



The Existance of Angels

By: Calvin Ray Evans

When the eyes of Elisha's servant were opened, he saw the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha. It is my prayer that in this study God will help us to have open eyes of faith to know that they who are for us are more than those against us (II Kings 6:18).

John Calvin in Volume 1 of his Institutes of the Christian Religion said, "*Angels are the dispensers and administrators of the divine benevolence toward us. They regard our safety, undertake our defense, direct our ways; and exercise constant observance that no evil befall us.*"

Angels have a much more important place in the Bible than the devil and his demons. In fact, according to **Revelation 12** there are twice as many holy angels as there are fallen angels.

I. REASONS TO STUDY ABOUT ANGELS

A. To increase our knowledge of God's Word.

There are **201 references** to the word "angel" in Scripture. In 34 of the 66 books of the Bible there are specific references to angels, in 17 books of the Old Testament and in 17 books of the New Testament. The word for "angel" is used 105 times in the Old Testament and 96 times in the New Testament. ⁽¹⁾

B. To increase our comfort and assurance.

Angels are **assigned to deliver** us from physical danger - **Hebrews 1:14**.

Angels present to us an example of **complete devotion to God** and readiness to obey Him motivating us to worship and serve Him more fervently.

C. To increase our faith in a sovereign God who exercises control over the world and the universe through His angelic host.

D. To increase our appreciation for God's holiness and righteousness.

E. To increase our understanding about the grace of God.

God could judge all at once, but He patiently delays - **the book of Jude**.

Out of the midst of wicked men influenced by Satan and demons, God rescues all those who trust in Jesus Christ and delivers us from the demonic power of Satan in the present.

II. REACTIONS TO THE TRUTH OF ANGELS

A. **Past Speculations**

1. In the early years of Christianity speculative theology developed about fanciful, **whimsical** aspects and arguments regarding angels.

2. A **controversial** teaching seems to have developed by early Biblical scholars regarding the study of angels.

B. **Elevation** of angels to a place of worship by the Roman Catholic Church.

C. **Superstitions** of paganism.

D. **Rationalization** by science.

E. **Preoccupation** with angels.

III. RECORDS OF THE EXISTENCE OF ANGELS

A. **The Record of the Old Testament**

1. **The Books of Law**

a. Angels are mentioned **32 times** in the writings of **Moses**.

b. **Hagar** was comforted by the angel of Jehovah - **Genesis 16 & 21**.

c. **Abraham conversed** and ate with angels - **Genesis 19**.

d. **Jacob** dreamed of angels - **Genesis 28:12**.

e. **Moses** was called by the angel of God to deliver Israel - **Exodus 3:2**.

2. **The Books of History**

a. The word angel appears 45 times in the books of **Joshua, Judges, I and II Samuel, I and II Kings, and I and II Chronicles**.

b. Most occurrences are in **Judges** where the angel of Jehovah conversed with Gideon and Manoah.

c. In **II Samuel 14:20** and **19:27**, King David is compared in comfort, wisdom and power to an angel of God.

3. **The Books of the Prophets**

a. In the major prophets, Isaiah makes two references to the Angel of Jehovah as defending Israel and defeating her enemies - **Isaiah 37:36; 63:9**.

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- b. Ezekiel speaks of the cherubim - **Ezekiel 10:1-3**
- c. Angels intervened in the record of Daniel to deliver the Hebrew children from the fiery furnace and Daniel from the mouths of lions - **Daniel 3, 6**.
- d. Gabriel, who later appears in **Luke 1**, appears first to Daniel with a revelation of the future of Israel - **Daniel 9:21-27**.
- e. Michael the archangel (**Jude 9**) is identified as “one of the chief princes” (**Daniel 10:13**) and stands as Israel’s principal defender - **Daniel 10:13; 12:1**.
- f. In the Minor Prophets, Hosea identifies the “man” that wrestles with Jacob (**Genesis 32**) as an angel- **Hosea 12:2-4**.
- g. Zechariah contains 20 occurrences of the word angel.
- h. The Angel of Jehovah is identified as the personal representative of Jehovah, even Jehovah himself, who intercedes for God’s people.

