

JOSHUA

REVEALS JESUS CHRIST
AS THE CAPTAIN OF SALVATION



THE GOLDEN THREAD SERIES: E-BOOKLET SIX
LARRY M. JAYNES

The Golden Thread

Tracing Jesus through the Books of the Bible

An Anthology and Layman's Commentary of Jesus of Nazareth

Larry M. Jaynes

Joshua

Reveals Jesus Christ as the Captain of Salvation

E-Booklet Six of The Golden Thread Series



The Golden Thread

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Second Edition, 2014

Published by Bible Byte Communications
PO Box 814
Wiscasset, Maine 04578

Why this eBooklet is free:

We are so glad that you chose to download this eBooklet as our gift to you. Jesus taught us in Acts 20:35, "It is more blessed to give than to receive," and we aspire to follow our Lord's teaching. The Apostle Paul also understood this concept, "What is my reward then {for preaching and giving the gospel away freely}? *Verily* that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge" (I Corinthians 9:18). Paul came to realize that to serve the Word *without charge* was both a blessing to those who received the Word and to himself personally because he understood that God Himself is the reward, "I *am* thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward" (Genesis 15:1, and see Hebrews 11:6). When you have God in your life as your *exceeding great reward*, then being *with God* you will have everything you need to begin enjoying the more than abundant life. Our prayer for you is that you come to know experientially that "with God all things are possible" (Mark 10:27).

Enjoy, and God Bless You!

Scripture Notes:

Number one:

The verses quoted in this book are either from the King James Version of the Bible, or the Amplified Bible — Expanded Edition. When explicatory additions are used by the author in any of the Scripture verses they are enclosed in {braces}. Any other (parentheses) and/or [brackets] found in the Scriptures in this book have already been inserted by the Bible translators.

Example:

John 3:16 (The Amplified Bible):**

For God so greatly loved and dearly praised the world {the people in the world} that He [even] gave up His only begotten (unique) Son, so that whoever believes in (trusts in, clings to, relies on) Him {God's Son, who is Jesus Christ} shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost) but have eternal (everlasting) life.

Number two:

All Hebrew and Greek words quoted in this book are transliterated into English, and will be typed in *italics*.

Example:

The verb “loved” in John 3:16 (above) is the Greek word *agapaō* and indicates God's love applied.

Number three:

In the Bible the words *son of God* and *sons of God* is an all-inclusive biblical language and includes men and women, boys and girls, young and old.

Example:

Romans 8:14 (The Amplified Bible):**

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Preamble

“All things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.” Jesus Christ

Have you ever asked yourself, What is the subject of the Bible? If we were to pose this question to any number of people, responses would be numerous. But what if we could honestly find one single thread of truth in the Bible that would satisfy the question and prove the subject beyond any doubt? We would benefit immensely by having the clearest understanding of God’s opened will when reading His Scriptures. The Golden Thread answers this question; Jesus Christ is that one thread, and thus, he is the illustrated subject and theme through both the Old and New Testaments.

This Golden Thread Bible study series can be briefly summarized with three verses of Scripture, two of which are found in the first chapter of the Gospel of John, “*And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us,*” and “*we have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth.*” The third verse is found in the seventh chapter of the Book of Hebrews, “*Wherefore he {Jesus} is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*”

When comparing these three verses, it is evident that Jesus is, first, according to the Bible itself, the incarnate Word of God; secondly, Jesus is the living subject and focal point of all that the Prophets wrote, and thirdly, Jesus is unquestionably the only way to, not only salvation, but to God Himself. Consequently bypassing Jesus in one’s search into the Bible is the main reason that so many people do not understand the heart of the Scriptures. Jesus of Nazareth confessed, “*I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father but by me.*” When a man or a woman can come to know Jesus as he is, this is when coming to know the Father and His way, His love, and His truth is assured by Jesus!

So the questions that one must ask and answer when looking for God the Father is: “Have we followed Jesus along his *way*, have we discovered that he is the *truth*, and have we received the *life* that he himself is?” These questions are brought to light and then answered from beginning to end in this series as we follow Jesus through every Book in the Bible, commencing in Genesis, so that you will be able to say with believing confidence, “I have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth.”

Preface:

“THE truth of the Lord’s coming runs like a golden thread from Genesis to Revelation. It is not a new doctrine, but an old truth . . . May we see how full the Scripture is of it, and how it runs like a golden thread.” William G. Carr / June 1894

Our intent in this series is to find and then highlight Scripture and follow its woven course through the Bible concerning Jesus Christ, noticing how these Scriptures relate to the whole of the Golden Thread who is Jesus Christ, thereby uncovering the inherent knitted tapestry of Christ that is displayed throughout God’s Word.

Our aim through this approach is in the pursuit of the thread that holds the living Word together, for then the larger mural of the life of Christ and what he has accomplished for humanity is brought clearly into focus.

In the course of this series as we pass through all of the books of the Bible, we will highlight a theme from each book, such as this study in the Book of Genesis. Our focal point will be to emphasize the singular aspect of Jesus Christ as the Promised Seed. Indeed, there are hundreds of thousands of subjects in Genesis and all of them do relate to Christ in various meaningful ways. However, our endeavor is to “figuratively” point a telescope at a single thread and bring this into a clear focus. Then we will hold a microscope over that particular focused concept to clearly view a detail of our wonderful Savior. With this approach, we will actually be magnifying, one by one, biblical concepts, concepts that were previously unclear or totally unrealized, and these will be cataloged for you throughout this series.

As an example, in Genesis we will begin following the thread of the Promised Seed who is Jesus Christ, searching for wherever the path itself leads and thereon we will be guided into both the Gospels and the New Testament; this research method will be followed through from Genesis to Revelation.

Learning about Jesus Christ from only the Gospels can greatly confine and blur one’s complete vision of him. Often the Gospels give a summation of the life of Jesus, whereas the why and the purpose and the reason for God sending His Son

are largely offered to us in extraordinary details throughout the Old Testament Scriptures and further ahead in the New Testament Scriptures. If we were to only look at the Gospels in a search for Jesus Christ, we may end up drawing conclusions devoid of all the contributing factors and perhaps only understanding about half of the story of his life's purpose as it relates to you — personally.

