

## Opening Prayer

**Belief in angels is a truth of the faith** (CC328) – Catholics have to believe in angels; God uses angels to order all creation (mediation sess. 2)

**Catechism on Angels**– A spiritual (no body), personal (relational) and immortal (unceasing) creature (created) with intelligence & free will who glorifies God without ceasing and who serves God as a messenger of his saving plan. ([CC Glossary](#))

- Surpass all visible creatures in perfection (CC330) & will be present and announce Christ's return (CC333)
- Christ – center of angelic world, created *through* and *for* him (CC331), yet Christ made a little lower than the angels ([Heb 2:5-9](#))<sup>1</sup>
- From the Incarnation to the Ascension, Jesus' life is surrounded by the adoration and service of angels (CC333)
- In her liturgy, the Church joins with the angels to adore the thrice-holy God (CC335)
- From its beginning until death, human life is surrounded by angels' watchful care and intercession (CC336)
- **Office/function Angel; Nature/identity Spirit** (CC329); **Pope Gregory the Great (540-604)** only called "angel" when delivering a message<sup>2</sup>

## More

- Mary – Queen of Angels: Hebrew Gebirah (Queen Mother) in which the Queen was not the King's Mother, not his wife (2Sam/1&2 Kgs)
- **Similarities of humans and angels:** spiritual, personal, immortal creature with intellect and free will, glorify God, messenger, made holy
- **Differences:** *angels:* no bodies/emotions; spirit/soul composite – *humans:* bodies/emotions; spirit/soul/body composite; learning differences
- **Difference of both with God:** God is purely simple–no division in his substance–when he wills, he does so with his entire substance
- Angels created before the world & rejoiced at the creation ([Jb 38:4-7](#): *While the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God*)<sup>3</sup>
- Each one is its own **species** (e.g. dog, tree, human, etc.)
- Only 3 of 7 *Angels of the Presence*<sup>4</sup> (intercessors who present prayers to God) named in Scripture:
- **Raphael** *God heals/God's Remedy*; **Gabriel** *God is my power/Strength of God*<sup>2</sup>
- **Michael** *Who is like God?* **Gregory the Great** "Whenever some act of wondrous power must be performed, Michael is sent, so that his action and his name may make it clear that no one can do what God does by his superior power"<sup>2</sup>
- Angels order creation: people, parish, diocese, city, nation, important buildings to run a country, worldwide corporations, stars/planets
- Angels & demons cannot see your thoughts, but can judge based on bodily reactions to stimuli, suggestions & trajectory of your life
- Liturgy: *Solemnity/Feast/Memorial* Feast Michael/Gabriel/Raphael 9/29; 1500s Memorial Guardians in Spain 10/2/1670 Pope Clement X
- The flow of liturgy is very important for a strong spiritual life: follow the Church calendar and celebrate – linked to liturgy

## Guardian Angels

- God charged His angels with the ministry of watching and safeguarding every one of His creatures that do not behold His face
- God created a spirit above us, for us: role as a personal messenger of God's saving plan for you (**light, guard, rule, guide**)
- **Love:** will the good of another – your Guardian's first act was to love God through you so he has only love for you
- We are not to name our Guardian Angel; nature is his name (Vatican said no – see Creation story: to name shows authority over it)
- You can ask the guardian angel of people you are working with so they will be more open; Popes & visiting heads of state
- You can ask the guardian angel of your children and of the family to help them grow up right
- **St. John Cassian (360-435)** *Holy Scripture bears witness that two angels, a good and a bad one, cling to us.* – Satan imitates God<sup>5</sup>
- Warning: Do not look for the extraordinary or your tormenting demon will oblige

## Holiness & Protection: Daily & Lenten Practices

- [Eph 6:13-17](#) For protection use the armor of God: Truth, Righteousness, Be Ready for Gospel Peace, Faith, the Word of God & Prayer
- Know God's will & avoid sin– [Romans 12:1-2](#) *I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.*
- **Give GA access to thoughts** – cannot access unless you give consent to help you
- **Ask GA to calm chemical reactions in your body** – when experiencing very strong emotions
- **Ask GA Predominant defect** – ask him to reveal this; we have to know where we are weak if we wish to improve
- **Ask GA Humiliate you interiorly** – not to laugh at you but help you grow in virtue; your angel has to deal with your pride, arrogance, etc.

