

ANGELS AMONG US

*For He shall give his angels charge over thee,
to keep thee in all thy ways.—Psalms 91:11*

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Angels Among Us

Introduction:

The existence of angels is a fact, as their activities are accounted for throughout the Bible; Greek and Hebrew translations included. Angels are very real beings who definitely exist.

The word *angel* comes from the Greek word *angelos*; which means *messenger*. These unseen, intelligent beings are referred to as cherubim (Exodus 25:20), seraphim (Isaiah 6:2,6), and ministering spirits (Hebrews 1:14). They have been charged by God to keep us in all His ways (Psalm 91:11).

DEFINITIONS

Angel: an immortal, spiritual being attendant upon God. In medieval angelology, one of nine order of spiritual beings: seraphim, cherubim, thrones, dominations or dominions, virtues, powers, principalities, archangels and angels.

HEBREW & GREEK WORDS AND MEANINGS

Hebrew Word: Mal'AK

Greek Word: Angelos

Translated: Angels, Messengers

THE CREATION OF ANGELS

Angels were the first to be created and are the highest in rank of all of God's creation. They are different from mankind in that they make up a host, and not a race. Angels are a direct creation of God (this is why they are called *the sons of God* in scripture), whereas mankind is humanly reproduced (procreation). So mankind grows in number constantly, while the population of angels remains unchanged. Angels create a class of beings who are infinite, flawless, innumerable, and immortal. Unlike humans, they are unable to experience death or procreation. However, we humans are unlike angels in that we are able to experience redemption from sin through the blood of Jesus, and also experience the indwelling presence and baptism of the Holy Spirit—an experience the angels long for: to have God inside of them.

There were certain angels, as discussed in Second Peter 2:4, Jude 6, Matthew 25:41, and Ezekiel 28:14-16, who transgressed the will and purpose of God for their existence.

No one knows how long after the creation of angels that God created the physical universe, but it is told in Job 38:4-7 that the angels rejoiced over the completion of the earth's construction; thus indicating that they were present for at least the unveiling of God's newest architectural project.

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THE ANGEL OF THE LORD

When referring to "the angel of the Lord" throughout scripture, this mysterious God-sent messenger can be identified in several situations as God Himself. Theologians and Bible scholars argue that this being was Jesus Christ present in the Old Testament. This messenger appeared to people who would not have been able to see the True and Living God and yet live. He can be found with a sword of judgement in several Bible stories. It is also believed that in not every instance is the angel of God really Jesus. Some instances clearly show a being that does not operate on its own accord, and in others it is more than obvious that the person is truly one of the Tri-Partite components of God.

THE ANGEL OF THE LORD IS SEEN APPEARING BEFORE SEVERAL PERSONS THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE:

1. **Hagar** – *Genesis 16:7-13*. Hagar ran away because her mistress had dealt with her harshly. The angel of the Lord told her that he would multiply her seed exceedingly. Is there an angel who gives life? Only God Almighty has the power to give life (Job 33:4; 1 Timothy 6:13), as well as His equal counterparts within the Godhead: the Son (John 5:21) and the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:6; John 6:63). This was not just any angel.

Genesis 21:17. She was sent away from her home. She and her baby were destitute – without food or water – in the middle of the wilderness of Beersheba; so she hid her son under a bush and waited for him to die. The angel of the Lord called to her, but in this instance, he mentioned that God had heard her child crying. So, we can safely assume that in this instance, he is not God.

2. **Abraham** – *Genesis 22:11-19*. Abraham is about to sacrifice his only son in obedience to the request of God. The angel of the Lord tells him to stop. He then says to Abraham, *By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD...*(verse16), clearly identifying himself as Lord.

Genesis 18:1-33. Translated into English as *Lord* in this passage, but originally referring to the angel of the Lord.

