

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! In this edition I'll be exploring the mysteries of angels.

I'm extending an invitation for submissions to be published in The Gospel Notes Newsletter. The primary criteria for inclusion are these:

1. It should be oriented towards the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. It should use the scriptures as a source of information.
3. It should include the references for any quoted 3rd party sources.
4. It should not be political.

Also, if you have particular subjects that you would like me to cover in the Newsletter, please let me know.

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Inspired Version - IV

Hebrews 1:7 And of the angels he saith, **Angels are ministering spirits.**

Luke 24:38 (Inspired Version) Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I, myself. Handle me, and see; for **a spirit hath not flesh and bones as you see me have.**

King James Version - KJV

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Revised Geneva Translation - RGT

Hebrews 1:7 And of the angels, He says, "**He makes the spirits His messengers,** and his ministers a flame of fire."

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New American Standard Bible - NASB

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Luke 24:39 See My hands and My feet, that [a]it is I Myself; touch Me and see, **because a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you plainly see that I have.**"

New International Version - NIV

Hebrews 1:7 In speaking of the angels he says, "**He makes his angels spirits**, and his servants flames of fire."

Luke 24:39 Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; **a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.**"

New Catholic Bible - NCB

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Revised Standard Version - RSV

Hebrews 1:7 Of the angels he says, "**Who makes his angels winds**, and his servants flames of fire."

Luke 24:39 See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see; **for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have.**"

Moroni 7:41 Behold, I say unto you, Nay, for it is by faith that miracles are wrought; and **it is by faith that angels appear and minister unto men;**

Moroni 10

10 For behold, to one is given by the Spirit of God that he may teach the word of wisdom; and to another, that he may teach the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; and to another, exceeding great faith; and to another, the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

11 And again, to another, that he may work mighty miracles; and again, to another, that he may prophesy concerning all things; and again, to another, **the beholding of angels and ministering spirits;** and again, to another, all kinds of tongues; and again, to another, the interpretation of languages and of divers kinds of tongues.

These are just a few of the many passages that refer to angels, and it is instructive to see how the different translations of the Bible render the equivalent passages in the New Testament, showing that many times the use of words in these translations may be at the personal discretion of the translator rather than a literal transcription from another language.

Angels have served a pivotal role in many events recorded in the scriptures beginning in the first chapters of Genesis. Despite the many appearances of angels throughout history they remain rather enigmatic, carrying both good and bad connotations.

Devils

It is clear from the scriptures that there are both good and bad angels – those that serve the Lord and those that serve Satan, or “the devil.” On the one hand those that are good are called “ministering spirits” or usually just “an angel of God” or even just “an angel,” while those that are bad are often called “evil spirits” or just “devils.” This should not be surprising because at some point in the distant past, or in a time before time as we measure it, all of these angelic beings we would recognize as both holy and as evil were hosts in heaven. Until, of course, they rebelled. Judge writes this:

Jude

5 I will, therefore, put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this--how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.

6 And **the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.**

Isaiah 14:12 **How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!** How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

Luke 10

18 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, **Lord, even the devils are subject to us through thy name.**

19 And he said unto them, **As lightning falleth from heaven, I beheld Satan also falling.**

20 Behold, I will give unto you power over serpents, and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

21 Notwithstanding, in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.

In modern revelations the origin of Satan is described so that we can understand how it came to be that he was cast out of heaven, along with the other angels that sided with Satan. We learn here also that man is not the only being to whom agency was given – the freedom to choose good or evil.

Doctrine and Covenants, Section 28

10a And it came to pass that Adam, being tempted of the devil-for behold, **the devil** was before Adam, for he **rebelled against me, saying,**

10b **Give me thine honor, which is my power; and also a third part of the hosts of heaven turned he away from me because of their agency;**

10c **and they were thrust down and thus became the devil and his angels;** and behold, there is a place prepared for them from the beginning, which place is hell;

10d and it must needs be that the devil should tempt the children of men, or they could not be agents unto themselves; for if they never should have bitter, they could not know the sweet-

This is perhaps further explained by James, who illustrates the benefits of faith versus mere belief:

James 2

19 **Thou believest there is one God;** thou doest well; **the devils also believe and tremble;** thou hast made thyself like unto them, not being justified.

