

Angels and the Son of God

HEBREWS 1:5 - 14

Christ as the Lord of the Heavenly Realm

- Christ is the Lord of all creation, both in heaven and on earth. Hebrews makes it clear that Christ is superior to the Angels because Christ is the Son of God
- The Book of Hebrews will have plenty to say about angelic beings (“messengers”)
- THE ULTIMATE MESSENGER OF GOD IS JESUS CHRIST
- We should have an understanding of these fascinating created beings
- “Angels are created, spiritual beings with moral judgment and high intelligence, but without physical bodies” (Wayne Grudem - Systematic Theology)

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ANGELS IN AMERICA

THE MESSENGER HAS ARRIVED.

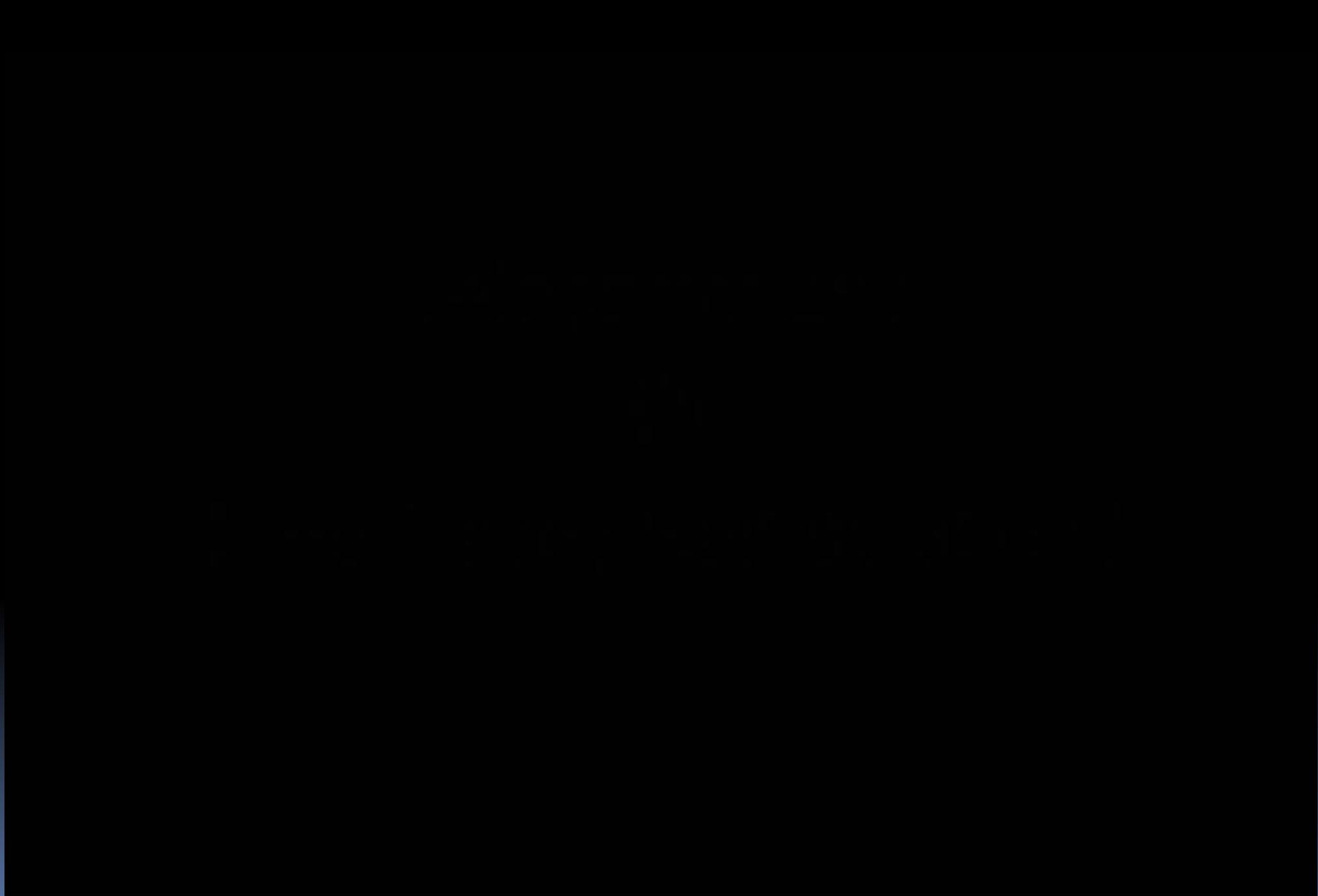


Angels In Popular Perception

- Either: Invented fantasy creatures: silly or for children
- Or: creatures that are mysterious, spooky, weird or sometimes fascinating
- As 21st Century Christians we, on one hand take angels for granted, given their presence throughout the Bible
- On the other hand, we are probably very skeptical



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A Christian Understanding

- Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:51-54)
- “And behold, one of those who were with Jesus reached and drew out his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his ear. ⁵² Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword. ⁵³ **Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels?** ⁵⁴ How then will the Scriptures be fulfilled, which say that it must happen this way?”
- So, what do you do with our Lord’s own words?

