

***THE BASIC THINGS YOU
NEED TO KNOW ABOUT
ANGELS***

Lars B. Dunberg

ServeNow

The Basic Things You Need to Know About Angels

Author: Lars B. Dunberg

Editor: Bethany J. Foley

Copyright © 2025 by *ServeNow*

Used by Permission

All rights reserved

ISBN 979-8-90086-011-4

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are taken from:

The Holy Bible, New International Version®, *NIV*®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan . All rights reserved worldwide www.zondervan.com

The “NIV” and “New International Version” are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™

Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, Copyright© 1996, 2004, 2007, 2013, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

Published jointly by *ServeNow* and CLC/MLM

5142 North Academy Blvd #153

Colorado Springs, CO 80918

The Basic Things You Need to Know About Angels

Introduction

When people talk about angels, they often say: “Those people must have had a guardian angel watching over them!” or “It is good to know that when I die, I turn into an angel!” They may also ask, “Are there really angels around us?” or “Do all who die turn into an angel?”

Some theologians describe angels like this: “Angels are created, spiritual beings with moral judgment and high intelligence, but without physical bodies.”

According to one survey, 75 percent of people around the world believe in angels. More than one in three reports having had a personal experience with a celestial being. 15 percent of those say it happened in a vibrant dream.

To truly understand the role of angels and who they are, we don’t need to listen to unique and at times weird expressions about them. We need to look at what the word of God says about them.

The word “angel, angels, his angel, angels of God, an angel of God, an angel of the Lord” are some of the many mentions of angels in the Bible. There are over 260 references to angels in the Bible. They appear in most of the 66 books of the Bible.

The best source for information about angels is the Bible

A biblical angel is by function a messenger of God, familiar with him face to face, and therefore being created on a level higher than humankind.

It is most likely that the angels were created slightly before God created the heavens and the earth. In Job 38:6-7, we read: *who laid its cornerstone as the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?* (NLT).

Paul writes in Colossians 1:16-17: *For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*

While only God knows every human heart, angels come to earth and do his bidding, just as the one who rolled away the stone in front of the tomb of Jesus. Angels are greater than humans in both power and knowledge. They rank lower than God but higher than humans, but in the end, we will be part of judging them. Paul explains this when he writes to the church in Corinth: *Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life!* (1 Corinthians 6:3).

Angels have emotions. In the Gospel of Luke, we read that *there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God* (Luke 15:7, NLT).

What others have said about angels

The French reformer John Calvin, was born in France in 1509. He ministered most of his life in Geneva, Switzerland until his death in 1564. John Calvin wrote in one of his books: "Angels are the dispensers and administrators of the divine beneficence toward us. They regard our safety, undertake our defense, direct our ways, and exercise a constant solitude that no evil befalls us."

Martin Luther, the German reformer, once said: "An angel is a spiritual creature without a body, created by God for the service of Christendom and the church."

Billy Graham used to say, "I believe in angels because the Bible says there are angels, and I believe the Bible to be the true Word of God." He also stated: "I also believe in angels because I have sensed their presence in my life on special occasions."

The angels were created by God

In the Bible we are told that angels were created by God, just like you and me. In Colossians 1:16, Paul tells us, *For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible...*

Can we see the angels?

When Daniel was in the lions' den, he saw an angel. *My God sent his angel to shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me* (Daniel 6: 22, NLT).

When angelic beings intervene in people's lives, they at times take the form of a human being, as they are spirits in nature. They come to serve us with messages from God. *Therefore, **angels** are only servants – spirits sent to care for people who will inherit salvation* (Hebrews 1:14, NLT).

The angels serve God and those of us who are born again

In the world today we often sense an ever-increasing power of the enemy through his demonic attacks and influence on our different cultures. However, we need to take courage because his angels are all around us, ensuring we are delivered from the enemy's evil onslaught. Psalm 91:11-12 tells us: *For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.*

Should we worship or pray to angels?

In the church in Colosse, some people started to worship angels, and Paul told them to stop doing that. *Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind* (Colossians 2:18).

