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REV. DR. TALMAGE'S FIRM FAITH.

of These Celestial Visitants-Angelology the Theme of the Great Washington Preacher - Two Nations of Angels Known to Move and Have Their Being. Washington, Oct. 29 .- The brilliant beings supposed by some to be

imaginary are by Dr. Talmage in his sermon shown to be real and to have much to do with our everyday life. The text is Judges xiii, 19, "And the angel did wondrously." Fire built on a rock. Manoah and his wife had there kindled the flames

for sacrifice in praise of God and in honor of a guest whom they supposed to be a man. But as the flame rose higher and higher their stranger guest stepped into the flame and by one red leap ascended into the skies. Then they knew that was an angel of the Lord. "The angel did wondrously." Two hundred and forty-eight times

does the Bible refer to the angels, yet I never heard or read a sermon on angelology. The whole subject is relegated to the realm mythical, weird, spectral and unknown. Such adjournment is un-Scriptural and wicked. Of their life, their character, their habits, their actions, their velocities, the Bible gives us full length portraits, and why this prolonged and absolute silence concerning them? Angelology is my theme.

the nation of good angels and the na- bers-companies of them, regiments tion of bad angels. Of the former I of them, armies of them, mountain chiefly speak to-day. Their capital, tops haloed by them, skies populous is the universe. They are a distinct ten thousand times ten thousand. race of creatures. No human being Now, according to my calculation, can ever join their confraternity. The little child who in the Sabbath 100,000,000. But these are only the school sings, "I want to be an an- langels in one place. David counted gel," will never have her wish grati- 20,000 of them rolling down the sky fied. They are superhuman, but they in chariots. When God came away are of different grades and ranks, not from the riven rocks of Mount Sinai, all on the same level or the same the Bible says he had the companheight. They have their superiors | ionship of 10,000 angels. I think and inferiors and equals. I propose | they are in every battle, in every exino guessing on this subject, but take | gency, at every birth, at every pildivided angels into supercelestial, ce- number the huamn race in this world.

strength, their achievements.

young after 6,000 years as at the with mighty angels. Oh, the numclose of their first hour. Christ said bers and the might and the glory of to the good in heaven, "Neither can these supernals - fleets of them, they die any more, for they are equal squadrons of them, host beyond host, unto the angels." Yes, deathless are rank above rank, millions on milthese wonderful creatures of whom I lions, and all on our side if we will speak. They will see world after have them! world go out, but there shall be no | This leads me to speak of the offifading of their own brilliance. Yea, ces of these supernals. To defend, to

tent, deathless, immortal! the last line of the last page of the turn out for my good." Suddenly last volume of investigation, and you felt a peace, a deep peace, the what delights me most is that all peace of God that passeth all under-

their intelligence is to be at our dis-

posal, and, coming into their presence, they will tell us in five minutes more than we can learn by 100 years of earthly surmising.

A further characteristic of these immortals is their velocity. This the Bible puts sometimes under the figure of a flowing garment, sometimes under the figure of naked feet. As these superhumans are without bodies, these expressions are of course figurative and mean swiftness. The Evils Warded off by the Timely Warning | Bible tells us that Daniel was praying and Gabriel flew from heaven and touched him before he got up from his knees. How far, then, did the angel Gabriel have to fly in those moments of Daniel's prayer? Heaven is thought to be the center of the universe. Our sun and its planets only the rim of the wheel of worlds. In a moment the angel Gabriel flew from that center to this periphery. Jesus told Peter he could instantly have 60,000 angels present if he called for them. What foot of antelope or wing of albatross could equal that velocity? Law of gravitation, which grips all things else, has no influence upon angelic momentum. Immensities before them open and shut like a fan. That they are here is no reason, why they should not be quintillion of miles hence the next minute. Our bodies hinder us, but our minds can circle the earth in a minute. Angelic beings are bodiless and have no limitation. God may with his finger point down to some world in trouble on the outmost limits of creation, and instantly an angelic cohort is there to help it, or some celestial may be standing at the farthermost outpost of immensity, and God may say "Come!" and instantly it is in

Another remark I have to make concerning these illustrious immortals is that they are multitudinous. Their census has never been taken and no one but God knows how There are two nations of angels, many they are, but all the Bible acand they are hostile to each other- counts suggest their immense numten thousand times ten thousand are the Bible for my own authority. low, at every hour, at every moment, Plato, the philosopher, guessed and the earth full of them. They outlestial and subcelestial. Dionysius, They outnumber ransomed spirits in the Areopagite, guessed and divided glory. When Abraham had his knife them into three classes, the supreme, uplifted to slay Isaac, it was an anthe middle and the last, and each of gel who arrested the stroke, crying, these into three other classes, mak- "Abraham, Abraham!" It was a ing nine in all. Philo said that an- stairway of angels that Jacob saw gels were related to God, as the rays | while pillowed in the wilderness. We Estimates promptly given on all kinds of cemetery to the sun. Fulgentius said that are told an angel led the hosts of they were composed of body and Israelites out of Egyptian serfdom. spirit. Clement said they were in- It was an angel that showed Hagar specialty.