Hebrews 1:3- 14

- ⁶ And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says,
- *“AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM.”*
- ⁷ And of the angels He says,
- *“WHO MAKES HIS ANGELS WINDS,
AND HIS MINISTERS A FLAME OF FIRE.”*

Hebrews 1:13-14

- But to which of the angels has He ever said,
- “SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,
UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES
A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET”?
- ¹⁴ Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

Created Spiritual Beings

- “You alone are the LORD.
You have made the heavens,
The heaven of heavens with all their host,
The earth and all that is on it,
The seas and all that is in them.
You give life to all of them
And the heavenly host bows down before You. (Nehemiah 9:6)
- Praise Him, all His angels;
Praise Him, all His hosts! (Psalm 148:2)

Created Spiritual Beings

- ¹⁴ Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation? (Hebrews 1:14)
- ³¹ 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; and he bowed his head and fell flat on his face. (Numbers 22:31)
- So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who *are* with us are more than those who are with them." And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. (II Kings 6:16-17)

Sometimes Taking Bodily Form

- "Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels." (Hebrews 13:2)
- And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. ³ His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. ⁴ And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men. (Matthew 28:2-4)

Other Names for Angels

- “sons of God” – Job 1:6; 2:1
- “holy ones” – Ps. 89:5,7
- “spirits” – Hebrews 1:14
- “watchers” – Daniel 4:13,17,23
- “thrones,” “dominions,” “principalities,” and “authorities” – Col. 1:16

Other Created Heavenly Beings

- Cherubim

- guard entrance to Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:24)
- Over the ark of the covenant (Ex. 25:22)

- Seraphim

- Only in Isaiah 6:2-7 – They continually worship the Lord: “Holy, holy ,holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.” (Is. 6:3)

Rank Among the Angelic Host

- Michael is called an “archangel” in Jude 9
- He is called one of the “chief princes” in Daniel 10:13
- The archangel will call when the Lord returns “... and the dead in Christ will rise first.” (I Thess. 4:16)

Specific Angels

- Michael – Jude 9
- Gabriel
 - The messenger who comes from God to speak to Daniel
 - God's messenger to Zechariah and Mary in Luke 1 as the annunciation

Vast In Number

- God on Mt. Sinai “came from the ten thousands of holy ones, with flaming fire at His right hand” (Deut. 33:2)
- “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)

Guardian Angels?

- God sends angels for your protection
 - “For He shall give His angels charge over you,
To keep you in all your ways.
In their hands they shall bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.” (Psalm 91:11-12) (Satan’s temptation to Jesus, Matthew 4:6)
- But allocated and specific guardian angels?
 - Matthew 18:10 (support) “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.”

The Angel of the Lord

- 1. Jesus Christ is the revealed member of the trinity
- 2. The express image of God to be revealed to men
- 3. Know one can see God and live
 - “But He [YHWH] said, “You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!” (Gen. 33:20, in response to Moses’ request to see God’s glory.)
 - “No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.” (John 1:18)
 - “who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.” (I Tim 6:16)

The Angel of the Lord

- ²² When Gideon saw that he was the angel of the LORD, he said, “Alas, O Lord GOD! For now I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face.” ²³ The LORD said to him, “Peace to you, do not fear; you shall not die.” (Judges 6:22-23)
- Similar reaction when the angel of the Lord appeared to Manoah’s wife (Sampson’s mother) and announced to her that she was going to have a son. (Judges 13)
 - ² So Manoah said to his wife, “We will surely die, for we have seen God.”

The Angel of the Lord

- In the O.T., an individual (characterized as a man or an angel) manifesting himself in human form is frequently called the “Lord.” (Gen. 12:7; 17:1; 18:1)
 - ¹³ Now it came about when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing opposite him with his sword drawn in his hand, and Joshua went to him and said to him, “Are you for us or for our adversaries?” ¹⁴ He said, “No; rather I indeed come now as captain of the host of the LORD.” And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and bowed down, and said to him, “What has my lord to say to his servant?” ¹⁵ The captain of the LORD’S host said to Joshua, “Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so. (Joshua 5:13-15)

Angel of the Lord

- Appearance of the Angel of the Lord to Hagar Gen. 16
- The appearance of the Angel of the Lord to Moses from the burning bush
 - “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.” (Exodus 3:6)

Angel of the Lord

- Exodus 23: 20-23
 - ²⁰ “Behold, I am going to send an angel before you to guard you along the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. ²¹ Be on your guard before him and obey his voice; do not be rebellious toward him, for he will not pardon your transgression, since My name is in him. ²² But if you truly obey his voice and do all that I say, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries. ²³ For My angel will go before you and bring you in to the land of the Amorites, the Hittites...”
- God does not share His name with anyone else (Isaiah 42:8). The name of the Lord stands only for Himself

Angel of the Lord

- This angel has the power to give life (Gen. 16:10)
- To see and know all (Gen. 16:13 and Ex. 3:7)
- The angel performed miracles (Ex 3:20; Judges 6:21)
- The angel commanded and received worship from Moses (Ex. 35) and Joshua (Joshua 5:14)
 - Angels are not to be worshiped. When John attempted to worship an angel in Revelation 19:10; 22:8-9, he was corrected quickly and told not to do it.

The Appearances of God

- The three “men” who appeared to Abraham and Sarah in Gen. 18 to promise them a son.
 - “When he lifted up his eyes and looked, behold, **three men** were standing opposite him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth,”
- The fourth man in the furnace with Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego.
 - ²⁵ “Look!” he answered, “I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of **the fourth is like the Son of God.**”

Christophanies

- These are pre-incarnate appearances of Jesus Christ
- The Old Testament writers had no concept of God the Son
- The angel of the Lord in the Old Testament is not only the Lord but the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, the one with whom we must deal
- It is the Word sent to man. God's ultimate "messenger" (angel means messenger from God)
- Jesus Christ is the revealed (seen, touched, heard) member of the Godhead