



Preview Version

ALKAUTHAR  
INSTITUTE

WEEKEND  
SEMINAR

# OUT *of* SIGHT

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# OUT of SIGHT

BELIEF IN THE ANGELS

## Section 1: Belief in the Angels

Belief in the Angels is the second pillar of Eemān. A person is not a believer without this pillar.

ءَامَنَ الرَّسُولُ بِمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ رَبِّهِ ۚ وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ كُلُّ ءَامَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَمَلَائِكَتِهِ ۚ وَكُتُبِهِ ۚ وَرُسُلِهِ ۚ لَا نُفَرِّقُ بَيْنَ أَحَدٍ مِّن رُّسُلِهِ ۚ وَقَالُوا سَمِعْنَا وَأَطَعْنَا ۚ غُفْرَانَكَ رَبَّنَا وَإِلَيْكَ الْمَصِيرُ ﴿٢٨٥﴾

The Messenger (Muhammad sallallahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) believes in what has been sent down to him from his Lord, as do the believers. Each one of them believes in Allāh, His Angels, His Books, and His Messengers. They say, "We make no distinction between one another of His Messengers" - and they say, "We hear, and we obey. (We seek) Your Forgiveness, our Lord, and to You is the return (of all)." [Al-Baqarah: 285]

لَيْسَ الْبِرَّ أَنْ تُوَلُّوا وُجُوهَكُمْ قِبَلَ الْمَشْرِقِ وَالْمَغْرِبِ وَلَكِنَّ الْبِرَّ مَنْ ءَامَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ  
الْآخِرِ وَالْمَلَائِكَةِ وَالْكِتَابِ وَالنَّبِيِّينَ وَءَاتَى الْمَالَ عَلَى حُبِّهِ ذَوِي الْقُرْبَىٰ  
وَالْيَتَامَىٰ وَالْمَسْكِينِ وَأَبْنَ السَّبِيلِ وَالسَّائِلِينَ وَفِي الرِّقَابِ وَأَقَامَ الصَّلَاةَ وَءَاتَى  
الزَّكَاةَ وَالْمُوفُونَ بِعَهْدِهِمْ إِذَا عَاهَدُوا ۚ وَالصَّابِرِينَ فِي الْبَأْسَاءِ وَالصَّرَآءِ وَحِينَ  
الْبَأْسِ ۚ أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ صَدَقُوا ۚ وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُتَّقُونَ ﴿١٧٧﴾

It is not Al-Birr (piety or righteousness) that you turn your faces towards east or west (in prayers); but Al-Birr is (the quality of) the one who believes in Allāh, the Last Day, the Angels, the Book, the Prophets and gives his wealth, in spite of love for it, to the kinsfolk, to the orphans, and to Al-Masâkin (the poor), and to the wayfarer, and to those who ask, and to set slaves free, performs As-Salâh, and gives the Zakâh, and who fulfil their covenant when they make it, and who are patient in extreme poverty and ailment and at the time of fighting (during the battles). Such are the people of the truth and they are Muttaqûn (the pious). [AlBaqarah: 177]

مَنْ كَانَ عَدُوًّا لِلَّهِ وَمَلَائِكَتِهِ وَرُسُلِهِ وَجِبْرِيلَ وَمِيكَالَ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ عَدُوٌّ لِلْكَافِرِينَ



Whoever is an enemy to Allāh, His Angels, His Messengers, Jibraeel and Mikaeel (Michael), then verily, Allāh is an enemy to the disbelievers." [Al-Baqarah: 98]

The Prophet sallahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said, “Eemaan is to believe in Allāh, and His Angels, and His Books....” [Al-Bukhāree and Muslim]

