BENNY HINN

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Introduction

he battle between right and wrong, moral and immoral, virtuous and vile is as old as recorded history. In the Garden of Eden God placed the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and directed man not to eat of it, adding that death would occur if man ate of that tree (Genesis 2:17). Man was given a choice whether to obey or disobey.

Today, the conflict still rages.

At times, good and evil can reside in the same person. Robert Louis Stevenson wrote about this in his famous book, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, the story of a man with a multiple personality disorder.

This internal fight is nothing new. The apostle Paul wrote about it more than 2,000 years ago when he said, "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do" (Romans 7:18-19).

In this book, you will come face to face with the two most opposing forces operating in our world: angels and demons. These are not figments of our imagination, but are real and active at this very moment.

As a minister of the Gospel, I have to battle the forces of Satan continually. They rear their ugly heads in our crusades and attempt to destroy what God is doing in hearts and lives around the world. Yet I can assure you from firsthand

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experience that the Almighty has sent His angels to protect and minister to me—more times than I can count.

Billy Graham once said, "Christians should never fail to sense the operation of an angelic glory. It forever eclipses the world of demonic powers, as the sun does a candle's light." I can testify that this is true.

I am excited that you have chosen to read this book. The study of angels and demons has been life-changing for me.

I pray that your life will be transformed as you understand what is taking place in the spirit world and discover who you are in Christ and the authority you have.

Let's begin.

- Benny Hinn

PART I

ANGELS

CHAPTER 1

GOD'S AMAZING ANGELIC BEINGS

oday, in our Western culture, the subject of angels is not only popular but well accepted. I'm sure someone at one time or another has told you, "I have a guardian angel watching over me."

If you try a Google search for *angels* on the Internet, you will find over 32 million entries. There is increasing curiosity, but most of the information is not biblical. In fact, in both the secular world and the church, there is great ignorance concerning the true nature and function of angels.

I am convinced there is just one place to look for the real answers—God's Word. It is the only reliable source of spiritual truth and accurate information pertaining to angels and angelic hosts. The pages of the Bible make reference to *angel* or *angels* approximately three hundred times. Also note that there are more references to angels in the Bible than there are to demons.

The English word *angel* is derived from the Hebrew word *mal`ak* and from the Greek word *angelos,* which both mean "messenger."

Angels belong to an order of heavenly beings who are superior to man in both power and intelligence. As the psalmist writes, "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 honour" (Psalm 8:4-5).

The fact that man's order is lower than angels is repeated in Hebrews 2:7.

If we accept Scripture, we must also believe that angelic beings are real and that they minister to you and me—the "heirs of salvation." In addition, we must embrace the truth that although the spirit realm is invisible to the natural eye, it is as real as the physical world we live in. Angels are spiritual beings who exist in the spiritual realm, but God often sends them to earth to accomplish His will, to send a message, or to protect or deliver His people. As believers, one of our great privileges is the opportunity to receive help from God's special messengers.

LIFE-CHANGING ENCOUNTERS

From Genesis to Revelation, we find accounts of angels visiting people, intervening in their circumstances, advising, informing, and assisting them in countless ways. The Bible records over one hundred appearances of angels specifically sent from heaven to help direct the lives of people.

For example, it was an angel that appeared to Phillip and instructed him to go down the road toward Gaza to meet the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8).

In addition to the angels' ministry on earth, they are constantly at work in heaven, praising and worshiping the Almighty.

Most people find it easier to visualize angels in the heavenlies than to accept the fact that they also visit and assist us on earth. However, Christian history is replete with marvelous accounts of individuals who have had life-changing encounters with angels.

I believe we are about to enter into a season of supernatural manifestations as never seen before on this planet, and with every visitation comes angelic appearances. If you look back to the days of Abraham, when God visited the earth, you will find that angels were always present at those times. And we will see this phenomena happening again and again.

It is vital that we know what the Bible teaches concerning visitations from the spirit world, so we can be wise and discern whether or not they are sent from God.