## Closing Prayer

*Angel of God, my Guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here; ever this day, be at my side to light and guard, to rule and guide*

<sup>1</sup> All Scripture, notes & refs from NABRE (<http://www.usccb.org/bible/books-of-the-bible/>).

<sup>2</sup> Pope St. Gregory the Great, Homily 34, 8–9, from Liturgy of the Hours, Vol. IV, Office of Readings for the Feast of the Guardian Angels, Sept 29.

<sup>3</sup> See NABRE note on [Jb 38:7](#) which directs you to [1:6](#)

<sup>4</sup> See NABRE Note on [Tb 12:12](#).

<sup>5</sup> St. John Cassian (360–435AD), Conferences 1.8.17 (Ch. 17), "For Holy Scripture bears witness that two angels, a good and a bad one, cling to us." Follows Pseudo Barnabas (18, 1), Hermas (Mand. 6, 2:2-5) & Origin (De. Prin. 3, 2, 4), source note 9. St. Athanasius, *St. Antony of the Desert*, Ch. 6-10 & Danielou (80-81) in note 9.

**Summa Aquinas** “All corporeal things are governed by the angels, and this is not only the teaching of the holy doctors, but of all the philosophers.”<sup>6</sup>

### Importance of Mediation

- Exodus 3 Moses & the burning bush
- 1Ch 21:8-18 David sinfully calls for a census and Gad the prophet speaks for God: v18 the angel gives God’s word to Gad
- 1Cor 14:32-33 *Indeed, the spirits of prophets are under the prophets’ control, since he is not the God of disorder but of peace.*
- Acts 7:53 Stephen: *You received the law as transmitted by angels, but you did not observe it.*

**The Celestial Hierarchy**<sup>7</sup> by Dionysius (15 chapters written in the 400s–500s) 9 Choirs (order or grouping) of Angels – all creation is ordered<sup>8</sup>

**First Choir Set** Chapter 7 “highest order of angels, closest to God, most perfect & holy created beings”

1. **SERAPHIM** –Seraph (singular), burning ones serve as the caretakers of God’s throne and continuously praise God: [Isa 6:3](#) *Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. All the earth is filled with His Glory* (Sanctus).<sup>9</sup> [Isa 6:2](#) *had six wings: with two they cover their faces, with two they covered their feet and with two they hovered.* **Dionysius** “[Name] indicates their ceaseless and eternal revolution about Divine Principles, their heat and keenness, the exuberance of their intense, perpetual, tireless activity, and their elative and energetic assimilation of those below, kindling them and firing them to their own heat, and wholly purifying them by a burning and all-consuming flame; and by the unhidden, unquenchable, changeless, radiant and enlightening power, dispelling and destroying the shadows of darkness” **St. Denis, patron of Paris beheaded btw 250–270AD** “they are the princes of pure love and the love they exude permeates like fire.”<sup>10</sup>

2. **CHERUBIM** – **Dionysius** Cherubim “denotes their power of knowing and beholding God, their receptivity to the highest Gift of Light, their contemplation of the Beauty of the Godhead in Its First Manifestation, and that they are filled by participation in Divine Wisdom, and bounteously outpour to those below them from their own fount of wisdom.”<sup>9</sup> [Rev 4:7](#) Four faces: one of a man, ox, lion, & eagle;<sup>11</sup> four conjoined wings covered with eyes, with ox’s feet. [Gen 3:24](#) Cherubim<sup>12</sup> guard the way to the tree of life in the Garden of Eden ([Gen 3:24](#)).

3. **THRONES**<sup>13</sup> – Greek thronos or Elders, **Dionysius** “denotes that which is exempt from and untainted by any base and earthly thing.”<sup>9</sup> **St. John Cassian** “Thrones...are so near to God and so private and close to Him that the Divine Majesty specially rests in them as in a Divine throne, and in a way reclines surely on them.”<sup>14</sup> **Gregory the Great** “Thrones are the way God accomplishes his judgments.”<sup>15</sup>

**Second Choir Set** Chapter 8 “charged with governing and ordering the laws of the created universe” **Gregory the Great** “the names of these...Beings denote the divine characteristics of their likeness to God”<sup>17</sup>

4. **DOMINIONS**– Also from Latin and Greek *Lordships*. **Dionysius** “Dominions regulate the duties of lower angels and preside over nations.” **Gregory the Great** “[They] wholly give themselves to that true Authority, forever one with the Godlike Source of lordship.”<sup>17</sup>

