls Thee. They see Jesus come forth from the grave, and hear Him proclaim over the rent sepulcher, 'I am the resurrection, and the life.' As He comes forth in majesty and glory, the angel host bow low in adoration before the Redeemer, and welcome Him with songs of praise."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 779, 780.

11. What effect did the angelic presence have upon the soldier guard? Matt. 28:3, 4.

NOTE.—"Terror seized the Roman guard. Where was now their power to keep the body of Jesus? They did not think of their duty or of the disciples' stealing Him away. As the light of the angels shone around, brighter than the sun, that Roman guard fell as dead men to the ground."—*Early Writings,* page 182.

12. What message did the angel give to the women? Matt. 28:5-7.

13. How many angels at least had special duties in connection with the resurrection? Luke 24:3-5.

14. What record do we have of the ascension of Jesus? Acts 1:9.

15. What message of comfort came to the sorrowing disciples? Acts 1: 10, 11.

NOTE.—"These angels were of the company that had been waiting in a shining cloud to escort Jesus to His heavenly home. The most exalted of the angel throng, they were the two who had come to the tomb at Christ's resurrection, and they had been with Him throughout His life on earth. With eager desire all heaven had waited for the end of His tarrying in a world marred by the curse of sin. The time had now come for the heavenly universe to receive their King. Did not the two angels long to join the throng that welcomed Jesus? But in sympathy and love for those whom He had left, they waited to give them comfort. 'Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?' Heb. 1:14."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 832.

16. In what words was the ascension prophesied by the psalmist? Ps. 24:3-10.

Angel Ministry to the Apostles

MEMORY VERSE: "But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said, Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life." Acts 5:19, 20.

STUDY HELP: "Review and Herald" Sabbath School Lesson Help.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

Sabbath afternoon: General survey of the lesson.
Sunday: Introduction; Ques. 1-3.
Monday: Ques. 4-7.
Tuesday: Ques. 8-12.
Wednesday: Ques. 13-16.
Thursday: "Review and Herald" Sabbath School Lesson Help.
Friday: Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction

II. Peter and John Delivered by an Angel

1. Peter and John healing and preaching. Acts 3:1-8; 4:8-10, 33.
2. Imprisoned at instigation of the priests. Acts 5:17, 18.
3. Delivered by an angel. Acts 5:19, 20.

III. Stephen and Philip Subject to Influence of Angels

1. Stephen's appearance before his persecutors. Acts 6:8-15.
2. Persecution spreads the gospel. Acts 8:1-4.
3. Philip's mission to Samaria. Acts 8:5-8.
4. Angel directs Philip to Ethiopian eunuch. Acts 8:26-30.

IV. Cornelius and Peter Directed by an Angel

1. Angel visits Roman centurion. Acts 10:1-6.
2. Cornelius sends messengers to Joppa. Acts 10:7, 8.
3. Peter prepared for his visitors. Acts 10:9, 10, 17-20.
4. Messengers make known their request. Acts 10:21-23.
5. Results of following the angel's directions. Acts 10:24, 34, 35, 44-48.

V. Peter and Paul Experience Interposition of Angels

1. Peter imprisoned under Herod's persecution. Acts 12:1-5.
2. An angel releases his chains. Acts 12:6-8.
3. Herod smitten by an angel. Acts 12:21-24.
4. Paul assured by the angel. Acts 27:22-25.

THE LESSON

Introduction

As we contemplate the divine guidance and angelic interposition in behalf of the apostolic church, we are assured of the same interest of heaven in the messengers of God today.

"The experience of Philip, directed by an

angel from heaven to go to the place where he met one seeking for truth; of Cornelius, visited by an angel with a message from God; of Peter, in prison and condemned to death, led by an angel forth to safety,—all show the closeness of the connection between heaven and earth.

"To the worker for God, the record of these angel visits should bring strength and courage. Today, as verily as in the days of the apostles, heavenly messengers are passing through the length and breadth of the land, seeking to comfort the sorrowing, to protect the impenitent, to win the hearts of men to Christ. We cannot see them personally; nevertheless they are with us, guiding, directing, protecting."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* pages 152, 153.

Peter and John Delivered by an Angel

1. What glimpse is given us of the ministry of Peter and John in the early days of the apostolic church? Acts 3:1-8; 4:8-10, 33.

2. What resulted from their effective preaching of the gospel? Acts 5:17, 18.

NOTE.—"While Peter and John were prisoners, the other disciples, knowing the malignity of the Jews, had prayed unceasingly for their brethren, fearing that the cruelty shown to Christ might be repeated." —*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 67.