## Definition of Angels

<b>Linguistically</b>	<p><i>Malā'ikah</i> Plural of <i>malak</i></p> <p>It is said that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It comes from the word <i>mālik</i>, which means owner.</li> <li>• It comes from the word <i>malak</i>, which means to take with great strength.</li> <li>• It comes from the root word <i>alooka</i>, which means message. This is the majority opinion and the choice of Seebāwaiyh.</li> </ul>
<b>Technically</b>	<p>Angels are benevolent beings created from light who do not possess free will. They are completely devoted to the worship of Allāh and carry out certain functions on His Command.</p> <p>الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ فَاطِرِ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ جَاعِلِ الْمَلَائِكَةِ رُسُلًا أُولَى أَجْنِحَةٍ مَثْنَى وَثُلثَ وَرُبْعَ ۚ يَزِيدُ فِي الْخَلْقِ مَا يَشَاءُ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ ﴿١﴾</p> <p>All the praises and thanks are to Allāh, the (only) Originator (or the (only) Creator) of the heavens and the earth, Who made the angels messengers with wings, two or three or four. He increases in creation what He wills. Verily, Allāh is Able to do all things. [Fatir:1]</p>

? Are angels are creatures of light that have no physical attributes



وَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّنِ افْتَرَى عَلَى اللَّهِ كَذِبًا أَوْ قَالَ أُوحِيَ إِلَيَّ وَلَمْ يُوحَ إِلَيْهِ شَيْءٌ وَمَنْ قَالَ سَأُنْزِلُ مِثْلَ مَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ وَلَوْ تَرَى إِذِ الظَّالِمُونَ فِي غَمَرَاتِ الْمَوْتِ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ بَاسِطُوا أَيْدِيهِمْ أَخْرِجُوا أَنْفُسَكُمُ الْيَوْمَ تُجْزَوْنَ عَذَابَ الْهُونِ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَقُولُونَ عَلَى اللَّهِ غَيْرَ الْحَقِّ وَكُنْتُمْ عَنْ آيَاتِهِ تَسْتَكْبِرُونَ ﴿٩٣﴾

And who can be more unjust than he who invents a lie against Allāh, or says: "a revelation has come to me" whereas no revelation has come to him in anything; and who says, "I will reveal the like of what Allāh has revealed." And if you could but see when the *Dhālimoon* (polytheists and wrong-doers) are in the agonies of death, while the angels are stretching forth their hands (saying): "Deliver your souls! This day you shall be recompensed with the torment of degradation because of what you used to utter against Allāh other than the truth. And you used to reject His Ayāt (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.) with disrespect!" [Al-An'am:93]

‘Ā’ishah narrates that the Prophet (sallahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) said, “The Angels were created from light, and the Jinn were created from a smokeless flame of fire, and Ādam was created of what has been described to you.” [Muslim]