5. **VIRTUES** – In [Eph 1:21](#), also translated Strongholds/Authorities (seems linked to “might” from a Greek root), they lie “beyond the wheels<sup>16</sup>.” ([Ez 1:15-21](#)) **Dionysius** Their primary duty is to supervise the movements of the heavenly bodies (stars, planets, etc.) in order to ensure that the cosmos remain in order. They are charged with giving the power to accomplish the ordering of Nature. **Gregory the Great** “Through the Virtues, God performs most of His miracles as well as governing the seasons, the visible heavens and the elements.”<sup>15</sup>

6. **POWERS**<sup>17</sup> – **Dionysius** They are bearers of conscience and keepers of history. They are also the warrior angels created to be completely loyal to God. Their duty is to oversee the distribution of power among humankind. This choir is given the duty to order how to execute what has been commanded & direct the lower choirs on how to order creation.

**Third Choir Set** Chapter 9 “closest to earth, concern themselves with creation and are the most familiar to us”

7. **PRINCIPALITIES** – Latin nom. principātus, pl. principātūs, also Princedoms and Rulers, from the Greek arche. Name “signifies their Godlike princeliness and authoritativeness,<sup>20</sup> shown wearing a crown, carrying a scepter, their duty is to carry out the orders given them and

<sup>6</sup> Summa Theologica 1, 110, 1 in *The Angels and their Mission According to the Fathers of the Church*, Jean Danielou, SJ, trans. David Heimann, © 1957, The Newman Press, reprint by Christian Classics from Ave Maria Press, original 1953 *Les Anges et Leur Mission*.

<sup>7</sup> *The Celestial Hierarchy*, Dionysius the Presbyter, 5<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> centuries (400s–500s), Chapter 6.

<sup>8</sup> Unique table compares angelic hierarchy of four saints in *Holy Angels Mal’ak Elohim*, Fr. Sebastian Chukwuma Anokwulu, Trafford Publishing, ©2013, pg. 31.

<sup>9</sup> Recall the Sanctus (Latin for Holy, holy, holy) in Mass, “...we sing with the angels and saints...”

<sup>10</sup> “All About God’s Agents, Ambassadors and Executives,” Ed Masters, <http://reginamag.com/all-about-angels/>, accessed 9/14/2015.

<sup>11</sup> [Rev 4:7](#) *The first creature resembled a lion, the second was like a calf, the third had a face like that of a human being, and the fourth looked like an eagle in flight.*

<sup>12</sup> See [Gen 3:24](#), [Ex 25:17-22](#), [2 Chron 3:7-14](#), [Ez 10:12-14](#) & [28:14-16](#), [1 Kgs 6:23-28](#), [Rev 4:6-8](#)

<sup>13</sup> See [Ez 10:17](#), [Dn 7-9](#) vision, [Col 1:16](#), possibly [Rev 11:16](#)

<sup>14</sup> St. John Cassian, Conferences 1.8.15 (Ch. 15) – <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/cassian/conferences.html>; cf. [Ps 47:9](#), [Sir 1:8](#), etc.

<sup>15</sup> St. Gregory the Great (540-604AD)

<sup>16</sup> Hebrew עֲרֻכִּימַי ’ōphannīm; singular עֲרֻכִּימַי ’ōphān: wheels in the vision of the chariot in [Ez 1:15-21](#)

<sup>17</sup> Latin potestas (f), plural potestates or Authorities from the Greek exousias see Greek root in [Eph 3:10](#).

bequeath blessings to the material world & oversee groups of people. They are the educators and guardians of the realm of earth, leaders of the last two, directing the actual implementation of God's will."

8. ARCHANGELS<sup>18</sup> – Chief angel, word used twice in the New Testament: [1 Thess 4:16](#) and [Jude 1:9](#), but they appear in many places in Scripture. The only angels named in Scripture are archangels Raphael, Michael and Gabriel. **Gregory the Great** "proclaim messages of supreme importance."<sup>2</sup>

9. ANGELS – Lowest order of angels, most concerned with the affairs of living things. Many different kinds with different functions, such as making God's will known in ordinary affairs & acting as messengers<sup>19</sup> (Hebrew: malak, Greek: angelos) to mankind; **Gregory the Great** "those who deliver messages of lesser importance."<sup>2</sup>

*CP - Angel of God, my Guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here; ever this day, be at my side to light and guard, to rule and guide*

[Angels 3-DVD Set Purchase - \\$15 US + shipping, additional \\$10 US for international orders](#) (if interested, click to e-mail)

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<sup>18</sup> Greek ἀρχάγγελος, archaggelos translation of the Hebrew מלאך mal'āk, derives from the Greek archō, meaning to be first in rank or power, i.e. messenger.

