

The Bulletin

Meeks Street Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834
Phone – (662) 808-7777

Visit Our Website at:
MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com

February 11, 2024

“14 Biblical Facts About Angels” Pt. 2

By Wayne Grudem

For centuries, artists have portrayed angels as beautiful humans with wings and glowing light, complete with halos, harps, and flowing white gowns (or perfectly sculpted bodies). But is that really what angels look like? Angels have inspired all sorts of imaginative stories and depictions, but what's left when we separate fact from fiction? In order to know the truth, we have to ask, what does the Bible say about angels?

8. Angels do not marry.

Jesus taught that in the resurrection people "neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven" (*Matthew 22:30, see also Luke 20:34–36*). This clearly suggests that angels don't marry. No other passages address relationships between angels, so anything beyond this is simply speculation.

9. Angels are very powerful.

Angels are called "*mighty ones who do his word*" (Psalm 103:20), "*powers*" (see Ephesians 1:21), and "*dominions*" and "*authorities*" (Colossians 1:16).

They are certainly "*greater in might and power*" than humans (2 Peter 2:11, see also Matthew 28:2). Angels use their power to battle against Satan's demonic forces (Daniel 10:13, Revelation 12:7–8, 20:1–3).

During our earthly lives, we're "*lower than the angels*" (Hebrews 2:7). But as powerful as angels are, when Jesus returns, followers of Christ will be raised higher than them (1 Corinthians 6:3).

10. We don't know when angels were created.

Genesis 2:1 tells us that the angels were made at some point before the seventh day of creation: "*Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them*" ("host" here refers to the heavenly beings).

Exodus 20:11 is even more explicit: "*In six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day.*" We can at least confirm that all the angels were created by the sixth day of creation.

But can we be any more specific? There may be a hint at the creation of angelic beings on the first day of creation, when we read that "*in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth*" (Genesis 1:1), immediately followed by, "*the earth was without form and void*" (Genesis 1:2). There's no mention of the heavens in this second verse. This may be intended to contrast the emptiness of the earth is with the heavens, where God already created angelic beings.

This idea could be supported by Job, where we read that "*the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy*" when God laid the "cornerstone" of the earth and sunk its "bases" (Job 38:6–7). If the angels ("the sons of God") shouted for joy when God was forming the earth, this could imply that God created the angelic beings early on the first day. However, this is only speculation.

11. Angels are examples for us.

Angels show us what perfect obedience looks like. Jesus teaches us to pray, "*Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven*" (Matthew 6:10), and in heaven God's will is done by angels, immediately, joyfully, and without question. Their delight is to

be God's humble servants, faithfully performing their assigned tasks, great or small. Our desire and prayer should be that we will do the same.

Angels also model worship. John sees around God's throne a great angelic army, "*numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, 'Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!'*" (Revelation 5:11–12).

If the angels find it their highest joy to praise God continuously, shouldn't we, too?

12. Angels carry out some of God's plans.

There are numerous ways in which angels carry out God's plans on earth:

- * They frequently bring God's messages to people (Luke 1:11–19, Acts 8:26, 10:3–8, 22, 27:23–24).
- * They carry out some of God's judgments, bringing a plague upon Israel (2 Samuel 24:16–17), smiting the leaders of the Assyrian army (2 Chronicles 32:21), striking King Herod dead because he did not give God glory (Acts 12:23), or pouring out bowls of God's wrath on the earth (Revelation 16:1).
- * When Christ returns, angels will come with him as a great army accompanying their King and Lord (Matthew 16:27, Luke 9:26, 2 Thessalonians 1:7).
- * They patrol the earth as God's representatives (Zechariah 1:10–11).
- * They carry out war against demonic forces (Daniel 10:13; Revelation 12:7–8).
- * John records that an angel "seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, and threw him into the pit . ." (Revelation 20:1–3).
- * When Christ returns, an archangel will proclaim his coming (1 Thessalonians 4:16, see also Revelation 18:1–2, 21, 19:17–18, and other passages).