20 Was not Abraham, our father, justified by works when he had offered Isaac, his son, upon the altar?

21 **Seest thou how works wrought with his faith and by works was faith made perfect?**

22 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness; and he was called the friend of God.

23 Ye see then that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

Thus belief alone does not guarantee that one may inherit the kingdom of God. Not only did the devils believe, but they had a knowledge of God that was in many ways superior to that of many righteous men, yet they were cast down despite these things because of their choice.

The purpose of those evil spirits – the devils – is to deceive and drawn men away from God so that they might be miserable also.

2 Nephi 1

101 And I, Lehi, according to the things which I have read, must needs suppose that an angel of God, according to that which is written, had fallen from heaven;

102 Wherefore, he became a devil, having sought that which was evil before God.

103 And because he had fallen from heaven and had become miserable forever, he sought also the misery of all mankind.

The work of these devils is as opposite to the work of holy angels as can be possible. Whereas holy angels seek to do all things according to the will of God and to give glory and honor to him, devils seek their own glory and to deceive all whom they can.

Moroni 7:16 For after this manner doth the devil work: For he persuadeth no man to do good, no not one; neither doth his angels; neither do they who subject themselves unto him.

Angels in our language

The extensive number of references to angels throughout the scriptures (the word angel appears in various forms 289 times in the King James version, 314 times in the Inspired Version, and 139 times in the Book of Mormon) hints at the importance they have had in the workings of God with his creation. Sometimes they serve as just messengers – delivering a message to someone, and sometimes they take major actions as the arm of God in performing some task.

Over the years there have been some major misappropriations of the term “angel” that have entered the common vernacular. For example, it is commonly believed that the last of the ten plagues of Egypt, which was the death of the firstborn males, was caused by “the angel of death”. There is, however, never a reference to any such angel. This is emphasized by the term “Passover” which is when the Lord passed over those that had gathered in their dwellings and had the sheep’s blood on the door posts and lintels.

Exodus 12

11 And thus shall ye eat it: with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste; it is the Lord's passover.

12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment; I am the Lord.

13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you when I smite the land of Egypt.

14 And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the Lord throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance forever.

Exodus 12

28 And the children of Israel went away and did as the Lord had commanded Moses and Aaron; so did they.

29 And it came to pass that at midnight the Lord smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne, unto the firstborn of the captive that was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of cattle.

30 And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt; for there was not a house where there was not one dead.

This misunderstanding of what happened on the Passover may be confused by another passage found in the life of David.

1 Chronicles 21

15 And God sent an angel unto Jerusalem to destroy it. And the angel stretched forth his hand unto Jerusalem to destroy it. And God said to the angel, Stay now thine hand; it is enough. For as he was destroying, the Lord beheld Israel, that he repented him of the evil; therefore, the Lord stayed the angel that destroyed as he stood by the threshing floor of Ornan, the Jebusite.

16 And David lifted up his eyes and saw the angel of the Lord stand between the earth and the heaven, having a drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders of Israel, who were clothed in sackcloth, fell upon their faces.

17 And David said unto God, Is it not I that commanded the people to be numbered? Even I it is that have sinned and done evil indeed. But as for these sheep, what have they done? Let thine hand, I pray thee, O Lord, my God, be on me and on my father's house, but not on thy people, that they should be plagued.

18 Then the angel of the Lord commanded Gad to say to David that David should go up and set up an altar unto the Lord in the threshing floor of Ornan, the Jebusite.

Or perhaps it is misread because of the events at Sodom and Gomorrah,

Genesis 18:19 And the angel of the Lord said unto Abraham, The Lord said unto us, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great and because their sin is very grievous, I will destroy them.

19 And they commanded Lot, saying, Whatsoever thou hast in the city, thou shalt bring out of this place, for we will destroy this place,

20 Because the cry of them is waxen great, and their abominations have come up before the face of the Lord; and the Lord hath sent us to destroy it.

