

THE
TRUTH
ABOUT

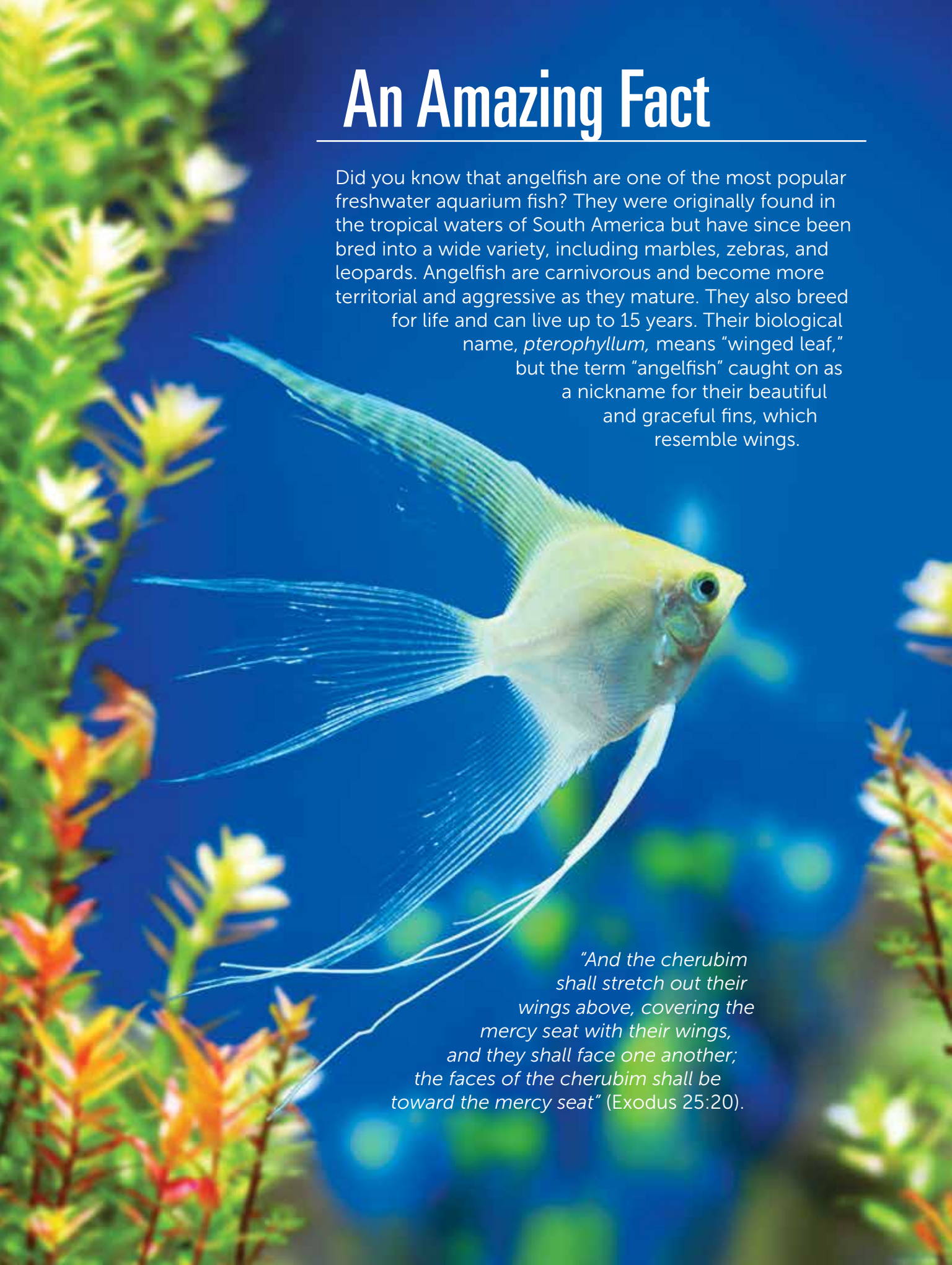
Angels

PROPHECY WATCH

SPOTTING A COUNTERFEIT - PG. 20

An Amazing Fact

Did you know that angelfish are one of the most popular freshwater aquarium fish? They were originally found in the tropical waters of South America but have since been bred into a wide variety, including marbles, zebras, and leopards. Angelfish are carnivorous and become more territorial and aggressive as they mature. They also breed for life and can live up to 15 years. Their biological name, *pterophyllum*, means "winged leaf," but the term "angelfish" caught on as a nickname for their beautiful and graceful fins, which resemble wings.

A white angelfish with long, flowing fins is swimming in a blue aquarium tank. The fish is positioned in the center-left of the frame, facing right. The background is a deep blue, and there are green and red plants visible on the left and right sides of the tank.

"And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat" (Exodus 25:20).

Table of Contents



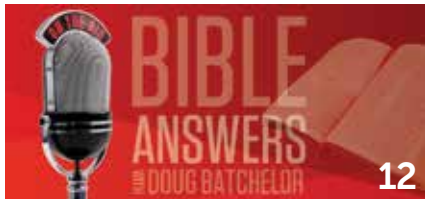
20 Prophecy Watch Spotting a Counterfeit

The Bible warns us to watch out for false prophets in the last days. How can we identify the genuine from the fake?

FEATURE

6 The Truth About Angels

What does the Bible *really* teach about angels? In this eye-opening article about the spiritual realm, Pastor Doug reveals amazing facts about these heavenly messengers, facts that will inspire you about God's love and that will help you avoid falling into dangerous spiritual traps.



12 Bible Answers

With whom did Jacob wrestle by the brook—an angel or God? Do people become angels when they die?

10 The Bargain

"I asked God to spare my wife's life and that I would do whatever He wanted me to do," John shared. God answered his plea in a way he never imagined.

14 The Lord Is Leading in China!

Our team in China is busy translating sermons, studies, and more to reach this huge frontier with the gospel. See how God is opening doors and changing lives through this vital outreach.

24 Man's Flicker or God's Flame

One of the last great deceptions before Christ returns is a counterfeit manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit. A classic from the pen of Joe Crews, the ministry's first director.

4 The President's Perspective

5 Mail Bag

13 Broadcast Schedule

22 News to Note

26 Prophecy Seminars

28 Special Recognition



Want Bible answers in your inbox? Inspiring articles? Latest ministry news? Testimonies showing how your support is making a difference? Or how about exclusive deals on our best products? Then sign up for our email specials and the *Inside Report* e-newsletter at subscribe.amazingfacts.org!

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THE PRESIDENT'S **PERSPECTIVE**


PASTOR DOUG BATCHELOR



"How do angel wings work in outer space?" This is one of many cynical questions skeptics might ask in an effort to dismiss the topic of angels. But while the Bible does not address the aerodynamic design of angel wings, it does have much to say about these vital supernatural beings.

God created angels to serve as His messengers. Throughout history they have provided warnings, protection, and encouragement to His people. They appeared to Moses, Balaam, Gideon, Manoah, Mary, Elizabeth, Paul, Cornelius, and many others. From Genesis to Revelation we see angels depicted. Angels led Israel, ministered to Elijah, and one decimated the Assyrian army. Daniel was saved from the lion's den by an angel from God. There are many references to angels in the Gospel accounts as well. More than once Jesus was cared for by ministering angels. Peter was let out of prison by an angel. And an angel stood by John as he wrote the book of Revelation.

The sentimental idea of angels is very popular around the world and is found in many religions. Artists have painted them on cathedral walls and on Christmas cards. Television shows portray them as partly human and partly supernatural. Sadly, it all means that distortions about angels in our culture run rampant when compared to how the Bible actually describes these heavenly beings. Do people really become angels when they die?

This issue of *Inside Report* is dedicated to learning more about these divine servants from heaven, and the timing couldn't be more crucial as the devil prepares his final deception. So while I won't venture to explain the engineering of angel wings, together we will focus on how the Scriptures reveal the role of angels in the plan of redemption. "Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?" (Hebrews 1:14). Be blessed and enjoy! 



50 Years!

"It truly is amazing how God blesses! As I received the *Inside Report* for September 2015, I compared it with a report I have from the old days of Amazing Facts. I have here the Amazing Facts *Newsbeam* from November 1982, entitled "The Search for the True Church," by Joe Crews. The *Inside Report* today tells me about *Heroes of Faith*. The *Newsbeam* tells of Amazing Facts acquiring a primetime slot on one of America's most powerful radio stations. How God has led and blessed His message and messengers! ... Keep up the good work of spreading the three angels' messages, Pastor Doug. Pastor Crews would be so happy if he knew how Amazing Facts is still saving souls and preparing people for these end times. An old friend of Amazing Facts."