An angel appeared to John while he was imprisoned on the island of Patmos. John fell down to worship him, but the angel said, *“Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers and sisters who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For it is the Spirit of prophecy who bears testimony to Jesus”* (Revelation 19:10).

Different kinds of angels

As you study the Scriptures, you will find that there seem to be different kinds of angels with some distinct functions. We will mention them here, but not in any specific order.

Archangels

This could mean a position of authority or a leadership role over other angels, but we do not know. It could be a specific class of angels. The Bible only mentions one of them by name, and that is Michael. Jude 1:9 describes Michael in these terms: *But even Michael, one of the mightiest of the angels, did not dare accuse the devil of blasphemy, but simply said, “The Lord rebuke you!”* (This took place when Michael was arguing with the devil about Moses’ body NLT).

In the book of Daniel, Michael is introduced as *the great prince who protects your people* (Daniel 12:1).

Michael is portrayed as a mighty warrior, a protector of God’s people, and as playing a significant role in spiritual battles against evil.

He also is seen as the one who fought the devil, Satan, and threw him out of heaven and down to earth.

Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down – that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.

They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short” (Revelation 12:7-12).

The archangel is also mentioned at the return of Christ, which is described in 1 Thessalonians 4:16: *For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves (NLT).*

Gabriel

The angel Gabriel is never called an archangel in the Bible. He describes himself in the following way: I stand in the presence of God (Luke 1:19). In the Old Testament we find him mentioned several times in the book of Daniel. ...*someone who looked like a man stood in front of me. And I heard a human voice calling out from the Ullai River, “Gabriel, tell this man the meaning of his vision.”*

As Gabriel approached the place where I was standing, I became so terrified that I fell with my face to the ground. "Son of man," he said, "you must understand that the events you have seen in your vision relate to the time of the end" (Daniel 8:15-17 NLT).

A second time Gabriel came to Daniel in a vision: As I was praying, Gabriel, whom I had seen in the earlier vision, came swiftly to me at the time of the evening sacrifice. He explained to me, "Daniel, I have come here to give you insight and understanding. The moment you began praying, a command was given. And now I am here to tell you what it was, for you are very precious to God. Listen carefully so that you can understand the meaning of your vision.

A period of seventy sets of seven has been decreed for your people and your holy city to finish their rebellion, to put an end to their sin, to atone for their guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to confirm the prophetic vision, and to anoint the Most Holy Place. Now listen and understand! Seven sets of seven plus sixty-two sets of seven will pass from the time the command is given to rebuild Jerusalem until a ruler – the Anointed One – comes. Jerusalem will be rebuilt with streets and strong defenses, despite the perilous times.

After this period of sixty-two sets of seven, the Anointed One will be killed, appearing to have accomplished nothing, and a ruler will arise whose armies will destroy the city and the Temple. The end will come with a flood, and war and its miseries are decreed from that time to the very end. The ruler will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him" (Daniel 9:21-27, NLT).

Gabriel was the one who was sent to the priest Zechariah to tell him about the birth of his son John the Baptist.

An angel of the Lord appeared to him [Zechariah], standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born (Luke 1:11-15).

He was also sent to the virgin Mary and told her she would be giving birth to Jesus: *In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."*

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail" (Luke 1:26-37).

Seraphim

The only time Seraphs are mentioned in the Bible is in Isaiah 6. ... *I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."*

At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook, and the temple was filled with smoke.

"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty."

Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:1-8).

Cherubim

These angels are quite distant from the romantic paintings of cherubs as chubby and cuddly child figures that became popular during the Renaissance period.

First, we read about them in the first and second book of the Bible. *After sending them out, the Lord God stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the Garden of Eden. And he placed a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life (Genesis 3:24, NLT).*

Later, God commanded Moses: *And make two cherubim out of hammered gold at the ends of the cover. Make one cherub on one end and the second cherub on the other; make*

the cherubim of one piece with the cover, at the two ends. The cherubim are to have their wings spread upward, overshadowing the cover with them. The cherubim are to face each other, looking toward the cover (Exodus 25:18-20).