Being a practical workman, all should see his corporeal. Augustine said that they the fountain where she filled the bothad been in danger of falling, but the for the lad. It was an angel that now are beyond being tempted. But took Lot out of doomed Sodom. It the only authority on this subject was an angel that shut up the mouth that I respect says they are divided of the hungry monsters when Daniel into cherubim, seraphim, thrones, was thrown into the caverns. It was dominations, principalities, powers. an angel that fed Elijah under the Their commander-in-chief is Michael. juniper tree. It was an angel that Daniel called him Michael. St. John announced to Mary the approaching called him Michael. These supernal nativity. They were angels that beings are more thoroughly organ- chanted when Christ was born. It ized than any army that ever march- was an angel that strengthened our ed. They are swifter than any .cy- | Saviour in his agony. It was an anclone that ever swept the sea. They gel that encouraged Paul in the are more radiant than any morning | Mediterranean shipwreck. It was an that ever came down the sky. They angel that burst open the prison, have more to do with your destiny gate after gate, until Peter was liband mine than very being in the uni- erated. It was an angel that stirred verse except God. May the Angel of the pool of Siloam, where the sick the New Covenant, who is the Lord | were healed. It, was an angel that Jesus. com our eyes and touch our John saw flying through the midst tongre and reuse our soul while we of heaven, and an angel with foot speak of their deathlessness, their in- planted on the sea, and an angel that telligence. their numbers, their opened the book, and an angel that sounded the trumpet, and an angel Yes, deathless. They had a cradle, that thrust in the sickle, and an an but will never have a grave. The gel that poured out the vials, and an Lord remembers when they were angel standing in the sun. It will be born, but be one shall ever see their an angel with uplifted hand sweareye communished or their momentum ing that time shall be no longer. In with or their existence terminate. the great final harvest of the world he oldest of them has not a wrinkle | the reapers are the angels. Yea, the or a decrepitude or a hindrance, as Lord shall be revealed from heaven

> after the last world has taken its cheer, to rescue, to escort, to give last flight, they will be ready for the victory to the right and overthrow widest circuit through immensity, the wrong-that is their businesstaking a quadrillion of miles in one just as alert to-day and efficient as sweep as easy as a pigeon circles a when in Bible times they spread wing dovecot. They are never sick. They or unsheathed sword or rocked down are never exhausted. They need no penitentiaries or filled the mountains sleep, for they are never tired. At with horses of fire and driven by God's command they smote with reinsmen of fire. They have turned death, in one night, 185,000 of Sen- your steps a hundred times, and you nacherib's host, but no fatality can knew it not. You were on the way smite them. Awake, agile, multipo- to do some wrong thing, and they changed your course. They brought There is only one thing that puts some thought of Christian parentage them to their wits' end. and the or of loyalty to your own home, and Bible says they have to study that. that arrested you. They arranged They have been studying it all that some one should meet you at through the ages, and yet I warrant that crisis and propose something they have not fully grasped it-the honorable and elevating, or they took wonders of redemption. These won- from your pocket some ticket to evil ders are so high, so deep, so grand, amusement, a ticket that you never so stupendous, so magnificent, that found. It was an angel of God, and even the intelligence of angelhood is perhaps the very one that guided you confounded before it. The apostle to this service and that now awaits says, "Which things the angels de- to report some holy impression to be sire to look into." That is a sub- made upon your soul, tarrying with ject that excites inquisitiveness on one foot upon the doorstep of your their part. That is a theme that immortal spirit and the other foot strains their faculties to the utmost. lifted for ascent into the skies. Py That is higher than they can climb, some prayer detain him until he can deeper than they can dive. They tell of a repentant and ransomed have a desire for something too big soul! Or you were some time borne for their comprehension. "Which down with trouble, bereavement, things the angels desire to look in- persecution, bankruptcy, sickness and to." But that does not discredit all manner of troubles beating their their intelligence. No one but God discords in your heart and life. You himself can fully understand the won- gave up. You said: "I cannot stand ders of redemption. If all heaven it any longer. I believe I will take should study it for 50 centuries, they my life. Where is the rail train or would get no further than the A BC the deep wave or the precipice that of that inexhaustible subject. But will end this torment of earthly exnearly all other realms of knowledge istence?" But suddenly your mind they have ransacked and explored brightened. Courage came surging and compassed. No one but God can into your heart like oceanic tides. tell them anything they do not know. You said, "God is on my side, and They have read to the last word of all these adversities he can make

standing. What made the change? A sweet and mighty and comforting angel of the Lord met you. That was

