



A vast field of stars in space, featuring a dense concentration of multi-colored stars (yellow, orange, blue, green) in the center, with a bright white star at the very core. The background is dark with scattered individual stars of various colors and sizes.

Angels

Angels

What are some popular wrong ideas about angels?

Angels

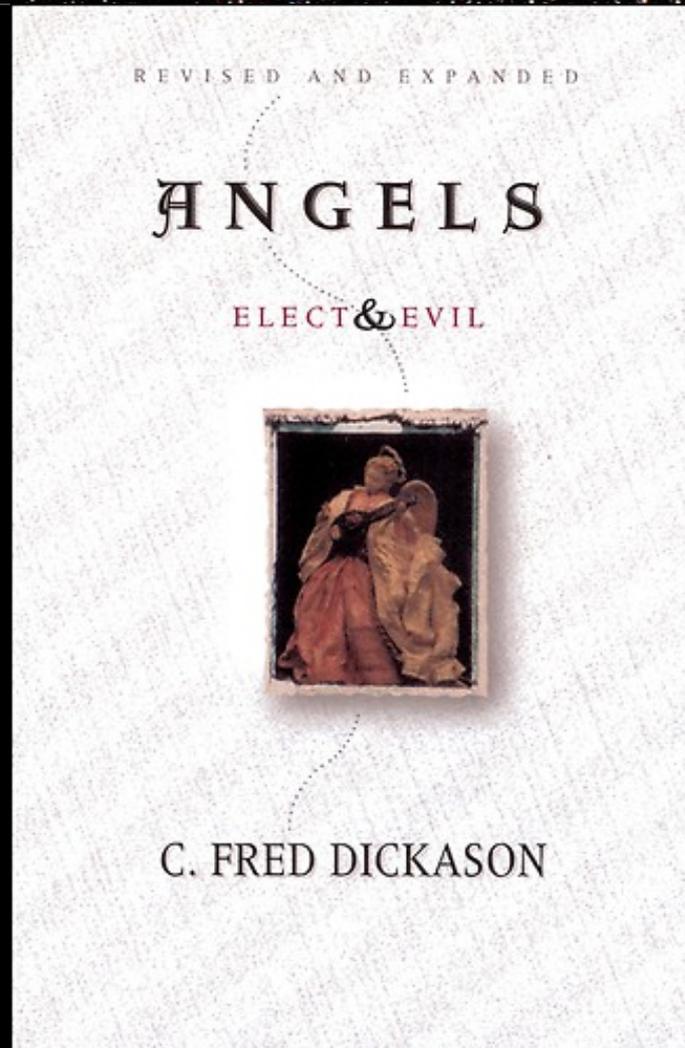
What are some popular wrong ideas about angels?

- We become angels when we die
- Angels always have wings
- Angels look like women (or sometimes *are* women)
- Angels have gender
- Angels can be baby angels
- We can contact, love, and pray to angels
- Angels can teach us secret spiritual truths

