

Angels from the Realms of Glory

*Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.*

This favourite Christmas carol was first published in 1816.

Many people of faith, including Christians, Jews and Muslims, together with others of no religion, believe in **angels**.

These supernatural entities inhabit spiritual realms and sometimes appear physically on earth as messengers or helpers or protectors of mankind.

At other times, they remain up in heavenly domains as worshippers, intermediaries or warriors against sinister forces.



Saint Michael Vanquishing Satan, by Raphael 1518

Our world is an increasingly difficult and frightening place to live in. Bloody wars have raged this year in Gaza, Ukraine and Sudan, political turmoil erupted in Syria and France,

famine worsens in Yemen and Ethiopia and economic hardship affects many citizens including even in the Isle of Man.

Unfortunately, it is certain that there will be troubles and trials in this life.

And in that **tribulation** there will be exclusion, cruelty, discord, heartache, separation, guilt, discrimination, rejection, grief, regret, wickedness, suffering, tragedy, bitterness, hostility, loneliness, strife, revenge, spite, oppression, pain, misery and many, many tears; all perpetuated by tormentors, abusers, collaborators, persecutors, torturers, betrayers, mischief makers, slanderers, murderers, authoritarians, liars and apologists.

But why do things have to be like this?

Because what is happening on Earth is directly linked to what is happening in spiritual provinces.

In the Bible it says, *"Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms"*.

Will things get better or worse? Where is all this conflict and distress leading? And what will the final outcome be?

Well, just as it is certain that there will be tumult and destruction, so we can be absolutely sure that justice will be victorious, truth will prevail and there will ultimately be peace.

Part of the reason for this triumph of goodness is that **angels** will come to help.

Remember this:

i) Jesus was tested and tempted in the Judean desert by Satan for forty days and forty nights. He resisted and the devil left him. Then Jesus was, *"with the wild animals and **angels** came and attended him"*.



Angels Ministering to Christ in the wilderness, by Thomas Cole 1843

ii) When Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane, the night before he was crucified in Jerusalem, he was in anguish and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. But, "an **angel** from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him".



An angel comforting Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, by Carl Bloch 1873

iii) The final book of the Bible, *Revelation*, prophesies about the end times and there being **WAR IN THE HEAVENS**.

In this apocalypse, barrage after barrage of flaming thought arrows will be fired by the evil one down in to the minds of men and women but countless prayers and requests in the spirit will stream upwards into the heavens.

The father of all lies, that is Lucifer, and his legions of demons as well as multiple battalions of fiends and every malevolent force will battle thousands upon thousands and ten thousand times ten thousand **angels, archangels** and **guardian angels**.

But the white armies of heaven, with buckled belts of truth and shields of faith, will defeat the gathered dark armies of the Prince of this earth. And there will be a new heaven and a new earth, with no more mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. Death itself will be swallowed up in victory.



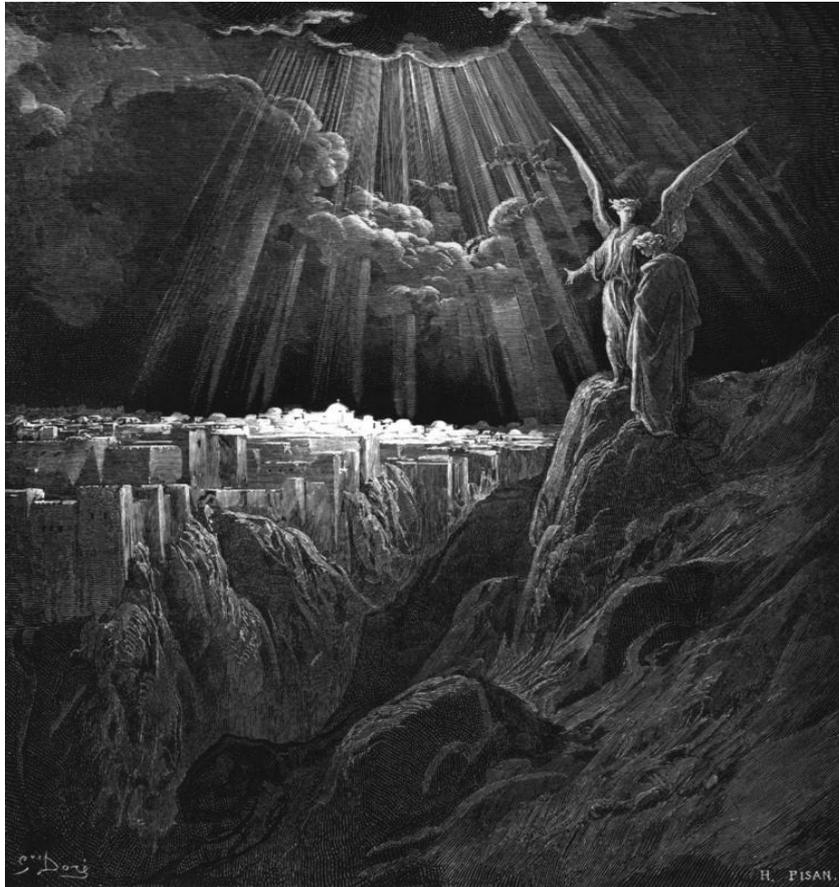
The Great Day of His Wrath, by John Martin 1853



The Last Judgement, by Jan van Eyck 1430

Another well known Christmas Carol begins with the line, *“Oh come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant”*.

Therefore, at this Christmas time and always, we have an abiding hope, a blessed assurance and an shakeable faith in the triumph of eternal love.



The New Jerusalem, by Gustave Dore 1865

Hyperlink: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELjgFKACcdQ>

HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND BEST WISHES FOR 2026!

"He that is in us is greater than he that is in the world".