Angels

Angels are exalted beings who inhabit both Heaven and Earth, who bridge Heaven and Earth. They serve God – praising Him, acting as His messengers, aiding mankind, and defending what is holy.



Zoroastrian art

# <u>The Zoroastrian-Biblical Connections -- Influence of Zoroastrianism in Other Religions</u>

**Zoroastrians: Their Religious Beliefs and Practices** 

Angels in Zoroastrianism

















Sassanid Empire Taq-e Bustan



Assyrian art



Egyptian Isis



Egyptian winged sphinx

Winged Victory of Samothrace



### Angels & the Old Testament

**Angels in the Old Testament** 



Angel bars Adam & Eve from Eden

#### Genesis 3:24

**24**After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.



The Ark of the Covenant

#### **Exodus 25:17-22**

- 17And you are to construct a mercy seat of pure gold, two and a half cubits long and a cubit and a half wide. 18Make two cherubim of hammered gold at the ends of the mercy seat, 19one cherub on one end and one on the other, all made from one piece of gold. 20And the cherubim are to have wings that spread upward, overshadowing the mercy seat. The cherubim are to face one another, looking toward the mercy seat.
- **21**Set the mercy seat atop the ark, and put the Testimony that I will give you into the ark.
- 22And I will meet with you there above the mercy seat, between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the Testimony; I will speak with you about all that I command you regarding the Israelites.

Jacob's ladder



#### Genesis 28:12

12He 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.

Ezekiel's vision of Heaven



#### **Ezekiel 1:4-9, 10-14**

41 looked and saw a whirlwind coming from the north, a great cloud with fire flashing back and forth and brilliant light all around it. In the center of the fire was a gleam like amber, 5 and within it was the form of four living creatures.

And this was their appearance: They had a human form, 6but each had four faces and four wings. 7Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the hooves of a calf, gleaming like polished bronze.

**8**Under their wings on their four sides they had human hands. All four of them had faces and wings, **9**and their wings were touching one another. They did not turn as they moved; each one went straight ahead.

10The form of their faces was that of a man, and each of the four had the face of a lion on the right side, the face of an ox on the left side, and also the face of an eagle. 11Such were their faces.

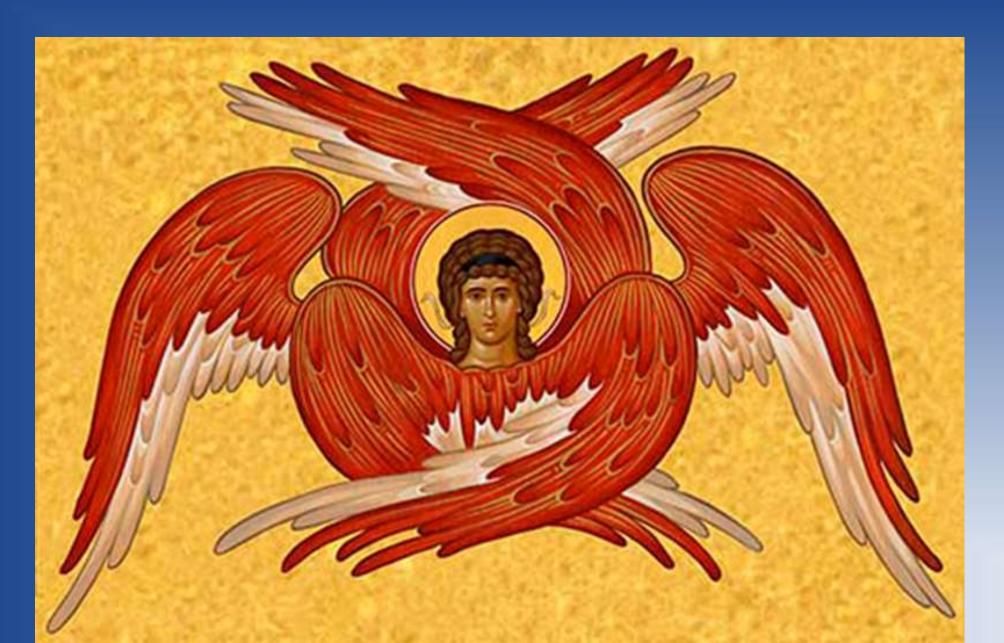
Their wings were spread upward; each had two wings touching the wings of the creature on either side, and two wings covering its body. 12Each creature went straight ahead. Wherever the spirit would go, they would go, without turning as they moved.