Angels



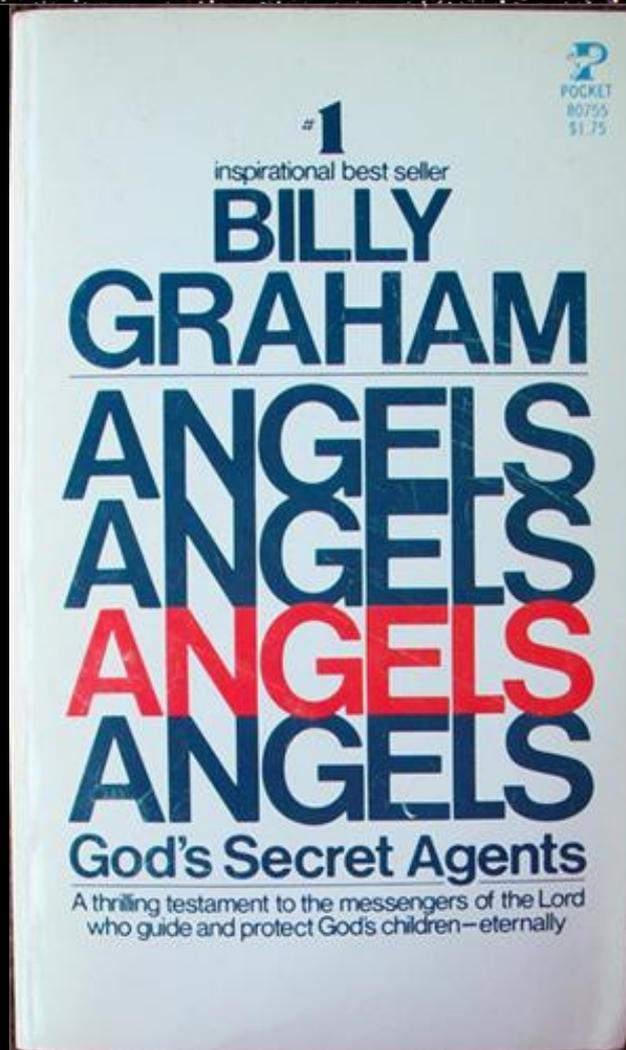
Angels



“Angels: Elect & Evil”

- Published 1975
- My 1st serious biblical theology book purchase
- I was about 13 years old
- Still considered great resource

Angels



“Angels: God's Secret Agents”

- Published 1977
- Biblical (of course!)
- A bit 'light'

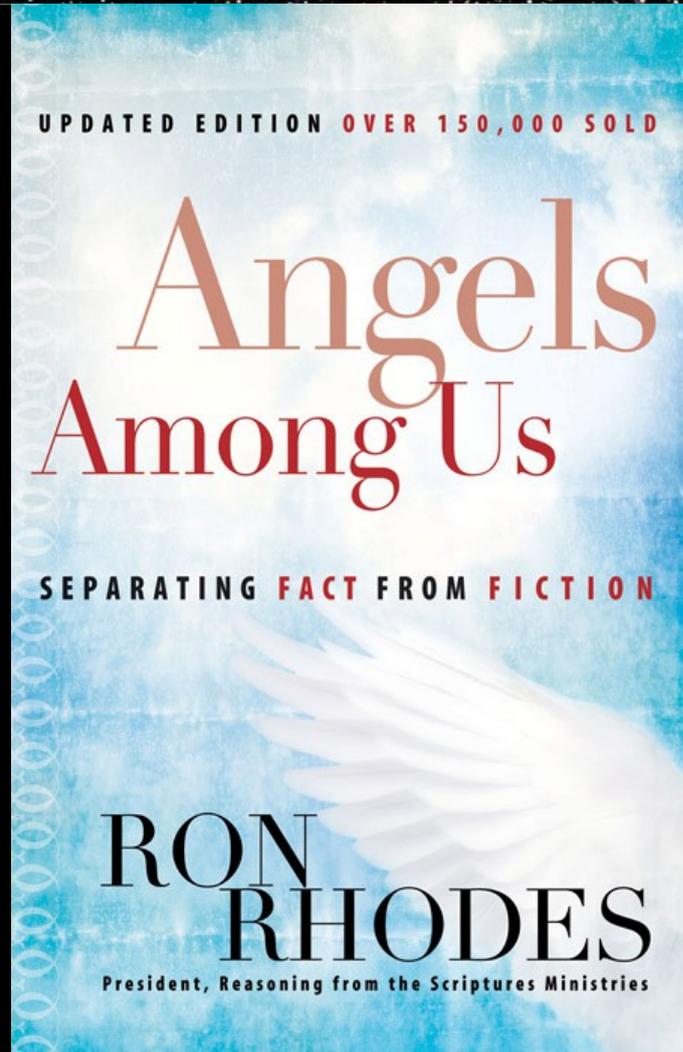
Angels



“Angels on Assignment”

- Published 1979
- Dangerous for me
- Non-biblical (?)
- Available free online
- Not recommended