In The Golden Thread series, we will bring out new insight regarding Jesus by viewing him through both the Old and New Testaments to see the purpose, the prophecies, and the reason why God sent His Son into the world, and then a more palpable representation of him comes into the spotlight to enlighten our day-to-day walks with God which is our goal as believing Christians.

Honestly now, consider this with me; Would it benefit you and me if I framed only a small part of a great masterpiece and still call it a priceless work of art? Oh, let us say for illustration, what if I framed only one square inch of Vincent van Gogh's "Sunflowers" masterpiece, viewing only a piece of one sunflower and some of the background, and placed this up on my wall? How would any of the guests in my home recognize what I had framed? Could you honestly enjoy and appreciate the scope and beauty of the whole artwork with ninety-five percent of the master's brushstrokes missing? How could that inspire a connection to his masterwork, and to the brilliance of the artist himself?

In The Golden Thread, we view Jesus of Nazareth through the entire Bible (a widescreen version), rather than viewing him from just the Gospels because the Gospels are only a part of the whole portrait of our Redeemer, and then we present to you a most clear and enlarged illustration of him that will enlighten you with opened windows allowing in the fresh air and light to reveal hidden truths that reflect upon his heart and purpose that connects you — to him.

Our endeavor will be to discover for ourselves the comfort provided by *The Comforter* as we come to know the Son of God who will truly link our searching thoughts together with those of — our Creator.

The inlayed thread-mark of Christ has no end, for he is woven contiguously back and forth through the fibrous pages of Holy Writ, ever rejuvenating the human heart with revelations and godly insights. Thus, the revelation of Jesus Christ being the Golden Thread starts at the borders of prophecy as he forms cords of a safety net that secures man's entrance into eternity. As we proceed through the

books of the Bible, we will be examining within the Scriptures its inherent story showcased within to discover and enjoy the embrace of the living Christ.

The Golden Thread is written as a layman's commentary to guide the reader through the accomplishments of Jesus of Nazareth for the redemption of searching men and women.

Jesus is the principle figure, holding every fragment of the Scripture together in perfect harmony, for he is "the power of God, and the wisdom of God" (I Corinthians 1:24). Thus, without him there is no spiritual power or wisdom that may be truly gained in regards to heavenly ordained truths that are imparted to believers through understanding the complete Christ of Scripture.

As we discover the Redeemer in the Scriptures, he then reveals true hope and joy within our souls and gives soothing relief from confusion and uncertainty regarding the individual believer's ultimate destiny.

The Golden Thread is not written to cater to any particular set of religious beliefs, but rather crosses religious boundaries and preset dogmas in the exploration to enlighten searching souls with the Bible's inherent narrative of our Savior.

This series highlights the Bible with understandable passages to augment biblical perimeters of thought and provide avenues into Christ's life to portray what he accomplished for the salvation of the world.

The Golden Thread presents Jesus Christ as a true and totally complete Savior and allows his-story to come alive within the heart of one's understanding.

Our goal through the Scriptures is to equip the reader with the keys to make a spiritual connection with the living Christ and the God of heaven and creation.

With the Just One as our guide, we will also find him to be our open Door, and through him we discover heavenly love, peace, joy, grace, and hope as is revealed throughout the Scriptures.

"The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth" Acts 22:14

I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." Jesus Christ

Joshua

Reveals Jesus Christ as the Captain of Salvation

An angel “with his sword drawn in his hand” appeared before Joshua who was unsure about why the angel came and so asked him in Joshua 5:13: “*Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?*” I am confident that I would also wonder what was up if I had seen an angel with a drawn sword, and following we find the angel’s reply.

Joshua 5:14a:

And he said, Nay {I am not come to be an *adversaries*}; but *as* captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. . .

The *captain of the host of the LORD* meant that this angel was Michael the Archangel who fights for God’s people (Daniel 12:1), and thus he had his sword in his hand. The angel’s eloquent salutation must have set Joshua’s heart to rest and provided comfort amidst being surrounded on all sides by enemies and being disheartened at the decease of Moses, his teacher (Joshua 1:2). God had provided His angel, Michael, as He did for Moses and the children of Israel (Exodus 23:22–23, and Isaiah 63:9), which was ample encouragement for Joshua to continue leading Israel over the River Jordan and into the Promised Land.

As long as the children of Israel obeyed God’s Word, they had the covering of God’s protection; it was only when they walked away from God’s instructions that calamities ever happened to them (reference, the Bible). Throughout the Book of Joshua, Michael fights behind the scenes for the people of God (See the Bonus Chapter at the conclusion of this study, “The LORD is My Helper”).

In this chapter, we will concentrate on the Archangel Michael, the *captain* of the guardian angels, whereas in the next chapter on The Book of Judges we will be learning of the Archangel Gabriel whose mission is mainly to deliver messages for God. All the angels are divided under three ruling Archangels; Michael is the warrior, Gabriel is the messenger, and Lucifer was the Angel of light. He was the greatest of them all, having in his possession the brilliant knowledge of all true

light, until he fell and became known as Satan, the god (small “g”) of this world, the Prince of darkness.

Michael, the Archangel has many of the same qualities as our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ who loved us so much that he actually stood up like Michael, being “for us,” and then Jesus even switched places with us, standing in our stead. “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly” (Romans 5:6), meaning “that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

It took the life of Jesus Christ offering himself as our Captain to lead us up to His Majesty’s love and spiritual embrace!

Christ was willing of his own choice to make the ultimate sacrifice for those who were *without strength* and who *were yet sinners*. Christ *died for us*, going down into the pits of hell, and this he did for you and for me because he so loved man with all of his heart. Thankfully, with his resurrection, “his soul was not left in hell {Hades!}” (Acts 2:31). When Jesus was raised up from the dead and left that lifeless place, he went out the door and kept the keys (Revelation 1:18). Thus he truly is “the resurrection, and the life” (John 11:25), and the hope of all mankind fulfilled the prophecy, “I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death” (Hosea 13:14).

Jesus tasted “death for every man” (Hebrews 2:9), and when he returns there will be an awakening for both the believer and, in turn, the unbeliever also, “there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust” (Acts 24:15). Jesus said, “the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation” (John 5:28–29).

We all have heard the phrase, “I’d go to the ends of the Earth for you.” Well, Jesus, the Captain of our Salvation, traversed much further, and through incomprehensible suffering he went the way of all the Earth — into the grave, into *Hades* itself, only he returned bearing gifts for all humanity with “all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Colossians 2:3).