Geraldine, email



Reaching Across the Oceans

"I am a regular listener of Amazing Facts and Doug Batchelor. Each subject revealed from the Bible has enlightened my spiritual eyesight to reach closer to God. I find it very interesting to listen again and again to those amazing facts and truths of the Bible. I believe it is the Holy Spirit who moves us to understand the Word of God. I thank God for using Pastor Doug as a tool to reveal these truths." Anand, India



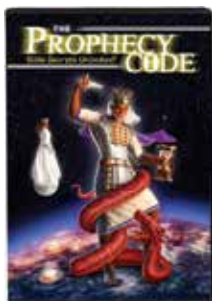
Revelation: The Bride, the Beast & Babylon

"Thank you for your prophecy updates. We are a group of evangelists who are setting Rome on fire with the love of Jesus. We have given out

more than 100,000 flyers with a call to obey the Creator and Savior. We are also giving out *The Great Controversy* and the *Revelation* DVD translated into Italian." Theresa, Rome

Expanding Reach

"I was born into a Sunday-keeping family and was always confused about the religion. About two years ago my wife and I purchased *The Prophecy Code*, but it wasn't until four months ago that the Holy Spirit led me into the study. Reading the Bible has changed my life! My family and I will be [baptized] by the grace of God in September 2015. I just want to say thank you; studying and reading the Bible has made good things happen in our lives." Eugene, Australia



YouTube Outreach Works!

"I stumbled across Pastor Doug Batchelor yesterday afternoon on YouTube. I have been listening to him since 3:00 PM yesterday. At the time of writing this comment, it is 3:00 AM ... and I am still listening! He is a great teacher of the Word, and I thank God for him." Joseph, email

"I wanted Amazing Facts to know that my wife and I were lost and had no hope left. But from watching these videos from Doug Batchelor and Amazing Facts, we began to have hope again. From there we did the Amazing Facts Study Guides. As we did them, we found a Sabbath-keeping church where we live and were baptized in August. I want you to know how much we appreciate what you do and that you led us to the truth. Now we're going to witness to the Lord, and we are so very happy!" Todd & Shirley, Arizona

Editor's Note: Every "thank you" from a changed life to Amazing Facts is really a "thank you" to you, our dear friends and supporters. We are so grateful for your faithfulness and dedication to God's message through this ministry!

The *Inside Report* welcomes all correspondence regarding Amazing Facts. Letters and other materials might be used—in whole or in part and edited for content and clarity—in future ministry publications. **If Amazing Facts has helped change your life for Christ, please write us at testimonies@amazingfacts.org!**

By Pastor Doug Batchelor

The King of Syria was waging war against the nation of Israel. He tried often to attack by surprise, but his army was continually foiled. Somehow, his top-secret war plans were being divulged to the king of Israel. So one day the Syrian king confronted his generals, saying, “Which of us is for the king of Israel?” (2 Kings 6:11).

They replied, “None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom” (v. 12).

Now enlightened, the king of Syria decided to kidnap the Lord’s agent. One night he sent a large army to encircle the little town of Dothan, where Elisha was staying. Early in the morning, Elisha’s assistant arose and discovered they were completely surrounded. When he saw the glitter of armor on

thousands of soldiers and heard the snort of stomping horses, he rushed to Elisha and cried out, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?” (v. 15).

Elisha walked to the window, perhaps rubbing his eyes from the sleep, and calmly responded, “Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them” (v. 16). His young assistant must have been bewildered because of the huge army threatening them, but Elisha prayed, “LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.” God immediately answered His messenger’s prayer. “Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha” (v. 17).

Who were these soldiers in chariots of fire? These supernatural beings that surrounded the town were angels sent from God. King David gives us this clue: “I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around” (Psalm 3:6). Why could David be so confident?

THE TRUTH ABOUT

Angels

Because, “The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them” (Psalm 34:7).

I also pray that God will open our eyes as we consider what the Bible says about these very real but largely unseen beings.

Angels Everywhere

It is probably safe to say that many of us have actually seen these messengers from God *but didn’t realize it*. The Bible says, “Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels” (Hebrews 13:2). Like many others, I believe I have been providentially protected by angels.

But that’s not why I am convinced of their existence. I believe in angels because the Bible plainly teaches that they exist. From Genesis to Revelation we read all about them. At least 250 Bible passages speak of angels. The last book of the Bible alone has 80 references. Surely, with so many Scriptures about them, it is a subject worthy of our careful attention.



Both the Hebrew word *mal'ak* and the Greek word *angelos*, from which we get the word “angel,” simply mean “messenger.” Indeed, the word is sometimes used to describe a human who is dispatched as an emissary. People often mistook angels for ordinary people, but these heavenly messengers are greater than mortal beings. And they are not all alike. One class of angels is called cherubim, such as those who guarded the gates of Eden after Adam and Eve were expelled. These winged angels are also called “watchers.” Another class is called seraphim, which means “burning ones.” These celestial beings are often seen before God’s throne or by prophets while in vision.

Angels are created beings. Some have suggested that the “sons of God” uniting with the “daughters of men” reference in Genesis 6:2 is referring to angels. But we know angels cannot procreate. They are not human. David portrays them as brilliant beings created by God, “Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire” (Psalm 104:4). Humans, by contrast, “have been made a little lower than the angels” (Psalm 8:5).

While created beings, angels are much more powerful than earthlings. Peter describes them as being “greater in power and might” (2 Peter 2:11). Did you know that a single angel destroyed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in one night? (See 2 Kings 19:35.) When David sinned in numbering Israel, an angel went through the land as a plague and killed 70,000 men. The Bible explains, “Then David lifted his eyes and saw the angel of the LORD standing between earth and heaven, having in his hand a drawn sword stretched out over Jerusalem” (1 Chronicles 21:16). This was the work of just *one* angel.

Good and Evil Angels

Not all angels do the bidding of God. There are good angels and bad angels. At one time all angels served the Lord, but the highest angel of heaven, named Lucifer, turned against God. He became Satan, the enemy, and persuaded a third of the other angels to join in his rebellion. The Bible says, “War broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought” (Revelation 12:7). The dragon symbolizes the devil, and Michael symbolizes Christ, the One who is over all the angels.

Seeing this battle helps us understand the root of sin in our world. It all began with a single fallen angel. “His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth” (v. 4). We are warned, “Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil [and his evil angels] have come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time” (v. 12). The pain and suffering and sin in our world began with the fallen angels. When Adam and Eve listened to Satan instead

of God, the devil was empowered to set up his headquarters on our planet and was given temporary dominion over the earth to carry out his rebellion against God. Paul describes their evil work against us: “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12). We are at war with fallen angels who daily attempt to thwart God’s will and get us to sin.

Someday these evil angels, who are very real, will be destroyed. Jesus spoke of their end in the parable of the sheep and goats. “Then He [God] will say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels’” (Matthew 25:41). They also know their doom is coming. Fallen angels, or demons, would ask Jesus if He had “come to torment [them] before the time” (Matthew 8:29). Good and bad angels are very real and not just a figment of our imagination. They are like invisible radio waves. Though we cannot see them, they are still all around us.

It’s been asked that if God is all-powerful, why doesn’t He just wipe out all the evil angels with the snap of His divine fingers? It is because His character is at stake. The devil has leveled dreadful charges



against God. If the Lord simply incinerates all who call Him unfair, it would lead all of His creatures to follow Him out of fear instead of serving Him out of love. Trust is the foundation of true love. The Bible says, “God is love” (1 John 4:8) and “there is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear” (v. 18). Love must remain the supreme motive for serving God. So God allows Lucifer and his angels to fully demonstrate their character to the universe before they are punished and annihilated.

Ironically, those who are in the greatest danger of being influenced by evil angels are those who do not believe they exist. People who laugh at the idea of the devil and his angels

as make-believe ghoulish imps with batwings and horns are more susceptible to his deceptive work. Even the paintings of good angels that look like tiny, unclothed cupids floating on clouds are medieval fiction. Angels don't have little baby angels. They are large, powerful, and majestic creatures.

It's good for us to believe in the wondrous work of heaven's beautiful angels. But it's equally important for us to be aware of the evil angels. Jesus told us to pray, "Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one" for good reason (Matthew 6:13).

Angelic Abilities

What are some other capabilities of angels? For one, they are physically brilliant. When Jesus rose from the dead, the angel who came from heaven had a countenance "like lightning" and "clothing as white as snow" (Matthew 28:3).

Angels are also fast. "The living creatures ran back and forth, in appearance like a flash of lightning" (Ezekiel 1:14). It reminds me of one of the quickest insects on earth—the dragonfly—which has been clocked at more than 30 miles per hour; it would be like you running at 90 miles an hour!

However, angels are much quicker than dragonflies. Heaven's messengers evidently move faster than the speed of light. Note Daniel's experience with an angel: "While I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering" (Daniel 9:21). Picture what happened: Daniel prayed to God and while he was still praying God sent an angel from heaven, thousands of light-years away, to Daniel's side. Now that's fast!

