

ANGELS

and Other Celestial Beings

HEBREW

messenger

-or-

if context demands

angel

מַלְאָךְ

mal-äk'

“

THEN JACOB SENT **MESSENGERS** [HEB. MALAK]
BEFORE HIM TO ESAU HIS BROTHER IN THE LAND OF
SEIR, THE COUNTRY OF EDOM.

”

Genesis 32:3 NKJV

“

NOW THE **ANGEL** [HEB. MALAK] OF THE LORD
FOUND [HAGAR] BY A SPRING OF WATER IN THE
WILDERNESS, BY THE SPRING ON THE WAY TO SHUR.

”

Genesis 16:7 NKJV

GREEK

messenger

-or-

if context demands

angel

ἄγγελος

än'-ge-los

“

WHEN THE **MESSENGERS** [GR. AGGELOS] OF JOHN
HAD DEPARTED, [JESUS] BEGAN TO SPEAK TO THE
MULTITUDES CONCERNING JOHN ...

”

Luke 7:24 NKJV

“

BUT WHILE [JOSEPH] THOUGHT ABOUT THESE THINGS, BEHOLD, AN **ANGEL** [GR. AGGELOS] OF THE LORD APPEARED TO HIM IN A DREAM ...

”

Matthew 1:20 NKJV

ABOUT ANGELS

- Form
- Role
- Character

FORM

- None at all (Gen 21:17; 22:11)

“

THEN THE **ANGEL OF GOD CALLED** TO HAGAR **OUT OF HEAVEN**, AND SAID TO HER ...

”

Genesis 21:17 NKJV

“

BUT THE **ANGEL OF THE LORD CALLED** TO HIM **FROM HEAVEN** AND SAID, “ABRAHAM, ABRAHAM!” ...

”

Genesis 22:11 NKJV

“

NOW THE **DONKEY SAW THE ANGEL** OF THE
LORD STANDING IN THE WAY WITH HIS DRAWN
SWORD IN HIS HAND, AND THE DONKEY TURNED
ASIDE OUT OF THE WAY ...

”

Numbers 22:23 NKJV

“

THEN THE LORD OPENED BALAAM'S EYES, AND **HE SAW THE ANGEL** OF THE LORD STANDING IN THE WAY WITH HIS DRAWN SWORD IN HIS HAND ...

”

Numbers 22:31 NKJV

FORM

- None at all (Gen 21:17; 22:11)
- Seen by some, not by others (Num 22:22–35)

FORM

- A man

“

SO [ABRAHAM] LIFTED HIS EYES AND LOOKED, AND
BEHOLD, **THREE MEN** WERE STANDING BY HIM ...
19:1 NOW THE **TWO ANGELS** CAME TO SODOM IN
THE EVENING ...

”

Genesis 18:2; 19:1 NKJV

FORM

- A man
 - Nothing striking (Gen 18:2; 19:1)
 - Awesome countenance (Judges 13:3, 6)

“

AND THE **ANGEL OF THE LORD** APPEARED TO
[MANOAH'S WIFE]⁶ SO THE WOMAN CAME
AND TOLD HER HUSBAND, SAYING, “A MAN OF
GOD CAME TO ME, AND HIS **COUNTENANCE** WAS
LIKE THE COUNTENANCE OF THE ANGEL OF GOD,
VERY AWESOME ...”

”

Judges 13:3, 6 NKJV

“

AND BEHOLD, AN **ANGEL OF THE LORD** STOOD
BEFORE [THE SHEPHERDS IN THE FIELD], AND THE
GLORY OF THE LORD SHONE AROUND THEM, AND
THEY WERE GREATLY AFRAID.