Jesus arose with your reserved seating at the table of God's blessings in the Throne Room and at the right hand of His Majesty where there will be "pleasures for evermore."

Psalms 16:10-11:

-10: For thou {God} wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One {Jesus} to see corruption {total decaying, for he was only dead for three days and three nights}.

-11: Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence *is* fulness of joy; at thy right hand *there are* pleasures for evermore.

When the children of Israel walked with God and believed Him, they had tremendous powers at their command because they had Michael and his sword, his powers, and his angels (one third of all the heavenly angels) to stand up for and with Israel. "Truly the LORD hath delivered into our hands all the land; for even all the inhabitants of the country do faint because of us" (Joshua 2:24). This alone deflated the hopes and powers of their enemies, "their heart melted, neither was there spirit in them any more, because of the children of Israel" (Joshua 5:1).

Exodus 23:28:

And I will send hornets before thee, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite, from before thee.

Interesting to note, that the only time Israel actually had to fight a battle was when they were fearfully unbelieving, untrusting, and doubting the revealed Word of God — thus not allowing God the blessing of intervening to bring deliverance.

Indeed, when Israel went to battle with the nations, those battles were bloody slaughters, but they were totally UNNECESSARY — IF AND WHEN they were faithful to God's Word.

God instructed them that if they do fight (for lack of believing Him), then not to leave any survivors. This is not because God was bloodthirstily, it broke His heart to command such things, but that was the law of the land, an eye for an eye, and if any of their enemies survived, the battles would repeatedly return through time to fight over and again. Example: the Philistines and Israel fought each other for years and years: "the Philistines have dealt by revenge, and have taken vengeance

with a spiteful heart, to destroy it {Israel} for the old hatred" (Ezekiel 25:15). This continuing nightmare of repeated battles with the decedents of their enemies was the case all too often; it was the bane of their existence and for their existence throughout much of the Old Testament as they did not destroy all of the enemies of Israel when instructed. Nevertheless, in Ezekiel 33:11 we read, "As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked," opposite "to" or "of" common belief, but God is not rejoicing over anyone's death. If any biblical war could have been avoided — then it would have been, and still war happened because they feared the enemy, they did not believe God's Word, and the nature of sin itself instigates conflict and fighting from within (James 4:1).

Psalms 33:10-22:

-10: The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect.

-11: The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.

-12: Blessed *is* the nation whose God is the LORD: *and* the people *whom* he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

-13: The LORD looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men.

-14: From the place of his habitation he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth.

-15: He fashioneth their hearts alike; he considereth all their works.

-16: There is no king saved by the multitude of an host: a mighty man is not delivered by much strength.

-17: An horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver *any* by his great strength.

-18: Behold, the eye of the LORD *is* upon them that fear {respect and honor} him, upon them that hope in his mercy;

-19: To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.

-20: Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he is our help and our shield.

-21: For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name.

-22: Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee.

In Exodus, we have one great example of God helping Israel avoid war and simply go around the enemy whenever possible. "And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not *through* the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, Lest peradventure {if

perhaps} the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt {and go back into bondage}" (Exodus 13:17). The best war is no war, and yet the nature of man is to war over and again until the future - in Christ's kingdom when the "whole earth is at rest, *and* is quiet" (Isaiah 14:7) - for a thousand years (Revelation 20:3-4), and then again there will be peace eternally on the new heaven and earth (Revelation 21:4). There is a wonderful day when Micah 4:3 becomes a reality, "nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

Note: Israel did not steal the land, they were taking it back; it was their land (Genesis 12:7, 13:15, 15:7, Exodus 6:1-8, and Deuteronomy 34:1-4), and was promised to them from the days of Abram (Abraham). The nations and people who were living on Israel's land took advantage of Israel and stole it, and installed an endless array of gods for idle worship when Israel went into bondage in Egypt. Israel had every right and the permission from God, the highest authority of all, to go and retake their homeland, and no worldly authority can dispute this with God or change His mind and invalidate His gifts (Romans 11:39).

Joshua 23:5-11:

-5: And the LORD your God, he shall expel them from before you {see, no battle if they would have believed}, and drive them from out of your sight; and ye shall possess their land, as the LORD your God hath promised unto you {before it was "their land"}.

-6: Be ye therefore very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, that ye turn not aside therefrom to the right hand or to the left;

-7: That ye come not among these nations, these that remain among you; neither make mention of the name of their gods, nor cause to swear *by them*, neither serve them, nor bow yourselves unto them:

-8: But cleave unto the LORD your God, as ye have done unto this day.

-9: For the LORD hath driven out from before you great nations and strong: but *as for* you, no man hath been able to stand before you unto this day.

-10: One man of you shall chase a thousand {I believe this is still true today, "I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people, that have set *themselves* against me round about"— Psalms 3:6}: for the LORD your God, he it is that fighteth for you, as he hath promised you.

-11: Take good heed therefore unto yourselves, that ye love the LORD your God.

In the Book of Joshua, when the children of Israel mounted on their crusade at Jericho, the Archangel Michael went before them and helped them win the battle. "And I will send an angel before thee; and I will drive out the Canaanite, the Amorite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite" (Exodus 33:2). Jesus Christ is our Captain, and as Michael was to Joshua and Israel, nowadays Jesus is an archetype to us in grace.

Hebrews 2:10:

For it became him, for whom *are* all things, and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain {Jesus} of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Many sons represent each and every believer whether male or female. Jesus, through his sufferings, has brought us into his very own glory.

Colossians 3:4:

When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

II Thessalonians 2:14:

Whereunto he {God} called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In the Book of Joshua, we can read many of the different victories Israel enjoyed. *The captain of the LORD of hosts* blazed a trail of deliverance before them. In the same manner, we can also find our own Captain of Salvation who blazed the trail that leads us to the total victory of an endless life.

Hebrews 1:14:

Are they {angels} not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

The angels of Hebrews 1:14 are sent from God to minister as guardians, watching over those who shall *be heirs of salvation*. *The captain of the host* of all the guardian angels is Michael the Archangel.

Before one receives salvation, he or she has a minimum of one guardian angel. Guardian angels were or are protecting us until we accept our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, then he becomes our eternal Captain, perfect interceder, and continued advocate. Jesus Christ reveals God's true strength in us so that we may be more than conquerors now and throughout eternity.

