

Angels and Dragons in the Bible

G. Edwin Lint

A topical review of the appearance of holy angels in scripture

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Table of Contents

These listings are Hypertext.

Introduction

Guardians

Messengers

Servants

Terminators

Dragons

Examples of Angel References in the Bible, in Scriptural Order

Books of the Bible That Contain References to Angels

Annotated references to Angels in the Bible

The author of *Angels and Dragons in the Bible*, G. Edwin Lint,

Introduction

Angels are a common topic in this century. Many authors, including Billy Graham, have written books on the subject. *Touched by an Angel* was a popular prime-time CBS drama which treated the concept of angels in a reverent and relatively-scriptural manner.

The term *angel* appears from Genesis to Revelation. This book will list many references to angels in the Bible, but will be limited to holy angels. To learn about evil [fallen] angels, click the following link maintained by J. F. Cogan: [*Demon Possession Handbook*](#).

Angels fulfill different functions in the Bible. The scripture references will include the following categories: Guardians, Messengers, Servants, and Terminators. These designations are mine and should not be viewed as scriptural. In my opinion, the text and context describes these four roles. In some cases, an angel could fulfill two or more roles.

Guardians

The first appearance of the word angel is in Genesis 16 regarding the flight of Hagar from the home of Abraham and Sarah and this is a guardian angel: However, many people think of guardian angels in connection with children. This comes from a statement by Jesus in Matthew 18:10. Child abusers, molesters, and kidnappers: take note!

Many people think of angels in a positive role as guardians of their way.

Psalms 91:11:

For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

A paraphrase of this promise would be, "God has assigned angels to watch over us so we don't stub our toes along the pathway of life."

Messengers

The classic example of a messenger angel is the announcement to the Virgin Mary that she is to be the mother of the Messiah: Luke 1:35.

Servants

My favorite chapter in the book of Revelation is Chapter 5. Here we see angels as servants and their task is that of praise and worship

Terminators

The most fearsome role of angels is that of terminators. When the need presents itself, angels are available to be God's strike force, His SWAT team, His early response team. They are white ops specialists. Angels as terminators appear throughout the book of Revelation. However, this role is best illustrated in Chapter 20 of Revelation:

And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. ³ He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

When it comes time to put Satan away, God won't need to do it. He won't even send Jesus to do it. He'll just snap His finger and deputize a holy angel.

Dragons

When the term “dragon” appears in the Bible, it always refers to Satan or some demonic entity.

Therefore, this publication will make no further mention of a dragon. Angels are always holy. Dragons are always demonic.

Note: Stay away from the game Dungeons and Dragons.

Examples of Angel References in the Bible, in Scriptural Order

The scripture references listed below are many (not all) of the instances angels are mentioned in the Bible. The four categories and the comments given with some of the verses, are my own. They should not be considered scriptural. My comments are shown in bold, blue type.

Books of the Bible That Contain References to Angels

Old Testament

Genesis

Exodus

Numbers

Judges

Samuel

1 Kings

2 Kings

1 Chronicles

Psalms

Isaiah

Daniel,

New Testament

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Acts

Romans

1 Corinthians

2Thessalonians

1 Timothy

Hebrews

1 Peter

Revelation

Annotated references to Angels in the Bible

Guardian-Messenger

Genesis 16:7: The angel of the LORD found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur

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Messenger-Terminator

Genesis 19:1: The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city. When he saw them, he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground.

These angels are used here as messengers and are on recon. Later, they may have been part of the strike force that burned Sodom and Gomorrah to the ground.

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Messenger-Terminator

Genesis 19:15: With the coming of dawn, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Hurry! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away when the city is punished

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Guardian

Genesis 21:17: God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. ¹⁸ Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation.

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Messenger

Genesis 22:11-12: But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham! Here I am," he replied. Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

God's Plan of Salvation always involved sacrifice. First animal sacrifice, then Jesus, the Lamb of God, but never human sacrifice.

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Servant

Genesis 28:12: He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

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Messenger

Genesis 31:11-12: The angel of God said to me in the dream, `Jacob.' I answered, `Here I am.' And he said, `Look up and see that all the male goats mating with the flock are streaked, speckled or spotted, for I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you

.=====

Messenger

Exodus 3:2: There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight--why the bush does not burn up."

This is another classic example of an angel in the role of messenger.

