

A Bible Description of Angels

Introduction:

1. The Bible teaches that the world system we live in is satanic in origin and, for the most part, not interested in the teachings of Scripture. Yet, there is one biblical subject that has gained a lot of attention. It is the subject of angels.
2. Many have become enamored with the subject of angels. It has even received prime time play in the past with the hit television series, "Touched by an Angel." It was on for nine seasons from 1994 until 2003, and millions of people tuned in each week.
3. Not only this, Hollywood has used the subject of angels many, many times in movies. Who hasn't seen Clarence the angel in the movie, "It's a Wonderful Life?"
4. Of course, as would be expected, Hollywood doesn't get it right. Their characterizations of angels are nothing but fantasy and make believe. They are the figments of somebody's imagination.
5. You say, "Pastor Dan, don't you believe in angels?" You better believe I do. Why? For the same reason I believe in God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the finished work of Christ on the cross, and the resurrection of Christ from the dead. The Bible says so!
6. But, I don't believe in the Hollywood version of angels. I believe what the Bible teaches about angels. They are mentioned over 250 times in the Bible.
7. In this lesson, we will put together a **Bible** description of angels. What do they look like? What are their character traits?

Angels are created, spirit-beings.

1. Angels were created by God (Psalm 148:2-5), probably on day two of creation when God created the heavens. Nehemiah 9:6
2. Why were the angels created? Ultimately, they were created to glorify Jesus Christ, their Creator. Colossians 1:16
 - God is a God of order, and when He created heaven, He created a governmental, orderly system by which it would function. The angels were created to fill various heavenly ranks of position and authority.
3. It is important to understand, angels are not glorified human beings.
 - When somebody dies, another person may say, "God just needed another angel in His choir." This is a warm and fuzzy thought, but it is not accurate.
 - Man was made a little lower than the angels. Psalm 8:4-5
 - Christ came and took this lower place that He might lift the believer unto His own glory above the angels. Hebrews 2:9-10
4. Man and angels have a completely different nature and substance. Hebrews 2:16
5. Angels are invisible, spirit-beings. Hebrews 1:14; cf. Ephesians 6:12
 - In the Bible, angels occasionally revealed themselves in a bodily form for a specific purpose and reason.

- But this is not typical, and certainly angels do not need a human body in order to exist.
6. They are spirit-beings, working invisibly beyond the reach of man's mortal eyes. They are not composed of flesh and blood like human beings. Hebrews 2:14

Angels are innumerable.

1. Hebrews 12:22 speaks of "*an innumerable company of angels.*"
2. When Christ was born, a **multitude** of angels praised God. Luke 2:13-15
3. At the cross, Jesus could have called twelve legions of angels to assist Him (Matthew 26:53). A Roman legion at that time could be up to 6,000 men.
4. In Revelation 5:11, John saw "*ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands*" of angels.
5. What a heavenly army! Imagine tens of thousands of angels ready to act immediately upon the Lord's command! One day Christ will return to earth with His angelic host and usher in worldwide peace, and bind Satan in the bottomless pit. Revelation 20:1-3

Angels possess great knowledge and wisdom. 2 Samuel 14:20

1. This only makes sense. They've existed for thousands of years (since day two of creation). They have much more experience than a human being could ever have. But, they are not omniscient (all-knowing) like God.
2. Yet, did you know that we are able to teach and instruct angels? These powerful and intelligent creatures can sit at the feet of the humblest child of God and learn something.
3. We have a wisdom they know nothing about – the imputed wisdom of Jesus Christ dwelling within. 1 Corinthians 1:30

Angels have great power and might.

1. Psalm 103:20 tells us that angels "*excel in strength.*"
2. Angels are said to be greater in power and might than human beings. 2 Peter 2:11
 - Illustration: In Isaiah 37:36, an angel smote 185,000 Assyrians in one night.
 - Illustration: Matthew 28:2 – Typically, these stones were made of granite, 8 feet in diameter, and one foot thick. They weighed more than four tons (3 or 4 cars).
3. When an angel gets worked up to do something, you'd better look out!

Angels never grow old.

1. Angels never change, or age, or get wrinkles, or need vitamins. They do not go through the degenerative process. They have no concept of death.

2. In Mark 16:4-5, the ladies at the sepulcher of Jesus see a young man. When you cross reference with Matthew 28:5-7, you realize that this young man is an angel. This angel is at least 6,000 years old, yet looks like a young man.
cf. Luke 24:4
 - You say, “I wish I were an angel and never age!” Not really – because we grow old and die, one day we will be changed and given new, glorified bodies like Jesus. You will be made higher than the angels. Angels will never experience this.
3. Did you notice that it said “**young man**”? When angels do make a physical appearance in the Bible, they always appear in the masculine gender, and appear as **young** men. Acts 1:10; Revelation 21:17
4. When you see pictures of angels, they usually appear as long-haired women, or children with long flowing robes and wings. These are not angels. This is not what an angel looks like. Angels do not look like women, nor do they have wings.
 - In Revelation 9, some type of degenerative, demonic creatures come out of the bottomless pit and they are pictured as having long hair like a woman and wings – but not the angels of God.

Angels are joyful creatures.

1. When God was creating the world, the angels were said to be singing and shouting. Job 38:5-7
2. Luke 15:10 says that when a sinner repents, the angels rejoice.
3. In Revelation 5:12, the angels are seen praising Jesus with a loud voice.

In Conclusion:

1. Now we have a better grasp of the nature of angels and the character of angels.
2. But what do angels do? Next week we will examine “An Angelic Job Description.”