

Can We Talk with Angels?

INTRODUCTION

The Bible has a lot to say about angels. It has many examples. However, this is still quite a controversial topic, especially with non-Christians now getting in on the subject of angels.

But let's discuss what one believer has said about talking with angels. They said, "Leviticus 19:31 (NIV) says, 'Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them.' It clearly warns us not to talk to spirits and angels are spirits."

This sounds good on the surface but let's study out this topic to see if Leviticus 19:31 applies to the holy angel of God or not.

TO SPEAK OR NOT TO SPEAK, THAT'S THE QUESTION

While we have Leviticus 19:31 warning us not to talk to mediums or spiritists, we also have Hebrews 13:2 warning us, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it."

So in one instance, we are warned not to speak with spirit beings and in another, we told to actually show hospitality to them. So which is it? Is the Bible contradicting itself? We know that the Bible does not contradict itself but each situation is always determined by the context so let's examine the contexts.

WHAT'S THE CONTEXT?

To insure we understand the context, let's define some of the terms...

What is a medium? It is one who seeks to communicate with the dead.

What is a spiritist? It is one who believes in Spiritism, which is the belief that the dead communicate with the living.

So both a medium and a spiritist seek to communicate with the dead. But what is an angel? Are angels the spirits of dead people? The official definition of an angel is...

1) one of a class of spiritual beings; a celestial attendant of God. In medieval angelology, angels constituted the lowest of the nine celestial orders (seraphim, cherubim, thrones, dominations or dominions, virtues, powers, principalities or principedoms, archangels, and angels). 2) a conventional representation of such a being, in human form, with wings, usually in white robes. 3) a messenger, especially of God.

None of this describes a spirit of the dead. In short, an angel is a spirit being that was created by God as a representative of God, usually one or more characteristics of God. The fallen angels are those that rebelled against God's order and no longer wished to represent God but only themselves.

Moving on...

What does hospitality mean? It means "the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers." Synonyms are: friendliness, hospitableness, warm reception, welcome, helpfulness, neighborliness, warmth, kindness, congeniality, geniality, cordiality, courtesy, amenability, generosity, entertainment, catering, food.

What does entertain mean? It means "provide (someone) with amusement or enjoyment, to please or delight in" or "give attention or consideration to (an idea, suggestion, or feeling)."

So to show a person who might be an angel in disguise hospitality literally means to welcome them warmly, as a friend. The scripture does not tell us to avoid communicating with them but instead to invite them in and treat them well, as a friend. In so doing, we "entertain" them. That is, we find pleasure in them and give attention to them – and likewise, they find pleasure in us and give attention to us.

As you see the context of these scriptures, is Leviticus really telling us that we cannot communicate with God's angels? Apparently not! To be explicit, it is warning against seeking to speak with the dead.

We might be able to extrapolate that this would include fallen angels, especially as they often pretend to be the dead, but it does not say that. In fact, 1 John 4:1 warns us, "Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God." How can you "test the spirit" if you are not allowed to communicate with it? Even more, if you are not allowed to communicate with spirits at all, why would you need to test it? You could simply obey the Bible and ignore it!

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

In 1 Samuel 28, we find King Saul communicating with a medium. Starting at verse 9, the medium says, "Are you trying to get me killed? You know that Saul has outlawed all the mediums and all who consult the spirits of the dead. Why are you setting a trap for me? ... Whose spirit do you want me to call up?" "Call up Samuel," Saul replied.

So, were they communicating with an angel of the Lord or the spirit of a dead person? Maybe it was a fallen angel pretending to be Samuel, but it doesn't tell us that, so we have to assume maybe it was literally the spirit of Samuel. Regardless who it was, it was not an angel of the Lord!

The truth is, Leviticus 19:31 can't mean that we can't talk to angels because if you will simply go back and read every story in the Bible, you will see that in almost every one of them someone is communicating with the angels of the Lord...

In Genesis 16, "The angel of the LORD found Hagar." Hagar communicated with an angel twice – once in verse 7 and once in verse 13.

In Genesis 18, Abraham is greeted by "three men" [angels] and they not only speak, but he feeds them a meal.

In Genesis 19, two angels went to Sodom to warn Lot and his family to leave. Lot communicated with the angels.