3. What deliverance came to these apostles? Acts 5:19, 20.

Stephen and Philip Subject to Influence of Angels

4. How did Stephen in his martyrdom reflect the influence of angels in his experience? Acts 6:8-15.

NOTE.—"As Stephen stood face to face with his judges to answer to the charge of blasphemy, a holy radiance shone upon his countenance, and 'all that sat in the council, looking steadfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel.' Many who beheld this light trembled and veiled their faces, but the stubborn unbelief and prejudice of the rulers did not waver."

"The martyrdom of Stephen made a deep impression upon all who witnessed it. . . . His death was a sore trial to the church, but it resulted in the conviction of Saul, who could not efface from his memory the faith and constancy of the martyr, and the glory that had rested on his countenance."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* pages 99, 101.

5. What resulted from the raging persecution following the death of Stephen? Acts 8:1-4.

NOTE.—"The persecution that came upon the church in Jerusalem resulted in giving a great impetus to the work of the gospel. . . . To scatter His representatives abroad, where they could work for others, God permitted persecution to come upon them. Driven from Jerusalem, the believers 'went everywhere preaching the word.' "—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 105.

6. What did Philip do when persecution arose at Jerusalem? Acts 8: 5-8.

7. What direction did an angel give to Philip, and with what results? Acts 8:26-30.

NOTE.—"This Ethiopian represents a large class who need to be taught by such missionaries as Philip,—men who will hear the voice of God, and go where He sends them. There are many who are reading the Scriptures who cannot understand their true import. All over the world men and women are looking wistfully to heaven. Prayers and tears and inquiries go up from souls longing for light, for grace, for the

Holy Spirit. Many are on the verge of the kingdom, waiting only to be gathered in.

"An angel guided Philip to the one who was seeking for light, and who was ready to receive the gospel; and today angels will guide the footsteps of those workers who will allow the Holy Spirit to sanctify their tongues and refine and ennoble their hearts. The angel sent to Philip could himself have done the work for the Ethiopian, but this is not God's way of working. It is His plan that men are to work for their fellow men." —*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 109.

Cornelius and Peter Directed by an Angel

8. How did the Lord answer the prayer of a Roman officer? Acts 10: 1-6.

NOTE.—"The angel appeared to Cornelius while he was at prayer. As the centurion heard himself addressed by name, he was afraid, yet he knew that the messenger had come from God, and he said, 'What is it, Lord?' The angel answered, 'Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God. And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter: he lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the seaside.'

"The explicitness of these directions, in which was named even the occupation of the man with whom Peter was staying, shows that heaven is acquainted with the history and business of men in every station of life. God is familiar with the experience and work of the humble laborer, as well as with that of the king upon his throne."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* pages 133, 134.

9. In harmony with the angel's instruction what course did Cornelius follow? Acts 10:7, 8.

10. How did God prepare Peter to receive the delegation from Cornelius? Acts 10:9, 10, 17-20.

NOTE.—"The angel, after his interview with Cornelius, went to Peter, in Joppa."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 135.

11. What experience did the messengers repeat as they made known their request to Peter? Acts 10:21-23.

NOTE.—"Because Cornelius was living in obedience to all the instruction he had received, God so ordered events that he was given more truth. A messenger from the courts of heaven was sent to the Roman officer and to Peter, in order that Cornelius might be brought into touch with one who could lead him into greater light.

"There are in our world many who are nearer the kingdom of God than we suppose. In this dark world of sin, the Lord has many precious jewels, to whom He will guide His messengers. Everywhere there are those who will take their stand for Christ. Many will prize the wisdom of God above any earthly advantage, and will become faithful light bearers. Constrained by the love of Christ, they will constrain others to come to Him."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* pages 140, 141.

12. What was the result of this meeting arranged by an angel? Acts 10:24, 34, 35, 44-48.

Peter and Paul Experience Interposition of Angels

13. Under whom did persecution continue, and what persons were particularly involved? Acts 12:1-5.

NOTE.—"The government of Judea was then in the hands of Herod Agrippa. . . . Herod also held the position of tetrarch of Galilee. He was professedly a proselyte to the Jewish faith, and apparently very zealous in carrying out the ceremonies of the Jewish law. Desirous of obtaining the favor of the Jews, hoping thus to make secure his offices and honors, he proceeded to carry out their desires by persecuting the church of Christ, spoiling the houses and goods of the believers, and imprisoning the leading members of the church. He cast James, the brother of John, into prison, and sent an executioner to kill him with the sword, as another Herod had caused the prophet John to be beheaded. Seeing that the Jews were well pleased with these efforts, he imprisoned Peter also."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 143.

14. How was Peter released? Acts 12:6-8.

15. What judgment came upon Herod? Acts 12:21-24.

NOTE.—"The same angel who had come from the royal courts to rescue Peter, had been the messenger of wrath and judgment to Herod. The angel smote Peter to arouse him from slumber: it was with a different stroke that he smote the wicked king, laying low his pride, and bringing upon him the punishment of the Almighty. Herod died in great agony of mind and body, under the retributive judgment of God."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 152.

