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OUT OF THIS WORLD

What's happening in the 5th
dimension

TO HEAVEN AND BACK

A returnee's account

AN ANGEL NAMED BEVERLY

Is love worth the pain?

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PERSONALLY SPEAKING

I was four years old when my family got our first television set. It was the only TV on our block and my dad had carefully planned its delivery to coincide with the biggest happening since the end of World War II, so most of our neighbors joined us for the very first broadcast we watched on our new set—the coronation of Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom, on June 2, 1953. Never mind that the picture was in black and white and a bit scratchy, the grown-ups all marveled at the technology that made it possible for us to see a spectacle taking place that very moment on the other side of the world. I don't suppose that many of them understood that technology any better than I did, but that didn't matter. It worked.

That might seem like a strange anecdote to begin this issue on Heaven and the spirit world, but the point is this: Like the TV, we don't have to understand everything about the spirit world to know it's real or receive its benefits. For people to say they don't believe in the spirit world because they've never been there or don't understand it would be like saying they don't believe in TV because they've never seen one. Just because they've never seen it doesn't make it not so.

It took some very smart people to discover radio waves and learn how to use them to bring us first the radio and then TV, but now we can all benefit. God also made a way for us to connect with the spirit world, so we can all benefit. It's called prayer.

Once we learn to connect, many amazing things are possible: We can have a personal, intimate relationship with Jesus; we can get very real help with our problems; we can even catch glimpses of the world beyond our physical plane. The benefits are endless—all put there by our loving heavenly Father for us to discover, use, and enjoy.

Keith Phillips

For the *Activated* family

I HAD NEVER MET ANYONE WHO HAD EXPERIENCED LIFE AFTER DEATH until that day at Tirana's Central Hospital. Some coworkers from The Family and I were visiting people in their rooms when we met a man who didn't seem to be very sick. He invited us in and we gave him the tract "True Love, Forever Love." He said that he and his family were Muslim, though he himself did not go to any mosque. Nevertheless, he believed in spiritual things, and he believed in Jesus.

He didn't know anything about Jesus, really. He had never seen a movie about His life or read the Bible, but he had had a personal experience that convinced him that Jesus was who He said He was.

"It was two years ago," he said. "At the age of 58, I had some health problems. Then one day I had a heart attack. I was brought to the hospital in a coma. As the doctors were working on me, my heart stopped beating for 11 seconds.

"I don't remember anything else, except suddenly seeing a beautiful place I had never seen before. It was amazing! I did not know I was experiencing a clinical death, because everything seemed so real. The place was full of light—more than any place I've seen here on earth. There were rivers, streams, trees,

and a lot of green. I didn't know where I was, but I felt wonderful.

"To my astonishment, I saw Jesus there and I recognized Him from pictures I had seen on earth. But believe me, He was *much* more real and alive. I was on my knees, holding on to Him, and I said to Him, 'Even though I'm an old man, I can still serve You. Please take me with You now!' But He gently said, 'No, you have to live.'

"I was still begging Him to take me when suddenly I was revived, brought back to life."

As the old man told this story, he was trembling and his eyes filled with tears. He said he had told this experience to his sons and other

members of his family, but they hadn't believed him. "I don't care if they believe me or not," he said. "I have met Jesus. I am *sure* of that!"

We explained to him more about Jesus, His love, and His plan of salvation. "You can not only believe in Jesus," we told him, "but you can have His presence in your heart always. He wants to be a part of your life."

Then the man prayed with us to receive Jesus as his Savior. When his day comes, Jesus will welcome him back to Heaven and he will get his wish—to serve and stay with Jesus forever. ◇



ESEN KALEMI IS A FULL-TIME VOLUNTEER WITH THE FAMILY IN ALBANIA.



