

Spiritual Beings

Angels, Part 4

1

How Do Angels Interact With People?

2

Angels Minister to People

¹⁴ Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation? (Hebrews 1:14)

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³⁹ Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. ⁴⁰ On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." ⁴¹ He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, ⁴² "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." ⁴³ An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. (Luke 22:39-43)

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²³ Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me ²⁴ and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' (Acts 27:23-24)

- Does this happen today? If so, what does it look like?
- If it doesn't happen today, why not?
- What is implied with either answer?

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Do People Have Guardian Angels? (Maybe)

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



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13 Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant named Rhoda came to answer the door. 14 When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, "Peter is at the door!" 15 "You're out of your mind," they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, "It must be his angel." 16 But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. (Acts 12:13-16)

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***11 For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways;
12 they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.
(Psalm 91:11-12)***

- **What does it look like to have a Guardian Angel?**
- **What's implied if we do have a Guardian Angel?**

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Will Christians Judge Angels?

If any of you has a dispute with another, do you dare to take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the Lord's people? ² Or do you not know that the Lord's people will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? ³ Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! (1 Corinthians 6:1-3)

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- 1. This is an example of a pericope: A single passage of scripture that has no other similar reference point in the Bible and whose meaning is completely obscure. Nobody can say with certainty what this means.**
- 2. One possibility is that the passage's context Paul is using the literary device of exaggeration to make the point that Christians ought to have the wisdom to adjudicate their own disputes without resorting to the courts.**

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3. One possibility is that the word “judge” is synonymous with “rule” (e.g. as used of the Judges in the book of Judges) not with “pass judgment.” This might be seen as consistent with Mathew 19:28 *Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”*

11

The Angel of Death

¹⁵ So the LORD sent a plague on Israel from that morning until the end of the time designated, and seventy thousand of the people from Dan to Beersheba died. ¹⁶ When the angel stretched out his hand to destroy Jerusalem, the LORD relented concerning the disaster and said to the angel who was afflicting the people, “Enough! Withdraw your hand.” The angel of the LORD was then at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. (2 Samuel 24:15-16)

• Is this a “one-time thing” or is an angel present at all death?

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The Angel of the LORD

The Angel of the LORD appears often in the Old Testament

- Hagar (Genesis 13)
- Abraham: Foretelling Isaac's birth (Genesis 18), the sacrifice of Isaac (Genesis 22)
- Lot: The Sodom and Gomorrah story (Genesis 19)
- Jacob: Dealing with family matters (Genesis 31), wrestling with him (Genesis 32)
- Moses (Exodus 3)
- Balam's Donkey (Numbers 22)
- Gideon (Judges 6)
- (Judges 13)

13

- The Angel of the LORD accepts sacrifices and worship

¹¹ The angel of the LORD came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. ¹² When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior" ...¹⁷ Gideon replied, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really you talking to me. ¹⁸ Please do not go away until I come back and bring my offering and set it before you" ...²² When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the LORD, he exclaimed, "Alas, Sovereign LORD! I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face!" ²³ But the LORD said to him, "Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die." ²⁴ So Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and called it The LORD Is Peace. (Judges 6:11-12, 17-18, 22-23)

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The Angel of the LORD is commonly thought to be either a manifestation of the pre-incarnate Christ or a manifestation of God

- **This is because people to whom the Angel of the LORD appear acknowledge him as God**

⁷ The angel of the LORD found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur...¹³ She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me." (Genesis 16:7, 13)