"Angels"

Do angels really exist and what are they? Hello, I'm Phil Sanders, and this is a Bible study "In "Search of the Lord's Way." Today we're exploring what the Bible says about angels.

Welcome to In SEARCH of the Lord's Way! We're here to search the Scriptures for God's will. God's Word opens the door to so many wonderful things and blessings. We're not alone in this universe, there is intelligent life. First there is God and then there are myriads of myriads of heavenly beings who know us. We can read of these heavenly beings in Scripture and they're called angels, cherubim, and seraphim. And they perform numerous tasks and deliver messages for our God, even though we may be unaware of them. We know they exist because the Bible tells us so. Thanks for taking time to study with us today. We'd love to hear from you and we want to be a part of your life each week.

From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible speaks of angels nearly 300 times. The word angel in both Hebrew and Greek comes from words that mean "messenger." In fact, in Isaiah 42:19 the Hebrew word *malak* is translated "messenger," and in Matthew 11:10 *aggelos* is translated "messenger." In Luke 7:24 John sent messengers to Jesus; though these men were human messengers. That word aggelos, for angles, is used for them. speaking of them as messengers not angles. Both humans and angels can be messengers, but angels are heavenly spirits and not human.

The Scriptures speak of angels at times appearing in human form. In Matthew 28:2 to 3 an angel with an appearance like lightning and clothing white as snow rolled away the stone from Jesus' tomb and spoke to the women; Mark 16:5 describes him as a young man wearing a white robe; and Luke 24:4 describes them as two men in dazzling clothing. Yes, angels at times appear human. Now interestingly they only appear as men. In Hebrews 1:14 we're told that angels are "ministering spirits, that were sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation." Aren't you thankful.

Well we offer this study, on Angels, free! If you'd like a printed copy and live in the United States, mail your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 or send an e-mail to searchtv@searchtv.org. Or, you can call our toll-free telephone number. That number is 1-800-321-8633. Now for our viewers outside the United States, we have programs and free materials on our website, www.searchtv.org. You can also see us on YouTube.

We'll now worship in song, read from Revelation 5:11 to 14, and consider the heavenly beings called angels.

Our reading today comes from the book of Revelation chapter 5 verses 11 to 14 and talks about the angels praising Jesus in heaven.

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."

And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying,

“To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.”

And the four living creatures kept saying, “Amen.” And the elders fell down and worshiped.

That’s a reading from God’s holy word about things that only someone like Jesus who revealed it to John through messengers, angels, could say. Let’s pray together. Heavenly Father we’re thankful that you have opened up for us a picture of what heaven will be like. It’s beauty and honor and glory to God and the Lamb. And Father we pray that our lives may be lived in a holy way and give honor to You and to Your Son. In Jesus name, Amen.

Heavenly angels, messengers, they worship God which shows they are not deity or God. Angels, themselves, refused to be worshiped. The apostle John in Revelation 22:8 to 9 wrote: I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. But he said to me, “Do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God.”

The Scriptures call God, the Lord Jesus, and the Holy Spirit eternal in Psalm 90 verses 1 to 2; Hebrews 9:14; and 13:8 talk about angels, on the other hand, are not eternal but had a beginning and were created beings. Psalm 148:2 to 6 says, “Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts! Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him, all stars of light! Praise Him, highest heavens, And the waters that are above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the LORD, For He commanded and they were created. He has also established them forever and ever; He has made a decree which will not pass away.”

Like humans, after the angels were created and they will last forever. And you, friend, will live beyond this life. Your body may die, but your spirit will live on. The Lord Jesus warned us in Matthew 10:28, “Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” Now Jesus described the nature of angels in Luke 20 verses 34 to 36 He says, “The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage, but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; for they cannot even die anymore, because they are like angels, and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.

Now since God created all things, He created angels. And since the Creator is “without iniquity,” He cannot be tempted with evil, and tempts no one with evil, He created angels perfect and sinless. God in Ezekiel 28:15 said to the king of Tyre, who was certainly more than a man in the context, “You were blameless in your ways From the day you were created Until unrighteousness was found in you.”

Now the devil and angels do have free will and can sin, falling away into punishment. 2 Peter 2 and verse 4 says that, “God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment.” Yes, “the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment” (2 Peter 2 verse 9).

Now the Lord Jesus said to sinners who would not help others in Matthew 25:41 to 46: “Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.” Then they themselves also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty,

or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?' Then He will answer them, "Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me." Well, these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

Now angels are regarded as "holy ones." Psalm 89 verses 5 to 7 says that, "The heavens will praise Your wonders, O LORD; Your faithfulness also in the assembly of the holy ones. For who in the skies is comparable to the LORD? Who among the sons of the mighty is like the LORD, A God greatly feared in the council of the holy ones, And awesome above all those who are around Him?" Now God keeps His holy ones in a council to help Him do His will. Angels matter. The Lord Jesus said in Luke 12:8 to 9, "And I say to you, everyone who confesses Me before men, the Son of Man will confess him also before the angels of God; but he who denies Me before men will (also) be denied before the angels of God."

Now angels are pictured as flying in Revelation 14 verse 6. Jesus predicted in Matthew 16 and verse 27, "For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done." Of course Jesus is coming in the air and He will remain there. Now His saints will meet Him in the air (1 Thessalonians 4). Interestingly angels are never pictured as having wings. On the other hand, cherubim and seraphim do have wings according to Isaiah 6:2 and Ex. 25:20. Now the living creatures around the throne of God have wings (Revelation 4:8).

