

When an angel comes to visit



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Summary: (NEW) We're living in the most exciting "Bible days" ever. God still sends his holy angels to serve, protect and encourage his children when needed. Hear the angel stories of those who have met angels in the past few years.

(NOTE: Going forward, new sermons will be added to the **video** listing as well as new and different ones to the straight **audio** sermons. Please check both; and blogs.)

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How would you like to be visited by an angel of God? Do you feel those days are long gone and our God no longer sends us his messengers – which is what "angel" literally means, both in the Hebrew and Greek? In Bible DAYS – angels appeared at various times to various ones. We read of that in the Bible.

We know DANIEL encountered angels. Ezekiel did. Abraham, Lot and Jacob all did. Mary did. Mary Magdalene did. Even the shepherds in Bethlehem got to be the audience of the angelic CHOIR announcing the birth of Yeshua. Imagine that, an angelic *choir!*

But please realize, the most exciting "Bible days" are still ahead of us. And God, right now, still sends his angels to his children. I will tell you several stories of people experiencing angels, all of whom I personally know. I will tell you my own angel story as well. But I suspect we've all had angels in our lives – mostly without knowing it or recognizing those moments.

So I hope you enjoy this teaching and realize the days when angels appear to mankind – are still going on. Because you see, we're coming into the most exciting – and even dreadful days at times – the days ahead of us, just before Yeshua, our Messiah and Savior returns to rule the earth.

Do you realize *you* may already have encountered angels and not even known it?

This teaching today is a natural follow-up to the last 2 I gave on “through whom, and to whom, God speaks and works”. I hope you watch/listen to those 2 two previous sermons. *I really think in the coming years more and more of us will experience angels visiting – but we have to have eyes to see, and it helps to be staying close to our Father in lots of prayer.* So that’s my topic today: **when an angel drops by to see you.**

I’m going to give a 2-part fully detailed sermons about God’s holy angels of God, but this one today is just about when angels drop by to help you, to see you, to speak to you... and I hope we’ll be ready.

This sermon is NOT a video sermon this time. It’s just an audio this time, just so we can catch up, as videos take more time. So be looking for new messages on both the “just audio” format as well as the Video formats. **And use the SEARCH bar too** to find topics that you’re curious about. Just type in 1-2 words max. So back to this message.

So hello everyone, this is Philip Shields, host and founder of Light on the Rock. Thanks for coming to our website. Going forward, I hope you give us feedback on how much you liked a particular BLOG – 1-5 stars – or even register so you can write actual comments.

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So back to the topic – when angels drop by.

Scripture mentions angels at some point in almost all Bible books except perhaps in 5 books like Ruth, Nehemiah, Esther and epistles of John and James – but that’s not to say angels weren’t working in the *background* even in those stories.

WHY should you care about learning about when angels drop by?

- Why would anyone want to miss a message from God to you, or assistance of some kind, coming from his holy messengers, angels?
- Because once you know beyond doubt you’ve met, talked to and encountered an angel, you realize beyond any doubt that God is fully aware of you, knows everything you’re going through and wants to be in touch with you. That is SO encouraging.

Jesus – whom I prefer to refer to as Yeshua, the name his mama was given in Hebrew – and others like Paul, taught us many things about angels of God. I’ll cover a few basics on angels just to start with but with far more detail in the upcoming sermons. Today after this introduction, I want to tell you stories of encounters I’ve had, and others have had with God’s angels.

- Talking about angels, the writer of Hebrews says this:
Hebrews 1:14 NET
“Are they not all ministering *spirits*, sent out to *serve* those who will inherit salvation?”

Using angels is God's way of serving God's family! That also tells us they are immortal, since they are SPIRIT beings ("ministering spirits") **Hebrews 1:14. In a different scripture it says we shall be like angels, who cannot die (Luke 20:36).**

- God's loyal angels are called "HOLY angels" several times (**Mark 8:38**)
- **Angels exist in great numbers** – in **hundreds of millions** and more. **Revelation 5:11** says around the throne of God "are 10,000 x 10,000 angels plus thousands of thousands". That's 100 million plus, right there. And how many more could there have been who were not around the throne. Our God may well have billions of angels.
- We're told that God's angels return with Christ at His 2nd coming and will gather up the resurrected saints and take them to Yeshua (Matthew 24:31; Matthew 25:31)
- God's angels neither marry nor are given in marriage.

Luke 20:34-36 Holman

Jesus told them, "The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage. 35 But those who are counted worthy to take part in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. 36 **For they cannot die anymore, because they are like angels** and are sons of God, since they are sons of the resurrection."

