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God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Angels Character Power and Appearance. (2013)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises
But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man. As to such I neither claim special knowledge or perfect understanding.

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Angels, the Character, Power and Appearance.

Topics.

- Jacob sees angels ascending and descending on a ladder
- The angel of the Lord appears to Gideon.
- An angel touched and prepared a meal for Elijah.
- The angel of the Lord comes to Manoah and his wife.
- Angels come to Sodom and visit Lot.
- Women and an angel at the tomb of Jesus.
- Zechariah, Mary and the angel Gabriel.
- Angels rejoice and feel joy.
- Believers in the resurrection will be equal to the angels.
- Angels and strangers and dignities.
- Angels in chains and angels and power.

From Strong's Concordance; the English word angel in the Old Testament is from the Hebrew word mal'ak. In the New Testament the English word angel is from the Greek word aggelos. The word mal'ak in the Old Testament and the word aggelos in the New Testament have sometimes been translated to the English word messenger or messengers while at other times mal'ak and aggelos are translated angel or angels.

Malak: means to dispatch as a deputy, a messenger, an ambassador or a representative it can apply to an angel of God, a king, a prophet, a priest or teacher. The same word is used for the supernatural angels of God and for human messengers thus it can apply to God's supernatural angels or human men who are sent as messengers.

Aggelos: means a messenger or envoy sent from God to bring tidings. Aggelos is used all of the time in the New Testament for the supernatural angels of God (except for Luke chapter twenty) but it is also used for human men (i.e., pastors, ministers and such like) thus aggelos can apply to God's supernatural angels or human messengers.

From Genesis to Revelation there is: -

- An angel of the Lord and of God.
 - Angels that do the work of God.
 - Angels that appear as humans.
 - In the book of Revelation, Jesus has an angel.
 - Human men who are called angels.
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Angels in the Old Testament.

The following verses show the character, power, appearance and nature of angels in the Old Testament.

Jacob sees Angels Ascending and Descending on a Ladder

Genesis 28:12 ----- ¹²And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels (mal'ak) of God were ascending and descending on it!

Isaac has sent Jacob away from the people of Israel to find a wife for himself. Jacob goes, but he did not know God was with him (Genesis 28:16). At night Jacob lies down and makes a pillow of stone and lies down (maybe wondering how he is going to find a wife and if God will guide him). He has a dream of angels ascending and descending on a ladder with God at the top of it. God reaffirms the covenant to Jacob that He had previously made to Abraham then Jacob says, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it" (Genesis 28:16). God's awesome and supernatural angels do not need to climb ladders. Angels in this sense are most likely symbolic of God's presence. Remember this is a dream they are not real angels, but only a vision of the mind taking place during a dream. It is the LORD'S way of comforting Jacob and letting him and future generations know that God is with Jacob and accomplishing His purposes through Jacob.

The Angel of the LORD appears to Gideon.

Judges 6:12-21 ----- ¹²And *the angel* (mal'ak) of the LORD appeared to him (Gideon) and said to him, "The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valour." ¹³And *Gideon said to him*, "Please, sir, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian." ¹⁴And the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?" ¹⁵And he said to him, "Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." ¹⁶And the LORD said to him "But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man." ¹⁷And he said to him, "If now I have found favour in your eyes, then *show me a sign that it is you who speaks with me*." ¹⁸Please do not depart from here until I come to you and bring out my present and set it before you." And he (the LORD) said, "I will stay till you return." ¹⁹So Gideon went into his house and prepared a young goat and unleavened cakes from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and the broth he put in a pot, and brought them to him under the terebinth and presented them. ²⁰And the angel (mal'ak) of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened cakes, and put them on this rock, and pour the broth over them." And he did so. ²¹Then the angel (mal'ak) of the LORD reached out the tip of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes. And fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. And the angel (mal'ak) of the LORD vanished from his sight.

NOTICE: the angel is called: -

- The Angel of the LORD.
- Sir.
- The LORD.
- The Lord.
- The angel of God.

It appears that Gideon didn't know if the angel that appeared to him was an angel. The angel speaks with Gideon as a human speaks to another human and Gideon talked to the angel. Gideon says to the angel, "Please, sir" and not being sure that the angel was the LORD, he asks him to show him a sign that it is the LORD.

The angel: -

- Was visible and Gideon saw him.

- Listened, spoke in the same language as Gideon.
- Must have appeared as a human man.

An Angel Touched and prepared a Meal for Elijah.

