

## Angels

### A biblical picture of what happens when they visit

D E Wasake Esq.

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#### This message covers

- The bible revelation about angels and their role.
- Understanding the mysterious “Angel of the Lord”
- What happens when angels visit
- Answers to some questions you are asking: *Do we have guardian angels? what is the difference between demons and fallen angels? what are the names of angels? Was Satan the angel of music? How many angels are there?*

#### Information notice board

- 1) **About me.** Before I became a devoted Christian, angels were just a mild amusement, not a ministry message! Since God humbled me to turn me into his servant and I got baptized in May 2017, he has now overhauled my life to run after Him to live by the Holy Spirit rather than the Flesh. You can read my full testimony [here](#).
- 2) **About these series.** This is supplementary material to a series based on a word which came to me from the Lord Jesus. The word is “Blossom” which defines a series of 12 topics he has given me to tell his church about and build Christian character in his Holy Spirit. This article is also sermon notes for videos on the topic. The videos for these series are here: <https://www.shaweleroad.com/blossom>
- 3) **Pray for us!** Without the Lord, our effort is in vain. Pray that we remain faithful, humble servants.
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### Part 1: Basics

King Jesus must have known that I and many others enjoy this topic of angels, so he recently told me in a dream that while focussing on the core message of this blossom season: **“Do not forget angelic visitations.”**

Angelic beings are mentioned at least 273 times in 34 books of the Bible<sup>i</sup> and so this seems such an important subject for us to cover – particularly in these times where deceptions are increasing, Christians need to understand the hope of their salvation and particularly Angels who are partners with us in bringing about the Kingdom of our God and His Christ.

You see this topic has interested me for a long time, so much that some time back, whilst at home, I tried to introduce God’s awesome power to the children: Faith 13, Hannah 9 and Emmanuel, 6. I thereafter read them this account of the throne of God:



*There in heaven was a throne with someone sitting on it. His face gleamed like such precious stones as jasper and carnelian, and all around the throne there was a rainbow the color of an emerald. In a circle around the throne were twenty-four other thrones, on which were seated twenty-four elders dressed in white and wearing crowns of gold.*

*From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings, and peals of thunder. In front of the throne seven lighted torches were burning, which are the seven spirits of God. Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.*

*Surrounding the throne on each of its sides, were four living creatures covered with eyes in front and behind. The first one looked like a lion; the second looked like a bull; the third had a face like a human face; and the fourth looked like an eagle in flight. Each one of the four living creatures had six wings, and they were covered with eyes, inside and out. Day and night they never stop singing:*

*“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,  
who was, who is, and who is to come.”*

*Revelation 4: 2-8 (GNT)*

I was feeling pleased that the children could see God in all his majesty when I read them the passage above, but you can imagine my shock when for them, all they could think about was:

1. How “Scary” it is that there are creatures with 4 heads!
2. How boring it will be for us when we get to heaven and just like the angels, all we say is “Holy Holy, Holy” forever and ever and do nothing else!

Most of us adults probably think the same – angels have no free will and they are FORCED to serve God.

What we might not know is that angels have always had free will - you truly cannot love someone unless you are free – to choose them or reject them. This is the same with angels and some of them rebelled against!

1. **The angel Lucifer had free will** – and he chose to exercise it by sinning when he chose to be consumed with pride and EVEN convinced **one 3<sup>rd</sup> of the angels to also exercise their free will** in following him in rebellion against God. Michael, a chief Prince and his Holy angels then exercised their free will by choosing loyalty to God, fighting against the devil and kicking him out of heaven. The bible says:

*Then there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels. And the dragon lost the battle, and he and his angels were forced out of heaven. This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels. Revelation 12: 7-9 (NLT).*

This was the first rebellion of angels against God. The second is this:

2. **The watcher angels had free will.**

*When human beings began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, **the sons of God** saw that the daughters of humans were beautiful, and they*

*married any of them they chose. Then the Lord said, "My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal; their days will be a hundred and twenty years." The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of humans and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown.*

*Genesis 6: 1- 4 (NIV).*

There being more than one rebellion is something I had never pondered until my friend Noah of break through highlighted it in an amazing series his church is doing on this topic of angels.