<sup>19</sup> Hebrew mal'āk, plural malakhim.

**Scriptural Senses** [CC 115-119](#) *Letter speaks of deeds; Moral-how to act; Anagogy-our destiny; Allegory-faith*

1. Literal – “meaning conveyed by the words of Scripture and discovered by exegesis following rules of sound interpretation”
2. Spiritual (all three based on literal sense – Aquinas<sup>20</sup>) “can be signs”
  - a. Moral – how we live (to act justly)
  - b. Anagogical – “leading”, about the future, viewed in terms of eternal significance (Church on earth sign of heavenly Jerusalem)
  - c. Allegorical (Typological) –significance in Christ (example: Red Sea Crossing is sign/type of Christ's victory & of Christian Baptism)

**Biblical Examples of Members of the Choirs (# in the choir)**

- **Seraphim (1)** [Isa 6:2-3, 6-7](#) *Seraphim were stationed above ...*
- **Cherubim (2)** [Gen 3:24](#) *stationing the cherubim and the fiery revolving sword ... to guard ... the tree of life.*
- **Thrones or Elders (3)** [Col 1:16](#) *in him were created all things ... thrones ...*
- **Dominions (4), Virtues/Authority (5), Powers (6), Principalities (7)** [Eph 1:21](#) *above every principality, authority, power, and dominion*
- **Archangels (8)** [1 Thess 4:16](#) *with the voice of an archangel ... and the dead in Christ will rise first.*
- **Angels (9)** [Gen 32:2](#) *Meanwhile Jacob continued on his own way, and God's angels encountered him.*

**Biblical Foundations of Guardian Angels**

- [Ps 91:11](#) *For he commands his angels with regard to you, ([Heb 1:14](#)) to guard you wherever you go. ([Ps 121:3](#); [Prv 3:23](#))* – Referenced by Satan in [Lk 4:10-11](#)/[Mt 4:6](#) when he tempts Jesus in the desert
- **1-2:** Invitation to the Protection of God – *to all who seek good* (impersonal third person), i.e. wisdom: general protection promised<sup>21</sup>
- **3-8:** General forms of Protection **9-10:** Invitation to the Protection of God –*you who have chosen the Lord as your refuge*: angelic protection promised **11-13:** Protection – angels guard & support you to *read upon the asp and the viper, trample the lion and the dragon* (lit/spirit sense) **14-16:** The Oracle of Salvation
- [Mt 18:10](#) ([Ez 34:1-3 & 16](#); [Lk 15:3-7](#)) *“See that you do not despise one of these little ones”<sup>22</sup>, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father.”*
- [Acts 12:15b](#) *But they kept saying, “It is his angel.”* (Peter released from prison)
- [Acts 27:23](#) *For last night an angel of the God to whom (I) belong and whom I serve stood by me and said... (Paul traveling to Rome)*
- [Heb 1:14](#) *Are they not all ministering spirits sent to serve, for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?*
- [Rev 1:1b](#) *He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John*

**Scripture Stories & Angels**

- Genesis: [3:24](#) Closed the earthly paradise; [19:1-38](#) Protected Lot; [21:17](#) Saved Hagar and her child; [22:11-12](#) Stayed Abraham's hand
- [Ex 23:20-23](#) Led the People of God; [Jdg 13](#) Announced Sampson's birth and calling; [Job 38:7](#) Called “sons of God”
- [Ex 3:1-6](#) Burning bush, God appears through the mediation of an angel; Assisted the prophets: [Jdg 6:11-24](#); [Isa 6:6](#); [1 Kings 19:5](#)
- [Acts 7:53](#) Communicated the law by their ministry
- Examine key points in the story: [Tb 3:7-17](#); [5:1-22](#); [12:1-22](#)

**Demons in Perspective** ([Rev 12:4](#) 1/3 angels fell following Satan; [Eph 6:12/Col 2:15](#) some Principalities & Power fell)

