

The KJV Study Bible states in *2 Pet 2:4*: " cast them down to hell:" The Greek for "hell" is Tartarus, the term used by the Greeks to designate the place where the most wicked spirits were sent to be punished. Peter uses this term to indicate a sphere of habitation and activity that is infinitely below their former estate, and from which they cannot escape or return to the former position. Why some evil angels are imprisoned and others are free to serve Satan as demons is not explained in Scripture. 'chains of darkness.' This highly figurative phrase indicates that Satan and his fallen angels cannot escape."

'Tartarus' refers to the restraining or confining of fallen angels (demons). Not humans. A condition of restraint that God has imposed on the rebellious angels as they await ultimate judgment (*Jude 1:6*; *1 Cor 6:3*). Translated into English, the word means "the darkness of the material universe," or "prison." God assigned specific areas of responsibility and authority to the angels. Not all angels continued their assignments, and chose to rebel against God. Therefore, this caused God to remove them from their positions and responsibilities, and chain them to the earth, or spiritual darkness of this earth. These angels became known as the devil and his demons, or devil and his angels (*Mt 25:41*). From my study of the scriptures, I believe that Satan and his demons are confined to the earth, where they exercise their limited powers, since Satan is the "god of this age" (*2 Cor 4:4*). Therefore, our battle is against the spiritual forces of evil, or wickedness in the spiritual realm. Not against flesh and blood human beings (*Eph 6:10-18*). The weapons of our warfare are spiritual (*2 Cor 10:3-5*). (Read tract - 'You Can Be Set Free!').

Now you have a more clearer image of who God's angels, and the devil's angels are. God's angels do not float on clouds, or fly around in space with nothing to do. Instead, they are active spiritual beings who have unique and specific missions, roles and responsibilities assigned to them by God, and are actively accomplishing them both in the spiritual and physical realm, in heaven and on earth! Angels are loyal and faithful servants of God. They submit to, revere God, and are zealously doing His will!

(Note: The following scriptures are additional references to angels and how they accomplish God's will on earth).

Scriptural References:

Genesis 16:7-14
Judges 6:11-24
Judges 13:2-5
Isaiah 37:36
Zechariah 1:11-17
Matthew 1:18-25
Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23
Matthew 4:6, 11
Matthew 13:37-43
Matthew 16:27
Matthew 18:10
Matthew 22:30
Matthew 24:31, 36
Matthew 25:31
Matthew 26:53
Matthew 28:2, 5
Mark 1:13
Mark 8:38
Mark 12:25
Mark 13:27, 32
Luke 2:9-14
Luke 4:10-11
Luke 9:26
Luke 12:8-9
Luke 15:10
Luke 16:22
Luke 20:36
Luke 22:39-43
Luke 24:23
John 1:51
John 5:4
John 20:11-12
Acts 5:17-20
Acts 7:30
Acts 8:26
Acts 10:1-8
Acts 12:7-8, 21-23
Acts 27:23-26

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Angels: Unveiling The Mysterious Realm

Do angels really exist? If so, do they look like chubby babies with wings, floating on clouds and playing harps, as portrayed in many statues, paintings and figurines? Or do they have significant roles to play? What does the Bible say about angels? What are the different types of angels? What are their purpose, roles and responsibilities, if any?

What is the definition of an “angel”? The English word “angel” derives from the Greek word “aggelos” used in the original NT. The Hebrew word is “Malak” in the OT. Both words mean “messenger,” referring to either an angelic or human messenger. The Bible defines angels as ‘ministering spirits’ (*Heb 1:14*). They are sent by God to help, attend to, and assist those who will inherit salvation. Angels also ministered to Jesus Himself (*Mt 4:11*). In *Heb 1:7*, angels are referred to as ‘flames of fire.’ *Ps 104:4* uses personification, and mentions the storm wind and lightning as agents of God’s purposes. Satan’s messengers, the demons, are also referred to as “angels” (*Mt 25:41; Rev 12:7-9*).

Are angels created beings? God always existed, but all creatures were created by Him, including the angels (*Gen 2:1; Col 1:16-17*) who existed at the time of creation, and sang the praises of the Creator (*Job 38:4-7; Ps 65:13; 148*). Angels were created before all other living creatures, including mankind. They shouted for joy when the Lord “laid the foundations of the earth.” (*Gen 1:1; Job 38:1-7*). Angels are called “sons of God,” and “morning stars” (*Job 38:7*), in some Bible translations. Also, man was made “a little lower than the angels” (*Ps 8:5*). Angels are symbolized as stars in the Book of Revelation (*Rev 1:20; 12:4*). They were created with free moral choice, and capable of right or wrong thoughts, feelings, choices and actions. Some angels chose to rebel against God, which is why Satan and one-third of the angels were cast to earth, and became known as demons (*Rev 12:4*). But thank God that two-thirds of the angels made the right choice and still remained faithful to God!