## 1.1 The Position of other Faiths towards the Existence of Angels

<p>The Pagan Arabs</p>	<p>They believed that Angels are the spouses and daughters of the Most Merciful.</p> <p>﴿وَجَعَلُوا الْمَلَائِكَةَ الَّذِينَ هُمْ عِبْدُ الرَّحْمَنِ إِنثًا أَشْهَدُوا خَلْقَهُمْ سَتُكْتَبُ شَهَادَتُهُمْ وَيُسْأَلُونَ﴾</p> <p>And they make into females Angels who themselves serve the Most Merciful. Did they witness their creation? Their testimony will be recorded, and they will be called to account! [Al-Az-Zukhruf:19]</p> <p>﴿فَاسْتَفْتَيْهِمْ الْ رَبِّكَ الْبَنَاتُ وَلَهُمُ الْبَنُونَ ۖ أَمْ خَلَقْنَا الْمَلَائِكَةَ إِنثًا وَهُمْ شَاهِدُونَ ۚ أَلَا إِنَّهُمْ مِّنْ إِفْكِهِمْ لَيَقُولُونَ ۖ وَلَدَ اللَّهُ وَإِنَّهُمْ لَكَاذِبُونَ ۚ أَصْطَفَى الْبَنَاتِ عَلَى الْبَنِينَ ۚ مَا لَكُمْ كَيْفَ تَحْكُمُونَ ۚ أَفَلَا تَذَكَّرُونَ ۚ أَمْ لَكُمْ سُلْطٰنٌ مُّبِينٌ﴾</p> <p>Now ask them their opinion. Is it that your Lord has daughters and they have sons? Or did We create the Angels female, and they are witnesses (thereto)? Is it not that they say, from their own invention, "(Allāh) has begotten children"? They are surely liars! Did He (then) choose daughters rather than sons? What is the matter with you? How do you judge? Will you not then receive admonition? Or do you have an authority manifest? [As-Saffat:149-156]</p>
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<b>The Philosophers</b>	They believe that Angels were figments of the Prophets' imagination
<b>Judaism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Hebrew word for Angel, "mal'ach," meaning messenger.</li> <li>• The traditional portrait of angels is as functionaries who carry out God's will.</li> <li>• Angels' roles give God distance from actions below His dignity.</li> <li>• Many modern Jews have adopted the philosophical understanding of Angels, as proposed by Maimonides.</li> </ul> <p>قُلْ مَنْ كَانَ عَدُوًّا لِجِبْرِيلَ فَإِنَّهُ نَزَّلَهُ عَلَى قَلْبِكَ بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ مُصَدِّقًا لِمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ وَهُدًى وَبُشْرَى لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ ﴿٩٧﴾ مَنْ كَانَ عَدُوًّا لِلَّهِ وَمَلَائِكَتِهِ وَرُسُلِهِ وَجِبْرِيلَ وَمِيكَالَ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ عَدُوٌّ لِلْكَافِرِينَ ﴿٩٨﴾</p> <p>Say, "Whoever is an enemy to Jibreel, he surely brings down the (Qur'ân) to your heart by Allâh's permission, a confirmation of what came before it, and guidance and glad tidings for those who believe. Whoever is an enemy to Allâh and His Angels and Apostles, to Jibreel and Meekâ'eel, then surely Allâh is an enemy to those who reject Faith. [Al-Baqarah: 97-98]</p>



The Qur'ân teaches us that some Jews have a strong hatred towards Jibreel



<b>Christianity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Angels are a creation of God, His ministers, and the agents of revelation.</li> <li>• They neither marry nor are given in marriage.</li> <li>• The New Testament takes little interest in the idea of the angelic hierarchy, but there are traces of the doctrine. The distinction of good and bad angels is also made. Satan, Beelzebul, and the rest of the demons are thought by Christians to be Angels who rebelled against God and were expelled from Heaven.</li> <li>• Angels are frequently depicted as human in appearance, though many theologians have argued that they have no physical existence, but can incarnate.</li> <li>• Angels are often depicted with wings as indicated in Scripture. Scholastic theologians teach that angels are able to reason instantly, and to move instantly.</li> <li>• Angels possess the beatific vision, or the unencumbered understanding of God.</li> <li>• There are guardian Angels and Angels that attend God's Throne.</li> <li>• Christians also teach that Angels are intermediaries to some forces that would otherwise be natural forces of the universe, such as the rotation of planets and the motion of stars.</li> <li>• It is also a commonly held belief in many modern Christian traditions that the immortal souls of humans that have died and risen to Heaven can eventually become Angels themselves.</li> </ul>
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## 1.2 The wisdom behind the creation of Angels

