

The Truth About God's Messengers

10

Questions and
Answers on

Angels



- ♦ Should we look to angels for guidance?
- ♦ Will we become angels?
- ♦ Do we each have a guardian angel?

ROSE
PUBLISHING

ANGELS: *Why the Fascination?*

It seems as though angels are everywhere! They're in bestselling books, top-rated TV shows, blockbuster movies, and even documentaries. The captivating, winged beings we see in stores and on the screen seem magical and clever, warm and whimsical, always willing to put up with human mistakes and help solve problems. They rescue people from crises and occasionally warn us to do what's right.

Hungry Hearts

It's a fact: The human heart longs for a gentle touch from a supernatural being—for forgiveness, guidance, and understanding. Many cultures have a long tradition of stories that feature noble genies, fairies, and gods. This yearning to have someone or something powerful on our side points to a truth made powerfully clear in the Bible: More exists than we can fully grasp with our five senses.

The Inside Story

This pamphlet will guide us through much of what Scripture discloses about angels—their origins, activities, and sometimes terrifying might. These amazing teachings are no secret; they've been in God's Word for thousands of years, and they're our sole reliable source about who angels really are and what they do.

The Other Side

While it's fun to think of angels as all warmth and light, the Bible warns us that many angels are evil, and they've deliberately chosen to reject God and goodness. What makes them especially dangerous is their use of appealing

disguises to mislead people. The following pages reveal the differences between good angels and fallen angels—and underscore the reality that God's love and power are stronger than any angel could ever be.

Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

HEBREWS 1:14

Praise the Lord, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word.

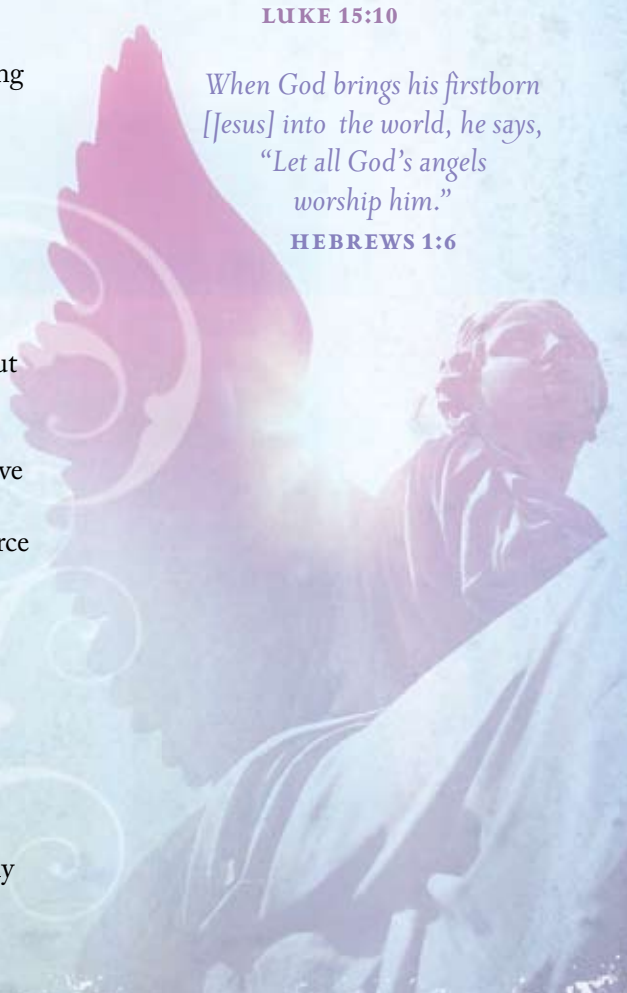
PSALM 103:20

There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

LUKE 15:10

When God brings his firstborn [Jesus] into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

HEBREWS 1:6



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Q: Should we look to angels for spiritual guidance?

Many people say...

Angels have lots to tell us about God and life. Angel enthusiasts today claim that we should look to angels to tell us about ourselves, about God, heaven, and how we should live. Books have been published with titles like *Ask Your Angels*, *Messages from Your Angels*, and *Answers from the Angels*. Those who look to angels for guidance sometimes call them “spirit guides.”