- Yeshua could have called more than 12 legions of angels to save him from death (Matthew 26:52-54) – right in the Garden of Gethsemane or at any time. A Roman legion was 5-6000 soldiers plus support staff. Other sources say more than that. So that's at least 72,000 angelic warriors he could have called upon in a milli-second.
- They're watching us and are so happy when we repent (Luke 15:10)
- About a third of the original angels apparently were tempted by Satan to rebel with him against God. (**Revelation 12:3-4**) and these rebel angels became known as demons. If you wish to learn more about the "bad angels", look up "Demons" in the search bar, as I have 2-3 sermons on them, so we're aware of them but not afraid of them, "For he who is IN you is greater than he who is in the world." (**1 John 4:4**).

And remember, good angels outnumber demons by 2 to 1 anyway. So we never have to fear bad angels, the demons. But neither should you EVER dabble with them or watch any shows or TV about them. Never.

I plan on preparing a more thorough teaching all about God's righteous angels but today my topic is that their purpose has not changed: God uses them to serve us, protect us and give us messages. I want to be sure you know that if you belong to God, I'm confident there are always angels around you and those in your home. I'm also confident that many of us have seen angels but many times just didn't realize it. So listen....

So that's our topic – when God's angels show up – and it's happening more often than most of us think, no doubt.

We read in scripture of various angels coming around at various times and think, "How fun that would be!" In this little writeup I hope you see that an angelic *visit can be* fun, but sometimes could also be terrifying. Most of the time when they appear to us, they look like a normal man or woman, but if we're allowed to see them the way they look up in heaven, in their shining glory, *they might not look anything like you're expecting!*

We go to Hallmark stores and other shops and see portrayals of angels, and so often they are typically white girls or white women with long hair and a sweet face. And yet most of the time when the Bible speaks of an angel appearing to someone, the angel is described as looking like a man. But I believe from my own experience that an angel can appear to us either as a *man or woman of any color* or race, or appear even as an animal, bird or eagle.

PROTECTIVE WARRIOR ANGELS

Here's a starting point, at least, of what we're told about angels visiting or appearing to us:

Angels – according to the Bible – are sent by God to serve us and minister to u (Hebrews 1:14). **So some are given the task of protecting God's children**, like the armies of invisible angels in fiery chariots above Elisha when a large Syrian army force came to capture Elisha. Thousands of enemy Syrian chariots and soldiers surrounded the city.

Elisha knew God's angels were there, but his ministerial assistant didn't know. So Elisha prayed for his eyes to be opened. Before that, the king of Syria was perturbed by how the King of Israel somehow knew all their military moves ahead of time – and it was told him, that Elisha was being given knowledge of Syria's plans by God and Elisha would then tell the King of Israel. So the Syrian king sought to capture and kill Elisha. Syrians surrounded the city of Dothan, where he was... Let's pick up from there.

2 Kings 6:14-21 (in the audio, I made extra comments)

Therefore he (the king of Syria) **sent horses and chariots and a great army there**, and they came by night and surrounded the city. 15 And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"

16 So he answered, "**Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.**" 17 And Elisha prayed, and said, "Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then YHVH opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. **And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.**

18 So when the Syrians came down to him, Elisha prayed to YHVH, and said, "Strike this people, I pray, with blindness." And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.

19 Now Elisha said to them, "This is not the way, nor is this the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek." But he led them to Samaria.

20 So it was, when they had come to Samaria, that Elisha said, "Lord, open the eyes of these men, that they may see." And YHVH opened their eyes, and they saw; and there they were, inside Samaria!"

(There's a bit more on the audio.)

Right now, many of you have angels hovering above you, unseen to the human eye. Some hover above your homes. Certainly PRAY for that protection and our brothers and sisters in Nigeria, Mozambique, Uganda in Africa and parts of Asia where Christians are being attacked and killed. Our brothers and sisters over there can receive miraculous angelic protection, especially if we pray for them. (Prayer for protection of God's children around the world).

ANGELS – AT TIMES VISIBLE TO SOME, BUT NOT OTHERS

STORY OF PROTECTION FROM MINISTER'S WIFE who had an intruder come in while she was home alone. (Hear the story on the audio – how she was forced into a bedroom, with bad intentions by the stranger who came in; what happened next...) The potential rapist must have seen a big strong angel standing behind her! The man ran off. The minister's wife looked behind her and saw nothing. (Audio has full details).

Now keep in mind, there will be times that you may hear sounds and see the angels – but those around you may not. And vice versa.

