

# ANGELS (Session 1)

By Dr. Abri Brancken, 6 May 2018

Many people have been wrongly taught about life. They believe that what they see, touch and feel is the only reality there is. Fortunately, this is not the case. There is a spiritual realm, other dimensions that exist and which we cannot see with the “naked eye”, but it's there. Many Christians even struggle to maintain a lifestyle and a world view that is supernatural. They forget that the Bible is filled with examples of other realities that seem to be even more real than ours. There is much more to this life than what most people believe. Let's take a closer look at a supernatural presence that is in our midst on a daily basis, but that we cannot always see, angels. Various people have various ideas about what angels are and what they do. Let's study what the Bible has to say about angels.

## THE BIBLE REVEALS THAT ANGELS ARE AMONG US

Angels are very powerful, and they appear very often throughout the Bible. They are NOT these little fat babies with wings.

## ANGEL DEFINITION

### Hebrew Definition

Angels in Hebrew is Mal'ak (מַלְאָךְ), meaning “to dispatch” as an agent or assistant; a “messenger”; specifically, a supernatural messenger of God. Can also be used in general sense for a messenger and also ambassador (4 times).

### Greek Definition

Angels in Greek is Aggelos (ἄγγελος), meaning a “messenger”, one who is “sent” from God.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF ANGELS

1. They are spirit beings.  
They are not limited to material bodies (Heb 1:14). They can materialise, but are not limited or bound to our material world.
2. They are not omnipresent.  
This means that they can only be in one place at one time. (Dan 9:21-23, 10:10-14)
3. When they appear they appear in the form of a man, not a woman (Mat 1:20, Gen 18:1-8; 22; 19:1, 2 Kings 6:15-17)
4. They have intellect (Mat 28:5, 1 Pet 1:12)
5. They have emotions (Job 38:7; Luke 2:13; 15:10)
6. They have a will and make choices (Jude 6).  
Therefore, we have good and bad angels.
7. Sometimes they are visible to some people and not to others (2 Kings 6:14-17)  
**2 Kings 6:14-17**

So he sent there horses and carriages and a great army; and they came by night, circling the town. Now the servant of the man of God, having got up early and gone out, saw an army with horses and carriages of war all round the town. And the servant said to him, O my master, what are we to do? And he said in answer, Have no fear; those who are with us are more than those who are with them. Then Elisha made a prayer to the Lord, saying, Lord, let his eyes be open so that he may see. And the Lord made the young man's eyes open; and he saw that all the mountain was full of horses and carriages of fire round Elisha.

8. They do not have to reproduce (Mark 12:25, Gen 6).  
They don't procreate, although they can (Gen 6)
9. They do not die (Luke 20:36).
10. Angels have abilities greater than man but less than God (Mat 24:31, Luke 1:13-16, Mat 24:36, 2 Pet 2:11, Acts 5:19)
11. Angels have ranks and are organized (Jude 9, Dan 10:13).  
Archangel (Michael), Chief Princes (Dan 10:13), Seraphim (Isaiah 6:1-3), Cherubim (Gen 3:22-24). A Cherubim was commanded by God to guard the Tree of Life and the Garden of Eden.

### **Gen 3:24**

So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden the Cherubim, and the flame of a sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

## **GOOD & EVIL ANGELS**

There are good angels, but there are also bad or evil angels, seeing that they rebelled against God. We will discuss this truth in another session.

## **WHAT DO ANGELS DO?**

Angels have certain abilities and certain limitations.

1. **Angels can reveal the truth & the future to us** (Dan 10:14-21, Acts 27:23-26)  
Angels bring messages from God, e.g. to Elizabeth about John the Baptist's birth and Mary about Jesus' birth.

### **Acts 27:23-24, MKJV**

For tonight an angel of God stood beside me, whose I am and whom I serve, saying, Fear not, Paul! You must stand before Caesar. And behold! God has given you all those who sail with you.

### **Daniel 8:18-19, BBE**

Now while he was talking to me, I went into a deep sleep with my face to the earth: but touching me, he put me on my feet where I had been. And he said, See, I will make clear to you what is to come in the later time of the wrath: for it has to do with the fixed time of the end.

2. **Angels provide personal guidance to people** (Matt 1:20-21; Luke 2:8-12, Gen 19:35)

**Luke 2:8-14**

And in the same country there were shepherds living in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came on them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them. And they were grievously afraid. And the angel said to them, Do not fear. For behold, I give to you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For to you is born today, in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this is a sign to you. You will find the babe wrapped, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

**Matthew 2:19-20, BBE**

But when Herod was dead, an angel of the Lord came in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, Saying, Get up and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: because they who were attempting to take the young child's life are dead.

3. **Angels protect us from harm** (Dan 6:22, Psalm 91:11-12)

Many people are not even aware of the fact that they have been protected from harm.

