

## **The Holy Angels**

### Book 2 Chapters 4-6

#### Chapter 4

### **The Angels in the Ministry and Teaching of Our Lord**

#### **The Guardian Angel**

1. What is a common misbelief about angels and where they come from?
2. What qualifications is God seeking, as His Children, to be given an angel?

#### **The Angels of Death and Justice**

1. As you are able, take some time to familiarize yourself with Orthodox burial practices. This podcast is a great place to start [https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/christianending/preparing\\_a\\_body\\_for\\_burial](https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/christianending/preparing_a_body_for_burial) Mother Alexandra points out, “An Angel, or even several angels, are with us even then. This should be a true consolation to us when watching those we love go, or when preparing to do so ourselves.” (page 138) How beautiful to know that as we prepare someone for burial we are working alongside angels. How does this affect your feelings about death?
2. What kind of behavior on our part would cause us to be denied by the angels?

#### **The Devil and His Angels**

1. As women, we all very well know the burden of keeping a home and maintaining cleanliness. After a productive day we may grant ourselves rest, a reward for a job well done, only to find later that we are now behind again and face an even bigger mess. Mother Alexandra points out this also happens with our spiritual house. What can we do as Orthodox Christians to make sure we don't get caught in spiritual complacency?

#### Chapter 5

### **The End and the New Beginning**

#### **Gethsemane**

1. After Jesus prayed in the garden we hear in Luke 22:43 “And there appeared an Angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.” How difficult and inspiring is Christ, who just moments ago was being comforted by the Angels is now not able to call on them in His deepest time of need. The Angels cannot rescue Him from the cross. This reminds me of parenting. How must God feel, watching us, wanting to hold our hand and take our trials away, but can't. Thankfully we have the Angels constant support!

## Golgotha

1. Normally when I consider 'taking up my cross' as did Jesus, it seems like a burden. How does Mother Alexandra tie the Tree of Knowledge from the Garden to the cross of Christ? How is it different carrying the Tree of Knowledge?
2. Pg. 149 "The angels who once excluded Adam and Eve from Paradise now open the door for their return."



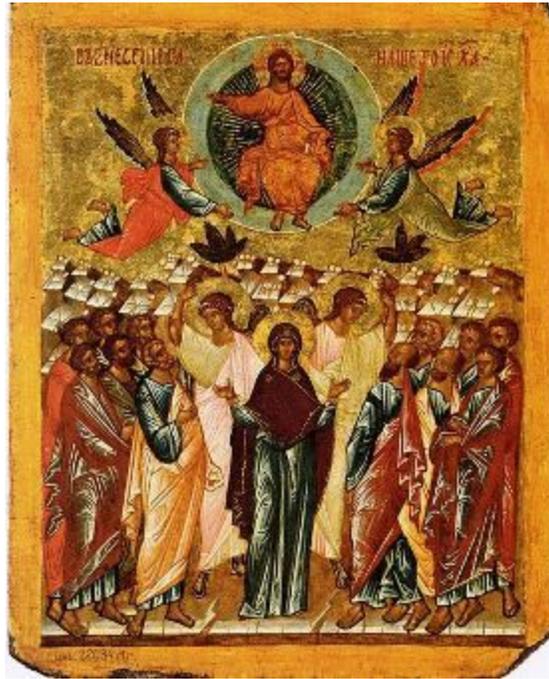
What do you notice specifically about Adam and Even in the icon?

## The Stone

1. What connection does Mother Alexandra make between the birth and the death of Christ?
2. What impediments or 'rocks' could you pray and ask your Guardian Angel to move for you so you can see the Truth of Christ?

## The Ascension and Second Coming

1. What stands out to you in this icon?



2. Saint John Chrysostom points out “They were Angels, in the form of men; they had fashioned themselves completely as such, that the beholders might not be overpowered.” We have seen so many times so far where the angels must begin with, ‘Fear not!’ But this time, in their mercy, became like men to provide comfort and understanding.

## Chapter 6

### Angels in the Young Church

#### St. Peter and St. John

1. Pg. 158 “The Angel freed them from prison but not from danger; on the contrary, he sent them out to face danger by preaching openly.” St. John Chrysostom also points out, “But the guards had put them out, as those thought, they would have fled, this is supposing they had been induced to come out,” he also points out about their release, “This was done for the encouragement of the disciples...” It is comforting to know that God uses his Angels to encourage us in our daily struggles for His glory. What are some ways you can be more aware of Angels ‘opening doors’ for you?

### **St. Peter's Escape**

1. What difference is described between a Guardian Angel and a Messenger Angel?
2. What is your response to Mother Alexandra's question on page 161, "Is it perchance because our modern ears are so little attuned to hearing God's ordinance that our eyes so seldom see His messengers?"

### **St. Stephen**

1. Matthew 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."  
Acts 7:55-56 "But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"  
Because of Stephen's faith he was able to see God, but also people were able to see God in him- "And all who sat in the council, looking steadfastly at him, saw his face as the face of an angel." (Acts 6:15)  
Take some time to think - do I behave in a way that I reflect Christ? What can I do to have a pure heart?

### **Cornelius**

1. In Acts 10, how did the Angel influence both Cornelius and Peter towards a common path? Do you have any instances when God placed something in your path?

### **Philip**

1. Take some time to reflect on Mother Alexandra's question on page 164. "How often are we ourselves sent upon seemingly goal-less, purposeless, 'endless' journeys to find that God has something for us to do just there, at precisely that very time." Can you think of any specific examples?

### **St. Paul**

1. Consider another point that Mother Alexandra makes on page 166. "How often in the storms of life does our angel stand by us and say: Fear not. But we hear him not, for the noise of the winds and the waves and the echo of our own terror and distress, which deafens our ears and blinds our eyes." Is this true for you?