- **St. John Paul II** “In the Fourth Lateran Council (1215)...Church teaches that the devil...and the other demons *were created good by God but have become evil by their own will & the angels who did not keep their dignity, but left their own dwelling, are kept by the Lord in eternal chains in the darkness, for the judgment of the great day ([Jude 1:6](#))*... We hear of angels who have sinned and whom God did not spare, but... cast in the gloomy abysses of hell, reserving them for the judgment ([2 Pet 2:4](#))...if God does not forgive the sin of the angels, this is because they remain in their sin, because they are eternally in the chains...at the beginning, rejecting God, against the truth of the supreme and definitive Good...St. John writes that *the devil has been a sinner from the beginning... ([Jn 3:8](#))*. And he has been a murderer from the beginning, and has not persevered in the truth, because there is no truth in him ([Jn 8:44](#)).”<sup>23</sup>
- **St. John Paul II** “The Church's faith, in fact, teaches us that the power of Satan is not infinite.”<sup>24</sup>

Continued below Scripture matrix

<sup>20</sup> Summa Theologica I, 1, 10, ad. 1.

<sup>21</sup> Analysis from *Holy Angels Mal'ak Elohim*, Fr. Sebastian Chukwuma Anokwulu, Trafford Publishing, ©2013, pg. 33-38.

<sup>22</sup> NABRE Note: *For the Jewish belief in angels as guardians of nations and individuals: Dan 10:13, 20-21; Tb 5:4-7; IQH 5:20-22; as intercessors who present the prayers of human beings to God: Tb 13:12, 15. The high worth of the little ones is indicated by their being represented before God by these heavenly beings.*

<sup>23</sup> St. John Paul II General Audience, August 13, 1986, paragraph 4 (All 6 Audiences - <https://www.ewtn.com/library/PAPALDOC/JP2ANGEL.HTM>)

<sup>24</sup> St. John Paul II General Audience, August 20, 1986, paragraph 1.

- Scripture references to angels identified in my research – not exhaustive (536 verses not counting 4Mc)

Gen 3:24	2Kgs 19:35	Isa 63:9	Act 7:30, 35, 38
Gen 6:1-4, 7, 9-11	1Ch 21:8-18	Bar 6:6	Act 8:26
Gen 21:17	1Ch 21:27	Ez 1:5-28	Act 10:3-8, 22
Gen 22:11, 15	1Ch 21:30	Ez 10:1-22	Act 11:13-14
Gen 24:7, 40	Chron 3:7-14	Ez 28:14-16	Act 12:7-15, 23
Gen 28:12	2Ch 32:21	Dan 3:5	Act 23:8-9
Gen 31:11	Neh 9:6 & 15	Dan 3:49-50	Act 27:23-26
Gen 32:2	Tb 3:17	Dan 3:58	Rom 8:38-39
Gen 48:16	Tb 5:4-22	Dan 3:95-96	1Cor 14:32-33
Ex 3:2	Tb 6:2-18	Dan 6:23	1Cor 15:24
Ex 14:19	Tb 8:2-3	Dan 7:9	2Cor 11:14
Ex 23:20-23	Tb 11:1-8, 14-15	Zec 1:9, 11-14	Gal 1:8
Ex 25:17-22	Tb 12:1-22	Zec 2:2-9	Gal 4:3, 14
Ex 32:34	Est 4:13	Zec 3:1-10	Eph 1:21
Ex 33:2	1Mc 7:40-42	Zec 4:1-14	Eph 3:10
Num 20:16	2Mc 11:6	Zec 5:1-11	Eph 6:12
Num 22:22-27, 31-35	2Mc 15:22-23	Zec 6:1-15	Col 1:16
Jdg 2:1, 4	Jb 1:6	Zec 12:8	Col 2:10, 18
Jdg 5:23	Jb 38:4-7	Mt 1:20-21, 24	1Thess 4:16
Jdg 6:11-12, 20-22	Ps 8:6	Mt 2:13, 19-20	1Pt 3:22
Jdg 13:3, 6, 9, 13	Ps 29:1	Mt 18:10	1Pt 5:8-9
Jdg 13:15-22	Ps 34:8	Mt 22:30	2Pt 2:4
1Sa 29:9	Ps 35:5-6	Mt 28:2-7	Heb 1:14
2Sa 14:17, 20	Ps 91:11	Lk 1:11-20, 26-38	Heb 2:7-9
2Sa 19:27	Ps 103:20	Lk 2:9-14, 21	Jude 1:9
2Sa 24:16-17	Ecc 5:5	Lk 22:43	Rev 1:1
1Kgs 6:23-28	Wis 16:20	Jn 5:7	Rev 2:1, 8, 12, 18
1Kgs 13:18	Sir 48:21	Jn 12:29	Rev 22:1, 6, 8, 16
1Kgs 19:5, 7	Isa 37:36	Act 5:19-20	4Mc 4:10 (extra-canonical)
2Kgs 1:3, 15	Isa 6:1-8	Act 6:15	

