THE QUESTION

Are angels stars, and are stars angels?

Asked by a THF member on June 25, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 7 numbered quotations · the 29 early Christian passages and 60 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/are-angels-stars-and-are-stars-angels

The short answer *Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words*

Not simply. Early writers sometimes use star language for angels, especially fallen ones, but they also treat the stars of the sky as created lights, separate from the bodiless angels. They agree that neither stars nor angels may be worshiped, because worship belongs to God the Creator alone.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
SHARING WITH AN AI?	Every quotation here comes from The Historic Faith's library. If you paste this study into an AI, anything it adds beyond these pages comes from that AI, not from us.

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POINT 1 OF 7

Jude's wandering stars point to fallen angels

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Explaining the letter of Jude, Clement says people who go astray are like the stars that fell from the places of the angels. Here star language is used as a picture of angels who fell, and of those who follow them.

1 “Wandering stars” means that those who go astray and become apostates are like that kind of stars which fell from the places of the angels.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** **Source 10, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
Fragments 1 (c. 190–215 AD)
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 7

Fallen angels left heaven and the stars

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Clement also reads Jude's angels who left their own home as leaving heaven and the stars. He links the angels' first dwelling with the starry heavens, but he speaks of angels living there, not of stars being angels.

2 “but left their own habitation," meaning heaven and the stars, became, and are called, apostates.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** **Source 8, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
Fragments 1 (c. 190–215 AD)
THF's updated English

POINT 3 OF 7

Lucifer is called the morning star

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Origen speaks of the angels who announced Christ's birth and then of the one who fell. He names him the star of the morning who fell from heaven. This is another place where a fallen angel is described with star language.

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3 “But the angels also wonder at the peace which is to be brought about on account of Jesus on the earth, that seat of war, on which Lucifer, star of the morning, fell from heaven, to be warred against and destroyed by Jesus.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *Commentary on John* 1 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 15, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 7

The liturgy names stars and angels separately

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

An early prayer praises God for decorating heaven with stars and, as a separate act, for placing bodiless angels in the highest heavens. The stars adorn the sky; the angels are spirits who sing God's praise.

4 “O Sovereign and Almighty Lord, who sit upon the cherubim and are glorified by the seraphim; who made heaven out of waters and adorned it with choirs of stars; who placed a bodiless host of angels in the highest heavens to sing Your praise forever: before You we have bowed our souls and bodies as a sign of our bondage.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Early Liturgies,** *Divine Liturgy of St. Mark* 1 (c. 200–400 AD) **Source 12, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 7

Stars and angels praise God as different creatures

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Another early liturgy lists everything that praises God. The sun, moon and stars come in one group, and the angels and archangels come later in a different group, as different kinds of creatures.

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5 “Whom the highest heavens praise, and all their host: the sun and the moon, and the whole choir of the stars; the earth, the sea, and all that is in them; Jerusalem, the heavenly assembly, and the church of the firstborn who are written in heaven; the spirits of righteous men and of prophets; the souls of martyrs and of apostles; angels, archangels, thrones, dominions, principalities, and authorities, and awesome powers; and the many-eyed cherubim and the six-winged seraphim, who cover their faces with two wings, their feet with two, and with two they fly, crying out to one another with unwearied lips, with unceasing praises”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Early Liturgies,** *Divine Liturgy of St. James* 1 (c. 200–400 AD) **Source 13, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 7

Neither stars nor angels are to be worshiped

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Origen explains why Christians refuse to treat angels, sun, moon and stars as gods. He points to the law of Moses, which warns against worshiping the heavenly host.

6 “And if it is necessary for us to offer a defense of our refusal to recognize as gods, equally with angels, and sun, and moon, and stars, those who are called by the Greeks manifest and visible divinities, we shall answer that the law of Moses knows that these latter have been apportioned by God among all the nations under heaven, but not among those who were selected by God as His chosen people above all the nations of the earth.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *Against Celsus* 10 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 17, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 7 OF 7

Stars were made to give light

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The Apostolic Constitutions say the stars were given to shine on people, not to receive worship. Worshiping them means honoring the creature in place of the Creator.