16. On the storm-tossed sea what assurance was brought by an angel to Paul? Acts 27:22-25.

Lesson 12, for December 17, 1955

Angels in the Final Gospel Work

MEMORY VERSE: "After these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory." Rev. 18:1.

STUDY HELP: "Review and Herald" Sabbath School Lesson Help.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

Sabbath afternoon: General survey of the lesson.
Sunday: Introduction; Ques. 1-3.
Monday: Ques. 4-7.
Tuesday: Ques. 8-11.
Wednesday: Ques. 12-15.
Thursday: "Review and Herald" Sabbath School Lesson Help.
Friday: Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction

II. Angel Interest in the Heirs of Salvation

1. Angel ministry. Heb. 1:13, 14.
2. Joy of angels over repentant sinner. Luke 15:7, 10.
3. Names confessed before angels. Rev. 3:5.

III. Gospel Heralds in the Final Work of Salvation

1. The angel with the open book. Rev. 10:1-3.
2. The angel's message. Rev. 10:5-7.
3. The angel with the everlasting gospel. Rev. 14:6, 7.
4. Angel proclaims fall of Babylon. Rev. 14:8.
5. The message of the third angel. Rev. 14:9-12.
6. Angel that lightens the world. Rev. 18:1, 2.

IV. Angels and the Sealing Work

1. Angels holding the winds. Rev. 7:1.
2. Angel with the seal of God. Rev. 7:2, 3.
3. A being clad in linen with writer's inkhorn. Ezek. 9:2, 4, 11.
4. Destruction of all but those who have the mark of God. Ezek. 9:5-7.
5. Number sealed. Rev. 7:4.
6. A great multitude on sea of glass cause rejoicing among the angels. Rev. 7:9-12.

THE LESSON

Introduction

To God's people in the closing up of the gospel work, this lesson on the angels in the final work of the gospel should come with special encouragement. As Satan and his angels become increasingly active in the latter days, how comforting it is to know that holy angels become all the more prominent in the work of God.

In the time of trouble in the last days we have the assurance of angelic care over God's people. "Angels will shield the righteous, and supply their wants. . . .

"Could men see with heavenly vision, they would behold companies of angels that excel in strength stationed about those who have kept the word of Christ's patience. . . .

"The heavenly sentinels, faithful to their trust, continue their watch. . . . None can pass the mighty guardians stationed about every faithful soul. Some . . . are defended by angels in the form of men of war.

"In all ages, God has wrought through holy angels for the succor and deliverance of His people."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 629-631.

Angel Interest in the Heirs of Salvation

1. To whom are the angels sent to minister? Heb. 1:13, 14.

2. What shows their deep interest in the salvation of men? Luke 15: 7, 10.

NOTE.—"The angels of glory find their joy in giving,—giving love and tireless watchcare to souls that are fallen and unholy. Heavenly beings woo the hearts of men; they bring to this dark world light from the courts above; by gentle and patient ministry they move upon the human spirit, to bring the lost into a fellowship with Christ which is even closer than they themselves can know."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 21.

3. What confession further indicates the interest of angels in the salvation of men? Rev. 3:5.

NOTE.—"To all the faithful ones who were striving against evil, John heard the promises made: 'To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life.' . . . 'And I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels.'" —*The Acts of the Apostles,* pages 588, 589.

Gospel Heralds in the Final Work of Salvation

4. What significant statements are made in connection with the angel messenger introduced in the tenth chapter of the Revelation? Rev. 10: 1-3.

NOTE.—His standing on both the sea and the land, and crying with a loud voice, indicates that his message was for the whole world.

" 'He had in his hand a little book *open.*' We may infer from this language that this book was at some time closed. We read in Daniel of a book which was closed and sealed to a certain time: 'Thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end. . . .' Daniel 12:4. Since this book was closed only *until* the time of the end, it follows that *at* the time of the end the book would be opened. . . . There is no book spoken of as closed and sealed except the book of Daniel's prophecy, and there is no account of the opening of that book unless it be here in Revelation 10."—*The Prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation,* pages 519, 520.

5. What was the startling message of this angel? Rev. 10:5-7.

NOTE.—"Few will be disposed to deny that the mystery of God is the gospel. It is the same, then, as if the angel had declared, In the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the *gospel* shall be finished."—*The Prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation,* pages 526, 527.

6. How is the world-wide nature of the judgment hour expressed? Rev. 14:6, 7.

NOTE.—"These angels are evidently symbolic; for the work assigned them is that of preaching the everlasting gospel to the people. But the preaching of the gospel has not been entrusted to literal angels; it has been committed unto men, who are responsible for this sacred trust placed in their hands. Each of these three angels, therefore, symbolizes a body of religious teachers, who are commissioned to make known to their fellow men the special truths which constitute the burden of these messages respectively.

