

IN SEARCH OF ANGELS



'Angels' are found in the accounts of various including the Persians, Babylonians, Chaldeans, Greeks and many others.

ART

For the first 300 years of the Church's existence, a Biblical perspective was held about angelic beings, Then the Church's officials began to take special notice of them, almost to the point of worshipping them, particularly Michael and Gabriel.

In the late 300s angels began to appear in art, being depicted with wings, staffs in the form of a cross, and with haloes.

In the 500s, Masses and prayers were practised, toward the Archangel Michael.

Late 1100s art showed child-angels, however this is not found in the Eastern Denominations; it is solely a Western concept (e.g. the 'sweet little cherubs' we see).

By the 1300s, theologians were less concerned with the worship of angels, rather they were concerned with their nature (size., strength etc.). Yet, the Cult of angel worship continued.

Even today, there is a range as broad as blatant rejection (like the Sadducees in Acts 23:8), to devout worship, which still occurs in the more traditional churches – Western and Eastern.

An obvious example of such over emphasis on angels lies in the formation of the Mormon sect (the supposed angel Moroni).

Error in art or in understanding, in any way, about God's Messengers is as misleading to people as deliberately preaching a false Gospel. Error is error! God works in the light of truth, never in the shadow of error or misunderstanding. Therefore we need to know what the Bible has to say about the angels.

WHO ARE ANGELS

**They are beings created
by God**

Ps 148:5 & Gen 1:3,6,9,11,14,15,24.

The time of their creation is not stated specifically in the Scriptures, but we can determine roughly the 'when'. In Gen 1:1 "God created the heaven (1) and the earth (2) ...".

Job 38:4,7 "... I [God] laid the earth's foundation ... while the stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy, N.B. angels are NOT stars as some are taught. – created before the universe!

Their number is difficult to assess

Dan 7:10 "1,000s upon 1000s attended Him [God] ... 10,000 times 10,000 stood before Him ..."

On the night of His arrest, Jesus told Peter that He could call upon 12 legions of angels (72,000) (Matt 26:53).

see also Heb 12:22; Rev 5:11 etc.

Their Creator is our Creator

Gen1:1 "... God created the heaven and the earth ...".

Jn 1:3 "... by Him [Jesus] were ALL things made

Angels do God's bidding

Ps 103:20 "Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word."

**** READ THIS REF ****

[Col 1:16 Jesus created all forms/ranks of angelic beings - "BY HIM" and "FOR HIM".](#)

Heb 1:2 "... His Son Jesus Christ ... through whom He [God] had made the universe".

Their cause (reason for being)

They belong to the Lord Jesus Christ, who is their Commander-in-Chief. They obey God's orders - it's as simple as that!

Their names

In the Bible, only Michael and Gabriel are mentioned specifically by name.

Their characteristics

Angels are NOT like human beings, except that they can take on human form, They are not - as many suppose - blue-eyed, blond hair, feminine and wearing night clothes; certainly, not in the Biblical record.

Angels must so naturally fit the normal human appearance or else "... no-one could ever hope to entertain angels unawares ..." (Heb 13:2); see also Gen 18:1,2; 19:1-5. N.B. only the Cherubim (2 sets) and the Seraphim (3 sets) have wings.

THE WORK OF ANGELS

The word for 'angel', in both Hebrew and Greek, means the same - 'a messenger' or 'one who is sent on behalf of another [God]'.

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| (a) Angels are warriors | Dan 10 & 11; Jude 9; Rev 12:7-17. |
| (b) They encourage us | Heb 1:14. |
| (c) They can bring protection | Ps 91:11; Acts 12:5-11; 27:9-44. |
| (d) Angels can bring guidance | Matt 28:5-7 (where the Disciples should meet Jesus).

Acts 8:26 (where Philip should go to meet the Ethiopian). |
| (e) Angels can bring instruction | Gal 3:19 (10 Commandments put into effect by angels).

Heb 2:2; Acts 7:38,53 (the message/commission that Moses received on Mt. Sinai was spoken to him by angels).

Lk 1:11-20 (Zechariah told about John the Baptist).

Lk 1:26-35 (birth of Jesus – to Mary) |
| (f) Angels can bring chastisement | "God disciplines those whom He loves, and He punishes everyone He accepts as a son ... God disciplines us for our good that we might share in His holiness." (Heb 12:5-10; 1 Cor 11:32). |
| How does He do it? -- He can use angels: | 1 Chron 21:1-30; 2 Sam 24 (Angels disciplined King David for his sin). |
| (g) Ministry of answering prayer | Acts 12:1-17 (Peter's release from prison came after the church had asked God to save him. God sent an angel to effect the release). |

(h) Ministry to the dying Lk 16:22; 2 Cor 5:8; Phil 1:21-23 (they take us into the presence of God when we die).

(i) They bring God's judgement

In Old Testament times:

Gen 19:1-13; Jude 7 (Two struck the homosexuals of Sodom blind, then destroyed four cities after rescuing Lot and his family).

Ps 78:41-55 (Angels delivered the 10 plagues upon Egypt at God's command). See also Ex 7:14 – 11:10, including the 'Angel of Death'

Does it happen now?

In New Testament times:

Acts 12:23 (King Herod struck down for idolatry).
Read through the book of Revelation.

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