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7 “For the stars and the heavenly lights were given to men to shine on them, but not to be worshiped.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER
Apostolic Constitutions (c. 250–380 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 22, page 7 **Read it in the library ›**

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages do not discuss Revelation 1:20, where the seven stars are called angels.
- They do not give a rule for when a star in Scripture stands for an angel and when it means a real light in the sky.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 29 early Christian passages and 60 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–29, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 30–50, in Bible order), then 39 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF’s updated English unless marked “1885 English” (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). “… [continues online]” marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *29 passages from 16 writers*

Hermas, *c. 90–150 AD · source 1*

1 *Shepherd* (1885 English) “she said, These are the holy angels of God, who were first created, and to whom the Lord handed over His whole creation, that they might increase and build up… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · source 2*

2 *Dialogue with Trypho* (1885 English; on point 5) “passage, then, by which I proved that God reveals that there are both angels and hosts in heaven is this: ‘Praise the Lord from the heavens: praise Him in the… [continues online] **read ›**

Tatian, *c. 150–180 AD · source 3*

3 *Address to the Greeks* 12 (1885 English) “is, then, a spirit in the stars, a spirit in angels, a spirit in plants and the waters, a spirit in men, a spirit in animals… [continues online] **read ›**

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Theophilus of Antioch, *c. 169–183 AD · sources 4–5*

4 *To Autolycus* 11 (on point 7) “God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, "Let there be a firmament… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *To Autolycus* 15 (1885 English) “the brilliant and bright stars are an imitation of the prophets, and therefore they remain fixed, not declining, nor passing from place to place… [continues online] **read ›**

Athenagoras, *c. 170–190 AD · source 6*

6 *A Plea for the Christians* 6 (on point 7) is one uncreated and eternal God. And if he also recognizes others, such as the sun, moon, and stars, he still recognizes them as created: "gods, offspring of gods, of… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · source 7*

7 *Against Heresies: Book II* (on point 7) “stars have they called into existence? Or what lights of heaven have they caused to shine… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 8–11*

8 *Fragments* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 2, page 2** “the angels, he says, that kept not their own pre-eminence, that, namely, which they received through advancement, but left their own habitation, meaning, that is, the heaven and the… [continues online] **read ›**

9 *Exhortation to the Heathen* 8 (on point 7) “His hands have established the host of heaven… [continues online] **read ›**

10 *Fragments* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 1, page 2** “stars,— that is, he means those who err and are apostates are of that kind of stars which fell from the seats of the angels— to whom, for their apostasy… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *Stromata* 5.14 (on point 7) “hands have founded the host of heaven… [continues online] **read ›**

Early Liturgies, *c. 200–400 AD · sources 12–13*

12 *Divine Liturgy of St. Mark* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 4, page 3** “has placed an unbodied host of angels in the highest heavens to sing Your praise for ever… [continues online] **read ›**

13 *Divine Liturgy of St. James* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 5, page 4** “the heavens of heavens praise, and all the host of them… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 14–19*

14 *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 5 (on point 3) “the stars of heaven shall I place my throne… [continues online] **read ›**

15 *Commentary on John* 1 **Quote 3, page 3** “the angels also wonder at the peace which is to be brought about on account of Jesus on the earth, that seat of war, on which Lucifer, star of the… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *Against Celsus* 8 (on point 6) for doing obeisance to such objects, and for sacrificing to the queen of heaven and to all the host of heaven. Moreover, the writings of the Christians show, in rebuking… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *Against Celsus* 10 **Quote 6, page 4** offer a defense of our refusal to recognize as gods, equally with angels, and sun, and moon, and stars, those who are called by the Greeks manifest and visible divinities… [continues online] **read ›**

18 *Against Celsus* 6 (on point 6) “who are in heaven. In the same way, since they do not bow down to the sun, moon, and stars, the host of heaven, they also keep from bowing down… [continues online] **read ›**

19 *Against Celsus* 25 (1885 English) “the same way, all angels are not said to be angels of God, but only those that are blessed: those that have fallen away into sin are called angels of… [continues online] **read ›**

Julius Africanus, *c. 232–265 AD · source 20*

20 *Extant Writings* 1 “some copies, I found "the sons of God… [continues online] **read ›**

Novatian, *c. 240–258 AD · source 21*

21 *Treatise Concerning the Trinity* 8 (1885 English; on point 5) “angels adore, stars wonder at, seas bless, lands revere, and all things under the earth look up to… [continues online] **read ›**

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Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 22–24*

22 *Apostolic Constitutions* **Quote 7, page 5** to swear by them or serve them. For they say, "Lest, when you see the sun, and the moon, and the stars, you should be led astray to worship them… [continues online] **read ›**