Genesis 19

30 And the Lord did not destroy Sodom until Lot had entered into Zoar.

31 And then, when Lot had entered into Zoar, the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah; for the angels called upon the name of the Lord for brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven.

Or perhaps this passage:

2 Kings 19:

34 For I will defend this city, to save it for mine own sake and for my servant David's sake.

35 And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the Lord went out and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred fourscore and five thousand; and when they who were left arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.

Angels at work

Angels have served as instruments of God's will in performing various tasks throughout time. This role of angels is made very clear in the Book of Mormon:

Moroni 7

30 Behold, I say unto you, Nay; neither have angels ceased to minister unto the children of men.

31 For behold, they are subject unto him, to minister according to the word of his command, showing themselves unto them of strong faith and a firm mind in every form of godliness.

32 And the office of their ministry is to call men unto repentance, and to fulfill and to do the work of the covenants of the Father which he hath made unto the children of men, to prepare the way among the children of men by declaring the word of Christ unto the chosen vessels of the Lord, that they may bear testimony of him;

Kinds of angels

The common view of angels having two wings and looking very human-like is perhaps a romantic view that is only partly supported in scriptures.

Hebrew 13:2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

This interesting scripture suggests that sometimes we may see or interact with angels not realizing we are doing so, which would be pretty difficult to imagine if they always had wings. But there are angels which do have wings, even if they do not ***all*** have wings.

Exodus 37:9 And the cherubim spread out their wings on high and covered with their wings over the mercy seat, with their faces one to another; even to the mercy seatward were the faces of the cherubim.

1 Kings 8:7 **For the cherubim spread forth their two wings** over the place of the ark, and the cherubim covered the ark and the staves thereof above.

2 Chronicles 3:11 And the wings of the cherubim were twenty cubits long; one wing of the one cherub was five cubits, reaching to the wall of the house; and the other wing was, likewise, five cubits, reaching to the wing of the other cherub.

Isaiah 6:2 Above it stood the seraphim; each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.

Isaiah 6:6 **Then flew one of the seraphim** unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar;

From these descriptions we can see plainly that there are different kinds of angels, having differing numbers of wings having other different attributes. There also seem to be some ranking among angels as described by Paul and Jude.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first;

Jude 1:9 **Yet Michael, the archangel**, when contending with the devil (he disputed about the body of Moses), durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

The term “archangel” is never explained other than the mention that is made in these passages. It could likewise perhaps not refer to a ranking, but even to another *kind* of angel. In either case, angels have served in numerous capacities, so their role in ministry and in performing the covenants of the Lord is indeed verified by the scriptures.

Belief in the existence of angels

Interestingly enough, the existence of these “ministering spirits” has been debated and denied by various groups through the years. For example, in the New Testament we are told of one particular group that denied the existence of spirits.

Acts 23:8 For **the Sadducees** say that there is **no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit**; but the Pharisees confess both.

This would put the Sadducees at a very great disadvantage in understanding many scriptures which refer to these things.

In modern times the belief in the existence of angels has fluctuated significantly, though this is trending downward. According to a Gallup poll in 2016 about 72% of Americans believe in angels, while in 2023 this decreased to 69%, with the numbers believing there is a devil being 61% in 2016 and 58% in 2023.

<https://news.gallup.com/poll/508886/belief-five-spiritual-entities-edges-down-new-lows.aspx>

It is perhaps surprising that there should be a difference of 11% fewer people in 2016 and 2023 who believe there is a devil that those that believe in angels despite the many scriptural references to each. Yet it is perhaps also not surprising in the sense that believing there is no devil tends to erode the belief that disobedience to God has consequences, which is the sort of thing you would expect a devil to promote:

Moroni 7:16 For **after this manner doth the devil work: For he persuadeth no man to do good, no not one; neither doth his angels; neither do they who subject themselves unto him**

Names of angels

Like most living beings, it seems that angels have names just as we do.