4. **The Books of Poetry**

- a. Job and Psalms contribute to our knowledge of good and evil angels.
- b. Satan is represented as one of the spirits called “the sons of God” in **Job 1:6 and 2:1**.
- c. The Psalms picture angels as protecting and delivering God’s people from harm - **Psalms 34:7; 35:5-6; 91:11**.
- d. In Psalms angels are God’s energetic and fervent servants - **Psalms 104:4** and His devoted worshippers - **Psalms 103:20; 148:2**.
- e. In Ecclesiastes man is warned not to think in error about the presence of an angel concerning his vow, for the angel is a representative of God - **Ecclesiastes 5:6**.
- f. Summary



The Old Testament presents angels as genuine personal beings who serve as messengers and ministers of God. Evil angels are those who serve Satan.

B. The Record of the New Testament

1. **The Gospels**

- a. All four gospels report the existence and activity of angels.
- b. Matthew and Luke tell of significant ministry of angels connected with the birth of Christ.
- c. The first three gospels are full of references to angels and devils.
- d. All four gospels record the appearance of angels at the empty tomb of the resurrected Saviour.

2. **The Book of Acts**

- a. There are many references to the ministry of angels in the life of the New Testament Church.
- b. At the ascension of Christ, two angels announced His second coming - **Acts 1:10-11**.
- c. When the apostles were cast into prison, an angel opened the doors and freed them - **Acts 5:19**.
- d. An angel directed Philip to a new place of ministry - **Acts 8:26**.
- e. An angel appeared to Cornelius directing him to send for Peter to learn of salvation - **Acts 10:1-8**.
- f. Peter was delivered from prison by- God’s angel - **Acts 12:5-11**.
- g. Paul, in a turbulent storm at sea, received encouragement through an angel - **Acts 27:23-25**.

3. **The Epistles**

- a. The epistles abound with teaching about angels.
- b. In them angels are classified as either elect (**I Timothy 5:21**) or fallen (**II Peter 2:4**).
- c. Paul declares that the cross of Christ defeated evil angels and warns against the worship of angels - **Colossians 2:15, 18**.
- d. Peter speaks of Christ having declared victory over angels and having ascended above them in authority - **I Peter 3:18-22**.
- e. Paul, James, and Peter regard Satan as the believer’s angelic opponent who can be overcome only through Christ - **Ephesians 6:10-12; James 4:7; I Peter 5:8-9**.

4. **The Book of Revelation**

- a. There are 74 clear usages of the word angels in reference to spirit beings in Revelation.
- b. The remaining eight usages may also refer to angels or to human messengers as representing the seven churches of Asia.
- c. This book contains more references to angels than any other in the Bible.
- d. In Revelation angels are portrayed as **worshipping the Lamb of God (Revelation 5:11-12) preserving the servants of God (Revelation 7:1-3) and administering the wrath of God (Revelation 8, 9, 15, 16)**.

If there are no such beings as angels, then great doubt would be cast on the direct revelations found in the New Testament. The highly developed doctrine of Satan and his angels and their system and influence found in the New Testament would be complete speculation without also believing in God’s holy angels.

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VI. REVIEW OF THE TEACHINGS ON ANGELS

A. The Witness of the Son of God

1. His **testing** - Matthew 4:11.
2. His **teaching**
 - a. He taught that angels are personal creatures of God.
 - b. He affirmed the resurrection and compared our state in the resurrection to that of angels who do not procreate - **Matthew 2:29-30**.
 - c. He predicted that angels would gather the elect at Christ's second coming - **Matthew 24:31**.
 - d. He predicted the angels would be associated with Him in His glory and the evil angels along with Satan will be cast in the lake of fire - **Matthew 25:31-32, 41**.

B. Summary

1. Evidence abounds from Christ's personal narratives, ministry and teachings that angels do exist.
2. The combined witness of the Scriptures, the Old and New Testaments, and of the Saviour, assures us that there is a world of intelligent, powerful and visible creatures about us and above us that warrants our prayerful and careful study and challenges us to expand our categories of thought and to change our conduct of life in accordance with God's truth.

Footnotes:

1. Word count from www.blueletterbible.org using King James Version



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Homer Willis - PO Box 50560 - Nashville, TN 37205

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