

What The Bible Says About

Angels: God's Messengers



Good Hope
Baptist Church

Living Together In The Love Of God

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Evangelist Billy Graham wrote in his book "**Angels, God's Secret Agents**" about John G. Paton, a Missionary to the New Hebrides Islands. He wrote:

"Hostile natives surrounded his mission headquarters one night, intent on burning the Patons out and killing them. John Paton and his wife prayed all during that terror filled night that God would deliver them. When daylight came they were amazed to see the attackers unaccountably leave. They thanked God for delivering them. A year later, the chief of the tribe was converted to Jesus Christ, and Mr. Paton, remembering what had happened, asked the chief what had kept him and his men from burning down the house and killing them. The chief replied in surprise, "Who were all those men you had with you there?" The missionary answered, "There were no men there; just my wife and I." The chief argued that they had seen many men standing guard-hundreds of big men in shining garments with drawn swords in their hands. They seemed to circle the mission station so that the natives were afraid to attack. Only then did Mr. Paton realize that God had sent his angels to protect them. The chief agreed that there was no other explanation. Could it be that God had sent a legion of angels to protect His servants, whose lives were being endangered?"

You might be tempted to think this was just a figment of the chief's imagination - but the chief's army *also saw* these shining soldiers. This is not without a Biblical precedent. In the book of **2 Kings** we see an interesting account that mirrors what happened in John Paton's life.

The **Kingdom of Syria** and the **Kingdom of Israel** were at war with one another. Every time the King of Syria met in secret with his general to plan an attack on Israel, the **Prophet Elisha** knew what was going on. Why? Because he was a *Prophet of God*! Well Elisha would contact the King of Israel and say **"Don't go in this direction, for the King of Syria has set a trap there"**. This went on for a while, and the King of Syria got fed up. He asked his men, "How is this possible that our battle plans keep getting to the Israelites?" His servants replied:

2 Kings 6:12 (KJV) Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber.



The problem is Elisha! He somehow knows what we say in secret. The King of Syria said, **"In that case, go and get this Elisha and bring him here."** So a troop of soldiers - heavily armed - set out to capture God's Prophet.

2 Kings 6:15-16 (KJV)
And when the servant of

the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? 16 And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that

be with them.

Elisha's servant comes to him in the morning. **"Master, there is a host - many, many troops - come to capture us. What shall we do?"** Elisha told him, **"Do not fear. Those who are *with us* are more than those who are *with them*."** Then Elisha prayed



2 Kings 6:17 (KJV) ... LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was

full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

God sent a host of angels to protect His servant Elisha. These angels don't sound like the *feminized angels* that we see portrayed with heart shaped wings, nor do they look like the *little baby kissing angels* that women like to collect as statuettes in curio cabinets. A silly and fanciful angel would not frighten away a host of battle hardened Syrians. In **2 Kings 19** the Bible tells us that **Sennacherib the King of Assyria** brought 185,000 armed soldiers to attack and destroy Jerusalem. We are told that:

2 Kings 19:32-36 (KJV) thus saith the LORD concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shield, nor cast a bank against it. 33 By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall

not come into this city, saith the LORD. 34 For I will defend this city, to save it, for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake. 35 And it came to pass that

night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses. 36 So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh.



one angel - **the Angel of the Lord** - attacked the army of 185,000 and destroyed it in *one night*.

Let's see what the Bible says about angels.

1 Do "saved by faith in Christ, born of the Spirit of God Christians" become angels when they die? Does anybody become an angel when they die?

In Heaven we see **angels** and **men**, two distinct groups:

Hebrews 12:22-23 (KJV) But ye are come unto mount

Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, 23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

Angels do not marry nor do they reproduce like mankind:

Matthew 22:30 (KJV) For in the resurrection {departed humans} neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.

Luke 20:34-36 (KJV) Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: 35 But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: 36 Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.

Notes _____

Angels are *spirits*, beings composed of light. Humans are created from the *dust of the ground*.

Hebrews 1:13-14 (KJV) But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make

thine enemies thy footstool? 14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

Luke 24:39 (KJV) {Jesus said} Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

Genesis 2:7 (KJV) the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Matthew 28:2-4 (KJV) And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. 3 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: 4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

Angels *can* take on the appearance of man - and have done so in the Scripture. Angels sometimes take on this appearance and walk among us, which is why we are warned:

Hebrews 13:1-2 (KJV) Let brotherly love continue. 2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Angels are created beings, just like humans are created beings. The difference between our creation and the angels creation is that:

- The Angel frame is of *light*, the human frame is of *dust*.
- Angels were all created at once by God. Humans are made *self creating*, and descend from the first man and woman, Adam and Eve.
- Angels have immense *physical* power, whereas humans have immense *creative* power.
- Only humans were "**made in the image of God**"

Genesis 1:26 (KJV) God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Notes _____ _____ _____

- Both Angels and Humans were created by God to serve God. However humans are *adopted into the family of God* - and angels have no such adoption.