**Closing Prayers & Blessing**

- - *Angel of God, my Guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here; ever this day, be at my side to light and guard, to rule and guide*
- - *St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray and, Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all the evil spirits seeking the ruin of souls.*

**Source material and/or other reliable sources (in addition to the references throughout the notes):**

- Opus Angelorum – <https://www.opusangelorum.org/>
- St. Thomas Aquinas – <http://www.newadvent.org/summa/1.htm> (scroll down and click on each Angel section)
- Peter Kreeft – <http://www.peterkreeft.com/topics/angels.htm> & *Angels and Demons: What Do We Really Know about Them?*
- Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?t=1412&v=MBiuYd4lHH4>
- Priest talk on Guardian Angels – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HROH926Ln-A>
- Thomas Smith Biblical Story of our Unseen Allies – <http://ascensionpress.com/products/angels-the-biblical-story-of-our-unseen-allies-3>

**Prayer *Judith 16:13-15*** O Lord, great are you and glorious, wonderful in power and unsurpassable. Let your every creature serve you; for you spoke, and they were made, you sent forth your spirit, and they were created; no one can resist your word. The mountains to their bases, and the seas are shaken; the rocks, like wax, melt before your glance. But to those who fear you, you are very merciful.

***Tobit 3:7-15 Difficulties & prayers of Sarah & Tobit***

Sarah - 8-9 For she had been given in marriage to seven husbands, but the wicked demon Asmodeus (wrath/destroyer) kept killing them off before they could have intercourse with her, as is prescribed for wives. The maid said to her: "You are the one who kills your husbands! Look! You have already been given in marriage to seven husbands, but you do not bear the name of a single one of them. Why do you beat us? Because your husbands are dead? Go, join them! May we never see son or daughter of yours!"

Tobit - A bird pooped in his eyes and he partially lost his eyesight, completely lost when consulted doctors

- Sarah considered killing herself but thought better of it to not disgrace her father so she prayed for death
- Tobit prayed for death after losing his sight

**An Answer to Prayer.** 16-17 At that very time, the prayer of both of them was heard in the glorious presence of God. So Raphael was sent to heal them both: to remove the white scales from Tobit's eyes, so that he might again see with his own eyes God's light; and to give Sarah, the daughter of Raguel, as a wife to Tobiah, the son of Tobit, and to rid her of the wicked demon Asmodeus. For it fell to Tobiah's lot to claim her before any others who might wish to marry her.

***Tobit 5:1 Tobit sends his son to retrieve money from a deposit***

**The Angel Raphael.** 4Tobiah went out to look for someone who would travel with him to Media, someone who knew the way. He went out and found the angel Raphael standing before him (though he did not know that this was an angel of God). 5Tobiah said to him, "Where do you come from, young man?" He replied, "I am an Israelite, one of your kindred. I have come here to work." Tobiah said to him, "Do you know the way to Media?" 6"Yes," he replied, "I have been there many times. I know the place well and am acquainted with all the routes. I have often traveled to Media; I used to stay with our kinsman Gabael, who lives at Rages in Media. It is a good two days' journey from Ecbatana to Rages; for Rages is situated in the mountains, but Ecbatana is in the middle of the plain." 7Tobiah said to him, "Wait for me, young man, till I go in and tell my father; for I need you to make the journey with me. I will pay you your wages." 8He replied, "Very well, I will wait; but do not be long."

