

The New Testament And Angels

Gospels - See lesson on Jesus Christ And The Angels

Acts

1. Angels were present at the ascension (Acts 1:9-11). See Jn. 20:12 "in white"

ACT 1:9 And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

ACT 1:10 And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was departing, behold, **two men in white clothing stood beside them;**

ACT 1:11 and they also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

JOH 20:12 and she beheld two angels in white sitting, one at the head, and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying.

- Angels often appeared "in white." (Mk. 16:5; Matt. 28:2,
- See Acts 1:10.
- The angels were emphasizing that Jesus will come visibly. (Rev. 1:7). See 1 Thess. 4:16
- He is coming with "all" His angels. (Matt. 25:31; Rev. 5:11).
- He will conquer His enemies. (Acts 2:34, 35; 1 Cor. 15:24-28).
- Jesus has gone to prepare us a home in heaven and one day will return for us. (Jn. 14:1-3; 2 Pet. 1:20, 21).

2. "An angel of the Lord" released the apostles. (Acts 5:19).

- a. He told them what to speak in the temple [courts] upon release. (Acts 5:20).
- b. The actual message came from the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 10:19, 20; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17).
- c. The apostles obeyed the angel. (Acts 5:21, 27-29).

ACT 5:21 And upon hearing this, they entered into the temple about daybreak, and began to teach. Now when the high priest and his associates had come, they called the Council together, even all the Senate of the sons of Israel, and sent orders to the prison house for them to be brought.

ACT 5:27 And when they had brought them, they stood them before the Council. And the high priest questioned them, ACT 5:28 saying, "We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and behold, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us."

ACT 5:29 But Peter and the apostles answered and said, "**We must obey God rather than men.**"

- d. We learn here that obedience to God must come before obedience to man or even to parents. (Acts 4:18-20; Matt. 10:37, 38).
- e. We should obey the laws of the land (Rom. 13:1-7) unless they forbid obeying the laws of God.
- f. God's law must come first.
- g. Many Christians have faced persecution for coming together, worshiping and serving God, spreading God's word but these things are not optional for Christians.

3. Stephen's face was "like the face of an angel" when he stood before the Sanhedrin. (Acts 6:11-15).

ACT 6:15 And fixing their gaze on him, all who were sitting in the Council saw **his face like the face of an angel.**

- a. Even his enemies [the Council] saw that, wicked as they were.
- b. This was clearly a sign he was from God, and God was with Him.
- c. Despite this fact he was stoned to death with the consent of Saul [Paul]. (Acts 7:58-8:1).
- d. See Exodus 34:29-30 for the face of Moses when he came down from Sinai .

EXO 34:29 And it came about when Moses was coming down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the testimony were in Moses' hand as he was coming down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because of his speaking with Him. EXO 34:30 So when Aaron and all the sons of Israel saw Moses, **behold, the skin of his face shone**, and they were afraid to come near him

2CO 3:7 But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses **because of the glory of his face**, fading as it was,

This was an indication he had been with God and angels.

e. God had spoken to Him through angels. (Acts 7:53; Gal. 3:19; Heb. 2:2).

4. The "angel of Jehovah" appeared to Moses in wilderness of Sinai. (Acts 7:30,35; Exod. 3:1-12).

5. "The angel" spoke to Moses on Mt. Sinai. (Acts 7:38).

ACT 7:38 "This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness together with **the angel who was speaking to him on Mount Sinai**, and who was with our fathers; and he received living oracles to pass on to you.

- a. This likely refers to "the angel of Jehovah."
- b. It appears other angels were present.
- c. See verses listed below - 6.

6. Law was "ordained by angels." (Acts 7:53; Gal. 3:19; Heb. 2:2).

<p>ACT 7:53 you who received the law as ordained by angels, and yet did not keep it. "</p> <p>accusative plural of “diatagas” - “an injunction, institute, ordinance.”</p>	<p>GAL 3:19 Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed should come to whom the promise had been made.</p> <p>“diatas’so” - to arrange, to direct, to command, to ordain.”</p>	<p>HEB 2:2 For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hebrew writer indicates that the Law was “spoken through angels.” • As awesome was that Law, it does not compare to the Law, the Covenant that came through Jesus. (Heb. 8:6,7).
---	---	--

a. **Here is the chain of revelation on Mt. Sinai** - God - Angels - Moses - Israel.

b. God used angels to reveal the Law to Moses who was the “mediator.” (Gal. 3:19; Jn. 1:17).