In the book of Ezekiel, he has a vivid description of the cherubim: *I looked, and I saw beside the cherubim four wheels, one beside each of the cherubim; the wheels sparkled like topaz. As for their appearance, the four of them looked alike; each was like a wheel intersecting a wheel. As they moved, they would go in any one of the four directions the cherubim faced; the wheels did not turn about as the cherubim went.*

The cherubim went in whatever direction the head faced, without turning as they went. Their entire bodies, including their backs, their hands and their wings, were completely full of eyes, as were their four wheels. I heard the wheels being called "the whirling wheels."

Each of the cherubim had four faces: One face was that of a cherub, the second the face of a human being, the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle. Then the cherubim rose upward. These were the living creatures I had seen by the Kebar River.

When the cherubim moved, the wheels beside them moved; and when the cherubim spread their wings to rise from the ground, the wheels did not leave their side. When the cherubim stood still, they also stood still; and when the cherubim rose, they rose with them, because the spirit of the living creatures was in them.

These were the living creatures I had seen beneath the God of Israel by the Kebar River, and I realized that they were cherubim. Each had four faces and four wings, and under their wings was what looked like human hands (Ezekiel 10:9-21).

Are there guardian angels?

Angels often protect God's people from potential enemies. In 2 Kings 6:14-17 we read about Elisha and his servant being pursued by King Aram's soldiers. *Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city.*

When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?" the servant asked.

"Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

And Elisha prayed, "Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see." Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

When Paul was traveling to Rome by ship and it faced a shipwreck, he spoke to the crew: *Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me* (Acts 27:23 -25).

Do we all have a guardian angel? Some people do believe that there is one assigned to each believer. This belief is based on the words of Jesus in the gospel of Matthew when he says: *See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven* (Matthew 18:10).

King David, author of many of the Psalms in the Bible, expresses his knowledge about angels with these words: *Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty ... For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will*

lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone (Psalm 91:1, 11-12).

The angel revolution in heaven

Sometime between the dawn of creation and Adam and Eve being tempted in the garden of Eden, one of the greatest angels, Lucifer, rebelled against his creator. He had other angels, possibly a third of them join him. They were all cast down from heaven and became the **fallen angels**.

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment; if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard) – if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment (2 Peter 2:4-9).

And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling – these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day (Jude 1:6).

We can read further about it all in Isaiah 14:12-14: *How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!*

You said in your heart, “I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned

on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."

Ezekiel continues to describe him: *You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty ... You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God ... So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings* (Ezekiel 28:12-17).

Demons are the evil angels who sinned against God and who now continually work evil in the world. *Satan* is the personal name of the head of the demons. The name *Satan* means "adversary." It is used both in the Old and the New Testament. When Jesus is tempted in the wilderness, he speaks to him directly by saying, "*Away from me, Satan*" (Matthew 4:10).

Angels in the Old Testament

Angels have been given enormous authority, but only to fulfill the wishes and dictates of God.

Hagar

In the first book of the Bible, Genesis, we read the tragic story of Hagar. She was the maid of Sarah, Abraham's wife. When Sarah could not produce an heir, she told Hagar to become pregnant by her husband, Abraham. Later, when God fulfilled the original promise to Abraham by Sarah giving birth to Isaac, she sent away Hagar, who was pregnant. Hagar left feeling extremely

depressed. When she did not know where to turn, an angel turned up by her side.

Then the angel of the Lord told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her." The angel added, "I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count." The angel of the Lord also said to her: "You are now pregnant and you will give birth to a son. You shall name him Ishmael for the Lord has heard of your misery" (Genesis 16:9-11). She did as the angel instructed her, and Ishmael grew up, moved to Egypt and fathered twelve sons. Jewish and Islamic traditions consider Ishmael to be the ancestor of the Arab people group.

Lot

Abraham's nephew, Lot, had moved to Sodom and Gomorrah. Those locations had become so extremely wicked, that God judged the cities, and they had to be destroyed. Before the destruction, two "heavenly messengers" visited Lot and his family and told them to flee. Although Lot had drifted away from the holy standards of Abraham, the angels were there to assist him in his flight from Sodom.