13. Angels directly glorify God.

Humans aren't the only intelligent, moral creatures who glorify God. The Psalmist declares: "*Angels glorify God for who he is in himself, for his excellence. Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, hearkening to the voice of his word!*" (Psalm 103:20, see also 148:2).

The seraphim continually praise God for his holiness (Isaiah 6:2–3), and so do the four living creatures (Revelation 4:8). Angels also glorify God as they witness his plan unfold. When Christ was born in Bethlehem, a multitude of angels praised God and said, "*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!*" (Luke 2:14, see also Hebrews 1:6). Jesus tells us, "*There is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents*" (Luke 15:10), indicating that angels rejoice when someone turns from sin and trusts in Christ.

Peter tells us that "*angels long to look*" (1 Peter 1:12) into the glories of the plan of salvation as it works out in the lives of believers each day. To emphasize the seriousness of particular commands, Paul reminds us that our actions are carried out in the presence of angelic witnesses: "*In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you to keep these rules without favor, doing nothing from partiality*" (1 Timothy 5:21, see also 1 Corinthians 4:9). If Timothy follows Paul's instructions, angels will witness his obedience and glorify God. If he neglects to obey, angels will also see and be grieved.

14. Angels are not to be worshipped.

"*Worship of angels*" was one of the false doctrines being taught at Colossae (Colossians 2:18). In the book of Revelation, an angel warns John not to worship him: "*You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God*" (Revelation 19:10).

We shouldn't pray to angels, either. God is able to answer prayer. Paul warns us against thinking that any other "mediator" can come between us and God, "*for there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus*" (1 Timothy 2:5). If we were to pray to angels, it would implicitly give them a status equal to God. There are no examples in Scripture of anyone praying to an angel or asking angels for help.

Moreover, Scripture gives us no warrant to seek appearances of angels. They manifest themselves unsought. To seek such appearances would seem to indicate an unhealthy curiosity or a desire for some kind of spectacular event rather than a love for God and devotion to him and his work. Though angels did appear to people at various times in Scripture, the people apparently never sought those appearances. Our role is rather to talk to the Lord, who is himself the commander of all angelic forces. However, it would not seem wrong to ask God to fulfill his promise in Psalm 91:11 to send angels to protect us in times of need.

Much of what we see or hear about angels in culture is based on speculation, non-biblical sources, or just plain fantasy. The Bible has a lot to say about them—so much so, in fact, that it can be hard to say which of the things we hear about angels are rooted in Scripture.

Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Nathan Cox, Sandra Oliver, Chad Harris, Eli Johnson, Burt Ward, Jamie Jones, Mary Ann Holley, LuAnne Parrish, Robert Howard, Billy Grisham, and Fred Johnson.

Debbie Johnson will have surgery Monday.

Our Gospel

Meeting With Stacy Crim is scheduled for April 21st—24th.
(Sunday to Wednesday)

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Tim Harris Sr.
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: *“Jesus Sets Us Free From Self-Prisons”*

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Fred Johnson
1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon
Author: Herschel Patton
Starting Page & Question: *Page #35, Question #4*

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Russell Briggs
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Blake Briggs
Scripture Reading: *John.5:39-42*
Song Leader: Lee Busby
Lord’s Supper: Paul Johnson
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: *“How Do We Have the Love Of God Within Us”*
Closing Prayer: Danny Sheffield

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

February 14, 2024

Auditorium Bible Class: Russell Briggs
Workbook: The Book Of Daniel
Author: By Daniel H. King
Starting Page & Question: *Page #17, Question #6*
Invitation: Jerry Kennemur
Song Leader: Brian Meade
Closing Prayer: Nathan Meade

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Meeks Street Church of Christ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qIfBtw?view_as=subscriber

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“Jesus Sets Us Free From Self-Prisons”

