

Twelve Ways God Speaks: #1) Creation

Twelve Ways God Speaks: #2) Wisdom

Twelve Ways God Speaks: #3) Your Conscience

Twelve Ways God Speaks: #4) Other People

Twelve Ways God Speaks: #5) The Word of God

Twelve Ways God Speaks: #6) The Inner Voice of the Holy Spirit

Twelve Ways God Speaks: #7) The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Twelve Ways God Speaks: #8) Dreams

Twelve Ways God Speaks: #9) Visions

Twelve Ways God Speaks: #10) Angels

- Angels Pop Quiz
 - 1) What happens every time a bell rings?
 - Nothing
 - 2) How many wings do angels have?
 - There are at least 36 different terms for angelic beings in the Bible
 - Not all of these terms refer to different types of beings... some are clearly different terms for the same being
 - But there seem to be at least 5 different types of heavenly angelic beings: Seraphim, Cherubim, Ophanim, Angels, Angel of the Lord (plus: Elders, Archangels, Powers, Dominions, Watchers, Mighty Ones, etc.)
 - Of those 5+ types, only 2 distinct beings are said to have wings: Seraphim have 6 and Cherubim have 4
 - The ones known specifically as “angels” (Heb. malakim, Gk. angelos) are never said to have wings
 - However, the NT usually uses the catch-all term “angels” for all heavenly, angelic beings, and we tend to do that as well
 - 3) Are angels men or women?
 - It's unclear
 - The only named angels in the Bible have male names
 - They are often called “men” or “sons of God”
 - They appear as men and are described with male physical characteristics
 - The Hebrew and Greek use masculine grammar when talking about them
 - But the Bible says they are not human and there is no clear indication that they really even have a gender at all
 - 4) How many guardian angels do we have?
 - All of them.
 - There is some indication in the Bible that we may have specific individual angels assigned to us, but it's unclear
 - Matt 18:10 – Jesus said that the angels of children gaze upon the face of God

- Acts 12:15 – When Peter was let out of prison (by an angel), when he came home, they thought it wasn't him but just his angel.
 - Quote: John Calvin - "The whole host of Heaven watches for the safety of the church, [which] requires sometimes one angel, sometimes more, to defend us with their aid."
- 5) What instrument do angels play?
 - Bass guitar obviously
- 6) Which of these is a relatively accurate depiction of an angelic being?
 - None
- 7) Which of these is a relatively accurate depiction of an angelic being?
 - All of them
 - Angel (usually appear as normal men on earth)
 - Angel of the Lord (described as fiery, often with drawn sword)
 - The Angel of the Lord in the OT is equated with God, has the power of God, did things God said He did, and is worshiped as God
 - It's the 2nd member of the Trinity before the Incarnation (Jesus before He was born)
 - Seems to be the same being as the Commander of the Lord's Army at Jericho (Joshua 5) and the Destroying Angel of the Passover (Exodus 12)
 - Seraphim (6-winged fiery creature of Isaiah 6... word means "serpent" and "burning": so some propose 1) the Serpent of Gen 3 could have been a fiery, winged serpent-like angelic being that Adam and Eve were used to seeing around and not the animal we call a "snake," and 2) this is maybe where legends of dragons originated from)
 - Ophanim (the wheels within wheels covered in eyes of Ez 1)
 - Cherubim (hybrid human-beast creatures of Ez 1 w/4 wings)
- 8) What is the term for the Biblical study of angels?
 - Angelology
- 9) What is this?
 - An Autocorrect Angel
- 10) Why should we care to learn about angels?
 - Proverbs 25:2 – It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings.
 - Angels are a part of God's creation, and the more we study His creation, the more we know and love Him
- Angels are Everywhere in the Bible
 - There are over 300 references to angels and their roles in God's kingdom in general and almost 100 specific instances where angels appeared
 - Angels play a huge role in God's kingdom
 - Just in Genesis
 - After Adam and Eve were kicked out of the Garden of Eden, God stationed a Cherubim with a flaming sword at its entrance, to keep them from the Tree of Life (Genesis 3:24)
 - Hagar was comforted by the Angel of the Lord when she fled from Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 16:7-14), and later when she and her son Ishmael were about to die in the wilderness, the Angel of the Lord showed her water and promised to bless them (Genesis 21:17-20)
 - 3 angelic visitors came to Abraham to announce Isaac's birth and the coming judgment on Sodom (Genesis 18:1-33)
 - 2 angels visited Lot in Sodom, struck the townspeople with blindness for trying to rape them, and got Lot and his family out before they destroyed the entire city (Genesis 19:1-29)
 - When Abraham was about to sacrifice his son Isaac, the Angel of the Lord stopped him (Genesis 22:11-18)