”

Luke 2:9 NKJV

FORM

- A man
 - Nothing striking (Gen 18:2; 19:1)
 - Awesome countenance (Judges 13:3, 6)
 - Shine with God's glory (Luke 2:9; Acts 12:7)
 - White clothing (Matt 28:2, 3)

“

... **AN ANGEL OF THE LORD** DESCENDED FROM
HEAVEN³ HIS COUNTENANCE WAS LIKE
LIGHTNING, AND HIS **CLOTHING AS WHITE AS
SNOW.**

”

Matthew 28:2, 3 NKJV

FORM

- Fantastic
 - Burning bush (Ex 3)

“

AND THE **ANGEL OF THE LORD** APPEARED TO
[MOSES] IN **A FLAME OF FIRE FROM THE MIDST OF A
BUSH.**

”

Exodus 3:2 NKJV

“

AND **THE LORD** WENT BEFORE THEM BY DAY IN A
PILLAR OF CLOUD TO LEAD THE WAY, AND BY
NIGHT IN A **PILLAR OF FIRE** TO GIVE THEM LIGHT, SO
AS TO GO BY DAY AND NIGHT.

”

Exodus 13:21 NKJV

“

AND **THE ANGEL OF GOD**, WHO WENT BEFORE THE
CAMP OF ISRAEL, MOVED AND WENT BEHIND
THEM; AND THE **PILLAR OF CLOUD** WENT FROM
BEFORE THEM AND STOOD BEHIND THEM.

”

Exodus 14:19 NKJV

FORM

- Fantastic
 - Burning bush (Ex 3)
 - Pillar of cloud & fire (Ex 13:21; 14:19)
 - Clothed in cloud, rainbow, etc. (Rev 10:1, 2)

“

I SAW STILL ANOTHER **MIGHTY ANGEL** COMING
DOWN FROM HEAVEN, **CLOTHED WITH A CLOUD.**
AND **A RAINBOW WAS ON HIS HEAD,** HIS FACE
WAS LIKE THE SUN, AND HIS **FEET LIKE PILLARS OF**
FIRE.

”

Revelation 10:1 NKJV

“

[GOD] MAKES **HIS ANGELS SPIRITS,**
HIS MINISTERS A FLAME OF FIRE.

”

Psalms 104:4 NKJV

FORM

- Fantastic
 - Burning bush (Ex 3)
 - Pillar of cloud & fire (Ex 13:21; 14:19)
 - Clothed in cloud, rainbow, etc. (Rev 10:1, 2)
- Spirit beings (Psalm 104:4)

FORM

- Make appearances ...
 - In a dream/vision (Matt 1:20; 2:13; Acts 10:3)

“

BUT WHILE [JOSEPH] THOUGHT ABOUT THESE
THINGS, BEHOLD, **AN ANGEL OF THE LORD**
APPEARED TO HIM IN A DREAM ...

”

Matthew 1:20 NKJV

“

ABOUT THE NINTH HOUR OF THE DAY HE SAW
CLEARLY **IN A VISION AN ANGEL OF GOD**
COMING IN AND SAYING TO HIM, “CORNELIUS!”

”

Acts 10:3 NKJV

“

THEN AN **ANGEL OF THE LORD** APPEARED TO
[ZACHARIAS], **STANDING ON THE RIGHT** SIDE OF
THE ALTAR OF INCENSE.

”

Luke 1:11 NKJV

FORM

- Make appearances ...
 - In a dream/vision (Matt 1:20; 2:13; Acts 10:3)
 - In person, out of nowhere (Luke 1:11; 2:9)
- Inspired fear (Luke 1:11, 12; 2:9; Acts 10:3, 4)

“

AND BEHOLD, AN **ANGEL OF THE LORD** STOOD
BEFORE [THE SHEPHERDS IN THE FIELD], AND THE
GLORY OF THE LORD SHONE AROUND THEM, AND
THEY WERE GREATLY AFRAID.

”

Luke 2:9 NKJV

“

ABOUT THE NINTH HOUR OF THE DAY HE SAW
CLEARLY **IN A VISION AN ANGEL OF GOD**
COMING IN AND SAYING TO HIM, “CORNELIUS!”
⁴ AND WHEN HE OBSERVED HIM, **HE WAS AFRAID**,
AND SAID, “WHAT IS IT, LORD?”