Joshua 1:9:

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

When we become saved, God gives us holy spirit by creating Christ (the Promised Seed) within our hearts (Ephesians 4:23–24, Colossians 1:27 and 3:10). Then Christ Jesus becomes our Captain, our eternal Guardian, and the Anchor of our souls. Christ is always in motion anchoring the mobile human soul to the God of Heaven, not anchoring us to the bottom of the abyss with weights and bonds that cannot be hoisted. God's strength pulls off strongholds that normally would hold us down (II Corinthians 10:4). Christ Jesus changed our destiny from one of spiritual death (Ephesians 2:1, 6), up to one of having eternal life being securely lifted and spiritually anchored aloft in the loving embrace of our heavenly Father.

John 10:28–29:

-28: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.

-29: My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no man {no man, no one, nothing} is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand {See Romans 8:33–39}.

The Archangel Michael fought for the protection of the people of God in the Old Testament times, whereas our struggle for life eternal has already been spiritually awarded through our believing faith in Christ. "For we which have believed do enter into rest (Hebrews 4:3), and triumph in "the victory that overcometh the world, even our {believing} faith" (I John 5:4).

Hebrews 6:19–20:

-19: Which *hope* we have {in Christ} as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil {of the Holy of Holies in Heaven itself};

-20: Whither the forerunner is for us entered, *even* Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec {i.e., an eternally unchanging priestly ministry}.

Once a man or a woman becomes saved, they will always have Jesus Christ who gives wisdom in spiritual revelations regarding the true meanings and purposes of having God in Christ at rest within. The redeeming work of our salvation has already been accomplished through Christ. Currently, all we can do is accept and believe in his accomplishments for one and all, and bask in God's grace. We learn about what we have received by Christ' redeeming work from the Scriptures, and as we believe them he energizes them into reality to our inner beings. "*Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart*" (II Corinthians 3:3). From the heart we begin to realize the many blessings we have received and the powers we have to use, and the blessings we have to enjoy.

Hebrews 13:1–2:

-1: LET brotherly love continue.

-2: Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some {*some*, but not everyone} have entertained angels unawares {unknowingly}.

Entertaining angels was a belief and custom well practiced in the biblelands. People were always very hospitable and kind to strangers and in so doing they believed that they were doing a decorous service for God. A great example of this is seen in the Good Samaritan who helped a stranger in desperate need of assistance in Luke 10:30–35, and another good example is Lot, Abraham's nephew, who took two angels in off the street in Genesis 19:1ff. In our Western culture, this type of kindness towards strangers is somewhat frowned upon and thought of as an indecorous act, for we are taught to be wary of most every stranger, and many hold a certain amount of distrust towards people they do not know.

In Hebrews 13:1-2 above, we are NOT instructed to be looking for angels around every corner, rather the emphasis is on the continuance of *brotherly love*, for then we are always prepared to *entertain* with the Word of God (I Peter 3:15).

When people entertain in their homes they normally offer refreshments, while in grace we can entertain with the refreshments that come from the Lord, "The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me" (II Timothy 1:16), and we can refresh our fellow man with the uplifting Word of God and the Gospel of redemption and salvation, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19). We can even refresh ourselves when speaking of God's wholesome words, "I will speak, that I may be refreshed: I will open my lips and answer" (Job 32:20), and as the Psalmist confessed, "How sweet are thy words unto my taste! *yea, sweeter* than honey to my mouth" (Psalms 119:103).

Hebrews 13:2, above, means that when and/or if we entertain a stranger and they have not yet been saved, but are to *be heirs of salvation* at some future time, then they themselves will absolutely have a guardian angel watching over their souls. When we help another person, such as a complete stranger, and receive their own personal salvation by showing them the Captain of our Salvation — Jesus Christ, then simultaneously we would have (perhaps unknowingly), been entertaining their guardian angels with the love of God as well. Furthermore, if our sharing about salvation through Christ saves just one person, then we become the ones who will be furloughing their guardian angel back to God, up to the heavenly party given in the new believer's honor (Luke 15:10), and their angel will receive their next assignment.

Who really knows - maybe - just maybe God would send you an angel in the category of phenomenon to bring you some good news; however, this scenario is not the norm nor is it a promise in His Word, though it does happen from time to time. What is guaranteed to you in the Scriptures is that before your salvation, you indeed had a guardian angel, Christ is now the Captain of your Salvation, and it is him we are to look to (Hebrews 12:2) because Jesus, the hope of our salvation, is "made so much better than {all} the angels" (Hebrews 1:4).

Jesus offered his body and blood for the sin of the world (See our chapter on Exodus, in this series), and this is something no angel could ever offer for humanity, for they are spiritual beings: "Who {God} maketh his angels spirits"

(Psalms 104:4), and, “a spirit hath not flesh and bones” according to Jesus (Luke 24:39). Thus, they could not offer themselves for the human race as Jesus did.

Hebrew 2:16–18:

-16: For verily he {Jesus} took not on *him the nature* of angels; but he took on *him* the seed of Abraham.

-17: Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto *his* brethren {flesh and blood}, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

-18: For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is {currently} able to succour {aid and comfort} them that are tempted.

Before our salvation we also had at least one guardian angel – guaranteed – and usually, but not always, we were completely unaware of their presence.

There is a whole gamut of beliefs regarding angels ranging from their being around watching our every move, perhaps even recording all our failures to be used against us at some future day of judgment, to their being past relatives or acquaintances. Other people are unaware of the more ominous and terrifying portrayal when “Satan himself is transformed {on certain occasions} into an {supposed} angel of light” (II Corinthians 11:14), but everything Satan and his minions do will eventually crumble to dust (See Luke 22:31). Having once been the Angel of Light, Satan knows every conceivable way to bend light and can imprison man by using the prism of darkness so that it will appear as genuine as God’s light. (See our series on **Geneses - Chapter Six, The Writers’ Author and His Story of Creation and Life**, subtitle: *Universal, Spiritual, and Physical Laws*. This is a study of angels and many other types of spiritual beings that you might find interesting as well as enlightening.)

Unfortunately, many people who do not understand the Scriptures will buy into the popular mania of being all too aware of entertaining angels as though they are apt to come into sight at any time rather than entertaining *angels unawares*, which is the only true mania the Bible supports. However, angels do not lead people to Christ, or salvation; people do (See the Book of Acts, and II Corinthians 5:18–20).

