

ANGELS

There is much interest in the subject of angels. And we can learn much from studying the references found in Bible. However, when all has been studied, questions will remain. God only gives us a "window" to look through: that window is His revealed word.

THE WORD 'ANGEL'

ANGEL as used in the Bible:

(*malak*, Hebrew) translated: ambassador, 4; angel 111; messenger 98.

(*aggelos*, Greek) translated: messenger [of God, man, and Satan].

The text must be studied to determine how it is used.

HUMAN MESSENGERS

2Sa. 2:5 *So David sent **messengers** to the men of Jabesh Gilead . . .*

1Ki.19:2 *Then Jezebel sent a **messenger** to Elijah, saying . . .*

2Ki.16:7 *Ahaz sent **messengers** to Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria . . .*

Hag.1:13 *Then Haggai, the Lord's **messenger**, spoke the Lord's message to the people*

Jam. 2:25 *... Rahab ... received the **messengers** and sent them out another way*

MESSENGERS OF SATAN

Rev.12:9 *... the serpent of old ... the devil and Satan ... and his **angels** ...*

2Co.12:7 *"there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a **messenger** of Satan to buffet me"*

MESSENGERS OF GOD

Luk.15:10 *"... there is joy in the presence of the **angels** of God over one sinner who repents."*

Psa.91:11 *"... for He will give His **angels** charge concerning you."*

HEAVENLY MESSENGERS

Innumerable. Rev.5:11, Heb.12:22 (Murios: ten of thousands, or innumerable.)

Mat.26:53. Jesus could call down "legions" of angels (6,000 each).

Created. Psa.148:1-5, Col.1:16. (We don't know when.)

Do not marry (form union for procreation), or die. Luk.20:34-36

Superior to man. Heb.2:7

They are strong and mighty. 2Pe.2:11, Psa.103:20, 2Th.1:7

But they are not to be worshiped. Rev.22:8-9

They are spirits. Heb.1:14

However, they have become visible to:

Gideon as he sets to deliver Israel from the Midianites. Jdg.6:11-21

Manoah and his wife announcing the birth of Samson. Jdg.13:3ff

The shepherds in the field. Luk.2:9-13

The women at tomb. Luk.24:4,23

The Apostles while they were in jail. Act.5:19-20

Cornelius. Act.10:3,30-32

Peter when he was in prison. Act.12:5-10

They touched, as well as spoke. Act.12:7

Order of angels. Archangel (chief messenger) Jde.9

Michael, with his angels. Rev.12:7

Gabriel, appeared to Daniel while he was praying. Dan.9:21

appeared to Zacharias while he was in the temple. Luk.1:11-13

appeared to Mary, who had been betrothed to Joseph. Luk.1:26-38

ACTIVITIES OF ANGELS

Serve before God (have access to His presence). Mat.18:10

They are God's servants. Heb.1:13-14

In the Old Testament:

Aided in giving the Law of Moses. Deu.33:2, Gal.3:19, Act.7:38,53, Heb.2:1-2

God spoke, angels ordained, Moses recited.

Executed His will against cities, nations:

Destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. Gen.19:1,13-16,24

Against the Assyrians. 2Ki.19:35

Aided the servants of God:

Provided food for Elijah. 2Ki.19:3-9

Came to the aid of Daniel. Dan.6:22

Aided Zechariah. Zec.1:9

There is no reference to a "death angel" passing over Egypt. God passed over. Exo.12:12-13,29

Though on occasions, "God doing" and "angels doing" are equated.

Concerning Christ

Announced His conception. Luk.1:26

Announced His birth. Luk.2:13-14

Ministered to Him after His temptation. Mat.4:11

Strengthened Him in the garden. Luk.22:43

Rolled away the stone from the tomb. Mat.28:2-7

Announced His resurrection. Joh.20:12

Appeared at His ascension. Act.1:11

Are under His power, control. 1Pe.3:22

Activity Today

Not clearly revealed. We are only told that they function on behalf of God's children.

God has promised to care for us. Mat.6:33. Angels would be one way to do this.

Psa.34:7 The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them.

Does Act.12:15 give support to the idea of a "personal guardian angel"?

Be careful, speculation can produce misconceptions and unfounded teachings.

Some day it will be all clear, but not now.

Future Activity

Jesus will confess His followers (disciples) before the angels. Luk.12:8-9

They will accompany the Lord when He returns. 2Th.1:7-10

Jesus' return will be accompanied by the voice of the archangel. 1Th.4:16

Angels will assist in purging those who practice lawlessness. Mat.13:41-42, 49-50

FALLEN ANGELS

Some angels sinned. 2Pe.2:4, Jde.6 (How, when, and where unknown.)

Are they the evil spirits which tempt, harass man?

Fallen angels will be cast into the eternal fire. Mat.25:41

Is Satan a fallen angel? Luk.10:18

Satan fell from power, not from God's realm.

(If he fell, it was before creation, not at this time.)

He is described as the ruler of this world who was cast out. Joh.12:31; Eph.2:2

Satan: adversary. One who opposes God. He has his angels. (cf. Mat.25:41)

He was a liar from beginning. Joh.8:44