

Angels: God's Glorious Servants Luke 1-2

Angels serve God's people. Their very name means "messenger." We find them at critical points in the history of the Bible, brilliantly bursting onto the scene to tell God's beloved children what in the world God is about to do. Their presence reminds us that God longs for us to know Him, and He proves it by revealing His glorious plan to His people.

First words from angels to people – don't be afraid
Luke 1:13; 1:30; 2:10

Birth narratives; angels are everywhere. Who are they, and why are they such a big part of the story.

I. Worshippers – Luke 1:19; 2:9

Numerous – Luke 2:13-14; Rev. 5:11-14

Rev. 5:11 - "Ten thousand" was the largest single number used in Greek, so "ten thousands of ten thousands" (myriads of myriads) is the author's way of calling them innumerable. (The IVP Bible Background Commentary : New Testament)

Gustave Dore – Divine Comedy

A river of fire was flowing
And coming out from before Him;
Thousands upon thousands were attending Him,
And myriads upon myriads were
standing before Him... —Daniel 7:10

Christ "call legions"

"Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions (=12 X 6000)of angels?"
— Matthew 26:53

Shepherds see thousands worshipping

Glorious – Daniel's description; Dan. 10:4-11

In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory." And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. —Isaiah 6:1-4

II. Warriors

First angel in the Bible (other than Satan) Guarding Eden; sword drawn

So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life. —Genesis 3:24

Num. 22:22-33

And the Lord sent an angel who destroyed every mighty warrior, commander and officer in the camp of the king of Assyria.

—2 Chronicles 32:21

Powerful

Daniel 10:10-13

Gabriel's name (only 2 angels named in Bible) – "strength of God" (or "man of God" or "God is my hero")

Organized – Dan. 10:13, 20-21

Jude 9 – Michael is "archangel"

"...rule and authority and power and dominion [in the heavenly places]...the prince of the power of the air...the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places...the rulers...the powers...the world forces of this darkness...the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly place."

Eph. 1:21; 2:2; 3:10; 6:12; principalities and powers

Fighting alongside God's people

2 Cor. 10:3-4; Battle not against flesh and blood

Ex – temptation; fallen angels attempting to influence decision; faith and prayer calls them to action.

Elisha's servant – 2 Kings 6:8-18

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven." —Matthew 18:10

Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation? (Hebrews 1:14)

Feeding Elijah

Supporting Jesus; maybe feeding Him; wilderness, garden

Delivering critical messages; don't miss the point

III. Messengers

Angel (Greek *angelos*) = messenger, envoy, one who is sent

Josh. 7:22; Joshua's spies who went into Jericho

Luke 9:52; Jesus sent disciples (messengers) ahead to make arrangements

Gospel (Greek *euangelion*) = good/glad announcement or message

News of God's intervention in the world

Dan. 9:20-24; it all related to Jesus

Gabriel's word

Luke 1:13-17; Malachi

Luke 1:31-35

Luke 2:8-11

All people; all Jews? Luke 2:28-32

Savior; deliverer from Rome? Luke 1:71, 77

Application

Angels are intriguing.

Main character in the Bible is God. Angels are servants. Their presence tells us something significant about God and our relationship to Him.

God wants you to know Him and His will

Do you know His message to you?

Are you listening to His voice?