How is this a different rebellion from Lucifer's? In Genesis 3, when the serpent tempted eve to eat the forbidden fruit, Lucifer was already Satan and he had fallen with his angels by this time as described in Revelation 12. This second account of rebellion of the angels (sons of God), is however not often clearly recognized by many but it takes place many hundreds of years later after Adam and Eve – it was at the time before Noah's flood.

In this case, the angels of God exercised free will by leaving their station and choosing to be consumed by lust – hence sleeping with human women – thus producing the Nephilim - giant offspring of angels and women. These are the heroes of old.

Some people will argue that the "sons of God" here means "fallen angels" but the point is this this - what the rebellion or rebellions of angels gives us is the first glimpse of angels – all angels had free will from their creation. Some chose to exercise their free will in rebellion and others exercised their free will by remaining Holy and pure in the presence of God.

The angels who remain loyal and faithful to God, are what some call the "elect" angels<sup>ii</sup>, they continue like us, the redeemed saints of God, to exercise free will and so it probably must mean that their free will is comparable to the psalmist who said this:

*Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked. Psalms 84: 10 (NIV).*

It must mean that like us the elect of God, these Living creatures **of their free will** love God so much that they want to serve him by singing day and night – and as they behold his glory as it is revealed to them, they cannot help but cry out "Holy, Holy, Holy".

What my children didn't realise is these are the cries of free beings!

Having shown that angels indeed have free will, let us now speak more about the Angels.

N.B: By default, when I say "Angels", I will mean Holy Angels, unless stated otherwise.

## Part 2: The Role of angels (examples from the bible)

Do angels have hierarchies? Probably. Some say the hierarchy and classes is<sup>iii</sup>:

- Cherubim – known for their beauty and power (Genesis 3: 24, Ezekiel 1: 5-28)
- Seraphim – who perform priestly roles (Isaiah 6: 1-7)
- Living creatures – who worship God (Revelation 4: 6)
- Arch angels or Chief Princes – like Michael (Daniel 10: 13, 21, Jude 9, Revelation 12: 7-9) and perhaps Gabriel (Luke 1: 19, 26).

- Unspecified angels (Matthew 1: 20-29; 2: 13-19; 28: 2-5).
- Guardian angels (Psalms 91: 12)
- Ministering angels (1 Kings 19: 5-7)
- Death/avenging angels (Genesis 19: 1-29, Exodus 12: 23, Revelation 6: 8).

The categories are probably important but as for the hierarchies, I pray that we do not get fixated on rank and greatness for does it really matter in the upside-down world of God's kingdom? The Lord Jesus taught us to pray that is on earth "as it is in heaven". He then gave us a critical lesson:

*"The greatest among you will be your servant." Matthew 23: 11 (NIV).*

Let's now explore some of their roles using examples from the bible.

### 1. Guardians or Soldiers

- "Therefore the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. So He drove out the man and stationed **cherubim** on the east side of the Garden of Eden, along with **a whirling sword of flame to guard** the way to the tree of life. Genesis 3: 24 ((BSB). "
- The donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your own donkey, which you have always ridden, to this day? Have I been in the habit of doing this to you?" "No," he said. Then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw **the angel of the Lord** standing in the road with **his sword drawn**. So he bowed low and fell facedown. Numbers 22: 30 – 31 (NIV).
- God will put his angels in charge of you **to protect you wherever you go**. They will hold you up with their hands to keep you from hurting your feet on the stones. Psalms 91: 11 – 12 (GNT).
- When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early in the morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. So he asked Elisha, "Oh, my master, what are we to do?" "Do not be afraid," Elisha answered, "**for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.**" Then Elisha prayed, "O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see." And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and **he saw that the hills were full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha**. 2 Kings 6: 15 – 17 (BSB).
- Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him up, saying, "**Get up quickly.**" And the **chains fell off his wrists**. "Get dressed and put on your sandals," said the angel. Peter did so, and the angel told him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." So Peter followed him out, but he was unaware that what the angel was doing was real. He thought he was only seeing a vision. They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city, which opened for them by itself. When they had gone outside and walked the length of one block, the angel suddenly left him. Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I know for sure that the Lord has sent His angel and rescued me from Herod's grasp and from everything the Jewish people were anticipating." Acts 12: 7-11 (BSB).

The first time we meet an angelic being in the bible, in Genesis, they are guardians (cherubim) in a war that had begun before the creation of the world. Throughout the accounts above, we see the Lord sending angels to intervene – in a war that is taking place both physically and spiritually! The war is fierce judging by the number of times these SOLIDERS appear, but these accounts gives us comfort that those for us are greater than those against us.