<p><b>General</b></p>	<p>All Angels were created to worship Allāh and glorify Him.</p> <p>إِنَّ الَّذِينَ عِنْدَ رَبِّكَ لَا يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ عَنْ عِبَادَتِهِ وَيُسَبِّحُونَهُ وَلَهُ يَسْجُدُونَ ﴿٢٠٦﴾</p> <p>Surely, those who are with your Lord (angels) are never too proud to perform acts of worship to Him, but they glorify His Praise and prostrate themselves before Him. [Al-‘Araf: 206]</p> <p>يُسَبِّحُونَ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ لَا يَفْتُرُونَ ﴿٢٠﴾</p> <p>They (the angels) glorify His Praises night and day, and) they never slacken (to do so). [Al-Anbiya:20]</p> <p>وَإِنَّا لَنَحْنُ الصَّافُّونَ ﴿١٦٥﴾</p> <p>And verily, we (angels) stand in rows (for the prayers as you Muslims stand in rows for your prayers). [As-Saffat:165]</p>
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<p><b>Specific</b></p>	<p>1. Jibreel was the archangel who revealed the message of Allāh to all the Prophets and Messengers.</p> <p>رَفِيعَ الدَّرَجَاتِ ذُو الْعَرْشِ يُلْقِي الرُّوحَ مِنْ أَمْرِهِ عَلَى مَنْ يَشَاءُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ لِيُنْذِرَ يَوْمَ التَّلَاقِ ﴿١٥﴾</p> <p>Raised high above ranks, (He is) the Lord of the Throne by His Command does He send the spirit (of inspiration) to any of His servants He pleases, that it may warn (men) of the Day of Mutual Meeting, [Ghafir: 15]</p> <p>يُنْزِلُ الْمَلَكَةَ بِالرُّوحِ مِنْ أَمْرِهِ عَلَى مَنْ يَشَاءُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ أَنْ أَنْذِرُوا أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنَا فَاتَّقُونِ ﴿٢٠﴾</p> <p>He sends down the angels with the Rûh (revelation) of His Command to whom of His slaves He wills (saying): "Warn mankind that Lâ ilâha illa Ana (none has the right to be worshipped but I), so fear Me (by abstaining from sins and evil deeds). [An-Nahl:2]</p> <p>نَزَلَ بِهِ الرُّوحُ الْأَمِينُ عَلَى ﴿١٩٣﴾ قَلْبِكَ لَتَكُونَ مِنَ الْمُنْذِرِينَ ﴿١٩٤﴾</p> <p>Which the trustworthy Rûh (Jibrîl (Gabriel)) has brought down. Upon your heart (O Muhammad (peace be upon him)) that you may be (one) of the warners. [Ash-Shu'ara:193-194]</p>
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2. Meekā'eel, who discharges control of vegetation and rain.
3. Isrāfeel who will blow the trumpet on the Day of Resurrection.
4. Malik the chief of the angels guards the hellfire.

وَنَادَوْا يَمْلِكُ لِيَقْضِ عَلَيْنَا رَبُّكَ قَالَ إِنَّكُمْ مَكِثُونَ ﴿٧٧﴾

And they will cry: "O Malik (Keeper of Hell)! Let your Lord make an end of us." He will say: "Verily you shall abide forever." [Az-Zukhruf:77]

5. The angels who guard the hellfire.

وَسِيقَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِلَىٰ جَهَنَّمَ زُمَرًا ۖ حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءُوهَا  
فُتِحَتْ أَبْوَابُهَا وَقَالَ لَهُمْ خَزَنَتُهَا أَلَمْ يَأْتِكُمْ رُسُلٌ مِّنكُمْ يَتْلُونَ  
عَلَيْكُمْ آيَاتِ رَبِّكُمْ وَيُنذِرُونَكُمْ لِقَاءَ يَوْمِكُمْ هَٰذَا قَالُوا بَلَىٰ  
وَلَكِن كَلِمَةُ الْعَذَابِ عَلَى الْكَافِرِينَ ﴿٧٨﴾

And those who disbelieved will be driven to Hell in groups till, when they reach it, the gates thereof will be opened (suddenly like a prison at the arrival of the prisoners). And its keepers will say, "Did not the Messengers come to you from yourselves, reciting to you the Verses of your Lord, and warning you of the Meeting of this Day of yours?" They will say: "Yes, but the Word of torment has been justified against the disbelievers!"

[Az-Zumar:71]

لَا تُبْقَىٰ وَلَا تَذَرُ ﴿٧٩﴾

It spares not (any sinner), nor does it leave (anything not burnt)!

لَوَاحٍ لِّلْبَشْرِ ﴿٨٠﴾

Burning and blackening the skins!

عَلَيْهَا تِسْعَةَ عَشَرَ ﴿٨١﴾

Over it are nineteen (angels as guardians and keepers of Hell).

