

The Spiritual World

Bible References

There are many references to angels in the Bible. This groups most of the main ones. Always read Bible verses in context and check with your church leaders if you are unsure of the meaning of anything.

Angels

Creation & existence of spirits

Colossians 1:16 Christ ... made the things we can see and the things we can't see - such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. NLT

See also Ephesians 1:21 & Colossians 2:10; Ephesians 3:10

How many are there?

Revelation 5:11 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. NIV

"...the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands." Young's' Literal Translation

Who and What are they?

- Spiritual beings: Hebrews 1:7,14 All the angels are spirits ...
- Personal being with names such as Michael in Daniel 10:13J and Jude 9; and Gabriel in Daniel 8 & 9; and Luke 1
- Intelligent beings: Luke 1:18-20 Gabriel and Zechariah have an intelligent conversation.
- Emotional beings: Luke 15:10 ... there is joy in the presence of the angels of God when one sinner changes his heart and life. Job 38:7 ...all the angels shouted with joy
- Self-willed beings: 2 Peter 2:4 ...angels when they sinned...; Revelation 12:7 And there came war in heaven.
- Asexual beings: Mark 12:25 When people rise from the dead, they will not marry, nor will they be given to someone to marry. They will be like the angels in heaven. NCV

The Status of angels

- 1 Peter 3:22 Now Jesus has gone into heaven and is at God's right side ruling over angels, authorities, and powers.
- Hebrews chapters 1 & 2 show that Jesus is far greater than angels.
- Jude 9 ...even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil ...
- Revelation 19:10 Then I bowed down at the angel's feet to worship him, but he said to me, "Do not worship me! NCV

What do angels look like?

- Hebrews 13:2 They can appear in the form of men. Some have welcomed angels without knowing.
- Ezekiel 10 and Isaiah 6 describe seraphim and cherubim
- They are very beautiful as were the devil and the other fallen angels in their original form. Ezekiel 28:12

What can they do or not do?

- Move objects: Matthew 28:2 For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone...
- Open doors e.g. to prisons: Acts 5:19 & 23 and Acts 12:6-11
- They can perform miraculous signs up to a point. Revelation 16:14: the spirits of demons, which have power to do miracles.
- Angels cannot hear people's thoughts. Daniel 2:9-11: So then, tell me the dream, and I will know that you can interpret it for me.' The astrologers answered the king, {Nebuchadnezzar} 'There is no one on earth who can do what the king asks! No king, however great and mighty, has ever asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or astrologer. ¹¹ What the king asks is too difficult. No one can reveal it to the king except the gods, and they do not live among humans.
- Angels don't marry or reproduce. Mark 12:25 Mark 12:25 When people rise from the dead, they will not marry, nor will they be given to someone to marry. They will be like the angels in heaven. NCV

The Role of angels

Courtier and choir

They surround God's throne forming a heavenly court and singing praises

Isaiah 6:1-2... I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple. Attending him were mighty seraphim... NLT

Psalms 103:20 Praise the LORD, you his angels...

Luke 2:13-14 Suddenly a large group of angels from heaven also appeared. They were praising God.

Messengers

'Angel' means 'messenger'. Gabriel's visits to *Zechariah and Mary* are a well-known part of the Christmas story. Luke 1:11-20 and 26-38.

Gabriel was sent to explain to *Daniel* the meaning of the visions he had whilst in exile in Babylon. Daniel chapters 8 and 9.

They are guardians & helpers of men

- Genesis 19:1-17. Angels rescued Lot and his family from Sodom
- 1 Kings 19:3-8. An angel helped Elijah by giving him food and water to strengthen him.
- 2 Kings 6:8-23. An army of angels protected Elisha when trapped by an Aramean army
- Psalm 91:9-11. If you make the Most High your dwelling... he will command his angels to guard you in all your ways. NIV
- Matthew 18:10. Be careful. Don't think these little children are worth nothing. I tell you that they have angels in heaven who are always with my Father in heaven. NCV
- Acts 5:19 & 23 and Acts 12:6-11. An angel helped Peter and others to escape from prison.
- Hebrews 1:14. All the angels are spirits who serve God and are sent to help NCV

They are spiritual warriors and fight battles.

Psalm 103:20 ... his angels ... the mighty warriors who do what he says and who obey his voice.

Daniel 10, especially verses 10-14

I have come in answer to your prayer. But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, (chief princes NIV) came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia. NLT

The Dark Side of the Spiritual World

The Angel Rebellion

Ezekiel 28:12-17 NIV

You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

You were in Eden

You were anointed as a guardian cherub

You were blameless in your ways ...till wickedness was found in you.

and I expelled you, O guardian cherub,

Your heart became proud on account of your beauty

So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings

(This passage refers to the King of Babylon but most theologians see it as having a double meaning.)

Isaiah 14:12-15

How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn!