Sometimes Scripture refers to angels with wings. When Isaiah saw the Lord in heaven on His throne, he also saw angels. "Above it [the throne] stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew" (Isaiah 6:2). The cherubim that were fashioned to be on top of the ark of the covenant in the temple had wings: "The cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings" (Exodus 25:20).

Angels also have bodies, although they are not mortal like our own; they live in a dimension we find hard to comprehend. Interestingly, the apostle Paul says that "flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 15:50). At the resurrection we will be given new bodies that, like the angels, will never die.

We can begin to grasp, in a small way, the realities of things unseen by studying the electromagnetic spectrum. The visible spectrum are light rays we can see with the naked eye—all the colors of the rainbow. We call these wavelengths "light." Yet there is a large range of frequencies we cannot see. Scientists long ago discovered the existence of gamma rays, infrared, microwaves, radio waves, and more.

We now know there are thousands of frequencies bombarding us from all around. So, likewise, it shouldn't be too difficult to believe there is a spirit realm that we don't fully understand.

How many angels are there? The Bible doesn't give us an exact number, but we know there are a lot. For instance, when Jesus was arrested in Gethsemane, He said to His fearful disciples, "Do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?" (Matthew 26:53). That would be nearly 80,000 angels!

Here's what the apostle John saw in vision: "Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands" (Revelation 5:11). This terminology in Greek indicates a number that cannot be counted. Here is the same idea: "But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels" (Hebrews 12:22). Keep in mind that these are references to the good angels. There are plenty of bad ones out there as well.

Not to Be Worshipped

Angels are bright, powerful, intelligent, fast, and awesome. They are individuals with their own unique personalities. But for all the fascinating qualities of these heavenly beings, the Bible says we are never to worship them. They are part of the



divine order, but they are not divine. As mentioned, angels are created beings. While God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit are eternal, angels have a beginning point. Good angels will live on throughout eternity, but evil angels have finite lives with a certain ending.

The Bible cautions, “Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels” (Colossians 2:18). When an angel appeared to John, he bowed down to worship. Note the angel’s response: “See that you do not do that. . . . Worship God” (Revelation 22:9).

The Ten Commandments plainly tell us, “You shall have no other gods before Me” (Exodus 20:3). That would include angels. Even praying over images of angels is prohibited. “You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them” (vv. 4, 5).

We know that one angel has demanded worship. When Satan tempted Christ in the wilderness, he promised Jesus the whole world if the Savior would only worship him. Of course, Jesus refused to comply with the devil’s invitation. He responded, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve’” (Matthew 4:10).

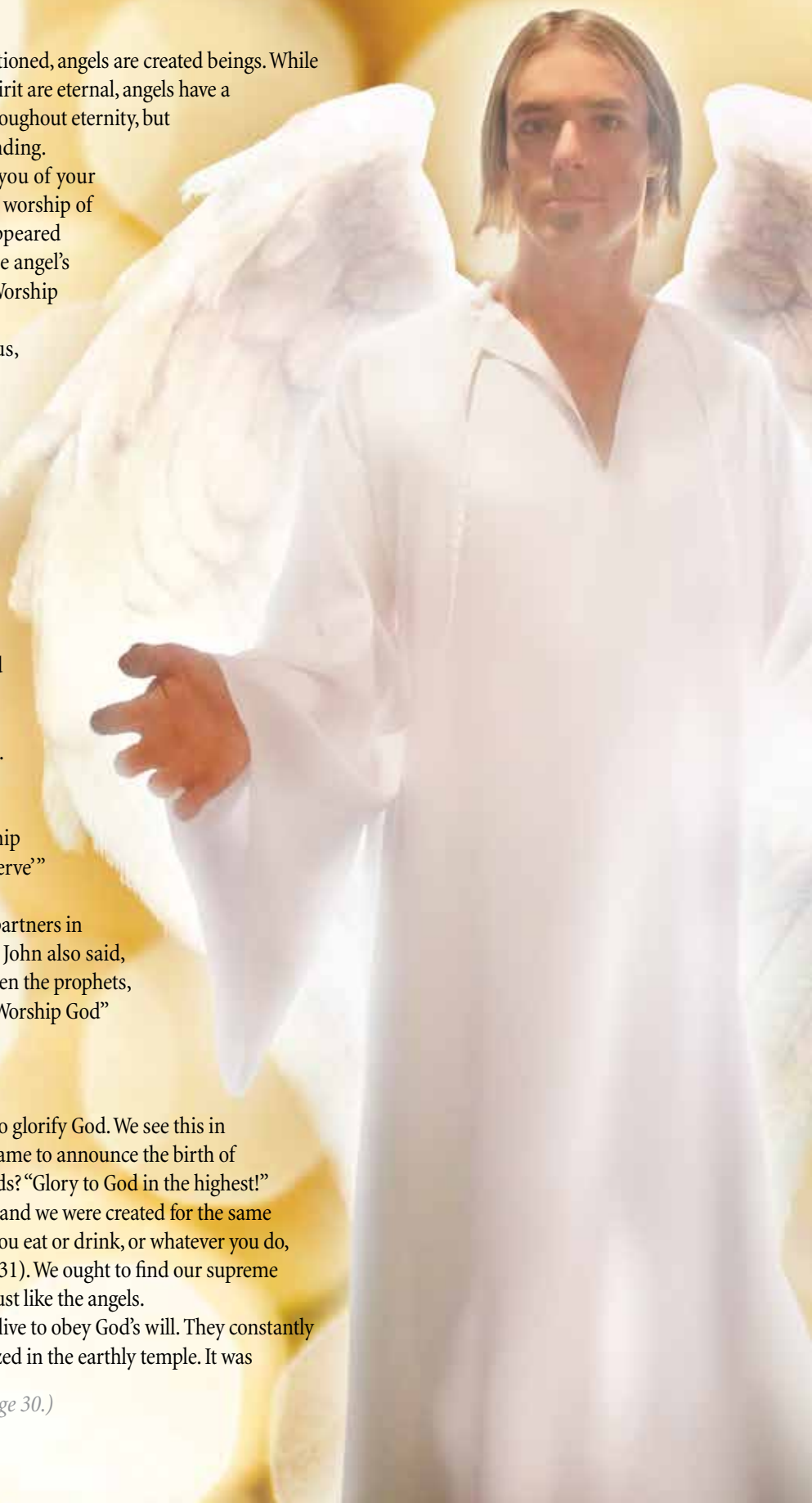
Heavenly angels see themselves as our partners in the plan of salvation. The angel who visited John also said, “I am your *fellow* servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and those who keep the words of this book. Worship God” (Revelation 22:9, emphasis added).

Glorifying God

One of the paramount joys of angels is to glorify God. We see this in Isaiah 6 and Revelation 7. When the angels came to announce the birth of Christ to the shepherds, what were their words? “Glory to God in the highest!” (Luke 2:14). Angels find no greater pleasure, and we were created for the same purpose. “Therefore,” writes Paul, “whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31). We ought to find our supreme happiness in glorifying the God who saves, just like the angels.

Angels are ministering spirits who also live to obey God’s will. They constantly surround the Lord. You can see this symbolized in the earthly temple. It was

(Continued on page 30.)





John and Mary Harder were long-time faithful members of a conservative Sunday-keeping church in Manitoba, Canada. For more than 30 years they served in many positions in their congregation and had many friendships. They were both born into their church and never had any intentions of leaving it.

Then tragedy struck. In 2011, Mary was diagnosed with cancer. At first the doctors were hopeful that she would recover after treatment. Their church family was very supportive and prayed that she would beat the slim chance of survival given her by the caring medical staff. After the operation, the two spent time with one another in deep prayer. They believed everything would turn out well.

But the next morning, three doctors met with them and said the surgery had not gone well. Mary's tumor was too big to be removed, and if they tried to take it out she could have bled to death. They told the worried couple that her chances for survival had dropped to just nine percent. "Never have I prayed for God's mercy like I prayed that day," John remembers. "I asked God to spare my wife's life and that I would do whatever He wanted me to do."

The Path to Truth

God worked a miracle for the couple. After treatment, the tumor shrank in size and the doctors were able to remove it. Mary was on her way to recovery. John explains, "God had answered our prayers, but now it was our turn to keep our end of the 'bargain.'"

John and Mary began searching the Scriptures for deeper truth. They shared their experiences with others as they continued seeking God's will for their lives. Some Bible passages raised big questions in their minds about baptism, communion, and the Sabbath.

Then one day, in August 2014, they received a flyer in the mail. It was an advertisement for an Amazing Facts prophecy seminar conducted by evangelist Darrin Bartell. John recalls seeing the handbill laying on the counter for a few days. "I studied it some, but then went back to my other chores and didn't pay much attention to it. But in the back of my mind, I wanted to know more."

John got busy with work. He and Mary also went to meetings at their Sunday church twice a week. But one day Mary said to her husband, "John, I'd like to talk to you about those upcoming meetings." At first he put her off, but she insisted, so they sat down and carefully studied

the brochure. They finally agreed to check the meetings out in person, though John was feeling a bit reluctant. "I assumed we were already attending the best church for us," he admits. "I have to thank my wife for being open to this new path we were about to embark on."

