



Agents of Judgement

Throughout history angels have worked to carry out God's judgements, directing the destinies of nations disobedient to God. The writer of Hebrews speaks of angelic forces as executors of God's Judgement—"Who maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire" **Hebrews 1:7**. . The flaming fire suggests how awful are judgements of God and how burning is the power of the angels who carry out God's decisions. Angels administer judgment in accord with God's principles of righteousness.

Unknown to men they have undoubtedly in the past helped destroy evil systems like Nazism, because those governments came to the place where God could no longer withhold His hand. These same angels will carry out fearful judgements in the future, some of which the book of Revelation vividly describes.

We have false notions about angels from plays given by children at Christmas. It is true that angels are ministering spirits sent to help the heirs of salvation. But just as they fulfil God's will in salvation for believers in Jesus Christ, so they are also "avengers" who use their great powers to fulfil God's will in judgement. God has empowered them to separate the wheat from the chaff, and one of them will sound the trumpet that announces impending judgement when God summons the nations to stand before Him in the last great judgement.

Judgement of Sodom and Gomorrah

In the case of Sodom and Gomorrah, there was no way judgement could be averted. Their wickedness had become too great. God had judged them: they had to be destroyed. But before God sends judgement, He warns. In this case, He used angels to point out to Abraham the approaching doom of Sodom and Gomorrah for their wickedness (Genesis 18). Abraham, whose nephew, Lot and his family lived among these wicked people, began to plead with God to spare the two cities. Abraham asked God if He would avert judgement if fifty righteous people lived in Sodom. God told Abraham He would not destroy the city if there were fifty such people. There is a belief that God withholds judgement from our world because of the righteous.

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Judgement of Sodom and Gomorrah/continued...

Then Abraham asked him for a stay of execution if there were only forty-five righteous people. God agreed. Then Abraham asked for deliverance if there were thirty righteous people. God agreed. Abraham asked for twenty, then ten. God agreed to withhold judgement if as many as ten righteous people could be found in Sodom. But not even ten such people lived there. Notice that God answered Abraham every time he asked and he did not leave off answering until Abraham left off asking.

Destruction

After this, God ordered the angelic ministers of judgement to rain destruction on these two wicked cities and all their inhabitants. Prior to destruction of the cities, however, two unidentified heavenly messengers visited Sodom to warn Lot and his family to flee from the wrath about to come. So evil were the inhabitants of Sodom that they wanted to molest the angels physically. The angels blinded them and prevented them from carrying out their iniquitous act. In his book "All about angels", C. Leslie Miller states, "It is significant that although Lot, Abraham's nephew, had drifted far from the holy standards of his uncle and had sought the companionship and material benefits of an unholy alliance, yet the angels of the Lord were there to spare his life and assist him in avoiding the consequences of his own poor judgement.

Thus we see something of the mercy, grace and love of God toward even those who profess His name and try sincerely to live a God honouring life in the midst of the most difficult circumstances.

Assyrian Army Destroyed

In 2 Kings 19, Scripture dramatically underscores God's use of angels to execute His judgements. King Hezekiah had received a letter from the commander of the Assyrian forces and immediately sought God's counsel. God gave Isaiah the answer, saying that not one Assyrian arrow would be fired into the city. He promised to defend Jerusalem on that occasion for David's sake. Dramatically, that night, just one angel struck the Assyrian encampment and 185,000 soldiers were found dead on the field of battle the next morning.

2nd Kings 19:35-36

Then it happened that night that the angel of the Lord went out, and struck 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians; and when men rose early in the morning, behold, all of them were dead.

So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and returned home, and lived at Nineveh.



The Angel who almost destroyed Jerusalem

Nowhere in the Old Testament is there a more significant use of angelic power in judgement against God's own people than when David defied God's command by numbering Israel. God sent a pestilence among the Israelites and 70,000 died. He also sent a single angel to destroy the city of Jerusalem.

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The Angel who almost destroyed Jerusalem/continued..