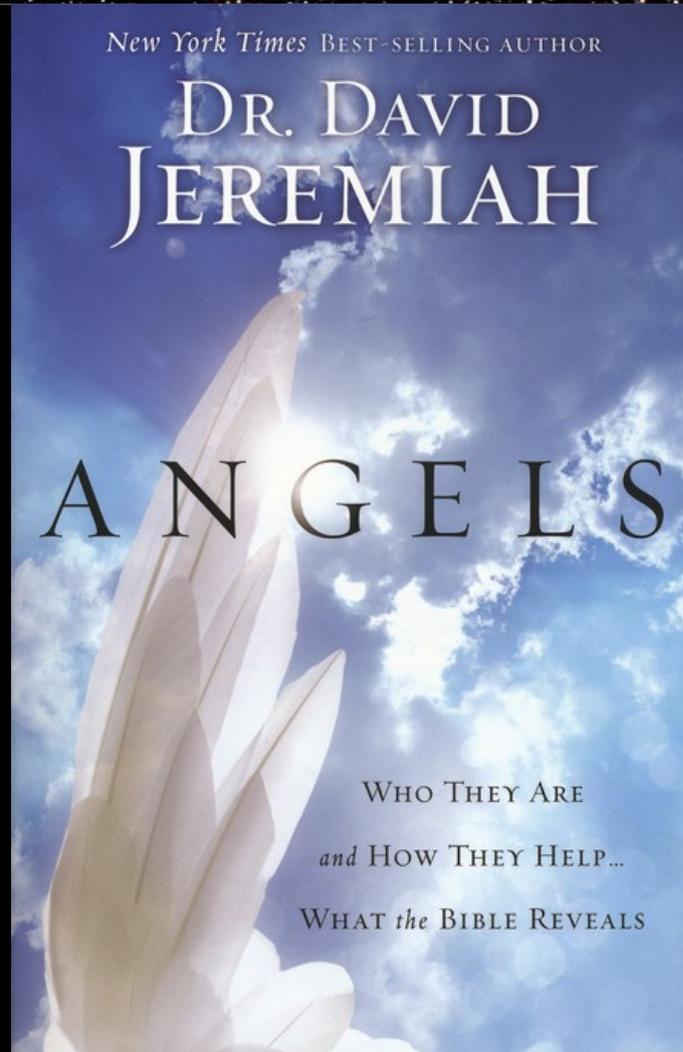
Angels



“Angels Among Us”

- Published 2008
- Good warnings
- I have read parts of it

Angels



“Angels”

- Published 2009
- Biblical (?)
- High ratings
- I have not read it

Angels

How many times does the Bible mention 'angels'?

Angels

How many times does the Bible mention 'angels'?

- The Bible mentions angels about *200* times in at least *34* books out of the 66 total (!)

Angels

How important a part have angels played in God's history?

Angels

How important a part have angels played in God's history?

- Watched the Earth being created
- Present at Garden of Eden
- Comforted Hagar in the wilderness
- Talked and ate with Abraham
- Wrestled with Jacob
- Called Moses and led the Israelites
- Commissioned Gideon
- Executed judgement on David's sin

Angels

How important a part have angels played in God's history?

- Watched by Ezekiel
- Protected Daniel in the lions' den
- Prophesied for Daniel including date of Messiah
- Predicted and announced Jesus' birth
- Cared for Jesus after his 40 day temptation
- Strengthened Jesus in Garden of Gethsemane
- Informed the women of the Resurrection
- Explained the Assension and Return of Jesus

Angels

How important a part have angels played in God's history?

- Released the apostles from prison
- Gave missionary orders to Philip
- Instructed gentile Cornelius to contact Peter
- Promised safety to Paul in storm at sea
- Gave messages to 7 churches of Revelation
- Execute judgement on the Earth
- Gather all believers to start our new Life
- Guard the gates of the New Jerusalem

Angels

What are some terms used in the Bible for angels?

Angels

What are some terms used in the Bible for angels?