13In the midst of the living creatures was the appearance of glowing coals of fire, or of torches. Fire moved back and forth between the living creatures; it was bright, and lightning flashed out of it. 14The creatures were darting back and forth as quickly as flashes of lightning.

#### **Ezekiel 1:15-19**

15When I looked at the living creatures, I saw a wheel on the ground beside each creature with its four faces. 16The workmanship of the wheels looked like the gleam of beryl, and all four had the same likeness. Their workmanship looked like a wheel within a wheel. 17As they moved, they went in any of the four directions, without pivoting as they moved. 18Their rims were high and awesome, and all four rims were full of eyes all around. 19So as the living creatures moved, the wheels moved beside them, and when the creatures rose from the ground, the wheels also rose.

### Isaiah encounters angels



#### **Isaiah 6:1-4**

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted; and the train of His robe filled the temple. 2Above Him stood seraphim, each having six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3And they were calling out to one another:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Hosts;

all the earth is full of His glory."

4At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook, and the temple was filled with smoke.



Daniel in the lion's den

#### Daniel 6:22

**22**My God sent His angel and shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, for I was found innocent in His sight, and I have done no wrong against you, O king." Daniel 6:22

Tobit and Raphael

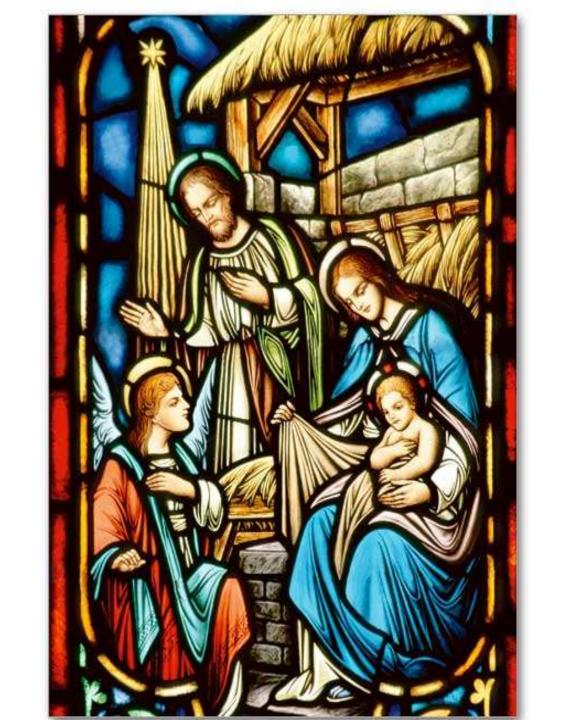


#### Tobit 12:14-17

- <sup>14</sup> and at the same time God sent me to heal you and your daughter-in-law Sarah.
- <sup>15</sup> I am Raphael, one of the seven angels who stand ever ready to enter the presence of the glory of the Lord.'
- <sup>16</sup> They were both overwhelmed with awe; they fell on their faces in terror.
- <sup>17</sup> But the angel said, 'Do not be afraid; peace be with you. Bless God for ever.