And the bible summarises this further by showing us that we like the angels with their swords, we also have weapons but our weapons like those of our brothers the prophets are spiritual and not physical:

*The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 2 Corinthians 10: 4 (NIV).*

These spiritual weapons are – the helmet of salvation, the breastplate of righteousness, the belt of truth, feet with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace, the shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God and praying in the Spirit on all occasions with all sorts of prayers. Ephesians 6: 11 – 18 (NIV).

## 2. Destroyers.

- So the LORD sent a plague upon Israel that morning, and it lasted for three days. A total of 70,000 people died throughout the nation, from Dan in the north to Beersheba in the south. But as the angel was preparing to destroy Jerusalem, the LORD relented and said to the death angel, “Stop! That is enough!” At that moment the angel of the LORD was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. When David saw the angel, he said to the LORD, “I am the one who has sinned and done wrong! But these people are as innocent as sheep—what have they done? Let your anger fall against me and my family.” 2 Samuel 24: 15 – 17 (NLT).

We are reminded that while God is a God of love, he is also a God of wrath and can destroy us for sin. He himself declared when his glory passed in front of Moses:

*And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children’s children to the third and the fourth generation.” Genesis 34: 6-7 (NKJV).*

## 3. Bearers of good news.

- “A man of God appeared to me! He looked like one of God’s angels, **terrifying to see**. I didn’t ask where he was from, and he didn’t tell me his name. But he told me, ‘You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must not drink wine or any other alcoholic drink nor eat any forbidden food. For your son will be dedicated to God as a Nazirite from the moment of his birth until the day of his death.’” Then Manoah asked the angel of the LORD, “What is your name? For when all this comes true, we want to honor you.”

“Why do you ask my name?” the angel of the LORD replied. “It is too wonderful for you to understand.”

Then Manoah took a young goat and a grain offering and offered it on a rock as a sacrifice to the LORD. And as Manoah and his wife watched, the LORD did an amazing thing. As the flames from the altar shot up toward the sky, the angel of the LORD ascended in the fire. When Manoah and his wife saw this, they fell with their faces to the ground. The angel did not appear again to Manoah and his wife. Manoah finally realized it was the angel of the LORD, and he said to his wife, “We will certainly die, for we have seen God!” But his wife said, “If the LORD were going to kill us, he wouldn’t have accepted our burnt offering and grain offering. He wouldn’t have appeared to us and told us this wonderful thing and done these miracles.”

Judges 13: 6-7, 17-23 (NLT).

- Shepherds were in the fields near Bethlehem. They were taking turns watching their flock during the night. An angel from the Lord suddenly appeared to them. The glory of the Lord filled the area with light, and **they were terrified**. The angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid! I have good news for you, a message that will fill everyone with joy. Today your Savior, Christ the Lord, was born in David’s city. Luke 2: 8 – 11 (GW).

We like them have a message; it is the good news of the gospel and the bible says:

*How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"*  
Isaiah 52: 7 (NIV).

#### 4. **Worshippers of God.**

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another:

*“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;  
the whole earth is full of his glory.”*

At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.” Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.” Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

Isaiah 6: 1- 8 (NIV).

And I am John, who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had shown me these things. But he said to me, “Do not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God!” Revelation 22: 8 – 9. BSB.

Just like our fellow servants the Seraphim, we are called to worship God. Just like our fellow servants the angels, no one else is to be worshipped but God, however dazzling!

To worship something is to love it. You see the first commandment given to the children of Israel is this:

*Worship no god but me. Exodus 20: 3 (GNT).*

But do you notice that when Jesus was asked the greatest commandment, he said this:

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” This is the first and greatest commandment. Matthew 22: 37 (BSB).*

Jesus was giving us a revelation: True love and true worship are the same.

The Seraphim worship God and never stop because they LOVE HIM! We likewise demonstrate our love for God, by worshiping him. May it be on the earth, as it is in heaven! Amen!

### *Wrapping up angel roles*

It seems then we have one common goal with the angels: bring about the kingdom of our God and his Christ.

- Whether in war or peace;
- Whether on the mountains or in the valleys;
- In heaven and on earth.

... and any angel or man not doing this and preaching another gospel- let him be accursed (Galatians 1: 8 (BSB)).

