



Part 1

By

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Christians around the world are claiming that angels speak to them (video example at the end of this article). Those claims raise several questions:

- Are these claims real?
- If real, how can we know that these encounters are really with angels?
- Are these angels good or evil? How can we know for sure?
- What do these angels say when they speak?
- How should we respond to what they say?

These and other questions are the focus of our new series, ***When Angels Speak***.

Angel Basics

Angels exist!

“Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.” Genesis 28:12

“Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands.” Revelation 5:11

“All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God.” Revelation 7:11

The existence of angelic beings is supported by Jesus Christ, the Old Testament prophets and New Testament apostles. Here are examples from each.

Jesus Christ – “Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.” Matthew 13:40-42

Old Testament Prophet – “Then Daniel said to the king, ‘O king, live forever! My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you.” Daniel 6:21-22

New Testament Apostle – “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.” 1 Timothy 3:16

Angels exist because God created them.

“Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; Praise Him in the heights! Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts! Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him, all you stars of light! Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, And you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the Lord, For He commanded and they were created.” Psalm 148:1-5

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.” John 1:1-3

“For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.” Colossians 1:16

God created angels to serve Him and His creation. Both the Hebrew (*malak*) and Greek (*aggelos*) words translated 'angel' in English mean "messenger." Angels deliver specific messages from God to people as well as meet their needs.

"Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.'" Matthew 1:19-21

"Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.'" Luke 1:11-13

“Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, ‘Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women! But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.’” Luke 1:26-33

We need to remember something very important as we move through this special series. Angels are not equal to Jesus Christ in position or power. We are reminded in Scripture of the important truth that Jesus Christ is above all other beings in the universe. Here are four examples –

“For to which of the angels did He ever say: ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You’? And again: ‘I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son’? But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: ‘Let all the angels of God worship Him.’ And of the angels He says: ‘Who makes His angels spirits And His ministers a flame of fire.’ But to the Son He says: ‘Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.’ And: ‘You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not fail.’ But to which of the angels has He ever said: ‘Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?’” Hebrews 1:5-14

“Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” Ephesians 1:15-23

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.” Colossians 1:15-20

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.” John 1:1-4

When the angels of Heaven announced to a group of shepherds near Bethlehem about the Incarnation of the Son of God, their message was one of praise for “Christ the Lord” –

“Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, 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, goodwill toward men!” Luke 2:8-14

God’s angels delivered the message to human beings that God had sent His Son to be both Savior and Lord. It is this delivering of ‘messages’ from God that we want to look at in this series.

Angels Speak

We have already seen some of the messages that angels delivered from God to humans. So, the question that comes to mind is when did angels begin speaking to humans?

The first time we see an angel speak to a human is when Satan spoke to Eve in the Garden of Eden. Satan's first recorded words were a question –

“Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?” Genesis 3:1b

Eve answered and then Satan said this –

“You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” Genesis 3:4-5

Satan, who we later learn is a powerful angelic being, lied to Eve. He said God had lied about humans dying if they ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (“... *but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die*” Genesis 2:17) Why would an angel God created lie about what God had said?

Jesus called Satan a murderer and liar (John 8:44). John the Apostle called Satan “the great dragon .. that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world” (Revelation 12:9). John also said that whoever sins is of the devil, “for the devil sinned from the beginning” (1 John 3:8). In that same context, John said that the Son of God (Jesus Christ) had been revealed for the purpose of destroying “the works of the devil.” The Apostle Peter described Satan as our ‘adversary’ who “walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8). John called Satan “the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night” (Revelation 12:10).

Satan sounds like a very bad angel. Did God create Satan as a bad angel? No. God created Satan in the same way He created the other angels – perfectly. So, what happened to Satan?

The Apostle Paul said that Satan was “puffed up with pride” and fell into condemnation (1 Timothy 3:6). Jesus spoke about seeing “Satan fall like lightning from heaven” (Luke 10:18). Jesus said there will come a time when He will tell some human beings to depart from Him, “you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matthew 25:41). John the Apostle wrote that Satan will be cast from Heaven to the earth along with “his angels” who will be “cast out with him” (Revelation 12:9).

So, Satan has angels who are also bad and opposed to the purposes of God? Yes.

