

### Angels - 3 — Angels in the End Times

The Four Living Creatures before the throne of God are the ones who will execute the first series of judgments that will mark the beginning of the Tribulation. It is in response to their commands that the Four Horsemen go forth with the Seal Judgments that result in the death of 1/4th of all humanity. (Revelation 6:1-8).

Simultaneously, it is angels who will seal the 144,000 Jews so that they will be supernaturally protected from all the judgments to come (Revelation 7:2-3).

When the second series of judgments begin—the Trumpet Judgments— it will be angels once again who serve as the instruments of God's wrath, resulting in the deaths of 1/3 of those still left alive on the earth (Revelation 8 and 9).

In the middle of the Tribulation, Satan will try one last time to take the throne of God, resulting in a war in the heavens between Satan and his demonic angels and Michael and his holy angels. Satan will be defeated, and he and his angels will be cast down to earth. His access to Heaven will be cut off permanently (Revelation 12:7-12).<sup>1</sup>

Revelation tells us that when God removes Satan's influence from the world during the Millenium (1,000 years), he will only need one mighty angel to accomplish the task.

Revelation 20:1-3 — **Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven with the key to the bottomless pit and a heavy chain in his hand. He seized the dragon—that old serpent, who is the devil, Satan—and bound him in chains for a thousand years. The angel threw him into the bottomless pit, which he then shut and locked so Satan could not deceive the nations anymore until the thousand years were finished. Afterward he must be released for a little while.**

To show you how deceived the world really is in reference to the spirit-world around us — the more we study God's word, the more we will come to the conclusion that the world is not a playground, but a fiercely fought battleground.

In the second half of the Tribulation we are told that God will give mankind one last opportunity to repent before he pours out his final wrath. He does this in a most unusual way. He sends forth three angels with very specific tasks.

The first angel.... is given the responsibility to proclaim the "eternal gospel" to "every nation and tribe and tongue and people" (Revelation 14:6). This will be the only time in history that God allows an angel to preach the Gospel. It will constitute the fulfillment of a prophecy made by Jesus when he said.....<sup>1</sup>

Revelation 14:6 — **And I saw another angel flying through the sky, carrying the eternal Good News to proclaim to the people who belong to this world—to every nation, tribe, language, and people.**

Matthew 24:14 — **And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.**

In Revelation 21, an angel invites John to see a part of the new heaven and new earth in eternity.

Revelation 21:10-14 — **So he took me in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and he showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God. It shone with the glory of God and sparkled like a precious stone—like jasper as clear as crystal.**

**The city wall was broad and high, with twelve gates guarded by twelve angels. And the names of the twelve tribes of Israel were written on the gates. There were three gates on each side—east, north, south, and west. The wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were written the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.**

#### **Other things to consider.....**

During angelic visitations in Scripture, the first thing the angel usually says is “Fear not!” Why would they say that unless there was something to fear? What could they be afraid of? Would it be something in their appearance? Maybe just the awesome presence and power that John saw.

Revelation 22:8 — **I, John, am the one who heard and saw all these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me.**

A well known 13th Century priest noted,“...the natural light of an angel is by nature of a higher excellence than the natural light of man.”<sup>3</sup>

When an angel appeared to Joseph and told him that Mary would bear the Christ child, that an angel appeared to a group of shepherds and said that the Christ child had been born, when an angel met the women who came looking for Jesus after his crucifixion and told them the one they sought had been raised from the dead, ...and more — these beings were actual **other**. And the reason they were and still are “other” is that they reside in the presence of God.

The people of Israel were afraid to come near Moses because the “skin of his face shone” (Exod 34:30). Something they had never seen before because Moses had been in God’s presence for 40 days & 40 nights. Angels, on the other hand, have spent the entirety of their existence up close and personal with their creator God. Imagine the intense luster they must possess.<sup>2</sup>

#### **And finally.... “The Angel of the Lord”**

The Angel is different from just “angel”.... and is referred to 56 times in the Hebrew Scriptures. There are numerous examples, and many are believed to be Jesus, which is referred to as “**christophany**” — any appearance of Christ after his resurrection. Among those appearances are: Jesus in human form in the Old Testament. The appearance to Joshua at Jericho, after the crossing. The angel that stood in the way of Balaam and his donkey. The angel in the fire with Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego. The person Jacob wrestled with called “a man.” It is important to note that all appearances of “the Angel” ceased after the incarnation of Christ.

There are other manifestations that represent God that are referred to as “**theophany**,” a term that reflects deity. More specifically it would be a reference to God, the Father —

God himself appearing in some way to his people. Walking in the Garden with Adam and Eve. Appearing to Abraham on his arrival in the land. When God answered Job out of a tempest. It is not always clear as to appearances by Christ or God the Father. Of course, they are one. But we can't lose sight of....

The Angel's deity is attested to by the fact that on two occasions He accepted worship. When he appeared to both Moses in Exodus and Joshua, they were told to remove their sandals for they were "standing on holy ground." Those appearances could not have been God Himself since John told us "No one has seen God at any time." Thus... the people in the Old Testament times who saw God really saw Jesus in a pre-incarnate form "declaring" God. And God told Moses at Mt. Sinai, "You cannot see My face, for no one may see Me and live."<sup>1</sup>

We are also told that Jacob wrestled with a "Man" who identified himself as God. In fact, Jacob says, "I have seen God face to face...." We can assume that Jacob had been talking about Jesus.

The imagery of The Angel of the Lord" is carried over in the New Testament with John's vision in Revelation 10. John is given a flash forward to the end of the Tribulation. He sees a "strong angel" coming down out of Heaven. The angel has the title deed of the earth in his hand. He puts one foot on land and the other in the sea and lifts the title deed in the air as a symbol of his claiming of all creation for himself. The deed, we are told in Revelation 5 that only Jesus is worthy to open.

Some object to the identification of this angel as Jesus because he makes an oath by the name of God. Some ask "How can God swear by God?" Yet in Hebrews 6:13, we are told that when God made his promises to Abraham that "He swore by Himself" because "He could swear by no one greater." The same thing in Jeremiah 22:5 where God says, "I swear by Myself."<sup>1</sup>

Revelation contains over 300 quotes or references to Old Testament passages, more than any other New Testament book, which brings us to a final note of interest.....

God the Father has a personal name — **Yahweh**. That name is used in the Hebrew Scriptures 6,668 times. However, that name is replaced or disguised in most English translations by the use of the word, LORD — all in capital letters.

It is strange that translators have not used the very name God gave himself in the Scriptures.

Angels — what powerful reminders that we are surrounded by the servants of our loving Father who is always intimately involved in the development of His chosen bride for the marriage supper of the Lamb which is coming soon.

Thus ends our brief study on angels.

- 1 David Reagan
- 2 Jack Graham
- 3 Thomas Aquinas