3. **Jacob** – *Genesis 31:11-13*. Jacob had been mistreated by his father-in-law, Laban. He had a dream concerning the matter, in which the angel of the Lord spoke to him and said, *...for I have seen all that Laban doeth unto thee. I am the God of Bethel...* (verses 12,13). Again, he announces that he is God.
4. **Moses** – *Exodus 3:2-6*. The angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in a burning bush.
5. **Children of Israel** – *Exodus 13:21,22; 14:19*. While in the wilderness, a pillar of cloud led the children of Israel by day, and a pillar of fire led them by night. Chapter 13 of the book of Exodus tells us that the Lord was in these pillars. However, in chapter 14 we are told that the angel of the Lord was in these pillars. So who was in the pillars? Was it the angel of the Lord or was it the Lord? Or are these two people the same?
Think about it!

Exodus 23:20-23. Judges 2:1-4 – The angel of the Lord speaks to the children of Israel as if he were God, repeating statements that were previously made by God Himself.

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GIANTS

In Genesis 6:1-5, there is a story told of giants who once inhabited the earth. They were a mixed breed—a people of human and angelic form. The sons of God, or angels (whether good or bad is not discussed although some presuppose that this passage refers to fallen angels), noticed the beauty of the daughters of the men on the earth; so they took brides for themselves. The women, in turn, bare children, (They bare only male children. The scripture never mentions any "mighty women.") who then grew to be giants. One would have thought that this was not a natural phenomenon and would have ceased all ungodly activities, but the scripture says that giants were in the earth, and that the wickedness of man was great in the earth. When scripture says "in the earth," it means throughout, not designated to a certain region; so these activities must have been quite prevalent in order for it to be throughout the earth. So God became very angry, and decided to destroy all of mankind except for Noah and his family. This was because Noah walked with God, thereby fulfilling the scripture which says, ...*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house* (Acts 16:31). God had to honor His Word and save the family of Noah as well.

THREE MAJOR LEADERS OF HEAVEN'S HOSTS

1. **Michael** – Referred to in Daniel 10:13, 21; 12:1 as a "prince" who represents and defends Daniel's people – the Jews. Also referred to as the Archangel in Jude 9. He commands the angelic host of heaven in Revelation 12:7. His assignment appears to be to deliver God's people, especially the Jews, from the forces of darkness, and finally to evict these forces from the heavenlies; casting them down to the earth (Revelation 12:7-10). Michael also appears to have something to do with the resurrection of the dead. He is associated with the "resurrection" mentioned in Daniel Chapter Twelve. He also contended with the devil for the body of Moses, possibly for resurrection purposes (Jude 9). Also, his will be the "voice" of the archangel that will be heard when the "dead in Christ" shall rise (1 Thessalonians 4:16) for he is the only archangel that is mentioned in the scriptures.
2. **Gabriel** – Mentioned by name four times in the Bible. Twice mentioned in the book of Daniel, and twice more in the book of Luke. He appears to be connected with the redemptive works of the Lord. He appeared to Daniel (Daniel 8:16; 9:21-27), informing him of Christ's first arrival. He notified Zacharias of the birth of the forerunner of the Messiah — John the Baptist. He later appeared to Mary and informed her of the birth of Jesus (Luke 1:19, 26, 27). He holds a prestigious position in heaven for he announced to Zacharias, *I am Gabriel that stand in the presence of God* (Luke 1:19).
3. **Lucifer** – Satan is discussed lastly, not because he is the least of these three, because in many aspects, he is the greatest; however, we do so because of his evil nature. He is the root of all evil in the universe. He once held the position of guardian or protector of the throne of God. The Bible declares that he was perfect in all his ways until iniquity was found in him. He had the audacity to exalt himself above his Master, consequently instituting a mutiny against the throne and the sovereignty of Almighty God. Because of his great prestige in heaven, he was able to influence and infect a throng of much lesser angels, consequently drawing them into a partnership in his unholy ambition. Thus, Lucifer himself, and the angels that sinned were cast down, losing their heavenly habitation, as well as their divine nature. The heavens are populated with principalities of evil whom we are warned about in Ephesians 6:12. They are unclean in the sight of God according to Job 15:15; however, they will be cleansed so that the saints, the bride of Christ, and their groom, Christ Himself, may abide there safely during the Millennial reign of Christ.