The Apostle Peter wrote that God “did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment” (2 Peter 2:4). Jude wrote that some of the angels “did not keep their proper

domain, but left their own abode” and that God “has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day” (Jude 1:6). Many angels followed Satan in his rebellion against God. Some are chained in hell waiting for God’s final judgment, but some have been allowed to serve at Satan’s command to oppose God and His people.

The Apostle Paul described the battle we have with fallen angelic beings this way –

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” Ephesians 6:12

Paul also wrote that when Jesus Christ died on the Cross, He “disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them” (Colossians 2:15). Those spiritual powers that Paul told us we ‘wrestle against’ include Satan and other fallen angels.

Demons are also mentioned often in the Bible, so are they fallen angels or some other type of spiritual power? As we study about angels in the Bible we find many types of spiritual creatures with a variety of appearances. It is certainly possible that some of the fallen angelic beings would be those spiritual powers called 'demons'.

What do evil angels do? The same thing their leader does. They oppose God and His plans. They oppose the good angels as they (good angels) serve God and humans. They cause many problems for humans, including sickness and mental disorders. They oppose God's people in serving God and progressing in their spiritual walk with God. They communicate false teachings that are opposed to the true teachings of God. They even give humans some supernatural abilities (e.g. fortune-telling, spiritism, divination, witchcraft, soothsaying, necromancy).

"You shall not eat anything with the blood, nor shall you practice divination or soothsaying." Leviticus 19:26

“When you come into the land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord, and because of these abominations the Lord your God drives them out from before you. You shall be blameless before the Lord your God. For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the Lord your God has not appointed such for you.” Deuteronomy 18:9-14

“Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. But he did evil in the sight of the Lord, according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord had cast out before the children of Israel. For he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down; he raised up altars for the Baals,

and made wooden images; and he worshiped all the host of heaven and served them. He also built altars in the house of the Lord, of which the Lord had said, 'In Jerusalem shall My name be forever.' And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the Lord. Also he caused his sons to pass through the fire in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom; he practiced soothsaying, used witchcraft and sorcery, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke Him to anger." 2 Chronicles 33:1-6

"And the Lord said to me, 'The prophets prophesy lies in My name. I have not sent them, commanded them, nor spoken to them; they prophesy to you a false vision, divination, a worthless thing, and the deceit of their heart.'" Jeremiah 14:14

"Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, 'These men

are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation.’ And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, ‘I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.’ And he came out that very hour. But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities.” Acts 16:16-19

Evil angels/demons are also behind false worship –

“They shall no more offer their sacrifices to demons, after whom they have played the harlot. This shall be a statute forever for them throughout their generations.” Leviticus 17:7

“They sacrificed to demons, not to God, To gods they did not know, To new gods, new arrivals That your fathers did not fear.” Deuteronomy 32:17

Some angels deliver messages from God. Some angels deliver messages from Satan.

Some angels tell the truth. Some angels lie.

Keep this in mind as we continue our study.

This video is of a pastor at Bethel Church who says he talked with an angel inside the church.

<https://youtu.be/wwAg5Hze4fY>

What do you think?

We are learning how angels spoke in the Bible as a way to know how they might speak today, if they speak to humans now. Many Christians claim that angels speak to them, so it is something we should investigate.

The English word 'angel' is a transliteration of the Greek word *aggelos*, which means 'messenger.' Those angels we call 'good' carry messages from God, while angels we call 'bad' carry messages from Satan (e.g. 1 Timothy 4:1, "deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons")

In the **last part of our study** we learned how God used angels to carry out His judgment on disobedient people in the past. We now turn to how God will use angels to carry out His judgment on disobedient people and bad angels in the future.

Angels of Future Destruction

In Matthew 13 we see Jesus explaining to His disciples the meaning of the parables He had been telling the crowds. The parables were about the Kingdom of Heaven –

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.” Jesus said to them, ‘Have you understood all these things?’ They said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord.’”