Luke 1

26 And in the sixth month **the angel Gabriel** was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,
27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

Jude 1:9 Yet **Michael the archangel**, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

Genesis 16:18 (Inspired Version) And **the name of the angel was Beer-la-hai-roi**; wherefore, the well was called Beer-la-hai-roi for a memorial.

Judges 13

16 And the angel of the Lord said unto Manoah, Though thou detain me, I will not eat of thy bread; and if thou wilt offer a burnt offering, thou must offer it unto the Lord. For Manoah knew not that he was an angel of the Lord.

17 And Manoah said unto the angel of the Lord, What is thy name, that when thy sayings come to pass, we may do thee honor?

18 And the angel of the Lord said unto him, **Why askest thou thus after my name, seeing it is secret?**

In some cultures it is believe that knowing the name of someone or some being gives you power over that being. This may be a belief based on the following passage:

Mark 5

2 And when he was come out of the ship, **immediately there met him out of the tombs, a man with an unclean spirit,** who had been dwelling among the tombs.

3 And no man could bind him, no, not with chains; because that he had been often bound with fetters, and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces; neither could any man tame him.

4 And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying and cutting himself with stones.

5 But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran, and worshiped him, and cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? **I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not. For he said unto him, Come out of the man, unclean spirit.**

6 And he commanded him, saying, **Declare thy name. And he answered, saying, My name is Legion; for we are many.**

7 And he besought him much, that he would not send them away out of the country.

8 Now there was there, nigh unto the mountains, a great herd of swine feeding.

9 And **all the devils besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them. And forthwith Jesus gave them leave.**

10 **And the unclean spirits went out and entered into the swine;** and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea (they were about two thousand) and were choked in the sea.

I say this belief in the power of knowing a name ***may be*** based on this passage, but it would be an incorrect understanding. There is no indication that other instances when devils were cast out of people that any of the seventy or the apostles asked the devil to declare its name. It appears that we have this passage in Mark to show us that evil spirits work towards a common goal, and that despite the seeming presence of many devils, Jesus cast them out of the man just as easily as he did for any others that were similarly troubled.

The angel that refused to provide Manoah with his name could also be used to support the belief in the power alone of the name, but there is nothing to specifically suggest that had Manoah known the angel's name that he (Manoah) could have exerted power over him (the angel).

Angels as humble servants

Angels of God are quick to make sure that men do not worship them, as we see from this passage in Judges, but just as much in the book of Revelation:

Revelation 19

9 And he saith unto me, Write: Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

10 **And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See that thou do it not; I am thy fellow servant** and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus; worship God; for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Revelation 22

8 And I, John, saw these things and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, **I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel** which showed me these things.

9 **Then saith he unto me, See that thou do it not; for I am thy fellow servant**, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book. Worship God.

This can be contrasted with what the devil does, which is to earnestly seek out those who will worship him instead of God.

Doctrine and Covenants, Section 22

8a And now it came to pass that when Moses had said these words, behold, **Satan came tempting him, saying, Moses, son of man, worship me.**

8b And it came to pass that Moses looked upon Satan and said, Who art thou? For behold, I am a son of God in the similitude of his Only Begotten. And where is thy glory, that I should worship thee?

8c **For behold, I could not look upon God except his glory should come upon me and I were transfigured before him. But I can look upon thee in the natural man. Is it not so surely?**

9a Blessed be the name of my God, for his Spirit hath not altogether withdrawn from me. Or else where is thy glory? For it is darkness unto me, and I can judge between thee and God.

9b For God said unto me, Worship God, for him only shalt thou serve.

This further illustrates that the glory of God is an element of discernment that distinguishes between God and the devil. That is not to say that the devil cannot be clever.

2 Corinthians 11

12 But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion, that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we.

13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

14 And no marvel; **for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.**

15 Therefore, **it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness, whose end shall be according to their works.**

This shows that one of Satan's deceptions is to make himself seem like an angel of God by appearing as an angel of light – yet it is a qualitative difference which may require careful discernment to understand. Similarly, we can observe some of his devices in action:

Alma 16

66 And Korihor put forth his hand and wrote, saying, I know that I am dumb, for I cannot speak; and I know that nothing, save it were the power of God, could bring this upon me; yea, and I also knew that there was a God.