Abraham and Isaac

When Abraham's son, Isaac, was a grown boy, Abraham was told to take his son with him to the region of Moriah. It was situated approximately three days away. There he was told to sacrifice his son as an offering. While Isaac wondered where the sacrifice was, Abraham simply answered, "God will provide."

When they had prepared the altar, Abraham bound his son, placed him on the altar, and raised the knife to sacrifice him. Right then *the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he*

replied. *“Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”*

Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place *The Lord Will Provide*. And to this day it is said, *“On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided”* (Genesis 22:11-14).

Gideon

In the book of Judges, Gideon is a simple farmer boy who is very disillusioned with the state of the nation. Suddenly, an angel appears to him and says, *“The Lord is with you mighty warrior!”* (Judges 6:12).

After Gideon had argued with the angel for a while, the angel suddenly became the Lord and told Gideon, *“Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?”*

“Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.” The Lord answered, *“I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive”* (Judges 6:14-16).

On the command of the angel who was the Lord, he went and won the battle against the mighty army of the Midianites with only 300 men.

David

Angels ministered in the life of David on many occasions. In Psalm 103 he compliments the angels: *Praise the Lord, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word. Praise the Lord, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will* (Psalm 103:20-21). Furthermore, David said, *Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High*

will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone (Psalm 91:1, 11-12).

During King David's reign, he decided to do something God had forbidden, namely counting the people of Israel. God punished not only David but also the nation by sending a fatal epidemic disease that killed more than 70,000 people. God also sent a single angel to destroy Jerusalem. David caught a glimpse of it *and saw the angel of the Lord standing between heaven and earth, with a drawn sword in his hand extended over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders, clothed in sackcloth, fell facedown* (1 Chronicles 21:16). After David pleaded for mercy, the angel told him to set up an altar and offer a sacrifice. God stopped the angel's hand when David obeyed.

King Hezekiah

Further on in the Old Testament, in the book of 2 Kings, we read about King Hezekiah. One day he received a letter from the Assyrian forces telling him they would shortly attack the city. The king immediately sought God's direction in the situation and was told that no Assyrian arrow would be shot into the city.

This is how the story ended: *That night the angel of the Lord went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning – there were all the dead bodies!* (2 Kings 19:35).

Elijah

The book of 1 Kings tells the fascinating story of the prophet Elijah. He was the one that challenged King Ahab and his wife, Jezebel, to gather all the heathen priests to meet Elijah on the top of Mount Carmel. 850

priests gathered on top of the mountain, praying to their gods for fire on the sacrifice they had placed on the altar. From morning to evening they prayed, and no fire came from heaven.

Then Elijah rebuilt the altar of God, poured water on the sacrifice several times, and prayed to God for fire, which fell and consumed his sacrifice.

King Ahab took off in his chariot and drove home to his wife with Elijah running ahead, faster than the king's chariot. When the wicked queen heard about what had happened, she vowed to kill the prophet. Suddenly, the mighty man of God was fearful of the queen's spite and fled into Judah, to the desert. He sat down under a tree and wished that he could die. *"I have had enough, Lord," he said. "Take my life" ... Then he lay down ... and fell asleep* (1 Kings 19:4-5).

Suddenly, an angel appeared, woke him up, and said: *"Get up and eat!" ... He ate and drank and then lay down again. The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you"* (1 Kings 19:5-7). Strengthened by the angel, Elijah was refreshed and traveled for forty days and nights until he came to Mount Horeb, another name for Mount Sinai. The Lord appeared to him there and gave him instructions for the future which changed the history of Damascus and Israel! He returned most of the way he had come and ended up in the desert of Damascus, fulfilling the Lord's command.

Elisha

In 2 Kings, we read that the location of the prophet Elisha had been found out. When he and his servant woke up the next morning, the servant found the city surrounded

by the Aramean army and cried out: *“Oh, my lord what shall we do?”* And Elisha simply answered: *“Don’t be afraid! Those who are with us are more than those who are with them”* (2 Kings 6:15-16).