MATTHEW 13:47-51

Many angels will be involved in future judgment and destruction on earth. Here are some examples:

“After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree.” Revelation 7:1

“And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets ... Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake. So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up. Then the second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships

were destroyed. Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter. Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night. And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, 'Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound! Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit. Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. They were commanded

not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man. In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them ... Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, 'Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.' So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind. Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone. By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the

brimstone which came out of their mouths. For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm ... Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!' And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying: 'We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned. The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth.' Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail." Revelation 8:2, 5-13; 9:1-6, 13-9; 11:15-19

Here are three other future examples of what angels will proclaim to people on earth during the time of God's judgment. In light of the purpose of this series, watch for both the *words* and the *tone* of the angels. We've seen what angels have said in the past and we're now looking at what angels will say in the future. What angels delivering God's messages would say to people now should be consistent with these examples –

“Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—saying with a loud voice, ‘Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.’ And another angel followed, saying, ‘Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.’ Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, ‘If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured

out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”

REVELATION 14:6-11

We also know that there are angels who will demonstrate superior power over Satan and his angels. Here are a couple of examples –

“And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, ‘Now salvation, and strength, and the

kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.”

Revelation 12:7-12

“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.” Revelation 20:1-3

When Satan's Angels Speak

You may be wondering what Satan's angels say when they speak. We have seen **in past studies** what Satan said to Eve in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3). Here's the conversations Satan had with God in the Book of Job –

“Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. And the Lord said to Satan, ‘From where do you come?’ So Satan answered the Lord and said, ‘From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.’ Then the Lord said to Satan, ‘Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?’ So Satan answered the Lord and said, ‘Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has,

and he will surely curse You to Your face!’ And the Lord said to Satan, ‘Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person.’ So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.”

JOB 1:6-12

As Satan told God that he had been “going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it,” we are reminded of what the Apostle Peter told us about Satan’s activities on earth – “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” (1 Peter 5:8)

“Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the Lord. And the Lord said to Satan, ‘From where do you come?’ Satan answered the Lord and said, ‘From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.’ Then the Lord said to Satan, ‘Have you considered My servant Job, that

there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause.’ So Satan answered the Lord and said, ‘Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!’ And the Lord said to Satan, ‘Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life.’ So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.”

JOB 2:1-7

We also know what God said to Satan in Zechariah 3 –

“Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. And the Lord said to Satan, ‘The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?’ Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and

was standing before the Angel. Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, ‘Take away the filthy garments from him.’ And to him He said, ‘See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes.’ And I said, ‘Let them put a clean turban on his head.’ So they put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him. And the Angel of the Lord stood by.”

ZECHARIAH 3:1-5

There may be a reference to Satan in the portion of Isaiah that focuses on the fall of the king of Babylon. Isaiah prophesied against someone named ‘Lucifer,’ who may have been the supernatural power behind Babylon’s king –

“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will

ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.”

ISAIAH 14:12-15

Lucifer’s pride fits with what the Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 3 –

“(for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.”

1 TIMOTHY 3:5-7

We find something similar in the Book of Ezekiel where Satan may have been the supernatural power behind the king of Tyre. The first part of Ezekiel 28 appears to be a prophecy against a human being. However, the second part of Ezekiel 28 appears to be a prophecy against a supernatural being. Possibly Satan?

“Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ‘Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord God: You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. ‘You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you. ‘By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you

as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones. 'Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you. 'You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities, By the iniquity of your trading; Therefore I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you, And I turned you to ashes upon the earth In the sight of all who saw you. All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; You have become a horror, And shall be no more forever.'"

EZEKIEL 28:11-19

It is difficult to understand why Ezekiel would refer to the human king of Tyre as being full of wisdom, perfect in beauty, in Eden, wearing every precious stone as covering, being 'the anointed cherub who covers,' on the holy mountain of God, walking back and forth in the midst of fiery stones, being perfect in his ways from the day he was created until iniquity was found in him, if

the prophecy wasn't pointing to the supernatural power behind the human king. The power behind every evil king throughout history has been Satan.

"He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil." 1 John 3:8

"So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." Revelation 12:9

"They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever." Revelation 20:9-10

We don't have many examples in the New Testament. One reason is that Jesus would not allow demons to speak (Mark 1:34). However, we have a couple of examples of what they said when Jesus confronted them –

“When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. And suddenly they cried out, saying, ‘What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?’ Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. So the demons begged Him, saying, ‘If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine.’ And He said to them, ‘Go.’ So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water.”

