

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Red Bud, Illinois

Adult Bible Study

"Angels, Angels Everywhere"

III. What Angels Look Like:

When a little person shows up at your door on All Hallows' Eve (aka Reformation Day or Halloween), how do you know that person is pretending to be an angel?

Where do we get this image of angels? _____

In the Bible God gives us many glimpses of the appearance of angels, but nowhere does He reveal a detailed description of what angels must look like. The Bible tells us of their glorious faces and their radiant clothing. Christian art has taken these glimpses of angels from the Bible and developed a certain image that comes to our mind when we think of angels.

A. Do Angels Have Wings?

How are the cherubim described on the Ark of the Covenant in Exodus 37:6-9? _____

He made the atonement cover of pure gold—two and a half cubits long and a cubit and a half wide. Then he made two cherubim out of hammered gold at the ends of the cover. He made one cherub on one end and the second cherub on the other; at the two ends he made them of one piece with the cover. The cherubim had their wings spread upward, overshadowing the cover with them. The cherubim faced each other, looking toward the cover.

How are the cherubim described in Solomon's temple in 1 Kings 6:23-28? _____

In the inner sanctuary Solomon made a pair of cherubim of olive wood, each ten cubits high. 24 One wing of the first cherub was five cubits long, and the other wing five cubits—ten cubits from wing tip to wing tip. 25 The second cherub also measured ten cubits, for the two cherubim were identical in size and shape. 26 The height of each cherub was ten cubits. 27 He placed the cherubim inside the innermost room of the temple, with their wings spread out. The wing of one cherub touched one wall, while the wing of the other touched the other wall, and their wings touched each other in the middle of the room. 28 He overlaid the cherubim with gold.

According to Daniel 8:15-17 and 9:20-21 must angels have wings in order to fly? _____

While I, Daniel, was watching the vision and trying to understand it, there before me stood one who looked like a man. 16 And I heard a man's voice from the Ulai calling, "Gabriel, tell this man the meaning of the vision." 17 As he came near the place where I was standing, I was terrified and fell prostrate. "Son of man," he said to me, "understand that the vision concerns the time of the end." ...While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the LORD my God for His holy hill- 21 while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice.

How many wings do the seraphim have in Isaiah 6:1-8? _____

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of His robe filled the temple. 2 Above Him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3 And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." 4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

5 "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty." 6 Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has

touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

See Ezekiel 1:4-14. Does what Ezekiel see appear anything like our normal image of angels? _____

How many wings did they have? _____ How many faces? _____ What were those faces?

(For a similar image of these angels see Ezekiel 10:9-14 and Revelation 4:6b-8.)

Point to Remember: It would appear that the only angels which are described as having wings are the special classes called the cherubim and the seraphim. Only in visions do angels appear with wings.

B. What Do Angels Look Like?

What is special about the appearance of the angel in Matthew 28:2-3? _____

There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.

Why do we think that the two men in Acts 1:10-11 are angels? _____, _____

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven."

Why is Stephen described as he is in Acts 6:15? _____

All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Point to Remember: Angels are spiritual beings who can appear in bodily form and look quite human.

In what gender do angels appear in these passages? _____

Genesis 18:2, 16, 22, 19:1 Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground... When the men got up to leave, they looked down toward Sodom, and Abraham walked along with them to see them on their way... The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the Lord. The two angels arrived in Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city.

Luke 24:4-5 While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?"

Acts 5:19-20 But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. "Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people the full message of this new life."

Point to Remember: The only proper names given to angels in the Bible are masculine, Gabriel ("mighty man of God") and Michael ("who is like God?").

When two angels appeared to Lot in Sodom, what physical things could they do? See Genesis 19:1-11.

What important reminder does Hebrews 13:1-2 give us about the appearance of angels? _____

Hebrews 13:1-2 Keep on loving each other as brothers. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. (Consider TV shows like "Highway to Heaven" and "Touched by an Angel.")

Luther's Morning Prayer: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.