

## 2 • Angel Activity in the Old Testament

In our first lesson we learned that angels are **created spirit servants of God** (Heb 1:13-14). Alright, but *how* do they serve? What sort of things do they *do*? Where in the Bible can we see them sent out to serve? You might be surprised just how often we can find angel activity in the Old Testament.



- Hagar, the servant of Sarai, is comforted by an angel (Gen 16:7-14)
  - Abram interacts with three “men” and is promised a son (Gen 18:1-12)
- Lot is rescued from Sodom by “the two angels” (Gen 19:1-16)
  - Hagar and Ishmael are provided for in the wilderness (Gen 21:15-19)
- Abraham is about to sacrifice Isaac and is stopped (Gen 22:11, 15-18)
  - Abraham’s servant is guided by an angel (Gen 24:7)
- Jacob’s dream of a ladder with angels ascending and descending (Gen 28:12)
  - Jacob told to go home in a dream (Gen 31:11-13)
- Jacob wrestles with “a man” (Gen 32:22-31; Hos 12:4)
  - Moses and the burning bush (Exo 3:2-4:17)
- The plagues on Egypt (Psa 78:49)
  - The pillars of cloud and fire (Exo 14:19-20)
- A guide in the wilderness (Exo 23:20-21)
  - Manna, “the bread of the angels” (Psa 78:25)
- The law of Moses put in place through angels (Gal 3:19)
  - Balaam and his donkey (Num 22:22-35)
- An angel delivers a message about Israel’s disobedience (Judg 2:1-5)
  - Gideon is called to lead Israel against Midian (Judg 6:11-22)
- A barren woman will have a son, Samson (Judg 13:1-21)
  - An angel brings pestilence on Israel (2 Sam 24:15-17)
- An angel feeds Elijah in the wilderness (1 Kings 19:4-8)
  - An angel tells the prophet Elijah what to say (2 Kings 1:3, 15)
- Elisha’s servant is helped to see horses and chariots of fire (2 Kings 6:8-18)
  - An angel strikes down 185,000 Assyrian soldiers (2 Kings 19:35)
- The angel of the LORD is said to encamp around the faithful (Psa 34:7)
  - An angel is said to rescue from the fiery furnace (Dan 3:28)
- An angel shuts the lions’ mouths (Dan 6:22)
  - An angel is Zechariah’s guide throughout his prophecy

Clearly, we have a whole lot to talk about. Have your Bible open and ready? **Let’s dive in...**

## For Class & Family Discussion:

- As you look at that long list of angel activity in the Old Testament, think about some of those action words. How did angels serve? What sort of things did angels do? We heard words like *comfort*, *promise*, *rescue*, *provide*, *guide*, and *feed*. What should we learn from that? What can we know about angels using the Old Testament?
- We frequently heard one of these created spirit servants described as “the angel of the LORD.” What do you think is meant by that?
- When it came to angels vs. men (even a whole lot of men), who was more powerful? What references from our long list on the other side are good examples of that truth?
- When people interacted with these created spirit servants, did they always know that they were talking with an angel? **Hebrews 13:1-2** might be a good passage to revisit at this point...
- The Hebrew word for “angel” can also be translated “messenger.” What references from our long list on the other side are good examples of an angel serving as a messenger?
- **Galatians 1:6-9** is a strong warning worth thinking about at this point in our study. If one of these created spirit servants were to try and get human beings to believe and follow something different from what God has said, should we listen? If not, why not?
- What’s something you noticed from that long list about angel activity that you hadn’t noticed before?
- What are angels? **Angels are created spirit servants of God** that show up all over the Old Testament. Next week, we’ll go searching for angel activity in the New Testament...