There are a few other unscriptural misnomers about angels that I would like to address. In the Bible, when angels are seen, they are most always perceived as

men of normal size. Not once did anyone in the Scriptures find an angel in miniature form or as a ghostly see-through creature. Angels in most every biblical account are distinguished as standing or walking men. They were not seen as winged men, women, or “gargoyle looking things” that flutter around in the air, nor are they seen with halos, nor are they babies equipped with bow and arrow; in some art, yes that is how angels are portrayed, but in biblical reality — never.

Angels are sometimes, but not always, noticeably bright and in whose presence men and women would delight because of their enthusiasm. For the Christian believer, angels will never bring you new insights or revelation that could contradict the Scriptures because they are sent by God and they will never be at cross purposes at any point in God’s revealed Word, which is His will. “Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word” (Psalms 103:20), and if an angel was to speak he will always be *hearkening* to God’s Word rather than contradicting His Word, as they are always Text Messengers. However, a spirit from the kingdom of darkness masquerading as an angel of light would contradict, and deliver spam messages, and they can be rebuked in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ (Jude 9, Philippians 2:10, and Zechariah 3:2).

Angels do not hang out in graveyards, haunt houses, or hover over people’s beds, but devil spirits may. Now honestly, if you were an angel of God’s and given a choice, would you chose a cemetery over God’s heavenly Kingdom? Of course you would not, and neither would they, and in truth their habitation is in heaven with God, as Jesus said, “angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 18:10, and See Revelation 3:5, 5:11)!

Angels are also not available to be summoned in a séance, a forbidden activity in Old Testament Law (Deuteronomy 18:10–12 and II Kings 23:2–25). Angels are sent to people by God at His discretion (but not to conjurers at their behest) and godly angels never appear simply to frighten people, or to rearrange their furniture, or to throw stuff in the air, or to play with light switches. God’s angels always bring godly profit; they are orderly and respectful to the individual to whom they are sent. In most biblical examples of angels, we see that their salutation is “Fear not” (Matthew 1:20, 28:5, Luke 1:13, 30, 2:10, 5:10, Acts 27:23–24, and Revelation 1:17), for they are a godsend.

At best, a conjurer can summon “familiar spirits,” spirits that are familiar with the people they have followed and observed. Familiar spirits are fallen angels (now called devil spirits) who were once called the stars of heaven, but have been cast out along with Lucifer, the “great red dragon” (Revelation 12:3–4), and all the devil spirits are subject to the control of Satan. But we need not fear them in any way as I John 4:4 states, “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you {Christ in you}, than he that is in the world {Satan and his echelon of evil spirits}.

Revelation 12:9:

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth {this was eons before man was created}, and his angels were cast out with him.

See Revelation 20:2 that verifies these four major names for one and the same entity who used to be called Lucifer, God’s morning star, before he rebelled in heaven (Revelation 12:7).

The whole rotten lot of those fallen stars will never give anybody the true Word of God without first twisting it into something it is not. Recall for illustration that the Devil himself quoted Scripture to Jesus, but it was out of context, and if Jesus had followed through on the Devil’s advice, Jesus would have jumped off the “pinnacle of the temple” to his demise (Matthew 4:5–6).

Often these devil spirits can provide false “signs and lying wonders” (II Thessalonians 2:9), for they are deceiving “spirits of devils” (Revelation 16:14), that will eventually come to naught. They are called “familiar spirits” (Deuteronomy 18:11) or “seducing spirits” spreading “doctrines of devils” (I Timothy 4:1). And yes, they really do know things that only an individual is familiar with, but when those spirits predict future events for one’s life, they use the best guess scenario based entirely on what they already have observed about a person’s past habits. In truth, only God knows the future because He is always present, dwelling “from everlasting {through} to everlasting” (Psalms 90:2). (For more on God’s eternal presence; See our series on **Geneses - Chapter eight, Continuing From the Beginning.**)

There are familiar spirits that spring up out of the darkness of this world to bring incorrect information and/or guidance, as they “whisper out of the dust {i.e., *whisper* untruthful information out of the place of death}” (Isaiah 29:4), however, Paul warns, “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you {which emanates from heaven} into the grace of Christ unto another gospel” (Galatians 1:6). Familiar spirits ultimately lead people away from God, thus the Law commanded: “Regard not them that have familiar spirits” (Leviticus 19:31), so most definitely they are real – but they are ungodly, and Jesus spent a great deal of his time kicking them out of people’s lives – for a few examples see Mark 1:25–27, 9:25–27, and Luke 4:32–36.

A legitimate angel apparition, biblically, is a very rare privileged occurrence, but and if God was to grant someone a visit, then that is a blessing for the individual personally – not something to be published or bragged about as it is a sacred and phenomenal trust between God and that individual. Today in grace, these visits are never to be written about in books and especially in the forms of any types of guidance. It is perfectly acceptable to God in most every case if an angelic experience is shared with a spouse, for they are “one” in God’s eyes (Mark 10:6–9). The people in the Bible never ran around on the housetops bragging on how special they were to have received a visitation, but used the saintly information to help either themselves or others in need of assistance. Whenever God sends an angel to a “believer,” then he or she will receive immediate as well as long term profit without any negative repercussions.

God will “never” send you word via an angel about the faults or sins of yourself or others – we are all too familiar with our own sins and/or the sins of others and it does not take an angel to make this known. “For our transgressions are with us; and as for our iniquities, we know them” (Isaiah 59:12). Besides, what God has forgiven, He has completely forgotten. The written Word of God is given without exclusion to all, and this we can enjoy together and this we love to talk about and share because His Word is the standard we are to aspire to and speak of as it gladdens our hearts.

Angels are not normally known about, yet are abnormally guessed about with fantastical stories referencing angels on almost a daily basis. We can accept the clear-cut teachings of the Word, or follow the course of the world – but when we got the “I” out of the “world,” which will pass away (I John 2:17) we will discover the “Word” in all its splendors, for His Word “liveth and abideth for ever” (I Peter

1:23). We can come to an accurate understanding of angels only through God's everlasting Word and by knowing Christ, but never through the contradictory, personal experiences of others. The Scriptures teach that guardian angels watch over those who *shall be heirs of salvation*, yet we cannot find Scriptures that say or even hint that we have full time guardian angels after being born again because we then have Christ permanently in our life. And if we come to know him as the thread that leads us to God, then he becomes our true conscience for good and our inner strength to conquer over evil and central guidance in this current life.