On a Tuesday evening the next month, they drove to the church in Winnipeg, Manitoba, for their first meeting. "I thought they would make a few interesting statements, pass the offering baskets to collect money, and we'd go home," John says. "Then I'd show Mary where they were wrong. Wow! Was I wrong!"

John says they were "incredibly shocked" because they decided to double check everything the evangelist stated. "We were very skeptical. We looked everything up!" And they prayed earnestly to learn the truth. They kept attending the prophecy meetings and found themselves soaking up new light, including a clearer understanding about the Sabbath.

After attending their first Sabbath service, Mary wasn't feeling good about going back to their Sunday-keeping church. "I wasn't quite ready to leave our old

“
God had answered
our prayers, but
now it was our turn
to keep our end of
the ‘bargain.’”

church,” John admits. “I had a board meeting scheduled for the coming week, and I was to be the chair with the pastor and two other church members.


A Bold Faith

In the meantime, John called a district leader in his denomination and asked about the change of the Sabbath. “He told me in a few words that it had been moved to Sunday by the disciples,”

he remembers, “and that he didn’t have a problem with it.” Then John decided to call his local pastor to arrange a meeting so he could ask him some questions. The pastor insisted on knowing the topic and when John said he had some questions about the Sabbath his pastor agreed to talk with him.

Soon after this John attended the church board meeting. At the conclusion, the pastor announced before the other two members that he was ready to talk with John about the Sabbath. John was completely surprised and unprepared. He had carefully arranged his questions and made notes about specific Bible verses but left all of this at home. After his pastor repeated many of the first-day verses in the New Testament commonly used to support a change from Sabbath to Sunday, John did his best to share his newfound understanding of the Sabbath. His comments were not received well, and he was called a legalist.

John stood up and said, “I don’t like to call any man wrong, but I believe you are wrong.” He then politely shook hands with everyone and left the church. In October, John and Mary attended their Sunday-keeping church for the last time. They chose to follow the truth they were learning in the prophecy meetings with Darrin. On March 14, 2015, they were baptized into God’s end-time church!

The pathway to truth led John and Mary through some difficult times, but God was with them every step of the way. They were determined to keep their end of the bargain with God. Through Amazing Facts and a loving church family, they were honest seekers and followed the light wherever it would lead. 



BIBLE ANSWERS WITH DOUG BATCHELOR



Tune in to **Bible Answers Live**, Amazing Facts' live, nationwide call-in radio program, and listen to Pastor Doug give biblical, straightforward answers to difficult Bible questions. To get times and stations in your area, or to listen to answers online, visit www.amazingfacts.org.

Q. With whom did Jacob wrestle by the brook—an angel or God?

A. Jacob's nighttime visitor is typically referred to as a "man" in most translations, but the NKJV capitalizes the word "Man" because the context indicates that this celestial being was the Lord. Yes, it first appears that Jacob wrestles with an angel, but later he says, "I have seen God" (Genesis 32:30) because of what was being said to him.

For instance, this messenger gives Jacob a new name. Only Jesus gives us a new name (Revelation 2:17), so I believe that Jacob wrestled with the pre-incarnate Son of God.

The Lord comes to visit Jacob, who is fearful that Esau is coming to kill him. More than a little tense, Jacob prays in the darkness, but someone touches him. He spins around to overpower the stranger, but the visitor's inhuman strength reveals this is not a mere earthling—but God. In the end, the Lord says Jacob has to let go because the day is breaking (Genesis 30:26).

Jacob answers, "I won't let you go unless you bless me." Of course, Jacob isn't presuming that he can outwrestle God; instead, he's pleading for mercy.

The Scriptures say, "No one has seen God at any time" (John 1:18). Yet several places in the Old Testament indicate people talked to God—such as Moses. After seeing a messenger from heaven, Manoah and his wife report, "We shall surely die, because we have seen God!" (Judges 13:22).

Christ existed before His Bethlehem incarnation, which is why He says, "Before Abraham was, I AM" (John 8:58). So I believe it was Christ who appeared to these patriarchs. The member of the Godhead not seen by mortals is the Father; many people have seen God the Son.


This story of Jacob also implies more than a physical tussle. It was a spiritual battle. He probably latched onto Jesus' feet when he realized he could not overcome Him. The divine touch to his hip would remind him of his dependence on God. He did not lose in this wrestling match; he truly gained.

Q. Do people become angels when they die?

A. When the apostle Peter was miraculously delivered from prison, the young lady, Rhoda, who answered the door could hardly believe it was him. In her excitement, she left Peter locked outside and rushed to tell the others. Since he had been previously delivered by an angel, the other believers in the house praying for Peter's release apparently thought this might be his angel.

It is not strange that these followers of Jesus believed Rhoda saw a spiritual being. Even Christ's disciples had moments when they thought they were seeing some type of spirit. When Jesus came to them on the water during a storm, it says, "When they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed it was a ghost, and cried out" (Mark 6:49). After the resurrection, Jesus' appearance alarmed some. "As they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, 'Peace to you.' But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit" (Luke 24:36, 37).

Some people believe Acts 12:15 indicates that when people die they immediately become angels. During the time between the Old and New Testaments, many interesting theories about angels were formulated by Jewish teachers.

But the Bible teaches that angels are not of the same order as human beings (Psalm 8:5) and existed before people were even created (Job 38:4–7). Before any person ever died angels existed in the garden of Eden (Genesis 3:24). God has provided each of His children a guardian angel (Matthew 18:10; Psalm 34:7). Someday God's angels will come and gather the Lord's people at the second coming of Jesus (Mark 13:27). 

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Broadcast Schedule

Watch *Amazing Facts Presents* on one of our family of networks!

NATIONAL

3ABN	Wednesday, 7:00 AM & 9:00 PM CT
The Church Channel	Monday, 7:00 PM; Saturday, 5:30 PM ET
Discovery Channel	Sunday, 7:30 AM (All Time Zones)
Daystar	Wednesday, 6:00 PM ET
Hope Channel	Sunday, 7:00 PM; Friday, 12:30 PM PT
Lifetime Network	Sunday, 8:00 AM (All Time Zones)
Safe TV	Monday, 10:00 AM; Wednesday, 9:00 AM CT
Total Living Network	Wednesday, 7:00 PM CT
TBN	Thursday, 10:00 PM PT
The Word Network	Sunday, 1:00 PM ET

SABBATH SCHOOL STUDY HOUR

3ABN	Thursday, 7:00 PM; Friday, 5:00 AM; Saturday, 9:00 AM CT
Hope Channel	Friday, 9:00 PM PT
Safe TV	Friday, 9:00 PM; Saturday, 5:00 AM & 7:00 AM CT

EVERLASTING GOSPEL

Hope Channel	Sunday, 2:00 AM & 10:00 AM; Saturday, 2:00 AM PT
Safe TV	Sunday, 2:00 AM & 11:00 AM; Saturday, 7:00 AM CT



You can enjoy *Amazing Facts* radio and TV broadcasts at www.amazingfacts.org anytime, day or night!

RADIO

BIBLE ANSWERS LIVE

Airs weekly on Sunday at 7:00 PM Pacific. A live call-in radio program where you can ask Pastor Doug any Bible question and get a biblical answer in return. Call 1-800-GOD-SAYS during program hours to participate.

WEB

Watch Bible programming you can trust at www.amazingfacts.tv. Streaming online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on your computer, iPhone, iPad, and more! You can even watch on ROKU!

NEW!

TBN

Thursday, 10:00 PM

Discovery
CHANNEL

Sunday, 7:30 AM

DAYSTAR
TELEVISION NETWORK

Wednesday, 6:00 PM

3ABN
Three Angels Broadcasting Network

Hope
CHANNEL

THE WORD
Network

lifetime

the Church
Channel

SafeTV
®

TLN
total living network

The Lord Is Leading in CHINA!



A faithful Sunday-keeping Christian for 30 years, Mr. Wei* would often be asked to preach at his local church. However, due to conflicts among the congregation's leadership, Wei became discouraged and asked God what he should do. He finally decided to worship at home each week instead, and soon others in his village joined him.

One day a woman in his group told him about a church that worshiped on Saturday mornings in another village. Mr. Wei invited this church to send Bible teachers to his home church. They brought with them videos of Pastor Doug Batchelor and played them for the group. Mr. Wei heard the powerful Sabbath truth, was deeply convicted, and was soon baptized into the church. He continued his home church, but now it met in honor of the true Sabbath.

When Mr. Wei's daughter learned of this change in her father, she believed he had made a big mistake. He would lovingly share the Bible truth with her whenever possible, but her church members warned her not to be deceived. Ms. Wei felt confused and asked God to lead her.