What are the purpose, roles and responsibilities of angels? God created angels to serve and obey Him, and accomplish His will in heaven and on earth (*Ps 103:20*). They are also assigned specific tasks and responsibilities. For example, To: **1) Praise and worship God.** Angels not only submit to, revere and obey God, but they also praise and worship Him. (*Ps 103:20; 148:2; Is 6:1-3; Lk 2:13-14; Heb 1:5-6; Rev 5:11-12*). **2) Submit to Jesus Christ** (*Php 2:9-11*). Jesus is Lord of all (*Acts 10:36*), and sovereign over all creation (*Col 1:15-20; Heb 1:6,13; 1 Pet 3:22*), and therefore, angels submit to His authority. Mighty angels will accompany Christ when He returns with power and great glory (*Mt 16:27; 25:31; Lk 9:26*). **3) Deliver God’s messages** to humans and reveal His will and plan for their lives (*Lk 1:11-22, 26-38; Rev 22:6*). For example: In the OT, an angel of the Lord delivered a message to Manoaah’s wife, who was barren, telling her that she was going to conceive a son (*Jdg 13:2-5*). In the NT, The angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she will give birth to Jesus Christ, the Son of God (*Lk 1:26-38*), and to Zacharias, that his wife Elisabeth will bear a son, named John (*Lk 1:11-22*). The angel of the Lord informed the women about Jesus’ resurrection (*Mt 28:1-8; Lk 24:1-7*). God revealed prophetic events through His angel, to the apostle John (*Rev 1:1-2*). **4) Fight demons** (*Rev 12:7-9*). In the Book of Daniel, a high ranking demon, known as the prince of Persia, fought against the angel Gabriel for 3 weeks, until Michael the Archangel intervened to help him (*Dan 10:13-14*). (Read tract: ‘Visions, Dreams & Revelations: Unveiling The Supernatural Realm’). A fight between Michael the archangel and Satan also occurred over Moses’ body (*Jude 1:9*). The Book of Revelation describes a war in heaven, between Michael and his angels; and Satan and his angels. As mentioned previously, one-third of the angels in heaven became known as fallen angels, or demons who were cast down to the earth. Satan will make a final attempt to wrest dominion from God, and he will be cast back down to earth again, shortly before Christ’s return to establish God’s Kingdom on earth (*Rev 12:4, 7-10*). **5) Protect God’s people and intervene on their behalf** (*Ps 91*). The angel of the Lord released the apostles from prison and instructed them to preach in the temple (*Acts 5:17-28*), and delivered the apostle Peter from prison, and instructed him on what to do next (*Acts 12:7-19*). Therefore, angels rescue out of trouble. Another example of angelic intervention is when an entire Assyrian army of 185,000 was struck down by just one angel of the Lord and delivered His people (*2 Ki 19:35; Is 37:36*). The angel of the Lord shut the ravenous lion’s mouths and protected the prophet Daniel from being killed. God rewarded his faith by saving his life (*Dan 6:20-24*). Angels are sent by God to protect His people (*Ps 91:11*). God’s angels protect those who fear Him (*Ps 34:7*). God’s heavenly representative, or “messenger,” is the angel of the Lord, who accomplishes God’s will over all the earth (*Gen 22:10-12; 2 Ki 19:35; Ps 35:5-6*). “Encamps round about” in *Psalms 34:7*, means that the angel of the Lord surrounds those who fear God, and provides protection and security. An angel of the Lord accompanied the Israelites in the Exodus from Egypt to the Promised Land (*Ex 14:19-20; 23:20*). **6) Angels intervene on behalf of God’s people.** Angels obey God and follow His orders, to intervene on His behalf and deliver His people. For example, two angels delivered righteous Lot, including his wife and two daughters out of Sodom, before God destroyed the two sinful cities of Sodom and Gomorrah with fire and brimstone (*Gen 19:15-17, 23-25; 2 Pet 2:6-8; Jude 1:7*). Other scriptures of angelic intervention include: *Dan 3:26-30; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23; 4:11; Lk 22:43; Acts 12:7-11*. **7) Carry out God’s judgment** (*Ps 35:5-6; Rev 16*). Examples where God orders His righteous angels to carry out His righteous judgments against sinners, include: i) an angel of the Lord was sent to punish Jerusalem (*2 Sam 24:16-17; 1 Chr 21:15-17*); ii) an angel of the Lord took the life of king Herod (*Acts 12:20-23*); iii) Jesus will send His righteous angels to cast those who do evil into the fiery furnace, at the end of the age (*Mt 13:40-43, 47-52*). **8) Angels have unique and diverse missions, apart from executing God’s judgment.** God, according to His mercy and grace, sent an angel to attend to His servant Elijah who was discouraged, and provided him with sustenance and rest (*1 Ki 19:4-8*). While Jesus was praying, in the garden of Gethsemane, He was strengthened by an angel (*Lk 22:43*). The stone that was placed at the entrance of Jesus’ tomb was rolled back by an angel of the Lord (*Mt 28:1-8; Lk 24:1-7; Jn 20:11-13*). The Book of Matthew & Mark mention an angel of the Lord ministering to Jesus at the end of His fasting and temptation by Satan (*Mt 4:11; Mk 1:13*). **9) Angels appear in visions and dreams to communicate important messages.** An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream to communicate a vital message concerning Jesus (*Mt 2:19-23*), and also instructed Joseph concerning Mary and Jesus (*Mt 1:20-25; 2:13, 19-20*).

