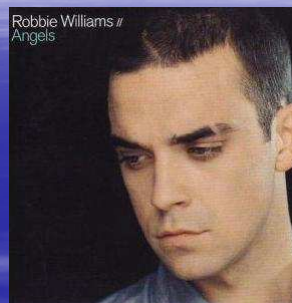


# Angels – Facts and Myths

## Popular Perception

- “I sit and wait, does an angel contemplate my fate?”
- “and through it all she offers me protection, a lot of love and affection, whether I’m right or wrong”
- “No one on earth could feel like this; I’m thrown and overblown with bliss. There must be an angel playing with my heart.”



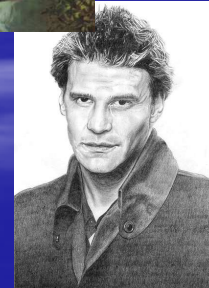
## Popular perception – common ideas

- Wings
- Female
- Supernatural
- Dressed in white



## Other common ideas

- Often associated with love and feelings (similar to the idea of cherubs)
- Guardian Angels
- Angels can be wicked as well as good
- Common to many major religions



# What are the true facts about angels?

Source – God's message, the Bible

## 1. Angels DO exist

- Spoken of many times in the Bible – in both Old and New Testament.
- They play many roles and take part in many events – they are not imaginary or fictitious

## 2. Angels are God's messengers

The meaning of 'angel':

Old Testament:

- Hebrew word – malak = messenger

New Testament:

- Greek word – aggelos = messenger

## 2. Angels as messengers

Judges 2 v 1 (ESV)

- Now **the angel of the Lord** went up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, "I brought you up from Egypt and brought you into the land that I swore to give to your fathers. I said, 'I will never break my covenant with you.....'"

## 2. Angels as messengers

Judges 6 v 11-12 (ESV)

- Now the angel of the Lord came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. And the angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, "The Lord is with you, O mighty man of valor."

## 2. Angels as messengers

- Luke 1 v 26 (ESV)
- In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin...





## Fact vs Myth

- Myth:
  - Angels are associated with love and emotions
- Bible Fact:
  - Angels are God's messengers; their work includes giving God's laws and warnings, bringing good news and bringing about destruction of the ungodly
  - Angels are not associated at all with human, emotional love

## 3. Angels are supernatural

Psalm 104:4 (KJV)

Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire:

Angels are spirit  
– not constrained in the way that humans are  
– they share God's nature

### 3. Angels are supernatural

- **Judges 13 v 17 v 21** –  
Samson's parents and  
the Angel of the LORD



Angels can appear and disappear at will  
They have powers beyond human abilities

### 4. Angels use God's power and do God's work

- Psalm 103 v 20-21 (ESV)  
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!**

Angels are different to men and women  
They cannot do wrong (sin)  
They obey God's voice and do His will

## Fact vs Myth

- Myth:
  - Angels can be good or bad – there are evil or fallen angels out there
- Bible Fact:
  - Angels can only be good – they were created by God to do His will
  - Angels do not have free will to choose to obey or disobey God, as we do

## 5. Angels can speak as God

- **Exodus 3 v 1-8**
- The angel of the LORD takes God's name to himself – he speaks as God, because he speaks as God's representative





## Can we compare Angels with mankind?

- **Psalm 8 v 3-5**

- Man was made lower than the angels

- **Genesis 1 v 26 (ESV)**

Then God said, "**Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.** And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

## Fact vs Myth

- **Myth:**

- Angels have wings
  - Angels are depicted as female
  - Always dressed in white

- **Bible Fact:**

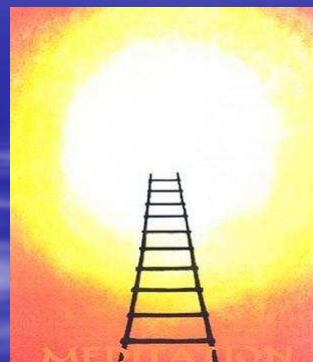
- Angels don't have wings – they appear like men, and dress as men would
  - Angels are only ever male when we meet them in the Bible

## 6. Angels appear as men

- **Genesis 18 v 1 – 5**
- Abraham treats 3 angels as ordinary men
- Hebrews 13 v 2 (ESV)
- Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

## 7. There are many angels, at work in heaven and on earth

- Genesis 28 v 12 (ESV)
- And Jacob dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, **the angels of God were ascending and descending on it!**



## 7. Many angels

- Revelation 5 v 11 (KJV)
- And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the living creatures and the elders: and **the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;**

## Summary so far

- Angels do exist
- They are God's messengers, created by Him
- They are supernatural, sharing God's nature
- They use God's power and do God's work
- Angels often take on God's name
- They cannot sin
- They appear as men – we are made in their image
- There are very many angels, both in heaven and on earth

**SO WHAT?**

If we are disciples of Jesus Christ  
God's angels play an important  
part in our life

The angels work on behalf of  
believers

- Hebrews 1 v 14 (ESV)
- Are they not all **ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?**

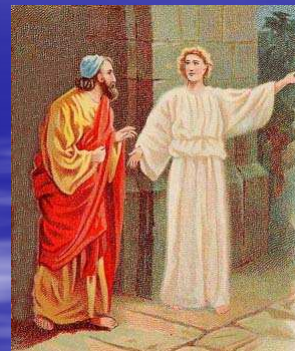
## The effect of angels in the believer's life

- David – **Psalm 34 v 1-7** – God's help given through the angels



## Angels in the believer's life

- **Acts 12 v 1-15** – Peter in prison
- An angel delivers him from prison
- The disciples believe that Peter has a 'personal' angel





## A personal angel?

- Matthew 18 v 10 (ESV)
- "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that **in heaven their angels** always see the face of my Father who is in heaven".

Becoming a disciple of Jesus puts us in the care of God and the angels who do his work – serving those who are to inherit salvation

## This is not a promise of personal protection

- Jesus – when tempted to throw himself off the pinnacle of the temple: "You shall not tempt the Lord your God."
- It IS a promise of God's care – **in the way that is best for us**
- Romans 8 v 28 (ESV)
- And we know that for those who love God **all things work together for good**, for those who are called according to his purpose.

## The angels have an important future role

- To gather Jesus' followers to be with him when he returns to set up God's kingdom on earth
- Matthew 24 v 30-31 (ESV)
- ...and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And **he will send out his angels** with a loud trumpet call, **and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.**

## God's promise for the future

- Believers will be granted immortality, like the angels
- Luke 20 v 35-36 (ESV)
- But 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.

If we become disciples of Jesus:  
we have God's promise of care  
through his angels today;  
And a nature like theirs in the  
future

If God will do all this for us  
What is stopping us from doing our part  
– believing and being baptised into  
Jesus Christ?