

RUSSELL SANDERS  
7-6-2023  
A HOST OF ANGELS

In the course of our daily lives, it is extremely rare that anyone actually sees (knowingly) an angel of the Lord. It is even rarer to see a host (large number) of angels all together. Yet, we read in the Old Testament of a couple of people very special to God that did see a whole host of angels.

One such person was Jacob, whom God had chosen to build His nation of Israel. God even gave Jacob the new personal name Israel. Israel (Jacob) actually saw a host of angels twice. The first instance is recorded in Genesis 28:11-22 where he saw a ladder going from earth to heaven with angels ascending and descending it. We call this "Jacob's ladder." Jacob changed the name of the place that this happened from Luz to Beth-el which means, "the house of God." This angelic occurrence happened as he fled from Esau on his way to Abraham's homeland where he stayed with Laban.

The second time he saw a host of angels was when he left Laban to return home and face Esau. We see this in Genesis 32:1-3. As Jacob travelled (Genesis 32:1b-2) it says, ***"The angels of God met him. And when Jacob saw them, he said, 'this is God's host,' and he called the name of the place Mahanaim."*** Although Jacob had much fear about meeting his estranged brother Esau, this was God's confirmation that His angelic host was protecting him. Jacob named the place Mahanaim which means "two hosts" because Jacob had a large host of people and animals protected by a large host of angels.

The second person to see a host of angels was the prophet, Elisha. A large Syrian army had invaded and camped out against Elisha. His servant was very fearful. (2 Kings 6:12-17.) Elisha told him in verse 16, ***"Fear not; for they that be with us are more than they that be with them."*** Elisha prayed and God opened the servant's eyes to see a host of angels on horses and chariots protecting them. God smote that army with blindness and Elisha led them away.

This assures us that as God's chosen children who trust on Him, we are protected from great physical harm of an enemy by God's mighty host of warrior angels. In addition to His angel army, He also assigns one or more angels to each believer. We refer to these angels as guardian angels.

Yes, guardian angels are real. We might never see them (although it can happen) but they are there.