

# Luke 22:43

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven,  
strengthening him.

## Analysis

**There appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him** (Ὥφθη δὲ αὐτῷ ἄγγελος ἀπ' οὐρανοῦ ἐνισχύων αὐτόν, ὅφθη δὲ αὐτῷ ἄγγελος ἀπ' οὐρανοῦ ενισχύοντα) — In Christ's darkest hour, the Father sent supernatural aid. The verb strengthening (ἐνισχύω, enischyō) means 'to make strong, to invigorate.' This wasn't rescue from suffering but empowerment to endure it. The same angels who ministered to Jesus after His wilderness temptation (Luke 4:11) now appear at the climax of His earthly trial.

This angelic strengthening raises profound theological questions: if Jesus is fully God, why did He need angelic help? Because He is also fully man, experiencing human weakness and limitation. The angel didn't remove the cup (v. 42) but fortified Christ's human nature to drink it. Hebrews 5:7-8 references this moment: Jesus 'offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears... and was heard.' The answer wasn't deliverance but enablement. Similarly, God often answers our prayers not by removing trials but by empowering us to endure them faithfully.

## Historical Context

Angels (ἄγγελοι, angeloi—'messengers') appear throughout Scripture at crucial redemptive moments: announcing Christ's birth (Luke 2:9-14), ministering after His temptation (Matthew 4:11), proclaiming His resurrection (Luke 24:4-7), and appearing at His ascension (Acts 1:10-11). Jewish theology recognized angels as

God's servants who execute His will and assist His people. That an angel would strengthen the Son of God demonstrates the genuine humanity Jesus assumed in the incarnation. Some early manuscripts omit verses 43-44, but strong textual evidence and patristic citations support their authenticity.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's way of 'strengthening' (enabling endurance) differ from your desired way (removing difficulty)?
2. What does angelic strengthening of Jesus reveal about God's provision in your own Gethsemane experiences?
3. How might you be asking God to remove your 'cup' when He's offering strength to drink it?

## Interlinear Text

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Ὥφθη	δὲ	αὐτόν	ἄγγελος	ἀπ'	οὐρανοῦ	ἐνισχύων
<b>there appeared</b>	<b>And</b>	<b>him</b>	<b>an angel</b>	<b>from</b>	<b>heaven</b>	<b>strengthening</b>
G3700	G1161	G846	G32	G575	G3772	G1765

αὐτόν

**him**  
G846

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 4:11** (Parallel theme): Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

**Hebrews 1:14** (Parallel theme): Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

**Matthew 26:53** (Parallel theme): Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?

**Hebrews 1:6** (Parallel theme): And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

**Matthew 4:6** (Parallel theme): And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

**1 Timothy 3:16** (Parallel theme): And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

**Luke 22:32** (Parallel theme): But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

**Deuteronomy 3:28** (Parallel theme): But charge Joshua, and encourage him, and strengthen him: for he shall go over before this people, and he shall cause them to inherit the land which thou shalt see.

**Hebrews 2:17** (Parallel theme): Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

**Acts 18:23** (Parallel theme): And after he had spent some time there, he departed, and went over all the country of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.