

THE MINISTERING Spirits

What the Bible Teaches about Angels



*“Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister
for them who shall be heirs of salvation?”*

HEBREWS 1:14

UDEH TOCHUKWU LIVINUS

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CONTENTS

Chapter One: Angelic Visit.....	1
Chapter Two: The Origin of Angels.....	4
Chapter Three: The Nature of Angels.....	8
Chapter Four: Ranks of Angels.....	13
Chapter Five: Evil Angels.....	17
Chapter Six: The Ministry of Angels.....	24
Chapter Seven: The Seven Angels and the Seven Trumpets.....	28
Sources.....	39
About the Author.....	40
Books by Udeh Tochukwu Livinus.....	42

CHAPTER ONE

Angelic Visit

“The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them” (Psalm 34:7).

Angels are one of the subjects that have fascinated me most. Whenever I read the Bible and see the works of the angels, I marvel. Little did I know that one day I would encounter these glorious creatures myself. As a teenager, I had two remarkable encounters with angels, and they changed my whole perspective about God. I am not only a believer; I am addicted to God. Everything about Him thrills me, because I am a living testimony of His power, grace and might. The two encounters happened on separate occasions: the first at school, and the second at home.

During my years in high school, I was passionate about God and His work. Each time school resumed, some of our team members and I would hold a competition in fasting and prayer. We loved to seek the face of God, because we wanted to demonstrate His power whenever we went out on outreach. One day during such a season of seeking God, I went to a quiet place during the break period to pray. As I sat down, I prayed, “Dear God, I want to behold Your angels and to know whether You are really with me right here.” While I was still praying, it seemed that a gentle wind blew across the place. I lost all awareness of my surroundings and seemed to fall asleep, though I was not sleeping. Then I saw a man coming down a staircase behind me. His garment was as white as crystal, and he was shining like the sun. I was afraid, and I tried to look at his face, but I could not. He walked up beside me and

tapped me. When I opened my eyes, he was gone. I was a little afraid of what I had seen, but that experience changed my perspective: God is truly everywhere, and He answers us every time we whisper even the smallest silent prayer into His ears. He hears us.

My second encounter with the angels of the Lord happened at home. After I finished high school, I was employed as a teacher in a primary school. One day at school, I suddenly felt a sharp pain in my stomach. The pain was excruciating, more than I could bear. I told the school secretary that I had a severe pain in my stomach, and she gave me permission to go home. On the way, the pain grew so severe that I felt I would collapse. I whispered a little prayer to God: “Dear Lord, please do not let me die on the way. Let me reach home, and then I can die.” Holding my stomach, I managed to get home. When I arrived, I greeted my dad, and a voice whispered to me, “This is your last greeting.” I went into my room. When I had finished undressing, I knelt down beside my bed and prayed a simple prayer: “O Lord, remember that I am Your child. Have mercy on me, and remember Your covenant.” As soon as I said this, a flash of light filled the room, and I fell into a deep sleep. Then two men, as white as snow and clothed in flaming light, came in. Their faces shone like the sun. They carried me to an operating theater. There, one of them put his hand inside my body and brought out my intestines, and he began to remove some things I cannot explain. I could not look at their faces, but I could feel their touch. It was very gentle and not painful. When they had finished, one of them tapped me and said, “Rise.” I opened my eyes at once. Everything was gone, and I was lying on the floor. I looked at the clock; it was a few minutes past one in the afternoon. I said to myself, “What am I doing here? I should be at school.” I dressed quickly and ran back to school.

This was divine healing, brought to my weak body by the angels of the Lord. These stories are not hallucinations; they are neither invented nor imagined. They are real experiences from my life as a teenager dedicated to God’s service, and I am living proof that the angels of God

exist and minister to us. Since then I have received countless ministrations and messages from God's angels through visions and revelations. There is no doubt that they are around us. The Bible says that the angel of the LORD encamps round about those who fear Him (Psalm 34:7). God's angels are around us every day, ministering divine messages to us. When we walk in obedience to God's word, they make themselves real whenever the need arises.

What God did for me, He still does for those who fear Him. He sends His angels to minister to the heirs of salvation (Hebrews 1:14). Walk in obedience to Him, and you will see His hand over your life.

Lord, open my eyes to see Your hand over my life, and keep me in obedience to Your word. Amen.

CHAPTER TWO

The Origin of Angels

“Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire” (Psalm 104:4).

Angels are spiritual beings created by God to serve Him. They were not created in pairs like man and the animals; they were created as hosts (Genesis 2:1; Nehemiah 9:6). Scripture does not give us an exact time frame for when they were created. But from the chronological order of Scripture, we can learn that they existed before Adam was created, in the pre-Adamite era. Scripture refers to them as the sons of God:

“Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them” (Job 1:6).

“Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD” (Job 2:1).

“When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?” (Job 38:7).

So angels were created by God to worship and serve Him. They were created higher than man:

“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).

Angels and humans are two different species of God’s creation. One ministry they share is the worship of God, which is His ultimate pleasure and delight. All things, both men and angels and every living thing, were created for His pleasure, as the elders sing before the throne: “for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created” (Revelation 4:11). Angels, however, minister not only before God but also to man. They are obedient to God and fulfill His will alone.

Wrong Idea 1: Believers Become Angels

Some people believe that when a believer dies, he or she turns into an angel. This is a wrong idea and a myth. There is no scriptural basis for this assumption. Whatever is not supported by Scripture is baseless, worthless and useless, and should never be relied on or believed. Such ideas are sinking sand. God’s word is supreme over human theology and opinion. The Bible says, “For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven” (Psalm 119:89). So God’s word settles all our controversies and suggestions. If an idea is not supported by Scripture, don’t negotiate it; just negate it and delete it. Scripture says that man is made a little lower than the angels (Psalm 8:4–5). So if we are made a little lower than them, how then can we be transformed into them when we die?

Wrong Idea 2: Man Is More Powerful than Angels

This is not true either. Man is not more powerful than the angels. Scripture speaks of the angels as the might of God. Throughout Scripture we are told of the great strength of the angels. The angel of God moved behind Israel’s camp to protect them as they left Egypt (Exodus 14:19–20). The destroyer struck down all the firstborn of