



What about Angels?

2 Corinthians 11:14: (NASB) *No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.*



Most people believe in angels and a surprising number of people believe that there are ways for us to communicate with them. Well, what is an angel? If they are real, where do they come from? What business do they have with us? Are all angels "good?" Can we really communicate with them or is that not a good idea? Do angels play a role in protecting us? Can we in any way give instruction or direction? Should we pray to them? Are angels people who have gone to heaven? **TOO MANY QUESTIONS!!!** Stay with us as we delve into a topic that is not only fascinating, but a bit scary as well...Angels!

Questions for Consideration:

1. What are angels?
2. What forms do angels take?
3. What do angels do and do people become angels?
4. Who has access to angels?

1. What are angels?

The word for "angel," both in the Old and New Testaments, literally means a messenger, someone sent as a representative. The words are most often used to describe spiritual messengers of God.

Psalms 34:7-8: (NASB) ⁷The **angel** of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them. ⁸O taste and see that the LORD is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

Luke 1:18-19: (NASB) ¹⁸Zacharias said to the **angel**, How will I know this for certain? For I am an old man and my wife is advanced in years. ¹⁹The **angel** answered and said to him, 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.

Saved by Angels, Introduction on the Science Channel

- According to a Time Magazine survey, over two-thirds of Americans believe in angels;
- Skeptics say angelic visions are just the brain replaying unconscious images found in pop culture.

The biblical word for angel is not limited to describing spiritual messengers of God, however.

Messengers sent by human beings with good intentions:

Numbers 20:14-15: (NASB) ¹⁴...Moses then sent **messengers** to the king of Edom: Thus your brother Israel has said, You know all the hardship that has befallen us; ¹⁵that our fathers went down to Egypt, and we stayed in Egypt a long time, and the Egyptians treated us and our fathers badly.



Messengers sent by human beings with bad intentions:

1 Kings 19:1-2: (NASB) ¹Now Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ²Then Jezebel sent a **messenger** to Elijah, saying, So may the gods do to me and even more, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time.

Human messengers sent by God: (Both John the Baptist and Jesus were called messengers.)

Malachi 3:1: (NASB) Behold, I am going to send My **messenger**, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the **messenger** of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

General guidelines of a messenger:

- Under the authority of the one who sent them;
- Given a specific task to accomplish;
- No inherent power to alter the task given.



2. What forms do angels take?

 **Guardian Angels Take Different Forms, Ed Brennan (Editor of Guideposts Magazine) on the CBS Early Show**

- *Angels come in many different forms: A breeze that comes through a window to turn the page of a book; a stranger in the subway who reassures you.*

Hebrews 13:1-2: (NASB) ¹Let love of the brethren continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.

By this we can conclude that angels have taken on a form to look like men.

Genesis 18:1-3: (NASB) ¹Now the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, while he was sitting at the tent door in the heat of the day. ²When he lifted up his eyes and looked, behold, three men were standing opposite him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth, ³and said, My lord, if now I have found favor in your sight, please do not pass your servant by.

Abraham wasn't afraid of them, he just accepted a stranger.

 **In the Presence of Angels, Champion Entertainment**

- *"The nurses" - at least four different families of patients have "seen" them, but no one can touch or speak to them.*

Are these angels?

Let's continue looking at the forms in which angels appear:

Daniel 10:5-6: (NASB) ⁵I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, there was a certain man dressed in linen, whose waist was girded with a belt of pure gold...⁶His body also was like beryl, his face had the appearance of lightning, his eyes were like flaming torches, his arms and feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a tumult.



Appearing as a man in dazzling light and pure white:

Matthew 28:2-4: (NASB) ²And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. ³And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. ⁴The guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men.

Appearing as a multi-winged creature:

Isaiah 6:1-3: (NASB) ¹In 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. ²Seraphim 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. ³And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory."

How did angels NOT appear in the Bible?

- Angels never appeared in the likeness of someone people knew;
- Angels never appeared in a female form;
- Angels never appear like Cupid, the chubby baby with the arrows!



2. What do angels do and do people become angels?

What do angels do? We have the examples in the Bible for our precedent.

They worshipped and praised God:

Isaiah 6:1-3: (NASB) ¹In 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. ²Seraphim 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. ³And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory."

They ministered:

Hebrews 1:13-14: (NASB) ¹³But to which of the angels has He ever said, "Sit at My right hand, Until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"? ¹⁴Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

They delivered God's messages:

Luke 2:8-11: (NASB) ⁸In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; ¹¹for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

They directed:

Acts 8:26-28: (NASB) ²⁶But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, Get up and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza. (This is a desert road.) ²⁷So he got up and went; and there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure; and he had come to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸and he was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah.



They reported to God:

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.*

Here is the concept of a guardian angel, even though that phrase never actually appears in Scripture.

