

December 11, 2011

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## **Monday**

Judg. 2:1 The angel of the LORD said, "I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land which I have sworn to your fathers; and I said, 'I will **never** break My covenant with you.

As the Angel of the Lord, Jesus promised never to break covenant with Israel. And He never did. In the cross, Jesus cut a new covenant, a more extensive and costly covenant with you. Not with the blood of rams or goats, but with His own blood He made atonement for your sins and promised to save you by that atonement. Now God-incarnate has secured you with His blood, according to His love, by His own good pleasure. Not as a created angel, but as the very God of creation, Jesus stands as the assurance and the protector of your salvation. Rest in His salvation.

## **Tuesday**

Gen. 18:21 "I will go down now, and see if they have done entirely according to its outcry, which has come to Me; and if not, I will know."

Jesus manifested Himself as the Angel of the Lord throughout the Old Testament personally intervening in the lives of the Old Testament saints and their world. God was never a far off deity who did not care for His creation. Instead, God has always shown Himself as very personal, gracious, and involved in the lives of those who seek Him. So He is involved in your life today. He is not standing far off. He is right beside you. He is not disinterested in your journey, your success or your pain. He longs to be personally involved in your every day. Go to Him. Depend upon Him. Trust Him. Speak to Him. Listen to Him. He stands with you too.

## **Wednesday**

Gen. 22:11 The angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham! Do not stretch out your hand against the lad."

Jesus stayed the hand of Abraham. As the knife was descending He called forth, as the Angel of the Lord, and saved Isaac, the son of promise. Then Jesus provided a substitute sacrifice. It was not a ram in the bush. That ram was only a symbol of the substitute. The substitute was the Lamb of God who sacrificed Himself. (Heb. 9:26) The scripture says, "not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption." (Heb. 9:12) Jesus still saves giving Himself in our place.

## **Thursday**

Gen. 32:24 & 30 Then Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him... So Jacob said, "I have seen God face to face,..."

As other heavenly messengers, the Angel of God took the form of man and interacted with men. In this episode, he wrestles with Jacob. The story reminds us that wrestling with God is nothing new. Often we find ourselves wrestling with God as He seeks to strip us of our prideful behavior and set us upon a better course. The funny thing is that when we lose to God, we win. When He wounds us, we are healed. A second note from this passage: here the Angel of God *appears* as a man, but in the incarnation at Christmas, Jesus *became* a man. This time man wrestles Him to a cross. This time His stripes heal us. *Both times He let us win!*

## **Friday**

Ex. 14:19 The angel of God, who had been going before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them.

Ahead of you to guide you. Behind you to protect you. There is no limit to Jesus' love for you, His plan for you or His provision for you. In the cloud and in the fire, He is there. Believers of the Old Testament encountered the Angel of the Lord in might and power. God was both personal and powerful. He was interested in them; He was jealous for them. He revealed the way forward for them and held them accountable to righteousness. In the New Testament He is revealed more deeply still. *Now you know the rest of the story.* For Jesus came to die for you.