



General Topics :: The appearance of an Angel?

The appearance of an Angel? - posted by Sidewalk (), on: 2013/8/8 19:51

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2386627/The-riddle-angel-priest-Holy-man-appeared-pray-trapped-girl-rescuers-traffic-accident-told-OK-vanished.html>

Not sure if this link will work, but it contains a story (picked up by Drudge) where a 19 year old girl was hit in her car head-on by a drunk driver in Missouri a day or two ago.

The car was crushed so badly rescuers were not able to get the severely injured girl out, and they were amazed she was still alive anyway. As they frantically worked, she began to lose consciousness and her vital signs were fading. She looked at the men and asked if they could just stop for a minute and pray. They consented- but were suddenly joined by a man in Roman Catholic priest apparel with anointing oil. The priest prayed, and told the men that their equipment would now work to free the woman. It did, the woman survived.

When they turned to thank the priest, he was gone. Many pictures were taken of the scene, but the priest did not appear in any of them. One second he was there- despite that the area was sealed off from the public- and the next second he was gone. No one recognized him.

Naturally there is no proof that this was the appearance of an angel, we are left with the speculations of the local witnesses. But if this was an angelic visitation, I am intrigued by the form in which he appeared- a priest!

The story does not elaborate on the woman's personal spiritual perspectives, whether she was Catholic or of any other particular denomination.

A few years ago, the country was swept up in reading a book called "The Shack." It was a masterfully written novel that dealt with the concept of reconciling one's violently broken spirit due to a heinous crime. A man had lost a young daughter to a vicious rape/ murder, and ended up in a quasi-vision experience where he met God and went into the issues tormenting his angry broken heart.

But the lead character, "Father God," was in the form of a rotund black woman.

My daughter, a flight attendant at the time, said she could look down the aisle of the planes in those days and see multiple copies of the book in the hands of the passengers, serious faces and tears streaming down, kleenex in action. People devoured this book that made a serious portrayal of the character of God, but my pastor and others decried the book because they didn't like the portrayal.

Where am I going here?

Just this, that God does not wait for our preconceived notions to do His mighty works. He will appear as He wishes, will confound the wise at every turn. His children will come as children, believing in the simplicity of the Savior, receiving his gifts without first filtering what is seen through strict doctrinal parameters.

Any thoughts?

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Re: The appearance of an Angel? - posted by jdlashley (), on: 2013/8/9 7:36

Allow me to say, I can appreciate this story.

I will not speculate if this was an angel or a human. If it was a human priest, I would not take it as an endorsement of Catholicism. I believe GOD can strike a straight blow with a crooked stick.

The word of GOD is the measure by which we gauge all things. I posit the following verse,

14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 15 So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds. (2 Corinthians 11:14-15, ESV)

Along with Galatians 1:8,

8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.

Now, I cite the above two verses and would contrast that with the doctrine of the Catholic Church, which does not hold Scripture as the ultimate authority. The Church, or rather the hierarchy, has preeminence over Scripture. This I cannot endorse nor condone.

Regarding "The Shack", I must admit I have not read this book. However, I am familiar with the controversy surrounding it. To my understanding, and please forgive me if I am incorrect, the problems in question arise from the book having direct contradictions with Scripture. Here are a couple of links that address the problems in detail:

<http://m.youtube.com/?reload=7&rdm=u49pb6kg#/watch?v=pK65Jfny70Y>

<http://vimeo.com/4479699>

As I stated before, the Bible is the gauge. Anything that runs contrary to GODS word, I cast it to the wind as chaff.

When it comes to certain trivial issues, I have no problem casting the same to the side. This is why I can fellowship with both Arminians and Calvinists, Baptists and Presbyterians, premillennialist and post-millennialists, etc. We are all brothers and sisters in Christ.

Blessings,

Re: , on: 2013/8/9 10:16

2 things:

1. God never acts contrary to His Word.
2. For any experience, always check the fruit that comes out of it and if Jesus Christ is glorified and men are drawn to Him.

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2013/8/9 10:31

I totally agree with the other posters.

When I read this account (before you posted the link) I suspected it will cause people to ask some serious questions, especially since this fellow 'looked' like a Catholic priest. He may not have been - there are other males who are at times mistaken as priests when they are dressed up. In any case, nobody knows who this man is.

The bottom line is that regardless who this man was, it will not impact our salvation unless we become obsessed with his appearance. There are other things that happen that leave people questioning whose answers are elusive but we just

go on trusting the LORD, don't we?

I must say one thing though and that is I was impressed with the girls' request for prayer and her behavior during the time she was entrapped in that wreckage and later. Maybe there is the lesson that we need to learn. In any case it appears as though God is receiving the glory...

God bless.