”

Acts 10:3, 4 NKJV

FORM

- Innumerable (Heb 12:22)

“

BUT YOU HAVE COME TO MOUNT ZION AND TO
THE CITY OF THE LIVING GOD, THE HEAVENLY
JERUSALEM, TO **AN INNUMERABLE COMPANY OF
ANGELS ...**

”

Hebrews 12:22 NKJV

“

AND [ABRAHAM] TOOK BUTTER, AND MILK, AND
THE CALF WHICH HE HAD DRESSED, AND
SET *IT* BEFORE THEM; AND HE STOOD BY THEM
UNDER THE TREE, AND **THEY DID EAT.**

”

Genesis 18:8 NKJV

FORM

- Innumerable (Heb 12:22)
- Ate food (Gen 18:8) or not (Jdg 13:16)

“

AND THE **ANGEL OF THE LORD** SAID TO MANOAH,
“THOUGH YOU DETAIN ME, **I WILL NOT EAT YOUR
FOOD.**”

”

Judges 13:16 NKJV

“

THOUGH I SPEAK WITH THE **TONGUES** OF MEN AND
OF ANGELS ...

”

I Corinthians 13:1 NKJV

FORM

- Innumerable (Heb 12:22)
- Ate food (Gen 18:8) or not (Jdg 13:16)
- Speak their own language? (1 Cor 13:1)
- Have names (Jude 6; Lk 1:19; Dan 8:16; 9:21)

“

AND **THE ANGEL ANSWERED** AND SAID TO HIM, “**I AM GABRIEL**, WHO STANDS IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD ...”

”

Luke 1:19 NKJV

“

BUT THOSE WHO ARE COUNTED WORTHY TO
ATTAIN THAT AGE, AND THE RESURRECTION FROM
THE DEAD, **NEITHER MARRY NOR ARE GIVEN IN
MARRIAGE;** ³⁶ **NOR CAN THEY DIE ANYMORE,** FOR
THEY ARE **EQUAL TO THE ANGELS ...**

”

Luke 20:35, 36 NKJV

FORM

- Do not marry (Luke 20:35, 36)
- Immortal (Luke 20:35, 36)
- Not omniscient (Matt 24:36; 1 Pet 1:12)

“

BUT OF THAT DAY AND HOUR NO ONE KNOWS,
NOT EVEN THE ANGELS OF HEAVEN, BUT MY FATHER
ONLY.

”

Matthew 24:36 NKJV

ROLE

- Messengers (Dan 8:16ff; Matt 2:13)

“

AND I HEARD A MAN'S VOICE BETWEEN *THE BANKS*
OF THE ULAI, WHO CALLED, AND SAID, “**GABRIEL,**
MAKE THIS MAN UNDERSTAND THE VISION.”

”

Daniel 8:16 NKJV

“

NOW WHEN THEY HAD DEPARTED, BEHOLD, **AN ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARED TO JOSEPH IN A DREAM, SAYING**, “ARISE, TAKE THE YOUNG CHILD AND HIS MOTHER, FLEE TO EGYPT, AND STAY THERE UNTIL I BRING YOU WORD; FOR HEROD WILL SEEK THE YOUNG CHILD TO DESTROY HIM.”

”

Matthew 2:13 NKJV

“

“FOR WE WILL DESTROY THIS PLACE, BECAUSE THE
OUTCRY AGAINST THEM HAS GROWN GREAT
BEFORE THE FACE OF THE LORD, AND **THE LORD**
HAS SENT US TO DESTROY IT.”

”

Genesis 19:13 NKJV

“

AND IT CAME TO PASS ON A CERTAIN NIGHT THAT
THE ANGEL OF THE LORD WENT OUT, AND **KILLED IN
THE CAMP OF THE ASSYRIANS ONE HUNDRED AND
EIGHTY-FIVE THOUSAND**; AND WHEN PEOPLE
AROSE EARLY IN THE MORNING, THERE WERE THE
CORPSES—ALL DEAD.

”

II Kings 19:35 NKJV

ROLE

- Messengers (Dan 8:16ff; Matt 2:13)
- Punishers of the wicked
(Gen 19:13; 2 Ki 19:35; Rev 7–10; 16)
- Protectors of the faithful
(Acts 5:19, 20; Dan 3:28; Ps 91:9, 11, 12)

“

NEBUCHADNEZZAR SPOKE, SAYING, “BLESSED BE THE GOD OF SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABED-NEGO, WHO SENT **HIS ANGEL** AND **DELIVERED HIS SERVANTS** WHO TRUSTED IN HIM ...”