BY DAVID
BRANDT BERG

*“It was a
marvelous
feeling, like
floating on air.”*

IN RECENT YEARS A NUMBER OF PROMINENT DOCTORS have observed and documented hundreds of cases of what they call “clinical deaths.” Their patients actually died, and all vital functions ceased for from several minutes up to half an hour, but then the patients revived. Hundreds of these survivors of death told amazingly similar accounts of their life-after-death experiences.

Almost all of them said it was a marvelous feeling, like floating on air, no longer weighed down by their physical bodies. Their anxieties and worries suddenly vanished as they realized that although their bodies were dead,

their spirits were still very much alive and God was lovingly caring for them. In almost every account, those who returned from such experiences had a great change in their outlook on life. They were more loving, more full of faith, found greater purpose in living, and were convinced that they had been spared from death so that they could return and fulfill their mission in this life. *(For documented accounts of more than 200 life-after-death experiences, read Life After Life by Dr. Raymond A. Moody, Jr.)*

According to God’s Word, the next life is not so terribly different from this present existence that we can’t



LIFE

AFTER DEATH

—WHAT WILL IT BE LIKE?

characteristics that we have now, just as Jesus did after His resurrection. He could eat and drink and others could still touch Him as well as see Him, yet He was in a miraculous supernatural body, His new resurrected body (Luke 24:36–43).

You are still going to be you! You're even going to look a lot the same, only better—much better! You'll be much better off in every way, and you'll be in more direct communication with the Lord, experiencing the fullness of God's love and the realities of the world to come!

Those experiences of life after death that some have had are exceptional cases, of course, and it's obvious that most people do *not* come back after passing on. However, when your time comes, death is not something you should fear.

Contrary to the idea some people seem to have, God is not a cruel tyrant or some sort of monster who is trying to frighten everyone into Hell, but rather a loving and merciful Father who is trying to love everyone into Heaven. “God is love” (1 John 4:8), and He wants to help and save you and make you happy with His love. In fact, this is why He created you: to love and enjoy Him forever, now and in the life to come.

But sad to say, at some time or other we've all been selfish, mean, unloving, or unkind to others—even to God! “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). None of us deserve to go to Heaven. But the Bible says that although “the wages of sin is death, the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ, our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

Receiving God's free gift of eternal life is like receiving a pardon from the guilt of sin. God loves you so much, He gave Jesus to die in your place, to take your punishment for you (John 3:16). This is why Jesus could promise those who believe in Him that they “shall not taste of death” (Matthew 16:28). If we receive Jesus and His free gift of eternal life, our spirits—the real us—will never die or experience the agony of separation from God, even when our physical bodies die. “He who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment [condemnation], but has passed from death into life” (John 5:24).

If you haven't yet received Jesus into your heart, you can right now by praying this prayer:

Jesus, I believe that You are the Son of God and that You died for me. Please forgive me for all my sins. I ask You now to come into my heart and give me Your gift of eternal life. Help me to love You, and to love others by telling them about You and Your love and truth. Amen.

Once you have Jesus in your heart, you have made the most important preparation for your life, as well as death. And when your time comes to die, well, hallelujah! You will have finished your earthly task. It will be your graduation day—graduation to the heavenly world of the hereafter where you will receive a glorious crown of eternal life and be with God and Jesus and your loved ones forever! We who know Jesus will awaken in the heavenly kingdom of God with peace and plenty and love for all forever! Are you ready? ◊

comprehend it. We are going to be much the same as we are now, except that our eternal bodies are going to be supernatural, like the one Jesus had after He was resurrected (Philippians 3:21; 1 John 3:2). Jesus was able to materialize or dematerialize, appear or disappear. Think of that! He could pass from one dimension to the other, and walk through locked doors and solid walls (John 20:19,26).

But just because we'll have spiritual bodies doesn't mean we won't still be ourselves. We're going to have a lot of the same

An Angel Named Beverly



BY NYX MARTINEZ

ONE OF THE KIDS AT THE CANCER HOSPITAL I VISIT HAS JUST DIED. I know I should be happy that one more child has passed on to Heaven, finally ending her suffering, but still, seven-year-old Beverly was one of my favorites. She never seemed very sick, really. She had a full head of hair and wasn't as thin as the others. How I took it for granted that every Thursday at 10:00 A.M., Beverly would be there in the playroom, waiting for our art class to begin.