1 Kings 19:5 ----- ⁵And he (Elijah) lay down and slept under a broom tree. And behold, an angel (mal'ak) touched him and said to him, "Arise and eat."

After Elijah had slain all the prophets of Baal, Jezebel said: -

- Let the gods do to me, and more if Elijah is not killed tomorrow.

Elijah fled for his life and prayed: -

- LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers and as he slept under a juniper tree, and an *angel* touched him, and said, "*Arise and eat*" and there was a meal prepared for him. Elijah ate and drank of it and then laid down again. The *angel of the LORD* came again the second time, and *touched him*, and said, "*Arise and eat*," because the journey is great so he arose, and did eat and drink (1 Kings 19:1-8)

NOTE: perhaps the reason Elijah prayed, "O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers" was because as much as he loved the LORD and hated false prophets he still hated the idea that they had all been slaughtered.

The angel in these verses: -

- Is called the angel and the Angel of the LORD.
- Touched Elijah and he physically felt it (it woke him up).
- Spoke in a language Elijah understood.
- Prepared a meal and drink for Elijah.

The Angel of the Lord comes to Manoah and his Wife.

Judges 13:3 ----- ³And *the angel of the Lord* appeared to the woman (Manoah's wife) and said to her, "Behold, you are barren and have not borne children, but you shall conceive and bear a son.

The angel is referred to as a man of God.

Judges 13:6 ----- ⁶Then the woman came and told her husband, "A *man of God* came to me, and his appearance was like the *appearance of the angel of God*, very awesome. I did not ask him where he was from, and he did not tell me his name ⁸Then Manoah prayed *to the Lord* and said, "*O Lord, please let the man of God* whom you sent come again to us and teach us what we are to do with the child who will be born.

The man of God is now called the Angel of God.

Judges 13:9 ----- ⁹And God listened to the voice of Manoah, and the *angel of God* came again to the woman as she sat in the field. ¹⁰So the woman ran quickly and told her husband, "Behold, *the man* who came to me the other day has appeared to me." ¹¹And Manoah arose and went after his wife and came to *the man* and said to him, "Are you the *man* who spoke to this woman?" And he said, "I am."

The man is referred to as the angel of the LORD.

Judges 13:13 ----- ¹³And the *angel of the LORD* said to Manoah, "Of all that I said to the woman let her be careful ¹⁵Manoah said to the *angel of the LORD*, "Please let us detain you and prepare a

young goat for you." ¹⁶And the *angel of the LORD* said to Manoah, "If you detain me, I will not eat of your food But if you prepare a burnt offering, then offer it to the *LORD*." (For Manoah did not know that he was the *angel of the LORD*.) ¹⁷And Manoah said to the *angel of the LORD*, "What is your name, so that, when your words come true, we may honor you?" ¹⁸And the *angel of the LORD* said to him, "Why do you ask my name, seeing it is *wonderful*?" ²⁰And when the flame went up toward heaven from the altar, the *angel of the LORD* went up in the *flame* of the altar. Now Manoah and his wife were watching, and they fell on their faces to the ground. ²¹The *angel of the LORD* appeared no more to Manoah and to his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was *the angel of the LORD*.

NOTICE: the Angel of the LORD says, "I will not eat of your food" then tells them to offer it to the LORD and later Manoah's wife says the LORD accepted their offering. Here we are told that Manoah did not know it was the Angel of the LORD.

The angel is now called God.

Judges 13:22----- ²²And Manoah said to his wife, "We shall surely die, for *we have seen God*."

The angel is now referred to as the LORD.

Judges 13:23 ----- ²³But his wife said to him, "If *the LORD* had meant to kill us, he would not have accepted a burnt offering and a grain offering at our hands, or shown us all these things, or now announced to us such things as these."

Manoah and his wife called the angel: -

- The Angel of the LORD.
- A man of God.
- An angel of God.
- A man and the man.
- The LORD.
- And said they had seen God.

After talking to this angel Manoah said to his wife we will die because we have seen God, Manoah's wife replied, if the LORD was going to kill them He would not have accepted a burnt offering and told them such things. To the Old Testament mind the Angel of the LORD was considered to be the same as the LORD or God.

SUMMARY.

The Angel of the Lord comes to Manoah and his Wife.

- An angel came to Manoah's wife and she thought he was a human man.
- Manoah spoke to the angel calling him a man.
- The angel listened and answered questions in a language they understood.
- Manoah did not know that it was an angel of the LORD (v16).
- Later Manoah believed that they had seen God (v21).

