

ANGELS
Daniel 8:15, Luke 1:26
By Raymond White

That angels exist at all is amazing if you think of it. Why does God need angels? If God is omnipotent, what can't God do better by himself and his irresistible will? Why does God need angels to do things for him? That angels exist shows us something about God, that he is not so absolutely absolute as we imagine.

Here's another way of describing the same idea (just dawned on me yesterday, April 23, 2009): If we are pre-destined, then why would God need angels to steer our destinies along, like cowboys herding cows? Okay, maybe God is shaping our futures, but if he is he is not doing it by some irresistible, predestinating will. That angels exist to work out his will proves that his will needs to be worked out.

Pre-destination says that the future is already set — (a scientist would call that a deterministic universe). But if it is already set, then angels would have nothing to do because the work is already done and the course of the universe will flow from infinite beginning to infinite end exactly as God willed it without divine or angelic interference. That God is nudging fate, constantly interfering with the destinies of man and using angels to do that, proves that we *are* free agents. Otherwise, why the trouble?

The Bible presents to us a steady flow of destiny shifting angels. Who are they? Or what are they? And why are they so interested in us and the course of human destiny? The Bible leaves us to guess the answers to those questions. But the one question that requires no guessing is: Do angels really exist? And the answer is: Yes.

Psalms 34:7 The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

Psalms 35:5 Let them be as chaff before the wind: and let the angel of the LORD chase them. :6 Let their way be dark and slippery: and let the angel of the LORD persecute them.

Psalms 68:17 The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels...

Those numbers don't seem large today but they must have seemed large back then. Today I would expect there to be billions of angels. If there's only a few million, I think that's not a lot.

Psalms 78:49 He cast upon them the fierceness of his anger, wrath, and indignation, and trouble, by sending evil angels among them.

This is theologically troublesome to modern Christians who would rather believe that God controls only good angels while Satan controls evil angels. We don't want our God to be the real power behind evil things. So, what do we do with this verse? For that matter, what do we do with the Book of Job and God's direct dealing with Satan? It seems that God is responsible for a lot of things we'd rather he not be responsible for.

***Psalms 89:6** For who in the heaven can be compared unto the LORD?*

Who are the “*who in the heaven*”? Angels? And others? In this context, “who” is a pretty big word meaning *none* of the residences of heaven, whoever all that might be, are as great as God.

***Psalms 91:10** There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. :11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. :12 They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.*

Destiny is certainly not cast in concrete. God wills it but he sends his angels to make it actually happen. So there is divine work to do. The universe is not deterministic. If it were, there'd be no need for angels.

***Psalms 103:20** Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.*

Angles are strong, obedient, and listen carefully to God's instructions.

***Psalms 104:4** Who maketh his angels spirits...*

I'm now sure all of what this means, but it seems to mean a lot. That angels have spirits hints that they are very human like, not so different than us, who are more spirit than matter.

***Isaiah 6:2** Above it [the temple] stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.*

Curious creatures, these seraphims, if the verse is talking about literal wings. Insects have six wings. Certainly these seraphims were clothed, so they appear to be persons. Why clothed? Because only their face and feet were exposed to God — their bodies, from neck to calf, were already protected; hence, clothing, hence, persons, not insects. With two wings, they protected their faces, with two wings, they protected their feet, and that left two wings for flying. This suggests another question: If their faces and feet needed protecting, why are its wings immune to the hazards of God's presence? The implication is that its wings were not literal body parts but were something else.

***Isaiah 37:36** Then the angel of the LORD went forth, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.*

***Ezekiel 1:14** And the living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning.*

Angels (if these are angels) move very fast, like lightening.

***Ezekiel 8:2** ...and lo a likeness as the appearance of fire... A fiery angel, I guess.*

***Ezekiel 9:4** And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.*

This angel marks the repentant for salvation.

***Daniel 3:25** He [Nebuchadnezzar] answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God. **:28** Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath send his angel...*

Who was this fourth person? An angel or Jehovah God or God's son? And how would Nebuchadnezzar know what the Son of God looks like anyway?

***Daniel 4:13** I saw in the visions of my head upon my bed, and, behold, a watcher and an holy one came down from heaven. **:17** This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones...**:23** And whereas the king saw a watcher and an holy one coming down from heaven...*

Who are these watchers? They can't be strictly Babylonian paganism because Daniel uses the word too.

***Daniel 6:22** My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths...*

***Daniel 7:16** I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things.*

***Daniel 8:15** ...there stood before me as the appearance of a man. **:16** And I heard a man's voice...which called, and said, **Gabriel**, make this man to understand the vision.*

***Daniel 9:21** ...**Gabriel**...being caused to fly swiftly...*

***Daniel 10:5** Then I lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a certain man clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with fine gold of Uphaz.*

Ever wonder what angels wear? Well, we have a fair idea of what this angel wore.

***Daniel 10:13** But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty day: but, lo, **Michael**, one of the chief princes, came to help me.... **:20** Then said he, knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? And now will I return to*

*fight with the prince of Persia: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come. :21 ...and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but **Michael** your prince. 12:1 And at that time shall **Michael** stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people...*

Here we have two angels, the one visiting Daniel and Michael. And also two demons whose name are the prince of Persia and the prince of Greece.

So you know, Daniel is the only book in the Bible that names angels by name; namely, Gabriel and Michael. And for extra credit, it also gives us the names of two demons, prince of Persia and prince of Greece.

***Zechariah 1:9** Then said I, O my lord, what are these? And the angel that talked with me said unto me, I will shew thee what these be.*

***Zechariah 5:9** ...there came out two women, and the wind was in their wings...*

These women, angels, had wings.

***Matthew 18:10** Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.*

There are guardian angels, at least for children.

***Luke 1:19** And the angel answering said unto him [Zecharias] , I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad things. :26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God into a city of Galilee, name Nazareth, :27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the Virgin's name was Mary. :28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.*

This angel who declared great things to Mary is that same angel who declared great things to Daniel.

There is this reoccurring dilemma: When God appears to someone, is it really God or a stand-in angel?

***Acts 7:35** ...by the hand of the angel which appeared to him in the bush.*

***Acts 7:38** ...with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina...*

***Acts 7:53** Who have received the law by the disposition of angels...*