against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:12).

We do not become aware of the "bad angels" until we enter into the Kingdom of God through the new birth. Before that, we are mostly blind to their existence. Many people feel that if something is supernatural, it's from God. Nothing could be further from the truth. Some New Age teachers encourage their followers to try to contact angels. One was quoted in a local newspaper as saying: "Listen and they will enter your mind." This is probably a good way to become demon possessed! One New Age book taught that man experiences a relationship with God through a relationship with an angel. This is only true if the angel is the "Angel of the Lord," Yeshua the Messiah, the only mediator between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5).

There are people today who are seeking some sort of spirituality that does not require a commitment to God. Angels are a good compromise. They are spiritual beings who can be perceived as lovely, kind, and non-judgmental. "Angels" may be an easy way to avoid dealing with "negatives" such as sin and repentance. Easy doesn't mean "right" or "true." Angels are no substitute for God. They are simply His messengers.

Angels have Names

There are only three angels whose names are mentioned in the Holy Scriptures: "Michael, Gabriel and Lucifer (Ha Satan in Hebrew, Satan in English). Many Bible scholars believe that all spiritual beings have names. Gabriel has been called "Heaven's Telegram Bearer." He

has delivered some wonderful messages to men. Gabriel means "Mighty One of God." He was sent by God to announce the birth of John the Apostle (Luke 1:11,19). Then he was sent to Miriam (Mary) to tell her that she had been chosen to be the mother of the Messiah (Luke 1:28). Gabriel was also the angel who brought Daniel's answer to him when he was captive in Babylon (Daniel 9:21-22).

Michael is an archangel, the first prince of heaven. His name means "who is like God." Michael is the Commander in Chief of the Heavenly Host. He is referred to as "the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people (Israel)" (Daniel 12:1). He is the archangel for Israel's defense. (This means that Michael is going to be very busy in the days to come!) He knows how to deal with the devil (Jude 1:9) and will ultimately defeat Satan in a final battle (Revelation 12:7-8).

The Bible tells us that Lucifer was cast out of Heaven (Isaiah 14:12) because he rebelled against the authority of God. He determined to be like the most High. He exalted himself. Satan is the essence of evil. He is not omniscient, omnipotent nor omnipresent. His power is limited, but he does have absolute sovereignty over fallen angels and demons. He is called the Prince of the power of the air. He is one angel we do not want to imitate! We are called to wrestle against him and his forces. In Yeshua, we can overcome them!

Guardian Angels

The Bible tells us there are guardian angels: "Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 18:10) Believers who were praying for the apostle

Peter's release from prison thought his "angel" had appeared at their door, rather than Peter himself (Acts 12:3-15).

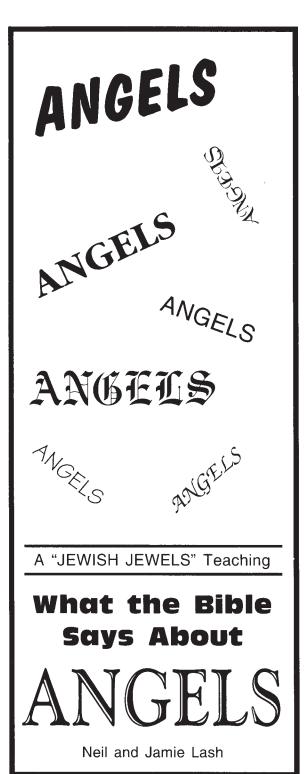
No one knows for sure whether or not everyone has a guardian angel. We personally believe that God does assign a guardian angel to everyone—probably at birth. It is His will that none should perish, and we believe that our loving Father does everything possible to draw men to Himself.

What a comfort to know that angels are watching over us, and especially over our children. Angels certainly are an expression of God's love for us. They guard and protect us and help deliver us in times of danger. We should thank God on a daily basis for our guardian angel, the entire angelic host, and precious promises such as the following: "For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone." (Psalm 91:11-12)

Becoming Like Angels

When we fulfill our calling in God to be messengers of the Good News, we are taking on an angelic role! The Good News of salvation, forgiveness of sin and new life in the Messiah Yeshua, is sometimes called the Evangel (the good message). We who proclaim this message are participating in Ev-angel-ism. Like God's messengers, the angels, we are proclaiming, as an angel did long ago, " ... Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy ... " (Luke 2:10). The good tidings can be summed up in three words: Messiah has come!

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Angels, Angels Everywhere

According to the Holy Scriptures there is an unseen world of angels all around us. Most people are fascinated by angels and are interested in learning more about them. If based on the Bible, this interest can result in a greater appreciation of the love, power, and protection of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. If angels are pursued apart from the Word of God, a spiritually dangerous and deceptive experience can be the unhappy result. Here is a brief overview of what the Bible says about angels.