Angels and the Angel of the LORD can appear as a human man and speak to people without them being aware they are talking to an angel. The titles, the Angel of the LORD, A man of God, An angel of God, the LORD are all interchangeable names and angels can appear like human men, and speak, listen and have conversations in the in the same manner as we do.

Angels come to Sodom and visit Lot.

Genesis 19:1-3 ----- ¹The *two angels* (mal'ak) *came to Sodom* in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them he rose to meet them and *bowed himself with his face to the earth* ²and said, "My lords, please turn aside to your servant's house and spend the night and wash your feet. Then you may rise up early and go on your way." They (two angels) said, "No; we will spend the night in the town square." ³But he pressed them strongly; so they turned aside to him and entered his house. And *he made them a feast and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.*

Angels appear to Lot at Sodom and Lot bowed himself to them calling them Lords so he noticed something godly about these two angels. He invites them into his house and washes their feet and the two angels ate with Lot and stayed the night. Later the two angels save Lot and his family from certain destruction. Notice these two angels had feet that needed washing and ate food that we eat.

SUMMARY: Angels (malak) Old Testament.

Angels can be referred to as: -

- Sir.
- The LORD.
- The Lord.
- The angel of God.
- The angel of the LORD.
- A man of God.
- A man and the man.

The titles, the Angel of the LORD, a man of God, an angel of God and the LORD are all interchangeable names. Seeing the Angel of the LORD in the Old Testament was considered the same as seeing God. Angels can be real heavenly angels or symbolic of God's presence or be a vision in the mind (like a dream) that God gives to comfort or to impart his will and his purposes to that person. They can appear like human men, and speak, listen and have conversations in the same manner as we do and often when they appear those they appear to do not know they are with an angel even though they are talking to the angel. Angels speak in the same language as the person they are talking to and can touch us so that we physically feel it, their feet get dirty and need washing as ours do. They can not only prepare food and drink, but also eat and drink it themselves.

Angels in the New Testament.

Women and an Angel at the Tomb of Jesus.

Matthew 28:1-6 ----- ¹Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And behold, there was a great earthquake, for *an angel (aggelos) of the Lord descended from heaven* and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³*His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow.* ⁴And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. ⁵But *the angel (aggelos) said to the women*, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.

The Angel of the LORD: -

- Caused a great earthquake as he descended from heaven.

- He rolled the stone away from the Jesus tomb and sat on it.
- His countenance was like lightning and his clothes were white as snow.
- He had some form of clothing and spoke in the language of the two women.
- He caused great fear in the Roman guards and they became as dead men.
- He generated trembling fear in the ungodly men, but not to the godly women.
- The Angel of the LORD tells Mary Magdalene and the other Mary not to fear and instead of fainting from fear as the Roman guards did they walk into the tomb with the angel while talking with him.

Zechariah and the Angel Gabriel.

Luke 1:11-14 ----- ¹¹And there appeared to him (Zechariah) an angel (aggelos) of the Lord (this is Gabriel v19) standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and *fear fell upon him*. ¹³But the angel (aggelos) said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.

NOW GO TO VERSE EIGHTEEN --- ¹⁸And Zechariah said to the angel (aggelos) (Gabriel v19) "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." ¹⁹And the angel (aggelos) answered him (Zechariah) "*I am Gabriel*, who stands in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you (Zechariah) and to bring you this good news.

When the angel Gabriel appeared to Zechariah he was fearful so the angel Gabriel told him not to fear and then tells him (in the same language that Zechariah spoke) that his prayer had been heard.

Mary and the Angel Gabriel.

Luke 1:26-38 ----- ²⁶In the sixth month *the angel* (aggelos) Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he (Gabriel) *came to her and said*, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And *the angel* (aggelos) (Gabriel) *said to her*, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴And *Mary said to the angel* (aggelos) (Gabriel) "*How will this be*, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵And *the angel* (aggelos) (Gabriel) *answered her*, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And *the angel* (aggelos) (Gabriel) departed from her.

The angel Gabriel comes to Mary and she was afraid, so he tells her not to fear and then Mary asks the angel Gabriel questions and he answers her questions in the same language that Mary speaks.

Angels Rejoice and Feel Joy.

Luke 15:10 ----- ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels (aggelos) of God over one sinner who repents."