- Angels: Hebrew *mal`ach*, Greek *angelos* (“messenger”)
- Holy Ones: Hebrew *kodoshim*
- Ministers/Servants: Hebrew *mishrathim*, Greek *leitourgos*
- Host: Hebrew *tsaba*, Greek *stratia* (“army”)
- Chariots: Hebrew *rekeb*
- Watchers: Aramaic *iyar*
- Sons of God: Hebrew *ben elohim* (or just *elohim*!)
- Stars: Hebrew *kowkab*, Greek *aster*

Angels

Who are the only named angels in the Bible?

Angels

Who are the only named angels in the Bible?

- Michael: From the Hebrew name מִיכָאֵל (Mikha'el) meaning "who is like God?"
 - The only 'arch' angel mentioned
 - Also called the 'great prince' in Daniel
- Gabriel: From the Hebrew name גַּבְרִיאֵל (Gavri'el) meaning "strong man of God"

Angels

- *And the man said to me, “Daniel, you are very precious to God, so listen carefully to what I have to say to you. Stand up, for I have been sent to you.” When he said this to me, I stood up, still trembling. Then he said, “Don’t be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer. But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia. Now I am here to explain what will happen to your people in the future, for this vision concerns a time yet to come.”*

[Daniel 10:11-14]

- *Then there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels. [Revelation 12:7]*