She wasn't there today, and she never will be again.

They kept on telling me that. "Don't get attached to the kids." "You can't get attached to the kids." But I shrugged it off, thinking I could take it. I understood that their lives hung by a thread, and I could deal with it when the thread unraveled. Other volunteers before me had dropped out because kids they'd grown to love had died. It was all too much for them. But I was strong. I wouldn't be so affected.

The question is not a matter of whether they will live or die, but rather if I will live to love them.

And yet, here I am, crying my eyes out.

Perhaps Beverly was an angel, too good for this world, so she was given her wings before the rest of us. She seemed untouched by the evils of this world and was too innocent to know of the pain that loved ones leave in their wake when they pass on.

It doesn't seem to make sense. Not for Beverly, and not for the others whose lives will be cut short—thousands, hundreds of thousands, millions. Am I wasting my time by investing in these little souls who will experience so little more of life? If their existence is so short-term, then is it right for me to love them as though they will live forever?

Asking myself these questions led to a surprising answer: Because their futures are so unpredictable, every day counts. Every second counts. The question is not a matter of whether they will live or die, but rather if I will live to love them.

There is no glory in this job. I know it will bring more pain each time I witness another young life slipping away. It is inevitable that I will again become attached, only to lose someone very dear to my heart.

There is no glory, but there is comfort. It is the comfort of knowing that if I can be a touch of love in the hearts of others who will take a remembrance of that love with them—be they here on earth or in the next world—then I have done what matters most.

Beverly had lived for seven years. I may live seventy more. I don't know. Nobody knows. Death can take anyone by surprise. But whatever happens and whatever I see when I get to Heaven, there is one face that will not surprise me. Standing there at the reception, waiting to welcome me to a place where there will be no more suffering or crying or death, will be the beautiful face of an angel—an angel named Beverly. ♦

Answers to your questions

Q: *I've read in some publications by The Family that in the afterlife people will be rewarded for good works they did in this life. However, the Bible says in Ephesians 2:8–9 and elsewhere that we are saved by faith, not by works. So shouldn't we also be rewarded for faith, rather than works? If we are faithful to God and His Word, works will follow, but it seems works should not be the deciding factor concerning rewards in Heaven. Can you clarify this for me?*

A: You are absolutely right about salvation being a gift of God as a result of faith. Forgiveness of sin and entrance to Heaven in the afterlife are automatic the moment we confess our sin and receive Jesus as our personal Savior. There are many Scriptures that make this clear.

However, the Bible also makes it clear that the saved will also receive rewards in Heaven over and above forgiveness and eternal life, and that the level of reward will be based on their works:

“The Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works” (Matthew 16:27).

“He who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor” (1 Corinthians 3:8).

“Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work” (Revelation 22:12).

God shows no partiality regarding salvation (Acts 10:34). He is completely unbiased regarding people's earthly deeds when it comes to salvation, but when it comes to their works—their contribution to His kingdom by sharing

His love with others—He is definitely partial. In addition to the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14–30), the following Scriptures also indicate that there is a reward system in Heaven:

“No other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward “(1 Corinthians 3:11–14).

“[G]od will render to each one according to his deeds” (Romans 2:6).

