

Angels

Can
there be
a
spiritually
unhealthy
interest in
angels?
(cf. Col.
2:16-19)



What are Angels?

- Angel (aggelos) = “A divine messenger” (LS 4).
- Angels are created by God (Ps. 148:1-5).
- There are good and bad angels (Matt. 25:41; II Pet. 2:4; Jude 6).
- Angels are spirit beings existing in the unseen world (Heb. 1:14).
- Angels do not marry (Lk. 20:35).
- Angels do, at times, appear in human form (Gen. 18:1ff; 19:1ff; Lk. 24:4, 23; Heb. 13:2).
- Some angels are called by name (i.e., Michael / Jude 9; Gabriel / Lk. 1:19).

Angels in the OT

- Angels delivered the Law of God to Moses at Sinai (Deut. 33:2; Ps. 68:17; Acts 7:53; Gal. 3:19).
- David saw an angel with a sword stretched across all of Jerusalem (I Chron. 21:16).
- An angel carried out God's orders to destroy 185,000 Assyrians (Isa. 37:36).
- Elijah was cared for by an angel (I Kings 19).
- The Lord sent an angel to stop the mouths of lions when Daniel was thrown in among them (Dan. 6:22).

Angels of the OT

- Messengers of God's laws to Moses.
- Carried out God's Judgments.
- Aided God's prophets in times of need and danger.

Angels in the NT

- Angels announced the coming of Jesus into the world (Matt. 1:18-23; Lk. 2:10).
- Jesus said that He could call legions of angels to defend Him (Matt. 26:53).
- Ministered to Jesus when praying in the Garden of Gethsemane (Lk. 22:39-43) and after temptation (Matt. 4:11).
- Gave Philip instructions (Acts 8:26).
- Aided Peter when in prison (Acts 12:7-11).
- Comforted Paul (Acts 27:23).
- Jude tells us of a Michael the archangel contended with the devil over the body of Moses (9).
- An angel revealed God's message to John on the isle of Patmos (Rev. 1:1).

What do Angels Do?

- Angels aid saints (Heb. 1:14) (i.e., Elijah and Daniel).
- How? (I Pet. 3:12).
- Some believe that Matt. 18:1-6, 20 describes guardian angels.
- Angels are interested in spiritual welfare of mankind (cf. Lk. 15:10; I Pet. 1:12).
- Angels carry out God's judgments against humanity (Rev. 16:1-17).
- Angels will accompany Jesus when He returns to judge mankind (Matt. 25:31; II Thess. 1:7).
- Angels will separate the righteous from the wicked at the end of times (Matt. 13:39-41, 49).
- Angels will carry the righteous home to glory (Lk. 16:22).
- Angels worship God in heaven (Heb. 1:6; Rev. 7:11-12).

Conclusion

- Angels serve man in his quest for heaven (Heb. 1:14) and are intensely interested in our spiritual welfare (Luke 15:10).
- Angels are divine messengers of God's word and will for man (Lk. 1:19; Acts 10:1ff).
- Angels carry out God's judgments upon the ungodly (Acts 12:21-23; Rev. 16:1ff).
- Angels will have the work of separating the righteous from the wicked on the day of judgment (Matt. 13:39).
- Note that since the word of God is complete there is no longer a need for angels appearing to men to give instructions (I Cor. 13:6ff).
- Yet angels continue their work today (cf. Heb. 13:2).