## Angels & the New Testament

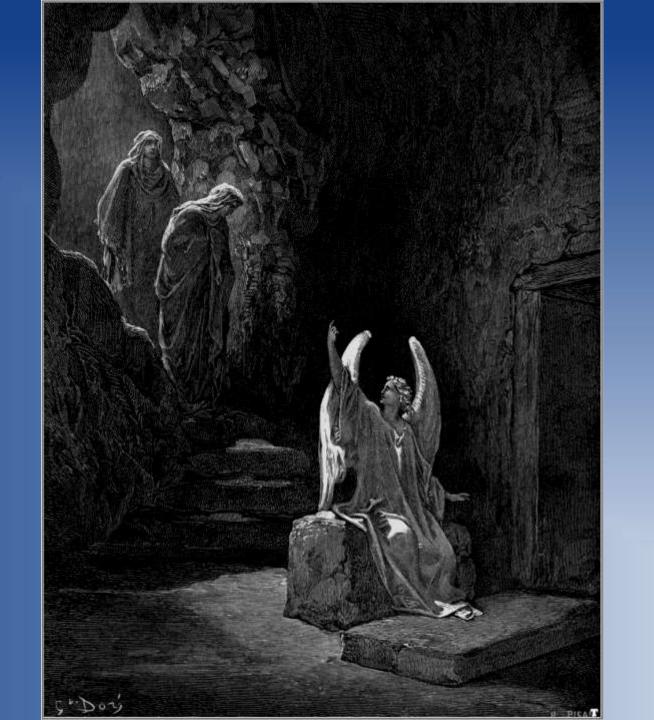










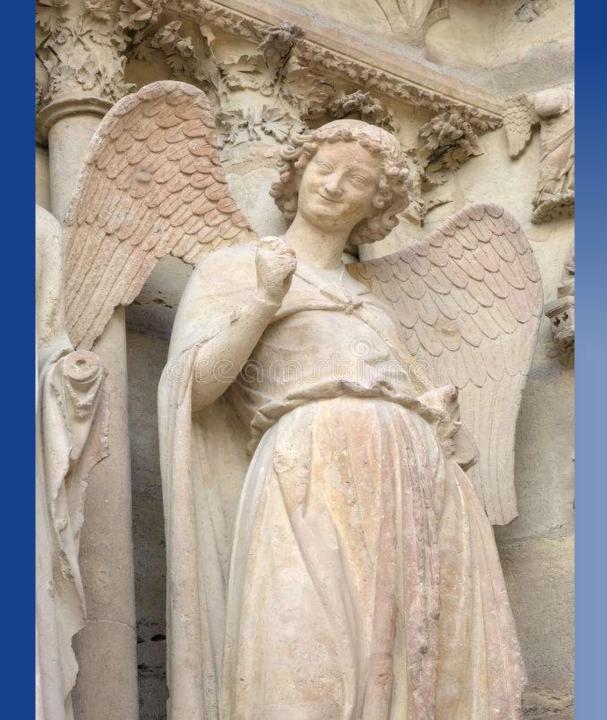




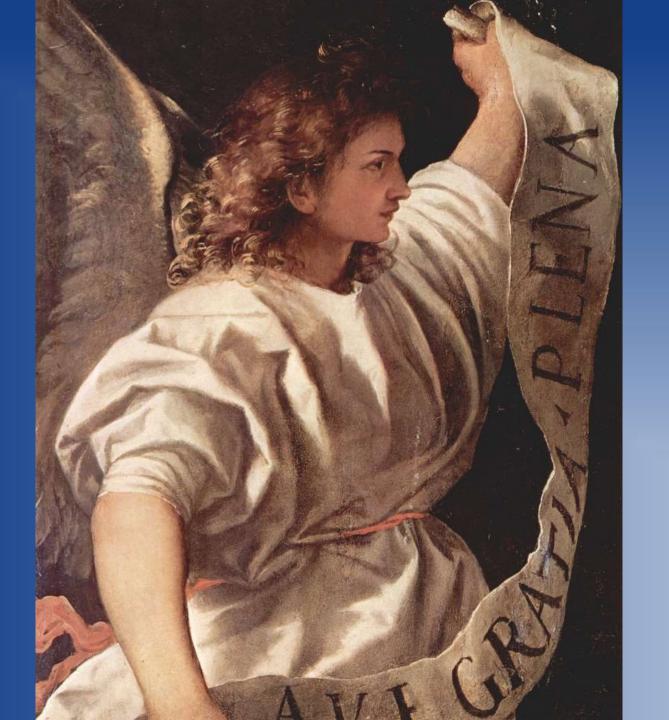








Smiling angel from Reims Cathedral



Titian



Raphael

Jan Van Eyck





Burne-Jones





Guardian angel

- <u>Dionysius the Areopagite, Works (1899) vol. 2. p.1-66. The Celestial</u>

  <u>Hierarchy</u>
- Saint Thomas Aquinas and Angels