67 **But behold, the devil hath deceived me; for he appeared unto me in the form of an angel** and said unto me, Go and reclaim this people, for they have all gone astray after an unknown god.

68 And he said unto me, There is no God; yea, and he taught me that which I should say. And I have taught his words; and I taught them because they were pleasing unto the carnal mind;

69 And I taught them, even until I had much success, insomuch that I verily believed that they were true; and for this cause I withstood the truth, even until I have brought this great curse upon me.

By teaching people that there is no God, the devil introduces the opportunity for people to look for him. And he will take advantage of those whom he so teaches:

2 Thessalonians 2

7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work, and he it is who now worketh; and Christ suffereth him to work until the time is fulfilled that he shall be taken out of the way.

8 And then shall that wicked one be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming,

9 Yea, **the Lord, even Jesus, whose coming is not until after there cometh a falling away, by the working of Satan with all power, and signs, and lying wonders,**

10 **And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish, because they received not the love of the truth,** that they might be saved.

11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie,

12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

While this passage speaks much about the works Satan will perform, the scriptures are replete with references to the roles of holy angels in the latter days. Indeed there are no fewer than 67 (Inspired Version) references to angels – good or evil -- in the book of Revelation alone (72 in the King James Version, though the references do not denote the same thing). The sounding of trumpets, the pouring out of vials, etc., all denote the actions of angels either as symbolic or literal/spiritual activities.

Angels a little above man?

In the order of things, Jesus came down from heaven and took upon himself flesh and blood as a mortal man, yet possessing the power of God to accomplish the work of the Gospel. In the book of Hebrews it references this by saying the following:

Hebrews 2

7 **Thou madest him a little lower than the angels;** thou crownedst him with glory and honor and didst set him over the works of thy hands;

8 Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him.

9 **But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels** for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor, that he, by the grace of God, should taste death for every man.

If Jesus was made a little lower than the angels, and Jesus was made a mortal man of flesh and blood, it certainly seems to suggest that angels are just above man. It would seem to be the case that this is

noted because angels are immortal through and through, being filled with the glory of God, while man has a probationary time to account for before he can receive a glorious resurrection. Jesus' identity as God and as man made his situation a rather unique one because before he was born to flesh and blood he was **above** the angels in both glory and spirit, being the Father of lights.

Seeing angels

It has previously established that it is by faith that angels appear to men, but there is also a specific gift established for men to see angels. That is the old term for what a **Seer** is. The first man labeled as a Seer was Enoch.

Genesis 6 (Inspired Version only)

37 And the Lord spake unto Enoch and said unto him, Anoint thine eyes with clay and wash them, and thou shalt see; and he did so.

38 **And he beheld the spirits that God had created, and he beheld also things which were not visible to the natural eye; and from thenceforth came the saying abroad in the land: A seer hath the Lord raised up unto his people.**

Over time this term came to have somewhat different meanings, but as a Seer Enoch was privileged to see things that not many others did. Jacob, Elisha, and others seem to have been given this gift, along with David as previously mentioned.

Genesis 28

11 And he lighted upon a certain place and tarried there all night because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.

12 **And he dreamed: and behold, a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven, and behold, the angels of God ascending and descending upon it.**

13 And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, I am the Lord God of Abraham, thy father, and the God of Isaac; the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it and to thy seed;

2 Kings 6

15 And when the servant of the man of God was risen early and gone forth, behold, a host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! How shall we do?

16 And he answered, **Fear not; for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.**

17 **And Elisha prayed and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.**

What are angels made of?

It has been previously established that angels are ministering spirits, and that they do not have flesh and bone as Jesus described his resurrected body. That leads to the next question, which is, if we know what angels are **not** made of, then what **are** they made of? The question seems to be made difficult because while angels do not have flesh and bone, that is not to say they cannot interact with the physical world.