Having said all the above about the norm of godly angels, I have seen in the Word that God has a remarkable way of knowing just how to inspire individuals, for "there is nothing too hard for thee" (Jeremiah 32:17).

God spoke to Moses out of a burning bush that was not consumed in the fire in Exodus chapter 3, but notice that this miraculous sight was meant only for Moses, for God does not talk to us out of our bushes. This was a vision, as in the flame was a manifestation of an angel's voice, "the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush" (Exodus 3:2), thus, angels have been seen as "flaming fire" (Psalms 104:4). Still this meeting with God, Moses, and the angel was for Moses' personal benefit.

God at another time spoke to Balaam out of the mouth of his dumb ass in Numbers chapter 22, but also notice that this was personally for Balaam, and more than likely God will not be talking to us out of the mouth of our pets or farm animals. This was also a vision as "the LORD opened the mouth of the ass" (Numbers 22:28), and Balaam saw the angel standing in his way who further instructed Balaam to return and complete his commission of speaking God's Word. This was a specific blessing for Balaam who returned to fulfill his calling that was precisely following the complete harmony of Scripture and the words God gave him to prophecy.

Then we have old Belshazzar in the Book of Daniel chapter 5, who had a drinking party and God wrote with a hand on his wall: "Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting." But again, notice that this was a custom-made occurrence for only Belshazzar, and there is no guarantee that God will communicate with you if you throw a booze party.

These instances are not the standards or the normal way in which God makes Himself known to people, especially now in these days of grace because His Word is complete, and is at our fingertips, and the Word reveals Christ and Christ reveals God.

Hebrews 1:1-2:

-1: God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets {such as the examples above via angels},

-2: Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.

The joyous responsibility of Jesus Christ is to make known his Father to us throughout His Word and as we then learn about God through Christ, then God can manifest Himself in our lives and we will know it is Him. When we are saved, we have Christ within, and he inspires us with heavenly thoughts or impressions, which are gently given and are uplifting from within our hearts to reveal the ways and means of God.

Guardian angels have an exceptionally good reason to watch over those who *shall be heirs of salvation* (Hebrews 1:14 above). “Know ye not that we shall {in the next life} judge angels” (I Corinthians 6:3)? This may seem too awesome to actually comprehend but it is what the Word of God reveals regarding the next age and through eternity. The word *judge* here means to set standards and examples; not deciding what is right and wrong and legal or illegal. In a heavenly reversal of responsibilities — we will be an example to angels by setting standards that they will look up to and respectfully honor, as we watch over them, for we already are the children of His Majesty in His heavenly Kingdom of nobility, the sons and daughters of God Almighty.

When I arrive in Heaven, the very first thing I personally want to do is look up my guardian angel (hoping he is out of the angel hospital and has recuperated after the arduous task of taking care of me before I was saved), and give him a big ol’ hug, and thank him with all my heart’s gratitude! I will always be eternally grateful because without him I would have not found my way to Christ.

Not only does God commission guardian angels, but also our Lord Jesus has one angel in particular whom he sends out on missions. "I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you {John} these things in the churches {*these things*, which are now recorded in the Book of Revelation}" (Revelation 22:16). This is the same angel Jesus sent to help Peter and who delivered him from his up and coming execution, recorded in the Book of Acts chapter 12:1ff, as Peter confessed in verse 11; "The Lord {Jesus} hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod."

Hebrews 1:3-4:

-3: Who {Jesus} being the brightness of *his* glory {God's glory}, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

-4: being made so much better than the angels, as he {Jesus} hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they {the angels}.

The Archangel Michael in the Book of Joshua was for the children of Israel a captain and guardian, while today in grace — Jesus Christ is the everlasting Captain of our Salvation and the Guardian of our souls.

Bonus Chapter

The LORD is My Helper

(Note: All bonus chapters relate to the subject of *The Golden Thread*)

In the Book of II Kings, there is the story of Ben-hadad, the King of Syria, who wanted to get rid of the Prophet and man of God, Elisha, because he spoke against the king. Elisha even went so far as pointing out what the king spoke in the privacy of his bedchamber (II Kings 6:8-12).

The king sent spies throughout the land to locate the man of God so Ben-hadad could have him executed. When the spies returned, Ben-hadad found out that Elisha was residing in Dothan, which is approximately forty-five miles north of Jerusalem, near the Mount of Gilban. Ben-hadad sent his army out to go and fetch Elisha in the middle of the night, prefiguring Jesus' arrest also at night (John 18:3 ff).

Let us follow the story along and see how the LORD, *Jehovah* helped Elisha out of this current danger:

II Kings 6:14-18:

-14: Therefore sent he {Ben-hadad} thither horses, and chariots, and a great host {a very large army}: and they came by night, and compassed the city about.

-15: And when the servant of the man of God {Elisha's servant or understudy} was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do?

-16: And he {Elisha} answered, Fear not: for they that *be* with us *are* more than they that *be* with them.

-17: And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD {*Jehovah*}, I pray thee {*kill all my enemies!* No he did not; perhaps there is a lesson here; See Romans 12:14-21}, open his eyes {Elisha's servant}, that he may see. And the LORD {*Jehovah*} opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain *was* full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

-18: And when they {the great host of the enemy} came down to him, Elisha prayed unto the LORD {*Jehovah*}, and said, Smite this people, I pray thee, with blindness. And he smote them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.

Wow, this is quite a wonderful story! Yet it is only one of hundreds, which are written to inspire our hearts to also look unto our heavenly Father and His strength, for He is always with us. So, *Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.* “For he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord *is* my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me” (Hebrews 13:5-6). It should be noted that the blindness and disorientation of the enemy army was short-lived, and they even received a free meal out of the deal (II Kings 6:21-23).

The story continues:

II Kings 6:19-20:

-19: And Elisha said unto them {the enemy army that came to get him}, This *is* not the way, neither *is* this the city: follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom ye seek. But he led them to Samaria {right into their enemy’s camp}.

-20: And it came to pass, when they were come into Samaria, that Elisha said, LORD {*Jehovah*}, open the eyes of these *men*, that they may see. And the LORD {*Jehovah*} opened their eyes, and they saw; and behold, *they were* in the midst of Samaria.