”

Daniel 3:28 NKJV

“

BECAUSE YOU HAVE MADE THE LORD ... YOUR
DWELLING PLACE ... ¹¹ **HE SHALL GIVE HIS ANGELS
CHARGE OVER YOU**, TO KEEP YOU IN ALL YOUR
WAYS. ¹² IN THEIR HANDS THEY SHALL BEAR YOU UP,
LEST YOU DASH YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.

”

Psalms 91:9, 11, 12 NKJV

“

“THE SON OF MAN WILL SEND OUT **HIS ANGELS**,
AND THEY WILL **GATHER OUT OF HIS KINGDOM** ALL
THINGS THAT OFFEND, AND THOSE WHO
PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS, ⁴² AND WILL **CAST THEM**
INTO THE FURNACE OF FIRE.”

”

Matthew 13:41, 42 NKJV

ROLE

- Administrators of judgment (Matt 13:41, 42)
- Less than God & Jesus (Ps 148:2; Heb 1:4, 6)

“

PRAISE [THE LORD], ALL HIS ANGELS;
PRAISE HIM, ALL HIS HOSTS!

”

Psalms 148:2 NKJV

“

... [JESUS] HAS BY INHERITANCE OBTAINED A **MORE EXCELLENT NAME THAN [THE ANGELS]**. ... ⁶ BUT WHEN HE AGAIN BRINGS THE **FIRSTBORN** INTO THE WORLD, HE SAYS: “LET **ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM.**”

”

Hebrews 1:4, 6 NKJV (quoting Psalm 97:7)

“

... [FALSE TEACHERS] ARE PRESUMPTUOUS, SELF-WILLED ... NOT AFRAID TO SPEAK EVIL OF DIGNITARIES, ¹¹ WHEREAS **ANGELS**, WHO ARE **GREATER IN POWER AND MIGHT**, DO NOT BRING A REVILING ACCUSATION AGAINST THEM BEFORE THE LORD.

”

II Peter 2:10, 11 NKJV

ROLE

- Administrators of judgment (Matt 13:41, 42)
- Less than God & Jesus (Ps 148:2; Heb 1:4, 6)
- Greater than man (2 Pet 2:10, 11)
- Not to be worshipped, fellow servants of God (Col 2:18; Rev 22:8, 9)

“

... I FELL DOWN TO **WORSHIP BEFORE THE FEET OF THE ANGEL** WHO SHOWED ME THESE THINGS.

9 THEN HE SAID TO ME, “SEE THAT YOU **DO NOT DO THAT**. FOR I AM YOUR **FELLOW SERVANT**
WORSHIP GOD.”

”

Revelation 22:8, 9 NKJV

“

AND WAR BROKE OUT IN HEAVEN: **MICHAEL** [THE
ARCHANGEL] **AND HIS ANGELS FOUGHT WITH THE**
DRAGON; AND THE DRAGON AND HIS ANGELS
FOUGHT ...

”

Revelation 12:7 NKJV (“the archangel” Jude 9)

ROLE

- Fight on God's behalf and for our benefit
(Rev 12:7–9; Dan 10:12, 13)
- Churches' angels (Rev 1:20; 2:1ff)

“

“THE MYSTERY OF THE SEVEN STARS WHICH YOU
SAW IN MY RIGHT HAND ... THE SEVEN STARS ARE
THE ANGELS OF THE SEVEN CHURCHES 2:1 TO
THE ANGEL OF THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS WRITE ...”

”

Revelation 1:20; 2:1 NKJV

“

“TAKE HEED THAT YOU DO NOT DESPISE ONE OF
THESE LITTLE ONES, FOR I SAY TO YOU THAT IN
HEAVEN **THEIR ANGELS** ALWAYS SEE THE FACE OF
MY FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN.”

”

Matthew 18:10 NKJV

“

“AND [THE SON OF MAN] WILL **SEND HIS ANGELS** WITH A GREAT SOUND OF A TRUMPET, AND **THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER HIS ELECT FROM THE FOUR WINDS**, FROM ONE END OF HEAVEN TO THE OTHER.”