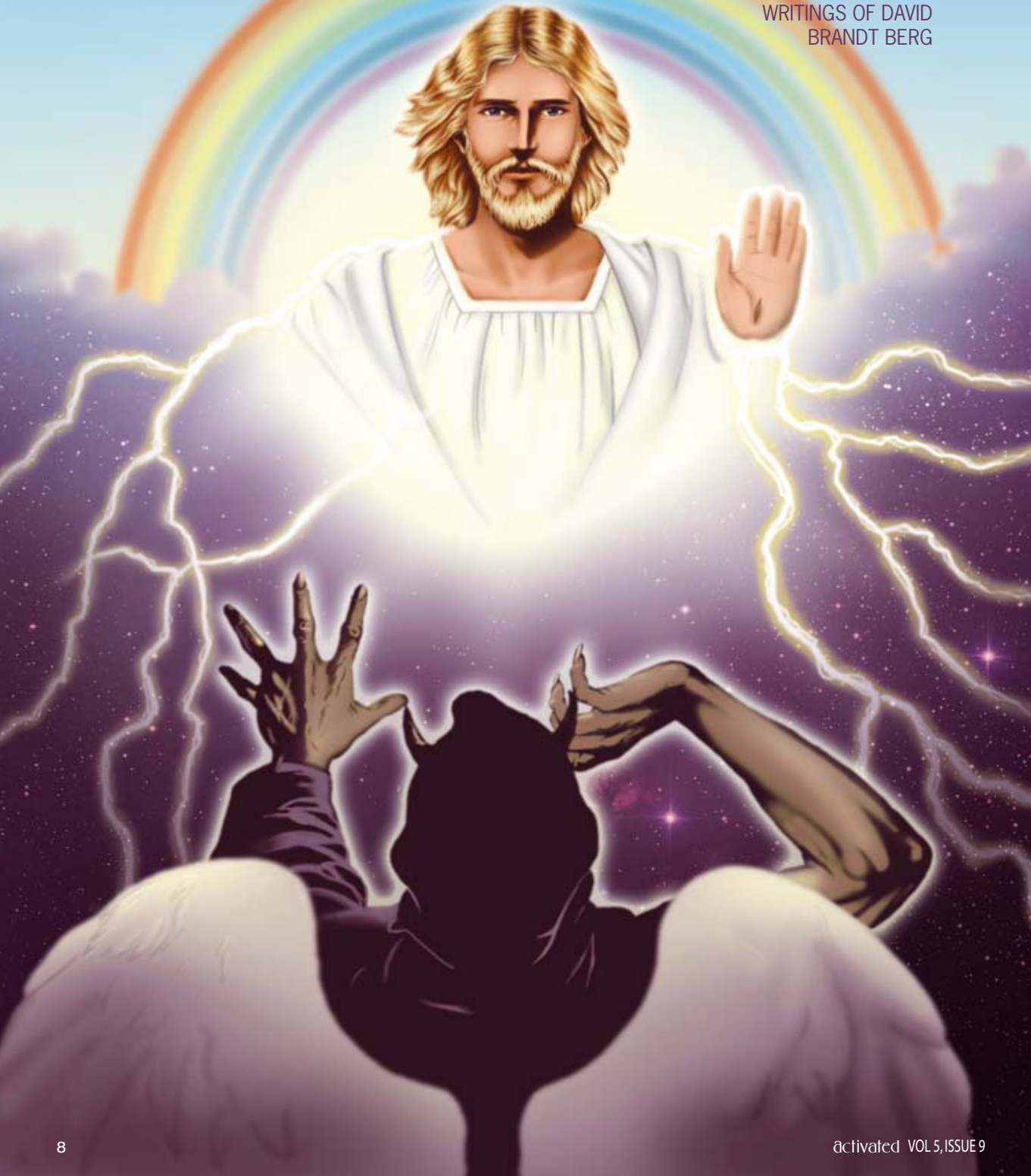
“God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister” (Hebrews 6:10).

God definitely works on a merit and reward basis when it comes to works. He blesses those who put their faith into action by fulfilling His two great commandments—“Love the Lord your God,” and “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:37–40). ◇

Rewards in Heaven

OUT OF THIS WORLD

COMPILED FROM THE
WRITINGS OF DAVID
BRANDT BERG



A LOT OF PEOPLE TODAY ARE WAKING UP to the fact that the spirit world is real, that there is something beyond our four-dimensional world of height, breadth, depth, and time. Many sincere seekers are looking for the truth and true spirituality, but sadly many of the people they turn to for enlightenment are in the dark themselves. So in their quest for spiritual reality, many of these seekers begin to look elsewhere for a means to connect with the spirit world.

