

Angels, Messengers of God

We believe God finished creating a multitude of sinless, spiritual beings, known generally as angels, prior to the creation of our world. The Bible primarily uses one Hebrew word (*ma'lak*) and one Greek word (*angelos*) which is transliterated to produce the English word "angel."

The Hebrew word means *messenger*, whether a human messenger (*Nehemiah 6:3; Haggai 1:13*) or supernatural (*Psalms 103:20*). The same semantic range is true of the Greek word (*Luke 9:52; Matthew 1:20*).

When we speak of an angel we mean a supernatural being sent as God's official messenger or representative.

What other terms occur in these passages which refer to these beings and what do you learn about angels from them?

- _____ Genesis 3:24
- _____ Genesis 19:1-5; compare Hebrews 13:2
- _____ Job 1:6; 2:1
- _____ Isaiah 6:6
- _____ Daniel 12:1
- _____ Genesis 16:7
- _____ Ezekiel 1:5-10
- _____ Daniel 4:13

We believe the Bible is clear that man and angels are distinct and different creations of God.

While angels sometimes have appeared in human form, people who die remain human and do not ever become angels.

Are angels created beings and if so, when (Job 38:6-7)?

When and how were people created (Genesis 1:26-31)?

Do angels have bodies and reproduce (Luke 20:34-36)?

What happens to people when they die (2 Corinthians 5:1-3)?

Some people do not believe in angels. This is not a *new* error. The Bible tells us of a group in the Judaism of the 1st Century who also did not believe, the Sadducees.

“... the Sadducees say there is no resurrection or angels or spirits, but the Pharisees believe in all of these.” Acts 23:8 (NLT)

What are some reasons people today might not believe in angels?

One reason for the unbelief of the Sadducees was their rejection of anything beyond the Torah, the first five books of Moses. When any person rejects the testimony of the whole of Scripture, it is hard to authoritatively prove unseen realities to them (Luke 20:37-38; see Exodus 3:1–6, 15).

Do you think “unbelief” is itself the reason people today don’t accept angels?

Angels stand before the throne of God to be sent forth as ministering spirits to us who are heirs of salvation.

What do these verses tell us about their work?

- Luke 15:10
- Ephesians 1:21
- Hebrews 1:14
- Revelation 7:12

Man was made lower than the angels. Christ in his incarnation for a little time took this lower place to lift believers men to His own sphere above the angels (*Hebrews 2:6–10*).

How much weight should we give to angelic messengers?

- Hebrews 1:1-4
- Galatians 1:6-9

Here are some of the chapters where the Bible mentions angelic beings:

Genesis 3:24; 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 24:7, 40; 28, 31, 32, 48:16; **Exodus** 3, 12, 14, 23:20-24; 32, 33; **Numbers** 20, 22; **Deuteronomy** 33; **Joshua** 5; **Judges** 2, 5, 6, 13; **1 Samuel** 29; **2 Samuel** 14, 19, 24; **1 Kings** 13, 19, 22; **2 Kings** 1, 19; **1 Chronicles** 21; **2 Chronicles** 18, 32; **Job** 4, 33; **Psalms** 8, 34, 35, 78, 91, 103, 148; **Isaiah** 6, 24, 34, 37, 63; **Ezekiel** 1, 2, 3; **Daniel** 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12; **Hosea** 12; **Zechariah** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 12; **Matthew** 1, 2, 4, 13, 16, 18, 22, 24, 25, 26, 28; **Mark** 1, 8, 12, 13, 16; **Luke** 1, 2, 4, 9, 12, 15, 16, 22, 24; **John** 1, 12, 18, 20; **Acts** 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 23, 27; **Romans** 8:38; **1 Corinthians** 4:9; 6:3; 10:10; 11:10; 13:1; **2 Corinthians** 11:14; **Galatians** 1:8; 3:19; 4:14; **Colossians** 2:18; **1 Thessalonians** 4:16; **2 Thessalonians** 1:7; **1 Timothy** 3:16; 5:21; **Hebrews** 1:4-14; 2:2-16; 11:28; 12:22; 13:2; **1 Peter** 1:12; 3:22; **2 Peter** 2:4, 11; **Jude** 6-9; **Revelation** 1:1, 4, 20; 2:1, 8, 12, 18, 3:1, 5, 7, 14; 4:5-9; 5:2, 6, 8, 11-14; 6:1-7; 7:1-12; 8:2-13; 9:1-15; 10:1-11; 11:1, 15; 12:7, 12; 14:6-19; 15:1-8; 16:1-17; 17:1-15; 18:1-2, 21; 19:4-10, 17; 20:1-3; 21:9-17; 22:1, 6, 8-10, 16.