In Genesis 32, Jacob wrestled with an angel and communicated with him saying, "I will not let go until you bless me."

In Exodus 3, Moses encounters a burning bush and it explicitly says, "the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush," and "God called to him from within the bush." Moses is literally talking to a bush. lol But God spoke through the angel in the bush to Moses. Moses communicated with an angel of the Lord.

In Judges 6, the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon and said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior." Gideon communicated with an angel.

In Judges 13, Manoah's wife communicated with an angel.

In 1 Kings 19, Elijah doesn't actually communicate with the angel, but it does interact with him multiple times.

In 2 Chronicles 32, the Lord sent an angel to destroy a whole army. No communication here, but there was an encounter.

In Daniel 9, Daniel encounters Gabriel, an angel of the Lord. Verse 22 explicitly says, "He talked with me."

In Ezekiel, Ezekiel meets angels several times and gives lots of descriptions of them.

Keep in mind that all these people and more are found in Old Testament and the Levitical law is from the Old Testament too, yet all of these people and more communicated with the angels of God.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

As you will see from the New Testament, nothing changed. People still communicated with angels showing that is still valid for today. In fact, there are more encounters with angels in the New Testament than the Old.

In Luke 1, an angel of the Lord appeared to Zacharias and communicated with him that he should name his son John.

In Luke 1, angel Gabriel and the Virgin Mary communicate with one another. Gabriel told her about Jesus.

In Matthew 1, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream to confirm that Mary will bring forth a son and call his name Jesus, and in Matthew 2, an angel appeared to him in a dream to warn him to flee to Egypt. In this example, we see God using dreams to communicate with us.

In Luke 2, the angel of the Lord appeared to country shepherds to announce the birth of the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ

In Matthew 27, Mary Magdalene and other Mary encountered an angel who explained to them what happened to Jesus.

In Acts 1, two angels declare to the disciples that Jesus will return to the earth in the same way they saw him leave.

In Acts 5, the Sadducees and high priest put the Apostles in prison, but an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and communicated with them that they needed to preach the Gospel.

In Acts 10, Cornelius communicated with an angel that "told him to ask you to come to his house so that he could hear what you have to say."

In Acts 12, Peter is put in prison, but an angel frees him and leads him out. They communicate.

In Acts 27, an angel communicated with Paul that they'd be safe on the ship he was on.

If you look closely at the Book of Revelations, you will see that the entire book was dictated to John by an angel. Revelation 19:10 says... Then the angel told me to write, "Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God." So if that Levitical Law applies to talking to angels, maybe we should not read the book of Revelations since we would be reading what a spirit communicating to him. This would actually apply to other scriptures as well too because other scripture was given by angels. In fact, Acts 7:53 tells us that we "received the law that was given through angels..." The "law" came through angels. Someone had communicate with the angels to receive the law.

Hebrews 2:2 says, "Since the message ***spoken through angels*** was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment..." Communicating with angels requires us to listen to them, but if we aren't allowed to listen to them (the point of contacting the dead is to hear from them), then this scripture is meaningless to us and there is no "binding."

ADDITIONAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Mediums and spiritists seek to talk to the dead and although Leviticus warns us not to do this, in Matthew 17, Jesus talked with Moses and Elijah while transfigured on the mountain. He appeared to be disobeying Leviticus but we know that He was without sin having obeyed all the Laws perfectly.

What about the worship of angels? Colossians 2:18 warns, "Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and ***the worship of angels*** disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind." What qualifies as "the worship of angels"? Merely communicating with them or even interacting with them would not qualify. If it did, then God is worshipping angels because He is surrounded by angels, and communicates and interacts with angels. Worship would be putting them in a position over God or literally worshipping them, like worshipping demons or fallen angels.

Hebrews 1:14 says, "Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?" And one of the ways -- a major way they minister -- is through communicating with us. It is the number one thing you see throughout scripture. And the truth is, we hear them more often than we know. That inner voice telling us some good thing to do is often them. Hebrews 13:2 even tells us that we "entertain (see, hear and interact with) angels without knowing it." If you can entertain them without knowing you are, then, by being attentive, you can entertain them knowing you are.

SUMMING IT UP

It's clear from scripture that it is normal for people and angels to communicate with one another and it does not break the Levitical Law. So the question is not, can we but should we and if we do, how do we do so safely, since 2 Corinthians 11:14 warns us that "Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light"?