Angels in the New Testament

An angel speaks to Joseph

In the first book of the New Testament, Matthew, we read about the angel speaking to Joseph, Mary’s future husband. The angel Gabriel had already informed Mary, Joseph’s fiancée, that she would become pregnant through the Holy Spirit. *Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins”* (Matthew 1:19-21).

They were later told to flee to Egypt, and after several years, told to return again to Israel.

Peter rescued from jail

In Acts 12, we read about Peter being jailed because King Herod was persecuting the church that was exploding in number. He had already arrested several followers of Jesus. He killed James, the brother of John, with a sword. In this chapter we read about him imprisoning Peter and planning a public trial for him after the Passover.

The night before the trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains. Sentries stood guard at the entrance.

Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists.

Then the angel said to him, "Put on your clothes and sandals." And Peter did so. "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me," the angel told him. Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him.

Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I know without a doubt that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's clutches and from everything the Jewish people were hoping would happen."

When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying. Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant named Rhoda came to answer the door. When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, "Peter is at the door!"

"You're out of your mind," they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, "It must be his angel."

But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. Peter motioned with his hand for them to be quiet and described how the Lord had brought him out of prison. "Tell James and the other brothers and sisters about this," he said, and then he left for another place (Acts 12:7-17).

Philip and the Ethiopian

The Apostle Philip had gone to Samaria, where a great spiritual revival broke out and the disciples that were there were busy day and night. Suddenly an angel appeared to Philip telling him: *“Go south to the road – the desert road – that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”* So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means *“queen of the Ethiopians”*). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, *“Go to that chariot and stay near it”* (Acts 8:26-29).

As Philip heard the man reading from the Scriptures, he wanted to explain salvation in Christ, and so he did. The Ethiopian became convinced and was immediately baptized. This eventually led Ethiopians to turn to Christ, and they became one of the first groups that later had a gospel provided for their early church in the language of Geez.

Cornelius

Cornelius was a Roman centurion living in Caesarea with his family. He was devout and God-fearing, gave to those in need, and regularly prayed to God.

One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, “Cornelius!” Cornelius stared at him in fear. “What is it, Lord?” he asked. The angel answered, “Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea” (Acts 10:3-6).

When Peter went to meet Cornelius, the gospel began to spread outside Jewish circles and into the Gentile world. This was the beginning that made it possible for you to read this book!

In the final book of the Bible, we see the curtain pulled aside to reveal the heavenly throne room: *Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they were saying: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"* (Revelation 5:11-13).

The angels and Jesus

Angels have always been present in the life of Jesus on earth and when he returned to heaven.

Before Jesus was born, an angel told Zacharias that his wife, Elizabeth, would be the mother of John the Baptist. Another angel told Mary that she would give birth to the Messiah.

The shepherds watching their flocks the night that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, probably experienced the shock of their lives. *Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior – yes, the Messiah, the Lord – has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!*

And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others – the armies of heaven – praising God and saying, "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about" (Luke 2:9-15, NLT).

Christ received ministry from the angels on several occasions while on earth. After Jesus had been tempted by Satan, the angels showed up. *Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him (Matthew 4:11).*

When Jesus prayed with great anguish in the Garden of Gethsemane, *an angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him (Luke 22:43).*

Later, when the Temple guards came to arrest him and Peter pulled out a sword, cutting off the ear of one of the guards, Jesus rebuked his own disciples, and said, *"Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?" (Matthew 26:53).*

When Jesus hung on the cross, he was mocked by the crowd telling him to come down from the cross. At that point, he could have called on legions of angels who were hovering above Calvary with drawn swords. But he did not and instead hang there until he died and could finally exclaim, *"It is finished!" (John 19:30).* Through his death and resurrection, all of us who call on the name of the Lord will be saved and be able to join those that will praise him forever at the throne in heaven.

On the resurrection day, one angel rolled away the stone in front of Jesus' grave and when Mary came to the tomb she *stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent*

over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot (John 20:11-12). Then, one of the angels proclaimed the greatest message: "He is not here; he has risen!" (Luke 24:6).