David “saw the angel of the Lord stand between the earth and heaven having a drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem”

1 Chronicles 21:16.

When David pleaded for mercy, the angel told him to set up an altar on the thrashing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. God then accepted David’s sacrifice there and said to the destroying angel, “*It is enough: stay now thine hand*” - **2 Samuel 24:16**. The Scripture significantly says that the same angel had already slain the 70,000 men (v17). Indeed angels are God’s agents in judgement.

Egyptian First Born

One fateful night in Egypt just before the Exodus, the destroying angel was about to sweep over the land with a visitation of death—**Exodus 12:18-30**.

Pharaoh And All His Officials
And All The Egyptians Got Up
During The Night, And There
Was Loud Wailing In Egypt,
For There Was Not A House
Without Someone Dead.

Exodus 12-30

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New Testament history also records incidents where avenging angels judged the unrighteous acts of men and nations



The Angel who smote Herod Agrippa

Herod dressed in his royal apparel appeared before the people to make a speech. When he finished the people shouted, “*It is the voice of a god, and not of a man*” - **Acts 12:22**. Instead of disclaiming any such thing Herod delighted in the impact he had made, God’s response to this idolatrous act was prompt and for Herod disastrous. “*Because he gave not God the glory,*” he “*was eaten of worms and gave up the ghost*” (v23). “*The angel of the Lord smote him.*”

Herod Agrippa, also known as Herod II or Agrippa I, was an Edomite and the King to rule over Judea.
Born 11 BC / Died 44 AD in Caesarea, Israel

Those Who Reject Jesus

It is clear in Scripture that angels will be God’s emissaries to carry out His judgement against those who deliberately reject Jesus Christ and the salvation God offers through Him. While all men are sinners by nature, choice and practice, yet it is their deliberate rejection of Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord that causes the judgement of eternal separation from God.

Eternal Life

Every son of Adam’s race is confronted with two ways of life:

- One, to eternal life
- The other
- To eternal death.

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Eternal life continued ...

We have seen how angels execute God's judgement on those who reject Jesus: the angels cast them into the furnace of fire—**Revelation 20:10-15**. But there is a totally different judgement. It is the good and wonderful judgement unto everlasting life. He commissions angels to escort each believer to heaven and to give him a royal welcome as he enters the eternal presence of God—**Luke 16:22**. Each of us who trusts Christ will witness the rejoicing of angelic hosts around the throne of God.

Luke 16:19-31 gives an overview of the rich man (Dives) and Lazarus.

Another beautiful account of this kind comes from the life of the martyr Stephen—**Acts 6:8-7, 7-60**. The "*council, looking steadfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel.*" Then Stephen in a powerful sermon declared that even unbelievers "*received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it*" - **Acts 7:53**.

Salvation is Paid For

Do you fear the judgement of God? Or do you know that Christ has taken your judgement upon Himself by His death on the cross? **Romans 8:1**.

When you know Christ you need not fear God's judgement, for He has fully and completely purchased your salvation. Don't delay your decision for Christ, but open your heart to Him and you too will know the joy of sharing in His fellowship throughout all eternity in heaven.

Seven Angels of Judgement

Revelation 8:6

"So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound."

Seven Trumpets Sounded Judgement

- 1 Revelation 8:7
- 2 Revelation 8:8-9
- 3 Revelation 8:10-11
- 4 Revelation 8:12-13
- 5 Revelation 9:1-12
- 6 Revelation 9:13-21
- 7 Revelation 11:15-19

THE SEVEN TRUMPETS

1. Hail fire and blood cast on *the earth* (Rev. 8:7)
2. A burning mountain cast into *the sea* (Rev. 8:8)
3. A great star fell on *rivers and fountains* (Rev. 8:10)
4. The fourth part of *the sun*, moon and stars smitten (Rev. 8:12)
5. The *bottomless pit* was opened (Rev. 9:1)
6. The four angels bound in *Euphrates* loosed (Rev. 9:14,15)
7. The kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our Lord (Rev. 11:15)