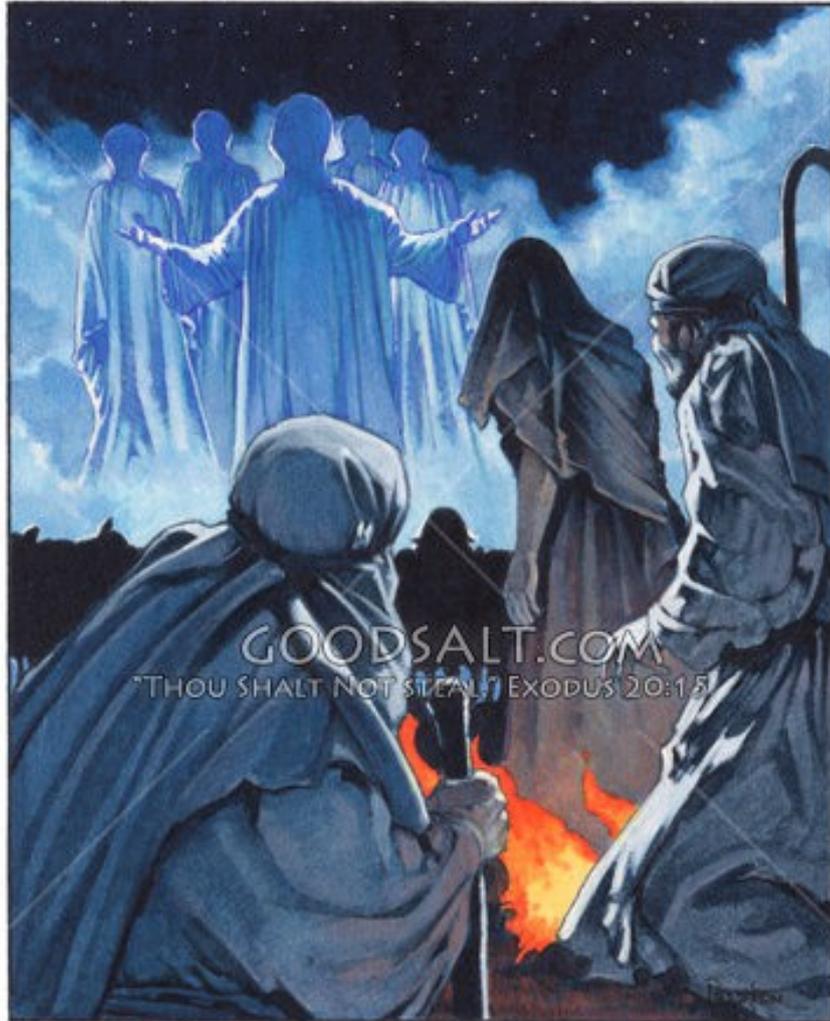
Angels

- *And I heard a human voice calling out from the Ulai River, “Gabriel, tell this man the meaning of his vision.” As Gabriel approached the place where I was standing, I became so terrified that I fell with my face to the ground. “Son of man,” he said, “you must understand that the events you have seen in your vision relate to the time of the end.” While he was speaking, I fainted and lay there with my face to the ground. But Gabriel roused me with a touch and helped me to my feet. [Daniel 8:16-18]*
- *In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said, “Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!” Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. [Luke 1:26-29]*

Angels

What types of angels does the Bible mention?

Angels



Angels

- Hebrew *mal'ach*, and Greek *angelos*
- Both words mean “messenger” and describe one who executes the purpose and will of the one whom they serve
- Appear to be human: no wings!

Angels

Angels

- *Therefore, angels are only servants—spirits sent to care for people who will inherit salvation.*

[Hebrews 1:14]



Angels

Cherubim

- Assyrian *kirubu*, from *karâbu*, "to be near", hence it means near ones
- Beings of the highest order or class, created with indescribable powers and beauty
- Do *not* look human
- Described as having wings
- Guardians of God's holiness



Angels



Cherubim

- *After sending them out, the Lord God stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the Garden of Eden. And he placed a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.*

[Genesis 3:24]

Angels

Cherubim

- *“Then make the Ark’s cover—the place of atonement—from pure gold. It must be 45 inches long and 27 inches wide. Then make two cherubim from hammered gold, and place them on the two ends of the atonement cover. Mold the cherubim on each end of the atonement cover, making it all of one piece of gold.*



[Exodus 25:17-19]

Angels

Cherubim



- *From the center of the cloud came four living beings that looked human, except that each had four faces and four wings. Their legs were straight, and their feet had hooves like those of a calf and shone like burnished bronze. Under each of their four wings I could see human hands. So each of the four beings had four faces and four wings. The wings of each living being touched the wings of the beings beside it.*

[Ezekiel 1:5-8]

Angels

Cherubim



- *In the center and around the throne were four living beings, each covered with eyes, front and back. The first of these living beings was like a lion; the second was like an ox; the third had a human face; and the fourth was like an eagle in flight. Each of these living beings had six wings, and their wings were covered all over with eyes, inside and out.*

[Revelation 4:6-8]