Lesson Text: **Luke 4:16-21. (Verse 18).**

I. The Shame And Lingering Guilt Of Our Sins.

- **Romans 7:23-24; Galatians 1:13.**
- **Proverbs 28:1; 21:21; Romans 8:1.**
- **Luke 7:36-50; John 8:36.**

II. The Walls Of Isolation In Hate.

- **Titus 3:3 (NASB)**, “...spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.”
- The Pharisees Hated Those Considered Sinners; Jews Hated Samaritans/Gentiles.
 - **Luke 15; Luke 7:39; John 4:9.**
- There Are Many People Filled With Hate For Just About Everything!
 - Hatred Of: Jews; Muslims; Blacks; Whites; Indians; Chinese; Japanese; LGBTQ Persons...
- All Hate Does Is Build Walls To Keep We Don't Like Away From Us!
- Jesus Is The Savior Of All... **1 Timothy 2:4.** The Gospel Tears Down The Walls Of Hate!
- When We Show True Love For All Humanity— **1 John 4:7-8.**

III. The Strongholds Of Addiction.

- **2 Corinthians 10:4-5.**
- **Titus 3:3 (NASB)**, “enslaved to various lusts and pleasures,”
- We Can Become Enslaved To Addictions:
 - Drugs And Alcohol. - Gambling. - Pornography.
 - Shopping. - Video Games. - Plastic Surgery. - Eating.
- **1 Corinthians 6:12-14.** AA Suggest A Higher Power To Help.... Jesus Is The Help!
- **Philippians 4:13.**

IV. The Pointless Fear Of Superstitions.

- **1 Timothy 4:6-7 (NASB; ESV).**
- **Acts 28:3-6.** Today, People Speak Of Karma, Reincarnation, & Other Superstitions...
- Jesus Frees Us From The Fear Of What Is Not Truth.... **John 8:31-32.**

V. The Inferiority Of Self-Doubt/Self-Worth.

- Self-Doubt: lack of confidence in oneself and one's abilities.
- Can Be Because Of Sin, Feelings Of Unworthiness, Lack Of Ability...
- **1 Corinthians 15:9; Exodus 3:11-14; 4:10-12.**
- Jesus Can Help Us Overcome... **1 John 5:4-5; 1 John 3:2.**

“How Do We Have The Love Of God Within Us?”

Lesson Text: **John 5:39-42.**

I. It Is A Choice That We Make Based On Who God Is.

- The More We Learn About God, The More We Should Love And Appreciate Him! **Psalm 113.**
- God Is A God Of Love, Compassion, Mercy, Forgiveness, Long-suffering, Goodness.....
– **Psalm 86:1-17.**
- Evidence That These Jews Hadn't Known The Love Of God- **Matthew 23:23; Luke 11:42.**

Notes: _____

II. It Is A Choice To Love His Ways.

- **1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22.**
- It Is A Choice We Make Based On Who We Want To Be!
- **John 3:19-21** Those Who Love Deceit, False Ways, Error, Hypocrisy, Worldliness, Darkness...
- **Psalm 25:4-10; Psalm 40:16.**

Notes: _____

III. It Is Shown By Our Hatred For Sin.

- **Psalm 97:10.**
- **Psalm 101:3; 119:104; 119:163; Proverbs 8:13.**
- God Had To Remind His People- **Amos 5:15.**
- **Romans 12:9.**

Notes: _____

IV. It Is Demonstrated In Us By Our Actions And Deeds.

- When We Follow The Foremost Commandment- **Mark 12:28-30 (NASB; ESV).**
- **Deuteronomy 7:5-13; 10:12.**
- **John 14:21-24; 1 John 5:2-3.**
- **John 8:42-45.**

Notes: _____

V. It Must Be Maintained By Faithfulness.

- **Jude 20-21.**
- Faithful In Purity And Being Unspotted From The World **2 Peter 3:14.**
- Faithful In Worship And Praise To God! **Hebrews 13:15; Hebrews 2:12.**

Notes: _____
