

Death Angel

Dear Aebi: “*What does the Bible say about the death angel?*”

The Bible says nothing that I can find regarding a “death angel.” I have searched Cruden’s Concordance, Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, and my Quick Verse search on my computer and have found zero times that the Bible uses either the term “death angel” or “angel of death” in the King James Version, American Standard Version, New King James Version, or the New International Version. The following chart shows the number of times the words “angel” and “death” are used:



<u>Version of the Entire Bible</u>	<u>Death Is Used</u>	<u>Angel Is Used</u>	<u>Death Angel</u>
American Standard Version	365 times	183 times	0 times
King James Version	340 times	188 times	0 times
New King James Version	353 times	205 times	0 times
New International Version	416 times	196 times	0 times

All translations use *death* and *angel*, but none of these four combine them; though some passages contain both terms, the terms are not connected. An example of this is Romans 8:38-39 — “For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things, present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” So even if there were a death angel, he could not separate us from the love of God in Christ!

It is common to hear people refer to “the death angel passing over the houses of the Hebrews when the firstborn of Egypt were killed,” but that is not what the Bible says. “And Moses said, Thus saith Jehovah, About midnight will I go out into the midst of Egypt: and all the first-born in the land of Egypt shall die. . .” (Exodus 11:4-5). “For I will go through the land of Egypt in that night, and will smite all the first-born in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am Jehovah” (Exodus 12:12). “And it came to pass at midnight, that Jehovah smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt. . .” (Exodus 12:29). Did THE LORD go in person and kill the firstborn? Did He send His angel to do it as His representative? Some have suggested that Christ did it and that Christ is THE LORD in these Exodus passages. That is possible, but the Bible does not say this.

Perhaps we could call Satan “the angel of death” since he is said to have the power of death (Hebrews 2:14) and since death is an enemy (the last to be destroyed, 1 Corinthians 15:26), but the Bible does not specifically call him that. At least one song we sing, “In the Morning of Joy” speaks of the resurrection day when the trumpet sounds to announce Christ’s appearance and “the angel of death shall no longer destroy, and the dead shall awaken in the morning of joy.” This song uses the words *the angel of death* to mean death itself, the last enemy (1 Corinthians 15:26) that is defeated and eliminated at Christ’s second coming. Don’t worry about any death angel; if there is one, he can’t hurt you if you are Christ’s servant. Just be sure that you are Christ’s servant; then no one nor any thing can separate you from the love of God.

Charles J Aebi