"But we are to consider further that angels, literally, are intensely interested in the work of grace among men, being sent forth to minister to those who shall be heirs of salvation. And as there is order in all the movements and appointments of the heavenly world, it may not be fanciful to suppose that a literal angel has charge and oversight of the work of each message."—*Daniel and the Revelation,* 1918 ed., p. 633.

7. How was the fall of Babylon announced? Rev. 14:8.

8. What is said of the message of the third angel? Rev. 14:9-12.

NOTE.—"I then saw the third angel. Said my accompanying angel, 'Fearful is his work. Awful is his mission. He is the angel that is to select the wheat from the tares,

and seal, or bind, the wheat for the heavenly garner. These things should engross the whole mind, the whole attention.' "—*Early Writings*, page 118.

9. What mighty being will join the third angel in the last warning to man and lighten the earth with his glory? Rev. 18:1, 2.

NOTE.—"I saw angels hurrying to and fro in heaven, descending to the earth, and again ascending to heaven, preparing for the fulfillment of some important event. Then I saw another mighty angel commissioned to descend to the earth, to unite his voice with the third angel, and give power and force to his message. Great power and glory were imparted to the angel, and as he descended, the earth was lightened with his glory. . . .

"Angels were sent to aid the mighty angel from heaven, and I heard voices which seemed to sound everywhere, 'Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.' "—*Early Writings*, page 277.

Angels and the Sealing Work

10. What did John see four angels doing? Rev. 7:1.

NOTE.—"The time of the work here introduced is established beyond mistake. The sixth chapter closed with the events of the sixth seal, and the seventh seal is not mentioned until we reach the beginning of Revelation 8. The whole of Revelation 7 is therefore thrown in here parenthetically. . . . The expression, 'after these things,' does not mean after the fulfillment of all the events previously described, but after the prophet had been carried in vision to the close of the sixth seal. . . . It must be accomplished before the departing of the heavens as a scroll, for after that event there is no place for such a work as this. It must take place after the signs in the sun, moon, and stars, for these signs have already been fulfilled, and such a sealing work has not yet been accomplished. It comes in therefore between the 13th and 14th verses of Revelation 6. There, as already shown, is just where we now stand. Hence the first part of Revelation 7 relates to a work the accomplishment of which may be looked for now."—*The Prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation*, page 453.

11. What vitally important work of another angel is next introduced? Rev. 7:2, 3.

NOTE.—"I saw four angels who had a work to do on the earth, and were on their way to accomplish it. Jesus was clothed with priestly garments. He gazed in pity on the remnant, then raised His hands, and with a voice of deep pity cried, '*My blood, Father, My blood, My blood, My blood!*' Then I saw an exceeding bright light come from God, who sat upon the great white throne, and was shed all about Jesus. Then I saw an angel with a commission from Jesus, swiftly flying to the four angels who had a work to do on the earth, and waving something up and down in his hand, and crying with a loud voice, '*Hold! Hold! Hold! Hold!* until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads.'

"I asked my accompanying angel the meaning of what I heard, and what the four angels were about to do. He said to me that it was God that restrained the

SABBATH-SCHOOL LESSONS IN BRAILLE

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powers, and that He gave His angels charge over things on the earth; that the four angels had power from God to hold the four winds, and that they were about to let them go; but while their hands were loosening, and the four winds were about to blow, the merciful eye of Jesus gazed on the remnant that were not sealed, and He raised His hands to the Father and pleaded with Him that He had spilled His blood for them. Then another angel was commissioned to fly swiftly to the four angels and bid them hold, until the servants of God were sealed with the seal of the living God in their foreheads."—*Early Writings,* page 38.

12. How is the sealing work described by the prophet? Ezek. 9:2, 4, 11.

NOTE.—"I saw angels hurrying to and fro in heaven. An angel with a writer's inkhorn by his side returned from the earth and reported to Jesus that his work was done, and the saints were numbered and sealed. Then I saw Jesus, who had been ministering before the ark containing the Ten Commandments, throw down the censer. He raised His hands, and with a loud voice said, *'It is done.'* "—*Early Writings,* page 279.

13. What terrible commission was next to be carried out? Ezek. 9:5-7.

NOTE.—"The mark of deliverance has been set upon those 'that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done.' Now the angel of death goes forth, represented in Ezekiel's vision by the men with the slaughtering weapons, to whom the command is given: 'Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary.' Says the prophet, 'They began at the ancient men which were before the house.' The work of destruction begins among those who have professed to be the spiritual guardians of the people. The false watchmen are the first to fall. There are none to pity or to spare. Men, women, maidens, and little children perish together."—*The Great Controversy,* page 656.

