

## The Existence of Angels

### A. How do we know angels exist?

The Bible talks about angels. As with God and man, Scripture does not specifically devote time to defending the existence of different persons.

#### 1. What does the Old Testament say?

There are numerous references to angels in the Old Testament. The Hebrew word for “angel” is “*malak*.” Angels are also referred to by various terms in the Old Testament, including “cherubim,” “seraphim,” “men,” and some times, “sons of God.”

##### a. The Pentateuch

References to angels using “angel” or “angels”

Genesis 16:7, 9, 10, 11; 19:1, 15; 21:17; 22:11, 15; 24:7, 40; 28:12; 31:11; 32:1; 48:16; Exodus 3:2; 14:19; 23:20, 23; 32:34; 33:2; Numbers 20:16; and 22:22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 31, 32, 34, and 35

##### Genesis 18-19

At least two of the “three men” (18:2) who appeared to Abraham were angels (19:1, 15) of some sort.

Genesis 32:1, “Now as Jacob went on his way, the **angels** of God met him.”

Exodus 3:2, “And **the angel of the LORD** appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed.”

Exodus 14:19, “ And **the angel of God**, who had been going before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them.”

There are many references to “**the angel of the LORD**” or “**the angel of God**” in the Old Testament. In fact, in the Pentateuch, most uses of the word “angel” are in reference to “**the angel of the Lord.**” We’ll look at who this person is later.

References to angels using “cherub” or “cherubim”

Genesis 3:24; Exodus 25:18, 19, 20, 22; 26:1, 31; 36:8, 35; 37:7, 8, 9; and Numbers 7:89.

Genesis 3:24, “So He drove the man out; and at the east of the Garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim, and the flaming sword which turned every direction, to guard the way to the tree of life. ”

In the Exodus and Numbers passages these terms (cherub and cherubim) are used first to describe what the ark of the covenant is to look like, and then described what the ark looked like. Implied in this is that people knew what these beings looked like.

If cherubim were stationed to protect the way to the tree of life at the Garden of Eden, it means that people of Adam’s day would have seen them. These cherubim may have been present at this place until the tree of life was destroyed with the flood of Noah’s time. So Noah and his children may

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have even seen these cherubim and described them to their own children. If this were the case this would explain how come the term is used merely to describe what the art work on the ark should look like.

References to angels using “sons of God”

Genesis 6 - more later.

### b. The Historical Books

References to angels using “angel” or “angels”

Judges 2:1, 4; 5:23; 6:11, 12, 20, 21, 22; 13:3, 6, 9, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21; 1 Samuel 29:9; 2 Samuel 14:17, 20; 19:27; 24:16, 17; 1 Kings 13:18; 19:5, 7; 2 Kings 1:3, 15; 19:35; 1 Chronicles 21:12, 15, 16, 18, 20, 27, 21:30; 2 Chronicles 32:21.

Judges through 2 Samuel

All references to angels are related to “the angel of the LORD” (except for Achish’s comparison of David to “an angel of God” in 1 Samuel 29:9).

1 Kings 13

The “man of God” believed the “old prophet” when he said an angel had said he could return with him and eat. This “man of God” had been told by God not to do this, but considered the potential message of an angel more authoritative than God’s and was judged and killed by a lion for it.

References to angels using “cherub” or “cherubim”

1 Samuel 4:4; 2 Samuel 6:2; 22:11; 1 Kings 6:23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 32, 35; 7:29, 36; 8:6, 7; 2 Kings 19:15; 1 Chronicles 13:6; 28:18; 3:7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14; 5:7, 8; Ezra 2:59; and Nehemiah 7:61.

Primarily used in reference to decorations on the ark of the covenant or in the temple.

In 2 Samuel 22:11 (“And He rode on a cherub and flew; And He appeared on the wings of the wind.”) David pictures God riding a cherub coming to help him.

In Ezra and Nehemiah used as a person’s name.

### c. The Prophets

References to angels using “angel” or “angels”

Isaiah 37:36; 63:9; Daniel 3:28; 6:22; Hosea 12:4; Zechariah 1:9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 19; 2:3; 3:1, 3, 5, 6; 4:1, 4, 5; 5:5, 10; 6:4, 5; 12:8.