Imagine the puzzled looks on the faces of the Syrian army as they found themselves in the predicament of being in Samaria, and seeing that they were surrounded not by *horses and chariots of fire*, but by their sworn enemies.

As this story is in the Bible, we must also look for him who is the subject of Scripture, Jesus Christ. Elisha was a Prophet and foreshadowed Christ, just as each and every Prophet in the Old Testament had done. At every point in the Scriptures we can find revealed features of Christ, and as well, every event in the Bible reflects Jesus’ ministry.

Elisha became the Prophet of the LORD, after the Prophet Elijah. (Elijah in the New Testament is spelled Elias — Elias is the Greek form of the Hebrew word for Elijah.) Similar to the relationship between Elijah and Elisha, Jesus superseded

John the Baptist, as we in grace have been baptized into Christ, and in the holy spirit (Acts 1:5).

I always remember which of the two Prophets came first by the spelling of their names. The first prophet's name starts with the letters Elij, while the second name begins with the letters Elis, and "j" in Elijah comes before the "s" in Elisha. This may help you keep them separated when reading for understanding and enjoyment.

Elisha was anointed with a double portion of the same spirit of God that Elijah had upon him (II Kings 2:9), in the Old Testament the prophets received certain measures (or amounts) of the spirit, and Elisha with a double measure performed double the miracles of Elijah being twice as powerful (See below). Elisha was a precursor to Jesus who received the spirit without measure (John 3:34) at the time of his baptism (Matthew 3:16-17). Correspondingly, in the Gospels, John the Baptist said, "He {Jesus} must increase, but I *must* decrease" (John 3:30), and he did, and Jesus did, as Elisha doubly increased after Elijah. Whether we are studying Elijah, Elisha, John the Baptist, or any of the other prophets in the Bible, they always add something uniquely special that focuses on the life of Jesus, giving us more insight about his life.

The LORD *Jehovah* answered Elisha's prayers, as witnessed in the story above, and when Jesus prayed to *Jehovah*, he said, "Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always" (John 11:41-42).

As Elijah and Elisha were prophets of God and foreshadowed Jesus, John the Baptist was also a prophet (Mark 11:32), and foreshadowed Jesus the Prophet (Matthew 21:11). Elijah was a living forerunner to Elisha; John was a living forerunner to Jesus, and (ta-da!) Jesus is a living "forerunner" (to God) for us — us who become the endeared children of God. "Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil {to God's heavenly home}; Whither {where} the forerunner is for us entered, *even* Jesus, made an high priest for ever" (Hebrews 6:19-20).

Matthew 17:12-13:

-12: But I say unto you, That Elias {Elijah} is come already {See Malachi 3:4, 4:5-6}, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed {pleased}. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them.

-13: Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist.

Jesus uses Elias (Elijah) as an example to explain John the Baptist as his forerunner, in the same manner as we have shown you the relationship of Elijah to Elisha or John to Jesus. John was an Old Testament Prophet (not a New Testament Prophet), as Jesus said, "For all the prophets and the law prophesied until {or to include} John. And if ye will receive *it*, this is Elias {Elijah}, which was for to come" (Matthew 11:13-14), for John came in the spirit and power of Elijah, and witnessed to Israel about the Messiah, and this he did. "There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all *men* through him {the Son of God} might believe" (John 1:6-7). As John fulfilled his ministry, we *receive* "it" i.e., we received the understanding that John foreshadowed Jesus' ministry as Elijah had done.

Today in Christ, we were, "Buried with him {Jesus} in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead" (Colossians 2:12, also See Romans 6:4, I Corinthians 12:13, Ephesians 4:5).

The eight miracles of Elijah and the sixteen miracles of Elisha are briefly noted below. The student of the Word is welcomed to look at them in much more detail at leisure, all prefiguring the miraculous life Jesus would display for humanity in the Gospel age.

Elijah's miracles:

1. The closing off of Heaven's rain - I kings 17:1:
2. Food and oil multiplied - I kings 17:14:
3. The widow's son raised - I kings 17:22-23:
4. Fire from Heaven - I Kings 18:38:
5. Rain from Heaven - I Kings 18:45:
6. The fire of Heaven on fifty-one - II Kings 1:10:
7. The fire of Heaven on fifty-one (more) - II Kings 1:12:
8. Parted the Jordan river - II Kings 2:8:

Elisha's miracles:

1. Parted the Jordan river – II Kings 2:14:
2. The healing of the water – II Kings 2:21:
3. Bears out of wood – II Kings 2:24:
4. Provided water for kings – II Kings 3:20:
5. Provided oil for the widow – II Kings 4:1–6:
6. The gift of a son – II Kings 4:16–17:
7. Raised a child from the dead – II Kings 4:35:
8. Healing of pottage – II Kings 4:39–41:
9. Multiplying of bread – II Kings 4:43–44:
10. King Naaman's leprosy healed – II Kings 5:10–14:
11. The betrayer Gehazi smitten – II Kings 5:27:
12. Caused an iron ax-head to float on the water – II Kings 6:6:
13. From spiritual blindness to spiritual sight – II Kings 6:17:
14. Causing blindness – II Kings 6:18:
15. Restoring sight – II Kings 6:20:
16. Elisha raises the dead after Elisha himself died – II Kings 13:21:

Number 16 reminds me of Samson, “So the dead which he {Samson} slew at his death were more than *they* which he slew in his life,”— Judges 16:30, and those in Christ, all shall live.

Elisha gave physical life to one person after his death (See number 16 above). Jesus died to give life to the entire world and so that we could have eternal life because “by the grace of God {Jesus} should taste death for every man” (Hebrews 2:9).

Both Elijah and Elisha had parted the Jordan River for they had the LORD God, Who was their helper, and the purpose for parting the river is actually quite a simple one, they did this to get the other side — end of story. Jesus had done some similar things in his life, such as stilling a hurricane upon the sea, and walking on water, and passing through the heavens (Ephesians 4:10, Hebrews 4:14), as he parted the spiritual way for all believers to follow. He also left us examples to follow his believing so we could live in miraculous ways.

