

“Down To Earth”

“A Miraculous Story with an All-Star Cast!”

“The Angels: Supporting Characters”

“Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.’”

Luke 2:12-14

A. God created the greatest story...

1. God specifically picked each of the characters for this story!
2. Each character had special significance...there are no accidents in God’s plan!
3. If God’s original creation was spectacular, imagine His plan for the redemption of all mankind!
4. Every detail was part of the plan with prophetic fulfillment; every detail held deeper meaning!
5. This is His-Story of love for all mankind!

B. The angels were selected to help tell this grand story...

1. Angels are God’s messengers to fulfill His purpose and will. *“Therefore, angels are only servants—spirits sent to care for people who will inherit salvation.” Hebrews 1:14*
2. Angels are superhuman in knowledge and power but possessing intelligence and will. *“However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son Himself. Only the Father knows.” Matthew 24:36*
“But the angels, who are far greater in power and strength, do not dare to bring from the Lord, a charge of blasphemy against those supernatural beings.” 2 Peter 2:11
3. Angels have levels of power and authority. The Cherubim protect and defend, **Genesis 3:24; Psalm 99:1**, and the Seraphim (6 wings). *“For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.” Ephesians 6:12*
4. Angels are beyond our ability to number them. *“Then I looked again, and I heard the voices of thousands and millions of angels around the throne and of the living beings and the elders.” Revelation 5:11*

5. Angels have names...Michael – Commander-in-Chief; Gabriel – “mighty one”, Heaven’s telegram bearer.

“For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16

“But even Michael, one of the mightiest of the angels, did not dare accuse the devil of blasphemy, but simply said, ‘The Lord rebuke you!’ (This took place when Michael was arguing with the devil about Moses’ body.)” Jude 1:9

6. Angels will not reproduce, die, and nor will more be created. *“For when the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage. In this respect they will be like the angels in heaven.” Matthew 22:30*
“And they will never die again. In this respect, they will be like angels. They are children of God and children of the resurrection.” Luke 20:36

7. Angels reveal and communicate God’s message to man. *“For the message God delivered through angels has always stood firm, and every violation of the law and every act of disobedience was punished.” Hebrews 2:2*

8. Angels minister to believers in protection of both spiritual and physical needs. *“For the angel of the Lord is a guard; he surrounds and defends all who fear Him.” Psalm 34:7*

9. Angels witness our salvation. *“In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God’s angels when even one sinner repents.” Luke 15:10*

10. Angels witness our names being written in the Book of Life. *“All who are victorious will be clothed in white. I will never erase their names from the Book of Life, but I will announce before My Father and His angels that they are Mine.” Revelation 3:5*

11. Angels witness our confession or denial of Him. *“I tell you the truth, everyone who acknowledges Me publicly here on earth, the Son of Man will also acknowledge in the presence of God’s angels. But anyone who denies Me here on earth will be denied before God’s angels.” Luke 12:8-9*

12. Angels witness our lives in Christ. *“Instead, I sometimes think God has put us apostles on display, like prisoners of war at the end of a victor’s parade, condemned to die. We have become a spectacle to the entire world—to people and angels alike.” 1 Corinthians 4:9*

13. Angels glorify God and will accompany the Lord at His Second Coming. *“The armies of heaven, dressed in the finest of pure white linen, followed Him on white horses.” Revelation 19:14*

14. Angels remain hidden except on occasion when our eyes are opened to see them.

“Don’t forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!” Hebrews 13:2

C. Angels surrounded the birth of Christ...

1. An angel appeared to Zacharias. *“While Zechariah was in the sanctuary, an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the incense altar.” Luke 1:11*
2. An angel appeared to Mary. *“In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary.” Luke 1:26-27a*
3. An angel appeared to Joseph. *“As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. ‘Joseph, son of David,’ the angel said, ‘do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit.’” Matthew 1:20*
4. An angel appeared to the shepherds. *“Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. ‘Don’t be afraid!’ he said. ‘I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people.’” Luke 2:9-10*

D. These angels were one of the most significant characters in His-Story of redemption...

1. The angels were following God’s bidding to announce this good news to each of these “Christmas” characters.
 2. The angels were celebrating in the birth as it would be the beginning of witnessing salvation’s story that they would celebrate over and over!
 3. The angels were following God’s leadership in orchestrating the greatest announcement to all mankind.
 4. The angels were a reminder to all of us of the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit in Zacharias and Elizabeth, in Mary and Joseph, of the good news of the Shepherds, and of the miracle to come for every one of us!
- “Angels are servants of God that assist Him in carrying out His plans and purposes. The word ‘Angel’ actually comes from the Greek word *aggelos*, which means ‘messenger.’”
-James Cooper, *Storm Watch: A Journey to Discipleship*

E. As you prepare for Christmas...

1. Remember to keep focused on what is the most important part of this season.
2. Think of ways to share this Good News with others.
3. Amidst the gift giving and receiving, don't lose sight of why we celebrate.
4. Give thanks for the supernatural gift that has changed our eternity!

"When my time to die comes, an angel will be there to comfort me. He will give me peace and joy even at the most critical hour, and usher me into the presence of God, and I will dwell with the Lord forever. Thank God for the ministry of His blessed angels! -Billy Graham

Angel Quiz

How much do you know about angels?

1. **What does the word angel mean?**
2. **When were angels created?**
3. **Is God making any more angels?**
4. **Could you meet an angel and not know it?**
5. **Do angels marry?**
6. **Are demons and angels the same?**
7. **Who was freed from prison by an angel?**
8. **Can angels be trusted?**
9. **Are all angels the same?**
10. **Are there good angels and evil angels?**
11. **Do angels have wings? All angels?**
12. **Do angels fly with these wings?**
13. **Are angels omniscient?**
14. **How many angels are there?**
15. **Do angels have names?**
16. **Do angels have specific jobs?**
17. **Do angels have a language?**
18. **Are angels male or female?**
19. **Are angels limited in whom they can help?**
20. **Do we really have guardian angels?**

Angels are not...

1. Angels are not feminine creatures.
2. Angels are not saints who have died.
3. Angels are not all good.
4. Angels are not all alike.
5. Angels do not have halos.
6. Angels do not reproduce.
7. Angels do not possess human bodies but become visible as necessary.
8. Angels are not funny-looking, little, chubby, red-faced babies with wings.
9. Angels are not going to die, so they are ageless.
10. Angels are not emotionless robots without freedom of choice.
11. Angels do not obey man and cannot intercede in prayer.
12. Angels are not to be worshipped.