MATTHEW 8:28-32

Notice that the demons recognized Jesus as the Son of God; they admitted that Jesus was going to torment them at a future time; and they begged Jesus to permit them to go into a herd of swine after He cast them out of the possessed men.

Here's how Mark's Gospel describes demons talking with Jesus

—

“Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes. And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones. When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. And he cried out with a loud voice and said, ‘What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most

High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me.' For He said to him, 'Come out of the man, unclean spirit!' Then He asked him, 'What is your name?' And he answered, saying, 'My name is Legion; for we are many.' Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains. So all the demons begged Him, saying, 'Send us to the swine, that we may enter them.' And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea."

MARK 5:1-13

We do learn something interesting in the New Testament about a disagreement between Satan and Michael the archangel concerning the body of Moses. We don't know what Satan said, but we do know what Michael said –

“Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, ‘The Lord rebuke you!’”

JUDE 1:9

That wasn't the only time Michael and Satan had disputed with each other –

“Then he said to me, ‘Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me,

for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come.”

DANIEL 10:12-14

Daniel’s reference to Michael as ‘one of the chief princes’ may mean that ‘the prince of the kingdom of Persia’ could refer to Satan as the supernatural power behind that kingdom. Also, how could a human prince have withstood one of the chief angels of God for 21 days?

We also know that Michael and his angels will one day fight against Satan and his angels and cast them out of Heaven –

“And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who

deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”

REVELATION 12:7-9

When Angels Speak Example

“Archangel Michael Testimony”

<https://youtu.be/bh0VPG5xCyA>

Did You Notice?

- Brother’s girlfriend prayed to Michael the Archangel? Does the Bible tell us to pray to angels? Which book of the Bible contains that reference?
- What happens in the Bible when Michael approaches people? Which people does he approach and for what purpose? Which book of the Bible contains that reference?
- What do you think about the description of Michael’s face, hair, clothing? Where in the Bible do we find that description of Michael? Which book of the Bible contains that reference?
- Michael allegedly told Christopher that he was ‘lost.’ What does ‘lost’ mean in the context of Christopher’s testimony? Lost because of sin or that he had lost his way in the battle

between good and evil? Which would be in line with New Testament teaching? Biblical examples?

- Did Michael tell Christopher about Jesus Christ? Did Michael present the Gospel of Christ? Did Michael tell Christopher how to be saved? Did Christopher ever mention Jesus' name in his testimony? Did Christopher mention sin in his testimony? Did Christopher mention that Jesus died for sin according to the Scriptures, was buried, and rose the third day according to the Scriptures? If so, where in the testimony did Christopher mention Jesus and the basics of the Gospel?
- Did Michael ever quote from the Bible during his testimony? Where? Which verse(s) did he quote or mention?
- Michael allegedly said that ... was 'a bit lost' and needed to get back on the side of good in the battle between good and evil. Where in the Bible are we told we are 'a bit lost' and need to get back on the side of good in the battle between good and evil? Which book of the Bible contains that reference?

- Michael allegedly told ... that he was St. Christopher? ... wonders if he might be the reincarnation of St. Christopher? Where in the Bible are we told that we might be the reincarnation of a dead person? Which book of the Bible contains that reference?
- Christopher said he didn't ask the angel his name and the angel didn't mention his name. So, how did Christopher know the angel was Michael the archangel?
- Do you think an angelic being from God would tell a lost person that they have nothing to worry about when they neglect to preach sin, repentance, belief and confession? If you do, where in the Bible do you find that? Which book specifically?
- What kind of supernatural being do you think would tell someone they are lost, but will be okay without ever mentioning God or Jesus Christ?
- Christopher said that since his 'experience' he has helped friends come to 'the faith' or 'a faith.' What does that mean? What 'faith' is he referencing?
- Do you believe Christopher's 'testimony' is Christian in the sense of what the Bible teaches about salvation? If so,

why do you believe that? Please defend using the Bible rather than an emotional experience.