وَمَا جَعَلْنَا أَصْحَابَ النَّارِ إِلَّا مَلَائِكَةً ۖ وَمَا جَعَلْنَا عِدَّتَهُمْ إِلَّا  
فِتْنَةً ۚ لِلَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لِيَسْتَيَقِنَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ وَيزِدَادَ الَّذِينَ  
ءَامَنُوا إِيمَانًا ۖ وَلَا يَرْتَابَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ  
وَلَيَقُولَ الَّذِينَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ مَرَضٌ وَالْكَافِرُونَ مَاذَا أَرَادَ اللَّهُ بِهَذَا  
مَثَلًا ۚ كَذَلِكَ يُضِلُّ اللَّهُ مَن يَشَاءُ وَيَهْدِي مَن يَشَاءُ ۚ وَمَا يَعْلَمُ  
جُنُودَ رَبِّكَ إِلَّا هُوَ ۚ وَمَا هِيَ إِلَّا ذِكْرَىٰ لِلْبَشَرِ ﴿٢٨﴾

And We have set none but angels as guardians of the Fire. And We have fixed their number only as a trial for the disbelievers, in order that the people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians) may arrive at a certainty (that this Qur'ân is the truth as it agrees with their Books regarding the number which is written in the Taurât (Torah) and the Injeel (Gospel)) and the believers may increase in Faith (as this Qur'ân is the truth) and that no doubt may be left for the people of the Scripture and the believers, and that those in whose hearts is a disease (of hypocrisy) and the disbelievers may say: "What Allâh intends by this (curious) example?" Thus Allâh leads astray whom He wills and guides whom He wills. And none can know the hosts of your Lord but He. And this (Hell) is nothing else than a (warning) reminder to mankind.  
[Al-Muddaththir: 28-31]

6. The angels who guard the Paradise Jannah.

وَسِيقَ الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا رَبَّهُمْ إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ زُمَرًا ۖ حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءُوهَا  
وَفُتِحَتْ أَبْوَابُهَا وَقَالَ لَهُمْ خَزَنَتُهَا سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ طِبْتُمْ  
فَادْخُلُوهَا خَالِدِينَ ﴿٧٣﴾

And those who kept their duty to their Lord will be led to Paradise in groups, till, when they reach it, and its gates will be opened (before their arrival for their reception) and its keepers will say: peace be upon you! You have done well, so enter here to abide therein."  
[Az-Zumar:73]

The two angels who question the dead in their grave.

﴿يُثَبِّتُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا بِالْقَوْلِ الثَّابِتِ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ وَيُضِلُّ اللَّهُ الظَّالِمِينَ ۚ وَيَفْعَلُ اللَّهُ مَا يَشَاءُ﴾



Allah will establish in strength those who believe, with the Word that stands firm, in this world and in the Hereafter; but Allah will leave, to stray, those who do wrong: Allah doeth what He willeth. [Ibrahim: 27]

7. The two angels who are on the right and the left of every human to write our deeds.

وَإِنَّ عَلَيْكُمْ لَحَافِظِينَ

But verily, over you (are appointed angels in charge of mankind) to watch you,

كَرَامًا كَاتِبِينَ

Honourable recorders, writing down your deeds,

يَعْلَمُونَ مَا تَفْعَلُونَ

They know all that you do. [Al-Infitar: 10-12]

8. The guardian angels

لَهُ مُعَقِّبَتٌ مِّنْ بَيْنِ يَدَيْهِ وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِ تَحَفَظُونَهُ مِّنْ أَمْرِ اللَّهِ  
إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُغَيِّرُ مَا بِقَوْمٍ حَتَّىٰ يُغَيِّرُوا مَا بِأَنفُسِهِمْ ۚ وَإِذَا أَرَادَ  
اللَّهُ بِقَوْمٍ سُوءًا فَلَا مَرَدَّ لَهُ ۚ وَمَا لَهُم مِّنْ دُونِهِ مِنْ وَالٍ

For him (each person), there are angels in succession, before and behind him. They guard him by the Command of Allâh. Verily! Allâh will not change the (good) condition of a people as long as they do not change their state (of goodness) themselves (by committing sins and by being ungrateful and disobedient to Allâh). But when Allâh wills a people's punishment, there can be no turning back of it, and they will find besides Him no protector. [Ra'd:11]