Angels are sometimes called "sons of God" as in Job 1 and verse 6, "when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord." And so in Job 38:7 it was said that the sons of God who shouted for joy when God laid the foundation of the earth. Some have mistaken the phrase "sons of God" for angels in Genesis 6:2 to 4 because books like 1 Enoch suggest angels came to the "daughters of men" and bore children with them who became giants. However, the context suggest that the sons of God were not angels but men. The Nephilim were not hybrid beings; they were human. Remember angels neither marry nor are given in marriage. They aren't sexual beings.

Genesis 6:5 to 6 says: Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. The LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. The LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them." Now God's punishment of man is the point of Genesis 6.

Now angels were involved in the coming of Jesus, they were involved in His death, His resurrection, and His ascension into heaven to sit at the right hand of God. In Luke 1 Gabriel, an angel of the Lord, spoke to Zechariah, telling him about the birth of John the Baptizer. Gabriel appeared to Mary in Luke 1 to announce the conception of Christ. In Matthew 1, an angel spoke to Joseph about the birth of Jesus who will be called Immanuel. In Luke 2 an angel appeared with a multitude of heavenly hosts to the shepherds to point to where the Lord was lying in a manger. In Matthew 2 an angel warned Joseph to flee to Egypt and remain there till the danger passed. In Luke 22 an angel from heaven strengthened Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane. Angels were at the tomb and spoke to the women in Matthew 28.

Now angels in Acts 1:10 to 11 spoke to the apostles when Jesus ascended into heaven and predicted that He "will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven." In Acts 5, an angel of the Lord opened the gates of the prison to release the apostles. In Acts 8 an angel led Philip to speak to the Ethiopian eunuch. In Acts 10 a holy angel spoke to Cornelius to send for Peter in Joppa. In Acts 12 an angel rescued Peter from his chains and the prison. In Acts 12 an angel struck Herod because he did not give God the glory. In Acts 27 an angel warned Paul of a shipwreck but said the people would survive.

Paul told Timothy in 1 Timothy 5:21, “I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of His chosen angels, to maintain these principles without bias, doing nothing in a spirit of partiality.”

In Hebrews 1 and verse 4 the Hebrew writer makes it clear that Jesus is “much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.” Angels were to worship the Son. Hebrews 1 and verse 7 says about the angels that, “He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.” In verse 14, the writer says of angels, “Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?” Now I confess I don’t understand all the ways that angels may serve those who inherit salvation today. No I know. God has secrets. Deuteronomy 29:29 says that, “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.” I don’t have to know everything about angels, but I do need to believe what God has revealed. I haven’t seen an angel, but by faith I can know that they exist.

Angels do protect God’s people. Psalm 34 verse 7 says, “The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.” Isaiah 63:9 says, “In all their affliction He was afflicted, And the angel of His presence saved them; In His love and in His mercy He redeemed them, And He lifted them and carried them all the days of old.” When Jacob blessed Joseph’s sons, he said in Genesis 48:16, “The angel who has redeemed me from all evil, Bless the lads.” In 2 Kings 6:15 to 17 chariots of fire surrounded Elisha at Dothan to protect him from the Arameans. Daniel said in Daniel 6:22, “My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths and they have not harmed me, inasmuch as I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime.”

Now the Lord Jesus warned us not to be a stumbling block to those who are younger and weaker. We must never lead little ones who believe in the name of Jesus “to stumble, and so He says that it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and be drowned in the depth of the sea” (Matthew 18 and verse 6). Jesus warned, “See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven.” Yes the angels care for children. And we too should watch out for little ones.

When Peter struck the slave of the high priest with the sword and cut off his ear, the Lord Jesus responded to Peter in Matthew 26:52 to 53, “Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels? How then will the Scriptures be fulfilled, which say that it must happen this way?” Yes Jesus could have called on an army of angels to protect Him, but He knew that He must die for our sake.

Become a faithful, committed, practicing Christian! And don’t let anything, don’t let anything rob you of a crown of righteousness. The apostle Paul said in 2 Timothy 4 verses 6 to 8, “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the faith, I have kept the faith; in the future (he says) there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.” I hope that crown can be yours too.

Let’s pray together. Heavenly Father we’re thankful for the promises that You’ve given to us. Help us to live our lives loving You, loving others, and serving You with all our hearts and soul and mind and strength. In Jesus name, Amen.

When the beggar Lazarus died, he “was carried away by the angels to Abraham’s bosom” (Luke 16:22). The angels will one day come for faithful Christians who die to take them to be with Jesus in

comfort. Now this is very comforting and reassuring thing. Jesus is coming again in the air. The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 13:49 to 50, “So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous, and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Now angels will gather the righteous and separate them from the unrighteous. Only the righteous will find comfort and blessing in eternity. Where will the angels take you when you die? Where will the angels take you on the Day of Judgment? Now each day leads us one day closer, each day brings us closer to facing the Lord’s judgment. “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad” (2 Corinthians 5 and verse 10). Yes, we will be judged by our choices good or bad. Now let’s choose what’s right and turn from the evil that costs our souls.

Now to get right with God, we must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, repent of our sins, confess Him as the Son of God risen from the dead, and be baptized into Christ. Baptism is an immersion in water for the forgiveness of our sins. Being baptized means someone baptizes us and God works on us to wash away our sins, cause us to have new birth, and make us His children. Oh, won’t you be baptized into Christ today so that your sins will be washed away?

We hope our study, about Angels, has caused you to think about your soul and your eternity. If you live in the United States and want a free printed copy, send your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 or send an e-mail to searchtv@searchtv.org. Or, call the Search office toll-free at 1-800-321-8633. Now for all of our viewers outside the United States, we have free programs and biblical materials on our website, www.searchtv.org. SEARCH is also on YouTube! Subscribe to our channel, “SearchTVMinistry” and then like the programs. We also offer free Bible Correspondence courses. Now don’t worry, we’re not asking for money. We’re here to help you draw close to God.

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