SEVEN FACTS CONCERNING ANGELS

In this book we will turn to the pages of God's Word and unlock hidden truths pertaining to both angels and demons. As we begin, however, I want to lay a foundation concerning angelic beings. There are seven specific facts we need to know:

1. Angels were created by God before this planet came into existence.

Let me call your attention to an important passage of Scripture found in the book of Job. God is asking, "Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? Declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof,

if thou knowest? Or who hath stretched the line upon it?" (Job 34:4-5). Then the Almighty continues, "Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? Or who laid the corner stone thereof; when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?" (verses 5-6).

There can be no other explanation than "the sons of God" are angels. Why? Because this speaks of a time before the earth was created. So these could not be human beings. In addition, the word for God in this portion of Scripture is *Elohim*. As humans, we were never called "sons of *Elohim*," rather "sons of *Jehovah*."

As further proof that angels were brought into being by the Lord, the psalmist writes, "Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts. Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise ye him, all ye stars of light. Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens. Let them praise the name of the LORD; for he commanded, and they were created" (Psalm 148:2-5).

Angels being part of creation is confirmed in the New Testament as the apostle Paul tells us, "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in the earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him" (Colossians 1:16).

2. Angels are not to be worshiped.

We are commanded in Scripture, "Let no man, therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or the new moon, or of the sabbath days: which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ. Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and

worshipping of angels" (Colossians 2:16-18).

When John had his great revelation, he made this statement: "I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things" (Revelation 22:6). But the angel was quick to tell John, "See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God (verse 9).

Even though angels were God-formed and have specific purposes, we are not to pray to them, only to the Creator of both heaven and earth.

3. Angels are organized into principalities and powers.

Later we will discuss the five divisions of angels and their functions. We will also learn that there is more than one type of angelic host, but remember, "whether... principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him" (Colossians 1:16). In certain instances they appear and operate as an organized army.

4. Angels are without number.

The Bible tells us, "But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels" (Hebrews 12:22).

In the words of the prophet Jeremiah, "As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured: so will I multiply the seed of David my servant, and the Levites that minister unto me" (Jeremiah 33:22).

When Jesus was on the cross He said He could have called *"twelve legions of angels"* to come to His aid (Matthew 26:53). A legion at that time referred to a Roman

contingent of troops that numbered about 6,000. Twelve legions would be 72,000 angels!

To reinforce this point, John saw and heard "the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands" (Revelation 5:11). They were praising with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain" (verse 12).

What a choir that must have been!

5. Angels dwell in heaven and stand before God continually.

While it is true that angels visit the earth, they are permanent residents of heaven. Scripture records, "Again he said, Therefore hear the word of the LORD; I saw the LORD sitting upon his throne, and all the host of heaven standing on his right hand and on his left" (2 Chronicles 18:18).

They never stop worshiping the Creator. In the words of God's Son, "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 18:10).

6. The majority of angels have the appearance of men.

As far back as Abraham, angels have appeared on earth in the form of men. As Abraham sat in the door of his tent one hot day on the plains of Mamre, he looked up and "lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the

ground, and said, My Lord, if now I have found favour in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant: Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree" (Genesis 18:2-4).

Without question, these men were angels sent by God.

Later, in Joshua's day, an angel appeared to him as a soldier.

While Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and standing right in front of him was "a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand" (Joshua 5:13).

The prophet asked him, "Whose side are you on? Ours or the enemy's?"

The man told Joshua he wasn't on either side, "but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come" (verse 14). Immediately, Joshua fell down and worshiped the angel and wanted to know, "What word do you have for me?

The angel told him to take off his shoes because he was standing on holy ground (verse 15). The prophet praised God and obeyed.

In the New Testament, just after the Resurrection, the angel seen by the women at the tomb was in the form of a young man. "And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted" (Mark 16:5).

We also find angels appearing as earthly men at the time Jesus ascended back to the Father. As the apostles "looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:10-11).

These "two men" were God's messengers—angels—and

they had the appearance of normal men on earth.

7. Angels wear clothing.

How were the angels we just mentioned dressed? They wore "white apparel" (Acts 1:10). We find the same description after the Resurrection when Mary stood at the tomb weeping. As she grieved for her Son, she stooped down and looked into the sepulcher. There she saw "two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain" (John 20:12).