23 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 4) “O Lord! In wisdom You have made them all; the earth is full of Your creation." And the shining host of angels and the intellectual spirits say to Palmoni, "There… [continues online] **read ›**

24 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 6) “he built altars to the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the Lord… [continues online] **read ›**

Methodius, *c. 270–311 AD · source 25*

25 *From the Discourse on the Resurrection* (on point 5) must remain in its own proper place, so that nothing may be lacking to any, but all may be full: heaven with angels, thrones with powers, luminaries with ministers, and… [continues online] **read ›**

Lactantius, *c. 290–320 AD · source 26*

26 *Divine Institutes* 4 (on point 6) make known to us the mysteries of the stars, so that we may build altars and temples to each one. Let us know with what rites, and on what day… [continues online] **read ›**

Peter of Alexandria, *c. 300–311 AD · sources 27–28*

27 *Genuine Acts of Peter* (on point 5) must remain in its own proper place, so that nothing may be lacking to any, but all may be full: heaven with angels, thrones with powers, the heavenly lights with… [continues online] **read ›**

28 *Genuine Acts of Peter* (1885 English) “according to the original constitution of angels, they were made by God, in His providence, for the care of the universe… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Rome · *source 29*

29 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* (1885 English; on point 4) it is thus written, “Who maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *21 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

30 **Deuteronomy 4:19** and lest, looking up to heaven and seeing the sun, the moon, and the stars, and all the array of heaven, you go astray and worship them and serve them, the things that the Lord your God has allotted to all the nations under heaven. **read ›**

31 **Matthew 18:10** See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. **read ›**

32 **Mark 13:25** and the stars of heaven shall be falling, and the powers that are in the heavens shall be shaken. **read ›**

33 **Luke 2:13** Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly army praising God and saying, **read ›**

34 **Acts 13:10** and said, “You son of the devil, full of all deceit and all cunning, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? **read ›**

35 **Acts 24:21** unless it is for this one thing that I cried standing among them, ‘Concerning the resurrection of the dead I am being judged by you today!’” **read ›**

36 **Romans 1:25** who exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. **read ›**

37 **Romans 8:19** For the eager expectation of creation waits for the revealing of the sons of God. **read ›**

38 **1 Corinthians 11:10** For this reason the woman ought to have authority on her head, because of the angels. **read ›**

39 **1 Corinthians 15:41** There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. **read ›**

40 **1 Thessalonians 5:5** You are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night or of darkness. **read ›**

41 **Hebrews 1:6** And when he again brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “And let all the angels of God worship him.” **read ›**

42 **Hebrews 1:7** And of the angels he says, “He makes his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.” **read ›**

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43 **Hebrews 12:22** But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to tens of thousands of angels, **read ›**

44 **Hebrews 13:2** Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for in doing so, some have entertained angels without knowing it. **read ›**

45 **Revelation 1:20** The mystery of the seven stars you saw on my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are seven churches." **read ›**

46 **Revelation 2:28** and I will give him the morning star. **read ›**

47 **Revelation 7:11** All the angels were standing around the throne, the elders, and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before his throne, and worshiped God, **read ›**

48 **Revelation 8:10** The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star fell from the sky, burning like a torch, and it fell on one third of the rivers, and on the springs of water. **read ›**

49 **Revelation 8:12** The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, and one third of the sun was struck, and one third of the moon, and one third of the stars, so that one third of them would be darkened; and the day would not shine for one third of it, and the night in the same way. **read ›**

50 **Revelation 12:7** There was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought, **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *39 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Genesis 1:14 · 2:1

Exodus 20:5

Psalms 2:7 · 73:1 · 104:4

Isaiah 14:12

Jeremiah 7:17 · 23:23

Joel 2:10

Matthew 5:14 · 5:16 · 5:22 · 5:34 · 10:22 · 10:29 · 22:30 · 23:16 · 24:27

Luke 2:10 · 10:18

John 5:19 · 8:23

Acts 7:42

Romans 1:21 · 1:28 · 11:33

1 Corinthians 14:31

Colossians 2:18

Hebrews 1:3 · 1:5 · 1:13 · 4:9 · 4:12

1 Peter 2:9

1 John 5:19

Revelation 4:7 · 5:13 · 8:2

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Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

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THE END OF THIS STUDY