## Part 3: Meet the angel of the Lord

So one of the challenges that Jews (and Muslims) have with Jesus being the “Son of God” – hence equating himself with God is that according to them, GOD is One! The Jews have a prayer called the “Shema” and it is based on this bible passage:

*Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord. Deuteronomy 6: 4 (KJV).*

And to back this up, they can point to a clear case from the bible: that you cannot see God, otherwise you will die. This is one of the scriptures to prove this:

*Then Moses said, “Please show me Your glory.” “I will cause all My goodness to pass before you,” the LORD replied, “and I will proclaim My name—the LORD—in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” But He added, “You cannot see My face, for no one can see Me and live.” Exodus 33: 18 – 20 (BSB).*

So, the dilemma for the Jews is this then, what do you do with all the instances where “the Angel of the Lord” is appearing, and speaks so to say, as if he is God himself. Here are some exhibits:

### Example 1: Manoa (father of Samson)

Then Manoaah asked the angel of the LORD, “What is your name? For when all this comes true, we want to honor you.”

“Why do you ask my name?” the angel of the LORD replied. “It is too wonderful for you to understand.”

Then Manoah took a young goat and a grain offering and offered it on a rock as a sacrifice to the LORD. And as Manoah and his wife watched, the LORD did an amazing thing. As the flames from the altar shot up toward the sky, the angel of the LORD ascended in the fire. When Manoah and his wife saw this, they fell with their faces to the ground.

The angel did not appear again to Manoah and his wife. Manoah finally realized it was the angel of the LORD, and he said to his wife, “We will certainly die, for we have seen God!”

We see an interchange between “Angel of the Lord” and “THE LORD”. By the way, in the English bible, any time you see capital letters, “THE LORD”, this meant the name of God as told to Moses: YHWH.

So in essence what we are seeing here is an interchange of “the Angel of the Lord” and “YHWH”.

#### Example 2: The Lord visits Abraham

The LORD appeared to Abraham near the large trees of Mamre. Abraham was sitting at the entrance to his tent. It was the hottest time of the day. Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. So he quickly left the entrance to his tent to greet them. He bowed low to the ground. Genesis 18: 1-2 (NIRV).

#### Example 3: God and Hagar

Then the angel of the Lord told her, “Go back to your mistress and submit to her.” The angel added, “I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count.” She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: “You are the God who sees me,” for she said, “I have now seen the One who sees me.” Genesis 16: 9-10, 13.

So someone reading the bible and particularly the Old Testament would come to one of two conclusions: If God says you cannot see my face, you will die. Is he a liar or is there more than one God? why did Manoah and wife see his face and live? Why did Abraham see the LORD (YHWH) as clearly shown? Why did Hagar know that it was God who spoke to her?

The early Christians such as John and Paul reading the Old Testament and seeing Jesus must have concluded that God does indeed have an exact representation of him, such that anyone who sees this representation, just KNOWS that is the same as GOD.

It is therefore no wonder when Jesus says:

*Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. John 14: 9 (NIV).*

And:

*Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.” John 8: 48 – 59 (NKJV).*

The writer of Hebrews says:

*The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of His nature, upholding all things by His powerful word. Hebrews 1: 3(BSB).*

It means Jews (and Muslims) ought to know that there is compelling evidence in scripture for God having a “face” or “physical representation” and so to speak there is more than one God who in the Old Testament, revealed himself as “the Angel of the Lord”.



## Part 4: So, what happens when angels visit?

We have covered a lot of ground on angels and their interactions with man. So what happens during Angel visitations? We see some of the following in the bible and the stories highlighted previously:

- Fear/terror comes upon us e. g Manoa's wife (Judges 13: 6-7) and the Angels to the Shepherds (Luke 2: 8-11)
- We become acutely aware of our sin e.g. Isaiah (Isaiah 6).
- We could feel like worshiping them - but the Lord's angels refuse this and point to God instead (Revelation 22: 8 – 9. BSB)
- Strengthening or assurance follow – “be not afraid” (Luke 2: 8-11). “See this has touched your lips, your sins are forgiven” (Isaiah 6).
- They might not have wings – so they could look like us – as in case of Manoah (Judges 13) and Abraham (Genesis 18).
- Better be careful! These are also soldiers! David encountered a death Angel who had destroyed 70,000! (2 Samuel 24: 15 – 17 (NLT)) and Balaam was saved by his donkey. He was almost destroyed by the Angel of the Lord (Numbers 22: 30 – 31 (NIV)).
- The message they speak is consistent with God's word or earlier revelation.

