

The Angels

About Angels

Part A: Most of us have a fairly clear idea of what angels are. But it's usually based on movies, songs, and Christmas tree decorations rather than what the Church and the Bible teach us.

Angels are fascinating creatures — and important in our relationship with God. Let's try to see what they really are like. To start, look at these pairs of words, and underline the one in each pair that you think *most* people would use to describe angels. (Note: There aren't any right or wrong answers — just tell what you think.)

Fluffy/fiery
Scary/sweet
Holding a harp/brandishing a sword
Delicate/mighty
Huge/small
Serving/commanding

Part B: Biblical descriptions of angels are quite different from the way many people think of them. Read the following passages having to do with angels. As you read, jot down some key words that tell how the passages depict angels.

Exodus 23:20 _____

Judges 13:6-7 _____

1 Chron. 21:14-27 _____

Psalms 34:1-10 _____

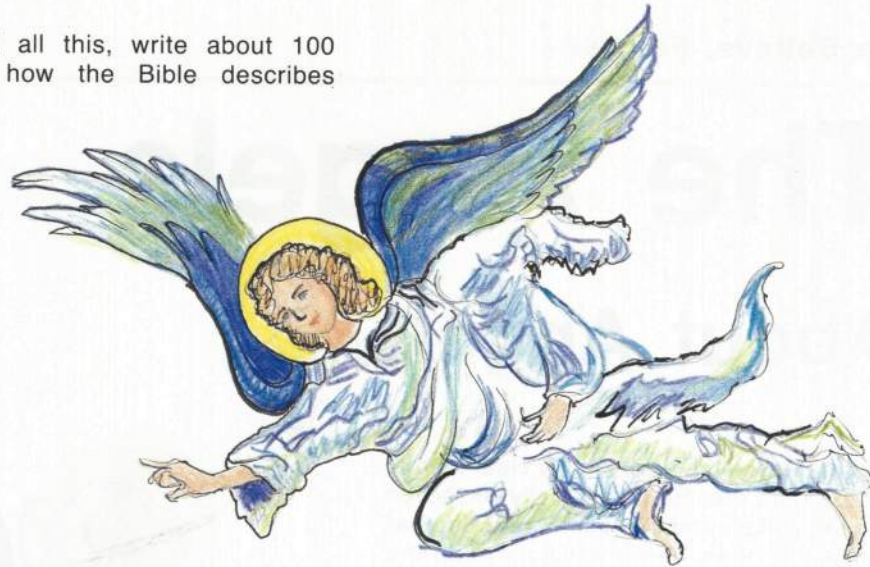
Psalms 35:1-6 _____

Revelation 10:1-7 _____



Now read these short passages from Luke, which all have something in common. Think about why the angels have to do the same thing in each case. Read Luke 1:13, Luke 1:30, and Luke 2:8-10.

Having read all this, write about 100 words telling how the Bible describes angels.



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Finding Answers About Angels

You have been hearing a great deal about angels. Now it's time to use the Bible and find some specific facts about them. Answer these questions, doing as many as you can now, and finishing the rest for homework.

1. There are nine ranks of angels. These are angels, archangels, cherubim, seraphim, and virtues — plus four others. Read Colossians 1:16 and write the names of the other four orders:

2. You know that angels are messengers. Read Zechariah 1:12-17 (note that the "me" here is the prophet Zechariah, who is describing his own experiences). Also read Judges 6:11-12. What are the messages angels bring in these two readings?

3. Describe the seraphim, after reading Isaiah 6:1-2 and Revelation 4:1-8.

4. Look at Revelation 12:7-9 and Jude 1:9-10. Then read Daniel 9:20-23 and Luke 1:18-19. From these, describe first the archangel Michael and then the archangel Gabriel.

5. Name two things angels guard, after you read Genesis 3:22-24 and Psalm 91:8-12.

6. You know about the archangels Gabriel and Michael. Now look in Tobit 5:4 to find and write down the name of a third major archangel. (Note: The book of Tobit is found in the "Apocrypha" section of the Bible).
