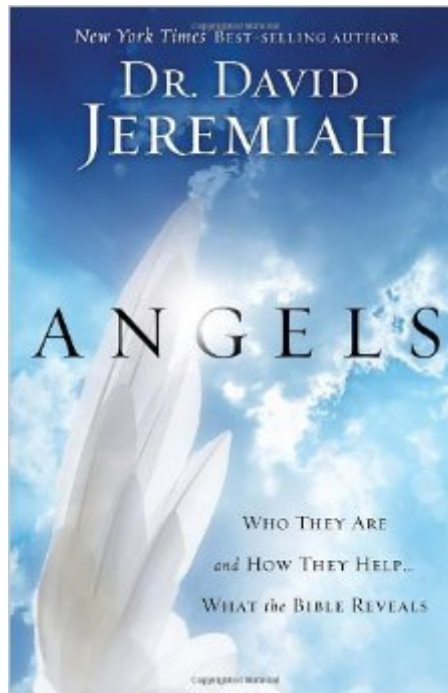


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Angels: Who They Are And How They Help--What The Bible Reveals



Synopsis

The Remarkable Truth about the Agents of Heaven People have long been fascinated by stories of angel sightings, yet many contemporary beliefs about angels are based on misconception and myth rather than solid, biblical truth. As he's done so brilliantly for decades, respected Bible teacher Dr. David Jeremiah uses Scripture to unveil the remarkable truth about these agents of heaven and their role in our world and our lives. What are angels? What is their role in God's plan? Are they present? Do they appear? Do they give us personal insight about our work and our worship? In this broad and thorough survey of Scripture, Dr. Jeremiah clearly and simply separates fact from fiction as it relates to angels. His enlightening findings are supported with illustrations and insights from prominent teachers, such as Billy Graham, Corrie ten Boom, C. S. Lewis, and more. Dr. Jeremiah's down-to-earth style guides readers around the hype about angels and directly into the "substance of things unseen!"

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Customer Reviews

It's really cool to believe in angels. It's definitely cooler to believe in angels than in Jesus. They're everywhere today. Cutesy little figurines in the church merch section of the Christian bookstore. TV shows about guardian angels. In movies, angels are the moody romantic lead, the friendly guide, the likable and smarmy comedic lead... Heck, a couple weeks back, there was even a movie about humanity having to be saved from God's wrath (brought by a legion of angels, who possess people as though they were demons) by the archangel, Michael, who has rebelled against God and kills the

other angels with machine guns! Then there's books. I don't know about you, but generally when I see a book about angels, I get a little nervous. Usually the only ones I see are by folks like Sylvia Browne and other new age spiritualists. I say all this to give you a picture of the apprehension I faced when I saw the invite to read *Angels* by Dr. David Jeremiah. Because I'd never read any of his work before, I decided to give it a shot, uncertain of whether or not it would be beneficial or about as sketchy as a book with fold-out end times charts. I was pleasantly surprised by what I found.

Jeremiah's book offers a refreshing, helpful look at the topic of angels as he takes readers through the Bible to discover who they are, what they do and why it matters. Jeremiah does not present angels as being huggable, friendly creatures, departed loved ones who now have wings or babies in diapers. Instead, he presents us with the Bible's far more impressive and terrifying view. "Real angels have been and are and shall forever be awesome warriors for God, agents of his wrath and power. We don't wonder in the least why people in the Bible who see angels are so often struck with terror at the sight" (p. 37). They guard the gates of the garden with a flaming sword (Gen. 3:24). The angel of the Lord, with hand outstretched, sends a plague upon the people of Israel after David's sinful census (2 Sam. 24:15-17, 1 Chron. 21:14-17). In a single night, one angel kills one hundred eighty-five thousand Assyrians (2 Kings 19:35, 2 Chron. 32:21, Isa. 37:36). King Herod accepts worship as a god, but is killed by an angel, devoured by worms from within after the angels touch (Acts 12:21-23). These are just a few examples that Jeremiah gives. I don't expect to see these angels on a Valentine's card anytime soon. Ultimately, angels are servants, just as we are. They are created beings, like us; however, they are not spiritually progressed, evolved or transformed humans, they are a distinct class of beings (see p. 51). And because they are created beings, they are never to be worshipped. This point is one that can't be overstated. As Jeremiah points out, even the apostle John had to be reminded twice by an angel: "After one ecstatic scene of heavenly worship at the wedding supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19), a guiding angel turned to John and asked him to write these words: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!' The angel added, 'These are the true words of God.'" "At once, John 'fell at his feet to worship him.'" "The angel's rebuke was quick: 'Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God!' (19:10)." [p. 54, emphasis in original] Again, the angels are ruled by Jesus. They are not worthy of worship. Perhaps one of the most intriguing chapters for me was the one dealing with "The Angel of the Lord." Jeremiah writes, "No doubt you've already noticed that often in an Old Testament passage the 'angel' who's speaking is identified directly with God himself. The angel seems not just to be from the Lord, but actually to be the Lord" (p. 157). When I was reading through the Old Testament last year, this was

