

ANGELS
FOR KIDS



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DONNA-MARIE COOPER O'BOYLE



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Angels for Kids

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Lovingly to my children

Justin, Chaldea, Jessica, Joseph, and Mary-Catherine

❧ C O N T E N T S ❧

WELCOME!

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Angels are real. We just can't see them. But that doesn't mean they aren't all around us.

I have been praying to my Guardian Angel ever since I was a little girl. I was a very lucky kid because my mother taught me to pray this prayer every morning and night:

O angel of God, my guardian dear,
To whom his love commits me here,
Ever this day, be at my side,
To watch and guard, to rule and guide.
Amen.


I have always firmly believed that my Guardian Angel heard my prayers and helped me out each day. Sometimes he got me out of some pretty tricky situations, and I believe he still does. But not every kid knows about his or her Guardian Angel or about the zillions of other kinds of Angels working hard in heaven and on earth to carry out God's plans. That's sad.

I would love it if every kid in the whole world would join me in discovering the Angels, learning more about their fascinating lives, exploring their reality for themselves. I believe that by reading this book, your eyes and heart will be opened to the awesome splendor of holy Angels as you become more and more acquainted with them.

We are so privileged God has blessed us with the gift of Angels. Imagine how beautiful our world would be if everyone prayed to their Guardian Angels and listened to their holy guidance!

I hope you will enjoy this book. It is meant to be fun to read. But most of all, I hope that, by reading it, you will come even closer to the holy Angels that are all around us.

CHAPTER ONE



A MULTITUDE OF ANGELS

*“Are not all angels spirits in the divine service,
sent to serve for the sake of those
who are to inherit salvation?”*

HEBREWS 1:14

The invisible world of Angels is often overlooked, though amazingly it has been with us since the dawn of creation. Countless Angels offer service and protection to humankind. We just can't see it happening.

But before I tell you more about what the Angels are and what they do, I'll tell you what they are not.

Angels are not fairies.

They are not make-believe. They are not a fantasy, a cartoon character, or a figment of someone's imagination. Angels are not fictitious—at all. Angels are real! They are intelligent heavenly spirits who constantly behold the face of God. That's certainly incredible to ponder!

God created the Angels before he created the physical universe and before he created humankind. The Angels shouted for joy when God created the earth (Job 38: 4, 7). Our Church teaches us, "We firmly believe and profess, without qualification, that there is only one true God . . . Creator of all things visible and invisible, spiritual and corporeal, who by His almighty power, from the very beginning of time, has created both orders of creatures in the same way out of nothing." God made the Angels and people out of nothing! Just think about that for a moment.

Some people refuse to believe that there are Angels, and some people have not yet been convinced that they exist. Blessed Pope John Paul II pointed out in his study called "Catechesis on the Angels" that the existence of Angels was denied even in Christ's time by people called the Sadducees. The Holy Pontiff went on to explain that the reality of Angels has been continually denied in every age since that time.

We only need to look to the Scriptures for proof of the reality of Angels. Sacred Scripture identifies nine choirs (or types) of Angels. And Jesus spoke of more than twelve legions of Angels. When Jesus was arrested after praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, he said, “Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?” (Matthew 26:53).

Jesus also spoke about the Angels of the innocent and the Angels who will separate the good from the bad on the last day. Jesus’s disciples asked Jesus to explain the parable of the weeds of the field. Jesus told them that he sows the good seeds and the devil sows bad seeds. Jesus said that when he comes back to earth at the end of the world, he will “send his angels, and they will collect out of the kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father” (Matthew 13:41–43). These words are powerful and give us much to think about as to how we are living our lives.

Angels are mentioned in both the Old Testament and the New Testament of the Bible, where we learn

that Angels worked throughout history as intermediaries between God and people. We'll look at that in greater depth in chapter two.

Saint Thomas Aquinas said, "The Angels work together for the benefit of us all." We are very blessed indeed because God decided to create the Angels. The good Angels now live in heaven, adoring God constantly. They also have many other tasks and responsibilities, which we'll talk about throughout this book.

Angels are not all the same.

There are many different kinds of Angels. We could never count them all.

Theologians like Saint Thomas Aquinas looked at what the Bible says about Angels and began to imagine three groups, or hierarchies, of Angels. Within each hierarchy are three categories. The first hierarchy is called the "Heavenly Counselors of God." These Angels are always in God's presence. They don't have contact with people on earth. The three categories in this group are "Seraphim," "Cherubim," and "Thrones."

The second hierarchy is called "Heavenly Governors." Their job is to regulate the forces of nature all around us in the universe, including on earth. Their three categories are "Dominions," "Virtues," and "Powers."