They delivered:

Acts 5:17-20: (NASB) *¹⁷But the high priest rose up, along with all his associates...and they were filled with jealousy. ¹⁸They laid hands on the apostles and put them in a public jail. ¹⁹But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the gates of the prison, and taking them out he said, ²⁰Go, stand and speak to the people in the temple the whole message of this life.*

Do people become literal angels?

 **Bells and Angel's Wings, *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946)**

Hebrews 12:22-23: (NASB) *²²But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, ²³to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect...*

This discusses two separate categories of beings: 1) myriads of angels, and 2) the general assembly and church of the firstborn. We can infer by this that one doesn't become the other.

3. Who has access to angels?

In every instance an angel appeared in the Scriptures, they did their work and then they left.

Every instance in which they appeared in the New Testament was directly related to the developing of an infant stage Gospel. Because Satan was so busy trying to thwart the Gospel, the Lord made sure it could get its proper start.

There are two main approaches taken by those who want to access angels:

1. Teach others how to do it.

 **How to Petition Angels, Carole Tuttle, "Master Energy Therapist/Spiritual Teacher/Author"**

- *Angels work for God - their work is to minister and assist humanity, and yet they're restrained from helping us unless we ask.*

Should angels be a part of our daily experiences?

Should we pray to them? No!

Matthew 6:6: (NASB) *But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.*

Pray to our heavenly Father, not to angels. There are no scriptures that teach us to pray to angels.


Should we ask them for help or favors? No!

John 14:12-14: (NASB) *¹²Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. ¹³Whatever you ask in my name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.*



There is no scripture advising us to ask angels for help.

2. Do it for others.

 **Angels Speak to Everybody, "The Angel Lady," YouTube**

- *Angels speak to everybody through feelings. Listen to your body, a psychic vehicle - through gut feelings and knowing this, your angels are trying to communicate with you...*

The vast majority of the experiences of Biblical characters happened *without any noticeable intervention or mention of angels*. This tells us that they are meant to be pretty much *invisible* to our eyes and our minds. The Bible set the precedent that they appear when there is a great necessity but not on a regular basis.

 **I invited the angels to help me, "The Angel Lady," YouTube**

- *... I got this feeling that we are all divinely protected and guided - I invited the angels to be with me to help me and to help other people.*

Are there dangers here? Yes, because...

2 Corinthians 4:3-4: (NASB) ³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

The God of Heaven (God) and the God of this World (Satan) are vying for our attention in this way. Who will you listen to?

4. Are Angels active in life and do they take special care of children?

 **Walking towards the light, Saved by Angels, Science Channel**

- *Two-year old Ricci believed she entered a world where miracles do happen...she was guided by an angel...*

Does this account have more credibility because it was a young child, not brainwashed by society? The reality is children can grasp on to concepts very quickly, so other explanations would need to be explored.

With many near death experiences, there is a presence or a voice that tells you to go back - is this angelic or human?

Whom do angels watch over? God's chosen:

Psalms 91:11-13: (NASB) ¹¹For He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways. ¹²They will bear you up in their hands, that you do not strike your foot against a stone. ¹³You will tread upon the lion and cobra, the young lion and the serpent you will trample down.

Psalms 34:7: (NASB) *The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them.*

Notice it doesn't say that the angel of the Lord encamps around every human being.



Matthew 18:1-3, 10: (NASB) ¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus and said, Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven? ²And He called a child to Himself and set him before them, ³and said, Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven... ¹⁰See 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.

WHEN DID ANGELIC INTERVENTION OCCUR?

**At key points when God's plan would be impossible to understand:
(Abraham, Mary, Zacharias)**

At key points when God's plan required specific prophecies to be written: (Daniel, Zechariah)

At key points when God's human messengers needed extra assistance: (Elijah, Hagar, Gideon)

**At key points when God's plan was in danger of being thwarted:
(Apostles in prison)**

**At key points when God's plan was to be expanded:
(Peter and Cornelius)**

Are angels at our beck and call?

Good angels are never at the call or service of men, not even Jesus!

Matthew 26:53: (KJV) *Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?*

The angels were under the command of the Father. If Jesus had to go through his Father, certainly we would have to do the same.



5. How do you tell a good angel from a bad angel?

Good angels don't know all of the answers, but they do observe us:

Matthew 24:36: (NASB) *But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.*

1 Peter 1:12: (NASB) *It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look.*

Angels are powerful spirit beings but they do have limitations.

Good angels always carry out the will of God without changing it, and then leave when their mission has been accomplished!

Galatians 1:8: (NASB) *But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!*

Luke 2:12-14: (NASB) ¹²*This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.* ¹³*And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,* ¹⁴*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.*

Good angels always praise and honor God.

 My information is from the Angelic Realm, "The Angel Lady," YouTube

- Where do I get my information? It's light energy and it comes from the angelic realm.

