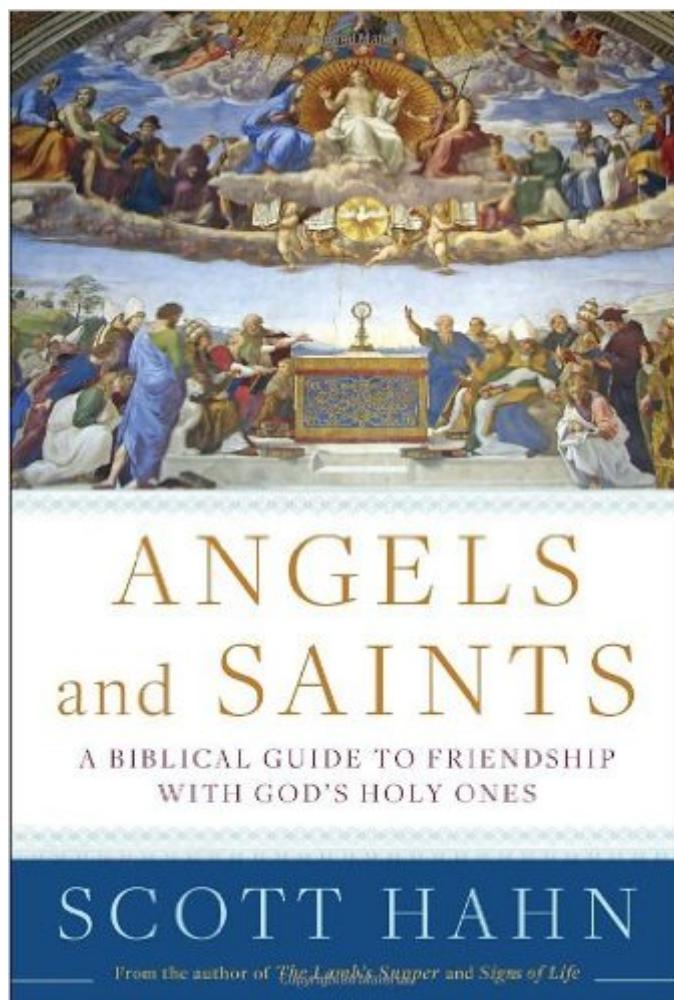


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Angels And Saints: A Biblical Guide To Friendship With God's Holy Ones



Synopsis

Angels and saints. Catholics tend to think of them as different from the rest of us. They're cast in plaster or simpering on a holy card, performing miracles with superhero strength, or playing a harp in highest heaven. Yet they are very near to us in every way. In this lively book, Scott Hahn dispels the false notions and urban legends people use to keep the saints at a safe distance. The truth is that Jesus Christ has united heaven and earth in a close communion. Drawing deeply from Scripture, Dr. Hahn shows that the hosts of heaven surround the earthly Church as a "great cloud of witnesses." The martyrs cry out from heaven's altar begging for justice on the earth. The prayers of the saints and angels rise to God, in the Book of Revelation, like the sweet aroma of incense. Dr. Hahn tells the stories of several saints (and several angels too) in a way that's fresh and new. The saints are spiritual giants but with flesh-and-blood reality. They have strong, holy ambitions and powerful temptations and opposition that must be overcome. Their stories are amazing and yet familiar enough to motivate us to live more beautiful lives. In this telling of their story, the saints are neither otherworldly nor this-worldly. They exemplify the integrated life that every Christian is called to live. Still, their lives are as different from one another as human lives can be. Dr. Hahn shows the heavenly Church in all its kaleidoscopic diversity "from Moses to Mary, Augustine to Therese, and the first century to the last century. Only saints will live in heaven. We need to be more like the saints if we want to live in heaven someday. Dr. Hahn shows us that our heavenly life can begin now. It must.