Angels

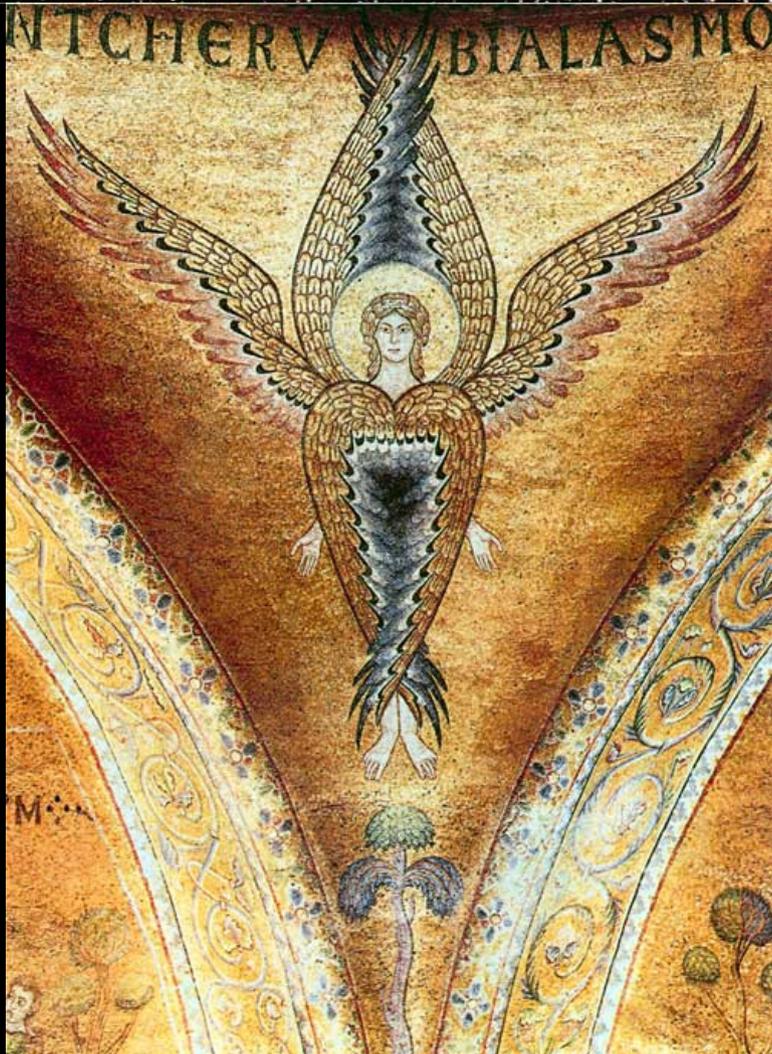
Cherubim

- *Day after day and night after night they keep on saying, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty—the one who always was, who is, and who is still to come.”*

[Revelation 4:8]



Angels



Seraphim

- Hebrew *burning ones*
- Do *not* look human
- Described as having 6 wings
- Attendants at the throne of God and agents of cleansing.
- Duty is to praise God

Angels



Seraphim

- *Attending him were mighty seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew.*

[Isaiah 4:2]

Angels

Seraphim

- *They were calling out to each other,*

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Heaven’s Armies! The whole earth is filled with his glory!”

[Isaiah 6:3]



Angels

How many angels exist?

Angels

How many angels exist?

- *Don't you realize that I could ask my Father for thousands of angels to protect us, and he would send them instantly? [Matthew 26:53]*
- *No, you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to countless thousands of angels in a joyful gathering. [Hebrews 12:22]*
- *Enoch, who lived in the seventh generation after Adam, prophesied about these people. He said, "Listen! The Lord is coming with countless thousands of his holy ones to execute judgment on the people of the world. [Jude 1:14,15]*
- *Then I looked again, and I heard the voices of thousands and millions of angels around the throne and of the living beings and the elders. [Revelation 5:11]*

Angels

What characteristics do angels have?

Angels

What characteristics do angels have?

- They were created in a state of holiness – now nonviolable
- They are immortal spirit beings – but still creatures
- There are a fixed number of them – they do not procreate
- They have personalities – intellect, emotion, and will
- They are individuals – no two are alike
- They have knowledge greater than us – but limited
- They have abilities and strength greater than us – but limited

Angels

What roles do angels play for believers?

Angels

What roles do angels play for believers?

- Revealing God's will and work
- Guiding and directing
- Providing physical needs
- Protecting from physical danger
- Delivering from physical harm
- Strengthening and encouraging
- Agents in answering prayer

Angels

What roles do angels play for believers?

- Directly for us:

In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God's angels when even one sinner repents." [Luke 15:10]

Finally, the poor man died and was carried by the angels to be with Abraham. [Luke 16:22]

Then everyone will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds with great power and glory. And he will send out his angels to gather his chosen ones from all over the world—from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven. [Mark 16:26-27]

Angels

What roles do angels play for believers?

- Watching us:

We have become a spectacle to the entire world—to people and angels alike. [1 Corinthians 4:9]

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. [Hebrews 1:12]

Angels

Angels

- Ministry to us is *external*
- Ministry to us is *Physical*
- Ministers *for* us

Holy Spirit

- Ministry to us is *internal*
- Ministry to us is *spiritual*
- Ministers *in* us

Angels

What will be our relationship to angels in Eternity?

Angels

What will be our relationship to angels in Eternity?