Little do most of these people realize what they're getting into. There are two sides to the spirit world, good and evil, and very powerful forces are at work there, so anyone who ventures into the spirit world without the Lord's guidance and protection is playing with fire! That's why so many people "flip out" when they dabble in the occult or take hallucinogenic drugs. They get a glimpse into the dark side of the spirit world but aren't prepared for or protected from what they see.

The same goes for some scientists and others who study the paranormal—ESP, telepathic communication, hypnosis, and so on. What most of these people who delve into the paranormal don't realize is that they are dealing with spiritual forces that operate in the spiritual realm.

A number of popular movies in recent years have also rekindled people's interest in the spirit world. Unfortunately, most of these movies have dwelt on the dark side—the horror of the Devil and his dirty work—and these are not all figments of some screenwriter's imagination, either. Demons are very

real and active today, as they have been in all ages.

The spiritual warfare

As the apostle Paul explained, our battle is "not against flesh and blood, but against ... the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12 KJV). Our daily lives, events, and ultimately the world's future are being influenced by battles in the spirit world between God and His angels on the one hand, and the Devil and his demons on the other. What's happening on the surface is only a physical manifestation of the real action. The real action is in the spirit world.

Many people today are plagued by demons and need deliverance, but they either don't understand that their problems are spiritual, or they don't know how to avail themselves of the Lord's help. For example, most doctors and psychiatrists diagnose such things as schizophrenia as purely psychological or physiological problems and try to counter them with drugs, when actually the cause is often spiritual.

We also play an important part in the spiritual warfare because we can help determine the outcome through our choices and prayers. We can exercise authority over all the demons of Hell and the Devil himself through the power Jesus promised His followers (Luke 10:19). In the case of a person being troubled mentally or emotionally by evil spirits, for example, we can command that spirit to leave and stop influencing the person they are afflicting.

The dark side

What about devil worship, demonism, black magic, and the like? Can people use spiritual powers to influence or cast spells on other people? Well, just as God has His means of communication in the spirit world, so does the imitator, the Devil. Just as God has His children, the Devil has his captives. God can possess His children, and the Devil can possess his.

God has seen fit to allow the Devil some power and control in the spiritual realm, within limits. Black magic, demonism, and so on are real, and those who practice them can wield real power. Just as God's people can pray to the Lord and ask Him to affect people and situations for good, so can the Devil's people communicate with him and curse others.

God has given the Devil certain powers, particularly over his own people—those who have rejected Christ and therefore aren't protected by the Spirit of God. The Lord gives everyone a degree of immunity or merciful protection from the Devil's influence up to the point of decision, when they must either accept or reject Jesus, but those who choose to reject leave themselves wide open for the Devil's lies (2 Thessalonians 2:10–11).

The right side—God's side

Of course there is also a *good* side to the spirit world—the side of light and right in which God Himself dwells with His Son Jesus

and the Holy Spirit, as well as many other good spirits. These include the seven spirits of God of Revelation 4:5, the seven stars or angels or spirits of the seven churches of Revelation 1:20, the four spirits of the heavens of Zechariah 6:5, and the multitudes of other celestial messengers, angels, or spirits of God mentioned in the Bible, as well as the spirits of all the millions of departed saints—all of whom are obviously *good* spirits.

The apostle Paul referred to these heavenly hosts as a “great cloud of witnesses” that surrounds us here and now (Hebrews 12:1). Like a cloud is composed of millions of tiny particles of moisture, this cloud is composed of millions of good spirits.

In another place Paul asks rhetorically, “Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?” (Hebrews 1:14). So they are not only watching us, they are watching over us, protecting us, and trying to influence us for good. All throughout the Bible there are many promises of spiritual protection, such as, “The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them” (Psalm 34:7), and, “He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways” (Psalm 91:11).