HIERARCHY

HEAVENLY
COUNSELORS OF GOD

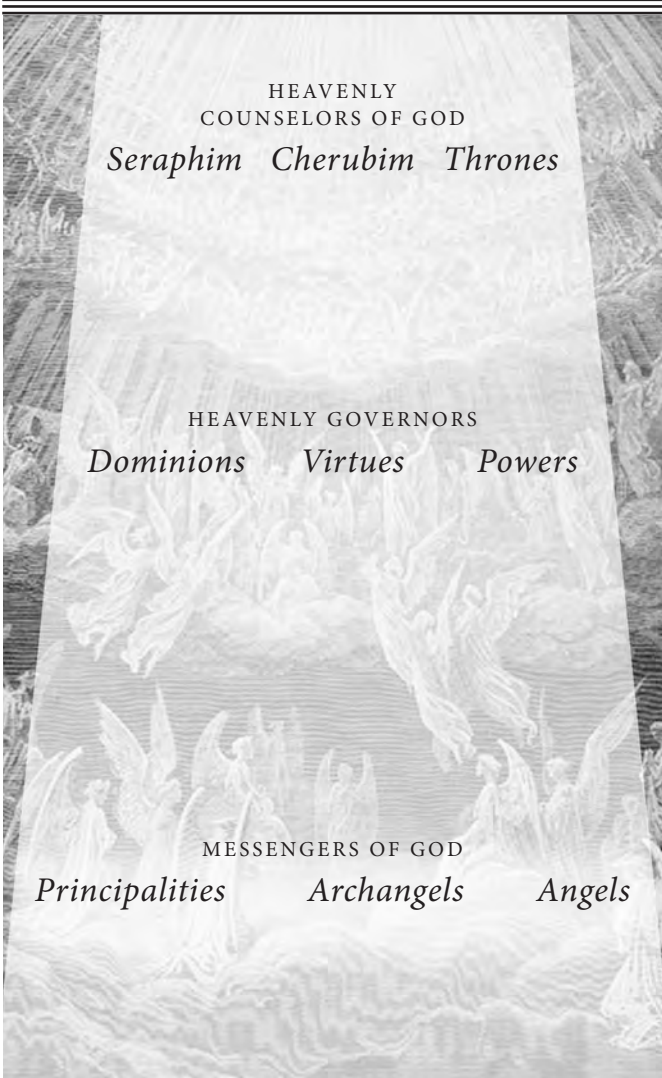
Seraphim Cherubim Thrones

HEAVENLY GOVERNORS

Dominions Virtues Powers

MESSENGERS OF GOD

Principalities Archangels Angels



The third hierarchy of Angels is known as “Messengers of God.” This hierarchy of Angels deals directly with people on earth. The three categories of this hierarchy are “Principalities,” “Archangels,” and “Angels.” Each of these categories is called a “choir.” So, we can say that there are nine choirs of Angels, all mentioned in the Bible, and all playing their essential roles in the universe, before God, and with us!

Angels are not silent.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us, “The Church venerates the angels who help her on her earthly pilgrimage and protect every human being” (§352). Saint Basil the Great taught us that the Angels are part of God’s plan of salvation. Saint Basil proclaimed, “Beside each believer stands an angel as a protector and shepherd leading him to life.” This is how we each are so very privileged to have a Guardian Angel whom we can call our own.

Saint Ambrose encouraged us to pray to and communicate with the Angels. Later in this book, you’ll see some special prayers that you can offer to them. You can also simply speak to the Angels in your own words and ask them to protect and guide you. This is true especially of your Guardian Angel, who is always near you and ready to assist you.

CHAPTER TWO



ANGELS IN THE BIBLE

*“Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels
came and waited on him”*

MATTHEW 4:11

We can find Angels in the Bible from the beginning to the very end (from Genesis to Revelation). In the beginning of the Bible, in the story of Adam and Eve, we read, “Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the Garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a sword flaming and turning to guard the way to the tree of life” (Genesis 3:23–24).

Then, at the end, in the book of Revelation, we read:

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,

*“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”*

(Revelation 7:11–13)

We can learn a lot about angels by simply reading the Bible.

Angels in the Old Testament

The first part of the Bible is what we call the Old Testament. Pope John Paul II once said that the Old Testament presents images of Angels that are different from those in the New Testament. He wrote: “The Old Testament emphasizes especially the special participation of the angels in the celebration of the glory which the creator receives as a tribute of praise on the part of the created world.”¹

One of the most famous stories in the Old Testament speaks about Abraham and three Angels appearing to

him. “The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, ‘My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant’ (Genesis 18:1–3).

God had previously told Abraham that he would make a covenant with him. God promised an everlasting covenant throughout future generations and told Abraham he would be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. God also told Abraham, who was ninety-nine years old, that his wife Sarah, who was ninety years old, would have a baby boy and that they would name him Isaac. Abraham and Sarah were faithful to God and believed in his promises even though it was difficult to believe that in their old age they could become parents of a newborn baby. Their son was born the following year, and they named him Isaac. It is through Abraham that thousands of years later a Savior came into the world. That Savior is Jesus Christ!

In other stories of the Old Testament, we see that an Angel was called down from heaven to a woman named Hagar. The Angel told her not to be afraid

and saved her and her child Ishmael (Genesis 21:17). Angels also prevented Abraham from sacrificing his son Isaac (Genesis 22:7). We see how Angels protect the just, as it says in Psalms: “For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways” (Psalm 91:11). And Angels, we are told, are unceasingly praising God (Isaiah 6:1–4). We repeat the very words of those Angels in church at Mass when we say, “Holy, holy, holy.”

One night a man named Jacob had a dream about the Angels. This story also appears in the book of Genesis, in the Old Testament. “Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it” (Genesis 28:10–12). As God stood beside Jacob and spoke to him, he promised him land and told him that his family would be large and would be blessed. When Jacob woke up, he was very excited that God had been with him in his dream and had given him a great promise. God said he would remain with Jacob wherever he went.