“What are mere mortals that you should think about them, or a son of man that you should care for him? Yet you made them only a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. You gave them authority over all things.” [Hebrews 2:6-8]

Don't you realize that we will judge angels? So you should surely be able to resolve ordinary disputes in this life. [1 Corinthians 6:3]

Angels

What is the right approach toward angels?

Angels

What is the right approach toward angels?

- *Respect and awe* of their marvelous personalities, constitution, and powers
- *Appreciation* of their ministry to us; they are much more involved in our earthly welfare than we may dare think
- *Admiration* of their incessant worship, unswerving allegiance, and their urgent obedience challenge to us

Angels

What is the wrong approach toward angels?

Angels

What is the wrong approach toward angels?

- The worship of angels

I, John, am the one who heard and saw all these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me. But he said, "No, don't worship me. I am a servant of God, just like you and your brothers the prophets, as well as all who obey what is written in this book. Worship only God!"

[Revelation 22:8-9]

Angels

What is the wrong approach toward angels?

- The deception of false angels

You happily put up with whatever anyone tells you, even if they preach a different Jesus than the one we preach, or a different kind of Spirit than the one you received, or a different kind of gospel than the one you believed...But I am not surprised! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

[2 Corinthians 11:4,14]

Angels

What is the wrong approach toward angels?

- Skepticism of angels

Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!

[Hebrews 13:2]

Angels

How can we recognize true angels of God?

Angels

How can we recognize true angels of God?

- The ministry of holy angels will *never contradict* the Bible
- The actions of holy angels will *always be consistent* with the character of Christ
- A genuine encounter with a holy angel will *glorify God, not the angel*

Angels

EXTRA **BONUS** SLIDES



Angels



Angel of Jehovah (the LORD)

- “*Angel of Jehovah*” occurs 65 times in the OT
- “*Angel of God*” occurs 12 times in the OT
- Who is he?

Angels

Angel of Jehovah (Angel of the Lord)

- Who is he?

One day Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian. He led the flock far into the wilderness and came to Sinai, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the middle of a bush. Moses stared in amazement. Though the bush was engulfed in flames, it didn't burn up. "This is amazing," Moses said to himself. "Why isn't that bush burning up? I must go see it." When the Lord saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, "Moses! Moses!" "Here I am!" Moses replied. "Do not come any closer," the Lord warned. "Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground. I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." When Moses heard this, he covered his face because he was afraid to look at God. [Exodus 3:1-6]

Angels

Angel of Jehovah (Angel of the Lord)

- Who is he?

Answer: Possibly Jesus! In other words, a '*Christophany*'

Angels

Do we have guardian angels?

Angels

Do we have guardian angels?

- *If you make the Lord your refuge, if you make the Most High your shelter, no evil will conquer you; no plague will come near your home. For he will order his angels to protect you wherever you go. They will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone. You will trample upon lions and cobras; you will crush fierce lions and serpents under your feet! [Psalm 91:9-13]*
- *“Beware that you don't look down on any of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels are always in the presence of my heavenly Father. [Matthew 18:10]*
- *Therefore, angels are only servants—spirits sent to care for people who will inherit salvation. [Hebrews 1:14]*

Angels

Do we have guardian angels?

- *The night before Peter was to be placed on trial, he was asleep, fastened with two chains between two soldiers. Others stood guard at the prison gate. Suddenly, there was a bright light in the cell, and an angel of the Lord stood before Peter. The angel struck him on the side to awaken him and said, "Quick! Get up!" And the chains fell off his wrists. Then the angel told him, "Get dressed and put on your sandals." And he did. "Now put on your coat and follow me," the angel ordered. So Peter left the cell, following the angel. But all the time he thought it was a vision. He didn't realize it was actually happening. They passed the first and second guard posts and came to the iron gate leading to the city, and this opened for them all by itself. So they passed through and started walking down the street, and then the angel suddenly left him. Peter finally came to his senses. "It's really true!" he said. "The Lord has sent his angel and saved me from Herod and from what the Jewish leaders had planned to do to me!"*

Angels

Do we have guardian angels?