7. An angel spoke to Philip (Acts 8:26). See Acts 8:29.

<p>ACT 8:26 But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, "Arise and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a desert road.)</p> <p>This is all the angel did. He did not say even a word to the Eunuch.</p>	<p>ACT 8:29 And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go up and join this chariot."</p> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was the Spirit who told him to join to the chariot. • Philip did the preaching, and started by explaining Isaiah 53. (Acts 8:32,33; 21:8). • Men are saved by the preaching of the gospel, the word of truth. (Mk. 16:15; Rom. 1:16; Jas. 1:21; 2 Thess. 2:13, 14). • We must not believe anyone, including an angel, who changes the gospel message. (Gal. 1:8).
--	---

8. Cornelius and the angel (Acts 10:1-2).

a. An angel told Cornelius that his alms and prayers were special to God. (Acts 10:3-4).

ACT 10:3 About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had just come in to him, and said to him, "Cornelius!"

ACT 10:4 And fixing his gaze upon him and being much alarmed, he said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God.

b. He told Cornelius to send men to Joppa and bring Simon Peter to Caesarea.. (Acts 10:5).

c. Cornelius was not a saved man at the time the angel appeared to him. (Acts 10:1-5; 11:13, 14; 10:48).

d. It is noteworthy that the angel did not teach Cornelius, but his conversion came through the preaching of the gospel. (Acts 10:34-48). See Acts 2:38.

9. Peter was put in prison for preaching gospel by Herod Agrippa I in about 44 A.D.. (Acts 12:3).

a. James, the son of Zebedee, was put to death and Peter was arrested. (Acts 12:1,2).

b. The church “fervently” prayed for Peter’s release. (Acts 12:5).

ACT 12:5 So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God.

c. Peter was bound between two soldiers. (Acts 12:6).

1) He was “bound with two chains.”

2) There were also “guards in front of the door.” NIV “Sentries stood guard at the entrance.”

3) They were very fearful that Peter would escape, but did not recognize you cannot successfully guard what God wants released.

4) One is reminded to the futile assignment given the Roman guards assign to guard the tomb of Jesus. (Matt. 27:64-66).

d. Peter was awaiting trial before Herod. (Acts 12:6).

e. The day before the trial Peter was released by an angel. (Acts 12:7-10, 11).

ACT 12:7 And behold, **an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared**, and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter's side and roused him, saying, "Get up quickly." And his chains fell off his hands

ACT 12:8 And **the angel said to him**, "Gird yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." . "Put on your clothes" - NIV

ACT 12:9 And he went out and continued to follow, and he did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision.

ACT 12:10 And when they had passed the first and second guard, they came to the iron gate that leads into the city, which opened for them by itself; and they went out and went along one street; and immediately the angel departed from him.

ACT 12:11 And when Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I know for sure that the Lord has sent forth His angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

10. An angel struck Herod. (Acts 12:21-23).

ACT 12:21 And on an appointed day Herod, having put on his royal apparel, took his seat on the rostrum and began delivering an address to them.

ACT 12:22 And the people kept crying out, "The voice of a god and not of a man!" Gr."theos" can be rendered "voice of God or god." There is no article in Greek.

ACT 12:23 **And immediately an angel of the Lord struck him because he did not give God the glory**, and he was eaten by worms and died. "dox'a" means "glory." NIV "did not give praise to God."

a. An angel struck him down. (Acts 12:23).

b. Herod died a horrible death. He was literally eaten alive, from the inside out, by worms.

11. The Sadducees did not believe in angels. (Acts 23:8,9).

ACT 23:8 For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor an angel, nor a spirit; but the Pharisees acknowledge them all. "Spirit" comes from the Greek "pneu'ma." It is not here defined, but may refer to the denial of the "soul" (immortal soul).

