



miracles OF HIS BIRTH

HOW THE SUPERNATURAL
SHAPES JESUS'S BIRTH

hebrews 5:11-6:2

About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

hebrews 5:11-6:2

Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

angels

the bible

defintions

- We use angels as a “catch-all” term to define obedient heavenly beings.
- The “heavenly host” is the term that includes all of the created spiritual beings that stayed loyal to Yahweh.
- Within this host there are different being, a hierarchy, and roles/functions.

elohim

- The term *elohim* is used to describe Yahweh.
- The term *elohim* is also used to describe spiritual beings that are below Yahweh and active in the earth.
 - These are referred to as little g gods.
 - Psalm 82, Judges 11:24, 1 Kings 11:33, Deut. 32:17
- Yahweh is the most high *elohim*. There is none like him and none beside him. He is fully and completely sovereign and rules over all of creation.

heirarchy

- The Most High *elohim* YAHWEH.
- The lesser *elohim*
- Watchers
- Cherubim/Seraphim
- Angelic messengers
- Warrior angels, the host
- Praising throne angels

groups and functions

- Heavenly Ones (*samayim*).
 - Psalm 89:5–7: *Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones! For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD? Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD, a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones, and awesome above all who are around him?*
- Cherubim and Seraphim
 - These are the weird looking ones.

groups and functions

- Stars

- *Job 38:5–7: Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?*

- Holy Ones

- Job 4:17-18, 15:15, Duet. 33:2, Zech. 14:5

groups and functions

- Messengers: *mal'ak*
 - This is where we get the term “angel” from.
 - Many times in the OT when messengers are sent they appear as humans.
- Minister: *seret*
 - Psalm 104:4: *he makes his messengers winds, his ministers a flaming fire.*
- Watcher: *ir*
 - This was the class of those who rebelled in Gen 6.

groups and functions

- Host, mighty ones
 - This is the armies of the Lord.
 - **2 Kings 6:17:** *Then Elisha prayed and said, “O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see.” So the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.*
- Cherubim and Seraphim are guardian beings (Gen. 3, Isaiah 6)

functions

- Help God make decisions.
 - 1 Kings 22, Daniel 7
- Watch over the world and help govern it
 - Deuteronomy 32, Zech. 1, Psalm 82
- Deliver divine decrees.
- Explain divine activity.

functions

- Execute divine judgement.
 - Saul, Joshua, Isaiah 13
- Praise Yahweh.
 - Psalm 103: 20-22

of appearances

- There is a difference between the angel of the Lord and an angel of the Lord.
 - The angel is probably a pre-incarnate Jesus.
- To Abraham (Genesis 18)
- At Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19)
- Jacob's Ladder (Gen. 28)
- Sinai (Deut. 33)
- Joshua (Josh. 5)

ot appearances

- Balaam
- David (2 Samuel 24)
- Elijah (1 Kings 19)
- Angel kills Assyrians (2 Kings 19)
- Daniel in the lion's den (Dan. 6:22)

angels and the birth

- Appears to Zechariah in the temple in Luke 1:11.
 - Elizabeth will bear a son that is filled with the Holy Spirit in the womb.
 - Their son, John the Baptist, will be the forerunner for the Christ.
- Gabriel goes to Mary in Luke 1:26-27.
 - Tells her she will carry Jesus, the Son of the Most High who will rule over the house of Jacob and have an everlasting Kingdom.

angels and the birth

- Comes to Joseph in a dream in Matthew 1:20.
 - Mary is not lying and is pregnant with the Son of God
 - Go marry her.
- A lone angel appears to the shepherds and tells them the Messiah Savior has been born in Luke 2:11.
 - As he tells them this a multitude of angels appear rejoicing.
- In Matthew 2:13 an angel appears to Joseph and tells him to depart to Egypt.
 - And angel tells him to return when Herod dies.

in the gospels

- Angels minister to Jesus after the temptation.
 - Matthew 4
- Jesus says that children have angels.
 - Matthew 18:10
- Angels carry away the dead.
 - Lazarus in the parable in Luke 16
- In Gethsemane
 - Luke 22

in the gospels

- An angel rolls away the stone from Jesus's tomb.
 - Matthew 28
- They tell the women that Jesus is risen.
 - Luke 24
- When Jesus ascends to the Father angels appear to the disciples.
 - Acts 1

in acts

- Angels free Peter and John from prison.
 - Acts 5:17 and Acts 12 (just Peter)
- Phillip is told by an angel to head south where he meets the Ethiopian eunuch.
 - Acts 8
- Cornelius sees an angel that tells him to go pray for Paul.
 - Acts 10
- Herod is struck dead by an angel.
 - Acts 12:23

epistles

- Believers will judge angels (1 Corinthians 6:3)
- Angels can be present in gatherings (1 Cor. 11)
- Jesus is far above angels (Hebrews 1)
- God has given us the world, not angels (Hebrews 2)
- They long to understand the gospel (1 Peter 1:12)
- Disobedient angels are punished (2 Peter 2, Jude 6)
- Michael and Moses's body (Jude 9)

- Angels will be ushering Jesus here in his final return (2 Thessalonians 1:7)

what does it mean?

- Hebrews 1:14: *Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?*
- Angels are still used by God today for His people.
- To follow the pattern set in the Bible, heavenly angels will point to Jesus and lead you to Him.

what does it mean?

- Hebrews 13:2: *Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.*
- Hospitality is vital to the Christian life.
- We do not always know how thin the veil is and the interaction that takes place between the spiritual places and the physical place.

what does it mean?

- It shows that God is a God that delegates His authority and power.
 - This means that you can believe that He has delegated this power and authority to you.
- God cares enough for His people to give them exactly what they need, when they need it.

reflection