

Pastor Nathan Mains – September 7, 2008

# Angels

Allies and  
Adversaries

*Questions & Answers*



Can angels really be seen sometimes?  
What do they do?

*In Scripture the visitation of an angel is always alarming; it has to begin by saying, "Fear not."*

*The Victorian angel looks as if it were going to say, "There, there."*

– C.S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters*

# The Bible's angels stories

- ❑ Guarding the tree of Life after the fall – Gen 3:24
- ❑ Rescuing Lot, Destroying Sodom – Gen 18-19
- ❑ Helping Hagar – Gen 16:7-13; 21:17
- ❑ Providing Abraham a sub for Isaac – Gen 22:11,15
- ❑ Helping find a wife for Isaac – Gen 24:7,40
- ❑ Protecting Jacob – Gen 48:16
- ❑ Recruiting Moses at the flaming bush – Ex 3:2-6
- ❑ Leading the Israelites out of Egypt – Ex 14,23,32
- ❑ Opposing Balaam – Numbers 22:22-35
- ❑ Instructing Joshua & the Israelites Judges 2 & 5
- ❑ Calling out Gideon – Judges 6
- ❑ Preparing Samson's parents – Judges 13

# The Bible's angels stories

- ❑ Satan incited David to sin and when he did God sent an angel to punish -1 Chronicles 21
- ❑ Caring for Elijah after Mt Carmel – 1 Kings 19
- ❑ Protecting Elisha – 2 Kings 6
- ❑ Helping Hezekiah in battle - 2 Chronicles 32:21
- ❑ Saving 3 from a fiery furnace – Daniel 3
- ❑ Saving Daniel in the Lions den – Daniel 6
- ❑ Giving prophecies to Zechariah – whole book
- ❑ Gabriel announces John's birth to dad – Luke 1
- ❑ Gabriel announces Jesus birth to Mary – Luke 1
- ❑ Appearing to Joseph about Mary – Matt 1
- ❑ Announcing Christ's birth to shepherds – Luke 2

# The Bible's angels stories

- ❑ Telling Joseph to take the family to Egypt and then letting him know when he could return – Matt 2
- ❑ Strengthening Jesus – Mark 1:13; Luke 22:43
- ❑ Rolling away the stone and letting the women know Jesus had risen – Matt 28
- ❑ Releasing the Apostles from prison – Acts 5:19
- ❑ Instructing Philip where to evangelize – Acts 8:26
- ❑ Making connection between Cornelius and Peter to open the door for the gospel to Gentiles – Acts 10
- ❑ Releasing Peter from Prison – Acts 12
- ❑ Guiding Paul during shipwreck – Acts 27:23-24
- ❑ Revealing the future to John & Carrying out God's judgment in the end times - Revelation

# Conclusions from Angel stories:

- ❑ Angels appeared to people in the Bible and they might do so today.
- ❑ Biblical evidence does not suggest that this is a common thing or that we should try to make these encounters happen.
- ❑ We can have confidence that if God sees that we really need an angel, He will send one.

Does every believer have an assigned guardian angel?

**Matt 18:10** *"See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven."*

**Hebrews 1:14** *Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation? (NIV)*

- God is pleased to give angels the responsibility and privilege of being his agents in protecting human beings as he wills.
- God can send large numbers of angels to protect any individual or group at any time that he chooses.

# Do angels have gender?

- ❑ Throughout the Bible, angels are referred to using masculine pronouns and are sometimes called “men,” but no description is ever given that indicates that they were literally male.
- ❑ The Bible never speaks of angels as feminine or female in nature.
- ❑ The Bible uses masculine language as the default way of speaking when the gender of an individual is unknown or irrelevant.
- ❑ There is no biblical evidence that angels ever appear as baby cherubs with little wings.

Who was the “angel of the Lord”?

This is the way the Bible describes Old Testament appearances of Jesus before he came to earth in human flesh.

These appearances are similar to appearances of angels.

What about claims of new revelation  
from angels?

*But even if we or an angel from heaven should  
preach a gospel other than the one we  
preached to you, let him be eternally  
condemned! - Galatians 1:8 (NIV)*

Can bad angels repent and become good again?

No, only humans are given the opportunity to respond to God's grace through Jesus Christ

*For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

-- Colossians 1:13-14 (NIV)

# What are the Nephilim?

**Genesis 6:4** *The Nephilim were on the earth in those days-- and also afterward-- when the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown.*

**Jude 6** *And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home-- these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day. (NIV)*

Was Flip Wilson right when he said,  
“the devil made me do it”?

*We can be deceived by the devil...I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. -- 2 Cor 11:3*

*But...God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear.*

*But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. 1 Cor 10:13 (NIV)*

What attitude should we have in light of the unseen spiritual war?

*Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith --1 Pet 5:8-9*

But don't underestimate your enemy...even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" - Jude 9 (NIV)

What attitude should we have in light of the unseen spiritual war?

**Ephesians 6:10-11** *...be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.*

*Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.*

Maybe the most commonly neglected resource for spiritual progress:

**2 Corinthians 10:3-5** *For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world.*

*On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.*

*We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. (NIV)*

## Take Away from this series:

- ❑ The Bible doesn't tell us everything there is to know about angels but it tells us all we need to know.
- ❑ People are the trophies in a cosmic struggle between God and Satan which angels watch and are involved in (mostly invisibly).
- ❑ Good angels serve God and can be sent to help us when we are in need.

## Take Away from this series:

- ❑ Bad angels (Satan & demons) use schemes and attacks attempting to distract us from God and to destroy us.
- ❑ By God's power we can resist the schemes and attacks of Satan and his bad angels and stand firm in Christ.
- ❑ As we do we should look for opportunities, with people to ...*open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me [Christ]* (Acts 26:17-18)