Knowing who's who

How do we tell the difference between God's good spiritual forces and the Devil's evil spirits?—The Bible tells us to “test the spirits, whether they are of God” (1 John 4:1). The difference is usually quite clear: God's power is creative and loving; the

Devil's power is destructive and hateful. God's Spirit ministers love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—all good things (Galatians 5:22–23). The Devil and his evil spirits minister fear, hatred, bitterness, strife, misery, confusion, and torment—all bad things.

The same goes for the thoughts that form our attitudes and direct our actions. If a thought is not according to God's Word or causes us to be unloving, discontent, bitter, dissatisfied, or critical of others, that thought is not from the Lord but from the enemy of our souls, the Devil.

Our best protection

The Lord protects His own. Jesus said, “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand” (John 10:27–28). Once we receive Jesus as our Savior, we are His property and the Devil can't get us back.

We can still get ourselves into a lot of trouble, however, if we stray from the Lord's protection by being careless and unprayerful, willfully disobeying His Word, or not heeding His warnings. So be obedient to God's laws of love, and don't give the Devil any place in your life (Ephesians 4:27). “Submit to God. Resist the Devil and he will flee from you” (James 4:7).

We who know and love the Lord don't have to fear the Devil, because we have a greater power that protects us. “He who is in you is greater than he who

is in the world” (1 John 4:4). In other words, God is saying, “My power in you is greater than the Devil's power in his people—much greater!” The Lord's protection is like a force field around us, which the Devil and his forces cannot penetrate, whereas God's power is like light that penetrates and destroys the Devil's darkness. Darkness can't exist in the presence of light.

The Devil can't touch us if we are the Lord's and in His will. So when the Devil *is* able to give us trouble, it's nearly always because we've strayed from the Lord's protection through disobedience, carelessness, or sin, and the Lord is trying to teach us a lesson and get us running back to Him. When we do, He is always there to deliver and protect us.

Wonders await you!

Even though the Bible has so much to say about the spirit world and the spiritual warfare, some Christians choose to ignore it or act like it doesn't exist. They are afraid of the subject because they feel it borders on spiritism and that talking about appearances of angels or departed saints sounds too much like having to do with “familiar spirits”—evil spirits and devils—which God's Word clearly condemns.

But this does not mean that we are supposed to ignore or shut ourselves off completely to the realities of the spiritual world in which God Himself dwells with His Son Jesus, the Holy Spirit, all His ministering spirits, the angels, as well as the spirits of all the millions of departed saints. We shouldn't condemn the entire spirit world

GUARDIAN ANGEL

just because the Devil also dwells and operates there. That would be like refusing to listen to any music just because the Devil uses music. If we stopped using everything the Devil uses, there wouldn't be much left for God and us to use for His good purposes!

We don't have to wait till we die to get a glimpse of the world to come. "As it is written, 'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.' But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God" (1 Corinthians 2:9–10). God wants to awaken us to the realities of the spirit world so we can enjoy the good, avail ourselves of the help He has put there for us, and more effectively combat the evil.

If you have received Jesus into your heart and have thereby been "born again of the Spirit" (John 3:5), you can safely explore the wonders of God's good spirit world. You don't need to fear or worry about demons or even Satan himself! God, His loving Holy Spirit, and His hosts of mighty angels are with you, surrounding, protecting, and delivering you from all evil (Psalm 34:7; 91:10–13). ◇

