

Angels

Angels are very popular. They're depicted in everything from books to paintings to television shows – but much of what our culture teaches about angels is wrong. In this document we're going to take a look at what the Bible has to say about angels and correct some common misunderstandings.

People Do Not Become Angels When They Die

There are some people who believe that when they die they become an angel. This belief is incorrect. The Bible tells us that angels are a separate race of beings – a *superior* race, as it turns out:

Psalm 8:4-5: “What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.”

Mankind and angels are *two separate classes of beings*. People don't become angels and angels don't become people. Men and women are physical beings who God created from the dust of the ground (Genesis 2:7). Angels, however, are spirits:

Hebrews 1:7: “And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.”

Hebrews 1:14: “Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?”

Throughout the Bible angels sometimes appear in human form, but they're *not* human and they're *not* physical beings. They are **spirits!**

Angels are *not* divine and they must not be worshiped. There was once a time when the apostle John tried to worship an angel. When he did that the angel immediately stopped him:

Revelation 19:10: “And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

We are to worship God alone. Angels are our fellow servants! They're not gods.

Angels are also not eternal. They had a beginning, which brings us to our next point.

Angels Are Created Beings

Angels haven't existed for all of eternity. The only being who has always existed is God Himself. God has no beginning and He has no end (Revelation 1:8). Angels, however, were created by God along with everything else:

Colossians 1:16: “For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:”

When this verse speaks of “principalities, or powers” it's referring to angels. (This isn't the only time the Bible speaks of angels in those terms.) An even clearer reference to their creation can be found here:

Psalm 148:1: "Praise ye the Lord. Praise ye the Lord from the heavens: praise him in the heights.

2 Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts. . .

5 Let them praise the name of the Lord: for he commanded, and they were created."

The angels haven't existed for all of eternity! They were created by Jesus Christ. The Bible doesn't tell us how many angels there are but it does say their number is enormous:

Hebrews 12:22: "But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,"

The number of angels is fixed; it's not growing. This is because angels don't reproduce or get married:

Mark 12:25: "For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven."

They also cannot die:

Luke 20:36: "Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection."

All of the angels which are mentioned in the Bible are male. There's no evidence that there are any female angels.

When were the angels created? Well, we know that they

were created on a specific day. This is what the Bible says about Satan (who is a fallen angel):

Ezekiel 28:13-15: “Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.”

The devil is also a created being. Notice that the verse mentions the *day* when he was created. Unfortunately that passage doesn't tell us *which* day. To find that out we're going to have to dig a little deeper.

Genesis 1:1-5 recounts the creation of light and darkness. God created day and night on the very first day:

Genesis 1:5: “And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.”

It's important to realize that *there were no days before this day*. This was the *very first day*. God is eternal! Unlike us, He doesn't need time and space in order to exist. On the very first day in all of eternity God created day and night. Since the angels were also created on a specific day, that means they must have been formed either on that first day or after it. They couldn't have been made earlier because *there were no days before it*.

So which day was it? Well, in the book of Job we're told

this:

Job 38:4-7: “Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?”

The “sons of God” who are mentioned in verse 7 are angels. (They obviously aren't people because mankind didn't exist when God laid the foundations of the Earth!) The reason they're referred to as “sons of God” is because each angel was created directly by God Himself.

As you can see, the angels existed when God laid the foundations of the world. Since God laid the foundations of the world on the very first day, that means God created the angels earlier that day. The angels may have been one of the very first things that God created.

In summary, angels are created beings who were made by Jesus Christ. They were probably brought into existence on the first day of the Creation Week.

There Is Only One Archangel

There are a number of cults out there which claim that there are multiple archangels. However, the Bible teaches otherwise. There's only one archangel, and his name is Michael:

Jude 1:9: “Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.”

Michael is said to be *the* archangel! No other archangels are mentioned in the Bible.

Michael has several roles. The book of Jude tells us that he once contended with the devil about the body of Moses (Jude 1:9). Jude doesn't explain why the devil was interested in Moses' body, but apparently he was – and Michael resisted and rebuked him. Michael is the only angel that we ever see directly fighting the devil himself.

When the devil is finally cast out of Heaven (which is a future event, not a historical one), Michael is the one who will lead the charge against him:

Revelation 12:7-8: "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven."

This verse is more evidence that Michael is the only archangel. After all, the other angels in Heaven are said to be *his* angels! There are two factions: Michael and his angels, and Satan and his demons.

Michael does have another role, however. The Bible refers to him as the great prince who watches over the children of Israel:

Daniel 10:21: "But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince."

Daniel 12:1: "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that

time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.”

Throughout history the devil has tried very hard to wipe out the children of Israel, but Michael has stood by them and protected them. He is the one who stands for the Jews.