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Customer Reviews

Scott Hahn is one of the greatest converts to Catholicism in modern history. His conversion story Rome Sweet Home alone has led many to the Faith and many more back to the Faith they left. This work alone would be enough to cement his legacy, but he has written a great many other notable works, including The Lamb's Supper and A Father Who Keeps His Promises, to further expound on the faith and teach converts, cradles, and reverts alike. Lately, Dr. Hahn has been publishing high theology works, which challenge us to grow in our faith and progress from spiritual milk to spiritual meat. Dr. Hahn has returned with a new work entitled Angels and Saints, which is a return to his way of writing that helped so many of us grow in the faith so many years ago. Angels and Saints begins with a personal story of Dr. Hahn and his family travelling in Assisi when he and his children were younger. One of his children had just had an emergency appendectomy, but the doctor said he would be okay to go on the pilgrimage. Predictably, the child was fine at first but had complications while in Assisi, and his condition became life-threatening. Doing the only thing he knew how to do, Dr. Hahn prayed all night and thankfully the child recovered miraculously. The remainder of Part I of the book explains what saints are, titles the Church bestows on holy men and women on the path to sainthood, what saints do, and a brief description of what angels are and names for the different types of angels. In Part II, we are treated to twelve chapters with each one focusing on a specific individual in Heaven. We see great men and women like St. Michael the Archangel; Mary, Queen of Heaven; and even Old Testament great, Moses. I will be focusing on one of my favorite saints, St. Jerome. Dr.

This is a solid, understandable book that explains the concept and theology of angels and saints. The last half of the book contains the stories of specific saints and angels, along with an excerpt from a writing about them (usually from a Church Father). It would definitely be a good book to give to someone wondering about the topic. Angels and saints have been a special interest of mine since my conversion in 2000 so I've read a lot of books on the subject. Therefore, a lot of the information was not new to me. Even so, almost every section had some tidbit which was a surprise or gave me a new perspective. A few samples of the sort of things that knocked my socks off:^{*} Humans are the minority in the Church. Oh, right. Angels outnumber us, which makes sense when you realize that each of us has a guardian angel. (I also was blown away by the connection of guardian angels to Jesus' agony in the Garden of Gethsemane where he was comforted and assisted by ... yep ... an angel.)^{*} Hahn draws on rabbinical teachings to point out: "It was Moses' special intimacy with God that made it possible for him to compose the Torah. He could describe the earliest days of creation

not because he was there, but because God was; through prayerful intimacy, Moses had come to see as God saw." Oh snap!* "There was not a bishop alive who could speak the language of the Old Testament, but Jerome was teaching it to Roman widows and teenagers." They pushed him to the point where he lamented that they had surpassed him in their ability to speak Hebrew with no accent. My favorite part was the introduction where Scott Hahn shares his personal experience, which is both moving and inspiring.

There is a world of persons, much bigger than ours, that we cannot see but who are part of our lives. They are there, because of God, to be a positive influence in our lives. They are powerful beings. They are our friends. They are our helpers. They love us. They care for us. They can do much for us. I agree with the reviewer Stuart Dunn who says of Dr. Scott Hahn, this "is a return to his way of writing that helped so many of us grow in the faith so many years ago." There is something very new and fresh in the way Dr. Hahn presents and teaches this subject. He is engaging. In past lectures and courses, he unusually describes the saints as "our older brothers and sisters in Christ." In this book, he seems to have chosen to reinvent his description of the Communion of Saints, the City of God, and the Church we do not see. He seems to be very excited about describing these. We might understand the human aspect to the Church, but he says that's only the "human minority." It is composed of angels as well and he describes how "there are many more angels than there are people" in this world invisible to the human eye, but as real as anything else that we know exists. It's definitely worth the trip to enter and discover this whole aspect of the Church that is hidden from view. Follow Dr. Hahn as he takes you through a biblical understanding of this and what it means to us. This world may be invisible, but it is not out of reach. No, there are persons who can make a real difference in our lives. We begin to grasp this in Part II of the book where he describes a number of the saints, beginning with Saint Michael and the angels, Moses, and then to saints of the Early Church. Some of these we call the Church Fathers. Yes, he is selective and does not touch on many of them.

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