one of the things that came up again and again. Who is the Angel of the Lord? Is he an angel that is more preeminent than all the others, or is he, perhaps, the pre-incarnate Christ? John Calvin, M.J. Erickson, Lewis Sperry Chafer, C.F. Dickason and J.M. Wilson, each of whom are cited by the author, all lean toward the belief that the angel of the Lord may have been Christ. However, Jeremiah quoting Wilson reminds us, "Yet it must be remembered that at best these are only conjectures that touch on a great mystery. . . . The appearances of the angel of the Lord . . . culminating in the coming of the Savior, and are thus a foreshadowing of, and a preparation for, the full revelation of God in Jesus Christ. Further than this is not safe to go" (p. 163). Jeremiah, I think, wisely heeds this warning throughout as he keeps his conclusions fairly open-ended. In presenting the biblical evidence, the author presents two items that I found fascinating and curious. The fascinating: "Appearances of the angel of the Lord ceased after the birth of Jesus Christ," he writes on p. 167, "a further bit of evidence that he may indeed have been that angel." The curious: In citing Exodus 23:20-21 ("Behold, I send an angel before you to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared. Pay careful attention to him and obey his voice; do not rebel against him, for he will not pardon your transgression, for my name is in him."), Jeremiah suggests that the angel could forgive sins. In studying the passage, I found that this certainly be the case as the term "my name is in him" implies that the angel is of the same nature and character. This gave me a lot to think about, although I believe more study on my part is required before I can comfortably agree or disagree. "The angels truly love the Lord, and will always love to serve him... and so will I." Angels by Dr. David Jeremiah is a helpful, thoughtful look at what Scripture says about the angels who, like us, were made to worship and serve the Lord our God. "The angels truly love the Lord, and will always love to serve him... and so will I," concludes Jeremiah. Amen.

As humans, we are naturally fascinated with spiritual things. Angels are no exception. Dr. Jeremiah's book takes you on a guided tour about what scripture says about angels. There are so many questions and he has many answers for us from scripture as well as his own personal thoughts on the subject. It is an interesting read. I was having a conversation with someone just recently and they were talking about their guardian angel. I had never really done any Biblical research on it, but I wondered if that ideology was one that could be supported by the Bible. You will have to read the book to find out. I loved seeing all of the scripture involving angels presented together. There was such a theme of announcing that sons would be born to barren women. It was amazing to see them set the stage for an even greater miracle that is announced to a virgin. There are a ridiculous amount of badly written books on this subject that are lacking in theological weight.

This is not one of those books. I think it is excellently written. Even in the questions that cannot be answered, David lays out for you the best hypothesis so that you can decide for yourself. Most importantly, he reminds the reader that we pray to God and let Him answer us how He chooses with whatever means He chooses.

I was given this book to review as part of the WaterBrook Multnomah Publishing Group promotional tour. Dr. Jeremiah is a well recognized and respected Bible teacher, founder of Turning Point Radio and Television Ministries and senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church. In addition to his speaking and radio ministry, he is an established author. As I read this book, I found myself glad that Dr. Jeremiah was the author. His voice is respected, and brings balance to a conversation that is often manipulated by emotion. The first thing I noticed in this book was the use of scripture. Jeremiah seems to find every possible scriptural angle on the subject of angels. With so much subjective information, it was refreshing to see a scriptural foundation. While Jeremiah is a pastor (not a scholar) at heart, he does handle this topic with the thorough touch of an academic. Jeremiah also did an acceptable job explaining the roles of angels. While I found some of his descriptions to be simple, overall he was accurate. What I appreciated most about the book was the job he did and balancing the tension between fact and mystery. He gave examples of times where people had experienced angels, and he also gave scriptural facts about the roles and work of angels. He never ignored scripture, yet he never explained away the presence of angels in our faith. Overall it was a pretty good read from a really great guy.

This was a very good book and I would definitely tell others who want to know more about Angels to read it. It is good because it uses scriptures from the Bible and is all based on the Bible of how Angels are and of what they do. Too many people these days think that Angels should be called upon and prayed to and act like they are worshipping them, which is a very big no no! I have noticed that in countless books about Angels, many people often will leave God out of the picture when in fact it was God who created the Angels and this book helped me to understand more about the Angels of the bible and of how they may help us today, with only God telling them to do so first. Anyway, I was really glad for this book and it explained things really good about Angels and kept to the Bible.

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