"One day," she explains, "while I was surfing the Internet, I found a program called *Cosmic Conflict*. It was the first time I had ever heard someone preach so clearly about spiritual warfare. After that, I saved the Amazing Facts website in my favorites and began watching other programs. I later purchased some of the Christian books recommended on the site and then began attending a Sabbath-keeping church."

Ms. Wei shares, "As time passed, more and more people joined my father's home church. His house could not hold many people, so he decided to build a church. Last year he constructed a two-story church. To God be the glory!" Then she adds, "But my father is getting old, so he is praying for someone to continue this work. Recently a 30-year-old man joined. He didn't come from another denomination but only learned about God from the Chinese Amazing Facts website. After watching all of Pastor Doug's sermons he has become an earnest and loyal worker. God is so good!"

A Growing Work

The Wei story is only one of the many exciting reports that come in to our Amazing Facts Chinese Internet website. This year we know of 54 precious souls who have been added to God's kingdom through baptism or by profession of faith; their first contact with the remnant church came through videos and printed materials from our website, which you've made possible through your faithful gifts. Because of religious oppression, there are certainly many more new believers we don't know about, but the Lord knows!

Our team in China is busy translating sermons, studies, and booklets into Mandarin in order to reach this last frontier with the gospel. Over 60 percent of China's 1.3 billion people are atheists. But through generous supporters, the message is reaching them. The

government, of course, is very restrictive with Christian programming on the radio and TV, but the Lord has opened the way through our website called Qimiaozenxiang.com—that's "Amazing Facts" in Mandarin.

Seekers are being reached, like Ms. Ma, a 52-year-old woman who had been attending a Catholic Church for the past three years. She discovered our web page and began watching our programs every single day. "I've watched all the videos you have. I just love them!" she writes. When she became convinced about the Sabbath, she was sad because she couldn't find a Sabbath-keeping church in her area. Then one of our website evangelists guided her to one close by and she tells us, "I've finally found a church home. Hallelujah! May more and more people in darkness find the light of truth."

In just the first half of 2015, our team has translated and uploaded 17 new videos and is working on a new smartphone app to make it easier for believers in China looking for tools to help them grow in faith. After sharpening our "key word" advertising, Internet traffic has gone up with almost 200,000 visits and over 650,000 pages viewed during the summer months. That's an increase of 37 percent!

More Lives Changed

One of those who visited our website was a young man named Mr. Jin, who lives in Korea. He first learned about God while in middle school but wandered from the Lord in high school when he began selling phones to his fellow students. He earned lots of money and began hanging out with the wrong crowd. But his business fell on hard times, and his fair-weather friends left him. He moved to a new city to start fresh but could only find night work.

"One night," he told us, "I got home late from work and couldn't sleep. I started browsing YouTube on my phone and found Pastor Doug's video, 'The Last Kingdom.' It reminded me of what I once learned in church. So I began watching Amazing Facts videos every day, and it is changing my life." Mr. Jin is now seeking to conduct his business God's way. "Thank you," he shares, "for Qimiaozenxiang.com."

Our primary connection with these seekers is through our online and email correspondence. Over 12,000 different people have submitted personal or Bible questions this year and it has kept our Amazing Facts Internet evangelists busy. In fact, we're looking for another worker to keep up with the growing demands.



"One day I found a link to a Christian website that spoke about the end of time. I hoped it would have Chinese subtitles since my English is not very good. I was so happy to discover everything on Qimiaozenxiang.com was in Chinese! I turned away from God years ago, but after watching Pastor Doug preach on the return of the prodigal son I broke down and wept. After 19 years I came back into the Lord's arms, and I will never leave Him again." —Mr. Jhiang

Ms. Ben found her questions answered when she "accidentally" found our Chinese website. Though raised a Christian, she left the church for a decade, but then "stumbled" upon the Amazing Facts Chinese website and began watching Pastor Doug. She says, "I found his sermons totally different from the ones I used to listen to." After learning about the Sabbath, she requested help in finding a church. An Amazing Facts web evangelist helped her find one and on August 8, 2015, she was re-baptized. "I want to thank the Amazing Facts workers for your website!"

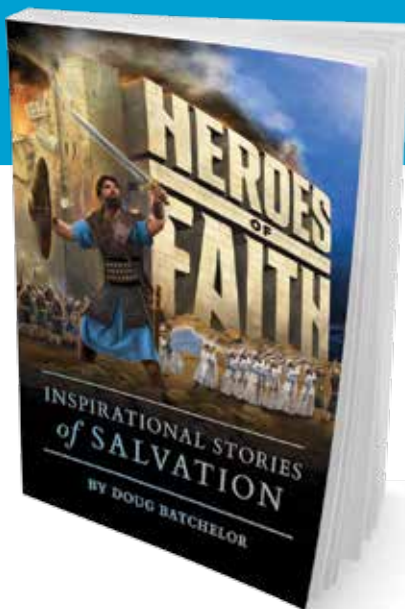
Not everyone touched by our Chinese site is from the Far East. We recently heard from a Sabbath-keeping pastor in Southern California about an 80-year-old woman who learned about the Sabbath truth from watching programs on our website. She became so convicted by what she heard that she found this pastor and invited him to join their Bible study group. After just two months, all eight class members have now become members of his church! Praise the Lord!

In the last quarter of this year, our Amazing Facts team in China plans to produce eight more videos, print three books, and launch the smartphone app to help spread the three angels' messages. Please pray and support our work in reaching the millions of people who speak Mandarin and who do not know Christ as their personal Savior.

**All personal names and location names have been changed to protect believers.*

Featured Resources

from Amazing Facts



Heroes of Faith: Inspirational Stories of Salvation

Doug Batchelor. Discover the inspiring Bible heroes who help us fix our eyes upon Jesus, including Mary Magdalene, Peter, Rahab, Naaman, and many others. Discussion questions in each chapter make this a life-changing resource for small groups and more. These 10 lessons, plus a bonus chapter, complement Pastor Doug's *Heroes of Faith* revival series.

BK-HOF ... \$7.95

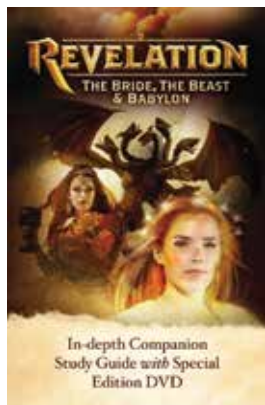
Heroes of Faith Activity Book

Help your children discover the Bible heroes who will help them focus their eyes on Jesus! Each lesson corresponds to Pastor Doug's *Heroes of Faith* revival series and includes a brief story, activity, and coloring pages.

BK-HOFAB ... \$5.95



**BRAND
NEW!**



Revelation Study Guide & DVD Set

Discover the real-world identity of the two mysterious women of last-day prophecy found in Revelation 12 and 17 with this special new edition of *Revelation: The Bride, the Beast & Babylon*. Includes the original, full-length DVD plus an in-depth study guide with insightful commentary and lots of Bible passages!

BK-REVS ... \$8.95

**GREAT
DEAL!**



The Key to Evangelism

Host your own evangelistic series and more with this incredible 7 gigabytes of Amazing Facts' best ministry tools on one USB flash drive "key"! It features the entire *Landmarks of Prophecy* video series, printable study guides, PowerPoint slides, marketing materials, and much more for your own Bible study or for an inexpensive church-run prophecy series. The witnessing possibilities are endless!

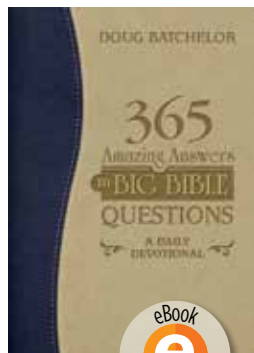
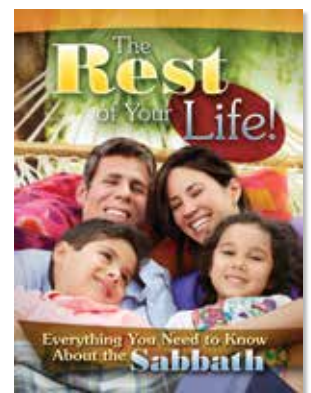
MS-KTE ... \$39.95

The Rest of Your Life! Magazine

A beautiful and captivating introduction to the seventh-day Sabbath. This extensive 48-page, full-color sharing magazine covers everything you'd ever want to learn and share about God's rest day—its past, present, and future! Loaded with vibrant graphics and fascinating facts for a compelling learning experience.

BK-RYL ... \$2.75

Quantity discounts available



365 Amazing Answers to Big Bible Questions Devotional (eBook)

Doug Batchelor. This popular daily devotional provides the best answers to intriguing Bible questions on history, prophecy, lifestyle, and difficult passages. Now available for your computer, tablet, or smartphone in several platforms. Ideal for your electronic study library.

eBook: AF-AADD ... \$19.95

Leathersoft: BK-AADD ... \$19.95

GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON: CHILDREN

Bible Stories Painting Books (Ages 1 to 4)

Easy, kid-friendly painting books with 16 different scenes from the Bible. Simply dip your brush in water, wipe over the paint pallets on the inside cover, and fill in the illustrations with bright colors! Less mess than paints and paper. Each Bible scene contains a simple line of text underneath, and is waiting to be turned into a colorful masterpiece that will introduce your child to God's Word!