One of my favorite seldom-quoted scriptures – in 2 Samuel 5 -- is how David asked God for instruction on how to attack the Philistines. Let's read it:

2 Samuel 5:22-25

Then the Philistines went up once again and deployed themselves in the Valley of Rephaim. 23 Therefore David inquired of YHVH, and He said, "You shall not go up; circle around behind them, and come upon them in front of the mulberry trees. 24 And it shall be, **when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the mulberry trees, then you shall advance quickly.** *For then YHVH will go out before you to strike the camp of the Philistines."*

25 And David did so, as YHVH commanded him; and he drove back the Philistines from Geba as far as Gezer.

Imagine David giving this battle plan to his military commanders? (LOL).

MY OWN ANGEL STORY with my brother and his wife

Now let me recount the story of what my brother Loren **and I experienced I believe in March of 2013 while I was on a business trip to southern California.** (Hear the details on the audio please). I'm just telling you what happened. It was very inspiring to us, and you're free to believe or not believe my story. But it's true.

- My brother Loren had had 2 strokes, heart attack plus he was in serious ongoing pain, plus financial trouble, plus wife with Alzheimer's and more going on.

- I flew to CA to be with him after some business I had to do. We were trying to find some state financial assistance for them, but we kept being told his income or assets were a few hundred a month above the line required.
- Discouraged by all the setbacks, my brother temporarily started feeling God may not be hearing his prayers any more. Felt abandoned. That was very unlike the brother I know. I felt so bad for him.
- That night I prayed 5-6 times for my brother, begging God to make it truly clear to my brother that he was not forsaken and for our God to encourage him.
- Same roadblocks next morning in seeking state aid so we headed for lunch.
- At lunch time I offered to take them both to Panera Bread. We ordered our food, found a table, picked up the food – and sat down.
- I noticed what appeared to be a Panera Bread Hispanic female “Supervisor” standing by the wall. She was wearing the Panera Bread uniform.
- A few minutes later, she came to our table and spoke directly to my brother Loren and then to his wife.
- What she said.... She had been sent to give Loren a message. She put her hand on his shoulder and said, “*Loren, I’ve been sent to tell you that God knows all about you, and what you’re suffering and going through. He told me to tell you he is VERY aware of you, but this particular trial you are going through will continue for God’s reasons. But you are not to assume though, that since the trials keep going on, that God is not hearing you. God cares for you and will strengthen you as you go through your trials. And your wife too, God is so aware of her, but she also will continue to go through her trials too. You both are known to God and he’s aware of you both and loves you. Never doubt any of that.*”
- Short conversation, she used my brother’s name, we had never seen or met her before. We invited her to sit and chat a while, which she did. Then she left.
- After lunch, I tried to thank her. She was nowhere to be found. The manager said they would never allow a “supervisor” to just stand by a wall watching things, or to sit down with clients for 5-10 minutes.

Nobody else at that Panera Bread claimed to have seen her or anyone like her. All the staff came forward, and she was not there. When I went back to the table, I said, “Loren, I think we’ve just seen and talked to an angel.” Especially considering the fact she used his name and said she had been SENT to tell him something.

Our God had answered my prayer that He show Loren in no uncertain terms that He was still very aware of my brother’s plight and cared for him. Sometimes God may give you a strong feeling to pass on an encouraging word to someone else struggling. Do it. Obey the urge. You can be someone who comes alongside and giving comfort (2 Cor. 1:3-4).

So we saw, talked to, listened to, shook hands with – this person nobody else knew or saw, but it was profoundly exciting to us to realize we had just seen an angel. I see no other explanation with everything she said and did factored in. She was not in bright white garments but looked normal.

BALAAM'S EXPERIENCE WITH HIS DONKEY Numbers 22:21-35

The donkey saw the angel, but Balaam did not – until the Angel of YHVH opened his eyes (verse 31). You should read the whole story yourself.

You're probably familiar with the angel named Gabriel. Daniel says he appeared like a man.

In future sermons about God's angels, we'll discuss where angels came from, their NAMES, what they do, how various ones can LOOK like in heaven, or when presenting themselves to humans. We'll also discuss the various TYPES of angels – and their functions. Also, what's their future?

So there's a lot coming up later. And let me say right now – we are NOT to EVER pray to angels AND NEVER are we to worship any angel. NEVER.

John the apostle was chastised for starting to worship an angel TWICE. Rev 19:9-10; Revelation 22:8-9 -- we'll read it next time. John tried TWICE – so when a mighty angel appears to you in their GLORY, it's a natural REFLEX I guess, to want to bow down to something so mighty. GOD's angels will not let us do that.