Sylvia Browne, a popular New Age psychic, claims that her spirit guide, named Francine, has told her all sorts of things about religion, including that Jesus didn't rise from the dead because he didn't actually die on the cross.¹



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You should also know....

Seeking communication from angels risks opening a door to demonic influence. Since God's angels generally don't respond to efforts to initiate conversations with them, if any spiritual entity does reply, it's likely not to be from God. Receiving messages from spirits may sound exciting, but it's deceptive, since such “voices” aren't what they claim to be.

The Bible says...

Angels don't ordinarily communicate with human beings. In fact, no one in the Bible ever pursues communication with angels, or recommends seeking to hear from angels. When an angel appears to people in the Bible, it always comes as a total surprise to them. The most common opening words of an angel to a human are “Fear not” or “Do not be afraid” (Genesis 21:17; Matthew 28:5; Luke 1:13, 30; 2:10).

Unfortunately, not all angels or spiritual beings are on God's side. There are uncounted evil spirits—demons—who are the Devil's fallen angels (Matthew 25:41). You can't believe everything you hear from angelic beings any more than you can believe everything you hear from other people. Nor does the devil wear a bright red lapel pin with the name “Satan.” He disguises himself as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14).

Scripture is the means by which God conveys his truth to all of his people, the standard by which we should test all religious claims (Matthew 22:29; Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 3:16). When God's angels speak to human beings, they don't contradict the Bible. The apostle Paul warns Christians not to accept another gospel, even if it seems to come from an angel in heaven (Galatians 1:6–9).

Some angel communication methods overtly involve the occult. New Age author Doreen Virtue has created “The Angel Guidance Board” with dice and “angel markers” to help you receive messages from angels, including answers to your questions.² Using objects this way is exactly what occult practices are: Employing physical devices in rituals to obtain hidden information or alter reality through supernatural means, especially by communication with spirits. God strongly rejects and forbids such practices (Deuteronomy 18:10–12).

2: Do angels have bodies?

Many people say...

Angels are physical beings. A lot of people today think that angels have physical bodies and look similar to humans. Others describe them not only as physical in appearance, but often overtly male or female. One author describes a particular angel as having “the face and form of a beautiful woman wearing a flowing white robe trimmed in gold.”³ Another author tells about a woman who saw an angel that “looked like a clean-cut, boy-next-door football player ... only larger and very muscular.”⁴ “Apostolic-prophetic” minister Steven Brooks claims, “Just as the human race includes male and female, so does the angelic race include male and female.”⁵

The Bible says...

Angels are spirits—that is, they’re beings who don’t have bodies. Hebrews 1:7 (quoting Psalm 104:4) compares angels to wind and fire—bodiless, non-solid forces. Even more tellingly, the capacity of demonic spirits to inhabit the bodies of humans (Matthew 12:43–45; Luke 11:24–26) is evidence that spirits don’t have bodies of their own.

The Bible gives no support to the idea that angels literally have male and female forms. The fact that Scripture never describes angels as female or feminine suggests that the masculine language used of angels is actually generic (or genderless). In fact, the Bible rarely gives any description of angels other than their typical appearance in bright light.

TERMS FOR HEAVENLY BEINGS

BIBLE TERM	DEFINITION
Spirits	General term for supernatural beings without bodies.
Angels (“Messengers”)	Spirits sent as messengers or agents from God; evil or fallen angels serve the Devil. Not often described; sometimes appear in white robes or as bright light.
Cherubim (Singular: Cherub)	Heavenly winged beings that fiercely guard the tree of life, the ark of the covenant, the temple, and the heavenly throne room.
Seraphim (“Burning One”)	Heavenly winged guards in God’s throne room.
Archangels (“Chief Princes”)	Chief or ruling angels. Michael is the only archangel named in Scripture.
Thrones, powers, rulers, authorities, dominions	Spiritual beings that rule—typically for evil—over human affairs.

You should also know....

The Bible does report that angels visited Abraham and Lot and ate food with them (Genesis 18:8; 19:1–3). Some ancient Jewish interpreters, such as Philo of Alexandria and Josephus, thought that the angels only seemed to eat the food.⁶

Modern interpreters usually conclude that angels are capable of taking on a bodily form temporarily, during which time they can really eat food. Both explanations are consistent with the historic Jewish and Christian belief that angels are beings without bodies.