Indeed, before Jesus was born to the flesh, one could make a good argument that he was an angel. This is made all the more legitimate by Jesus' words to the brother of Jared:

Ether 1

77 Behold, I am he who was prepared from the foundation of the world to redeem my people. Behold, I am Jesus Christ. I am the Father and the Son.

78 In me shall all mankind have life, and that eternally, even they who shall believe on my name; and they shall become my sons and my daughters.

79 And never have I showed myself unto man whom I have created, for never has man believed in me as thou hast.

80 Seest thou that ye are created after mine own image? Yea, even all men were created in the beginning after mine own image.

81 **Behold, this body, which ye now behold, is the body of my Spirit;** and man have I created after the body of my Spirit; and **even as I appear unto thee to be in the spirit, will I appear unto my people in the flesh.**

Thus Jesus had a spiritual body that was of the same appearance in form as the body he grew up into after his birth in Bethlehem. This is further supported in the early account of Genesis:

Genesis 1 (Inspired Version)

27 And I, God, said unto mine Only Begotten, which was with me from the beginning, **Let us make man in our image, after our likeness;** and it was so.

28 And I, God, said, Let them have dominion over the fishes of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

29 **And I, God, created man in mine own image, in the image of mine Only Begotten created I him;** male and female created I them.

Genesis 1 (King James Version)

26 And God said, **Let us make man in our image, after our likeness;** and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

27 **So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him;** male and female created he them.

This same idea is repeated in the book of John:

John 1

10 Even **the Son of God--he who was in the world, and the world was made by him,** and the world knew him not.

11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God; only to them who believe on his name.

13 He was born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the same word was made flesh and dwelt among us; and we beheld his glory, **the glory as of the Only Begotten of the Father,** full of grace and truth.

15 John bare witness of him and cried, saying, This is he of whom I spake. He who cometh after me is preferred before me, for he was before me.

16 For in the beginning was the Word, even **the Son, who is made flesh and sent unto us by the will of the Father.** And as many as believe on his name shall receive of his fullness. And of his fullness have all we received, even immortality and eternal life, through his grace.

Moses interacted with Jesus at mount Sinai, and by his own finger Jesus engraved the words on the first tablets he gave to Moses:

Exodus 31:18 **And he gave unto Moses**, when he had made an end of communing with him upon Mount Sinai, **two tables of testimony--tables of stone, written with the finger of God.**

If spirits cannot interact with the physical world using their spiritual bodies, then it would have been impossible for the Lord to have written upon tables of stone with his finger. But excepting that case, are there other instances of angels physically interacting with the world we live in? Mose certainly.

Judges 6

19 And Gideon went in and made ready a kid and unleavened cakes of an ephah of flour; the flesh he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot, and brought it out unto him under the oak, and presented it.

20 And the angel of God said unto him, Take the flesh and the unleavened cakes, and lay them upon this rock, and pour out the broth. And he did so.

21 **Then the angel of the Lord put forth the end of the staff that was in his hand and touched the flesh and the unleavened cakes; and there rose up fire out of the rock and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. Then the angel of the Lord departed out of his sight.**

22 And when Gideon perceived that he was an angel of the Lord, Gideon said, Alas, O Lord God! for because I have seen an angel of the Lord face to face.

23 And the Lord said unto him, Peace be unto thee; fear not; thou shalt not die.

24 Then Gideon built an altar there unto the Lord and called it Jehovah-shalom; unto this day it is yet in Ophrah of the Abi-ezrites.

This angel had a staff and touched the offered things and it caused fire to consume the offering. That seems like a physical interaction. Are there other examples?

Genesis 19:24 (Inspired Version) And while he lingered, **the angels laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters--the Lord being merciful unto them--and they brought them forth and set them down without the city.**

1 Kings 19:5 And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, **then an angel touched him**, and said unto him, Arise and eat.

1 Kings 19:7 And **the angel of the LORD** came again the second time, and **touched him**, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee.

