

The Christmas Angels: Fourteen Fast Facts

Luke 2:8-15

In the same region, shepherds were staying out in the fields and keeping watch at night over their flock.

Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people:

Today a Savior, who is Messiah the Lord, was born for you in the city of David.

This will be the sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in cloth and lying in a feeding trough.”

Suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying:

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people He favors!

When the angels had left them and returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go straight to Bethlehem and see what has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

HCSB

Angels have a significant presence at Jesus’ birth. This speaks to the person of Jesus Christ. Just who is this that angels would announce his birth? And just who are the angels who make the announcement. Here are fourteen fast facts about angels.

1. Angels Serve at God’s Command

Angels serve the Lord. That is the very implication of the phrase we see such as in Luke 2:9: “an angel of the Lord...” Over and again, the Bible makes it clear, that angels are God’s servants whom he sends to do his work.

Hebrews 1:7, NLT “Regarding the angels, he says, ‘He sends his angels like the winds, his servants like flames of fire.’”

Hebrews 1:14 asks, “Are they not all ministering spirits *sent out to serve* those who are going to inherit salvation?”

The word translated “servant” & “ministering” and “serve” is a Greek word used for priestly service.

2. Angels Are Loyal to God

Luke 2:9 “Then an angel of the Lord...” This not one of Satan’s angels, but one of God’s angels... *an angel of the Lord.*

Satan has angels... in fact, Satan is a fallen angel.

In Matthew 25:41, when Jesus pronounces judgment on the lost, it says, “Then He will also say to those on the left, ‘Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for *the Devil and his angels!*’”

3. Angels Glow with Glory from Being in God’s Presence

Luke 2:9 “Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, *and the glory of the Lord shone* around them, and they were terrified.”

In Matthew 28:3-4, an angel is sent to roll away the stone to the tomb.

The angel is described this way: “His appearance was like lightning, and his robe was as white as snow...”

This brings us to our next fast fact...

4. Angels Aren’t Portrayed in the Bible as Pretty Girls, but as Strong Men

Go to most any church Christmas pageant and the boys are shepherds, and the girls are angels.

However, in Matthew 28:4, we read of the soldiers guarding the tomb: “The guards were so shaken from fear of him that they became like dead men.”

Luke 24:4 At the empty tomb: “While they were perplexed about this, suddenly *two men* stood by them in dazzling clothes.”

In Luke 1:26, we see the male name for “The angel Gabriel...”

Perhaps, we should spray-paint a GI Joe bright white and place him on top of the Christmas tree.

5. Angels are Messengers from God

In both the Old and New Testaments, the word *angel* means *messenger*.

The shepherds receive an angelic visitation and...

Luke 2:10, ESV “And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, *I bring you good news* of great joy that will be for all the people.

6. Angels Comprise Armies

Luke 2:13 “Suddenly there was a multitude of *the heavenly host* with the angel...”

The phrase, “Lord of hosts” appears 228 times in Bible.

Host = Army (word where we get strategy)

Jesus, in telling Peter to put his sword away, explained: “Or do you think that I cannot call on My Father, and He will provide Me at once with more than *12 legions of angels?*” (Matthew 26:53)

Legion: Up to 6,000 fighting men in Jesus’ day

In answer to Hezekiah’s prayer, a single angel killed 185,000 Assyrian soldier in one night (2 Kings 19:35).

Would anyone really want to take on over 72,000 of them?

7. Angels Worship God

Luke 2:13 “Suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, *praising God...*”

Isaiah 6:3 “And one [Seraphim] cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.”

Revelation 5:9 “And they sang a new song: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals; because You were slaughtered, and You redeemed people for God by Your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation.”

8. Angels Operate on Assignment from Heaven

Luke 2:15 “When the angels had left them and *returned to heaven...*”

Luke 1:19 Gabriel identifies himself to Zechariah: “The angel answered him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and tell you this good news.”

9. Angels Protected Jesus

Matthew 2:13 “After they [the Magi] were gone, *an angel of the Lord* suddenly appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, ‘Get up! Take the child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. For Herod is about to search for the child to destroy Him.’”

Matthew 2:19-21 “After Herod died, *an angel of the Lord* suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, ‘Get up! Take the child and His mother and go to the land of Israel, because those who sought the child’s life are dead.’”

10. Angels Ministered to Jesus

Matthew 4:11, ESV After Jesus was tempted in the wilderness: “Then the devil left him, and behold, *angels came and were ministering to him.*”

11. Angels Strengthened Jesus

Luke 22:43 At Gethsemane, Jesus was under unspeakable stress. And having prayed through and was prayed out, he was completely spent: “Then *an angel from heaven* appeared to Him, *strengthening Him.*”

12. Angels Opened His Empty Tomb for Inspection

Matthew 28:2 “Suddenly there was a violent earthquake, because an *angel of the Lord* descended from heaven and approached the tomb. He *rolled back the stone* and was sitting on it.”

Of course, this wasn’t for Jesus to get out, but for people to see that he was no longer there!

13. Angels Will Accompany Jesus at His Return

Matthew 25:31 “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the *angels with Him*, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.”

14. Angels Will Gather Jesus’ People at His Return

Matthew 24:31 “He will *send out His angels* with a loud trumpet, and *they will gather His elect* from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.”

From: smalltownbaptist.net