ACT 23:9 And there arose a great uproar; and some of the scribes of the Pharisaic party stood up and began to argue heatedly, saying, "We find nothing wrong with this man; suppose **a spirit or an angel** has spoken to him?" "spirit" may have idea of a departed "human spirit."

a. The Sadducees were the modernists of Christ's day.

1) Religion was a matter of power and money to them.

2) Theirs was not a heart religion.

b. They also rejected the "spirit" (soul) and the resurrection.

MAT 22:23 On that day some Sadducees (who say there is no resurrection) came to Him and questioned Him, MAT 22:24 saying, "Teacher, Moses said, 'If a man dies, having no children, his brother as next of kin shall marry his wife, and raise up an offspring to his brother.'

MAT 22:25 "Now there were seven brothers with us; and the first married and died, and having no offspring left his wife to his brother;

MAT 22:26 so also the second, and the third, down to the seventh.

MAT 22:27 "And last of all, the woman died.

MAT 22:28 "In the resurrection therefore whose wife of the seven shall she be? For they all had her."

MAT 22:29 But Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures, or the power of God.

MAT 22:30 "For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

MAT 22:31 "But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read that which was spoken to you by God, saying,

MAT 22:32 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not the God of the dead but of the living. "

12. Paul was in a violent storm. (Acts 27:18-20).

a. Paul reassured those on the ship they would not perish. (Acts 27:23-25,).

ACT 27:23 "For this very night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood before me,

ACT 27:24 saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar; and behold, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you.'

ACT 27:25 "Therefore, keep up your courage, men, for I believe God, that it will turn out exactly as I have been told.

b. "An angel of God" gave him this assurance.

1 Corinthians

1. The apostles were a "spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men. (1 Cor. 4:9).

- a. The word "spectacle" comes from the Greek "the'atron" meaning "spectacle, show, play."
- b. This verse is additional evidence that human behavior is observed by angels. (Lk. 15:10).
- c. See 1 Peter 1:10-12 manifesting that in the past angels observed the world and its events.
- d. See 1 Corinthians 11:10 discussed later in this lesson.

2. Somehow we shall judge angels. (1 Cor. 6:3).

- "Do you not know that we will judge angels?"
- Since there would be no need to judge righteous angels, the reference must be to wicked angels.
- There is absolutely no explanation given on the how, but the fact we will be involved in judging angels should make us ashamed when we cannot settle disputes among ourselves.
 - a. Paul is here making the point we should be able to settle disputes among ourselves. (1 Cor. 6:1-3).
 - b. We certainly send a poor message to the world when we are unable to settle our differences among ourselves.

3. Grecian Christian women were commanded to wear veils "because of the angels." (1 Cor. 11:10).

1CO 11:10 Therefore the woman ought to have a symbol [sign] of authority on her head, because of the angels.

- a. At Corinth the veil had the meaning of submission and moral purity.
- b. It destroyed the reputation of a Christian woman to remove her veil.
- c. The veil does not have real meaning to most in America and to most of the world today.
- d. The woman who wears a veil must explain why she is wearing it because the vast majority of people would not know. (A hat does not have the meaning of a veil.)
- e. Christian women today must be submissive and pure but in our society it is not manifested by the wearing of a veil.
- f. This may not be true in all parts of the world.

Hebrews

1. Christ is superior to angels.

- a. Christ "has inherited more excellent name than" the angels and is called "my Son" and "God." This language is never used of the angels. (Heb. 1:4,5,8).
- Christ was "log'os" (Word) in eternity. (Jn. 1:1, 14; 1 Jn. 1:1).
 - In the New Testament He is called "Immanuel" (Matt. 1:23), and was given the name "Jesus" (Savior). (Matt. 1:21).

HEB 1:4 having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.

Notes - Heb. 1:6

The Greek “pal’in” (again) likely follows “And” introducing another quotation. “And again, when He brings the first-born into the world, He says,...

This passages does not discuss Christ’s first coming into the world.

“first-born” - Col. 1:18; Rev. 1:5.
He was the first one raised from the dead who did not die again and is the guarantee of our resurrection.

