

December 11, 2022 - Matthew 1:18-25 - “Christmas a time of Angels”

### Introduction:

Joan Wester Anderson is one of the most prolific American authors on the subject of human experiences with angels - a vocation that was inspired by her son's own personal encounter. Her son's story is one of my favorite. He and two friends were traveling across country on a terribly cold night. Their car broke down in a deserted cornfield and they would probably have frozen to death there in fact some people did that night. But a tow truck driver appeared, hitched them up, took them to safety and when they got out of the car and turned around to pay him, he was gone, and so was his truck.

This is compelling because:

- there was more than one person seeing the same thing
- it was a state of emergency and no rescue vehicles were on the road
- there were no tracks left in the snow by the truck

Joan tells the story of the two pilots in a very small plane flying in fog, and unable to land. A voice came over the speaker and talked them down into a small airport, where they landed safely. They discovered as they got out of the plane that the airport was closed, and no one was on duty. Further, they were so off course that no other airport could have contacted them. Angels do exist and are involve in the affairs of men. According to a Gallup poll, over 75% of Americans believe in angels – even more than attend church regularly. This says to me that many people are looking back at the coincidences in their lives and are beginning to see something else. Others know that these sightings in the sky's we call UFO are supernatural and as we come closer to the Tribulation angelic warfare will proliferate.

Just last month a team of 16 researchers selected by NASA will spend the next nine months studying unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP), also known as UFOs. The research, which will use unclassified data, is to lead to a report that will be made available to the public next year. This selected research group includes professors, scientists, an oceanographer and others who study space.

I recommend they have a good theologian on this team because UFO's are astonishingly angel-like in some of their reported appearances. The fullest description of cherubim given in Ezekiel 1:5-24 and 10:1-22 speaks of them moving very quickly in any direction (1:19-21). When they moved, their wings made a very loud noise (1:24). Ezekiel gave a description of *a wheel in the middle of a wheel*: “Each wheel is composed of two wheels at right angles to each other.

This is impossible in reality, but it enables the chariot to run instantly in any direction without turning.” (Wright) Ezekiel gave a description of their gleaming appearance like of polished bronze, burning coals of fire, or flaming torches (1:7, 13). Our government has spent quite a bit of our tax money investigating what just possibly the bible reveals. Angels are from the heaven they are not from this world and are not confined by our natural laws. They can appear

and disappear at will giving the illusion they travel at unimaginable speeds. God angels are his secret agent as describe by Dr. Billy Graham and the Bible tells us that God's angels had significant missions in the affairs of men. However, none as important as the incarnation of God's only begotten son. His angels performed ...

### **I. Very Significant Roles.**

1. The angel Gabriel was a chief messenger of God because he delivered several very important messages from God to human beings. The angel Gabriel informed Zacharias the priest that he would be the father of John the Baptist, the forerunner of the Messiah (Lk. 1:5-20). He revealed to the virgin Mary that she would give birth to the Messiah (Lk. 1:26-38) angels are God messengers and do His bidding and are remarkable in how they travel and can mimic human beings. He communicated crucial information concerning the future of Israel and the Messiah to Daniel (Dan. 8:15-27; 9:21-27). Last week we noted he announced to Mary the birth of the messiah.

2. Thirty-four of the 66 books of the Bible refer to these angelic beings by the simple term angel (singular and plural), which occurs more than 300 times. The term angel simply means "messenger. It refers to a being whom is sent by another with a commission. The Scripture also refers to them by other terms. They are always dispatch by God for significant assignments. In Matthew' account an angel was given a special assignment and performed...

### **II Very Significant Purposes.**

1. **The Procuring of the Messiah.** In Matthew 1:20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

In Matthew 1: 21 this angel instructed Joseph that the child was to be called Jesus, a name full of meaning, the Greek equivalent of Joshua, meaning that Jehovah saves His people.

2. **The Proclamation of the Messiah.** It was the angels that declare to the shepherds the birth of Christ in **Luke 2:8-15**. Angels were there to lead the shepherds & praise God for this event.

3. **The Protection of the Messiah.** In Matthew 2:13 we read, "*And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and bethou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.*"

Again we notice angelic instruction and guidance; to save the Christ Child. Later in Matthew 2:19 once again an Angel of the Lord instructed Joseph it was safe and time to return to Israel.

### **III Very Significant Outcome.**

1. All this angelic intervention was designed by God for our benefit. John 3:16- Let me remind you that God has given you such a gift. Don't deny yourself that which is your birthright if you become a child of God. You have an inheritance ...To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you. Jesus was born to die. He became the supreme sacrifice to pay the penalty for the sins of mankind. It was all in Gods' timing for He would sent His son to redeem the world. And the child who was born was called, among other things, Emanuel, God with us.

### Conclusion:

Salvation is a gift from God and he will never de-gift you. That's what grace is: God's free gift to us. We have a hard time believing this, though. Certainly there must be a catch, right? There is not! It is an eternal gift. One you cannot lose.

Christmas is a time for us to be angels or messengers of the King to Ring the bells to a lost world that Jesus is the king, born for you and me. So, lets sing the carol together....

Come on ring the bells, light the Christmas tree,  
Jesus is the king, born for you and me.  
Come on ring the bells, every-body say,  
Jesus, we remember this your birthday

Come on ring the bells, light the Christmas tree,  
Jesus is the king, born for you and me.  
Come on ring the bells, every-body say,  
Jesus, we remember this your birthday