

Angels in the Old Testament

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I gave a presentation titled "Angels in the Old Testament." I want to share some of my comments in this short article.

What are seraphim?

A seraph is defined as a six-winged angel. The plural is seraphim.

Isaiah 6:2—"Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew."

What are cherubim?

A cherub is defined in two general ways—as a supernatural being that serves in the presence of God and as an ornamental figure on the ark of the covenant. The plural is cherubim.

Following are sections of verses that discuss cherubim.

- Genesis 3:24—After Adam and Eve sinned, God placed cherubim at the east of the Garden of Eden.
- Exodus 25:8-22—When God introduced the tabernacle, He mentioned cherubim as part of the ark and mercy seat.
- 1 Kings 6:14-35—When Solomon built the temple, he mentioned cherubim.
- Ezekiel 10:1-22—When Ezekiel had his visions, he mentioned cherubim.

What are angels?

An angel is defined as a messenger—both human and supernatural.

Psalms 8:5—"For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor."

Psalms 91:11—"For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways."

Gabriel was angel in Daniel 8-9

Daniel 8:16—"Gabriel, make this man understand the vision."

Daniel 8:17—" [Gabriel] said to me, 'Understand, son of man, that the vision refers to the time of the end.' "

Daniel 9:21—"While I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering."

Was Gabriel the angel of Daniel 10?

Later, Daniel had another vision (Daniel 10:1, 5), and an angel was sent to him.

Although the identity of this angel is not specifically mentioned, many Bible students believe that it was Gabriel again. Why?

The words mentioned by Gabriel in Daniel 9:23 were mentioned again in Daniel 10:11.

Daniel 9:23—"I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved."

Daniel 10:11—"Oh Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you . . . for I have now been sent to you."

When Daniel mentioned that his sorrows overwhelmed him (Daniel 10:16), the angel (probably Gabriel) gave encouraging advice.

Daniel 10:19—"And he said, 'O man greatly beloved, fear not! Peace be to you; be strong, yes, be strong!' "

Who was Michael?

This angel (probably Gabriel) talked about how the angel Michael helped him.

Daniel 10:13—"But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia."

When the angel (probably Gabriel) mentioned that he had to go battle the prince of Persia and the prince of Greece (Daniel 10:20), he again mentioned how the angel Michael helped him.

Daniel 10:21—"No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince."

(Check out Michael's heroics in Jude 9 and Revelation 12;7-8.)