How powerful are angels? Good angels are of greater might and power than the evil inferior angels (*2 Pet 2:11*). According to *Psalms 103:20*, the holy angels “excel in strength.” In the prophet Daniel’s vision, he saw the angel Gabriel “fly swiftly” (*Dan 9:21*). It took only one angel of the Lord to kill an entire Assyrian army of 185,000 soldiers (*Is 37:36; 2 Ki 19:35*).

Are there guardian angels? The term ‘guardian angel,’ or whether each person is assigned a specific angel is not mentioned in the Bible. God’s primary purpose for creating angels was for them to act as His agents in fulfilling His will and plan for mankind. They also act to protect and intervene on behalf of His people (*Ps 34:7; 91:11; Heb 1:14*), including children

(*Mt 18:10*). “Do always behold,” means angels have continual access to God. Angels watch over us, but they also record the deeds of our lives (*Ecc 5:6; 1 Cor 4:9*). God will judge everyone according to his or her works, whether they be good or evil (*Acts 17:30-31; Heb 13:4*). The angels of God surround the whole earth (*Zech 1:9-11*).

Do angels express emotion? God’s angels express feelings of joy at God’s sovereignty, power and grace. For example: angels were present when God created the earth, and they shouted for joy (*Job 38:7*). Heavenly beings are joyful when one sinner repents (*Lk 15:10*). They extol God the Father and Jesus Christ, His Son, in continual praise (*Ps 148:2; Lk 2:13-15; Rev 5:11-14*). Conversely, Satan and his demons express emotions, such as great wrath (*Rev 12:12*), and fear (*Mt 8:29,31; Jas 2:19*).

How many angels are there? Although the Bible does not mention exactly how many angels exist, there are references to an indefinitely large number, including “ten thousand times ten thousand,” and “thousands upon thousands” of angels (*Ps 68:17; Dan 7:10; Heb 12:22; Rev 5:11*).

What are the different types of angels?

Cherubim - The best description of cherubim is found in the Book of Ezekiel, chapters 1 & 10. Also mentioned in: *1 Ki 6:23-30; 2 Chr 3:7-14; Ps 99:1; Isaiah 37:16; Heb 9:5*. Frequently mentioned in the Old Testament (the above are some examples), and once mentioned in the New Testament. They are powerful and large four-faced creatures with four wings, transporting God’s throne. They are throne attendants who symbolize God’s creation (*Gen 1:26-28; Ps 8*). There were two golden images of cherubim on the mercy seat, at the top of the Ark of the Covenant (*Ex 25:17-22*). According to *Ps 99:1*, there are cherubim at God’s throne. In the OT, cherubim were symbolic attendants who marked the place of the Lord’s “enthronement” in His earthly kingdom (*1 Sam 4:4; 2 Sam 6:2; 2 Ki 19:15; Ps 99:1*). Cherubim were placed at the East of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword of God’s judgment which turned every way, and stood between fallen man and the garden of Eden (*Gen 3:24*).

Seraphim - (*Is 6:1-8*). Mentioned twice in the Old Testament. Seraphim bear a general resemblance to the human figure. Described as having six wings, while the “four beasts” or “living creatures” have the combined features of cherubim and seraphim. There are also Seraphim at God’s throne.