Galatians 4:3-7 (KJV) Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: 4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. 6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. 7

Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

2 Can the Angels that fell from Heaven and followed Satan in rebellion be saved? _____

Angels are called "Sons of God" in the Scripture because they are *created by God*. God told Job:

Job 38:4-7 (KJV) Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. 5 Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? 6 Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; 7 When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

All the sons of God (the angels) shouted for joy when God created the earth. The Bible tells us that God created all the angels at once, and a third of these angels rebelled against God and left Heaven, following **Lucifer, also known as Satan**.

Revelation 12:3-4 (KJV) And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. 4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth:

and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

When the angels rebelled against God, the Lord cast some into a holding cell until the time of the final judgment.

2 Peter 2:4 (KJV) For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

Jude 1:6 (KJV) And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

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Some of the fallen angels, along with **Lucifer also known as Satan**, remain on this earth to vex and try the saints of God:

Ephesians 6:10-12 (KJV) Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of

the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

God made no provision for the salvation of the angels that fell from Heaven. The Bible tells us that the **everlasting fire of hell is prepared (or reserved) for the devil and his angels.**

Matthew 25:41 (KJV) Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Jesus Christ was **born of a woman** to give Himself for the sins of man, not of angels. The Bible says:

Romans 5:10-15 (KJV) For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. 11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement. 12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: 13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. 15 But not as the offense, so also is the free gift. For if through the offense of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath

abounded unto many.

3 Are all angels the same? _____

God said of Lucifer, also known as Satan:

Ezekiel 28:13-17 (KJV) Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. 14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. 15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. 16 By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. 17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

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Lucifer was called a **Covering Cherub, the Anointed Cherub that Covereth**. He, along with **Michael and Gabriel** was an Arch-Angel, one who ruled all the other angels under the authority of God. The name "**Lucifer**" means "**son of the morning**", and his name "**Satan**" means "**accuser of the brethren**". Lucifer is *not* a hideous monster, nor is he a cute little devil with a red tail. He is beautiful beyond measure - beauty gone bad.

The **Arch Angels** are the chief angels, generals that direct the other angels under the authority of God.

The **Cherubim** have four faces (man, lion, ox, eagle), four wings (two to fly with), and cloven calflike feet. They move about in groups of four, guarding God's Throne. (see **Ezekiel 1:4-28; 10:1-22**).

The **Seraphim** have six wings (two to fly with). Their name means "**burning ones**" and they lead heavenly worship and singing. (see **Isaiah 6:1-7**).

Of the fallen angels, Satan has divided them into groups called **ruling angels**. They are classified as **principalities and powers (Ephesians 6:10-12)**.

There are **guardian angels** that watch over saved believers and children under the age of accountability.

Matthew 18:10 (KJV) Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.

Hebrews 1:14 (KJV) Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

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Unnamed angels who appear in Scripture serve God by:

- Leading worship and praise (**Isaiah 6:1-3; Revelation 4-5**).
- Revealing the will of God to humans (**Acts 7:52-53**)
- Guiding God's people. An angel told Joseph about the virgin birth of Jesus (**Matthew 1-2**). See also **Acts 8:26; Acts 10:1-8**.
- Angels provide for God's people. An angel

ministered to **Hagar (Genesis 21:17-20)**, **Elijah (1 Kings 19:6)**, and even ministered to Jesus Christ following His temptation (**Matthew 4:11**).

- Angels protect God's people. They shut the mouths of the lions for Daniel. (**Daniel 3**).
- Angels delivered the Apostles from bondage in the early Church (**Acts 5, Acts 12**).
- God sometimes uses angels to answer our prayers (**Daniel 9:20-24; 10:10-12; Acts 12:1-17**).

4 Are Angels as powerful as God? _____ _____ _____

The short answer is NO! Angels are stronger than men, but are not all powerful (**Psalm 103:20; 2 Peter 2:11**). They have a greater knowledge than we do, for they have access to the Throneroom of God. But they do not know all things (**2 Samuel 14:20; Matthew 24:36**). Though angels can travel faster than us, they are not able to be everywhere at the same time as God is (**Daniel 9:21-23; 10:10-14**). They are created as we are created. They are just *made different*.

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