BK-BSPB1 ... \$7.95

BK-BSPB3 ... \$7.95

BK-BSPB2 ... \$7.95

BK-BSPB4 ... \$7.95



My Look and Point Stick-a-Story Books

A heart-touching Bible story is told over five double-page spreads, with spaces in the story to be filled in with colorful stickers. Extra activities are included at the bottom of the pages and in the back of the book to help your child get acquainted with the Bible.

Noah: BK-LAPN ... \$6.95

Jonah: BK-LAPJ ... \$6.95

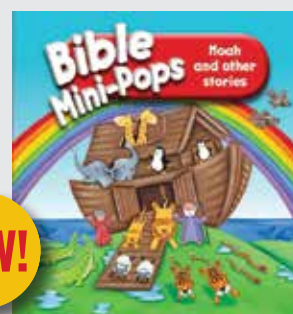
Jesus: BK-LPJ ... \$6.95



Bible Mini-Pops: Noah and Other Stories

Illustrated in soft pencil art, this early learning pop-up book features a single Bible story with a pop-up on every double page spread. Features three Old Testament stories and three New Testament stories to welcome your child to Bible times and God's message.

BK-MPN ... \$9.95



NEW!

Bumper Wipe Clean Activities

Help your children learn about God while discovering their favorite Bible stories through mazes, dot to dots, spot the mistake, and other fun puzzles. Laminated pages can be wiped clean for use again and again. Includes a felt-tip pen. 72 pages.

BK-BWCA ... \$12.95



NEW!



NEW!

Eat More Rainbows Workbook

This colorful and fun activity book inspires children to choose an abundant life by following the eight laws of health. Presented through the easy-to-understand R.A.I.N.B.O.W.S. acronym—Rest, Activity, In-control, Nutrition, etc.

BK-EMR ... \$9.95

My First Bible: Color and Trace

Encourage your little ones to develop fine motor skills in this fun book for young children. Contains 96 pages of teachable biblical themes. Package includes four colorful crayons and more than 200 stickers!

BK-CAT ... \$12.95



GREAT GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON



Bible Promises Set

These colorfully designed card sets feature life-guiding promises of the Bible. Memorize easily with these beautiful and uniquely illustrated cards. Give strength, comfort, and inspiration to a friend. 20 cards.

NKJV: BK-BPSN ... \$5.95

KJV: BK-BPSK ... \$5.95



Scripture Memory Set

This wonderfully designed set covers 26 topics of faith. Sized like business cards and beautifully illustrated by theme, these promises will help you to lock in memory Bible passages (NKJV) that cover the reasons for your beliefs. 390 cards.

BK-SMS ... \$24.95

Conflict of the Ages Set

These five classic, inspiring volumes from Ellen G. White cover history before earth's beginning to the ultimate fulfillment of the earth made new. The most beautifully written and insightful Bible commentary ever produced is sure to transform and enhance your understanding of God's Word and bring you closer to Jesus.

Paperback

Hardcover



Hardcover

Bible Study Companion Set

(Paperback) BK-BSCS ... \$49.95

Century Classics Collection (Hardcover) BK-EWCC ... \$99.95



Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread Journal

If you know someone who loves to journal, this attractive book will be a perfect holiday gift. Based on the themes of faith and prayer, the pages guide you in your faith journey. Generous amounts of lines for writing what's on your heart!

BK-ODB ... \$14.95

God's Promises for Your Every Need

This popular, beloved Scripture promise book features more than 2,000 verses arranged in 81 easily accessible topics. It will help you and loved ones find encouragement and peace in troubled times.

BK-GPRO ... \$14.95



NKJV Prophecy Study Bible

Now is the time to get your hands on the popular Amazing Facts Study Bible for yourself or a friend. This feature-rich Bible includes many powerful study helps, including the complete set of 27 *Amazing Facts Bible Study Guides!*

BK-PSBGPL ... **\$89.95** (Giant Print/Premium Leather) (Reg. \$109.95)

BK-PSBPL ... **\$84.95** (Genuine Leather) (Reg. \$98.95)

BK-PSBDB ... **\$64.95** (Black Leathersoft) (Reg. \$76.95)

BK-PSBSD ... **\$64.95** (Brown Leathersoft) (Reg. \$76.95)

BK-PSBHR ... \$29.95 (Hardcover)

Personalized name imprinting available (\$7.95)

Hardcover

Giant Print

Genuine Leather



NOW ON SALE!

Brown Leathersoft

Black Leathersoft

God's Wisdom for Your Every Need

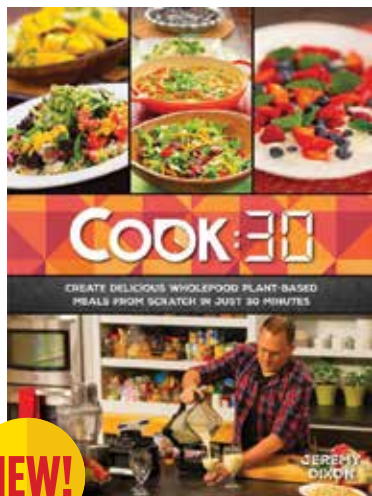
If you or a friend are feeling a need for God's wisdom more than ever, this topically arranged Scripture resource will guide you to Bible verses in many practical areas of your life. Share it with a friend!

BK-GWEN ... \$14.95

HEALTHY OPTIONS FOR THE

HOLIDAY SEASON!

SAVE
37%



NEW!

Cook:30

Cook scrumptious, healthy meals from scratch in 30 minutes or less using only plant-based whole foods! These delicious meals, salads, accompaniments, and sweets are inspired from Jeremy Dixon's Revive Cafes in Auckland, New Zealand. This delightful cookbook will show you how easy it is to cook healthy food at home. Hundreds of full-color photographs make it a beautiful gift! BK-COOK ... \$24.95

Eight Secrets to Ancient Health

Avoid the tragic health mistakes of the ancient Egyptians and discover how to eat like the longest living people on earth! This documentary journeys down through history to reveal time-tested health principles that can greatly improve our modern lives. DV-AH ... \$19.95



NEW!

Give Them Something Better

Vegetable Pot Pie, Lasagna, Veggie Fajitas—what's not to like? Learn to make tasty and healthy dishes like these in Stephanie Howard's plant-based foods cookbook. Includes tips on menu planning. BK-SBCB ... \$24.95

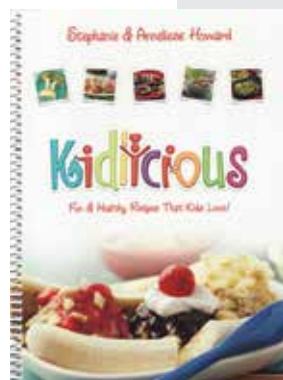


Healthy Cooking Bundle

This great holiday bundle includes popular chef Michelle Irwin's *Too Few Cooks in the Kitchen* and *Sugar-free Raw Desserts*, giving you a huge variety of recipes for every meal of the day that are also nourishing for your entire family. BK-HCB ... **SALE: \$24.95** (Reg. \$39.95)

Kidlicious: Fun & Healthy Recipes that Kids Love

Get into the kitchen with your children and learn how to make healthy and fun recipes while you enjoy the adventure. Recipes include Make a Monkey for Breakfast, Apple Nachos, Salad on a Stick, Walking Tacos, and Kidlicable Pizza. BK-KID ... \$24.95



AFBOOKSTORE.COM

Your one-stop shop for Christian resources



Shipping Information: Please add **15%** of sales value or **\$5.50** (whichever is higher) for shipping & handling.

California residents please add 8.25% sales tax. For orders shipped outside the U.S. and Canada, add 25% or \$10 (whichever is higher) for foreign postage. Some items may require additional shipping costs and delivery time due to weight.

Just about anyone can steal cash; it doesn't necessarily take much skill. But to create counterfeit money requires a great deal of finesse. Printing fake bills is as much an art as it is a crime. It used to be much easier to get away with it, but the U.S. Federal Reserve keeps adding security measures to stop counterfeiting.

Do you have a bogus bill? Some quick tips can help you know if you're holding fraudulent money. For instance, you can tell the difference between a genuine bill and a fake one often by touch. The texture of real money is crisp because it is made from cotton and linen fibers. It's less likely to feel soft and worn. Genuine money is also thinner and might also contain a security thread, watermark, micro-printing, and will reveal a specific color under an ultraviolet light.