Back to GABRIEL – Who is mentioned by name several times:

- **He visited Daniel (Daniel 8:15-21; 9:20-21) Daniel fainted the first time.**
- **Luke 1:8-22 – to Zacharias, father of John the Baptist. Began by saying "do not be afraid"**
- **To Mary – announcing that she would bear her son Yeshua (Luke 1:26-31). Again, "do not be afraid."**

So angels are very real, and we're told to EXPECT that sometimes the people we're talking with could be angels.

Hebrews 13:2

"Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels".

I'll end today's message with another story from a friend of mine. Might be easier to hear the audio on this.

Steve's story. He had a job years ago as a software developer or installer. He had sold a job in New Jersey, so had flown out there to install the software and finish the job. Everything was fine at first. He got a rental car from Hertz, then checked into his hotel, and next morning had breakfast at Denny's, and paid for it. He put his suitcase into his car.

He needed to copy the software instructions and instruction manuals so he needed to find a printer to get this all done – but could not find his wallet, which held all his ID—his driver's license, credit cards, cash, etc. I don't know if his plane ticket back home was in there too, or not...I can't remember that part.

But now he couldn't find his wallet with all that I.D. and cards and cash. The suitcase in the back of the rental car was all he had with him. BY now it's about 10 a.m.

Steve was supposed to fly out about 2 pm. Tried backtracking where he had been, to find his wallet. Had it for breakfast...Went back to the hotel, nothing there. He was starting to feel some panic. So he looked in coat, no wallet there. He looked all over.... No luck. Backtracked to the car, looked in and thru car 2-3x, looked under car, checked the glove compartment, he checked the sides of the car seats, he moved seats forward and back, under the seats - - wallet was nowhere.

He opened his suitcase again and tore it apart – no wallet.
Went back to hotel, checked at Denny's... no wallet. No credit cards, no I.D.

By now he's praying and feeling some panic. He needed ID – So his wife faxed copy of ID to him... and that's when he also called the police to report the missing or stolen wallet.

Then he prayed, "it's in your hands, father in heaven". And a great calm came over him. Now he was relaxed. And that is when God began to intervene.

So Steve drove to the airport, went to Hertz check-out station.... And of course they checked him out, as the car was prepaid.

When checking in, an old black man there in a Hertz uniform, told him there would be a tram to get him to the airport. He told Steve, "Don't worry about it, everything's going to be OK, you're going to get home fine, Steve." Note that he called him by his name.

(I refer to the man as being a black man to make my point that God uses all types of people and angels. My story was about an angel who looked like a Hispanic woman.)

There was also a little black woman at the station behind a counter – and Steve spoke to her – and then Steve put his suitcase on the tram. Right at that moment, someone said "Here's your wallet. Steve, I told you to not to worry, relax and everything will be alright". It was the little black man again wearing a Hertz rental car jacket.

Steve was delighted, took a few seconds to check his wallet was complete – and yes, all the cards and cash and I.D. was there, and then looked up to thank the little man, but he was gone. That guy was completely gone. Steve looked back, looked around... but couldn't see anyone.

He stepped off the tram again and asked the little lady "Where's the little black man..."--- and Steve was told "We have nobody here like that who matches your description." Then all the Hertz guys came out – and there was nobody there like the little black man who handed him his wallet. The lady behind the counter said to Steve: "Sir, I guess you've just seen an angel."

Sounds very possible to me!

We'll talk a lot more about angels in future upcoming sermons, maybe in a month or so. My point today: We're in "Bible days". The best, most exciting, and probably the scariest days ever are going to come upon us, and believe me, you'll be happy to know there really are

angels who are looking over you and your loved ones. It doesn't mean no 'bad things' will happen to you or me, but only what God allows. Angels will be guarding and helping us, especially if we're staying close to our heavenly Father and savior Yeshua.

We're in Bible DAYS... and just like angels appeared to people at various times during the previous thousands of years, they haven't gone away. They'll appear to you and me when God sends them. Open your heart and your eyes.

And remember: God's true angels will never tell you to do something you know is not God's Way. They'll never tell you to sin. They'll never ask you – nor allow you to – worship them or pray to them.

There's SO much more to cover – the angelic language, the 4-faced angels with 4 wings, the 6-winged angels above God's thrones, special duty angels, 24 elders around God's throne, the visions of Ezekiel and the wheel within wheels – oh, there's so much we can learn from what scripture tells us.

Angels are wonderful, powerful, spirit beings and I'm so glad I have them around me, and around you.

If this has helped you, please tell others about this website or encourage them to watch it with you. Feel free to leave comments. I love reading your comments.

Closing prayer...