

## ANGELS! ANGELS! ANGELS!

### Psalm 91:11-12

Int: Both the Hebrew *malach* and the Greek *angelos* mean “messenger.” This message focuses on any of a large number of celestial beings who serve as God’s messengers.

#### FACTS ABOUT ANGELS

The Bible speaks of them 273 times under a number of names: “sons of God” (Job 1:16; 2:1; Ps 29:1; 89:6), “saints” or “holy ones” (Ps 89:5, 7; Zech 14:5; Dan 8:13), “watchers” (Dan 4:13; 7:24), “cherubim” (Gen 3:21; Ezek 1:5-11), “seraphim” (Isa 6:1-16), “principalities, powers, thrones and dominions” (Col 1:16; Eph 1:21), and “archangels” (1 Thess 4:16; Jude 9).

**CREATED BEINGS** (Ps 148:1-5; Col 1:16). They form a created order, not a race born from one original pair. Men will never become angels. No one knows when they were created but they were present when God made the world (Job 38:7). Angels are finite. They stand in a freer relationship to space and time than men do but can be in only one place at a given time.

**SPIRITS** (Heb 1:7). They have no flesh and blood (Lu 24:39). No human eye can see them but angels are nonetheless real. They may choose to become visible (Gen 18:1- 18:1).

**SUPERNATURALLY POWERFUL** (Ps 103:20; 2 Peter 2:11).

**WISE** (2 Sam 14:20) but not omniscient (Mt 24:36; 1 Peter 1:12).

**SINLESSLY OBEDIENT** (Ps 103:20), always and ever.

**IMMORTAL** (Lu 20:36). They cannot be killed and never die.

#### FUNCTIONS OF ANGELS

**SHARE IN SPECIAL REVELATION.** They figured in the giving of the law at Sinai (Acts 7:53), foretold the birth of Jesus to both Mary (Lu 1:26-38) and Joseph (Mt 1:20-24), announced his birth to shepherds (Lu 2:8-15), and were present at the empty tomb (Mt 28:1-7) and the ascension of Jesus (Acts 1:9-11). They will come with him when he returns (Mt 25:31).

**EXECUTE GOD’S WRATH.** Angels destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah (Ten 19:12-13), struck down 185,000 Assyrian troops in one night (2 Ki 19:35), and punished Herod Antipas for accepting glory belonging only to God (Ats 12:23). They also judge this rebellious world (Mt 13:41-42).

**CARE FOR GOD’S PEOPLE.** Psalm 91:11-12 belongs to every child of God. There is no evidence for “guardian angels.” Angels warned Joseph of Herod’s plot (Mt 2:13), protected Elisha (2 Ki 6:18) and Daniel (6:22) and the three in the furnace (Dan 3:25), and occasionally provided water and food (Gen 21:17; 1 Ki 19:5-8).

**ENCOURAGE IN HARDSHIP** (Mt 4:11; Lu 22:43; Acts 27:23-24).

**ASSIST IN THE WORK OF SALVATION** by directing evangelists to sinners (Acts 8:26) and vice versa (Acts 10:3), carrying believers’ souls to heaven (Lu 16:22), and gathering God’s people at Christ’s return (Mk 13:27).