You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God..." NIV

Jude v.6: And remember the angels who did not keep their place of power (their own principality YLT) but left their proper home. The Lord has kept these angels in darkness, bound with everlasting chains, to be judged on the great day. NCV

Revelation 12:7-9: Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down – that ancient snake called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. NIV

2 Peter 2:4: For God did not spare even the angels who sinned. He threw them into hell, in gloomy pits of darkness, where they are being held until the day of judgment. NLT

Names of God's enemy

Job 1:6 One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and **Satan** also came with them. NIV

One day the divine beings came to present themselves before the Lord, and **the Adversary** also came among them. CEB

Revelation 12:10 For **the accuser** of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. NIV *In the New Testament Greek the word for 'accuser' is 'Diabolos'. In English we translate this as 'devil'.*

Revelation 9:11 Their king is the angel from the bottomless pit; his name in Hebrew is **Abaddon**, and in Greek, **Apollyon—the Destroyer**. NLT

Isaiah 14:12: "How you are fallen from heaven, O **Lucifer**, son of the morning! NKJV

This may be his original name. It is Latin for 'bright shining star'.

Matthew 10:22-28: **Beelzebub**: is a nickname used in some translations of the New Testament gospels. It means 'the lord of dung', or 'the dung-god'.

Other titles for him:

- Matthew 4:3 - the tempter
- Luke 11:15 - the prince of demons
- John 12:31; 14:30 - the ruler/prince of this world
- 2 Corinthians 4:4 - the god of this world
- Ephesians 2:2 - the prince of the power of the air
- Revelation 12:9 - the dragon
- Revelation 12:9; 20:2 - the old serpent

Satan's characteristics*Powerful*

- Luke 4:5-6 Then the devil took Jesus and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in an instant. The devil said to Jesus, "I will give you all these kingdoms and all their power and glory. It has all been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I wish. NCV
- Acts 26:18 ...to open their eyes so that they may turn away... from the power of Satan and to God. NCV
- Ephesians 2:2 the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. NLT
- Ephesians 6:12 Our fight is not against people on earth but against the rulers and authorities and the powers of this world's darkness, against the spiritual powers of evil in the heavenly world. NCV
- Colossians 2:8, 15, 20
- v.8 ...empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world...NLT
- v.15 In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities.. NLT
- v. 20 You have died with Christ, and he has set you free from the spiritual powers of this world. So why do you keep on following the rules of the world... NLT

Proud

1 Timothy 3:6 ...lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. NKJV

Fierce & cruel, a murderer

Stories in Luke 8:29 and Luke 9:39 show how cruelly demons treat people

- John 8:44: He was a murderer from the beginning... NCV
- 1 Peter 5:8-9: ...Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion... NIV

Keep a cool head. Stay alert. The Devil is poised to pounce... the Msg

- 1 John 3:8: the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. NIV

Warnings

- 2 Corinthians 11:14: Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. NLT
- Ephesians 4:26-27: Do not give the devil a way to defeat you. NCV
- 1 Peter 5:8-9: ...Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion... Resist him... NIV
- 1 Timothy 4:1 - some will ... follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. NIV
- Revelation 16:14... they are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs NIV

- Deuteronomy 18:10-13 And do not let your people practice fortune-telling, or use sorcery, or interpret omens, or engage in witchcraft, or cast spells, or function as mediums or psychics, or call forth the spirits of the dead. NLT
- Leviticus 19:26: “Do not practice fortune-telling or witchcraft. NLT
- 2 Peter 2:10-11: These people ... scoff at supernatural beings ... But the angels, who are far greater in power and strength, do not dare to bring from the Lord a charge of blasphemy against those supernatural beings. NLT
- Jude 1:8-9: In the same way, these people... scoff at supernatural beings. But even Michael, one of the mightiest of the angels, did not dare accuse the devil of blasphemy, but simply said, “The Lord rebuke you!” (This took place when Michael was arguing with the devil about Moses’ body.)
- Colossians 2:18 – Do not let anyone disqualify you by making you humiliate yourself and worship angels

Victory

- Luke 10:17-20 When the seventy-two disciples returned, they joyfully reported to him, “Lord, even the demons obey us when we use your name!”
- “Yes,” he told them, “I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning! Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy... NLT
- Ephesians 6:10-13: Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his great power. Put on the full armour of God so that you can fight against the devil's evil tricks. Our fight is not against people on earth but against the rulers and authorities and the powers of this world's darkness, against the spiritual powers of evil in the heavenly world. That is why you need to put on God's full armour. Then on the day of evil you will be able to stand strong. And when you have finished the whole fight, you will still be standing. NCV
- James 4:6-7: So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. NLT
- So give yourselves completely to God. Stand against the devil and the devil will run from you. NCV
- 1 Corinthians 10:13 ...God who will not permit you to be tempted more than you can stand. But when you are tempted, he will also give you a way to escape so that you will be able to stand it.
- Colossians 2:14-15:
 - “On the cross, Christ defeated all spiritual powers and forces. He let the whole world see them being led away as prisoners when he celebrated his victory. “Colossians 2:14-15
 - ¹⁵ God stripped the spiritual rulers and powers of their authority. With the cross, he won the victory and showed the world that they were powerless. NCV
 - ¹⁵ He took away the weapons of the powers and authorities. He made a public show of them. He won the battle over them by dying on the cross. NIRV
 - ¹⁵ He disarmed those who once ruled over us—those who had overpowered us. The Voice
- John 10:7-10 Jesus: “I am the door for the sheep. Whoever enters through me will be saved ...The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. NCV. Derech hasha'ar = way of the entrance.

Bible Translations:

NCV = New Century Version

NLT = New Living Translation

NIV = New International Version

YLT = Young's Literal Translation

NKJV = New King James Version

CEB = Common English Bible, 2011