The Bible is quite clear about what it means to be 'lost' and in need of 'salvation.' It is our contention that any salvation experience other than what we find in the Apostle Paul's writings would not be legitimate. Do you agree? If not, why not?

"... that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

ROMANS 10:9-10

False Testimonies

In case you think I'm being rough on Christopher, please understand that my motivation is simply this:

” Jesus answered him, ‘The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

MARK 12:29-31

Love for God and love for neighbor. That's the motivation. When we hear false testimonies, we should be greatly disturbed and should respond by speaking the truth in love. False testimonies contain false teachings and the Bible is clear about how Christians should respond to false teaching.

Christopher's testimony is not true. I'm not questioning whether he had an encounter with a supernatural being. What I am questioning is who was that being? Supernatural beings are all around us, but there is someone who is above every one of them and in Him we place our trust for salvation, wisdom, revelation, knowledge and understanding.

“Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named,

not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”

EPHESIANS 1:15-23

We must be vigilant at all times and remember these words of the apostles:

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.” 1 Peter 5:7-9

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the

darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.” Ephesians 6:10-13

As we saw in **the first part** of this new series, Christians around the world are claiming that angels speak to them. How can we know if that's true? How can we know that if a supernatural angel speaks, it is an angel sent from God?

The English word 'angel' is a transliteration of the Greek word *aggelos* (ἄγγελος). It means 'a messenger.' The Hebrew word translated 'angel' (*malak* – מַלְאָכַיִם) also has the idea of being 'a messenger.'

It is the 'message' of the supernatural being spoken today that is the focus of our series. Can we trust what 'angels' are saying now?

When Angels ‘Spoke’

To understand how angels speak today, we need to learn how angels spoke in the past. Since angels are supernatural beings, we will turn to the one supernatural source we can trust to tell us the truth – the **Bible**.

Though we don’t know what language angels use to speak to each other, we do know that angels spoke to human beings in the past in ways people understood.

We don’t know what language Adam and Eve spoke in the Garden of Eden, but they understood what Satan said to them (Genesis 3). We don’t know what language Satan spoke when he presented himself to the Lord in Job 1 and 2, but we know God understood him.

So, what language did angels use to speak to humans in the Bible and what language do they use today? There’s no reason to think angels can’t speak any human language they want, but might they speak the same language Peter and the disciples did

at Pentecost? “... everyone heard them speak in his own language” (Acts 2:6). We don’t know for sure, but we do know people in the Bible understood what the angels were saying.

We are going to share many examples of when angels spoke in the Bible so we can learn *what* angels say and *how* they say it. Remember, angels are ‘messengers’. They deliver messages from God or from Satan (e.g. “deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons” – 1 Timothy 4:1). We will be able to use the biblical history of ‘angel speak’ to compare with what people say angels are saying to them today. We will also look at what people in recent centuries have said about angels speaking to them. That should also help us determine ‘who’ is sending them.

Satan presents a ‘counterfeit’ message (e.g. “Then the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die’” – Genesis 3:4) and his angels deliver his counterfeit message wherever he sends them. The best way to know what a counterfeit looks and sounds like is to know what the real thing looks and sounds like.

“For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.” 2 Corinthians 11:14

“You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.” John 8:44

Angel of the Lord

You will see the phrase **Angel of the Lord** used many times in the Bible, especially in the Old Testament. It would seem from the context of what the Angel of the Lord said and how the hearer responded that the “Angel of the Lord” may be the pre-incarnate Christ (the eternal Son of God prior to His Virgin Birth where He ‘became flesh and dwelt among us’ – John 1:14).

The Angel of the Lord spoke to the Egyptian handmaid Hagar –

“Hagar, Sarai’s maid, where have you come from, and where are you going?” She said, ‘I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai.’ The Angel of the Lord said to her, ‘Return to your mistress, and submit yourself under her hand.’ Then the Angel of the Lord said to her, ‘I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude.’ And the Angel of the Lord said to her: ‘Behold, you are with child, And you shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, Because the Lord has heard your affliction. He shall be a wild man; His hand shall be against every man, And every man’s hand against

*him. And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.’
Then she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her,
You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees; for she said, ‘Have I also
here seen Him who sees me?’” Genesis 16:8-13*