My opinion.

ginnyrose

Re: Mystery - posted by Sidewalk (), on: 2013/8/10 1:02

Pictures from the scene show a stretch of road in the country, no bystanders, no cars, no way for a man whether priest or other to just walk up to the scene or leave unnoticed. I suspect it was an angelic appearance. Angels are real, and they are emissaries of God to aid humans. That is quite clear in scripture, and as a result we should not be surprised when we hear a story like this.

When my mentally handicapped daughter was about 3 or 4, we heard her giggling in her room and asked her about it. She described, as best she could, a very tall man in white clothes near the end of bed who was chatting/ laughing with her. No human of this description had been in the house. We were left with our ponderings, but appreciating the kindness of the Savior who has always enabled us to joyfully live with our beloved daughter.

Another time, I was working as an RN in an adolescent psychiatric facility. One day I was assigned to accompany the recreation staff for an outdoor activity in the afternoon. I was on a fast, and had not eaten for many hours.

One young man on the activity decided he wanted to leave and run away from the group. The director asked me to escort him back into the hospital before we lost him. No problem...I thought.

Just when we got out of earshot of the group, he tried to make a break for it. I was able to grab him and hold his arm, but I lacked the strength to manhandle him back inside. We stood on the street in a tense standoff, as I quietly reminded the Lord that I had a little need for some help.

Suddenly an old car stopped and two young men got out, heading toward us. Since this was an inner city hospital, I wondered who they might be coming to help!

One asked me if I needed help, and I explained the situation how the boy needed to return to the hospital. Immediately they gently took hold of the boy, and he exploded! He jerked, twisted, and pulled with everything he had as one took the upper body and the other his legs. I just stood there with my mouth agape, looking stupid! The boys had him not only in full control, but their voices of calm and kind assurance were unbelievable. I just lead the way to the elevator, and we all went up to the fourth floor together. Job done!

Had I not been fasting, I would never have given this another thought. Just two guys doing a good deed. But the power, skill, and phenomenal gentleness I witnessed seemed to suggest more. Once the men took over the situation, I was out of the picture- I didn't touch the boy, and didn't speak as they did what they did.

Only God knows what happened that day. But it is near the top of my question list when I see my Savior. Whatever it was, He sure took care of me, and the young men!

Re: jdashley The Shack - posted by trxx (), on: 2013/8/10 21:40

Greetings in the Lord.

If I may, two points come to mind in response to your post

One, the priestly garb worn by the individual involved need not represent a catholic priest. It would look the same of a protestant priest or reverend. Hardly worth mentioning.

The second point is, for me, more importantly addressed. So often I heard negative responses to The Shack from persons who never read the book but were influenced by the controversy surrounding it. Some were adamant that it wasn't worthy of anything but the garbage can or bonfire. If the burning of heretics were still practiced today I'm sure that many, including myself, would have been burned at the stake for suggesting that anyone should read it before condemning it. Look at the discussions on sermonindex for an example.

I consider myself to be doctrinally healthy, so to speak, aware as you are of the small differences of others but able to fellowship with them just the same, holding on to the basic, undeniable doctrines of the faith. I found The Shack to be a "can't put down book" that often brought tears of joy to my eyes. I did not find the errors that so many talked of though I did find one lone reference that I would rather the author did not use but it is a relatively small point.

I did find, however, that the author was misquoted in such a way that he was made to look like he was saying something erroneous. Quotes were put together from different pages so as to look like one complete quote totally out of context. I found it disturbing that those who would never do the same with Scripture did so with this text. The Shack was written for the author's children not for the general public, and neither was it written as a theological text. It was written to illustrate Biblical truths concerning the Godhead and God's love for us.

My suggestion to you would be to read it and judge for yourself whether it is a worthy read or not. Personally, I highly recommend it and I don't generally endorse fiction. Neither do I endorse doctrinal error.

Re: Good conversation - posted by Sidewalk (), on: 2013/8/10 22:28

Thank you Trxx for a very wise and thoughtful response. You echo some of the way I see things, carefully letting people work out with God the meanings of what we encounter.

When I see someone demand chapter and verse in a conversation like this, I know it is not going to end well. In other words- I like the way you think!

I joined into SI apparently way too late to participate in the Shack Fight, and probably a good thing. I too loved the book, having lived long enough to first have enough theological grounding to allow the story to work in my heart more than my brain and second, to have experienced a few of my own heart-wrenching life events to appreciate the author's purpose.

Sometimes I wonder about God the Father and Jesus the Son sitting across from each other at some primordial coffee shop contemplating the creation of the human race.

"Gonna be great..." "Yes..." "But... what if..."

"Yeah, I been thinking about that too."

"This could get real ugly...?"

"I know."

Well, should We or shouldn't We go ahead with this?"

"There will be some who will come to love Us completely. Do We want to miss that?"

"It's risky, but I say We should give it a go. If things go south, I will go and be a redeemer!"

