

# Angels

## Introduction.

- I. There are many in our society who, like the Sadducees of old, deny the existence of angels and contend they are myths. (Acts 23:8).
  - A. Many who believe in angels know little or nothing about them.
  - B. Many, in our age, believe angels watch over us and save or rescue people.
  - C. There have been several TV series featuring the actions of angels.
    1. "Highway To Heaven"
    2. "Touched By An Angel"

## II. The Bible unequivocally affirms the existence of angels.

- A. This affirmation is made from Genesis to Revelation.
- B. Angels are mentioned in **34** books of the 66 books of the Bible.
  1. Angels are mentioned **108** times in the Old Testament.
  2. They are mentioned **186** times in the New Testament.
- C. The Bible does not reveal everything about angels, but it does tell us much about them.

## III. The purpose of this series of lessons is to carefully study what the Bible teaches about angels - Angelology.

### I. Definition

- A. The word "angel" comes from the Hebrew word "malak" (mal awk) and the Greek "an'gelos" meaning "one who is sent, messenger."
- B. The word can refer to a human messenger.

#### 1. John the Baptist

MAL 3:1 "Behold, I am going to send My **messenger**, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the Lord of hosts.

MAT 11:9 "But why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I say to you, and one who is more than a prophet.  
MAT 11:10 "This is the one about whom it is written, 'Behold, I send My **messenger** before Your face, Who will

prepare Your way before You.'

MAT 11:11 "Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

MAR 1:2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send My **messenger** before Your face, Who will prepare Your way; Mal. 3:1

LUK 7:24 And when the **messengers** of John had left, He began to speak to the multitudes about John, "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?

LUK 7:27 "This is the one about whom it is written, 'Behold, I send My **messenger** before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.'

## 2. **Messengers**

LUK 9:52 and He [Jesus] sent **messengers** on ahead of Him. And they went, and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make arrangements for Him.

JAM 2:25 And in the same way was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works, when she received the **messengers** [or spies] and sent them out by another way?

JOB 1:14 that **a messenger** came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them,

ISA 11:3 And the elders of Jabesh said to him, "Let us alone for seven days, that we may send **messengers** throughout the territory of Israel. Then, if there is no one to deliver us, we will come out to you."

2SA 2:3 And David brought up his men who were with him, each with his household; and they lived in the cities of Hebron. 4 Then the men of Judah came and there anointed David king over the house of Judah. ¶ And they told David, saying, "It was the men of Jabesh-gilead who buried Saul." 5 And David sent **messengers** to the men of Jabesh-gilead, and said to them, "May you be blessed of the Lord because you have shown this kindness to Saul your lord, and have buried him.

- Used of "messenger" in Rev. 2:1. "To the angel"
- This is likely a human messenger, but it is not known why they are praised or rebuke. The praise or rebuke is intended for the congregation.

## 3. **Of prophets** Isa. 42:19; Hag. 1:13;

ISA 42:19 Who is blind but My servant, Or so deaf as My **messenger** whom I send? Who is so blind as he that is at peace with Me, Or so blind as the servant of the Lord?

HAG 1:13 Then Haggai, the **messenger** of the Lord, spoke by the commission of the Lord to the people saying, "'I am with you,' declares the Lord."

## 4. **Of priests**, Mal. 2:7.

MAL 2:7 "For the lips of a priest should preserve knowledge, and men should seek instruction from his mouth; for he is the **messenger** of the Lord of hosts.

C. It usually refers to a heavenly messenger.

## II. Some Facts About Angels

### A. Angels are created by God.

PSA 148:2 Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts! 3 Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him, all stars of light! 4 Praise Him, highest heavens, And the waters that are above the heavens! 5 Let them praise the name of the Lord, For He commanded and they were created.

NEH 9:6 "Thou alone art the Lord. Thou hast made the heavens, The heaven of heavens with all their host, The earth and all that is on it, The seas and all that is in them. Thou dost give life to all of them And the heavenly host bows down before Thee.

COL 1:16 For by Him [Jesus] all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

- Only Deity is eternal - all others things men, angels, lower creation, material creation have been created.
  1. They were created before the creation of the world. (Job 38:7).

**JOB 38:7 When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God (angels) a shouted for joy?** Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7.

2. Since God is absolute good (moral perfection) and could not consistently create anything evil, angels were created good.
3. Angels are "holy" and "elect." (Mk. 8:38; 1 Tim. 5:21; Isa. 6:1-8; Rev. 5:11,12).

