

“Angel Armies – Releasing the Warriors of Heaven”

Lesson 1 – “Angels Minister to us.”

Heb. 1:14- “Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?” NKJ.

Never Worship Angels:

- Angels have been sent to minister to us, but it is very important that we are balanced in our
- view of angels.
- We must understand that we are never to worship angels.
- Angels are created being; they are not deity.
- God alone deserves and gets all our worship.

Rev. 19:10-

The Apostle John was receiving the Revelation concerning heaven and future events – fell at the feet of the angel bringing the revelation - “See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus.”

Col. 2:18- warns that the worship of angels is condemned and could cause us to be robbed of rewards.

“Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen...”

- Angels serve God like we do, and are to be considered fellow servants assigned by the Godhead to assist us, the heirs of salvation.

We are heirs; angels are not heirs.

The word “[angel](#)” actually comes from the [Greek](#) word *aggelos*, which means “messenger.” The matching [Hebrew](#) word *mal'ak* has the same meaning.

Sometimes, the [Bible](#) uses these words for human beings:

Ordinary people who carry messages ([Job 1:14](#);
[Luke 7:24](#); [9:52](#))

[Prophets](#) ([Isaiah 42:19](#); [Malachi 3:1](#))

[Priests](#) ([Malachi 2:7](#))

Sometimes, it speaks figuratively of things or events as “messengers” ...

The pillar of cloud (Exodus 14:19)

Pestilence or plagues (2 Samuel 24:16-17)

But it usually describes the whole range of spirits whom God has created, including both good and evil angels, and special categories such as cherubim, seraphim, and the archangel.

Angels are mentioned at least 108 times in the Old Testament and 165 times in the [New Testament](#) (Chafer, *Systematic Theology*, II, 3).

Heb. 1:14 – “They being **ministers** to the **heirs** of **salvation**.”

“Ministering” is the Greek word *leitourgikos* meaning “to bring release, to be a public servant, or to perform religious or charitable functions.”

Angels are sent to minister relief and strength to the heirs of salvation.

Heirs – *kleronomeo* are “possessors.” They inherit or receive an inheritance.

Heir - by dictionary definition is “one who receives or is entitled to receive something.”

Jesus paid full price for us to receive salvation

Rom. 8:17- “Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.”

Salvation – *soteria* = Greek for salvation.

- Means to 'rescue, safety healing, deliverance, preserve or preservation.

Soteria has three aspects:

1. It is used for the natural earthly realm meaning material and temporal deliverance.

Luke 1:69, Acts 7:25-27, 34, Phil. 1:19, Heb. 11:7 are references where we see angels networking to bring temporal or earth – realm deliverances.

2. It is used to reference spiritual or eternal deliverance.

Acts 4, Romans 1, 10, Eph. 1:13 refer to salvation as a spiritual deliverance when spiritual bondages and strongholds are broken.

3. It is used for present, now, real time salvation.

Phil. 2:12, 1Peter 1:9.

Angels are created to minister to the heirs of salvation in both the natural and spiritual realms in our present time.

The Origin of Angels:

The Scripture speaks about the creation of angels; therefore, it is clear that they have not existed from all eternity Nehemiah 9:6; Psalms 148:2, 5.

[Colossians 1:16-17](#) explains:

“For by Him 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. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”

The time of their creation is never definitely specified, but it is most probable that it occurred in connection with the [creation](#) of the heavens in [Genesis 1:1](#).

It may be that God created the angels immediately after He had created the [heavens](#) and before He [created](#) the earth—for according to [Job 38:4-7](#), “the [sons of God](#) shouted for joy” when He laid the foundations of the earth.

How Many Angels Are There”:

While the [Scriptures](#) give no definite figures, we are told that the number of angels is very great ([Daniel 7:10](#); [Matthew 26:53](#); [Hebrews 12:22](#)).

It appears that all angels were created at one time. No new angels are being added to the number. Angels are not subject to death or any form of extinction; therefore they do not decrease in number.

It seems reasonable to conclude that there are at least as many spirit beings in existence as there will have been human beings in all their history on earth.

Do Angels Have Bodies?

Angels are essentially “ministering spirits,” (Hebrews 1:14) and do not have physical bodies like humans. Jesus declared that “a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have” (Luke 24:37-39).

The Bible does, however, make it clear that angels can only be in one place at a time. They must have some localized presence.

Angels can take on the appearance of men when the occasion demands. How else could some “entertain angels unaware” ([Hebrews 13:2](#))? On the other hand, their appearance is sometimes in dazzling white and blazing glory ([Matthew 28:2-4](#)).

What Do Angels Look Like?:

Since angels are spirits rather than physical beings, they don't have to be visible at all (Colossians 1:16). Elisha once prayed that his servant would see the armies of angels surrounding the city, and the young man discovered that he had overlooked a lot of invisible beings (2 Kings 6:17)!

Abraham was visited by three heavenly messengers.

When angels do appear, they generally appear in the form of men. In Genesis 18, Abraham welcomed three angelic guests who appeared at first to be nothing more than some travelers. In the following chapter, two angels went to Sodom where they were assumed to be simply a pair of human visitors.

With the possible exception of one debatable passage in [Zechariah 5:9](#), angels always appear as males rather than females ([Mark 16:5](#)).

[Daniel](#) saw an angel with arms and legs resembling polished metal and precious stones, and a face like [lightning](#) ([Daniel 10:5-6](#)). The angel that rolled back the stone from [Christ's tomb](#) was radiating dazzling [light](#) ([Matthew 28:3](#); [Luke 24:4](#)). The [book of Revelation](#) describes some highly unusual beings who may be a variety of angel in [Revelation 4:6-8](#).