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Messenger

Exodus 14:19: Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

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Guardian

Exodus 23:26: See, I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared. ²¹ Pay attention to him and listen to what he says. Do not rebel against him; he will not forgive your rebellion, since my Name is in him. ²² If you listen carefully to what he says and do all that I say, I will be an enemy to your enemies and will oppose those who oppose you. ²³ My angel will go ahead of you and bring you into the land of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hivites and Jebusites, and I will wipe them out. ²⁴ Do not

bow down before their gods or worship them or follow their practices. You must demolish them and break their sacred stones to pieces. ²⁵ Worship the LORD your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you, ²⁶ and none will miscarry or be barren in your land. I will give you a full life span.

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Guardian

Numbers 20:16: but when we cried out to the LORD, he heard our cry and sent an angel and brought us out of Egypt.of Egypt: and, behold, we are in Kadesh, a city in the uttermost of thy border:

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Messenger

Numbers 22:22: But God was very angry when he went, and the angel of the LORD stood in the road to oppose him. Balaam was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him. ²³ When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road with a drawn sword in his hand, she turned off the road into a field. Balaam beat her to get her back on the road.

This story shows an angel and a donkey collaborating to get a message to Balaam, who is the dumbest of the three.

=====

Messenger

Judges 2:1: The angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bokim and said, "I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land that I swore to give to your forefathers. I said, `I will never break my covenant with you,

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Messenger

Judges 2:4: When the angel of the LORD had spoken these things to all the Israelites, the people wept aloud.

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Messenger

Judges 6:11: The angel of the LORD came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat

in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. ¹² When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior."

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Messenger

Judges 13:3: The angel of the LORD appeared to her and said, "You are sterile and childless, but you are going to conceive and have a son. ⁴ Now see to it that you drink no wine or other fermented drink and that you do not eat anything unclean

This is the promise of the birth of the great judge, Samuel.

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Terminator

2 Samuel 24:16: When the angel stretched out his hand to destroy Jerusalem, the LORD was grieved because of the calamity and said to the angel who was afflicting the people, "Enough! Withdraw your hand." The angel of the LORD was then at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. When David saw the angel who was striking down the people, he said to the LORD, "I am the one who has sinned and done wrong. These are but sheep. What have they done? Let your hand fall upon me and my family

=====

Messenger

1 Kings 13:18: The old prophet answered, "I too am a prophet, as you are. And an angel said to me by the word of the LORD: 'Bring him back with you to your house so that he may eat bread and drink water.' " (But he was lying to him.) ¹⁹ So the man of God returned with him and ate and drank in his house.

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Guardian

1 Kings 19:5: hen he lay down under the tree and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat.

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Messenger

2 Kings 1:15: The angel of the LORD said to Elijah, "Go down with him; do not be afraid of him." So Elijah got up and went down with him to the king.

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Terminator

2 Kings 19:35: One day, while he was worshiping in the temple of his god Nisroch, his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer cut him down with the sword, and they escaped to the land of Ararat. And Esarhaddon his son succeeded him as king.

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Messenger:

1 Chronicles 21:18: Then the angel of the LORD ordered Gad to tell David to go up and build an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite..

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Guardian

Psalms 34:7: The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.

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Terminator

Psalms 35:5: May they be like chaff before the wind, with the angel of the LORD driving them away

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Guardian

Psalms 91:11: For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

God has promised to take such good care of us that His angels will keep us from stubbing our toe on the pathway of life!

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Guardian

Isaiah 63:9: In all their distress he too was distressed, and the angel of his presence saved them. In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

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Guardian

Daniel 3:28: Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

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Daniel 6:22: My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king."

Daniel was safe in the lion's den because God found an angel who had experience as a lion tamer.

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Messenger

Matthew 1:20: But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

The angel took a load off Joseph's mind!

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Messenger

Matthew 1:24: When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

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Messenger-Guardian

Matthew 2: 13: When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

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Guardian

Matthew 4:11: Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him..

Angels help Jesus recover from the 40 days of tempting by Satan.

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Terminator

Matthew 16:27: For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done. ²⁸ I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.

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Guardian

Matthew 18:10: See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.

Beware child-abusers, pedophiles, and all manner of persons who are guilty of mentally, sexually, and physically hurting children. You may be able to escape the reach of the law in this life but you don't want to tangle with an angry guardian angel! And remember, there is no statute of limitation in eternity!

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Servant

Matthew 24:31: And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

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Messenger

Matthew 24:36: No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father

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Terminator

Matthew 25:31: When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory.

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Terminator

Matthew 26:53: Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?

The Jews and Romans didn't execute Jesus. He voluntarily surrendered himself to be sacrificed as the Lamb of God. See Rev. 20:1

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Terminator-Messenger

Matthew 28:2: 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. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

What a magnificent assignment!

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Messenger

Matthew 28:5-6: The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

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Terminator

Mark 8:38: If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels.