### B. Angels are innumerable. (Matt. 26:53; Heb. 12:22; Rev. 5:11).

<p>MAT 26:53 "Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than <b>twelve legions of angels?</b></p> <p>This is not all the angels.</p>	<p>HEB 12:22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to <b>myriads of angels,</b></p> <p>Innumerable, countless angels</p>	<p>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 <b>myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands,</b></p> <p><b>Note:</b> "urias" (moo <u>ree</u> as) denotes 10,000, a large, indefinite number.</p>
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1. A legion was equal to about 6,000 troops. Gr. "legeon" - a Roman regiment.
2. TCNT has "countless hosts of angels" (Heb. 12:22).
3. Revelation 5:11 has "ten thousand times ten thousand." ASV
  - a. It is literally "myriads of myriads." 10,000's of 10,000's.
  - b. The number in Revelation 5:11 is 100,000,000 and then "thousands of thousands."

11 Then I looked, and I heard the voices of many angels on every side of the throne and of the living creatures and the elders [of the heavenly Sanhedrin], and they numbered ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands,

[Dan. 7:10]. Amp.

C. Angels have ranks.

1. Michael is the archangel. (Jude 9; 1 Thess. 4:16).
2. Later lessons will discuss the ranks of angels.

D. Angels are neither God, human, or animal.

1. Angels were created by God. (Psa. 148:2-5).
2. For a time Jesus was in a fleshy form and was a little lower than the angels. (Psa. 8:4,5; Heb. 1:3; 2:9,10,16-18).

HEB 1:3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high;

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.

HEB 2:10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.

HEB 2:16 For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendant of Abraham. 17 Therefore, **He had to be made like His brethren in all things**, that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

- a. Jesus was lower than the angels in that He was flesh and could die. (Jn. 1:14; 1 Tim. 3:16; Phil. 2:5-8).
  - b. As Deity He was not lower in every way. (Matt. 1:23; Col. 2:9).
3. **Man is lower than the angels.** (Psa. 8:4,5).
- a. He is flesh and is subject to pain, disease, etc.
  - b. He is subject to death. (Job 14:1,2; Heb. 9:27).
4. **Man is over the animal creation.** (Gen. 1:26,27).

GEN 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." 29 Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every

tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you;

a. Only man is made in the “image of God.”

b. This does not mean God is flesh (Jn. 4:24), but man is a creature of authority and has been given over creation.

E. Angels can sin.

1. The Bible speaks of fallen angels. (Jude 6).

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.

- “domain” is from the Gr. “arche”[ar kay’] that has the basic meaning of “beginning.”
- NIV has “positions of authority.” NRSV has “own position.” ASV has “principality.”

2. They are now in tartarus. (2 Pet. 2:4).

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;

- a. “Hell” is literally “Tartarus.”
- b. “Tartarus” is another name for “Hades,” but it is never used of the grave. “Hades” can mean the grave.
- c. The two terms, Hades and Tartarus, are not exactly synonymous.
- d. It may denote the deepest abyss (depths) of Hades.
- e. “Tartaro’o” is the verb form of “Tartarus.” The verb form “to cast into Tartarus” is used in this verse.

**Note:**

1. It is certain that sinful angels were cast into Tartarus.
2. It is not certain that all sinful angels sinned at the same time.
3. It would seem that some wicked angels are not in Tartarus especially if demons are identical to wicked angels.
4. Ephesians 6:12 indicates our struggles are against “the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

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.

5. Later lessons will attempt to define “demons” (unclean spirits) and “wicked angels.”

F. Angels, as created beings, are not to be worshiped.

1. God (Deity) alone is to be worshiped. (Exod. 20:1-6). It is proper to worship Jesus as Deity.

2. Romans 1:25; Col. 2:18.

ROM 1:25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

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,

G. **Fallen angels are past redemption.** (Heb. 2:16).

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

H. Angels are sexless. (Matt. 22:30; Mk. 12:25; Lk. 20:36).

MAT 22:30 "For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.	MAR 12:25 "For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.	LUK 20:36 for neither can they die anymore, for they are like angels, and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.
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1. They are created beings.
2. They are innumerable, do not die, and do not need to reproduce.

I. Angels do not die. (Lk. 20:36).

**LUK 20:36 for neither can they die anymore, for they are like angels, and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.**

1. This shows the great superiority of angels over man.
2. Men have a very limited existence in the flesh.

J. Angels have great strength, but are not omnipotent. (2 Pet. 2:11; Psa. 91:11,12; 103:20; Dan. 6:22; 2 Thess.1:7; Rev. 20:2,10).