The Angel of the Lord spoke to Abraham –

*“Abraham, Abraham!’ So he said, ‘Here I am.’ And He said,
‘Do not lay your hand on the lad, 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 ... By Myself I have
sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing,
and have not withheld your son, your only son— blessing I
will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your
descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand
which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall
possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the
nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have
obeyed My voice.” Genesis 22:11-12, 16-18*

The Angel of the Lord spoke to Jacob –

“Then the Angel of God spoke to me in a dream, saying, ‘Jacob.’ And I said, ‘Here I am.’ And He said, ‘Lift your eyes now and see, all the rams which leap on the flocks are streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted; for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you. I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed the pillar and where you made a vow to Me. Now arise, get out of this land, and return to the land of your family.’ Then Rachel and Leah answered and said to him, ‘Is there still any portion or inheritance for us in our father’s house? Are we not considered strangers by him? For he has sold us, and also completely consumed our money. For all these riches which God has taken from our father are really ours and our children’s; now then, whatever God has said to you, do it.” Genesis 31:11-16

The Angel of the Lord spoke to Moses –

“Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. Then Moses said, ‘I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.’ So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, ‘Moses, Moses!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ Then He said, ‘Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.’ Moreover He said, ‘I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.” Exodus 3:1-5

The Angel of the Lord spoke to Balaam –

“Then the Lord opened Balaam’s eyes, and he saw the Angel of the Lord standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand; and he bowed his head and fell flat on his face. And the Angel of the Lord said to him, ‘Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to stand against you, because your way is perverse before Me. The donkey saw Me and turned aside from Me these three times. If she had not turned aside from Me, surely I would also have killed you by now, and let her live.’ And Balaam said to the Angel of the Lord, ‘I have sinned, for I did not know You stood in the way against me. Now therefore, if it displeases You, I will turn back.’ Then the Angel of the Lord said to Balaam, ‘Go with the men, but only the word that I speak to you, that you shall speak.’ So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.”

Numbers 22:31-35

A supernatural being identified as “Commander of the army of the Lord” spoke to Joshua at Jericho. Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped. The Commander of the Lord’s army said to Joshua, “Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand *is* holy.” That may be another instance of the pre-incarnate Son of God speaking to a human based on the acceptance of Joshua’s worship and telling him to take off his sandals because the place where he stood was holy. (Joshua 5:13-15)

The Angel of the Lord spoke to the children of Israel prior to Joshua’s death –

“Then the Angel of the Lord came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said: ‘I led you up from Egypt and brought you to the land of which I swore to your fathers; and I said, ‘I will never break My covenant with you. And you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.’ But you have not obeyed My voice. Why have you done this? Therefore I also said, ‘I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be thorns

in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you.’ So it was, when the Angel of the Lord spoke these words to all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voices and wept.” Judges 2:1-4

Notice that the Angel of the Lord spoke as the one who led Israel up from Egypt into the land which “I swore your fathers.” The Angel also said “I will never break My covenant with you.” That certainly has the sound of God speaking to Israel, identified as the Angel of the Lord.

The Angel of the Lord spoke to many of Israel’s judges. One of the most interesting examples is how the Angel of the Lord spoke to Gideon –

“Now the Angel of the Lord came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites. And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and said to him, ‘The Lord is with you, you mighty man of

valor!’ Gideon said to Him, ‘O my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the Lord has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.’ Then the Lord turned to him and said, ‘Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?’ So he said to Him, ‘O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.’ And the Lord said to him, ‘Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man.’ Then he said to Him, ‘If now I have found favor in Your sight, then show me a sign that it is You who talk with me. Do not depart from here, I pray, until I come to You and bring out my offering and set it before You.’ And He said, ‘I will wait until you come back.’ So Gideon went in and prepared a young goat, and unleavened bread from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot; and he brought them out to Him under the terebinth tree and presented them. The Angel of God said to him, ‘Take

the meat and the unleavened bread and lay them on this rock, and pour out the broth.’ And he did so. Then the Angel of the Lord put out the end of the staff that was in His hand, and touched the meat and the unleavened bread; and fire rose out of the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. And the Angel of the Lord departed out of his sight. Now Gideon perceived that He was the Angel of the Lord. So Gideon said, ‘Alas, O Lord God! For I have seen the Angel of the Lord face to face.’ Then the Lord said to him, ‘Peace be with you; do not fear, you shall not die.’ So Gideon built an altar there to the Lord, and called it The-Lord-Is-Peace. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.” Judges 6:11-24

You can read other examples of the Angel of the Lord speaking to people in Judges 13 and Zechariah chapters 1 and 3.