- Jacob dreamt of angels ascending and descending between heaven and earth (Genesis 28:12-17)
 - An angel told Jacob to go back to his family in Canaan (Genesis 31:11-13)... on the way he encounters an encampment of God's angelic army in Mahanaim (Genesis 32:1-2)... and he wrestles an angel and got his name changed to "Israel" (Genesis 32:24-30)
- In the Old Testament
 - Angels kill people (Passover, Sodom and Gomorrah, tried with Balaam, Jerusalem after David took the census...), blind people, guard and protect people, guide people, comfort people, rescue people, sustain people with food and water (Hagar, Elijah in the wilderness...)
 - Angels fight alongside the people of God (Joshua 5:13-15), rebuke people for disobedience (Judges 2:1-5), commission and empower people (Moses, Gideon in Judges 6:11-24), announce births (Isaac, Ishmael, Samson...)
 - Angels worship around God's throne (Isaiah 6), execute God's judgment (Ezekiel 9), explain dreams and visions and give prophetic words and news of the future (Daniel 8-9)
 - Exodus 14:19-20 – 19 Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, 20 coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.
- In the New Testament
 - Angels (including an entire choir) announced the births of John the Baptist and Jesus
 - An angel told Joseph to go ahead and get married to Mary, to escape to Egypt when Jesus' life was in danger, and to return when it was safe
 - Angels ministered to Jesus after He was tempted in the wilderness (Matthew 4:11)... and they "strengthened him" in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:43)
 - Angels rolled away the stone covering Jesus' tomb, announced His resurrection, and promised His return
 - Angels let the Apostles out of prison (Acts 5), took off Peter's chains and released him (Acts 12),
 - Angels told Philip to preach to the Ethiopian Eunuch and Cornelius to find Peter and ask him about Jesus
 - An angel killed Herod when he let the people praise him as God (Acts 12:23)... appeared to Paul in the prison ship lost in a storm to let him know that they wouldn't die (Acts 27:23-24)... and gave John the Apostle the entire book of Revelation
- 2 Kings 6:8-17 – 13 "Go, find out where he is," the king ordered, "so I can send men and capture him." The report came back: "He is in Dothan." 14 Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city.
 - 15 When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?" the servant asked.
 - 16 "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." 17 And Elisha prayed, "Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see." Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.
- Psalm 34:7 – The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.
- What Are Angels?
 - Angels are disembodied spirit-beings created by God to serve His purposes on the earth
 - Characteristics of Angels
 - Angels are not God

- Whenever people try to worship them, angels always direct the person to worship God (Rev 19:10, 22:8-9)
- You don't pray to angels but to God... and you don't command angels (God does that)
- Angels are not God or equal with God but were created to serve God (Hebrews 1:7 calls them his "servants")
- Angels are not eternal
 - They were created by God at the beginning (Job 38:4-7 makes it sound like God created the angels very early on... probably in Genesis 1:1 – in the Beginning, God created the Heavens and the Earth)
 - Those who rebelled will one day be destroyed
 - Psalm 82:7 – But you will die like mere mortals; you will fall like every other ruler.
 - Rev 20:10 says that even the leader of the rebellious angels, Satan, will be thrown in the Lake of Fire
 - However, as long as they remain obedient to God, they are not subject to death as we are, because they never sinned... meaning they have lived and will live a very long time
- Angels are not all-knowing
 - They don't know when Jesus will return... they didn't know the details of God's salvation plan...
- Angels are not all-powerful
 - Even the great archangel Michael was held up by the Prince of Persia (Daniel)
- Angels are not omnipresent (everywhere all the time)
 - Angels frequently appear in a specific time and place
 - Michael could not come to Daniel because he was held up by the Prince of Persia (Daniel)
- Angels are spirit-beings
 - They do not have physical bodies
 - But they can and do manifest as humans in the physical world (Acts 12:7, 13-14 and elsewhere)
 - Hebrews 13:2 talks about angels appearing in human form without us being aware of it
 - People encounter angels in dreams, visions, and the physical world
- Angels have a free will
 - Some chose to rebel instead of submit to God's leadership
 - There are verses that indicate that angels have the potential to choose poorly and make wrong decisions (Gen 6:1-4, Job 15:15, 1 Cor 11:10)
- Angels are intelligent
 - They orchestrated a rebellion against God
 - They propose ideas to God (Job 1-2, 1 Kings 22:19-23)
 - Divine Council – OT especially shows a picture of an assembly of God's created angelic spirit-beings who worship Him, administer alongside Him, and act on His behalf on earth
- Angels are emotional
 - They rejoice when people return to God (Luke 15:10, Heb 12:22)
 - They sang at Creation (Job 38:4-7)
- Angels are holy
 - They are set apart for God...but they are not perfect like God (Job 15:15)
- Angels are powerful

- Angels are far below God in power, but they are still powerful
- 2 Peter 2:11 says that angels are “stronger and more powerful” than us
 - They blind people, kill people, shut the mouths of lions (Daniel), remain unburned in fire (Daniel), and generally terrify people when they show up
- When an angel spoke to Daniel, it says that “such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves” and “I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless” (Daniel 10:7-9)
- One of the OT terms for angelic beings is elohim (little G “gods”) and bene elohim (“sons of god”)
 - I believe some of the angelic beings became what the pagan nations worshiped as gods when they rebelled
- More OT terms for angelic beings: saba (host, an army called out for war)... gibborim (translated “mighty ones,” “fighting men,” “warriors”... abbirim (“able-bodied,” “strong”)
- NT terms include: “glorious ones”... “heavenly ones”
- How powerful are angels? In 2 Kings 19:35, when Jerusalem was surrounded by the Assyrian Empire, sure destruction coming, the Angel of the Lord (who is Jesus before He was born) went out and killed 185,000 of them... and the Assyrians left
- Historically, we have military dispatches showing that the Assyrians were waging war everywhere for years, and then suddenly these dispatches just stop, right around the time that God killed 185,000 of their soldiers.
- Angels Minister to Us
 - Hebrews 1:14 – Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?
 - One OT term for angels is ir = “vigilant watchers”
 - Another term for angels is “Messenger” (Heb. malakim, Gk. angelos)