

WE WILL CONSIDER

- Angels are God's servants who do His will.
- They cannot sin or die.
- They can think, feel and make decisions for themselves.
- Our hope for the future is to be like God's angels.

The **B**iBLE EXHIBITION

THE TRUTH ABOUT

the Angels

Messengers

The Hebrew word translated 'angel' is 'malak' and the Greek word is 'angelos'. These words are also the normal Hebrew and Greek words for 'messenger'.

For example, they are used of Jacob's messengers (Genesis 32:3,6), Joshua's messengers (Joshua 6:17,25, James 2:25), Haggai (Haggai 1:13), priests (Malachi 2:7), John the Baptist (Matthew 11:10, Mark 1:2, Luke 7:27), his messengers (Luke 7:24) and Christ's messengers (Luke 9:52).

So when the word 'angel' appears in the Bible, it might not mean a heavenly angel; it could mean a human messenger. The context often shows which it is.

God's Messengers

Sometimes the Hebrew and Greek words refer to God's messengers.

What are Angels?

Heavenly angels are God's servants, who obey His word (Psalm 103:20-21). They help those who will be saved (Hebrews 1:14) and influence world affairs (Daniel 10:20). Examples of angels helping God's people are Genesis 24:40, Exodus 14:19, 23:20-21, Psalm 34:7, Daniel 6:22.

Angels Cannot Die

"Those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection."

Luke 20:35-36

Angels Cannot Sin

All of God's immortal messengers do His will and cannot sin:

"You are as blameless in my sight as an angel of God"

1 Samuel 29:9

'Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?'

Hebrews 1:14

'Bless the LORD, O you His angels, you mighty ones who do His word, obeying the voice of His word! Bless the LORD, all His hosts, His ministers, who do His will!'

Psalm 103:20-21

We read in Romans 6:23 that 'the wages of sin is death'. If angels cannot die then it follows that they also cannot sin: sinners die but angels do not.

Angels are Powerful

Angels do miracles (Judges 6:21); they can destroy large numbers of people (Isaiah 37:36, Psalm 78:49, Genesis 19:13); they can withstand things that would usually be dangerous for humans (Exodus 3:2, Daniel 3:25-28, 6:22).

What do Angels Look Like?

Sometimes angels have been mistaken for men (Genesis 18:2, Joshua 5:13), but at other times their amazing glory has made people afraid (Luke 2:9, Matthew 28:2-4). Balaam was unable to see the angel standing in his way until God opened his eyes (Numbers 22:31,34).

Angels can Think and make Decisions

Angels can think and make decisions, and sometimes have to work hard to outwork God's will with stubborn humans (Daniel 10:12-14).

Angels have Feelings

The Bible describes angels as having different emotions in different situations. Angels courteously accept hospitality (Genesis 18:4-8, Hebrews 13:2). They showed patience towards Lot when he lingered in Sodom but gently and firmly took action to save him (Genesis 19:16,19). An angel showed affection for Daniel (Daniel 10:11); an angel refused the worship of the Apostle John, calling himself John's "fellow servant" (Revelation 22:8-9).

Angels do not Know Everything

Mark 13:32 tells us that not even the angels know the exact date of Christ's return. Also, although they were actively involved in the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus (Luke 1:26-38, Luke 22:43, Matthew 28:2), they have not always fully understood it (1 Peter 1:10-12). In Zechariah 1:12 an angel prays for understanding, and in Daniel 12:6-7, one angel asks another a question.

The Angels and our Hope

Luke 20:35-36 tells us that in the Kingdom we will be equal to the angels.

Being immortal and like the angels will be extremely interesting for us. We will be very busy during the Kingdom, doing God's work. We will be unable to sin and we will be immortal, but also able to make decisions, think and feel. We will not know everything about God's plans, so we will be able to spend time trying to work them out, just like we do now with the aid of His Word.

What an exciting hope!

More information

For more information, please don't hesitate to contact:

THE TRUTH ABOUT

SUMMARY

The Hebrew and Greek words for 'angel' mean 'messenger'

Sometimes the words are used of humans

God's messengers cannot sin or die, are very powerful and can think and feel for themselves

Our future hope is to be like the angels

the Angels

The **BIBLE**
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