- *When he realized this, he went to the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark, where many were gathered for prayer. He knocked at the door in the gate, and a servant girl named Rhoda came to open it. When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed that, instead of opening the door, she ran back inside and told everyone, "Peter is standing at the door!" "You're out of your mind!" they said. When she insisted, they decided, "It must be his angel." Meanwhile, Peter continued knocking. When they finally opened the door and saw him, they were amazed. He motioned for them to quiet down and told them how the Lord had led him out of prison. "Tell James and the other brothers what happened," he said.*

[Acts 12:12-16]

Angels



Angels

EXTRA **BONUS** ILLUSTRATIONS



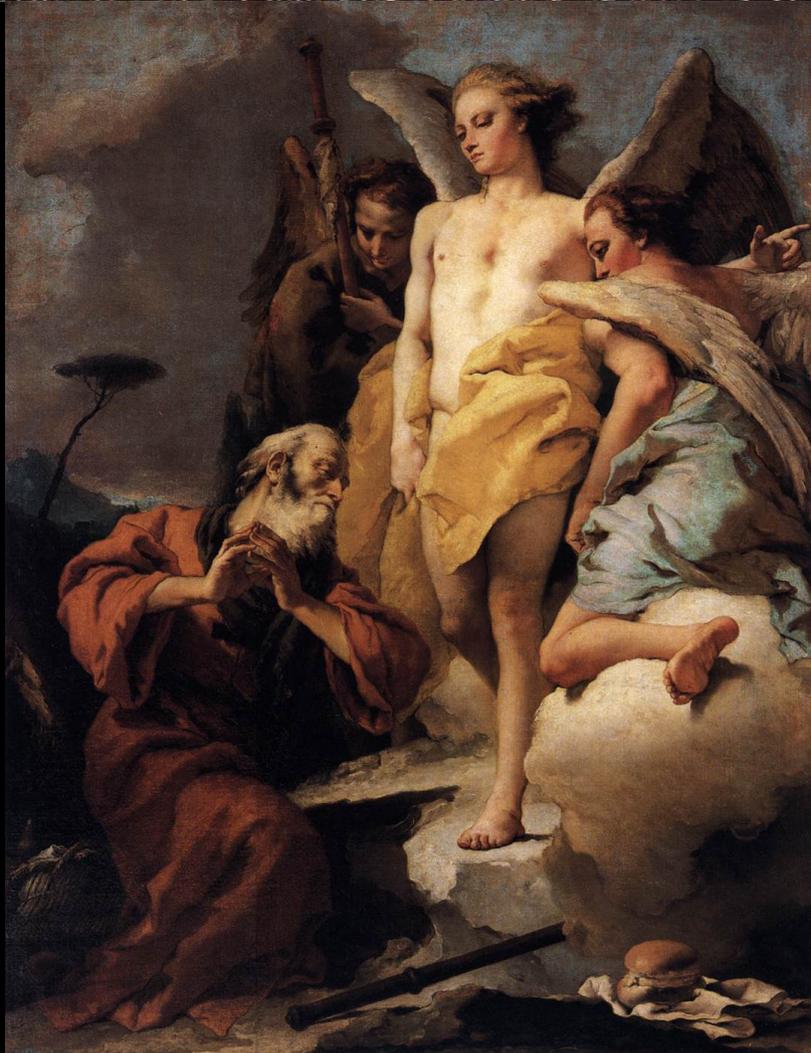
Angels

Here are some beautiful (but not necessarily accurate) depictions of angels...

Angels



Angels



Angels



Angels



Angels



Angels



Angels



Angels



Angels



Angels



Angels



Angels



Angels



Angels



Angels

Here are some silly and totally un-biblical depictions of angels...

Angels

*Angel of God
My guardian dear,
To whom God's love
Commits me here,
Ever this day
Be at my side,
To light and guide me
Through the night.*



Angels



Angels



Angels



Angels

The End

PASSED BY THE NATIONAL BOARD OF REVIEW

Angels