Primarily referring to “the angel of the LORD,” except in some passages of Zechariah, where the reference is to the angel who spoke with Zechariah, where an angel patrols the earth (Ch. 1), predicts judgement (Ch. 2), and interprets visions (Ch. 4).

References to angels using “cherub” or “cherubim” (Isaiah 37:16; Ezekiel 9:3; 10:1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20; 11:22; 28:14, 16, 18; 41:20, 25.)

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References to angels using “seraphim”

Isaiah 6:2, 6.

References to angels by their names

Gabriel - Daniel 8:16; 9:21.

Michael - Daniel 10:13, 21; 12:1.

d. The Wisdom Books

References to angels using “angel” or “angels”

Job 4:18; 33:23; Psalm 34:7; 35:5, 6; 78:25, 49; 91:11; 103:20; 148:2.

Psalm 91:11, “For He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways.”

Psalm 103:20, “Bless the LORD, you His angels, Mighty in strength, who perform His word, Obeying the voice of His word! ”

References to angels using “sons of God”

Job 1:6, “Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. ”

Job 2:1, “ Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD.”

Job 38:7, “ When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?”

2. *What does the New Testament say?*

a. The Gospels

References to angels using “angel” or “angels”

Matthew 1:20, 24; 2:13, 19; 4:6, 11; 13:39, 41, 49; 16:27; 18:10; 22:30; 24:31, 36; 25:31, 41; 26:53; 28:2, 5; Mark 1:13; 8:38; 12:25; 13:27, 32; Luke 1:11, 13, 18, 19, 26, 30, 34, 35, 38; 2:9, 10, 13, 15, 21; 4:10; 9:26; 12:8, 9; 15:10; 16:22; 20:36; 22:43; 24:23; John 1:51; 5:4; 12:29; 20:12.

In the Gospels we see angels at the birth of Christ, at His death and at His Resurrection.

b. The Book of Acts

Acts 5:19; 6:15; 7:30, 35, 38, 53; 8:26; 10:3, 7, 22; 11:13; 12:7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 23; 23:8, 9; 27:23.

Reference to angels as “men”

Acts 1:10, “And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was departing, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them.”

c. The Epistles

Romans 8:38; 1 Corinthians 4:9; 6:3; 11:10; 13:1; 2 Corinthians 11:14; Galatians 1:8; 3:19; 4:14; Colossians 2:18; 2 Thessalonians 1:7; 1 Timothy 3:16; 5:21; Hebrews 1:4, 5, 6, 7, 13; 2:2, 5, 7, 9, 16; 12:22; 13:2; 1 Peter 1:12; 3:22; 2 Peter 2:4, 11; Jude 6.

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### d. The Book of Revelation

Revelation 1:1, 20; 2:1, 8, 12, 18; 3:1, 5, 7, 14; 5:2, 11; 7:1, 2, 11; 8:2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13; 9:1, 11, 13, 14, 15; 10:1, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10; 11:15; 12:7, 9; 14:6, 8, 9, 10, 15, 17, 18, 19; 15:1, 6, 7, 8; 16:1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 12, 17; 17:1, 7; 18:1, 21; 19:17; 20:1; 21:9, 12; 22:6, 8, 16.

In the book of Revelation we see angels worshiping God, protecting God's servants and administering God's wrath.

### **B. How are angels associated with Jesus?**

#### *1. At His Temptation*

Angels ministered to Jesus after He defeated Satan, who had been attempting to tempt Jesus.

Matthew 4:11, "Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and *began* to minister to Him."

#### *2. From His Teaching*

Jesus used references to angels in His teaching. When teaching about the resurrection to the Sadducees (Matthew 25) He compared the resurrected with angels. Jesus considered angels truthful enough to use known characteristics about them in defending His point.

#### *3. In What He Came to Do*

Jesus prayed for strength to endure the burden of waiting for His sacrifice and God sent an angel to strengthen Him.

Luke 22:43, "Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him. "