THE UNSEEN WORLD

The "invisible" things of the heavenly world spoken of in Scripture are as real and understandable as the visible things seen on earth today. The apostle Paul spoke of Jesus being "the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature" (Colossians 1:15). It is by Christ that "all things [were] created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible" (verse 16).

"Invisible" doesn't mean it cannot be seen somewhere. It's only blocked from our vision because we are limited to this planet, but it is visible in a different realm. However, the line between the two is very thin. There is an invisible world in heaven, on earth, and under the earth. To you and me, however, we only see what is around us. Yet this does not mean that what is beyond our present isn't real. It exists, but in a different realm or location. We are housed in a body of flesh, but there are spirits in the world today we cannot see with our natural eyes. God created all things, "and without him was not any thing made that was made" (John 1:3).

As we will discuss later, not all of the dominions, principalities, and powers spoken of in Colossians 1 are holy. According to Ephesians 6:12, we are wrestling against evil beings, principalities, and diabolical dominions. However, the truth I want to emphasize is that all things were originally created holy and perfect.

God Almighty designed the visible world to give us evidence of the invisible world, not the other way around. The Creator, who is invisible, existed before there was an earth, before anything material. Angels, Satan, and demon spirits predate humanity. First came the spiritual, then the physical.

EVIDENCE THAT CAN'T BE IGNORED

Mankind may attempt to ignore the existence of God, but their reasoning is futile.

The apostle Paul makes this powerful argument: "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse" (Romans 1:20).

The glory of God and His invisible, eternal power is revealed through the visible world which He formed. So when you admire majestic mountains, exquisite flowers, or watch a man or woman walking down a path enjoying God's handiwork, it is evidence of a power that made it all possible—a divine force we cannot see.

Scripture tells us something quite remarkable: "There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another" (1 Corinthians 15:40). This speaks of an enormous universe

that is unseen by humanity—the celestial (invisible) and the earthly (visible).

AN INSIGHT INTO THE HEAVENLIES

As we continue, we are going to look beyond the veil and see what the Bible has to say concerning what is now concealed. We are not searching for what is unattainable, so out of our reach we can never touch it, but are searching for a better place. That is what the heroes of faith sought. The writer of Hebrews referred to those who "died in the faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth" (Hebrews 11:13).

What were they searching after? "For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city" (verses 14-16).

They were looking for higher ground, the invisible kingdom of God. Even though they couldn't see it, they knew it was there. The Bible states in Isaiah, "for my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9).

The Holy Bible is the only book ever written that gives us an insight into the heavenlies and allows us to peek into what lies beyond. There are literally hundreds of Scriptures

revealing all we need to know about this unseen world. We often miss the truth because we become bogged down in so many details, but what is spoken of is tangible and real. We are called to sit in heavenly places.

I pray that as we delve into the amazing revelations concerning both angels and demons, your heart, soul, and mind will hear from heaven. God is waiting to unlock His treasure-trove of knowledge just for you.

WHAT ABOUT "FVII" ANGELS?

If you think all angels are good and obey God's voice, think again! We know from Isaiah 14:12-13, that angels can make choices, as did Lucifer, who we will discuss in Chapter 5.

However, the Almighty knows which angels disobey Him, and there will be a severe price to pay. Scripture tells us that "the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day" (Jude 6).

In certain instances (like dealing with Egypt during the time of Moses), God sends "evil angels" to do His work. As the psalmist wrote, "He cast upon them the fierceness of his anger, wrath, and indignation, and trouble, by sending evil angels among them" (Psalm 78:49).

In the final analysis, there is no hope for disobedient angels. They are doomed to spend eternity in the lake of fire. "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matthew 25:41).

As a believer, you cannot be torn away from your heavenly Father even by evil angels. You can say with Paul,

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"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39).

I like what Martin Luther, the leader of the Reformation, once said: "Let your holy Angel have charge concerning us, that the wicked one have no power over us."

Amen!