"You're on!"

Hmmmm. Maybe I should write my own Shack book?

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Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2013/8/11 17:13

Sidewalk,

I believe your testimony. Thanks for sharing.

ginnyrose

Re: , on: 2013/8/11 18:51

Mathew 24:24

For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.

2 Corinthians 11:14

No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel if light.

Saints before we go gaga and laud this as a miracle of God let us use caution. The young woman said pray. In what name and to what god was she praying. Was she praying and calling out to Jesus Christ for salvation. If so, I doubt if God would have sent an angel in the guise of a Catholic priest with anointing oil to free her. Catholicism is a heretical religion that denies the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We are in the end times and I believe more of these reports are going to emerge to try to deceive the elect of God.

For the record I do believe in miracles. But only miracles done in the name of Jesus Christ. I have witnessed the power of Jesus Christ being manifested in an AMTRAK derailment. I have witnessed the power of Jesus Christ dissipating torn adobe and tidal waves. Only miracles done in the name of Jesus Christ are true miracles of God. Not Satanic counterfeit.

Regarding The Shack. I read the book. I get more out of the New Testament. My advice. Save your money and time and read the word of God. It will do more for you.

My thoughts.

Bearmaster.

Re: The appearance of an Angel? - posted by dohzman (), on: 2013/8/11 21:23

I haven't read all the comments because I just do not have the time, so if I repeat something someone else said, sorry about that. I also haven't read nor have an opinion on the book some have mentioned. I would however like to point out one thing. If a man appeared at the crash site in ministerial clothing, given the situation of crash sites, especially since the fire and rescue were using the jaws of life to try to free this girl it is very unlikely that anyone would have been able to approach that scene unless they were in a recognizable form of dress. A typical 60's looking Jesus movement dude would have quickly been removed. So the appearance to me was totally logical and appropriate given the circumstances and in line with the overall setting. And since many different religions, as some here stated, use clergy collars, I personally do not see it as an endorsement from God of any one sect or group.

I do find the story amazing though, and rejoice in the helping of anyone who is in such a helpless state by any means.

Re: Easy big fella! - posted by Sidewalk (), on: 2013/8/11 22:44

Whoa, Bearmaster! Roman Catholicism is at variance with my theology too, but people are all the precious possessions of a very loving God. There is going to be some strange overlaps as we all work out our individual pursuits of God.

When the Charismatic movement ripped through the mainline denominations in the '60's and '70's, it showed up in Roman Catholic churches as well as the Episcopalians, Methodists, Lutherans, and Presbyterians. And a bunch of others I am sure, I don't know all the details!

I witnessed this with great gusto, having been raised Presbyterian and baptised in the Spirit under the care of some Assembly of God saints. I attended a bunch of Charismatic meetings, and noticed that while individuals were blessed, many did not leave their original church moorings. They liked being known as "Charismatic Lutherans" and "Charismatic Catholics." I am sure that with any of them we would be able to quickly come to blows over points of doctrine- whatever the

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y got from God didn't change everything!

On a mission trip in 1984 to Guatemala my group was received warmly by the Roman Catholics, the protestants much more coolly.

In the US, the Catholic (charismatic) meetings I have attended have been some of the sweetest times of praise ever, and once when a woman visitor tried to invoke praise of Mary, she was gently told that all the worship in the meeting was for Jesus. And the leaders were Catholics.

At the little mission church in Santa Fe New Mexico, the story is well known of the mysterious staircase, there to this day. The nuns who ran the mission held a Novena, a special nine day prayer program to deal with the fact that when they built their chapel, there was no way to get up to the choir loft. A serious architectural oversight! So they prayed, and out of nowhere a man showed up and volunteered to build a spiral staircase so they could use the upper deck of the chapel.

No one to this day knows the identity of the craftsman, or any other piece of his incredible work, where he came from, where he went. Or how with primitive tools he created the masterpiece, where he got the wood, or even what kind of wood it is!

The scriptures advise us to watch for a man's fruit, not his credentials. Just as in the ministry walk of Jesus, many different miracles were performed, for different purposes, and using different methods lest we come to fix ourselves on some qualifying formula by which we then judge.

I suggest we keep a reasonable mind attuned to the Spirit of God, and trust Him to protect us from error. In the meantime, we will see some wonderful and glorious deeds done by the Hand of God, through the hands of His imperfect servants.

Mystery Priest Who Showed Up at a Crash Scene Then Vanished Has Been Identified - posted by hulseys (), on: 2013/8/13 1:12
<http://news.yahoo.com/mystery-priest-showed-crash-scene-then-vanished-identified-204100904.html>

Re: Mystery Priest Who Showed Up at a Crash Scene Then Vanished Has Been Identified - posted by Sidewalk (), on: 2013/8/13 1:12
Whew! Glad we got that cleared up... So, Who sent the priest??

