

Biblical Angels

(Angels Vol. 1 – The Angelic Realm, by Chuck Missler)

Definition of Terms

mal'ak = “one who is dispatched with a message” Used 196 times: 111 times as “angel(s)”; 98 times as “messenger(s)”; four times as “ambassadors”

ἄγγελος (*aggelos*) = “a messenger, envoy, one who is sent, a messenger from God” Used 179 times as “angel(s)”; seven times as “messenger(s)”

Ministry of Angels

- Continually “sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation” (**Heb.1:14**)
 - by revealing unknown truth (**Dan.10:14-21; Ac.27:23-26**)
 - giving personal guidance (**Mt.1:20-21; Lk.2:8-12**)
 - protecting from harm (**Dan.6:22**)
 - delivering from enemies (**Ac.5:19-20; 12:6-11**)
- Angels encourage and strengthen:
 - Jacob (**Gen.32:1-2**)
 - Daniel (**Dan.8:18; 10:10, 16-19**)
 - Paul (**Ac.27:23-24**)
 - Providing food for Elijah (**1Kg.19:1-8**).
- Angels guide us **Gen.19:15-22**
- Angels encourage us **Judg.6:11-12**
- Angels deliver us **Ac.12:7**
- Angels enlighten us **Mt.2:19-20**
- Angels strengthen us **Lk.22:43**
- Angels protect us **Ps.91:11-12**

Characteristics of Angels

- Angels are personal beings:
 - They have intellect (**Mt.28:5; 1Pet.1:12**)
 - They have emotions (**Job 38:7; Lk.2:13; 15:10**)
 - They have will (**Jude 6**)
- Angels are spirit beings:
 - They are not limited to material bodies (**Heb.1:14**)
 - An angel can be in only one place at one time (**Dan.9:21-23; 10:10-14**)
 - They appear in the form of men (**Mt.1:20**) in natural sight with human functions (**Gen.18:1-8; 19:1**); seen by some and not others (**2Kg.6:15-17**)
 - They do not reproduce (**Mk.12:25**)
 - They do not die (**Lk.20:36**)

- They have physical reality:
 - They lead people by the hand (**Gen.19:16**)
 - They indulge in combat (**2Kg.19:35**) ... [an angel slaughtered 185,000 Syrians]
- They can be entertained unrecognized (**Heb.13:2**).
- Angels have attributes in a degree greater than man, but less than God:
 - They have more knowledge than man (**Mt.24:31; Lk.1:13-16**), but less than God (**Mt.24:36**)
 - They have more power than man (**2Pet.2:11; Ac.5:19**), but less than God
- Angels are organized and ranked:
 - One “archangel,” Michael, is named (**Jude 9**)
 - There are also “Chief princes” (**Dan.10:13**); “Cherubim” (**Gen.3:22-24**); “Seraphim” (**Isa.6:1-3**); and “Living creatures” (**Rev.4:6-8**)

⇒ **Angels are NEVER worshipped! (Col.2:18-19; Rev.19:10; 22:8-9) ... instead, they worship God.**

The Major Players

- “The Angel of the Lord” (Theophanies)
- Gabriel: “man of God” – the Messianic Messenger
- Michael: “who is like God” – the Military Leader
- Senior Ranks: Cherubim, Seraphim
- Lucifer: “the cherub that covereth” (**Ezek.28:14**) and his lieutenants:
 - Abaddon/Apollyon: (**Rev.9:11**) the destroyer
 - Gog: the King of the Locusts
 - Demons

“The Angel of the LORD”

- To Hagar: she identifies Him (**Gen.16:7-14**)
- To Abraham: announcing the birth of Isaac (**Gen.18:1**), and when he was about to sacrifice Isaac (**Gen.22:9-19**)
- To Jacob: he wrestles with Him until blessed (**Gen.32:24-32**)
- To Moses: at the burning bush (**Ex.3:1-6**)
- To Israel: led the Israelites out of Egypt (**Ex.14:19**) and through the wilderness (**Ex.23:20-23**)
- To others: Balaam & his talking donkey (**Num.22:22-35**); Joshua as he approaches Jericho (**Josh.5:13-**

15); Gideon's call as a Judge (**Judg.6:11-24**); and Samson's mother Manoah (**Judg.13:2-22**)

Gabriel

- "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news" (**Lk.1:19**)
- The angel who was sent to Daniel to explain the vision of the ram and the he-goat (**Dan.8:16**)
- He announced the prediction of the 70 Weeks (**Dan.9:21-27**)
- He announced the birth of John the Baptist (**Lk.1:11-20**)
- He announced the birth of the Messiah (**Lk.1:26-38**)

Michael

- "The Archangel" (**Jude 9; 1Thess.4:16**)
- A military leader on behalf of Israel: "one of the chief princes" (**Dan.10:13**); "your prince" (**Dan.10:21**); "the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people" (**Dan.12:1**); "and there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon" (**Rev.12:7**)

Cherubim (4 wings)

These composite figures, exalted to be proximate to the dwelling place of God, function in several ways:

- They guard the way to the tree of life (**Gen.3:24**)
- They guard the ark in Solomon's Temple (**1Kg.6:23-28; 8:7**)
- They engage in adoration of God near with the mercy seat in the Tabernacle (**Ex.25:18-20; 37:7-9**)
- They support the Lord's throne (**2Sam.6:2; 2Kg.19:15; Ps.80:1; 99:1**)
- They form the chariot of Deity (**2Sam.22:11; 1Chr.28:18**)

Seraphim (6 wings)

Occur only in **Isaiah 6**. Yet, appear to be identical with the "living creatures" of **Rev.4:6-8**:

"In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called out to another and said, 'Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory.'"
~ **Isa.6:1-3**

"and before the throne there was something like a sea of glass, like crystal; and in the center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind. The first creature was like a lion, and the second creature like a calf, and the third creature had a face like that of a man, and the fourth creature was like a flying eagle. And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, Who was and Who is and Who is to come.'"
~ **Rev.4:6-8**