14. How many from the tribes of Israel are sealed? Rev. 7:4.

15. What is the cause of great rejoicing among the angel throng around the throne of God? Rev. 7: 9-12.

Lesson 13, for December 24, 1955

Angels in the World Harvest

MEMORY VERSE: "When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory." Matt. 25:31.

STUDY HELP: "Review and Herald" Sabbath School Lesson Help.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

Sabbath afternoon: General survey of the lesson.
Sunday: Introduction; Ques. 1-3.
Monday: Ques. 4-7.
Tuesday: Ques. 8-11.
Wednesday: Ques. 12-15.
Thursday: "Review and Herald" Sabbath School Lesson Help.
Friday: Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction

II. Time of the Harvest

1. Prophecy of the final harvest. Joel 3:12-14.
2. Harvest, the end of the world. Matt. 13:39, middle part of verse.
3. Angel announces that harvest is ripe. Rev. 14:15.

III. At Christ's Coming

1. All nations gathered before Him. Matt. 25:31, 32, first part.
2. Comes with angels and awards. Matt, 16:27.
3. Effect on the wicked. Matt. 24:30, 31, first part.
4. The joy of the righteous. Isa. 25:8, 9.

IV. The Angel Reapers

1. Work of angels in the harvest. Matt. 13:39, last part.
2. Reaping the vintage. Rev. 14:17-19.
3. Angels referred to as "the armies which were in heaven." Rev. 19:11-15.

V. Separation of Wicked From the Righteous

1. Parable of the wheat and the tares. Matt. 13:25-30.
2. Interpretation of the parable. Matt. 13:38-41.
3. Angels sever the wicked from the just. Matt. 13:49.
4. Wicked cast into furnace of fire. Matt. 13:42, 50; Mal. 4:1.
5. Righteous rewarded in kingdom of their Father. Matt. 13:43; 25:34.

THE LESSON

Introduction

The greatest manifestation of holy angels ever witnessed upon this earth will be at the second coming of Christ, when He comes in glory with all the holy angels with Him to reap the harvest of earth. With what comfort may the child of God look forward to this final service of angels for man upon this earth!

"When Christ comes, He will send His angels in every direction, wherever the saints of God lie sleeping, to gather out His faithful ones, His elect, chosen, precious, ransomed from among men. Not one grave, however lonely, will be neglected in that hour; not one burial place overlooked. Not one who made God his trust, though he lie in the depths of the sea, will be forgotten." —I. H. Evans, *The Ministry of Angels,* page 279.

Time of the Harvest

1. What prophecy of the final harvest is made by Joel? Joel 3:12-14.

2. When is the harvest declared to be? Matt. 13:39, middle part of verse.

3. How is the time of the harvest referred to by John? Rev. 14:15.

NOTE.—"Events grow solemn as we near the end. It is this fact which gives to the third angel's message, now going forth, its unusual degree of solemnity and importance. It is the last warning to go forth prior to the coming of the Son of man, here represented as seated upon a white cloud, a crown upon His head, and a sickle in His hand, to reap the harvest of the earth."—*The Prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation,* pages 676, 677.

At Christ's Coming

4. At Christ's coming who will be gathered before Him? Matt. 25:31, 32, first part.

NOTE.—"With unerring accuracy the Infinite One still keeps account with the nations. While His mercy is tendered, with calls to repentance, this account remains open; but when the figures reach a certain amount which God has fixed, the ministry of His wrath begins. The account is closed. Divine patience ceases. Mercy no longer pleads in their behalf."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 364.

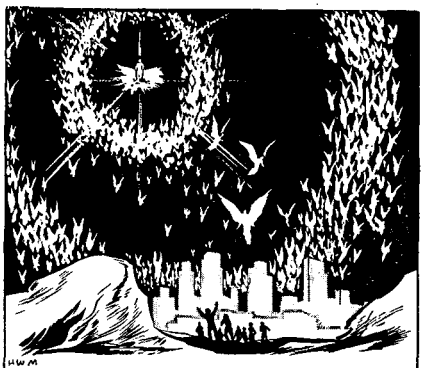
5. At this time what will be accomplished by Christ and the angels? Matt. 16:27.

6. What will be the effect upon the wicked as Jesus comes with His angels? Matt. 24:30, 31, first part. Compare Rev. 6:15-17.

NOTE.—"The time is not far distant when God will arise to vindicate His insulted authority. 'The Lord cometh out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity.' . . . The voice of the Archangel and the trump of God shall summon, from the whole earth, both the living and the dead to the presence of their Judge. The Father and the Son, attended by a multitude of angels, were present upon the mount. At the great judgment day, Christ will come 'in the glory of His Father with His angels.' He shall then sit upon the throne of His glory, and before Him shall be gathered all nations."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 339.