I WAS A TEENAGER THE FIRST TIME I SAW MY GUARDIAN ANGEL. I was heading across the street for some dive in San Francisco when suddenly he was right there on the curb in front of me, challenging me. He was tall, handsome, and blonde, with a real fine face, but dressed in an old bum's clothes and a slouch hat. He looked fiercely into my eyes, with eyes that glowed like fire, and I knew he wasn't going to budge an inch out of my way. He spoke to my mind, not with words but with his eyes or thoughts, and I heard him loud and clear, inside my head, as he looked at me with great disgust. "Where do you think you are going?" He knew where I was headed, and he was there to stop me—and stop me he did! I wasn't three feet from him, face to face, and he nearly scared me out of my wits! I nearly did a backward flip and ran the other way across that busy street, dodging cars. It's a wonder I didn't get killed. And I grabbed the first train home. I couldn't get out of there fast enough. I was terrified of him because somehow I knew exactly who he was—an angel of God in disguise, sent by the Lord to stop me from making a big mistake. It sure did the trick, and I never forgot it! So thank God for His angels, who are watching over us continually—even your personal angel, whose job is you. ◇



Here's Heaven!



ENDTIME INSIGHTS

BY JOSEPH CANDEL

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME, people have speculated, theorized, and fantasized about what it would be like and where their spirit would go when they die. Speculate, theorize, and fantasize no more! God's Word, the Bible, answers those questions very clearly and specifically.

God lifted some of His prophets into the spiritual realm and gave them a guided tour of Heaven—and they lived to tell about it. Here are parts of the apostle John's firsthand account:

I saw a new [atmospheric] heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.

...

And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.

"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Then He who sat on the throne [Jesus] said, "Behold, I make all things new."

And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. ... And the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

Revelation 21:1–5, 10–11, 18

John goes on to say that the base of this great city from space is 2,220 kilo-

meters (1,380 miles) square. Its peak is equal to its length and width, reaching 2,220 km into the sky (Revelation 21:16). Just think how beautiful it will be—a gigantic, pyramid-shaped city of clear crystal gold, standing on the earth 250 times taller than the world's tallest mountain, Mt. Everest.

Also [the city] had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates.

Revelation 21:12

An angel guards each gate. The fact that the city has a tall wall and gates guarded by angels shows that there will obviously be people or spirit beings who will not be allowed to enter the city.

Names [were] written on [the gates], which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. ... And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every gate was one pearl.

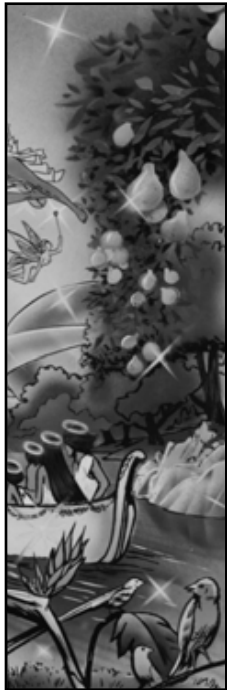
Revelation 21:12–14, 21

On each of the gates is the name of one of the twelve tribes of Israel, which is God's way of honoring the Israelites who believed in and followed Him. He also honors the original twelve apostles for their great work of starting His Church by putting their names on the twelve layers of the wall.

An angel measured the wall for John, and it was 66 meters (216 feet) high. Its twelve 5.5-meter (18-foot) high levels are each made of a different kind of precious or semiprecious stone—diamonds, rubies, emeralds, and so



The leaves
of the tree
were for the
healing of
the nations.



on (Revelation 21:17–20). Because this wall runs all the way around the base of the city, its total length is nearly 9,000 km (5,600 miles). Just imagine 9,000 km of gigantic diamonds, emeralds, rubies, and other gems! No one living has ever seen such beauty or riches!

And the gates! Can you imagine the gates for such a city, whose wall is 65 meters high? They would be gigantic—pearls such as this world has never seen!

And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.

Revelation 21:24

Inside the great heavenly city is where all of God's saved children will be free to live with Him forever. Outside the city there will be multitudes of previously unsaved people who have been raised from the dead, have stood before God's great judgment throne, and have been allowed by Him to live on the beautifully remade Garden-of-Eden-like earth (Revelation 21:24–26).

Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there).

Revelation 21:25

This wonderful heavenly city will always be open. Its citizens need no sleep.

There shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Revelation 21:27

Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life will be allowed to enter through those pearly gates. There will be nothing unclean there—no dirty city streets, no violence, no crime. Everything will be spotless and clean, sinless and beautiful! What a wonderful place—literally Heaven on earth!

And he [the angel who was giving John the tour] showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.

PRAISE BRINGS HEAVEN CLOSER

Praise is very important in Heaven because in Heaven, everyone is praiseful all the time. It's part of being there. And when you praise the Lord, it takes you there in the spirit and you partake of that praiseful atmosphere. "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise" (Psalm 100:4).

Praise is one of the greatest powers of Heaven. When you praise the Lord, you open yourself to the healing balm of Heaven and it clears your mind, relieves stress, and refreshes your spirit. Strength and power lie in praise—not only power

that lifts your spirit, but power to draw more power from the heavenly realm. Praise opens a channel to the heavenlies that allows the heavenly blessings to pour down. You don't just praise your way to victory, you also praise down the blessings of God.

Praise is a form of love. It's you telling the Lord how much you love Him and how thankful you are for all He does for you. As you praise and love Him, He loves you in return and pours His blessings on you. So sing those praises, pray those praises, pour forth those praises to the Lord. The blessings come down as the praises go up!

—DAVID BRANDT BERG

They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.

There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light.

Revelation 22:1–5

The inhabitants will flow in and out of those 12 gigantic gates of pearl, entering in to enjoy the wonders and joys of the heavenly city, and going out with leaves from the trees of life for the healing of the nations (Revelation 22:2). They will be helping and healing and teaching those outside about the Lord and His love and His ways, so one day *all* will finally know and love the Lord and be members of His kingdom of love!



Will you be able to pass through those gates of pearl to freely enjoy the heavenly city and its wonders? Are you saved? If you're not sure, you can be sure by entering God's heavenly kingdom right now in spirit. All you have to do is receive Jesus Christ, His Son, into your heart. Jesus said, "I am the Door. If any man enter in by Me, he shall be saved" (John 10:9). ◇

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The Bible is full of amazing glimpses into the world of the spirit. Here are a few:

Angels to the rescue

Genesis 19:1–28

Jacob wrestles with an angel

Genesis 32:24–30

The heavenly army

2 Kings 6:8–23

A chariot of fire

2 Kings chapter 2

God's throne

Ezekiel chapter 10

The message gets through

Daniel chapter 10

Jesus' summit conference

Matthew 17:1–9

John's trip to the spirit world

Revelation 1:10–18

A vision of the heavenly city

Revelation chapter 21; 22:1–5

WHEN EARTH'S LAST PICTURE IS PAINTED

RUDYARD KIPLING
(1865–1936)

When Earth's last picture is painted and the tubes are twisted and dried,
When the oldest colors have faded, and the youngest critic has died,
We shall rest, and, faith, we shall need it—lie down for an eon or two,
Till the Master of All Good Workmen shall put us to work anew!

And those that were good shall be happy: they shall sit in a golden chair;
They shall splash at a ten-league canvas with brushes of comets' hair.
They shall find real saints to draw from—Magdalene, Peter, and Paul;
They shall work for an age at a sitting and never be tired at all!

And only The Master shall praise us, and only The Master shall blame;
And no one shall work for money, and no one shall work for fame;
But each for the joy of the working, and each, in his separate star,
Shall draw the Thing as he sees It for the God of Things as They Are!

Loved by the Light

If you have faith in Me, you have no need to fear the future. With Me in your heart, you can know that I will care for you all the days of your life and on into the next life. Find peace in knowing Me, believing in My love, and believing that there is a better world waiting.

Let the light of My love shine into your life. Find comfort and solace in this light. When you know that I love you, you can rest assured that everything is going to be okay.

You cannot possibly imagine the love and joy and freedom that await you in the heavenly realm, but I can give you a little foretaste—a little glimpse of Heaven and its wonders. Won't you step into the light and experience a touch of that love?

FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