2PE 2:11 whereas angels who are **greater in might** and power do not bring a reviling judgment against them [the false prophets] before the Lord.

PSA 91:11 For He will give His angels charge concerning you, To guard you in all your ways.

PSA 91:12 They will bear you up in their hands, Lest you strike your foot against a stone.

PSA 103:20 Bless the Lord, you His angels, **Mighty in strength**, who perform His word, Obeying the voice of His word!

DAN 6:22 "My God sent **His angel and shut the lions' mouths**, and they have not harmed me, inasmuch as I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime."

2TH 1:7 and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven **with His mighty angels** in flaming fire,

REV 20:2 And he [the angel] laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, Rev. 20:1.

REV 20:10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

1. Gen. 32:22-32; Hos. 12:4)

GEN 32:22 Now he arose that same night and took his two wives and his two maids and his eleven children, and crossed the ford [pass, passing] of the Jabbok. "Jabbok" was a stream East of the Jordan River.

GEN 32:23 And he [Jacob] took them and sent them across the stream. And he sent across whatever he had. 24 Then Jacob was left alone, and **a man wrestled with him** until daybreak. 25 And when he [the man] saw that he had not prevailed against him, he touched the socket of his thigh; so the socket of Jacob's thigh was dislocated while he wrestled with him. 26 Then he said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking." But he said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." 27 So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." 28 And he said, "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel; for you have **striven with God** and with men and have prevailed." 29 Then Jacob asked him and said, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And he blessed him there. 30 So Jacob named the place Peniel, for he said, "**I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been preserved.**" 31 Now the sun rose upon him just as he crossed over Penuel, and he was limping on his thigh. 32 Therefore, to this day the sons of Israel do not eat the sinew of the hip which is on the socket of the thigh, because he touched the socket of Jacob's thigh in the sinew of the hip.

- "Penuel" or "Peniel" means "the face of God." It is the place where Jacob wrestled God.
- He is called "a man." (Gen. 32:23).
- He is called "the angel" in Hosea 12:4.
- This passage is likely an account of the "angel of the Lord (Jehovah)" wrestling Jacob.

**HOS 12:3 In the womb he (Jacob) took his brother [Esau] by the heel, And in his maturity he contended with God.** "God" is from "elohim."

**HOS 12:4 Yes, he wrestled with the angel and prevailed; He wept and sought His favor. He found Him at Bethel, And there He spoke with us,** "Angel" is from "malak."

2. Angels freed the apostles. (Acts 5:19; 12:7).

3. Angels rolled away the stone from the tomb of Jesus. (Matt. 28:2).

K. Angels are intelligent, but not omniscient.

1. As important as they may be, they are mere messengers of God.
2. Psa. 148:2 (intelligent worship); 2 Sam. 14:20; 1 Pet. 1:12.
3. See Matt. 24:36. Angels do not know when Christ will come again.
  - a. This is not the only thing angels do not know.
  - b. They know only what God has revealed to them or they have observed.
  - c. Since the Christian age has arrived angels have greatly increased in knowledge of the scheme of redemption.

### **Christ**

1. Christ is all knowing. (Jno. 2:24; 16:39; 21:17).
2. Matthew 24:36 may have referred to some sort of self-imposed limitation during the time of His humanity.
3. Time of His coming was not known by Christ at that time.
4. This may not be true now, but we cannot be sure.
5. See Luke 2:52

LUK 2:52 And Jesus kept **increasing in wisdom** and stature, and **in favor with God and men.**

- a. It is puzzling how Christ could “increase” especially “in wisdom” and “in favor with God.”
  - The idea may be that every act of obedience made God more pleased with His Son just as a human father can become more and more pleased with his son.
  - It is possible that Jesus limited Himself in His humanity so that He could increase “in wisdom.”
- b. The Bible says, “He learned obedience.” (Heb. 5:8).
  - Jesus had always been obedient to the Father, but His humanity was a whole different experience.
  - He put on human flesh and He was severely tempted by Satan, but He resisted and was obedient to God.

L. Angels are beautiful and usually in white apparel. (Matt. 28:3; Lk. 2:9; 7:30; 1:10).

M. They have tongues (languages). (1 Cor. 13:1)

1CO 13:1 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

1. Paul did not necessarily speak in tongues of angels, but he if he did so it was as a useless noise without love.



- 2. We know nothing about angelic languages and how many there may be.
- 3. There is no proof that men today speak in angelic languages or that any Christian has ever spoken in an angelic language.