7. How will the righteous express their joy at this time? Isa. 25:8, 9.

NOTE.—"All heaven will be emptied of the angels, while the waiting saints will be looking for Him and gazing into heaven, as were the men of Galilee when He ascended from the Mount of Olivet. Then only those who are holy, those who have followed fully the meek Pattern, will with rapturous joy exclaim as they behold Him, 'Lo, this



THE ANGELS WILL GATHER GOD'S FAITHFUL ONES FROM ALL THE EARTH.

is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us.' "—*Early Writings,* page 110.

The Angel Reapers

8. What is the work of the angels in the time of the harvest? Matt. 13: 39, last part.

9. What command is given to an angel when the grapes are fully ripe? Rev. 14:17-19.

10. Who will accompany Christ as He comes to tread the wine press? Rev. 19:11-15.

NOTE.—"Jesus rides forth as a mighty conqueror. Not now a 'Man of Sorrows,' to drink the bitter cup of shame and woe, He comes, victor in heaven and earth, to judge the living and the dead. 'Faithful and true,' 'in righteousness He doth judge and make war.' And 'the armies which were in heaven follow Him.' With anthems of ce-

lestial melody the holy angels, a vast, unnumbered throng, attend Him on His way. The firmament seems filled with radiant forms,—'ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands.' No human pen can portray the scene; no mortal mind is adequate to conceive its splendor. 'His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of His praise. And His brightness was as the light.' As the living cloud comes still nearer, every eye beholds the Prince of life. No crown of thorns now mars that sacred head, but a diadem of glory rests on His holy brow. His countenance outshines the dazzling brightness of the noonday sun. 'And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, King of kings, and Lord of lords.' "—*The Great Controversy,* page 641.

Separation of Wicked From the Righteous

11. In the parable of the wheat and tares what were the reapers to do in the time of the harvest? Matt. 13: 25-30.

12. In interpreting the parable what did Jesus say would be the work of angels? Matt. 13:38-41.

NOTE.—"The tares are permitted to grow among the wheat, to have all the advantage of sun and shower; but in the time of harvest ye shall 'return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not.' Christ Himself will decide who are worthy to dwell with the family of heaven. He will judge every man according to his words and his works. Profession is as nothing in the scale. It is character that decides destiny."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 74.

13. What separation will then take place at the end of the world? Matt. 13:49.

NOTE.—"The derisive jests have ceased. Lying lips are hushed into silence. . . . The wicked pray to be buried beneath the rocks of the mountains, rather than meet the face of Him whom they have despised and rejected."—*The Great Controversy,* page 642.

14. What disposition will be made of the wicked? Matt. 13:42, 50; Mal. 4:1.

NOTE.—"Both the parable of the tares and that of the net plainly teach that there is no time when all the wicked will turn to God. The wheat and the tares grow together until the harvest. The good and the bad fish are together drawn ashore for a final separation.

"Again, these parables teach that there is to be no probation after the judgment. When the work of the gospel is completed, there immediately follows the separation between the good and the evil, and the destiny of each class is forever fixed.

"God does not desire the destruction of any. 'As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die?' Throughout the period of probationary time His Spirit is entreating men to accept the gift of life. It is only those who reject His pleading that will be left to perish. God has declared that sin must be destroyed as an evil ruinous to the universe. Those who cling to sin will perish in its destruction."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 123.

15. What will be the reward of the righteous? Matt. 13:43; 25:34.

NOTE.—"The great controversy is ended. Sin and sinners are no more. The entire universe is clean. One pulse of harmony and gladness beats through the vast creation. From Him who created all, flow life and light and gladness, throughout the realms of illimitable space. From the minutest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed beauty and perfect joy, declare that God is love."—*The Great Controversy,* page 678.

Review

MEMORY VERSE: Review the memory verses for the quarter and endeavor to fasten them in the memory.

STUDY HELP: "Review and Herald" Sabbath School Lesson Help.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

Sabbath afternoon: Review the memory verses.
Sunday: Lessons 1, 2.
Monday: Lessons 3-5.
Tuesday: Lessons 6-8.
Wednesday: Lessons 9-11.
Thursday: Lessons 12, 13.
Friday: "Review and Herald" Sabbath School Lesson Help.

THE LESSON

Introduction

We have just completed the study of a series of lessons that should be a great blessing to us in the knowledge that an angel is with us every step of the way when we walk in the path of righteousness, and that our Father in heaven has legions of angels which He sends forth "to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation." On this fourteenth Sabbath of the quarter we shall review some of the highlights of the lessons that have gone before in an endeavor to strengthen our confidence in the ministry of angels as we face the trials of the last days.

Lesson 1—Angels Created Beings; Disaffection and Conflict

By what name are the members of God's family in heaven and earth known? Job 1:6; 1 John 3:1. How far back can the existence of angels be traced? Job 38:4-7. How do we know that angels are created beings? Ezek. 28:15. What was the cause of the conflict in heaven, and what was the result? Isa. 14:12-14; Rev. 12:7-9.