Twenty-four elders - (*Rev 4 & 5*) - Other angelic creatures which surround God’s throne are called the “twenty four elders” (*Rev 4:2-11*). The only description given of the twenty-four elders, is that they are dressed in white clothing and each having a golden crown on his head.

Archangel - (*Dan 10:13; 1 Thess 4:16; Jude 1:9; Rev 12:7-8*). The word ‘archangel’ is mentioned only twice in the New Testament. Michael is the only archangel mentioned in the Bible. Most Bible translations use the word ‘angel’ when mentioning these angelic beings. Even though Gabriel is simply called an angel in the Bible, it is assumed that he too was an archangel, since he was assigned a special task— to announce the birth of Christ to Mary (*Lk 1:26-38*).

What else do we know about the characteristics of angels/What do they look like?

Angels dwell in heaven, or the spiritual realm (*Mk 13:32; Gal 1:8*). Angels are not omnipresent (*Dan 10:11-14*). They are immortal spirit beings, with spiritual bodies (*Lk 20:36; Heb 1:14*). Therefore, we may be unaware of their presence, even as they interact in our physical realm, and with humans (*Gen 18:2-3; Heb 13:2*). But they can strike fear upon those who see them (*Judges 13:6; Lk 1:12*), and appear in human form (*Gen 18:2; Dan 9:21; Lk 24:4-5*). Angels wear dazzling clothes (*Mt 28:2-3; Acts 1:10; 10:30*). Angels appear in dreams and visions (*Mt 1:20; 2:13, 19*), in a flame of fire (*Ex 3:2*), and ascend in the flame of the altar (*Jdg 13:20*). Angels don’t marry (*Mt 22:30*). Angels can execute judgment on God’s behalf (*Acts 12:21-23*); and the fallen angels are subject to judgment (*2 Peter 2:4*).

Should we pray to or worship angels? Angels are majestic spiritual beings, but they were created by God. Therefore, angels are not to be worshiped. Instead, we worship God who is the Creator to whom alone belongs all glory, honor and praise; instead of creation (*Ex 20:3-5; Rev 4:11; 7:12; 19:10*). Our prayers must always be addressed to, and praise and worship directed to God our Father, in Jesus Name! (*Mt 6:6, 9*).

In the Book of Revelation, the apostle John began to worship an angel, and was rebuked twice by the angel himself, who told him to worship God (*Rev 19:10; 22:8-9*). We are also forbidden to make a representation of anything in heaven above, or on earth below, or in the waters under the earth, in any shape or form, to serve as a god, or angels. This includes statues, sculptures, paintings or figurines, etc. This is expressly forbidden in the 1st and 2nd commandments (*Ex 20:1-6; Lev 19:4; 26:1, 30; Dt 4:11-19*). Making an idol to represent God, would be a direct misrepresentation of Him. We must worship God in Spirit and in truth, since He has no visible form (*Jn 4:23-24*). The apostle Paul admonishes us to worship God; not angels (*Col 2:18*). We are never to be enticed by anyone to worship angels, no matter the circumstance, and/or whatever amazing things that angels may do for us.

Angels in the end times - Angels will take part in major prophetic and earth-shattering events in the end times (For example: *Rev 8-9, 16; 10:1; 14:6-8; 18:1-2, 21; 19:17*). Jesus will be accompanied by all His mighty angels in His spectacular and triumphant return! (*Mt 24:30-31; 25:31; Mk 8:38*). God will send His angels who will gather His elect from all over the earth. They will be changed to immortal beings and resurrected to immortal life, in the first resurrection (*Mk 13:26-27; 1 Thes 4:13-18; Rev 20:5-6*). Innumerable angels will be present in the “Heavenly Jerusalem” (*Heb 12:22; Rev 21:1-2*). A divine agent— an angel of the Lord will bind Satan and cast him into the “abyss” or “bottomless pit,” before Christ’s reign with His saints for 1,000 years on earth (*Rev 20:1-3*).

The devil’s angels are subject to judgment. The apostle Peter refers to the angels who sinned and are reserved unto the final judgment. The Apostle Paul confirms this truth in *1 Cor 6:3*, where he states that the children of God will judge angels, and also Jude affirms this truth in *Jude 1:6*. The sin referred to in *2 Pet 2:4* possibly occurred when Lucifer, who once was an anointed cherub at God’s throne (*Ezek 28:13-15*), attempted to dethrone God (*Is 14:12-15*). Lucifer was cast out of heaven along with one-third of his angels, because he chose to sin, and convinced his angels to follow him in his rebellion. Lucifer became Satan the “adversary” (*Lk 10:18; Rev 12:3-4*).