Counterfeiting is about trickery. More than any other point made in Jesus' statements about the end of time, Matthew 24 rings with warnings regarding deceit. When asked about earth's final events, Christ's first words were: "Take heed that no one *deceives* you" (Matthew 24:4, emphasis added). Again, in verse 11, Jesus says, "Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many." He also warns of false christs and false prophets in verses 23 to 28.

Why this emphasis on deception? Because dishonesty will be a serious risk factor as Christ's return approaches. Jesus knows the devil will offer up many pretenders. False prophets might look and sound like bona fide seers, but outward appearances can fool you. "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves" (Matthew 7:15). Spotting a counterfeiter requires an educated eye.

The Role of Prophets

Christ's warning about false prophets actually tells us that the Lord has genuine messengers gifted by the Holy Spirit. A true prophet is one sent by God to deliver messages. The word "prophet" comes from two Greek words—*pro*, which means "before," and *phemi*, which means "to speak." A prophet is a spokesperson for God, sometimes foretelling future events,

but also carrying messages of warning to individuals, groups, or even nations.

God's messengers are not controlled by what people want to hear. They obediently communicate a message from the Lord no matter how it could be received. Paul explained to the church in Galatia, "For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ" (Galatians 1:10). Real prophets are not people pleasers.

Of course, a true prophet always speaks the truth. This is illustrated in the experience of Ahab when he called for the prophet Micaiah. The king hated this messenger, "because he does not prophesy good concerning me, but evil" (1 Kings 22:8). Even when Micaiah spoke with tongue in cheek, Ahab snapped, "How many times shall I make you swear that you

Spotting a Counterfeit



tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?” (v. 16). Even a wicked king knew God’s prophets did not lie.

Testing Prophets

The apostle John echoed Jesus’ warning about false prophets. “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1). The church in Ephesus guarded against dishonest prophets. John quotes Jesus as saying, “I know your works . . . that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars” (Revelation 2:2).

The Bible provides us with ways to determine if a person is truly speaking on behalf of God. There are four tests of a true prophet found in Scripture:



Very Convincing


The devil is adept at deceit, and he knows that in order to convince people to follow him, he must come as close as possible to the genuine. In other words, he must look like Christ. He will use sleight of hand to fool as many as he can. Jesus warned, “For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect” (Matthew 24:24).

Christ showed signs and wonders in His ministry on the earth. Peter proclaimed, “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst” (Acts 2:22). The difference between these signs is their source.

Before Christ returns, the devil will use miracles to deceive the world. Speaking of Satan’s final work in the last days, the Bible says, “He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.” (In other words, he seeks to pretend to be like Elijah.) “And he deceives those who dwell on the earth—by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast” (Revelation 13:13, 14). Someday, Satan himself will claim to be God. Through great miracles he will try to gain the world’s loyalty.

Building your faith on signs and wonders creates false security. Jesus warned that faith based solely on miracles is actually weak. He once told a nobleman whose son was sick, “Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe” (John 4:48). When some scribes and Pharisees approached Jesus and asked Him to show them a sign, He answered, “An evil and adulterous generation *seeks after* a sign” (Matthew 12:39, emphasis added).

A true prophet might perform signs, but it is not solely on the basis of a miracle that he or she is authenticated. Other tests must be considered. What is the message of this prophet? What are the fruits of his or her life and work? Do they uphold Jesus as the Christ and do their predictions come true? These are the security measures that determine whether a prophet is genuine or counterfeit.

Let’s watch and be faithful through careful study of the Bible so we will be able to distinguish the genuine from the false as we approach the return of Jesus. 



1 The prophet’s personal life will exemplify the teachings of the Bible. Jesus said, “You will know them by their fruits” (Matthew 7:16). If someone claims to be a prophet yet breaks God’s law, you can know he or she is a counterfeit.



2 The messages are in harmony with the Bible. “To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them” (Isaiah 8:20). If a person declares to have new light that supersedes Scripture, it is not light at all.



3 God’s prophets lift up Jesus as the Son of God and the Savior of the world. “By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God” (1 John 4:2). A true prophet sees Jesus as more than a good man: as divine and eternal.



4 Predictions made by a true messenger of God are fulfilled. “As for the prophet who prophesies of peace, when the word of the prophet comes to pass, the prophet will be known as one whom the LORD has truly sent” (Jeremiah 28:9). If their prediction does not come to pass, you can know they are not speaking for God.

NEWS to NOTE

Pastor Doug in Your Inbox

Would you like to see more of your gifts to Amazing Facts go directly toward evangelism? You can when you sign up to receive Pastor Doug's monthly newsletter through email! You'll save the cost of a stamp and put more funds into soul-winning resources, events, and media through Amazing Facts.

It's easy to sign up too! Just go to www.amazingfacts.org, click the tab, "About Us," and choose "Email Subscriptions." Select the "Amazing Facts Monthly Newsletter" and then hit "submit."

And that's all you need to do. Simple! Right?

There are other print resources you can receive via email, including the colorful and inspirational *Inside Report* magazine you now hold in your hands. Check it out today!



Congratulations Bible School and Correspondence Departments!

The Amazing Facts Bible School made history in August 2015, graduating a record-breaking 524 students. Never have they had so many graduates in a single month. Carolyn Moxley, Bible school director, and her team give all the praise to our gracious God.

The correspondence department also reports exponential growth this year. The number of mailed letters written in August was 218 percent more than the same month a year ago. Cyndee in correspondence shares, "This is very exciting because it means more people's hearts are being touched with God's truth!" Thank you for supporting these powerful ministries!



Govorite li bŭlgarski?

In fulfillment of carrying the everlasting gospel to every tongue (Revelation 14:6), we are busy translating sharing books into new languages. We've recently added several

to our media library in Bulgarian. Slava na Boga! (Praise the Lord!) And if you do mission work in northeastern India, Burma, or the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh, you'll be excited to know that our *Storacles of Prophecy* Bible lessons have been released in the Zomi language. You can find them in our online media library. And if you know of any other translations of our Study Guides, Storacles, or pocket books into other languages, please contact webmaster@amazingfacts.org so we can include them too!

Upcoming AFCOE Events

In 2016, the AFCOE team will travel the world to train thousands of people to more effectively share the everlasting gospel in their communities. Here are upcoming dates to keep your eye on; visit AFCOE.org to learn more details as they become available!



- **Jan. 8–10:** AFCOE to Go in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
- **Jan. 24–Feb. 19:** AFCOE in Cape Town, South Africa
- **Feb. 21–27:** AFCOE to Go in Durban, South Africa
- **Feb. 26–28:** AFCOE to Go in Johannesburg, South Africa
- **April 8–10:** AFCOE to Go in Fallbrook, California
- **March 21–26:** AFCOE to Go and prophecy seminar in Charlotte, North Carolina

A Fair Report

John and Sheryl Hersom recently shared how God blessed their Amazing Facts literature distribution booth at the Acton Fair in Maine.

Over a period of four days in August, they gave out 400 copies of *Revelation: The Bride, the Beast & Babylon*, 500 copies of *Cosmic Conflict*, 500 copies of *Final Events*, and 400 copies of *Landmarks of Prophecy*. The couple reports, "We had contacts with people who have watched Pastor Doug on cable TV, including four pastors and police officers." After planting these gospel seeds, they are praying for the Holy Spirit to convict those who are seeking for truth. If you'd like resources for setting up a booth with posters, banners, and discounted quantities of Amazing Facts materials, contact us at 916-434-3880.



» Want more ministry news?
Get it at www.amazingfacts.org.

Blessings Running Over!

Peter and Eleanor have given many faithful years to serving God's church and have been energetic volunteers here at Amazing Facts headquarters. But their devotion to sharing Bible truth goes even further.

"We feel Amazing Facts' messages are right on target," Eleanor shares, "and we want to help advance the gospel." So the two worked closely with our planned giving department to establish a soul-winning gift annuity, a practical and mutually beneficial way to support Amazing Facts' work of spreading the everlasting gospel—while also receiving a tax deduction and a lifetime income.

They took another step of faith recently to support the *Revelation* DVD project, which has been seen by millions all around the world. "We cashed in one of our annuities here to help advance this outreach. . .

We didn't want to tie up those funds in an annuity if we

don't need the income." Because of God's blessing, they were able to make this significant contribution right away.

"The gift annuity program is a wonderful way to support the mission of Amazing Facts if you would like to receive income," the dedicated couple shares. "But if at some point you're able to cash one in early, Amazing Facts will be blessed and so will you!"

Peter and Eleanor have personally experienced the promise, "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom" (Luke 6:38). You, too, can leave a lasting legacy of salvation when you support the mission of Amazing Facts and transform millions with His message.



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JOE CREWS

CLASSIC

Editor's Note: As part of Amazing Facts' 50th anniversary celebration, we remember the towering influence of Joe Crews, the ministry's first speaker. This classic article uncovers a deception of Satan just before Christ's return ...