Lesson 2—Angels a Higher Order of Being Than Man

What comparative relation exists between angels and men? Ps. 8:4, 5. How have men been affected at the appearance of an angel? Judges 6:21-23; Dan. 8:16, 17. What change in man's position will follow the resurrection? Luke 20:36.

Lesson 3—The Dominion of God and the Number and Glory of His His Messengers

By virtue of the act of creation, what is God's position over the universe? Acts 17:24. How many angels attend the Lord of heaven and earth? Dan. 7:9, 10. How does Daniel describe the glory of an angel? Dan. 10:5, 6.

Lesson 4—Power and Speed of the Angels

How does the psalmist refer to the power of angels? Ps. 103:20. How was this power illustrated in the deliverance of Peter from prison? Acts 5:17-19. How does Ezekiel describe the movements of angels? Ezek. 1:14. What is one example of the swiftness with which angels can come to man's help? Dan. 9:21.

Lesson 5—Guardian Angels

Who stands before God in behalf of His little ones? Matt. 18:10. What evidence have we that the same care is over all God's children? Job 1:6-12; Ps. 91:11, 12.

Lesson 6—Angels and the Judgment

What vision of the judgment was given to John the revelator? Rev. 20:11-15. What indicates that an angel keeps the record of our lives? Eccl. 5:6. Before whom will the name of the overcomer be confessed? Rev. 3:5.

Lesson 7—Angels Agents in Divine Revelation

Whom did God send to communicate His message to Daniel? Dan. 9: 21, 22. Name some other instances of divine revelation through angels. Gen. 22:11, 12; Judges 6:11, 12; Luke 1: 11-18, 26-35. What should be our attitude toward these heavenly messengers? Rev. 22:8, 9.

Lesson 8—Angel Ministry to Men

How did Abraham entertain "angels unawares"? Gen. 18:1-8. What ministry did angels perform in behalf of Abraham and Lot? Gen. 19:15-24.

Lesson 9—Angel Ministry to Men (Continued)

At Bethel what vision appeared to Jacob? Gen. 28:10-15. How did an angel minister to Elijah? 1 Kings 19: 5-8. What experience shows that God works through angels to influence unbelievers? Dan. 10:13.

Lesson 10—Angel Ministry to Jesus

How did angels minister to Jesus in the hour of His agony? Luke 22:39-44. What part did an angel play at the resurrection of Jesus? Matt. 28: 1-7. What ministry did angels perform at the ascension of Christ? Acts 1:9-11.

Lesson 11—Angel Ministry to the Apostles

How did an angel minister to Peter and John? Acts 5:17-20. How did an angel direct Philip? Acts 8:26-30. What experience did Cornelius have that led to his conversion? Acts 10:7, 8, 44-48.

Lesson 12—Angels in the Final Gospel Work

To whom are the angels of God sent forth to minister? Heb. 1:14. In the last warning message to mankind who are represented as leading God's children? Rev. 14:6-8; 18:1, 2. What part will angels act in the sealing of the saints? Ezek. 9:1-11; Rev. 7:4.

Lesson 13—Angels in the World Harvest

In the harvest at the end of the world what work will the angels do? Matt. 13:37-42, 47-49. At Christ's appearing what does He send the angels to do? Matt. 24:30, 31. How does the revelator describe the work of angels at the time of harvest? Rev. 14:14-20.

The senior "Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly" is published in the following foreign languages: Bohemian, Danish-Norwegian, German, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, Russian, Serbian, Slovakian, Spanish, Swedish, Ukrainian, and Yugoslavian. Write to the International Branch of the Pacific Press at Brookfield, Illinois, for any of these quarterlies for the strangers within your gates.

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING

December 24, 1955

This quarter the overflow of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering goes to two interesting fields that we do not hear as much about as we do of some other parts of the world. These are two mission fields of the Southern European Division—the island of Madagascar, and Portuguese East Africa. The General Conference, through the Southern European Division, has bought 2,500 acres of good land twelve miles from the railroad near Vila Pery in Portuguese East Africa in order to establish a new mission station. We have prospects of a good evangelistic work among the natives and also among the large white population. There are no other missions in the locality. We must build a school, a church, a dispensary, and houses for missionary families. Our first secular work will be farming, and for this we need agricultural implements. It is to help meet these needs that part of the overflow will be used at the end of the fourth quarter.

The rest of the overflow will go to Madagascar to help establish a new mission station at Tamatave. The main thing about this mission station will be a training school where workers can be trained to work for their own people. These far-distant fields are looking to Sabbath-school members around the world to bring a real Christmas offering on December 24. Let us not disappoint them.