“World” is from the Greek “oikoumen’e” meaning “the inhabited world.”

Resurrection & Coronation

HEB 1:5 For to which of the angels did He ever say, "Thou art **My Son**, Today I have begotten Thee"? And again, "I will be a Father to Him And He shall be a Son to Me"? Acts 13:30-33

Resurrection - See notes previous column.

HEB 1:6 And when **He again brings the first-born into the world**, He says, "And let all the angels of God worship Him."

HEB 1:7 And of the angels He says, "Who makes His angels winds, And His ministers a flame of fire."

1. Angels are called “sons of God.” (Job 1:6; 38:7).
2. Adam is called “the son of God.” (Lk. 3:38).
3. Christians are called “sons of God.” (Gal. 3:26, 27; 4:6; 2 Cor. 6:18).

Neither men or angels are called the “son” of God in the lofty sense that Jesus is given this designation.

Note the language “my son” used of Jesus

HEB 1:8 But of the Son He says, "Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever, And the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom.

HEB 1:9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you **above your companions** by anointing you with the oil of joy. "

Upon His return to heaven He became the King of kings and the Lord of lords.” (Rev. 17:14, 19:16). He now reigns in the hearts of those who have entered His kingdom through the new birth. (Lk. 17:20, 21; Col. 1:13; Rom. 14:17).

PSA 45:6 Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Thy kingdom.

PSA 45:7 Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated wickedness; Therefore God, Thy God, has anointed Thee With the oil of joy above Thy fellows.

Resurrection

ACT 13:33 that God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, 'Thou art My Son; today I have begotten Thee.' Psa. 2:7

HEB 1:5 For to which of the angels did He ever say, "Thou art My Son, Today I have begotten Thee"? And again, "I will be a Father to Him And He shall be a Son to Me"? Psa. 2:7; 2 Sam. 7:14

Christ Becoming Our High Priest Upon His Return To Heaven (Acts 1:8-11).

HEB 5:5 So also Christ did not glorify Himself so as to become a high priest, but He who said to Him, "Thou art My Son, Today I have begotten Thee";

b. Angels worship Jesus showing they are inferior to Him. (Heb. 1:6).

1) Jesus is the Creator. (Jn. 1:1-3; Heb. 1:2).

2) Angels are the created. (Psa. 148:2, 5).

c. Angels are “ministering spirits”. (Heb. 1:14).

- 1) Flesh cannot be in heaven. (1 Cor. 15:50). Heaven is a spiritual place. It is sometimes described in physical terms that men may better comprehend it. (Rev. 21 &22).
- 2) Angels can appear in a human form. (Gen. 18:1; 19:1).
- 3) Angels are not, however, “flesh.”
- 4) They are “spirits” who render service to God.

2. Christ was lower than the angels in the sense He was flesh and was subject to death. (Psa. 8:4,5; Heb. 2:7,9).

<p>PSA 8:4 What is man, that Thou dost take thought of him? And the son of man, that Thou dost care for him? PSA 8:5 Yet Thou hast made him a little lower than God, And dost crown him with glory and majesty!</p>	<p>HEB 2:7 "Thou hast made him for a little while lower than the angels; Thou hast crowned him with glory and honor, And hast appointed him over the works of Thy hands; HEB 2:9 But we do see Him who has been made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.</p>
--	---

- a. Christ was inferior to the angels for only a short period of time - the time of His incarnation.
 - b. Christ was not, however, inferior to the angels in any other way. (Matt. 1:23; Jn. 10:9; Phil. 2:7; Col. 2:9).
3. All men are “a little lower than the angels.” (Psa. 8:4,5).
- a. Angels are not flesh and do not die.
 - b. Men do die now. (Lk. 20:36).
 - c. Men are made “in the image of God.” (Gen. 1:26,27).
4. Fallen angels are past redemption. (Heb. 2:16).
- a. For whom did Christ die? (Heb. 2:9, 16).
 - b. Salvation is for the descendants of Abraham. (Heb. 2:16).

HEB 2:16 For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendant of Abraham.

