

All about angels

What do angels look like?

Well, it might surprise you to learn that angels in the Bible are always men - and cherubs aren't little dimpled babies, either! There are different kinds of angels, including cherubim and seraphim.

They are extremely tall... shining like lightning... dressed head-to-toe in dazzling white... They have wings; different types have different kinds. There are descriptions of angels in the Bible.

Sometimes angels 'deglorify' themselves, becoming visible to humans, in order to perform a God-given task on earth.

What do angels do?

The Bible says that, among other things, angels are:

- **God's messengers**

"The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you."

Luke chapter 1, verses 27-28

- **Heavenly warriors**

"And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back."

Revelation chapter 12, verse 7

- **Constantly worshipping God**

"Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they sang..."

Revelation chapter 5, verses 11-12

- **Overjoyed when someone becomes a believer**

"There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Luke chapter 15, verse 10

- **Tasked with watching over those who trust in God**

"Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?"

Hebrews chapter 1, verse 14

Descriptions of angels

There are lots of descriptions in the Bible - here are just some of them. Overall, the general human reaction to encountering one is absolute terror! So usually, the first thing an angel says is something like 'Don't be afraid!'

"I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars."

Revelation chapter 10, verse 1

"Out of the temple came the seven angels with the seven plagues. They were dressed in clean, shining linen and wore golden sashes around their chests."

Revelation chapter 15, verse 6

"There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men."

Matthew chapter 28, verses 2-4

"Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another..."

Isaiah chapter 6, verses 2-3

"I looked, and I saw beside the cherubim four wheels, one beside each of the cherubim; the wheels sparkled like chrysolite. As for their appearance, the four of them looked alike; each was like a wheel intersecting a wheel. As they moved, they would go in any one of the four directions the cherubim faced; the wheels did not turn about as the cherubim went. The cherubim went in whatever direction the head faced, without turning as they went. Their entire bodies, including their backs, their hands and their wings, were completely full of eyes, as were their four wheels. I heard the wheels being called 'the whirling wheels'. Each of the cherubim had four faces: One face was that of a cherub, the second the face of a man, the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle."

Ezekiel chapter 10, verses 9-14

Inspiration from the Bible

Remember, if you want your angel to be entered into our competition, it must visibly incorporate one or more verses from the Bible, whether angel-related or not. But here are some great angel-related Bible verses to inspire you!

"As I was standing on the bank of the great river, the Tigris, 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 had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless."

Daniel chapter 10, verses 4-8

"Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?"

Hebrews chapter 1, verse 14

"And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.'"

Hebrews chapter 1, verse 6

"[Jacob] had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it."

Genesis chapter 28, verse 12

"And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand."

Revelation chapter 8, verse 4

"My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions."

Daniel chapter 6, verse 22

"After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth."

Revelation chapter 7, verse 1

"The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky."

Revelation chapter 8, verse 10

"The angel of the LORD appeared to Moses in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up."

Exodus chapter 3, verse 2

"I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars."

Revelation chapter 10, verse 1

"And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back."

Revelation chapter 12, verse 7

"Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people."

Revelation chapter 14, verse 6

"The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath."

Revelation chapter 14, verse 19

"Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot."

John chapter 20, verses 11-12

"Out of the temple came the seven angels with the seven plagues. They were dressed in clean, shining linen and wore golden sashes around their chests."

Revelation chapter 15, verse 6

"As the flame blazed up from the altar towards heaven, the angel of the LORD ascended in the flame."

Judges chapter 13, verse 20

"And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, 'Come, gather together for the great supper of God...'"

Revelation chapter 19, verse 17

"The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls."

Revelation chapter 21, verse 15

"Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders."

Revelation chapter 5, verse 11

"The morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy."

Job chapter 38, verse 7

"For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

Psalms 91, verses 11-13

"...He placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life."

Genesis chapter 3, verse 24

The amusing but powerful story of Balaam's ass

(Numbers chapter 22, verses 21-31)

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Luke chapter 15, verse 10

"There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men."

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"...The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you."
Luke chapter 1, verses 27-28

"I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another..."
Isaiah chapter 6, verses 1-3

"The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. 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."
Acts chapter 12, verses 6-7

"The sound of the wings of the cherubim could be heard as far away as the outer court, like the voice of God Almighty when he speaks."
Ezekiel chapter 10, verse 5