Do Angels Have Wings?”

Some special angels do ([seraphims](#)), but not most. Some Bible passages picture angels with wings ([Isaiah 6:2,6](#)). Other verses talk about angels flying, and we assume that the wings would be useful for that flight ([Daniel 9:21](#)). However, I suspect that angels can move around without having to depend on wings.

Most references to angels in the Bible say nothing about wings, and in passages like [Genesis 18-19](#), it is certain that no wings were visible.

Angels never die ([Luke 20:36](#)).

How Do the Angles Compare to Man?”

- They are stronger than man, but not omnipotent ([Psalm 103:20](#); [2 Peter 2:11](#)).
- They are greater than man in knowledge, but not omniscient ([2 Samuel 14:20](#); [Matthew 24:36](#)).
- They are more noble than man, but not omnipresent (Daniel [9:21-23](#), [10:10-14](#)).
- Angels can take on the appearance of men when the occasion demands.

- How else could some “entertain angels unaware” ([Hebrews 13:2](#))? On the other hand, their appearance is sometimes in dazzling white and blazing glory ([Matthew 28:2-4](#)).
- Angels do not marry or reproduce like humans ([Matthew 22:30](#)). Angels are a company or association, not a race descended from a common ancestor ([Luke 20:34-36](#)).

- We are called “sons of men,” but angels are never called “sons of angels.”
- Angels are spirits ([Hebrews 1:14](#)), like the soul of man, but without a physical body.
- Such expressions as “like the angels” ([Luke 20:36](#)), and the fact that whenever angels appeared to man it was always in a human form ([Gen. 18:2](#); [19:1](#), [10](#); [Luke 24:4](#); [Acts 1:10](#))

Are All Angels Good?"

Sorry! You can't trust every angel.

The Bible classifies some angels as "elect" (1 Timothy 5:21) or "holy" (Matthew 25:31; Mark 8:38). All angels were originally holy, enjoying the presence of God (Matthew 18:10) and the environment of heaven (Mark 13:32).

Other angels oppose [God](#) under the leadership of [Satan](#) ([Matthew 25:41](#); [2 Peter 2:4](#); [Jude 6](#); [Ephesians 6:12](#)). These are called “[demons](#).”

There is actually a great unseen conflict raging that goes beyond anything we can imagine. It is not, however, a fight between two equal and eternal forces. God who created all beings is still in charge

What is the Job Description For Angels?”

We don't know whether every angel carries out the same tasks, or whether some of them specialize in certain areas. The Bible does speak about classes of angelic beings like [cherubim](#) ([Ezekiel 1](#)) and [seraphim](#) ([Isaiah 6](#)).

We also know the names of two notable angels: [Michael](#) ([Daniel 10:13](#); [Jude 9](#)) and [Gabriel](#) ([Daniel 9:21](#); [Luke 1:19,26](#)).

The unnamed angels who appear most often in [Scripture](#) carry out a variety of tasks—all designed to serve God...

- **Worship and praise**—this is the main activity portrayed in heaven (Isaiah 6:1-3; Revelation 4-5).

- **Messengers**—They serve as messengers to communicate God’s will to men. They helped reveal the law to Moses (Acts 7:52-53), and served as the carriers of much of the material in Daniel, and Revelation.

• **Guiding**—Angels gave instructions to [Joseph](#) about the [birth of Jesus](#) ([Matthew 1-2](#)), to the women at the [tomb](#), to [Philip](#) ([Acts 8:26](#)), and to [Cornelius](#) ([Acts 10:1-8](#)).

• **Providing**—God has used angels to provide physical needs such as [food](#) for [Hagar](#) ([Genesis 21:17-20](#)), [Elijah](#) ([1 Kings 19:6](#)), and Christ after His [temptation](#) ([Matthew 4:11](#)).

•**Protecting**—Keeping God’s people out of physical danger, as in the cases of [Daniel](#) and the [lions](#), and his three friends in the [fiery furnace](#) ([Daniel 3](#) and [6](#)).

•**Delivering**—Getting God’s people out of danger once they’re in it. Angels released the [apostles](#) from [prison](#) in [Acts 5](#), and repeated the process for [Peter](#) in [Acts 12](#).

• **Strengthening and encouraging**—Angels strengthened [Jesus](#) after His [temptation](#) ([Matt 4:11](#)), encouraged the [apostles](#) to keep preaching after releasing them from prison ([Acts 5:19-20](#)), and told [Paul](#) that everyone on his [ship](#) would survive the impending shipwreck ([Acts 27:23-25](#)).

• **Answering prayer**—God often uses angels as His means of answering the [prayers](#) of His people ([Daniel 9:20-24](#); [10:10-12](#); [Acts 12:1-17](#)).

•Caring for believers at the moment of death—In the story of Lazarus and the rich man, we read that angels carried the spirit of Lazarus to “Abraham’s bosom” when he died (Luke 16:22).

•Executioners—Angels are sometimes used by God to punish sin.

An angel of the Lord went forth and smote an Assyrian camp (2 Kings 19:20-34)—“behold, they were all dead corpses.” The Assyrian army was annihilated.

- A destroying angel was sent, but later withheld, to punish David for his vanity in taking a census of the great number of his people.

- At the time of Moses and the Exodus, the Egyptian firstborn were killed by an angel of death.