Acts 12:7 And, behold, **the angel of the Lord came unto him**, and a light shined in the prison; **and he smote Peter on the side and raised him up**, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.

Mosiah 11

163 And as I said unto you, as they were going about rebelling against God, behold, **the angel of the Lord appeared unto them; and he descended as it were in a cloud; and he spake as it were with a voice of thunder, which caused the earth to shake upon which they stood;**

164 And so great was their astonishment that they fell to the earth and understood not the words which he spake unto them.

165 Nevertheless, he cried again, saying, Alma, arise, and stand forth. For why persecuteth thou the church of God?

166 For the Lord hath said, This is my church, and I will establish it; and nothing shall overthrow it, save it is the transgression of my people.

167 And again, the angel said, Behold, the Lord hath heard the prayers of his people and also the prayers of his servant Alma, who is thy father;

168 For he has prayed with much faith concerning thee, that thou mightest be brought to the knowledge of the truth.

169 Therefore, for this purpose have I come to convince thee of the power and authority of God, that the prayers of his servants might be answered according to their faith.

170 And now, behold, can ye dispute the power of God?

171 **For behold, doth not my voice shake the earth?**

172 And can ye not also behold me before you?

173 And I am sent from God.

While it seems apparent that angels can touch our physical world, it is not clear what that means their spiritual bodies consist of. But it is equally apparent that it is sufficiently different from our present existence that we don't have proper words for it in what you might call the scientific sense. Think about these references:

Spiritual bodies

Not flesh and bones

Not visible to everyone, but to those having a firm mind and strong faith, or to those having a special gift given to them.

Superior in some respects to man, but lesser than God.

Some have wings (some have 2, some have 6) and can fly with them, some do not have wings.

Some have legs/feet that are straight, others do not.

They are known to have touched people or objects in our physical world.

They may have great power given to them.

Some may appear as holy men, others may appear as strangers.

Voice can shake the earth.

I'm not aware of any substance in our physical world that matches all of these characteristics, but then again, being spiritual beings, they are not subject to the constraints of this world.

Another difference between holy angels and evil spirits

One notable thing that is never stated as such, but it seems that only evil spirits seek to possess the bodies of people. Holy angels are never reported as doing this. Jesus and his disciples cast out evil spirits, but there is never an indication that a holy angel ever possesses the body of a person.

Final thoughts...for now

Even as holy angels work through the coordination of the Holy Spirit (also called the Holy Ghost) of God, so it seems that evil spirits work in coordination with their master, Satan. We see this from the simple argument put forth by Jesus:

Luke 11

18 But he, knowing their thoughts, said unto them, **Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and a house divided cannot stand, but falleth.**

19 **If Satan also be divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand?** I say this because you say I cast out devils through Beelzebub.

20 And if I, by Beelzebub, cast out devils, by whom do your sons cast out devils? Therefore, shall they be your judges.

21 But if I, with the finger of God, cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God has come upon you.

On the subject of angels, the book of Colossians makes a clear admonition against the worshiping of angels.

Colossians 2

18 **Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels,** intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

As fascinating a subject as it is, angels are another of God's creation, who have a purpose and mission that is both wide-ranging and specific.

Lehi and Alma reported that they saw God sitting upon his throne with numberless concourses of angels in the attitude of singing and praising their God, and reported how their soul longed to be there. It would be the height of hubris to suggest that the only angels that exist are those that we have recorded in the scriptures, but this must surely be untrue. God is the Father of all spirits, and we only know those things that have been shown to us by the prophets or even by personal experiences.

Angels have announced the birth of children such as Isaac, John and Jesus, and they have proclaimed the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the ages. Their ministry has been powerful, moving, important, and not the least of which, necessary to carrying out those steps to fulfill the purpose of God in bringing about the immortality and eternal life of man as the scriptures have shown us.

Show a little kindness, for you may entertain angels unawares. Don't be deceived by the enticements of those that make you doubt the Gospel or that deny that Jesus came in the flesh. Above all, practice the love of Christ in all your dealings, which is charity, for this is good and acceptable to the Lord.