- c. The Bible reveals the true descendants of Abraham. (Gal. 3:7; 6:16).
5. One may entertain angels unawares. (Heb. 13:2).
- a. Abraham did. (Gen. 18:1, 22).
 - b. Lot entertained angels but seemed to be aware of it. (Gen. 19:1).

GEN 19:1 Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening as Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw

them, he rose to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground.

c. The main point of the Hebrew writer is that Christians should be hospitable.

1) See Rom. 12:13.

2) True hospitality is not limited to friends, but manifested especially to Christian strangers.

3) It is to be done “without complaint.” (1 Pet. 4:9).

4) It will bring great blessings to us if done with the right motives and attitude.

Other New Testament references

1. Christ is over the angels. (Eph. 1:20,21; 1 Pet. 3:22; Matt. 28:18-20).

2. We must not listen to even an angel if he perverts the gospel. (Gal. 1:8,9).

GAL 1:8 But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

GAL 1:9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed.

a. The Bible declares we have all truth. (Jn. 14:26; 16:13; Jude 3).

JOH 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.	JOH 16:13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.	JUD 1:3 Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.
---	---	---

b. We should not listen to men or angels who change the message!

3. Paul was received "as an angel of God". (Gal 4:14).

GAL 4:14 and that which was a trial to you in my bodily condition you did not despise or loathe, but you **received me as an angel of God**, as Christ Jesus Himself.

a. The word “angel” means “messenger.”

b. It can refer to either divine or human messengers.

c. It likely has the idea “as a human messenger of God.”

d. The brethren at Galatia would not likely have been very familiar with the appearance of literal angels.

e. They treated him very kindly as Abraham had treated his three guests. (Gen. 18:1).

4. Christians are forbidden to worship angels. (Col. 2:18).

COL 2:18 Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,

- a. It is idolatry to worship angels.
- b. Neither are we to worship men. (Acts 10:25, 26).
- c. We are to worship only Deity - nothing that has been made.

5. Christ was "seen of angels." (1 Tim. 3:16).

1TI 3:16 And by common confession great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, Was vindicated in the Spirit, Beheld by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.

- a. See lesson on Christ and the Angels
- b. Angels were closely associated with Jesus during His entire life.

6. Angels are innumerable. (Heb. 12:22; Rev. 5:11).

HEB 12:22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels,

REV 5:11 And I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands,

7. Angels desired to know the marvelous contents of the gospel. (1 Pet. 1:12).

1PE 1:12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven-- **things into which angels long to look.**

8. Some angels sinned and are chained in Tartarus. (2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6).

2PE 2:4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell [Tartarus] and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;	JUD 1:6 And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day.
---	--

- a. Wicked angels are now being punished even before the final judgment.
- b. Wicked men are not being punished even before the final judgment. (Lk. 16:19-31).

9. Some wicked angels are free and work with Satan. (Eph. 6:11-18).

EPH 6:11 Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.
 EPH 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.
 EPH 6:13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.
 EPH 6:14 Stand firm therefore, having **girded your loins with truth**, and having put on **the breastplate of righteousness**,
 EPH 6:15 and having **shod your feet** with the preparation of the gospel of peace;
 EPH 6:16 in addition to all, **taking up the shield of faith** with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one.
 EPH 6:17 And take **the helmet of salvation**, and **the sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God.
 EPH 6:18 **With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit**, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

- a. The Christian's struggle "is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places."
 - b. The Christian has struggles against men and may be persecuted by men (Matt. 5:10-12; 2 Tim. 3:12), but His greatest struggle is with the forces of evil.
 - c. We must "put on the full armor of God" [Eph. 6:11, 13] that we may "be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil."
 - d. Leaving off even part of the "armor of God" can be fatal.
 - e. Jesus warned against those who can cause us to lose our soul. (Matt. 10:28).
 - f. We must never underestimate the forces of evil and we must never underestimate the power of God. (Jas. 4:7, 8).
10. They will be cast into hell with the devil when Jesus comes. (Matt. 25:41).

"Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®,
 © Copyright 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation
 Used by permission." (www.Lockman.org)