



Hebrew Backgrounds	Genesis and Numbers
Greek Developments	Daniel 8-10
Angels in Philosophy	Paul's Letters
Angels in Art and Poetry	Psalms
Angels in the Digital Age	Revelation

Angels: Putting Together some Pieces

- Angels in the Bible: No comprehensive account in the text itself
- Working in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek
- Bible, Philosophy, Theology, Art, and Popular Imagination

Linguistic Roots

- Ugaritic *lakah*: To send (no analogue in Biblical Hebrew)
- Hebrew *mal'akah*: Business, message, work (4th commandment--no *malakah* on the *shabbath*)
- Hebrew *mal'ak*: Someone who does a job or delivers a messenger (not to be confused with *malak*, a verb meaning to reign as a king (*melek*) reigns)
- In the Old Testament, people and the LORD can have *mel'akim*--context must determine whether one is a human *mal'ak* or a superhuman *mal'ak*
 - Jacob sends *mel'akim* to Esau (Genesis 32:3)
 - YHWH sends a *mal'ak* to Hagar (Genesis 16:9)

Some Early Texts

Some famous Angel Sightings in Genesis and Numbers

- Genesis 19:1-5--angels in Sodom
- Genesis 22:9-12--angel of the LORD stays Abraham's hand
- Genesis 28:10-19--angels at the gate of Heaven
- Numbers 22:21-35--an assassin-angel awaits the prophet Balaam

Superhuman *mel'akim*--Family Resemblances?

- All sent by God
- Often speak for God
- All given a specific task
- All accorded special status but no clear reasons for it

Coming Next Week:

- Angels in the Exile
- Greek developments