**Psalm 91:11-12, BBE**

For he will give you into the care of his angels to keep you wherever you go. In their hands they will keep you up, so that your foot may not be crushed against a stone.

**Matthew 4:6, BBE**

If you are the Son of God, let yourself go down; for it is in the Writings, He will give his angels care over you; and, In their hands they will keep you up, so that your foot may not be crushed against a stone.

Here we see that the devil quotes Psalm 91:12.

When we as a family lived in Israel in 2006 during the Second Lebanon War, got showed me angels protecting us from the missiles coming from Lebanon. We went through the whole war and were not harmed in any way. One missile fell in our village, but it did not explode. I have experienced God's protection by means of angels many times in my life.

4. **Angels deliver people from their enemies** (Acts 5:19; 12:7-11)

**Acts 5:17-20, MKJV**

And rising up, the high priest, and all those who were with him were filled with anger, And laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the public custody. But the angel of the Lord opened the prison doors by night and brought them out, and said, Go! Stand and speak all the words of this Life to the people in the temple.

**Acts 12:6-8, BBE**

And when Herod was about to take him out, the same night Peter was sleeping in chains between two armed men, and the watchmen were keeping watch before the door of the prison. And a great light was seen shining in the room, and an angel of the Lord came to Peter and, touching him on his side so that he came out of his sleep, said, Get

up quickly. And his chains came off his hands. Then the angel said, Put on your shoes and get ready to go. And he did so. And he said, Put your coat round you and come with me.

**5. Angels can take care of people, including feeding them** (1 Kings 19:5-8; Mat 4:10-11)  
**1 Kings 19:5-8, MKJV**

And as he lay and slept under a broom tree, behold, then an angel touched him and said to him, Arise, eat. And he looked, and, behold, a cake was baked on the coals, and a jug of water at his head. And he ate and drank, and lay down again. And the angel of Jehovah came to him the second time and touched him, and said, Arise, eat, because the journey is too great for you. And he arose, and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

**Matthew 4:10-11**

Then Jesus said to him, Go, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve." Then the Devil left him. And behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

**6. Angels encourage people** (Gen 32:1-2, Dan 8:18; 10:10;16-19; Judges 6:12)  
**Genesis 32:1, MKJV**

And Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him. And when Jacob saw them he said, This is God's camp. And he called the name of that place Two Camps.

**Acts 27:23-24, BBE**

For this night there came to my side an angel of the God who is my Master and whose servant I am, Saying, Have no fear, Paul, for you will come before Caesar, and God has given to you all those who are sailing with you.

**Judges 6:12, BBE**

And the angel of the Lord came before his eyes, and said to him, The Lord is with you, O man of war.

**7. Angels empower and strengthen people** (Luke 22:43)  
**Luke 22:42-43, BBE**

Father, if it is your pleasure, take this cup from me: but still, let your pleasure, not mine, be done. And an angel from heaven came to him, to give him strength.

**8. Good angels war against evil angels & demons** (2 Kings 19:35)  
**2 Kings 19:35, BBE**

And that night the angel of the Lord went out and put to death in the army of the Assyrians a hundred and eighty-five thousand men; and when the people got up early in the morning, there was nothing to be seen but dead bodies.

**Dan 10:12-13, BBE**

Then he said to me, Have no fear, Daniel; for from the first day when you gave your heart to getting wisdom and making yourself poor in spirit before your God, your words have come to his ears: and I have come because of your words. But the angel of the kingdom of Persia put himself against me for twenty-one days; but Michael, one of the

chief angels, came to my help; and when I came he was still there with the angel of the kings of Persia.

9. **Angels can sing, make music and worship God** (Rev 5:8-14; 7:11-12, Luke 2:13-14, Heb 1:6).

I have heard angels worshipping on more than one occasion.

**Revelation 7:11-12, ASV**

And all the angels were standing round about the throne, and about the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

**Luke 2:13-14, ASV**

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men in whom he is well pleased.

10. **Angels serve those who will inherit salvation** (Heb 1:14)

**Hebrews 1:14, NKJV**

Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for those who shall be heirs of salvation? (those who will inherit salvation)

**CLOSING THOUGHT**

Many people have entertained angels without even knowing it (Heb 13:2).

**Hebrews 13:2**

Forget not to show love unto strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Abraham and Lot are probably the persons particularly referred to here. Their history, the angels whom they entertained and the good they derived from exercising their hospitality on these occasions, are well known (Genesis 18:3; 19:2).

So, angels can appear as people and sometimes we mistake them as people.

**LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS:**

1. Has anyone seen an angel or think that they might have had an encounter with an angel? Share it.
2. If the Biblical characters were so aware of the supernatural, why do you think many Christians struggle to accept and live in harmony with this truth?
3. Does the fact that you are not alone in your Christian walk, but that God has appointed angels over you, change the way you look at life? Explain why yes or no.