”

Matthew 24:31 NKJV

ROLE

- Fight on God's behalf
(Rev 12:7–9; Dan 10:12, 13)
- Churches' angels (Rev 1:20; 2:1ff)
- Guardian angels? (Matt 18:10; 24:31)

ROLE

- In summary: Agents acting on God's behalf
- Angel/angel of the LORD
 - Angel or God?
 - “holy ground” (Ex 3:2–5; Jos 5:13–15)
 - More direct manifestation of God

CHARACTER

- Do not revile (2 Pet 2:11)
- Rebuke in God's name, not their own
(Zech 3:1, 2; Jude 9)

“

YET **MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL**, IN CONTENDING
WITH THE DEVIL, WHEN HE DISPUTED ABOUT THE
BODY OF MOSES, DARED NOT BRING AGAINST HIM
A REVILING ACCUSATION, BUT SAID, “**THE LORD
REBUKE YOU!**”

”

Jude 9 NKJV

“

LIKEWISE, I SAY TO YOU, THERE IS **JOY IN THE
PRESENCE OF THE ANGELS OF GOD** OVER ONE
SINNER WHO REPENTS.

”

Luke 15:10 NKJV

CHARACTER

- Do not revile (2 Pet 2:11)
- Rebuke in God's name, not their own (Zech 3:2; Jude 9)
- Rejoice over repentance (Luke 15:10)
- Have will, desires, interests (1 Pet 1:12)

“

... TO US [PROPHETS] WERE MINISTERING THE THINGS WHICH NOW HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO YOU THROUGH THOSE WHO HAVE PREACHED THE GOSPEL TO YOU BY THE HOLY SPIRIT SENT FROM HEAVEN—THINGS WHICH **ANGELS DESIRE TO LOOK INTO.**

”

1 Peter 1:12 NKJV

CHARACTER

- Satan has angels (Matt 25:41; Rev 12:9)
- Some sinned, imprisoned till judgment (2 Pet 2:4; Jude 6)

“

... GOD DID NOT SPARE **THE ANGELS WHO SINNED**,
BUT CAST *THEM* DOWN TO HELL AND
DELIVERED *THEM* INTO CHAINS OF DARKNESS, TO
BE RESERVED FOR JUDGMENT ...

”

II Peter 2:4 NKJV

ANGELS ARE NOT ...



HEBREW

cherub / cherubim

- Decorated the Ark, tabernacle, & temple
 - “between the two cherubim” (Ex 25:22)
- Fantastic, powerful creatures

כְּרוּב

ker-üv'

FORM

- Ezekiel 1:6ff – vision, River Chebar

“

AND UNDER THE FIRMAMENT THEIR **WINGS** SPREAD
OUT STRAIGHT, **ONE TOWARD ANOTHER**. EACH ONE
HAD **TWO WHICH COVERED ONE SIDE**, AND EACH
ONE HAD **TWO WHICH COVERED THE OTHER SIDE**
OF THE BODY.

”

Ezekiel 1:23 NKJV

“

WHEN THEY WENT, I HEARD THE NOISE OF THEIR WINGS, LIKE THE NOISE OF MANY WATERS, **LIKE THE VOICE OF THE ALMIGHTY**, A TUMULT LIKE THE NOISE OF AN ARMY; AND WHEN THEY STOOD STILL, THEY LET DOWN THEIR WINGS.

”

Ezekiel 1:24 NKJV

FORM

- Ezekiel 1:6ff – vision, River Chebar
 - 4 wings (Ezek 1:23, 24)
 - 2 covering the body
 - 2 touching another cherub's
 - 4 faces: man, lion, ox, eagle (Ezek 1:10)
 - Appearance like burning coals (Ezek 1:13)

“

... *EACH* HAD THE **FACE OF A MAN**; ... THE **FACE OF A LION** ON THE RIGHT SIDE ... THE **FACE OF AN OX** ON THE LEFT SIDE, AND ... THE **FACE OF AN EAGLE**.

”

Ezekiel 1:10 NKJV

“

... THEIR APPEARANCE WAS LIKE **BURNING COALS
OF FIRE** ...