Holy, Holy, Holy

God's angels are consistent in what they speak in Heaven. We hear no idle chatter or prideful self-boasts, but direct and focused worship of Almighty God.

We find this in Isaiah's prophecy from the 8th century BC –

“In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!’” Isaiah 6:1-3

We find this in the Revelation of Jesus Christ written at the end of the 1st century AD –

“Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: ‘Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!’ Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: ‘You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.’” Revelation 4:6-11

We also hear this wonderful 'new' song in Heaven, sung by millions of God's angels –

“Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: ‘Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!’ Revelation 5:11-12

Recording of Angels Singing?

This video claims to include the sound of a choir of angels singing at a gathering of Christians in the Netherlands in 2017. Does the singing sound anything like the songs of angels we read in Scripture? Where are the words of angels praising God and calling out “Holy, holy, holy”? Could the recorded singing have been a human or synthesized choir played through a sound system? Or do you think this is the real thing? Are we actually hearing angels from Heaven singing on earth? or are we hearing from other supernatural beings who are not from God?

[Sound of choir singing begins about 3 minutes into the video.]

<https://youtu.be/VxFIC4iUzbc>

What do you think?

God created angels to serve and worship Him in Heaven. He also created angels to deliver messages to people on earth. Some of those messages contained mercy and forgiveness, some contained judgment and destruction.

In this part of our study, we will look at how angels deliver God's messages from Heaven to earth. As we understand what angels did in the biblical past, we will better understand how angels deliver God's messages from Heaven to earth today and in the recent past.

“He cast on them the fierceness of His anger, Wrath, indignation, and trouble, By sending angels of destruction among them. Psalm 78:49

The majority of the drawings and statues of angels we see in museums and online show them as kind and protecting. They are sometimes shown as infants or small children with wings. Some are playing violins or blowing trumpets as they fly through the clouds.

Is that an accurate description of angels in the Bible? Angels are supernatural ‘messengers.’ Good angels deliver messages from God. Bad angels deliver messages from Satan (e.g. “deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons” – 1 Timothy 4:1).

Angels of Destruction

One of the most powerful images of angels we find in the Bible is when they deliver God's message of **destruction**. Destruction follows God's judgment.

The first example we see in Scripture is in the Garden of Eden –

“So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.”

Genesis 3:24

God judged Adam and Eve and sent angels (called ‘cherubim’) along with a flaming sword to guard the way to the *tree of life*. The cherubim and flaming sword took their place between humans and the way to the tree of life after God drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden. God's message was clear. He would not allow any human being to eat from the tree of life and if anyone tried to do that the angels would destroy them.

As far as we know the angels were successful in keeping humans from getting to the tree of life. If any people tried and were destroyed by the angels and flaming sword, we are not told in Scripture. My guess is that no one tried. What we are told in Scripture is that the tree of life is now in Heaven and will be used one day “for the healing of the nations” (Revelation 22:2).

We meet two destroying angels in Genesis 18 and 19. The Lord appeared to Abraham by the terebinth trees of Mamre. Abraham saw three men standing near him and ran to greet them. The Lord told Abraham that his wife Sarah would have a son soon. That caused Sarah to laugh and said to herself, “After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being so old.” The Lord knew what Sarah had said and said to Abraham – “Is anything too hard for the Lord?” Sarah denied that she laughed because she was afraid, but the Lord said, “No, but you did laugh!”

The three men rose and looked toward Sodom and Abraham went with them. The Lord decided to tell Abraham that He was going to destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because the outcry against the cities was great “and because their sin is very grave.” Abraham tried to convince God not to destroy the cities based on the idea of destroying the righteous with the wicked. However, the number of righteous in the cities was not enough to win that argument.