Re: - posted by SteveHale (), on: 2013/8/13 0:49

All who claim to have Christ in them should have people scratching their heads after they have left, wondering if it was a man or an angel they had just come in contact with.

Blessings Steve

Re: , on: 2013/8/13 1:12

So who sent the priest?

The Pope.

Re: - posted by SteveHale (), on: 2013/8/13 2:26

Gday bear, no offence but when were you last mistaken for an Angel?

Steve

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2013/8/13 9:21

We do not know much about this fellow who says he was the one who prayed for this girl. I do find it strange that the initial reports say that of all the photographs taken of this accident there is no image of a priest on them - or did I miss it?

Strange.

But if it indeed was the guy who came forward and took the credit for praying, it just may be that God is working in his heart as well. We do not know that...

If God is being glorified, let us rejoice...It is like someone said, "God can shoot an arrow straight with a crooked stick."

And....I think we are all at one time or another crooked sticks...

Re: Changing the way we think - posted by Sidewalk (), on: 2013/8/13 11:35

Can we assume that the priest showed up in something of a divine appointment, bringing with him his own perceptions of God, of Jesus, of saints gone before- and saw a real need for spiritual intervention?

I shudder to think of the spiritual conditions of people who have come across my spiritual path over the years, bringing me good news, bad news, weird news, and a whole lot of nonsense to chew on. I have "ministered" some nonsense too, as my perceptions and understanding of the Savior have changed over the years. Been a lot of years!

I am glad God found someone to help that girl survive. May the incident be useful to the Kingdom of God, that those who meditate on His goodness increase in a desire to know Him.

Truth. It cannot be created, only discovered.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2013/8/13 18:42

Hey bear..i am a tad confused about your initial response...are you stating that it may have been a demon who saved this girl. I didnt know that demons were in the business of saving lives.

Re: - posted by Sidewalk (), on: 2013/8/14 0:34

Derek Prince told a story one time of a woman who came forward after a meeting with an interesting story. It seems a woman had taken her chronically ill daughter to a "faith healer" who gave the girl a special locket to wear for her healing. The girl's health immediately improved, and the mom was very impressed. Until she became a little uneasy and broke open the locket. Inside was a tiny little poem:

"Satan keep this girl well until her soul burns in Hell."

Demons are not interested in human healing, but may be willing to buy a little time for the big prize.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2013/8/14 19:24

That doesn't make sense, Sidewalk. If this girl was dying and she wasn't saved, why would Satan want her to live on? If she was in fact saved, the same question applies.

It would seem that Satan would be interested in shortening the life of an unsaved person, not prolonging it.

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Re: - posted by DEADn (), on: 2013/8/14 19:28

This thread reveals how Christians seem to be so careful with anything supernatural that if there is the appearance of something they don't believe in then it is wrong already. I.E. a priest prayed for this girl. The result is that because the Catholic church is false this incident is not of God. Is the thinking really that tight?

I wonder, if any one of us were in an incident like this and asked to pray and someone came that wasn't affiliated to how we necessarily believe, does that mean it is a satanic deception? It baffles me personally.

Re: Human thoughts on mysteries - posted by Sidewalk (), on: 2013/8/15 16:07

(TMK quote)That doesnt make sense, sidewalk. If this girl was dying and she wasnt saved, why would satan want her to live on? If she was in fact saved, the same question applies.

It would seem that satan would be interested in shortening the life of an unsaved person, not prolonging it.(Unquote)

The most addicting substance humans encounter is a drug called "The praise of men." Faith healers are willing to exchange their souls for it, though they are blinded to that particular reality.

Faith healers make deals with their "spirit guides" or whatever they call them. The little message in the amulet was of human origin- but part of the darker deal. Satan is somewhat limited in his power by his need for cooperating humans. He will give a little room, a little time, a little pleasure- until he is able to set the hook and reel them in. Satan seems to particularly enjoy watching suffering in progress, and is not above setting things up for a good show.

It is a healthy thing for a believer to cultivate a knowing hatred for Satan, for the sin which is his food, and to vigorously oppose his works when they are encountered.

My love for Jesus Christ has fanned the flames of contempt for Satanic things, and gives me energy for spiritual warfare. Dealing with demons can be a lot of work!

I was somewhat amused when in one of my circles (Bad Boy bikers turning to Jesus)one of the new converts was really getting into the prayer thing with a hearty "F... you, Satan!!"

Fortunately, his wiser brethren were able to help him redirect some of the enthusiasm.

Regarding the notion that the lust for human praise is so addictive, I would like to explore more on that in another thread. .. when I get some time! I see that little bit of ugliness as a direct counterfeit to the God-given need we all have to be loved.

Back to work here,

Sidewalk Tom