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Messenger

Mark 13:32: No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come.

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Messenger

Luke 1:19: The angel answered, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. ²⁰ And now you

will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their proper time."

The father of John the Baptist is learning he's about to become a father in his old age.

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Messenger

Luke 1:26: In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. ²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end. ³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin? ³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For nothing is impossible with God.

Gabriel is a busy (and important) angel!

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Messenger

Luke 2:9: An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

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Messenger

Luke 2:13: Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

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Servant

Luke 15:10: In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

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Servant

Luke 16:22: The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried.

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Guardian; Servant

Luke 22:43: An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. ⁴⁴ And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

Jesus has just told His Father that he is willing to complete the Plan of Salvation. The spiritual stress of contemplating the burden of the guilt of the whole world is enormous. and He needs spiritual and physical assistance. He gets this help from a Servant angel.

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Messenger

Luke 24:6: He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee:

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Servant

John 1:51: He then added, "I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.

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Terminator-Messenger

John 20:12: and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.¹³ They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

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Terminator

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

The evangelism and healing of Peter and the apostles is interrupted by a jail term ordered by the church leaders, but an angel restores the work they are doing.

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Messenger

Acts 8:26: Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road--the desert road--that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza

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Messenger

Acts 10:7: When the angel who spoke to him had gone, Cornelius called two of his servants and a devout soldier who was one of his attendants. ⁸ He told them everything that had happened and sent them to Joppa.

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Guardian

Acts 12:7: Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists.

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Terminator

Acts 12:23: Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.

King Herod accepts the praise of the people instead of giving it to God.

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Guardian

Acts 27:23: For Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me ²⁴ and said, `Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.'

=====

Servant

Romans 8:38: For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, ³⁹ Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Apostle Paul's famous testimony.

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Servant

1 Corinthians 4:9: For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to men.

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Servant

1 Corinthians 6:3: Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! 4 Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, appoint as judges even men of little account in the church! 5 I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? 6 But instead, one brother goes to law against another--and this in front of unbelievers!

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Servant

1 Corinthians 13:1: If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal

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Terminator

2 Thessalonians 1:7: and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels.

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Servant

1 Timothy 3:16: Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.

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Guardian

Hebrews 1:14: Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

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Servant

Hebrews 2:9: But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

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Servant

Hebrews 2:16: For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants.

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Servant

Hebrews 13:2: Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.

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Servant

1 Peter 3:22: who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand--with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

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Messenger

Revelation 1:1The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John

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Servant

Revelation 5:2: And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?"

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Servant

Revelation 5:11: Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders.

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Terminator

Revelation 7:1: After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree. ² Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: ³ "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God." ⁴ Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.

This is one of the many references to angels as Terminators in the book of Revelation.

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Terminator

Revelation 12:7: And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. ⁸ But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. ⁹ The great dragon was hurled down--that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

Some Bible scholars believe this war in Heaven caused demons to come into existence as the "fallen angels".

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Terminator

Revelation 20:1And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. ² He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. ³ He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

Notice the relative power of God and Satan. When it is time to put Satan in his place, the Trinity is not involved. They just deputize an angel to do the job for them.

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Messenger-Terminator

Revelation 21:9: One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.

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Servant

Revelation 21:12: It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. ¹³ There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. ¹⁴ The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

The author of *Angels and Dragons in the Bible*, G. Edwin Lint,

... has a broad knowledge base, extensive training and experience. His formal education includes Bachelor of Science in Bible and Bachelor of Theology degrees from the Allentown, Pennsylvania campus of Houghton College; Master of Arts in educational supervision and administration from Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey.



He has 36 years of professional education experience with state certification as elementary teacher, elementary supervisor, supervisor of curriculum and instruction, elementary principal, special education teacher, and supervisor of special education.

Throughout his secular career, he has remained active in Christian service in a variety of capacities: Sunday school teacher, Sunday school superintendent, teacher trainer, director of Christian education; choir member, choir director, orchestra member (playing trumpet), member and manager of a regional Gospel singing group, owner of a Gospel music store; representative for the Pennsylvania Council on Alcohol Problems, interim and supply pastor.

For over 37 years he has worked as a part-time Gospel DJ. He earned an FCC Third Class License with Broadcast Endorsement by passing the written examination. 1980-1997, he produced and hosted Gospel music radio program: *Gospel Caravan*.

Ed Lint claims that his most important credential is "a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I have accepted Jesus Christ as my sin sacrifice. He is my Lamb of God. The Holy Spirit fills me. He gives me power to live a successful Christian life and protects me from Satan and his demons."

Ed Lint is the owner and primary author of DiskBooks Electronic Publishing.