Finally, it should be noted that some cults claim that Michael is actually Jesus Christ. That is *not* the case! Michael is an angel. He's a very important and mighty angel, but he's just an angel. He's not God.

Classifications of Angels

The Bible names two different types of angels: the **cherubim** and the **seraphim**. The cherubim seem to function as guards. After Adam and Eve sinned, God placed two of them to keep men away from the Tree of Life:

Genesis 3:24: “So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.”

The cherubims also carry the throne of God:

Psalms 18:9-10: “He bowed the heavens also, and came down: and darkness was under his feet. And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: yea, he did fly upon the wings of the wind.”

Psalms 80:1: “Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwestest between the cherubims, shine forth.”

Psalm 99:1: “The Lord reigneth; let the people tremble: he sitteth between the cherubims; let the earth be moved.”

What do cherubims look like? The book of Ezekiel has a lot to say about this. Their appearance is very unusual:

Ezekiel 1:3-14: “The word of the Lord came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of the Lord was there upon him. And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire. Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance; they had the likeness of a man. And every one had four faces, and every one had four wings. And their feet were straight feet; and the sole of their feet was like the sole of a calf's foot; and they sparkled like the colour of burnished brass. And they had the hands of a man under their wings on their four sides; and they four had their faces and their wings. Their wings were joined one to another; they turned not when they went; they went every one straight forward. As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle. Thus were their faces: and their wings were stretched upward; two wings of every one were joined one to another, and two covered their bodies. And they went every one

straight forward: whither the spirit was to go, they went; and they turned not when they went. As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, and like the appearance of lamps: it went up and down among the living creatures; and the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning. And the living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning.”

How do we know these were cherubim? Because Ezekiel identifies them a few chapters later:

Ezekiel 10:14-15: “And every one had four faces: the first face was the face of a cherub, and the second face was the face of a man, and the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle. And the cherubims were lifted up. This is the living creature that I saw by the river of Chebar.”

The cherubim have a very striking appearance. They have four faces, four wings, and “their appearance was like burning coals of fire”. In the book of Ezekiel these creatures carried the throne of God – and they did so with great speed. These angels are *completely* different from the pictures of angels that you see in bookstores or on television.

So what about the seraphim? The Bible only mentions these angels one time. The word “seraphim” comes from a word that means “fiery ones”. They’re only found in the book of Isaiah:

Isaiah 6:1-7: “In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six

wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.”

The seraphim have a very different appearance from the cherubim. These angels have six wings and one face (as opposed to the cherubim, who have four wings and four faces). The seraphim don't carry the throne of God. Instead they appear to be His servants. They stand around the throne saying “holy, holy, holy”, and are ready to do God's bidding at a moment's notice.

But what about angels like Gabriel (Luke 1:19)? They don't appear to be either cherubim or seraphim. The angels which God has dispatched to interact with mankind are different from either of those types of beings. They may be a third type of angel, but the Bible doesn't give their classification a name. It's also possible that the cherubim and seraphim aren't angels at all but are an altogether different kind of creature.

What we can see is that there are different types of angels and they have different appearances, different roles, and different positions. All angels are not the same.

The Power of Angels

God has given angels a great deal of power. Their wisdom is greater than man's wisdom:

2 Samuel 14:20: "To fetch about this form of speech hath thy servant Joab done this thing: and my lord is wise, according to the wisdom of an angel of God, to know all things that are in the earth."

However, there are some things the angels don't know. Specifically, angels don't know when the Lord will return:

Matthew 24:36: "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."

Angels have great strength and the power to do miraculous things:

Matthew 28:2: "And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it."

Acts 5:19-20: "But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said, Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life."

2 Peter 2:11: "Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord."

The angels are also powerful warriors. God once used an

angel to destroy the entire Assyrian army:

2 Chronicles 32:21-22: “And the Lord sent an angel, which cut off all the mighty men of valour, and the leaders and captains in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned with shame of face to his own land. And when he was come into the house of his god, they that came forth of his own bowels slew him there with the sword. Thus the Lord saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib the king of Assyria, and from the hand of all other, and guided them on every side.”

Even though angels are powerful they don't have infinite power. It's possible for them to face resistance and need help:

Daniel 10:12-13: “Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.”

This angel was unable to complete his task until the archangel Michael came to help him. Angels have great power but sometimes they need help.

Since angels have more more power than we do God uses them to protect His people – and that leads us to our next point.

Guardian Angels

The Bible never says that each person has their own dedicated guardian angel. However, it does teach that angels watch over those who trust in God:

Psalm 91:9-11: “Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.”

Psalm 34:7: “The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.”

We can see an example of this in the story of Lot. God sent two angels to rescue him from the destruction of Sodom:

Genesis 19:15: “And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.”

This is actually part of the purpose of angels! The New Testament tells us that God uses His angels to minister to mankind:

Hebrews 1:14: “Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?”

