

Angelic Beings

“The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them” (Ps. 34:7, NAS).

“Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?”
(Heb. 1:14, NAS)

Reference	Story	Emphasis
Gen. 3:1-24	Adam and Eve Sin	God placed cherubim to guard the way to the tree of life.
Gen. 16:1-14; 21:8-21	Hagar and Ishmael	The angel of the LORD ¹ found Hagar in distress and gave her God’s message of hope.
Gen. 18:1-15	Birth of Isaac Promised	Angels announced a miraculous birth would take place and knew that Sarah laughed to herself out of their sight.
Gen. 19:1-29	Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah	Angels took human form and rescued Lot’s family.
Gen. 22:1-19	God Tested Abraham	The angel of the LORD intervened on behalf of God to stop Abraham’s sacrifice and to praise his faith.

¹The Old Testament’s use of the phrase “the angel of Yahweh,” typically translated in English versions as “the angel of the LORD,” raises challenging interpretive issues. In some passages in which the phrase occurs, the angel and the Lord seem clearly distinct from one another, but in those same passages the two sometimes appear to be merged. (The same issue arises in passages which do not include the phrase, such as Gen. 48:15-16.) Ex. 23:20 implies that the angel has the power to forgive sin, a privilege reserved for God alone. Interpreters have suggested that “the angel of the LORD” is either (1) an angel with a special assignment and special measure of God’s essence; (2) a momentary descent of God into visibility; or (3) the Logos, a temporary appearance of the second person of the Trinity before he was born as Jesus of Nazareth. Those who accept options (2) or (3) would therefore treat references to “the angel of the LORD” (and other similar passages) as applying to God and not to angelic beings.

Gen. 28:10-22	Jacob's Ladder	Angels travel freely between heaven and earth.
Ex. 3:1-4:13	The Burning Bush	The angel of the LORD appeared in the flame of the bush.
Ex. 23:20-33	Instructions about Conquering Canaan	Israel was to obey the angel whom God sent to lead and guard them during the conquest.
Num. 22:22-27	Balaam	The angel of the LORD (visible only to the donkey at first) blocked Balaam's path, protecting God's people.
Judg. 2:1-4	Israel Rebuked	The angel of the LORD announced God's rebuke for Israel's disobedience.
Judg. 13:1-21	Prophecy of Samson's Birth	The angel of the LORD appeared in human form, predicted the future, and performed signs.
2 Sam. 24:15-17; 1 Chr. 21:1-30	Punishment for David's Census-Taking	The angel of the LORD brought pestilence as God's judgment but ended it at God's command.
2 Kgs. 18:13-19:37	Sennacherib's Invasion of Judah	The angel of the LORD killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers.
Is. 6:1-8	Isaiah's Temple Vision	Seraphim are flying, angelic beings who praise God, announce his holiness, and assist in his cleansing work.
Dan. 3:1-30	The Fiery Furnace	An angel joined three faithful men of God in the furnace and protected them from harm.
Dan. 6:1-28	Daniel in the Lion's Den	An angel protected Daniel by closing lions' mouths.
Dan. 10:1-21	Daniel's Frightening Vision	Angels do battle and give comfort.

Zech. 1:7-21; 3:1-10	Zechariah's Visions	The angel of the LORD answered questions as part of divine revelation, called on God to show compassion, and observed the cleansing of the high priest.
Lk. 1:5-23	Prediction of Birth of John the Baptist	Gabriel revealed God's future redemptive plans and gave a sign to unbelieving Zacharias.
Lk. 1:26-38	Announcement to Mary	Gabriel told Mary she would conceive the Messiah by the Holy Spirit.
Mt. 1:18-25	Announcement to Joseph	Angel assured Joseph that Mary's pregnancy was of God.
Lk. 2:8-20	Birth of Jesus	Angels announced and praised Jesus' birth.
Mt. 2:13-15, 19-23	Flight to Egypt and Return	An angel warned Joseph in a dream to escape from Herod's jurisdiction, then told Joseph when to return.
Mt. 4:1-11	Jesus' Temptation	Angels minister to (are servants of) Jesus.
Mt. 25:31-46	Sheep and Goats Judgment	Obedient angels will accompany Jesus on his glorious return, when disobedient angels will be put into the eternal fire prepared for them and the devil
Lk. 22:39-46; Mt. 26:36-56	Garden of Gethsemane	An angel strengthened Jesus while he prayed; he could have asked the Father for more than 12 legions of angels if he wanted to defend himself.
Mt. 28:1-10	Resurrection of Jesus	Angels rolled away the stone, frightened the Roman guard, and told the women Jesus was raised.
Acts 1:1-11	Ascension of Jesus	Angels clothed in white predicted Jesus' return.

Acts 5:17-32; 12:1-17	Imprisonment and Release of Apostles	An angel released apostles from persecutors' jail.
Acts 8:26-40	Philip and the Ethiopian	An angel instructed Philip to go on a certain road; there he met the Ethiopian and told him about Jesus.
Acts 10:1-8	Cornelius' Vision	Angel instructed a seeker to get instruction from a believer.
Rev. 4:11-14; 7:9-17	Angels Exalt the Lamb and God	Unnumbered angels praise God, both Father and Son.
Rev. 12:7-9	Warfare in Heaven	Michael and his angels defeat Satan.
Mt. 13:24-30, 36-43	Parable of the Tares	Angels will gather unbelievers for hell at the end of the age.
Rev. 22:1-9	The River and Tree of Life	Angels are not to be worshiped.