## Part 5: Answers to common questions we have

By now I hope I have covered many of the questions both Christians and non-Christians are asking but let me address some specific ones here.

### 1. What exactly is the role of angels?

Angels appear to perform different roles, in relation to us human being and this could include protection, bringing good news, destruction et al. The overarching role however is as “ministering spirits”. The bible says:

*Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?  
Hebrews 1: 14 (KJV)*

Their primary role is to minister for believers – heirs of salvation and when they visit, it will be primarily for this purpose. Taking this further if we humans are given different “ministries” or “gifts” as the bible shows:

*We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. Romans 12: 6-8.*

It must follow that angels likewise have different “ministries” as God gives.

### 2. Who is the Angel of the Lord?

Christians believe that the references in the Old Testament to “the Angel of the Lord” is a Theophany – a physical representation of God and this physical representation is Jesus. The basis of this being that in many cases shown, the use “the Angel of the Lord” language was used interchangeably with THE LORD (capital letters) which is an English translation of the ancient Hebrew name of God: YHWH.

### 3. What type of angel was Lucifer? Was he the “angel of music?”

There are primarily two scriptures in the bible which help Christians build a picture of Lucifer, his role and what led to his fall. These are summarised below:

*How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! You said in your heart, I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’ Isaiah 14: 12 – 14 (ESV).*

*You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you. Ezekiel 28: 14 – 15 (ESV).*

The bible passages above show that Lucifer was a “morning star” or “day star” and a guardian cherub, indicating a position of beauty and authority. He however fell due to pride – he wanted to become God (likely on account of his beauty and status). The bible does not therefore explicitly say that Lucifer was the “angel of music” but from various heavenly accounts we see worship of God involving music, so it is a possibility, but the bible does not explicitly address this.

### 4. Did Lucifer refuse to worship man, hence his fall?

The bible does not say this. What it says about man’s creation from heaven’s perspective is this:

*Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone—while the morning stars sang together and all the angels a shouted for joy? Job 38: 4-7.*

References to this question are likely to come from works of fiction like John Milton’s poem, *Paradise Lost*.<sup>iv</sup>

### 5. What names of angels are mentioned in the bible?

The bible mentions the names of only four angels These are:

#### Holy Angels

- Michael (Daniel 10: 13 – 21, Jude 1: 9, Revelation 12: 7-9)
- Gabriel ([Daniel](#) 8:15–26, 9:21–27, Luke 1: 10-20 and Luke 1: 26-38)

#### Fallen angels

- Lucifer/Satan. The name “Lucifer” means “morning star” (Isaiah 12 1)
- Abaddon in Hebrew and Apollyon in Greek (revelation 9: 11).

Apocrypha books such as “the Book of Enoch” and “Tobit”, which are not recognised as bible canon in the reformation tradition but accepted by Catholics mention in addition to the four above, other angels such as: Raphael and Phanuel (or Paniel).

## 6. What categories of angels/role are in the bible? Are they rankings?

Michael is called one of the “chief princes” (Daniel 10: 13). This indicates there are “chief princes” or “arch angels”. Other scripture supports this, for example:

*For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 1 Thessalonians 4: 16*

The bible doesn't for example explicitly identify Gabriel as an “arch angel” and neither does it tell us whether the other heavenly beings like “Guardian cherubs”, “living creatures” and “seraphim” are indeed angels and where they fall in the ranking of angels. Again, what is most important to remember is that hierarchy in heaven is the opposite of what we typically know it as in today's world. In Heaven:

*“The greatest among you will be your servant.” Matthew 23: 11 (NIV).*

## 7. How many angels are there?

The bible frequently calls angels “stars” (for example revelation 12:4) and several bible references show that the stars cannot be counted – for example:

*“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, NLT).*

*“Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders” (Revelation 5:11).*

Considering the above passages and knowing what we know about the “billions upon billions” of stars in the universe, it seems therefore that the angels cannot be counted and are in billions upon billions – as the stars.