The angels (who are referred to as “ministering spirits”) are actually sent by God to minister to us, the heirs of salvation. That's a comforting and encouraging thought!

The Message of Angels

Angels do more than battle demonic forces and protect believers. God also uses them to proclaim His messages. For example, they announced the birth of John the Baptist:

Luke 1:11-13: “And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.”

The angel Gabriel told Mary that she would give birth to Jesus:

Luke 1:26-31: “And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus.”

God used a whole multitude of angels to announce the

birth of Christ:

Luke 2:9-14: “And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

God uses angels to do His will and proclaim His messages. This isn't the last time that God will send an angel to give a message to mankind. The Bible tells us that during the seven-year tribulation, God will send an angel all over the world to preach the gospel:

Revelation 14:6-7: “And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.”

In this age it's the responsibility of the church to spread the gospel to all people. However, during the tribulation the church will be in Heaven so it won't be possible for us to preach the

gospel any longer. When that happens God will raise up others to do this task – and that includes the use of an angel.

We've see that angels protect God's people, carry out God's judgment, and proclaim God's messages. That's not all that they do. There are also times when they give God suggestions – and that brings us to our next point.

The Council of Heaven

The book of 1 Kings has one of the strangest passages in the Bible. The prophet Micaiah tells us that there's a Council of Heaven that gives God suggestions concerning how to accomplish God's will on Earth:

1 Kings 22:19-22: “And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left. And the Lord said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the Lord, and said, I will persuade him. And the Lord said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so.”

To say that this is unexpected is an understatement! This is one of the most unusual truths in the Bible, so let's take some time to delve into the matter.

First of all, we need to understand that this story isn't a myth or a bizarre fantasy. Micaiah makes it clear in verse 19 that

what he's saying is the “word of the Lord”. This scene *actually happened!* God really did ask “Who will trick Ahab into going out and dying in battle?” and then took suggestions. The Lord then selected the suggestion that would work and commanded the spirit (and remember that angels are spirits!) to go do the job. It's entirely possible that this is something God does on a regular basis.

Before anyone jumps to the wrong conclusion I want to point out that God knows all things and has all power. God did *not* ask this question because He was genuinely at a loss and didn't know what to do, and He did *not* ask because He was weak and needed help! The Lord knew exactly how He would handle this situation before He even created the world, and He was fully capable of handling it without assistance from anyone.

What we're seeing here is something a bit different. We all know that God works through people to accomplish His will, even though He's perfectly capable of carrying out His will without our help. This passage tells us that God does something similar in Heaven with the angels. I don't know how often this happens but God apparently brings situations before His angels, asks for their input, and then dispatches them to do His work.

This passage gives us a little glimpse at the way things are done in Heaven. It's not what we would expect, which makes it fascinating. Angels are actively involved in planning ways to carry out God's will! In fact there are times when they even take the initiative to carry out the will of God, which brings us to our next point.

The Watchers

In Daniel 4 we learn that Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, had a dream that troubled him. During his dream a “watcher” appeared:

Daniel 4:13: “I saw in the visions of my head upon my bed, and, behold, a watcher and an

holy one came down from heaven;”

This watcher said a number of things and then concluded with this statement:

Daniel 4:17: “This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.”

Who are the watchers? Verse 17 tells us that Nebuchadnezzar’s insanity was being imposed by the decree *of the watchers*. The reason they decreed it was so that people might know that God is the one who appoints kings and deposes them. In other words, the king’s insanity was imposed upon him *by the watchers* so that God might be glorified. Given that these watchers can enact binding decrees on the most powerful rulers on Earth *and then carry them out*, it seems that these mysterious watchers have a great deal of power!

As far as I can tell this is the only chapter in the Bible that mentions the watchers (although Ecclesiastes 5:8 may be referring to them as well). In Revelation, however, we find this unusual creature:

Revelation 4:8: “And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.”

The four beasts were said to be “full of eyes”. Could they be the watchers? It’s impossible to say but it’s interesting to think about. It may be that the watchers are a fourth classification of angels – separate from the cherubim (who have four wings and

four faces), the seraphim (who have six wings and once face), and the messenger angels that God sends to Earth (such as Gabriel).

The book of Daniel is telling us that there's a council of "holy ones" which has great power and does things on behalf of God's glory. If the watchers are angels then this expands the scope of angelic activity. Not only do angels watch over God's people and battle the forces of darkness, but they also issue binding decrees!

We're used to the idea of *people* taking the initiative to do something for the glory of God, but it's a bit unexpected to think that *angels* might do the same thing. It's easy to think of angels as a race of robots that only acts when God gives them an order. It's true that angels act whenever God commands them – but it seems that sometimes they take the initiative. There may be more to them than we think.