TEST THE SPIRITS

If we encounter a spirit, any spirit, even one that claims to be a holy spirit, we must obey 1 John 4:1 to "test the spirits to see if they are of God or not." This, of course, has proven challenging at times because things can be so deceptive. Here are some thing you can do...

What the Lord showed me personally is...

First, does the spirit acknowledge Jesus? 1 John 4:1-3 By this you will know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming, and is already in the world at this time.

Second, what is the fruit? How does this spirit "manifest"? Does the spirit manifest the fruit of the Holy Spirit -- love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control -- or something other than this? In Matthew 7:16, Jesus said, "By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit."

Love is the most important of all. In 1 Corinthians 13, we read that without love we are nothing. If the spirit is anything but loving, you can be sure it is not of God. 1 John 4:20 declares, "Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen." Likewise, if they are touting darkness, they are not of God. 1 John 1:6 says, "If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth." 1 John 2:4 says, "If anyone says, 'I know Him,' but does not keep His commandments, he is a liar, and the truth is not in him."

The fallen angels can fake it. For example, I've heard stories of people who encountered angels and they felt nothing but peace and unconditional love. Later, they discovered it was demonic. So you need to keep testing it until you are sure.

Third, what are it's "works"? How does their contact with you affect them? In John 6:29, Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." Does the spirit point you to Jesus? Of God's Holy Spirit, Jesus said, "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father,

even the Spirit of truth, which proceeds from the Father, he shall testify of me. (John 15:26) He also said, "The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." (John 14:26) Seeing how the Holy Spirit works, does the spirit communicating with you testify of Jesus and what Jesus has said, or himself or of something else? Does the spirit encourage your faith in Christ or other things?

Forth, you can flatly ask it or even command it to reveal it's name to you? In Luke 8:30 and Mark 5:9, Jesus [flatly] asked him, "What is your name?" "Legion," he replied, because many demons had gone into him. You can tell sometimes by the name who the spirit is, because in the spirit realm, names reflect the nature of the person. In Revelation 2:17, Jesus even says, "I will give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it." You will receive a name that reflect how God sees you.

In short, does the spirit agree that Jesus was born of the virgin Mary, was crucified to death on a cross, was buried and rose back to life on the third day, and that Jesus is the Savior of mankind? Does the spirit confess "Jesus is Lord", their Lord, and not just the Lord? Do they demonstrate how Jesus is their Lord? Does the spirit bear fruit in keeping with a holy spirit of God or is it dark, mean, ugly, etc? Does the spirit encourage your faith and build you up, or does the spirit detract from your faith or even try to veer you away from it? Does their name reflect something good or evil?

In my own experience, I once met an angel who claimed to be a spirit of revelation. His name is Simon which happens to mean "he has heard." From [Σίμων \(Simon\)](#), the [New Testament](#) Greek form of the Hebrew name [שִׁמְעוֹן \(Shim'on\)](#) which meant "he has heard".

MORE ON TESTING THE SPIRITS

How do we test spirits?

http://www.answers2prayer.org/bible_questions/Answers/testing/test.html

From the "Handbook of Healing" by Charles and Francis Hunter...

<http://gloryboundministries.com/wordpress/?p=351>

Look into the person's eyes and command the spirit to manifest. The pupils will dilate if the spirit is there. Matthew 6:22 says, "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light."

Command the spirit to leave and ask the person if they can feel internally the movement of the spirit.

Command it to leave and watch for a manifestation.

From Charity Kayembe, these are factors to consider...

<http://www.cwgministries.org/blogs/charity-kayembe>

- Are you a born-again Spirit-filled Christian?
- Are you reading her Bible regularly and regularly fellowshiping with other Believers?
- Are you praying to God every day and focused on your relationship with Him?

- Do you consider yourself a strong Christian?
- Do your angels remind you of Scriptures and explain things from the Bible to you?
- Do your angels give Holy Spirit credit for empowering any miracles, healings, etc?
- Do your angels direct you to Jesus and talk about Father God regularly?
- Is Jesus a big part of their ministry to you or is your relationship with them all about them and you?
- Do your angels glorify and honor God and refocus you on Jesus?

All scriptures NIV unless otherwise noted.