

# HOLY ANGELS OF GOD

## PART ONE: Introduction

### A. Meaning of the word “angel”

1. The Greek word translated “angel” is sometimes used of men.
2. Luke 7:24 – The word is used regarding the messengers of John the Baptist and translated “messengers”.
3. James 2:25 – The word is used regarding Rahab receiving the messengers or spies and is translated “messengers” or “spies.”

### B. Angels are created beings

1. Psalm 148:2, 5 – Angels were created by God.
2. Colossians 1:16 – As a member of the godhead, Christ was the creator of the angels and their ranks. Therefore, He is not the first angel to be created as some false teachers claim.
3. Job 38:4, 7 – Angels were created before the creation of the earth.

### C. Angels are persons

1. This means that they have personality: intellect, emotion, will, self-consciousness, and a capacity to act.
2. Evidence from scripture
  - a. 2 Samuel 14:17, 20 – intellect
  - b. Luke 2:13; Job 38:7 – emotion
  - c. 2 Peter 2:4; 1 Peter 1:12 – will
  - d. Revelation 7:11-12 – God-consciousness.
  - e. Revelation 7:1 - capable of action.

### D. The number of angels

Hebrews 12:22; Revelation 5:11 – angels are innumerable.

### E. Two extremes to be avoided toward angels

1. Acts 23:8 – Their existence is not to be denied.
2. Revelation 22:8-9; Colossians 2:18 – They are never to be worshipped.

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## PART TWO: The nature and capacities of angels

### A. Hebrews 1:14 - Angels are spirit beings.

1. Luke 24:39 – This means they do not have flesh and bones.
2. 2 Kings 6:15-17; Numbers 22:23-31 – They have the capacity to be visible or invisible.
3. Acts 10:3-4 cp. 10:30-31 – They can appear as men.

### B. The nature of angels

1. Matthew 22:30 – The angels in heaven do not marry. This would imply that they probably do not reproduce. This does not say that those angels not in heaven do not marry.
2. Luke 20:36 – Angels do not die. Notice believers do not become angels when they are raised from the dead. They become like angels in that they do not die anymore.

### C. Hebrews 2:6-7 - Angels are distinct from human beings.

1. 2 Peter 2:11 – Angels are more powerful than men but not powerful enough to separate those in Christ, i.e. believers from His love (Romans 8:38-39).
2. The knowledge of angels
  - a. 2 Samuel 14:17-20 – Their knowledge is extraordinary. They know all that is in the earth but do not know what we are thinking (2 Chronicles 6:19, 30).
  - b. Ephesians 3:9-11 – God's plan to make Jew and Gentile part of the same spiritual body or group was concealed prior to New Testament times but then was revealed through the forming of the church.
  - c. 1 Peter 1:12 – There are truths which believers first learned that angels did not know but wanted badly to look into them.
  - d. Matthew 24:36 – They do not know when Christ will return.

### D. Some capacities of angels

1. 1 Corinthians 13:1 – They have languages although scripture shows they are always understandable.
2. Psalm 78:25 cp. Genesis 18:2-8 cp. 18:22 cp. 19:1 cp. 19:5 – Angels have special food and can eat human food.
3. Matthew 18:10 – They view God the Father's face although people cannot (1 Timothy 6:16).
4. Psalm 103:20 – They praise God and obey His word.

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## PART THREE: Angels and God's word

A. Acts 7:53; Galatians 3:19; Hebrews 2:2; Deuteronomy 33:2 – Angels assisted in giving the Old Testament Law of Moses

B. An angel's word is never to be taken above God's word.

1. Galatians 1:8-9 – An angel that would preach a gospel different from God's word, the Bible is to be condemned to hell.
2. 1 Kings 13:1-24 – The example here was a prophet who disobeyed God's word because someone said an angel told him something different.
3. 2 Corinthians 11:14-15 – The reason were are not to take an angel's word over God's word, the scripture is that Satan and his angels can disguise themselves as God's angels.

## PART FOUR: The organization of angels

A. Ephesians 1:21; 6:12 - Angels are organized into ranks and groups the exact nature of which is uncertain.

B. Daniel 10:12-13 – There are princes and chief princes among the angels.

C. Matthew 18:10 – Some angels do guardian work

- We are not sure whether each child has an assigned guardian angel or whether angels watch over children as a group.

D. Hebrews 1:14 – Angels do ministering work for believers.

- We do not know whether all angels do this ministering work or just a certain group of angels.

E. Isaiah 6:1-3 cp. Revelation 4:6-8 – Seraphim

- This special group of angels are around God's throne to offer ongoing praise with special emphasis on God's holiness.

## F. The Cherubim

1. Genesis 3:24; Psalm 80:1 – They guard the righteousness and holiness of God.
2. Ezekiel 1:3-21 cp. 10:15 – The cherubim are described.

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### G. One of the archangels, Michael

1. Daniel 12:1; Jude 1:9; Revelation 12:7 – bears a special relationship to the nation of Israel.
2. Daniel 10:12-13 – bears a special relationship to the angelic conflict.

### H. Gabriel, the only other angel named in scripture

1. Luke 1:11-20 – announced John the Baptist's birth.
2. Luke 1:26-31 – announced the upcoming birth of Jesus.
3. Daniel 8:16-17 – Helped Daniel understand vision from God.
4. Daniel 9:20-27 – Explained to Daniel another vision from God.

## PART FIVE: Angels and Christ's earthly ministry

### A. In relation to Christ's birth

1. Luke 1:26-33 – predicted Christ's birth.
2. Matthew 1:18-23 – Confirmed the prediction of Christ's birth.
3. Luke 2:8-12 – announced Christ's birth to the shepherds.