Angels are:

Created by God (Psalm 148:1-5, Ez. 28:14-15). Immortal (Revelation 20:10). Holy (Acts 10:22). Not to be worshipped (Revelation 22:8-9). Strong (Psalm 103:20, 2 Kings 19:35). Intelligent, but not omniscient (Daniel 10:21). Numerous (Psalm 68:17, Revelation 5:11). Winged beings (Exodus 25:20, Isaiah 6:2). Spirits not limited by human bodies (Hebrews 1:7).

What Do Angels Do?

Worship God (Psalm 148:2).
Obey God (Psalm 103:20-21). (Their message agrees with God's Word.)
Appear in human form (Genesis 18:1).
Guard and protect (Psalm 91:11).
Experience emotions (Job 38:7, Luke 15:10).
Speak our language, but have their own (1 Corinthians 13:1).
Usually appear as males (Exception: Zechariah 5:9)

Angels In the Torah

Angels are messengers of God. They are referred to 340 times in the Holy Scriptures. The Hebrew word for angel is *mah-lach*, which literally means "messenger." The plural is *mah-lah-cheem*. One of the first mentions of angels in the Torah is found in Genesis 18 where three men come to visit Abraham. Two of these men are later identified as "angels," one of them as the Lord Himself. Abraham's hospitality to them probably inspired the writing of, "Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels" (Hebrews 13:2). This truth still applies today since God is the same, and He is still sending angels on missions.

One Very Special Angel

"The Angel of the Lord" is unlike all other angels in the Torah and throughout the Tenach. He first appears to Hagar (Genesis 16) who says of the encounter: "I have seen God!" The "Angel of the Lord" next appears to Abraham as he is about to sacrifice his son Isaac and says, "By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have ... not withheld your son, your only son—blessing I will bless you ..." (Genesis 22:16-17). In Genesis 32, the Patriarch Jacob wrestles all night with an Angel who changed his name to "Israel" because he had "struggled with God and with men and had prevailed." The Angel blessed Jacob and his response to this blessing was to say: "For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved." The Angel he wrestled with was no ordinary angel! Neither was the one who appeared to Moses in a bush that burned but was not consumed: "And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the

midst of a bush. Then Moses said, 'I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.' So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush" (Exodus 3:2-4).

In this passage the "Angel of the Lord" is directly referred to as God. According to John 1:18: "No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared him." Both Jacob and Moses "saw" God, but it wasn't God the Father, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. It was the Pre-Incarnate Son of God, Yeshua. He appeared to them as well as to other Old Covenant saints before His birth as a babe in Bethlehem. This type of appearance is called a "theophany"—a manifestation of God to man by actual appearance.

The Angel of the Lord in the Holy Scriptures does something that no ordinary angel does. He accepts worship (Moses is told to take off his shoes because he's on holy ground). Angels worship God. They are not to be worshipped. In Revelation Chapter 22 an angel showed the Apostle John some things to come. John fell down to worship before the angel. The angel said to him, "See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God" (Revelation 22:8-9). The Angel of the Lord is worshipped because He is God, the Son.

Many times, Jewish people want to know where Yeshua can be found in the Hebrew Scriptures (Tenach). He can be found throughout them, in the person of the Angel of the Lord. The Angel of the Lord is recognized by many traditional Jewish theologians as a special angel, but not as Yeshua. He is called "The angel of the Presence."

Angels are ministering spirits.

The Bible tells us there are angels who minister to those who will inherit salvation (Hebrews 1:14). For many years we stood on the verse, believing that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had angels surrounding not only us, but those of our loved ones who had not yet received Yeshua, or Jesus, as their personal Savior and Lord.

Exodus 12:3 clearly states: "a lamb for a household." We have made Yeshua, God's Lamb, THE Lamb for our household. Therefore, we pray in faith, pleading His blood over every unsaved family member and believing our loved ones will be drawn to God, confess Yeshua as their Lamb, and thereby inherit salvation.

Not All Angels are Good

It would be wonderful if all the angels around us were good angels, but this is not the case. Some angels are fallen, or bad angels. Another name for bad angels is demons. The chief of the demons is "Lucifer" or in Hebrew, "Ha Satan," literally "the Accuser." Lucifer was, at one time, the most beautiful of all angels. We are told in Ezekiel 28 that he was the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty, covered with every precious stone. Satan led a rebellion among the angels of God, seeking to be worshipped rather than to worship. He was then cast out of Heaven, along with the other fallen angels or demons.

These angels are no longer messengers of the Most High God. They are agents of the "Angel of Light" as Lucifer is sometimes called. Their job is to accuse, confuse, deceive, condemn, and generally oppose the people of God. The Bible tells us that " ... we do not wrestle