N. Angels are spirits. (Heb. 1:14).

O. They can appear in human form. (Gen. 18:1,2,22; 19:1; Lk. 24:4, 23; Acts 10:3,30).

GEN 18:1 Now the Lord appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, while he was sitting at the tent door in the heat of the day. 22 Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham was still standing before the Lord.

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.

LUK 24:4 And it happened that while they were perplexed about this, behold, **two men** suddenly stood near them in dazzling apparel; 23 and did not find His body, they came, saying that they had also seen **a vision of angels**, who said that He was alive.

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 10:30 And Cornelius said, "Four days ago to this hour, I was praying in my house during the ninth hour; and behold, **a man stood before me in shining garments**,

P. They belong to God and the heavenly realm and **engage in His service**. (Matt. 24:36; Mk.12:25; Lk. 12:8; Psa. 103:20.).

Q. They praise God. (Psa. 148:2; Rev. 5:12,13).

PSA 148:2 Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts!

REV 5:12 saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."

REV 5:13 And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever."

R. Angels are also called by other descriptions.

“sons of God” - Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7 .	“holy ones” - Deut. 33:2; Psa. 89:7.	“hosts” - Psa. 103:20, 21
“mighty ones”	“watches” - Dan. 4:13, 17, 23 Heb. eer	“spirits” - Heb. 1:14.

### III. Myths About Angels

A. Angels are women.

- 1. Angels are always spoken of in the masculine gender, but the grammatical gender does not always denote

the real gender.

- a. Cities are often put in the feminine gender.
  - b. The church (men and women) is feminine in gender. "ekklesia" [ek klay see a] is feminine.
2. The only angels named have the names of men. (Gabriel, Michael). (Dan. 8:16; Lk.1:19, 26; Dan. 10:21; 12:1; Jude 9; Rev. 12:7).
  3. They appeared as men. (Gen. 18:1,2; 19:1;; Mk. 16:5; Lk.24:4).
  4. Actually angels are sexless. (Matt. 22:29-32; Lk. 20:35-37.).

MAT 22:29 But Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures, or the power of God. 30 "For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. 31 "But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read that which was spoken to you by God, saying, 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. "

LUK 20:35 but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage; 36 for neither can they die anymore, for they are like angels, and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. 7 "But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the passage about the burning bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.

#### B. Angels have wings and play and harps.

1. This error has come from men accepting artists rather than scripture.
2. The angels in scriptures have neither wings, harps, nor halos.
3. It is true that the cherubim symbols have wings, but otherwise there is nothing to indicate that angels have wings.

#### C. Angels are without bodies.

1. They do not have a fleshy body.
2. They have assumed fleshy forms.

LUK 24:4 And it happened that while they were perplexed about this, behold, **two men** suddenly stood near them in dazzling apparel;

LUK 24:23 and did not find His body, they came, saying that they had also **seen a vision of angels**, who said that He was alive.

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 10:30 And Cornelius said, "Four days ago to this hour, I was praying in my house during the ninth hour; and behold, **a man stood before me in shining garments**,

3. There are both terrestrial and celestial bodies. (1 Cor. 15:40).

<sup>40</sup>There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial *is* one, and the *glory* of the terrestrial *is* another. KJV

1CO 15:40 There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one, and the glory of the earthly is another. NASB

4. Both God and Christ are “Spirit,” but they have forms.

PHI 2:5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed **in the form of God**, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the **form** of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. See Jn. 4:24; Col. 1:15.

PHI 3:21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity **with the body of His glory**, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

HEB 1:1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, **He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high**;

- One without form or body cannot sit.
  5. Angels are not a "fog" or "mist," but have a heavenly body (form).
  6. Angels are not worldly as depicted in some movies, but are holy.

E. Angels are **dead saints** in heaven.

1. At funeral services many suggest the departed are now "another of God's angels."
2. Saints do not become angels, but are carried by angels to Abraham's bosom. (Lk.16:22).
3. Lazarus was still Lazarus in Abraham's bosom - not an angel. (Lk. 16:22-25).

F. Angels do not have personal feelings.

1. They are never pictured as impersonal heavenly robots.
2. They have curiosity. (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.

3. They **rejoice when sinners repent**. (Lk. 15:10).
4. They had concern because of the misconduct of the Christian women at Corinth. (1 Cor. 11:10).

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

**Conclusion**

I. Yes, the Bible reveals some interesting facts about angels.

## II. Lesson 2 - The Old Testament And Angels

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