



Angels: Their Appearance

What do you think angels look like? Do you see lovely feminine creatures standing beside a child's bed at night? How about a handsome young man in Jesus' empty sepulcher? Or, do you see some chubby little "cupids" darting back and forth shooting arrows?

One of the most intriguing things about angels is their appearance. Folks are always curious, wondering what they really look like. Although the Bible gives us many glimpses, nowhere do we find a detailed description of all angels.

Yet before we see what the Scriptures do tell us, perhaps we should briefly discuss what angels are NOT. They are powerful, but not omnipotent; wise, but not omniscient; swift, but not omnipresent.

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Do angels have wings? The Scripture gives several instances where angels with wings are mentioned. Both Moses and Solomon were given detailed descriptions for their artistic representations of angels used for the Mercy Seat for the Ark of the Covenant and the Temple (Exodus 37:6-9; 1 Kings 6:23-28). There are also several different mentions of winged angels by Isaiah (Isaiah 6:2-6) and Ezekiel (Ezekiel 1:5-9; 10:5). Daniel makes mention of the swift flight of an angel (Daniel 9:21). However, the number of wings varies in these descriptions. We do not know if all angels have wings or just certain classes. We realize, however, that when they make physical appearances as people they do not

have wings. Then they are always clothed either in beautiful garments (Matthew 28:2,3) or in ordinary clothing (Genesis 19:1-5). Also, all appearances in the Bible show them taking on the form of a male (Genesis 18:2; Mark 16:5; Luke 24:4; Acts 1:10). In their appearance to Abraham and Lot, we also notice that the angels were able to eat, walk, wash and take hands (Genesis 19:1-10).

OTHER CHARACTERISTICS

They possess extraordinary strength: Psalm 103:20; 2 Peter 2:10,11; Daniel 6:21,22.

They do not marry or propagate: Matthew 22:30

They are immortal: Luke 20:36

They enjoy singing: Revelation 5:11,12.

They experience joy: Luke 15:10

They are wise: 2 Samuel 14:20

They inhabit the throne room of God: 1 Kings 22:19

They know God's plan: Acts 1:10,11

They are swift: Luke 2:13; Acts 12:7; Acts 12:23.

THEIR NUMBER

A common question asked is how many angels can dance on the head of a pin? We cannot answer that question, but we do know that there are more than enough angels around to do it! Hebrews 12:22 says there are "thousands upon thousands." Jesus says in Matthew 26:53 that he could command at an instant's notice 12 legions of angels, about 72,000. Daniel saw 10,000 times

TOPICAL INSIGHTS

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10,000, 100 million, angels (Daniel 7:10). An "army" of angels aided Elisha in 2 Kings 6:15.

What fascinating beings! What a blessing knowing that our loving God planned such a beautiful creation to watch over and care for his beloved children.

God has created beings that invoke nothing

short of pure awe. These creatures command such a frightening response from mere mortals that in most instances in the Bible just the sight of an angel frightened the individual they appeared to. That is why the first thing they had to say was "Fear not" (Luke 2:9,10; Luke 1:29,30; Luke 1:12,13; Matthew 28:5; Daniel 10:11,12).

Uncovering the Lies of Man

from "Messengers of Light" by Terry Taylor

"When we 'hear' angels we may hear a beautiful chorus of voices singing in the distance. I have heard about cases of angels embellishing the music a person is listening to with their singing (if they like it). Or you may 'hear' sweet tingling bells or chimes at subtle times when angels are around you. Angels sometimes leave a fragrant scent around for us to smell, in places where we can't figure out where the scent is coming from. Two floral scents they especially like are rose and jasmine."

Uncovering the Truths of God

What important lessons can we learn from Revelation 19:10, 22:9 _____

Does God give us a specific number of angels? See Job 25:3 _____

What names are given to angels in these passages?

Psalm 148:2 _____ Psalm 68:17 _____

Daniel 4:13 _____ Psalm 103:20 _____

Psalm 8:5 _____

Carefully study these passages and list some details of how these angels looked.

Ezekiel 1:4-14 _____

Isaiah 6:1-7 _____

Revelation 4:6-8 _____

Think about It!

How do you picture angels?

How do you picture the sight of angels surrounding the throne of the Lamb?

What thoughts do you think went through Mary's mind when she saw Gabriel, or when the shepherds saw the angels?

What do the numbers of angels in Scripture tell us about the awesomeness of God?

If God already watches over us ("behold I am with you always") why did he make the angels?

Why is it that as children we seemed very close to the angels, but as we grew older we seemed to lose that excitement and comfort?