Reference Table:

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The Embryo of The Golden Thread Series

Between the dates of November 13, 2000 and January 8, 2001 we posted the first of fifty-eight short Bible Bytes illustrating Jesus Christ as The Golden Thread on our website, biblebyte.org. Every day we posted another instalment until we went through all the books of the Bible. Below is the Byte we posted about Judges on Saturday, November 18, 2000, and for nostalgia and preservation of the original, the Byte appears just as it was posted without any additional edits or corrections. We had such an enormous response from our readers at that time that we were encouraged to begin the groundwork for the complete study of The Golden Thread series. We have used our original Bytes for our pattern and guide to make the fuller text of the series for you to enjoy.

Joshua – Revealing Our Captain of Salvation

In the book of Joshua an angel appeared to Joshua and when he saw the angel he was unsure about why the angel appeared, Joshua asked him “*Art* thou for us, or for our adversaries?” I am confident that if I saw what Joshua saw I would also wonder what was up, the angel replied:

Joshua 5:14a – And he said, Nay; but *as* captain of the host of the LORD am I now come.

“Captain of the host of the Lord” meant that this angel was Michael, the angel who fights for God’s people. As Gabriel fights for the children of God, we can see the same qualities in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In the book of Joshua, Gabriel went before Israel and helped them win the battle of Jericho. Jesus Christ is our captain; as Gabriel was to Joshua and Israel, Jesus is to us.

Hebrews 2:10 – For it became him, for whom *are* all things, and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain {Jesus} of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

“Many sons” means every born again believer, whether we are male or female, Jesus through his sufferings for us has brought us to his very own glory. Jesus Christ is the captain of our salvation that we have received. In the book of Joshua we can see the many victories that the believers had, and find “the captain of the Lord of hosts” blazing a trail of deliverance before them, in the same manner we can also find our very own captain of salvation, who blazed the trail that leads us to the total victory of an endless life.

Hebrews 1:14 – Are they {angels} not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

All of the angels are sent from Him to minister, protect, and watch over those “who shall” be heirs of salvation, they are guardian angels. Before our salvation we had guardian angels (and those who have yet to be saved), protecting our very existence until we accept our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. When we become saved, God gives us holy spirit, placing Christ within our very hearts and Jesus becomes our captain, eternal guardian, and the anchor of our souls.

Hebrews 6:19-20a:

-19: Which *hope* {in Christ} we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil {of heaven itself};

-20a: Whither the forerunner is for us entered, *even* Jesus, . . .

Once we become saved, we have Jesus Christ fighting for us, receiving his wisdom and spiritual revelation of the true meaning of having God and Christ within our lives.

Hebrews 13:2 – Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

This verse does not imply that we should be looking for angels around every corner. Rather, it means that when we entertain strangers, and they have not yet been saved, but are to be heirs of salvation, they themselves absolutely have a guardian angel, watching over their souls. When we help them into their own salvation and show them, the captain of our salvation – Jesus Christ – simultaneously we would be entertaining their guardian angels, with the healing Word of God. Before our salvation we also had a guardian angel, usually we were unaware of their presence, because we did not know the Word of God, or the captain of our salvation. Sure, people wonder if angels are somewhere around, but it is not until we become saved that we learn that we had at least one watching over our lives, as the captain of our salvation now does today and forever.

The Golden Thread – Chapter Titles

The Old Testament:

1. Genesis – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Promised Seed
2. Exodus – Reveals Jesus Christ as the True Passover
3. Leviticus – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Offering and the High Priest
4. Numbers – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Bright and Morning Star
5. Deuteronomy – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Prophet
6. Joshua – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Captain of Salvation
7. Judges – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Wonderful Secret
8. Ruth – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Redeemer
9. First and Second Samuel – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Deliverer
10. First and Second Kings – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Still Small Voice
11. First and Second Chronicles – Reveals Jesus Christ as the King's Son, and Eternal Answer
12. Ezra – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Spiritual Revival
13. Nehemiah – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Heavenly Pardon
14. Esther – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Good Day
15. Job – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Arbitrator
16. Psalms – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Song in the Night
17. Proverbs – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Path of Righteousness
18. Ecclesiastes – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Wholeness of Man
19. The Song of Solomon – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Beloved
20. Isaiah – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Refuge from the Storms of Life
21. Jeremiah – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Righteous One
22. Lamentations – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Hope
23. Ezekiel – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Covenant of Peace
24. Daniel – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Power and Wisdom of God
25. Hosea – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Ransom
26. Joel – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Heavenly Standing
27. Amos – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Sure Salvation
28. Obadiah – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Day of Deliverance
29. Jonah – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Sign of Resurrection
30. Micah – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Breaker and the Spiritual Strength
31. Nahum – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Stronghold
32. Habakkuk – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Joy in God
33. Zephaniah – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Eternal Rest
34. Haggai – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Desire of all Nations
35. Zechariah – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Total Forgiveness
36. Malachi – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Messenger of the Covenant and a Delight

The Gospels:

37. The Gospel of Matthew – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Shepherd King
“A righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper”
38. The Gospel of Mark – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Servant
“I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH”
39. The Gospel of Luke – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Man
“Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH”
40. The Gospel of John – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Son of God
“In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious”

Parchments of Transition

(Treaties from the Beloved Physician to “YOU” *the Beloved of God*):

41. The Book of Acts – Reveals **Our** Timeless Spiritual Love in Christ
An upward calling – reaching, appreciating, and enjoying the mystery of God in Christ in you!

The New Testament:

42. Romans – Reveals **Our** Justification in Christ
43. First and Second Corinthians – Reveals **Our** Sufficiency in Christ
44. Galatians – Reveals **Our** Liberty in Christ
45. Ephesians – Reveals **Our** Standing in Christ
46. Philippians – Reveals **Our** Joy in Christ
47. Colossians – Reveals **Our** Completeness in Christ
48. Thessalonians – Reveals **Our** Comfort of Hope in Christ
49. First and Second Timothy – Reveals **Our** Faithful Witness in Christ
50. Titus – Reveals **Our** Promise of Eternal Life in Christ
52. Philemon – Reveals **Our** Forgiving Love for the Individual in Christ
53. Hebrews – Reveals **Our** Substitute for Sin in Christ
54. James – Reveals **Our** Believing Faith in Christ
55. First and Second Peter – Reveals **Our** Pastoral Stewardship of Grace in Christ
56. First, Second, and Third John – Reveals **Our** Fellowship in Christ
57. Jude – Reveals **Our** unCommon Salvation in Christ
58. Revelation – Reveals the Revelation of Jesus Christ and **Our** Destiny in Christ