”

Ezekiel 1:13 NKJV

FORM

- Ezekiel 10 (vision, Jerusalem temple)
 - Hands (v. 8)
 - Identified as cherubim (v. 15)

“

THE CHERUBIM APPEARED TO HAVE **THE FORM OF
A MAN'S HAND** UNDER THEIR WINGS.

”

Ezekiel 10:8 NKJV

“

AND THE **CHERUBIM** WERE LIFTED UP. THIS WAS THE
LIVING CREATURE I SAW BY THE RIVER CHEBAR.

”

Ezekiel 10:15 NKJV

ROLE

- Keeps man out of Eden (Gen 3:24)

“

SO HE DROVE OUT THE MAN; AND HE PLACED
CHERUBIM AT THE EAST OF THE GARDEN OF EDEN,
AND A FLAMING SWORD WHICH TURNED EVERY
WAY, TO GUARD THE WAY TO THE TREE OF LIFE.

”

Genesis 3:24 NKJV

“

AND **HE RODE UPON A CHERUB**, AND FLEW; HE
FLEW UPON THE WINGS OF THE WIND.

”

Psalms 18:10 NKJV

ROLE

- Keeps man out of Eden (Gen 3:24)
- God rides upon one (Psa 18:10)
- “Chariot” of God (Ezek 1:26–28; 2:1 ff)
 - Wheels (Ezek 1:15, 16)
 - Moved about like lightning (Ezek 1:14)

HEBREW

- **Fiery serpents**
(Num 21:6ff)
- **Seraph / seraphim**
(Isa 6:2)
- Fantastic, powerful
creatures

שֶׂרָפִים

sä · räf'

“fiery one”

FORM

- Wings (Isa 6:2)
 - 2 covering the face
 - 2 covering the feet
 - 2 flew

“

ABOVE IT STOOD **SERAPHIM**; EACH ONE HAD SIX
WINGS: **WITH TWO HE COVERED HIS FACE, WITH
TWO HE COVERED HIS FEET, AND WITH TWO HE
FLEW.**

”

Isaiah 6:2 NKJV

FORM

- Wings (Isa 6:2)
 - 2 covering the face
 - 2 covering the feet
 - 2 flew
- Rev 4:6–8
 - 1 face each: lion, calf, man, eagle
 - Full of eyes front and back

“

... FOUR LIVING CREATURES **FULL OF EYES** IN FRONT AND IN BACK. THE FIRST LIVING CREATURE WAS **LIKE A LION**, THE SECOND ... **LIKE A CALF**, THE THIRD ... HAD A **FACE LIKE A MAN**, AND THE FOURTH ... WAS **LIKE A FLYING EAGLE**.

”

Revelation 4:6, 7 NKJV

“

AND THEY DO NOT REST DAY OR NIGHT, SAYING:
“**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY,**
LORD GOD ALMIGHTY,
WHO WAS AND IS AND IS TO COME!”

”

Revelation 4:8 NKJV

ROLE

- Praise God: “Holy, holy, holy”
(Isa 6:3; Rev 4:8)
- Worship the lamb, Jesus
(Rev 5:8)

“

NOW WHEN HE HAD TAKEN THE SCROLL, THE **FOUR
LIVING CREATURES** AND THE TWENTY-FOUR ELDERS
FELL DOWN BEFORE THE LAMB ...

”

Revelation 5:8 NKJV

CONCLUSION

- Why a lesson like this?
 - It is truth God has revealed
 - How little we know; unanswered questions

“

**“THE SECRET THINGS BELONG TO THE LORD OUR
GOD, BUT THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE REVEALED
BELONG TO US AND TO OUR CHILDREN FOREVER,
THAT WE MAY DO ALL THE WORDS OF THIS LAW.”**

”

Deuteronomy 29:29 NKJV

“

EVERY WORD OF GOD IS PURE; HE IS A SHIELD TO
THOSE WHO PUT THEIR TRUST IN HIM. ⁶ **DO NOT ADD
TO HIS WORDS**, LEST HE REBUKE YOU, AND YOU BE
FOUND A LIAR.

”

Proverbs 30:5, 6 NKJV

CONCLUSION

- Dazzling creatures who provoke awe & fear
 - Keep them in their rightful place
 - What about their Creator?
- They do not revile: Why do we?
- They do God's will: Why won't you?