

Spiritual Interaction with Angels

Definitions

- Gk word translated “angel” is *angelos* means messenger
- Heb word translated “angel” *malakh* also means messenger

Angel’s Functions

- Heb 1:14, “Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?”
- serve as messengers
- execute God’s will in heaven and on earth
- praise, reverence, and obey God
- announce important events
- deliver warnings & judgment
- give interpretations of dreams and visions
- guide and instruct people
- guard and defend people
- minister to those in need
- engage in warfare with other spiritual beings, including fallen angels

Angels submitted to God, not us

- they get their orders from God, perform his will
- 1 Co 6:3, “Do you not know that we will judge angels?”
 - When does this verse imply we will judge angels?
 - Do we judge the world now?

Angels can seem non-human

- Eze 40:3, “I saw a man whose appearance was like bronze.”
 - “man” (Heb, *ish*): (1) mature, adult male; (2) husband; (3) human, either male or female
 - What does the use of the word, “man,” imply?
 - Based on his bronze appearance, was this a literal man?
- Dan 10:5-7, “I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of the finest gold around his waist. His body was like chrysolite, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude. I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision; the men with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves.”
 - “man” (Heb, *ish*): same as previous verse
 - Was this a literal man?

Angels can seem human

- Gen 19:15-16, “With the coming of dawn, the angels urged Lot [to gather his family and leave] When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city.”
 - Were these angels a vision or tangible?
 - examine the whole incident involving Abraham & Lot, these two “men”:
 - had feet to be washed (18:4; 19:2)
 - bodies that could rest (18:4)
 - mouths and stomachs with which to eat food (18:5, 8; 19:3)
 - and legs on which to stand (18:2)
 - their bodies appeared sufficiently like humans that the men of the town desired to have them for the purpose of homosexuality (19:4-5)!
 - yet these were angels, had taken tangible human form
- Heb 13:2, “Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.”
 - How can someone interact with an angel without knowing it?

Angels can become tangible

- Gen 19:16
- 1 Ki 19:5-6, “All at once an angel touched him and said, ‘Get up and eat.’ He looked around, and there by his head was a cake of bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water.”
 - What does the fact that the angel touched Elijah and woke him up tell us about the angel?
- Acts 12:7, “Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. ‘Quick, get up!’ he said, and the chains fell off Peter’s wrists.”
 - “struck” (Gk, *patasso*): (1) strike a blow, hit with the hand, fist, or weapon; (2) beat; (3) strike down, kill
 - vv 8-9, “Then the angel said to him, ‘Put on your clothes and sandals.’ And Peter did so. ‘Wrap your cloak around you and follow me,’ the angel told him. Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision.”

- vv 10-11, “When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him. Then Peter came to himself and said, ‘Now I know without a doubt that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me.’”
- Was his escape a vision or a physical experience?
- Was the angel a vision or tangible?
- Conclusions
 - angels can appear in a semi-human form or totally human form
 - angels can appear as a vision or assume tangible form

Personal Experience

Blessing

- May you become aware of the angels Father has sent to minister to you.