



Angels:

God's secret agents

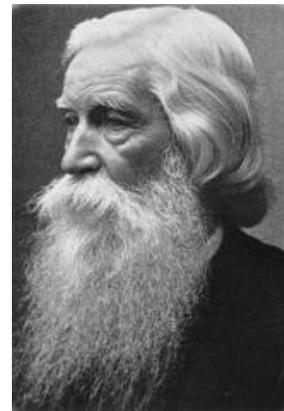
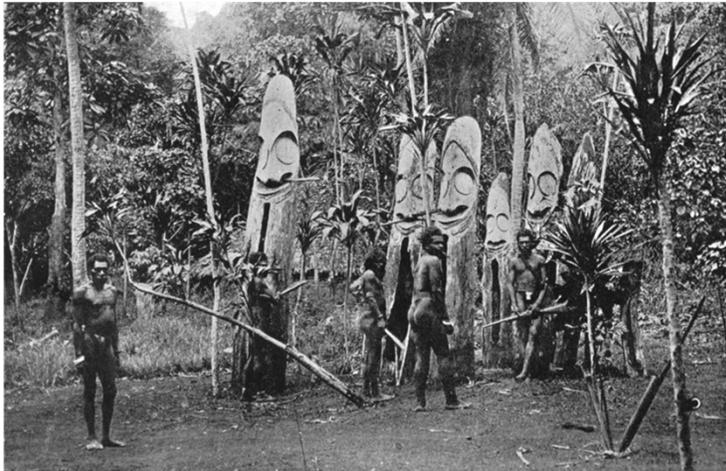
Lesson 1



Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels. Heb 13:2

“I am convinced that these heavenly beings exist and that they provide unseen aid on our behalf. I do not believe in angels because someone has told me about a dramatic visitation from an angel, impressive as such rare testimonies may be. I do not believe in angels because UFO’s are astonishingly angel-like in some of their reported appearances. I do not believe in angels because ESP experts are making the realm of the spirit world seem more and more plausible. I do not believe in angels because of the sudden worldwide emphasis on the reality of Satan and demons. I do not believe in angels because I have ever seen one – because I haven’t. I believe in angels because the Bible says there are angels; and I believe the Bible to be the true Word of God.”

Billy Graham, *Angels: God’s Secret Agents*



John G. Paton
19th century Scottish
missionary
New Hebrides

“Warren N. Saunders of Cedar Grove, New Jersey, tells of his experience as an anxious 19-year-old infantryman on his first patrol against the Japanese in the jungles of Bougainville during World War II. Writes Saunders: ‘When I stepped out upon the trail, I heard the unmistakable sound of choirs of voices singing. Somehow I knew that they were angels, and I felt a great peace.’ Saunders returned unscathed from three years of bitter fighting.”
Time, January 17, 1994

Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire. Ps 104:4

Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation? Heb 1:14

Angels are referred to in the Scriptures some 273 times.

If all of the references in Scripture to angels were removed, a large part of the Bible would disappear:

- Angels communicated to Abraham – Gen 22:11
- Angels traveled to Sodom to rescue Lot – Gen 19:1
- Angels helped to deliver God's law to Moses – Gal 3:19
- Angels fed Elijah – 1 Kings 19:3-8
- Angels encouraged Elisha – 2 Kings 6:17
- Angels delivered Daniel and delivered answers to his prayers – Dan 6:22, 9:21
- Angels announced the birth of Jesus – Lk 2:8-14
- Angels ministered to Jesus – Matt 4:11
- Angels attended the resurrection of Jesus – Matt 28:2-7
- Angels carried Lazarus to heaven – Lk 16:22
- Angels rescued Peter from prison – Acts 12:7-10
- Angels delivered Paul in a shipwreck – Acts 27:23
- Angels will gather the believers at Jesus' return – Matt 24:31

2 mistakes often made concerning angels:

- Denying their existence:

Acts 23:8 For Sadducees say that there is no resurrection—and no angel or spirit;

- Worshipping them:

Col 2:18 Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen,

Rev 19:10, 22:8-9 And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! ... Worship God! ... Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things.

⁹ Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that.

1. How did they come to be?

- They were created:

Neh 9:6 You alone are the Lord; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.

Ps 148:2,5 Praise Him, all His angels; ... ⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord, for He commanded and they were created.

Ezk 28:15 You [Lucifer] were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you.

Mt 22:30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven [do not procreate]

- They were created by Jesus:

Eph 3:9 ... God who created all things through Jesus Christ;

Col 1:15-17 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

Rev 4:11 "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."

2. When did they come to be?

- Prior to the earth:

Job 38:4-7 “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. ⁵ Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? ⁶ To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, ⁷ When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

- Prior to Adam: Satan was there in the garden of Eden

3. How many angels are there?

- A multitude: Lk 2:13
- At least 12 legions: Mt 26:53
- More than the number of people: Mt 18:10
- Millions: Rev 5:11
- An innumerable number: Heb 12:22