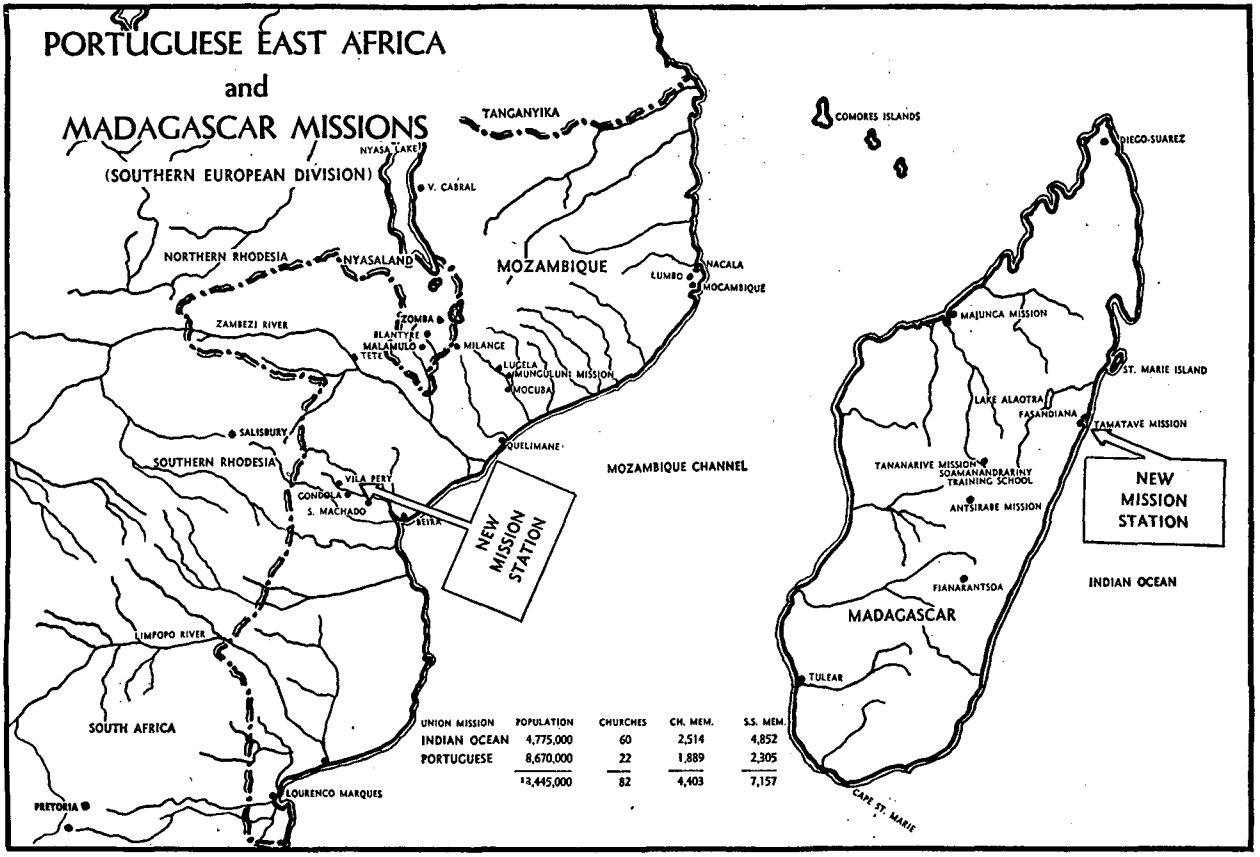
LESSONS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER, 1956

Sabbath-school members who have failed to receive a senior *Lesson Quarterly* for the first quarter of 1956 will be helped by the following outline in studying the first lesson. The subject of the quarter's lessons is "Lessons From the Gospel Prophet," the first of a two-quarter series of lessons on the book of Isaiah. The title of the first lesson is "God's Arraignment of Israel." The Memory Verse is Isaiah 1:18. The texts to be studied are:

Ques. 1. Isa. 1:2.
Ques. 2. Isa. 1:3.
Ques. 3. Isa. 1:4.
Ques. 4. Isa. 1:5, first part.
Ques. 5. Isa. 1:5, last part, 6.
Ques. 6. Isa. 1:7, 8.
Ques. 7. Isa. 1:9.
Ques. 8. Isa. 1:10-12.
Ques. 9. Isa. 1:13-15.
Ques. 10. Isa. 1:16-17.
Ques. 11. Isa. 1:18.
Ques. 12. Isa. 1:19, 20.
Ques. 13. Isa. 1:21-25.
Ques. 14. Isa. 1:26, 27.

PORTUGUESE EAST AFRICA and MADAGASCAR MISSIONS

(SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DIVISION)



UNION MISSION	POPULATION	CHURCHES	CH. MEM.	S.S. MEM.
INDIAN OCEAN	4,775,000	60	2,514	4,852
PORTUGUESE	8,670,000	22	1,889	2,305
	13,445,000	82	4,403	7,157