***Tobit 5:9-10 Tobiah tells his father he found someone to lead him there & Tobit wants to meet him***

When Raphael entered the house, Tobit greeted him first. He replied, "Joyful greetings to you!" Tobit answered, "What joy is left for me? Here I am, a blind man who cannot see the light of heaven, but must remain in darkness, like the dead who no longer see the light! Though alive, I am among the dead. I can hear people's voices, but I do not see them." The young man said, "Take courage! God's healing is near; so take courage!" Tobit then said: "My son Tobiah wants to go to Media. Can you go with him to show him the way? I will pay you your wages, brother." He answered: "Yes, I will go with him, and I know all the routes. I have often traveled to Media and crossed all its plains so I know well the mountains and all its roads." 11Tobit asked him, "Brother, tell me, please, from what family and tribe are you?" 12He replied, "Why? What need do you have for a tribe? Aren't you looking for a hired man?" Tobit replied, "I only want to know, brother, whose son you truly are and what your name is."

13He answered, "I am Azariah, son of the great Hananiah, one of your own kindred." 14Tobit exclaimed: "Welcome! God save you, brother! Do not be provoked with me, brother, for wanting to learn the truth about your family. It turns out that you are a kinsman, from a noble and good line! I knew Hananiah and Nathan, the two sons of the great Shemeliah. They used to go to Jerusalem with me, where we would worship together. They were not led astray; your kindred are good people. You are certainly of good lineage. So welcome!"

15Then he added: "For each day I will give you a drachma as wages, as well as expenses for you and for my son. So go with my son, and 16I will even add a bonus to your wages!" The young man replied: "I will go with him. Do not fear. In good health we will leave you, and in good health we will return to you, for the way is safe." 17Tobit said, "Blessing be upon you, brother." Then he called his son and said to him: "Son, prepare whatever you need for the journey, and set out with your kinsman. May God in heaven protect you on the way and bring you back to me safe and sound; may his angel accompany you for your safety, son."

Tobiah left to set out on his journey, and he kissed his father and mother. Tobit said to him, "Have a safe journey." 18But his mother began to weep and she said to Tobit: "Why have you sent my child away? Is he not the staff of our hands, as he goes in and out before us? 19Do not heap money upon money! Rather relinquish it in exchange for our child! 20What the Lord has given us to live on is certainly enough for us." 21Tobit reassured her: "Do not worry! Our son will leave in good health and come back to us in good health. Your own eyes will see the day when he returns to you safe and sound. So, do not worry; do not fear for them, my sister. 22For a good angel will go with him, his journey will be successful, and he will return in good health."

### ***Tobit 12:1 Tobiah & Tobit determine to give him half the money as wages***

**Exhortation.** 6Raphael called the two of them aside privately and said to them: "Bless God and give him thanks before all the living for the good things he has done for you, by blessing and extolling his name in song. Proclaim before all with due honor the deeds of God, and do not be slack in thanking him. 7A king's secret should be kept secret, but one must declare the works of God and give thanks with due honor. Do good, and evil will not overtake you. 8Prayer with fasting is good. Almsgiving with righteousness is better than wealth with wickedness. It is better to give alms than to store up gold, 9for almsgiving saves from death, and purges all sin. Those who give alms will enjoy a full life, 10but those who commit sin and do evil are their own worst enemies."

**Raphael's Identity.** 11"I shall now tell you the whole truth and conceal nothing at all from you. I have already said to you, 'A king's secret should be kept secret, but one must declare the works of God with due honor.' 12 Now when you, Tobit, and Sarah prayed, it was I who presented the record of your prayer before the Glory of the Lord; and likewise whenever you used to bury the dead. 13When you did not hesitate to get up and leave your dinner in order to go and bury that dead man, 14I was sent to put you to the test. At the same time, however, God sent me to heal you and your daughter-in-law Sarah. 15I am Raphael, one of the seven angels who stand and serve before the Glory of the Lord."

16Greatly shaken, the two of them fell prostrate in fear. 17But Raphael said to them: "Do not fear; peace be with you! Bless God now and forever. 18As for me, when I was with you, I was not acting out of any favor on my part, but by God's will. So bless God every day; give praise with song. 19Even though you saw me eat and drink, I did not eat or drink anything; what you were seeing was a vision. 20So now bless the Lord on earth and give thanks to God. Look, I am ascending to the one who sent me. Write down all that has happened to you." And he ascended. 21They stood up but were no longer able to see him. 22They kept blessing God and singing his praises, and they continued to give thanks for these marvelous works that God had done, because an angel of God appeared to them.