

# Information about Angels

## Source:

A lot of the following information has been obtained from a book by Charles B. Hodge entitled Angels published originally in 1977 by 21<sup>st</sup> Century Christian in Nashville, Tennessee.

## Introduction:

The subject of angels is an intriguing study to say the least. Many have assumed a lot of things about angels that cannot be founded in scripture. While many focus on feelings and personal thoughts, the child of God will search to look for a biblical answer (1Peter 4:11; 2Timothy 4:1-5). The good news is that since at least 34 of the 66 books of the Bible mention angels, then the information is readily available to us.

## Preliminary information:

### Definition:

“A messenger,” sent whether by God or by man or by Satan, “is also used of a guardian or representative in Revelation 1:20, cf. Matthew 18:10; Acts 12:15 (where it is better understood as ‘ghost’), but most frequently of an order of created beings, superior to man, Hebrews 2:7; Psalms 8:5, belonging to Heaven, Matthew 24:36; Mark 12:25, and to God, Luke 12:8, and engaged in His service, Psalm 103:20. “Angles” are spirits, Hebrews 1:14, i.e., they have not material bodies as men have; they are either human in form, or can assume the human form when necessary, cf. Luke 24:4, with v. 23, Acts 10:3 with v. 30.

“They are called ‘holy’ in Mark 8:38, and ‘elect,’ 1Timothy 5:21, in contrast with some of their original number, Matthew 25:41, who ‘sinned,’ 2Peter 2:4, ‘left their proper habitation,’ Jude 6 ... Angels are always spoken of in the masculine gender, the feminine form of the word does not occur” (Vine).

## Misconceptions:

1. **Angels can be women.** They have only been giving masculine names (Gabriel in Daniel 8 and 9 as well as Luke 1 and Michael mentioned in Daniel 10 and 12, Jude, and Revelation 12). They appear to men as men as in Genesis 18 and Mark 16:5. The implication of two passages is that angels do not have gender or are sexless:
  - a. Matthew 22:29-32, “Jesus answered and said to them, ‘You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven. But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.’”
  - b. Luke 20:35-37, “But those who are counted worthy to attain that age, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; nor can they die anymore, for they

are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. But even Moses showed in the burning bush passage that the dead are raised, when he called the Lord ‘the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’”

2. **Angels have halos and play harps.** The word ‘halo’ does not appear in the Bible at all. The word ‘harp’ is never used in the context of angels. Further, nothing is said of angels having wings. Even if one subscribes to the idea that the seraphim and cherubim are kinds of angels, the depiction artists give of only two relatively small wings would be inaccurate (see Isaiah 6:2, 6 and 2Chronicles 3:11, 13).
3. **Angels do have not personal feelings.** They have desire seen in 1Peter 1:12 and rejoice when one sinner repents as in Luke 15:10, “Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

### **Facts:**

1. **There are a lot of angels:**
  - a. Hebrews 12:22, “But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels...”
  - b. Revelation 5:11, “Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands...”
  - c. Matthew 26:53, “Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?”
2. **Angels are created beings:** Colossians 1:16, “For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.” Further, they were created in the six days of creation (Exodus 20:11).
3. **Angels can serve God or Satan which implies they have free-moral agency** (2Peter 2:4, Jude 6).
4. **Angels have strength and are brilliant** (2Peter 2:11, 1Peter 1:12). Angels do not know everything (see Matthew 24:36).
5. **Angels are pleasant to behold** (Matthew 28:3, Luke 2:9, Acts 1:10). They can have a voice like thunder (John 12:29).

### **Conclusion:**

The summation of the purpose of angels is found in Hebrews 1:14, “Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?” The context of the chapter is that the Son of God has been exalted above the angels and is better than the angels. To prove this, the writer quotes several Old Testament passages many of which are from the Psalms. This verse sets forth God’s purpose for angels.