Men and women of all circumstances, only partly appreciated or not appreciated at all, never feel lonely again or unregarded again! Angels all around; angels to approve, angels to help, angels to remember. Yea, while all the good angels are friends of the good, there is one special angel your bodyguard. This idea until this present study of angelogy I supposed to be fanciful, but I find it clearly stated in the Bible. When the disciples were praying for Peter's deliverance from prison and he appeared at the door of the prayer meeting, they could not believe it was Peter. They said, "It is an angel." So these disciples, in special nearness to Christ, evidently believed that every worthy soul has an angel. Jesus said of his followers, "Their angels behold the face of my Father." Elsewhere it is said, "He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." Angel shielded, angel protected, angel guarded, angel canopied, art thou! No wonder that Charles Wesley hymned these words:

Which of the petty kings of earth Can boast a guard like ours, Encircled from our second birth With all the heavenly powers?

Valerius and Rufinus were put to death for Christ's sake in the year 287, and after the day when their bodies had been whipped and pounded into a jelly, in the night in prison and before the next day when they were to be executed, they both thought they saw angels standing with two glittering crowns, saying "Be of good cheer, valiant soldiers of Jesus Christ! A little more of hattle, and then these crowns are yours." And I am glad to know that before many of those who have ist Gar, passed through great sufferings in this life some angel of God has held a blazing coronet of eternal reward. Yea, we are to have such a guardian angel to take us upward when our work is done. You know, we are told an angel conducted Lazarus to Abraham's bosom. That shows that none shall be so poor in dying he cannot afford angelic escort. It would be a long way to go alone, and up paths we have never trod, and amid blazing worlds swinging in unimaginable momentum, out and on through such distances and across | C.P.R. OFFICE - - KENT STREET such infinitudes of space we should shudder at the thought of going

But the angelic escort will come to your languishing pillow or the place of your fatal accident and say: "Hail, immortal one! All is well. God hath seot me to take you home." And without a tremor or slightest sense of peril you will away and upward, farther on and farther THE on, until after awhile heaven heaves in sight and the rumble of chariot wheels and the roll of mighty harmonies are heard in the distance, and nearer you come, and nearer still, until the brightness is like many mornings suffused into one, and you are inside the amethystine walls and on the banks of the jasper sea, forever safe, forever free, forever well, forever rested, forever united, forever happy. Mothers, do not think your little children go alone when they quit this world. Out of your arms into angelic arms, out of sickness into health, out of the cradle into a Saviour's bosom! Not an instant will the darlings be alone between the two kisses-the last kiss of earth and the first kiss of heaven. "Now, angels, do your

work!" cried an expiring Christian. Yes, a guardian angel for each one of you. Put yourself now in accord with him. When he suggests the right, follow it. When he warns you against the wrong, shun it. Sent forth from God to help you in this great battle against sin and death, accept his deliverance. When tempted to a feeling of loneliness and disheartenment, appropriate the promise, "The angel of the Lord encampeth around about them that fear him and delivereth them."

Paul had it right when he said, We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." In that awful fight may God send us mighty angelic re-enforcement! We want all their wings on our side, all their swords on our side, all their

chariots on our side. Thank God that those who are for us are mightier than those who are against us! And that thought makes me jubilant as to the final triumph. Belgium, you know, was the battleground of England and France. Yea, Belgium more than once was the lattleground of opposing nations. It so happens that this world is the Belgium or battleground between the chael, the commander-in-chief, on one cgael, the commander-in-chief, on one side; Lucifer, as Byron calls him, or Mephistopheles, as Goethe calls him, or Satan, as the Bible calls him, the commander-in chief on the other side. All pure angelhood under the one leadership and all abandoned angelhood under the other leadership. Many a skirmish have the two armies had, but the great and decisive battle is yet to be fought. Meanwhile the battle is being set in array, and the forces celestial and demoniacal are confronting each other. Hear the boom of the great cannonade already opened! Cherubim, seraphim, thrones, dominations, principalities and powers are beginning to ride down their foes, and, until the work is completed, "Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon, and thou, moon, in the valley of Ajalon!"

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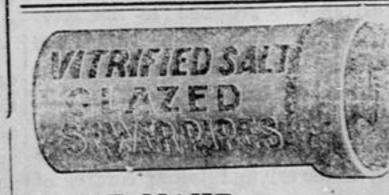
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