### B. Protected Jesus as a baby

1. Matthew 2:13 – Warned Joseph that Herod was going to try to kill Jesus and that they should flee to Egypt.
2. Matthew 2:19-20 – Told Joseph Herod had died, and it was safe to return to Israel.

### C. Matthew 4:11 – Ministered to Jesus after His temptation.

### D. In relation to His pre-cross agony

1. Luke 22:43 – After He prayed in Gethsemane, an angel appeared and strengthened Him before His arrest and crucifixion.
2. Matthew 26:53 – Prepared to defend Christ.

### E. In relation to His resurrection and ascension

1. Matthew 28:2 – Rolled away the stone from the tomb.
2. Matthew 28:5-6 – Announced Jesus' resurrection.
3. Acts 1:10-11 – Present at Jesus' ascension to let the disciples know that Jesus would return as visibly as He left.

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## PART SIX: Angels and believers

### A. Angels minister to believers (Hebrews 1:14).

#### B. Angels observe believers

1. 1 Corinthians 4:9 – In our experiencing of hardships and difficulties for Christ.
2. 1 Corinthians 11:10 – We are to be examples to angels by showing submission to God-appointed authority.
3. 1 Timothy 5:21 – We are accountable to God in the presence of the angels to be consistent and fair in dealing with sin among church leaders.

#### C. Angels aid believers in dangerous situations.

1. Acts 12:5-11 – They are involved in answering prayers for endangered believers if God chooses.
2. Acts 27:23-24 – They encourage believers in times of danger.
3. Genesis 19:15-17; 2 Kings 6:15-17; Daniel 3:28; 6:22; Acts 5:18-20 – Angels provide protection to believers.

#### D. Angels relationship to our evangelistic efforts

1. Luke 15:10 – There is an atmosphere of rejoicing among the angels when even one person changes their mind to trust Christ.
2. Acts 8:26 – They provide geographic guidance for our evangelism.
3. Acts 10:3-6 – They guide unbelievers to someone or some place where they can hear the gospel.

### E. Luke 16:22; Jude 1:9 – They care for the believer at death.

## PART SEVEN: Angels, the nations and unbelievers

### A. The nations

1. Daniel 12:1; 10:12-13, 21 – Michael, the archangel defends Israel.
2. Daniel 10:12-21 – Others, who are angels of Satan fight for their respective nations.

### B. Unbelievers

1. Acts 10:1-6 – Angels guide unbelievers to gospel hearing.
2. Acts 12:20-23 – Angels can inflict punishment on unbelievers if they blatantly offend God's name.

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## PART EIGHT: Angels and future things

### A. Activity during the seven year tribulation which follows the rapture of the church.

1. Revelation 8:1–9:21; 16:1-21 – Angels execute various judgments on the earth.
2. Revelation 14:6-7 – An angel will announce the everlasting gospel and judgment.

### B. Activity at Christ's return

1. Matthew 25:31 – They will accompany Christ when He returns.
2. Revelation 20:1-3 – An angel will bind and imprison Satan in the abyss for 1000 years.
3. Matthew 13:13:39-42
  - a. Angels will separate believers and unbelievers.
  - b. Angels will cast unbelievers into hell.
4. Luke 12:8-9 – Angels will be present to hear Christ confess or deny people.
5. 1 Corinthians 6:2-3 – Angels will be judged by believers.

### C. Revelation 21:12 – Angels will be present in the heavenly Jerusalem in the eternal state after the end of Jesus' 1000 year earthly kingdom.

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### PART NINE: The Angel of the LORD (i.e. Jehovah or Yahweh)

#### A. The Angel of the LORD shows Himself to be God.

1. Genesis 16:7-13; 22:11-18; 31:11-13
2. Hosea 12:3-5 cp. Genesis 32:24-30.
3. Exodus 3:2-6; Judges 6:11-23; 13:9-22

#### B. The Angel of the LORD shows Himself to be distinct from God.

1. Genesis 24:7, 40
2. Exodus 23:20-22; 32:34
3. Zechariah 1:11-13

#### C. The Angel of the LORD has divine attributes and prerogatives.

1. Genesis 16:10 – multiplying Hagar's descendents.
2. Genesis 16:13 – All-seeing God (cp. Proverbs 15:3).
3. Genesis 48:16 – redeemer from all evil.
4. Exodus 3:2-6 cp. Revelation 22:8-9 – He receives worship while ordinary angels do not (See also Judges 6:19-23; 13:19-22).
5. Exodus 23:20-21 – forgiveness of sins (cp. Mark 2:7; Isaiah 43:25).

#### D. Facts suggesting that the Angel of the LORD is God, the Son.

1. Judges 13:18 cp. Isaiah 9:6 – The title “Wonderful” which is applied to Jesus Christ is also applied to the Angel of the LORD.
2. The Angel of the LORD is the visible member of the Godhead in the Old Testament while Christ is the visible member of the Godhead in the New Testament:
  - a. Christ: John 1:18; 14:8-9; Colossians 1:15.
  - b. The Angel of the LORD: Genesis 16:10-13; 32:24-30 (cp. Hosea 12:3-5); Judges 13:19-22.
3. Both Christ and the Angel of the LORD are sent by God:
  - a. Christ: John 5:30; 1 John 4:9.
  - b. The Angel of the LORD: Genesis 24:7; Exodus 23:20.
4. The Angel of the LORD no longer appears after Christ becomes a man. Some translations incorrectly use the definite article “the” instead of the indefinite article “an” in the following passages: Matthew 1:20; 2:13; 28:2; Luke 2:9; Acts 5:19; 12:7, 23.