ONE of the clearest last-day signs revealed in the Bible is the build-up of spiritual and demonic forces for a final all-out struggle that will settle the destiny of every living soul. God and Satan will meet in the climactic confrontation of Armageddon, and the age-long controversy between good and evil will be resolved for all eternity.

The Bible indicates that Satan will work feverishly through all the artful devices that appeal to the human mind, seeking to deceive the whole planet into his camp. John says that he "has come down ... having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time" (Revelation 12:12). In preparation for this encounter, which he has been planning for ages, the adversary will manipulate both political and religious forces. The ultimate goal of the devil is to make people sin, because sin is the only thing that will keep anyone out of heaven.

The focus of the final contest will be over obedience to God's great moral law. Satan despises the government of heaven and its law. He broke the concord of angels long ago by charging God with requiring too much. He accused God of being unjust by demanding obedience to a law that could not be kept. Ever since that time he has tried to make his accusations come true by leading people to break that law. For non-Christians the devil had no problem whatsoever, but how could he unite all the great religious bodies in a program of disobedience?

Obviously, some scheme would have to be devised that would make Christians comfortable in their transgression, which could be spread in the name of Christ, and which would operate across all the boundaries of denomination and creed. Somehow, the plan would have to destroy the traditional view of the Bible as the final authority in matters of faith,

MAN'S FLICKER OR GOD'S FLAME

and establish some other authority that would still retain a respectable Christian image.

In order to encompass all churches and faiths, the program would have to be outside of any doctrine, prophetic interpretation, or standards of living, since these would produce only division and disagreement. It is not hard to see that all these elements would have to be incorporated into any vast trickery to unite Christians in disobeying the Ten Commandments.

Are Miracle-Workers of God?

Now let's study the actual inspired description of how these conditions will prevail at the end of the age. Incredibly, the deceptive powers of the master counterfeiter will achieve *all* these objectives.

First, notice that Jesus confirmed how many would disobey His law in the name of religion: "Not everyone who says to Me,

‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness’” (Matthew 7:21–23).

Try to understand the alarming significance of those words. These people were making great claims of being Christians, even to exercising the extraordinary power of prophesying and casting out devils. They did these miracles in the name of Jesus. But Jesus said He did not even know them; so they were not exercising the apparent spiritual gifts through the power of Christ. Then who gave them the supernatural power to do such miracles? There are only two sources of such power—God and Satan. Since Jesus called them practitioners of “lawlessness,” they had to be healing and prophesying in the power of Satan, the author of iniquity.

This establishes that there will be counterfeit manifestations of the gifts of the Spirit in the last days. Outwardly they will appear exactly like the genuine gifts, and will be performed in Jesus’ name in the atmosphere of religious fervor. Then how can one tell the difference between the true and the false? Jesus made it very clear. Although they cried, “Lord, Lord,” they were not doing the will of the Father in heaven. What is the will of God? David answers, “I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart” (Psalms 40:8). The people who appealed to Jesus on the basis of their many wonderful miracles were rejected by Him as Satan’s workers because they were breaking God’s law. They really did not know Jesus, because to know Him is to obey His commandments. (See 1 John 2:3, 4.)

Only the Obedient are Spirit-Filled

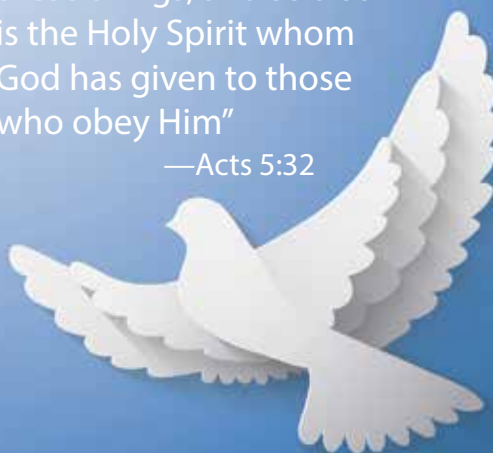
This brings us to another truth concerning obedience: Only those who are obedient can be filled with the Spirit. This means that the spiritual gifts cannot be demonstrated in the life of one who is breaking God’s law. Jesus said, “If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever” (John 14:15, 16).

The sequence is distinctly set forth in this text: Love leads to obedience and obedience leads to the filling of the Spirit. No one should overlook the relationship between obedience and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The most basic fact about the Spirit is that He leads into all truth and convicts of sin. “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you” (John 14:26).

The most serious mistake anyone can make is to reject the guiding, convicting influence of the Spirit as He seeks to lead into obedience to God’s law. The principle was eternally settled by Luke when he wrote under inspiration, “We are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him” (Acts 5:32).


“We are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him”

—Acts 5:32



How clearly we can now see why the miracle-workers were turned away by Jesus as practitioners of lawlessness; having rejected the will of the Father, His law, they lost access to the power of the Holy Spirit. At that point Satan stepped in to supply a continuation of power by producing the same apparent miracles as the Holy Spirit produced.

Lulled into a fatal blindness by grieving the Spirit that convicted them of disobedience, the professed Christians lost their sensitivity to the violation of God’s holy law. Under the exciting emotional stimulus of Satan’s spirit they continued to exercise a counterfeit religious power, based on feeling rather than the authority of the Word of God.

Untold numbers of sincere Christians are being led to believe that God’s Spirit and approval can rest upon those who transgress His law. Man’s flicker has been mistaken for God’s flame, and the world is being prepared to make the wrong choice when the Sabbath-obedience issue climaxes. May we be spared from such an error by trusting the Word alone as our infallible guide. 

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Abe Sanchez from Bonnie and Ed Ensminger

Amazing Facts recognizes contributions made as a tribute to those who have passed away or as an honorarium celebrating significant milestones in the lives of loved ones. Please type or print legibly to ensure correct spelling; we are unable to verify spellings due to volume.



(Continued from page 9.)

a miniature model of the heavenly sanctuary. When God instructed Moses to build a sanctuary in the wilderness, angels adorned the temple. Angels were placed over the ark. Angels were embroidered into the curtains and engraved in the golden walls of the holy place. They were everywhere. In reality, angels surround God's throne in heaven waiting to do His bidding.

The angels are especially interested in the plan of salvation for our lost world. Peter speaks of our salvation as "things which angels desire to look into" (1Peter 1:12). This host of heaven is God's army ready to do battle for our redemption. They participate in saving us from destruction. "Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?" (Hebrews 1:14). What an encouragement to know that these divine agents are sent to serve us!

Guardians

A brief reference made by Jesus about angels shows how each one of us has at least one of these guardians of heaven watching over us. Christ said, "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). Even the weakest Christian has the assurance that "their angel" has access to God.

David affirms the defense of angels when he writes, "Bless the LORD, you His angels, who excel in strength, who do His word, heeding the voice of His word. Bless the LORD, all you His hosts, you ministers of His, who do His pleasure" (Psalm 103:20, 21).

Most comforting are David's words of the protective care angels provide God's children.

"Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; 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. You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot" (Psalm 91:9–13).

There are so many inspiring references to angels in the Bible. We could go on for hours about the stories of these heavenly beings in the Bible who visited Hagar, Lot, and Jacob, who fed Elijah, who saved Daniel in the lion's den, who spoke with Zechariah, who announced good news to Mary, who freed Peter from prison, who guided Philip to an Ethiopian, who encouraged Paul in a sinking ship, and who even

"Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels"




Hebrews 13:2

comforted Jesus after 40 days of fasting in the wilderness and in Gethsemane. Angels are all through the Bible.

Pastor John G. Paton, a pioneer missionary in the New Hebrides Islands, told a thrilling story involving the protective care of angels. A hostile, man-eating tribe surrounded his mission headquarters one night, intent on burning the Paton family out and killing them. John Paton and his wife prayed all during that terror-filled night that God would deliver them. When daylight came they were amazed to see that, unaccountably, the attackers had left. They thanked God for delivering them.

A year later, the chief of the tribe was converted, and Mr. Paton, remembering what had happened, asked the chief what had kept him and his men from burning down the house. The chief replied in surprise, "Who were all those men you had with you there?"

The missionary answered, "There were no men there; just my wife and I." The chief argued that he had seen many men standing guard—hundreds in shining garments with drawn swords in their hands. They seemed to circle the mission station so that the tribe was afraid to attack. Only then did Mr. Paton realize that God had sent His angels to protect them.

We are not alone in this world. Heavenly beings observe everything we do. Not only do they protect us, but they cooperate with God in guiding us into truth when we stray. Someday we will meet them face to face. I'm looking forward to meeting my guardian angel; aren't you? While we should never worship them, we certainly should thank God for angels who live to serve our fallen world. 

Abused. Forsaken. Despondent. She has given up all hope. Nobody believes in her. Nobody listens. Nobody seems to care. She is desperate, even ready to give up on life. Why go on?

If only she could meet the One who has always loved her, has never abandoned her. Jesus alone offers her the promise of a better future. But who will make known to her the Prince of Peace?

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"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."

—Jeremiah 29:11



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