In the first chapter of Acts, we read about Jesus addressing his disciples regarding their mission "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:8-11).

Do angels have special powers?

Billy Graham mentions in his book on angels that their power is much greater than the power of human beings, but they are not all-powerful. 2 Thessalonians 1:7 speaks of the time *when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels*. Dr. Graham also mentions that the power of the angels is God's dynamite!

King David says in Psalm 103:20: *Praise the Lord, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word*. We see that strength in the end time when Scripture describes what will happen to Satan. He is to be bound and cast out into the bottomless pit. The Bible tells us that one angel will come from heaven with a great chain in his hand and bind Satan with that chain. After that, he will cast him into the pit (Revelation 20:1-3). That is just the power of one angel .

Jesus is far above the angels

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father?" Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son? And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels spirits, and his servants flames of fire" (Hebrews 1:1-7).

What do angels know about salvation?

The Bible says in Luke 15:10 that angels rejoice over every sinner – woman, man, or child, – that is transformed by the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Yet, they have never experienced the power of Christ's salvation for themselves. The work of the Holy Spirit, transforming and empowering humans to be new people with Christ dwelling in their hearts, is still a mystery for the angels.

Are angels different from human beings?

The angels are immaterial in nature, have no gender, do not marry, and have no children. They are spirit beings, therefore immortal, and have no bodies that can decay. Each time they are mentioned in Scripture, they tend to be mentioned with masculine pronouns.

They are not eternal but were created by God. They make up an enormous number, like the stars in the sky. They are not within time, but they can relate to time. They are persons because they have the characteristics of personhood – intellect, will, and emotions. They shout-ed for joy when God created the world. They worship with passion in the book of Revelation.

In Hebrews 1:14 we read, *Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?*

That means that they primarily minister to people who are believers. But Colossians 1:16 also expresses that *in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.* So, they are also there for him, who is their Creator.

There is no evidence that we should pray to or for angels. Not even John, as mentioned in the book of Revelation, was allowed to worship the angel that visited him.

Do angels have a role in the final judgement?

Throughout history, angels have worked to carry our God's judgments. God used angels to scatter the people of Israel because of their sins. He used angels to bring judgements on Sodom and Gomorrah, as well as Babylon and Nineveh.

At the end of the age, angels will bring judgement on those who have rejected God's love.

God has given an assignment to the angels at the end of the age. They will separate the sheep from the goats, the wheat from the tares, and the saved from the lost. While we are not told to obey the voice of the angels, we need to obey the Word of God as he calls us to be reconciled with him by our faith in Jesus Christ. *The Son of Man will send*

out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil (Matthew 13:41).

The book of Hebrews describes the angels as executors of God's judgements. *In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels spirits, and his servants flames of fire"* (Hebrews 1:7).

Peter, one of the apostles following Jesus, stated in his letter: *In it (the ark) only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also – not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand – with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him* (1 Peter 3:20-22).

Angels and death

An angel came to the garden tomb where the dead body of Jesus was buried and that angel rolled away the stone that was in front of the grave. Jesus rose from the dead and walked out through the now opened grave.

As humans we will all die. Just as an angel was present at the resurrection of Jesus, angels will help us in the time of death. There is only a thin veil separating our natural world from the spiritual world. As we pass from the darkness of death to a new life in eternity, angels will be there to escort believers into the kingdom of God.

We are all confronted with two ways to live: one way leads to eternal life, and another way leads to eternal death. Over and over in Scripture we see the result of the choice that the fallen angels made. They have come down to earth to lead us astray and finally to separate us from God forever. Jesus called this place of separation the furnace of fire. But we can also experience a com-

pletely different result. If we invite Jesus into our lives and follow him on the path he has chosen for us, we will eventually experience eternal life.

At death, angels will escort into the presence of God those who have entered the gate of salvation and walked the narrow road that leads to eternal life. If we remain on that way, we will rejoice with the angels at God's throne for all eternity.