Angelic Oddities

A lot of our culture's common knowledge about angels is wrong. For example, all of the angels which are mentioned in the Bible are male; there's no mention of any female angels. Also, no angels sang at Christ's birth. I realize that everyone "knows" the angels sang when Christ was born, but the Bible is clear that they actually didn't. Take a look for yourself:

Luke 2:10-14: "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

The angels *said* “Glory to God in the highest”. They did *not* sing it! “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” is a great song but it's not Biblically accurate.

The Bible also tells us that **angels have a sense of curiosity**:

1 Peter 1:12: “Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.”

The angels are very interested in our salvation! That subject grabs their attention. This makes sense if you think about it because salvation was only given to mankind. When the devil fell and brought down many angels with him, God did *not* create a plan of salvation for angels. It's impossible for fallen angels to be saved because Christ became a man died for the sins of mankind. He didn't become an angel and die for the sins of angels! Since the angels don't have a redeemer, all of the angels who've sinned are lost forever with no hope of salvation. (I'm not saying that demons *want* to be saved; instead I'm saying that salvation is impossible for them.)

This means salvation is an experience that no angel will ever have. The gospel is only for mankind, which may be why the angels are curious about it.

The angels are also **interested in the apostles**:

1 Corinthians 4:9: “For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.”

Paul points out that the apostles are a spectacle to the world, to men, *and to angels*. Since the angels are interested in the gospel it makes sense that they're also interested in the ministers who God has appointed to preach the gospel. Even though God used the apostles in mighty ways, the apostles were despised, persecuted, abused, and (in many cases) executed. These church leaders (who were appointed by Jesus Christ Himself) were set forth as being the least, appointed unto death.

Before Jesus was crucified He warned His disciples about this. He told them that “he that is greatest among you shall be your servant” (Matthew 23:11) and He warned them that the highest positions of authority in His kingdom had to be purchased through immense pain and suffering (Matthew 20:22). Serving God in an ungodly world wasn't going to be easy. The apostles were made a spectacle to everyone – including the angels.

The Bible also tells us that one day **we will judge angels**:

1 Corinthians 6:3: “Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?”

Some people have tried to argue that this verse is talking about human messengers, not angelic beings. However, the whole point Paul is making is that since we will one day judge *angels* then surely we can judge matters between fellow Christians!

I believe Paul is saying that one day we'll be given authority over the angels. Christ said in Revelation 3:21 that “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne”. Christ certainly has authority over the angels! If He's going to share that authority with us then that confirms the idea that one day we will rule over them.

Another odd fact is that apparently there's **angelic food**. When the psalmist talked about Israel's journey from Egypt to Canaan he said this:

Psalm 78:24-25: “And had rained down manna

upon them to eat, and had given them of the corn of heaven. Man did eat angels' food: he sent them meat to the full.”

Do the angels really eat food or is the psalmist just being poetic? It's hard to say based on just that one passage but there's also the curious experience of Elijah:

I Kings 19:5-8: “And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat. And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baked on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again. And the angel of the Lord came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee. And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God.”

While Elijah was sleeping an angel cooked him a meal that was so potent it not only revived him, but it gave him enough energy to travel for 40 days and nights! That angelic food was *incredibly* powerful. (I realize that the “angel of the Lord” may be a preincarnate appearance of Jesus Christ but the point is still the same.)

We're not done yet though. The apostle Paul tells us that the Mosaic Law was **ordained by angels**:

Galatians 3:19: “Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.”

This seems rather astonishing but it's not the only place we find this taught in the Bible. That's the same thing Stephen told the Pharisees right before he was killed:

Acts 7:52-53: "Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it."

In other words the angels were actually involved in giving the Law to mankind! They played a role that's rarely talked about.

There is one more point that I'd like to bring up. I've saved the strangest point for last. Paul says that **women should keep their heads covered in church** because of the angels:

1 Corinthians 11:10: "For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head **because of the angels.**"

I don't think that Paul is talking about messengers between churches or anything like that. I believe he really does mean angels! There's more going on here than it seems.

As I've discussed elsewhere, in the days before the Flood there was a time when some angels became enraptured with the beauty of human women and had children with them (Genesis 6:1-2)¹. This was a terrible sin and God imprisoned the angels who did this (Jude 1:6; 2 Peter 2:4). Angels aren't permitted to marry women – but as odd as it may seem, some angels actually find women tempting. I think Paul is saying that when women wear hats (or some other symbol of authority) it reminds the angels that they're under authority and are not available.

1 For more information on this topic, see: <http://stories.cyragon.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Nephilim.pdf>

I know this seems strange but we must remember that angels can be tempted by sin. The fact that one third of all angels chose to join Satan's rebellion (Revelation 12:4) is a sober reminder that even angels can fall into sin – and once they fall there's no going back. We can obtain forgiveness through Christ but the angels cannot.