## 8. Do we have guardian angels?

Here are some 2 bible references to help in answering this:

*“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.” Matthew 18: 10*

*When she recognized Peter's voice, because of her gladness she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter stood before the gate. But they said to her, “You are beside yourself!” Yet she kept insisting that it was so. So they said, “It is his angel.” Acts 12: 14 – 15 (NKJV).*

Scripture does show that the angels protect those who worship God but it doesn't specifically address whether non-believers have “guardian angels” and whether each of us have an angel individually assigned to us as a “guardian angel”. It however seems very plausible based on the above passages.

## 9. Do we become angels when we die?

At the present time the angels are greater than we are, because God made us “a little lower than the heavenly beings” (Psalm 8:5).

But the Bible also says that in heaven we will be higher than the angels—and the reason is because we will be like Christ. The Bible says, “Do you not know that we will judge angels?” (1 Corinthians 6:3).<sup>v</sup>

The confusion is likely from something Jesus said about the resurrection:

*At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven” (Matthew 22:29-30).*

We will therefore be like the angels in some aspects, in this case, not marry, but we will not become angels.

## 10. Who are the nephilim?

the Nephilim is a bible term that has been translated as “giant” these were the offspring of angels and women. These were the heroes of old. The bible passage describing them is below:

*When human beings began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, **the sons of God** saw that the daughters of humans were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. Then the Lord said, “My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal; their days will be a hundred and twenty years.” The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of humans and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown. Genesis 6: 1- 4 (NIV).*

## 11. Is there a difference between demons and fallen angels?

As a good article explains<sup>vi</sup>, there are a few things to consider:

- a. We know that hell was created for Satan and his angels (Matthew 25: 41).
- b. Some reject the idea that the demons are the fallen angels due to the fact that Jude verse 6 declares the angels who sinned to be "bound with everlasting chains." However, it is clear that not all of the angels who sinned are "bound," as Satan is still free (1 Peter 5:8). Why would God imprison the rest of the fallen angels, but allow the leader of the rebellion to remain free? It seems that Jude verse 6 is referring to God confining the fallen angels who rebelled in an additional way, likely the "sons of God" incident in Genesis chapter 6.
- c. These people therefore conclude that: the origin of the demons is that when the Nephilim of Genesis 6 were destroyed in the Flood, their disembodied souls became the demons – hence they always need a body to inhabit.
- d. They further add that by comparison, fallen angels are those who fell with Satan in the original rebellion and so these are separate from demons.

In summary, there is a possibility that there are two categories – demons and fallen angels. The bible however in many places uses the two terms interchangeably and doesn't clearly delineate the difference between the two. Perhaps it is not so important, they will end in the same place – hell.

## 12. What kind of powers do angels have?

From all the various places we have read so far, we can see some examples as:

1. They can appear and disappear (e.g Numbers 22: 30 – 31 (NIV)
2. They can pass through fire (e. g Judges 13: 6-7, 17-23 (NLT).

3. They have great strength – killing in one instance 70,000 and in another 185,000 in one night (2 Kings 19: 35). In both these instances, by the way it seems this was “the angel of the Lord”.
4. They can make physical things fall off (e.g chains) or open (e.g gates) - Acts 12: 7-11.

The most important power so to speak however should be the fact that the Holy Angels, who are in their billions upon billions are loyal to our Great God and his Christ and they are actively fighting for us, their fellow brothers – the heirs of Salvation. Hallelujah!

## Further resources

Got questions.org has some further questions on angels that you can explore:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/hierarchy-of-angels.html>  
<https://www.gotquestions.org/how-many-angels-are-there.html>  
<https://www.gotquestions.org/angels-male-female.html>  
<https://www.gotquestions.org/fallen-angels.html>  
<https://www.gotquestions.org/types-of-angels.html>  
<https://www.gotquestions.org/angels-appear.html>  
<https://www.gotquestions.org/judge-angels.html>

## Notes

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- <sup>i</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/how-many-angels-are-there.html>
  - <sup>ii</sup> [https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don\\_stewart/don\\_stewart\\_32.cfm](https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don_stewart/don_stewart_32.cfm)
  - <sup>iii</sup> Spirit matters: understanding your position in prayer, Yvonne Waithera Musyimi, Stone House Publishers, 2017
  - <sup>iv</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paradise\\_Lost](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paradise_Lost)
  - <sup>v</sup> <https://billygraham.org/answer/do-we-become-angels-when-we-die-and-go-to-heaven/>
  - <sup>vi</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/fallen-angels.html>