Angels rejoice and feel joy which means they can emotionally feel joy as we do.

Believers in the Resurrection will be Equal to the Angels.

Luke 20:35-36 ----- ³⁵but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, ³⁶for they cannot die anymore, because *they are equal to angels* (isaggelos) (like an angel) and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.

The word angel in this verse is from the Greek word (isaggelos) and means like an angel and equal to the angels (i.e. in that they are eternal and can never die). Those who will be resurrected and those who are alive when Christ returns will caught up to be with the Lord in eternal glory. They will be immortal and eternal as the angels are, but with one great difference, the angels are God's ministering Spirits whereas those who are gathered together with Christ will be the sons and daughters of God.

Angels and Strangers.

Hebrews 13:2 ----- ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have *entertained angels unawares*.

These words can apply to the following two groups: -

1. God's heavenly angels as they appeared to Abraham in (Gen. 18), and Lot (Gen. 19:1-11) though today it is unlikely that this will ever be our case since we do not need angels today to proclaim God's will and revelation to us since we have it in print in the cannon of the Bible. Nevertheless since God is sovereign we cannot annihilate His dominion to do as he wills so it is possible that God might send a spiritual angel in some form to help a person suffering a great crisis or great need, but this certainly is not the norm for Christian life today neither should we live with the expectation of it since most in the Bible who had angels visit them were taken by surprise and certainly not expecting them to appear.
2. To human strangers who we show hospitality and kindness to and they turn out to be an enormous blessing to our lives, either financially, emotionally or spiritually or in any other way that lifts a great burden from us. Even those in the world use the expression "They were like an angel from heaven to me" referring to a human person who has greatly helped them through a difficult time.

Many men and women throughout history have been involved in accidents, natural disasters and such like things that have threatened their life and a total stranger has come to their rescue. It is right and proper for the person whose life was saved from certain horror or death to say to their friends that, "The stranger was an angel of God sent to their rescue."

Angels and Dignities.

2 Peter 2:10-11 ----- ¹⁰But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid *to speak evil of dignities*. ¹¹Whereas angels (aggelos) which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.

Peter is saying that some prideful and arrogant men speak blasphemous words against those in authority, but the angels of God who are far greater than men never speak in such an ungodly manner.

For further information see: -

- 2 Peter 2 in, Commentary NT (ON WEBSITE MENU).
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Angels in Chains.

Jude 1:6 -----⁶And the angels (aggelos) who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day—

The angels in this context are not God's heavenly angels, but God's prophets and priests who were called of God and had the potential to be great men of God because of their gifts, talents and positions of authority, but instead of serving God, they served self and used their gifts and talents for their own selfish gain.

For further information see: -

- Jude in, Commentary NT (ON WEBSITE MENU).
-

Angels and the Throne of God.

- There are angels standing around the throne of God (Rev. 5:11).
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Angels and Power.

Angels have power over: -

- The wind, and control it (Rev. 7:1).
- The earth (Rev. 7:3).
- The sea (Rev. 7:3 (Rev. 16:20)).
- Hail (Rev. 8:7) (Rev. 16:21).
- Fire (Rev. 8:7).
- Mountains (Rev. 8:8) (Rev. 16:20).
- The sun (Rev. 8:12) (Rev. 15:8).
- The moon (Rev. 8:12).
- Demons (Rev. 9:1).
- Humans (Rev. 9:15).
- Satan (Rev. 12:7).
- Satan's angels (Rev. 12:9).
- **Angels have power to: -**
- Cause great earthquakes (Rev. 16:18).

- Turn sea to blood (Rev. 5:11).
- Cast stars from heaven (Rev. 5:11).
- Administer the wrath of God (Rev. 15:1).
- Put sores on humans (Rev. 15:2).
- Kill every living creature in the sea (Rev. 15:3).
- Dry up the river Euphrates (Rev. 16:12).

SUMMARY: Angels (aggelos) New Testament.

- Angels move between heaven and earth.
- Angels can take on human form.
- Angels have conversations with humans they listen, speak and answer questions in the same language as the person they are talking to.
- Angels eat the same food as humans.
- Angels have their feet washed and they can physically touch people.
- Angels have free will.
- Angels experience joy and happiness and appear exactly like humans.
- Angels have tremendous power over creation when God gives it to them.
- People saw angels, but thought they were humans.

Now here is the glory the wonder and the splendor of the Christian faith and the Christians joy, in the resurrection we will be transformed to be like the angels.

End