Whenever we claim insight into any spiritual realm, we need to be absolutely sure which realm we are tapped into - good or evil.

2 Corinthians 11:13-14: (NASB) ¹³*For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.* ¹⁴*No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.*

Satan is disguised as an angel of light, yet his abode is in darkness.

Jude 1:6: (NASB) *And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day...*

He appears as an angel of light in order to deceive us. He is a counterfeit. This very darkness is what we fight against, for it takes away from the true light of God's will and God's spirit and promotes the worship of the created (in this case, angels) not the Creator.

Ephesians 6:12: (NASB) *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

Remember, good angels:

- are NOT at our beck and call;
- should NOT be part of our daily experience; and
- should NOT be asked upon for help.





If God so wills it, angels will be accessible to you. They will not be just because we want them to be.

Romans 8:38-39: (NASB) ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**What about angels?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!**



**And now even more to think about...
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Should angels be worshipped? NO!

Matthew 4:10: (NASB) Then Jesus said to him, Go, Satan! For it is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.

Colossians 2:18: (NASB) Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind...

WHEN DID ANGELIC INTERVENTION OCCUR?

**At key points when God's plan would be impossible to understand:
(Abraham, Mary, Zacharias)**

To Abraham:

Genesis 22:9-13: (NRSV) ⁹When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill^o his son. ¹¹But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham! And he said, Here I am. ¹²He said, Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me. ¹³And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.

To Mary:

Luke 1:26-30: (NRSV) ²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you. ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.



To Zacharias:

Luke 1:18-19: (KJV) ¹⁸And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years. ¹⁹And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to show thee these glad tidings.

At key points when God's plan required specific prophecies to be written: (Daniel, Zechariah)

To Daniel:

Daniel 9:21-24: (NASB) ²¹while I was still speaking in prayer, then the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision previously, came to me in my extreme weariness about the time of the evening offering. ²²He gave me instruction and talked with me and said, O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you insight with understanding. ²³At the beginning of your supplications the command was issued, and I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed; so give heed to the message and gain understanding of the vision. ²⁴Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place.

To Zechariah:

Zechariah 1:12-14: (NRSV) ¹²Then the angel of the LORD said, O LORD of hosts, how long will you withhold mercy from Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, with which you have been angry these seventy years? ¹³Then the LORD replied with gracious and comforting words to the angel who talked with me. ¹⁴So the angel who talked with me said to me, Proclaim this message: Thus says the LORD of hosts; I am very jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion.

At key points when God's human messengers needed extra assistance: (Elijah, Hagar, Gideon)

To Elijah:

1 Kings 19:5-7: (NRSV) ⁵Then he lay down under the juniper tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, Get up and eat. ⁶He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. ⁷The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.

To Hagar:

Genesis 16:6-11: (NRSV) ⁶But Abram said to Sarai, Your slave-girl is in your power; do to her as you please. Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she ran away from her. ⁷The angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. ⁸And he said, Hagar, slave-girl of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going? She said, I am running away from my mistress Sarai. ⁹The angel of the LORD said to her, Return to your mistress, and submit to her. ¹⁰The angel of the LORD also said to her, I will so greatly multiply your offspring that they cannot be counted for multitude. ¹¹And the angel of the LORD said to her, Now you have conceived and shall bear a son; you shall call him Ishmael, for the LORD has given heed to your affliction.



To Gideon:

Judges 6:11-14: (ASV) ¹¹And the angel of Jehovah came, and sat under the oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash the Abiezrite; and his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites. ¹²And the angel of Jehovah appeared unto him, and said unto him, Jehovah is with thee, thou mighty man of valor. ¹³And Gideon said unto him, Oh, my lord, if Jehovah is with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where are all his wondrous works which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not Jehovah bring us up from Egypt? but now Jehovah hath cast us off, and delivered us into the hand of Midian. ¹⁴And Jehovah looked upon him, and said, (this indicates that the angel was the direct representative of God) Go in this thy might, and save Israel from the hand of Midian: have not I sent thee?

**At key points when God's plan was in danger of being thwarted:
(Apostles in prison)**

To Peter in Prison:

Acts 12:5-8: (NASB) ⁵So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God. ⁶On the very night when Herod was about to bring him forward, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and guards in front of the door were watching over the prison. ⁷And behold, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter's side and woke him up, saying, Get up quickly. And his chains fell off his hands. ⁸And the angel said to him, Gird yourself and put on your sandals. And he did so. And he said to him, Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.

**At key points when God's plan was to be expanded:
(Peter and Cornelius)**

To Cornelius:

Acts 10:3,7: (KJV) ³He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius. ⁷And when the angel which spake unto Cornelius was departed, he called two of his household servants, and a devout soldier of them that waited on him continually;

(Peter simultaneously had a vision.)