“So the Lord went His way as soon as He had finished speaking with Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place.” Genesis 18:33

We learn in the next verse that the two ‘men’ who accompanied the Lord were angels: “Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom” (Genesis 19:1). Lot invited the angels into his home though the angels said they planned to spend the night in the open square. Lot insisted the ‘men’ come to his home and they did. They ate with Lot and his family and just before time to go to bed the men of the city of Sodom, both old and young, surrounded Lot’s house.

“And they called to Lot and said to him, ‘Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them carnally.’ Genesis 19:5

The men of Sodom wanted to have sex with the visiting men who were in Lot’s house. That informs us about the very grave sin in Sodom and Gomorrah the Lord had mentioned to Abraham. Lot offered his two virgin daughters to the men of Sodom so they would “not do so wickedly” (Genesis 19:7). That infuriated the men of Sodom and they tried to force their way into Lot’s house. However, the angels pulled Lot back into the house, shut the door and struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness.

It’s important we remember that God’s angels were delivering a message of destruction to the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. Nothing or no one could stop them from delivering that message. The angels told Lot to get his wife and daughters to “Get up, get out of this place; for the Lord will destroy this city!” Lot, his wife and two daughters did leave Sodom just ahead of the angels delivering their message of destruction.

“Then the Lord rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the Lord out of the heavens. He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.” Genesis 19:24-25

The angels had warned Lot and his family to escape to the mountains and not to look back lest they be destroyed, but Lot’s wife did look back and she became a pillar of salt.

Abraham returned early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the Lord and looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah. What Abraham saw was smoke like the smoke of a furnace. God had destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, “the cities of the plain.”

Another example of God sending angels with messages of destruction is found in the Book of Exodus. God demonstrated His superiority over the gods of Egypt through a series of plagues. The last plague was the death of the firstborn son. The event also initiated the beginning of the Passover Supper that

foreshadowed the coming of God's Son to earth to be the "passover lamb" who would die on the Cross.

"Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, 'Pick out and take lambs for yourselves according to your families, and kill the Passover lamb. And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning. For the Lord will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you. And you shall observe this thing as an ordinance for you and your sons forever. It will come to pass when you come to the land which the Lord will give you, just as He promised, that you shall keep this service. And it shall be, when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?' that you shall say, 'It is the Passover sacrifice of the Lord, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He struck

the Egyptians and delivered our households.’ So the people bowed their heads and worshiped. Then the children of Israel went away and did so; just as the Lord had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did. And it came to pass at midnight that the Lord struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of livestock. So Pharaoh rose in the night, he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where there was not one dead.” Exodus 12:21-30

The psalmist writing about God’s many kindnesses to rebellious Israel, wrote this about the destructive plagues he commanded in Egypt –

“When He worked His signs in Egypt, And His wonders in the field of Zoan; Turned their rivers into blood, And their streams, that they could not drink. He sent swarms of flies among them, which devoured them, And frogs, which

destroyed them. He also gave their crops to the caterpillar, And their labor to the locust. He destroyed their vines with hail, And their sycamore trees with frost. He also gave up their cattle to the hail, And their flocks to fiery lightning. He cast on them the fierceness of His anger, Wrath, indignation, and trouble, By sending angels of destruction among them. He made a path for His anger; He did not spare their soul from death, But gave their life over to the plague, And destroyed all the firstborn in Egypt, The first of their strength in the tents of Ham.” Psalm 78:43-51

God sent “angels of destruction” among the people of Egypt. Why did the angels deliver messages of destruction to the Egyptians? Because God was very angry with them.

Other examples of destroying angels are found in:

- 2 Samuel 24:15-17
- 2 Kings 19:32-35
- Acts 12:20-23

Angels On Assignment

What do angels do for God's people today? Can we 'assign' our angels to perform miracles for us and others? Do angels perform physical surgery on Christians while they sleep? Are angels unable to serve us because of the words we speak? Can we physically 'feel' angels when they walk by us? We invite you to watch this video, compare with what we know about angels from Scripture, and decide for yourself.

<https://youtu.be/faj0rczdOPk>

What do you think

Notes:

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