The death of the evangelist D.L. Moody

If we have peace with God, we can experience the same peace as the evangelist D.L. Moody experienced close to death. Billy Graham tells the following story in one of his books.

Moody stated, "Earth recedes, heaven opens before me." It appeared as though he was dreaming. Then he said, "No, this is no dream...it is beautiful, it is like a trance. If this is death, it is sweet. There is no valley here. God is calling me, and I must go."

After having been given up for dead, Moody revived to indicate that God had permitted him to see beyond that thin veil separating the seen from the unseen world. He had been "within the gates, and beyond the portals," and had caught a glimpse of familiar faces whom he had "loved since long ago and lost a while." Then, he could remember what he had proclaimed so loudly and forcefully earlier in his ministry.

"Someday you will read in the papers that D.L. Moody from East Northfield is dead. Don't you believe a word of it. At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now. I shall have gone up higher, that's all - out of this old clay tenement into a house that is immortal, a body that death cannot touch, that sin cannot taint, a

body fashioned like unto his glorious body... That which is born of flesh will die. That which is born of the Spirit will live forever!"

Recent testimonies

I have a friend who used to be a Hospice Chaplain. Recently she told me what happened when her own mother died. While her mother knew she was going to heaven when she died, she was very afraid of dying and filled with anxiety. "My friend prayed for God's peace over her. She was reminded of the servant of Elisha, who was also afraid, and she specifically prayed, Give her the peace of Elisha! Some other relatives came out of her room and told my friend: 'She suddenly sat herself up in bed and stared above us at a spot on the wall. When we asked her what she was looking at, she responded, "Don't you see it?" As she began to cry, she whispered, "It was an angel, an angel....I will not go alone!" During the days she had left before she died, she was never afraid again!" My friend continued, "I visited another woman in her hospice who was close to death. Suddenly, she sat up and stretched her hands up as if she were taking another person's hands, and exclaimed, 'Hallelujah!' She turned and looked at her daughter and said, 'The angels, the angels, the angels!' Her daughter responded, 'What did you see?' as her mother laid back down in her bed and died."

Are you filled with fear of death? The day before our 50-year-old daughter died, my wife and I sat beside her bed. We feared she was going to go too soon, but Maria knew her days were counted! I grabbed her arm and held it, perhaps a bit tight, as I realized that she may not have that many more days left. While Maria had not

spoken many words to us during her last few days, she suddenly turned her head to me and said: "Dad, why are you holding on to me for?" I realized that she was getting ready and the angels were present, preparing to transport her into her new home in heaven. The next evening, she went to be with her Lord and Savior.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants (Psalm 116:15).

The angels are happy and rejoice when you and I give our lives to Jesus

Luke writes in his gospel: "*I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents*" (Luke 15:10). Angels themselves do not need salvation for they have not sinned. Because of this, they do not fully comprehend what humans are offered through Jesus' shed blood on the cross at Calvary, the forgiveness of sins. Yet, they rejoice when people commit their lives to Jesus recognizing that he not only died for our sins but also rose again to provide eternal life for all who receive him.

Thank the Lord for the presence of his angels!

QUESTIONS FOR STUDY AND REFLECTION

- Have you ever had an experience with an angel?

- Have you had more experiences with God's angels or the fallen angels?

- Have you ever heard a sermon about angels?

- Did this booklet help you to get a better understanding of angels mentioned in the Bible?

Bibliography

Illustrert Bibel-lexikon. Oslo and Stockholm: Illustrert Bibelleksikon A/S, 1967

Graham, Billy. *Angels: God's Secret Angels*. New York: Doubleday & Company, 1975.

Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology*. Leicester, England: Inter-Varsity Press; Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1994.

Strobel, Lee. *Seeing the Supernatural*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2025.

The Illustrated Bible Dictionary. Leicester, England: Inter-Varsity Press, 1980.

Articles:

"Are There Angels Among Us Today? What Is Their Purpose?"
Chad, Tennessee.

Leake, Mike. "What Are the Different Types of Angels in the Bible?" Neosho, MO.

Interviews:

Former Hospice Chaplain. Live interview, July 31, 2025.