

Saint Mary's Newsletter: May

Vicar: David Smithson 027 4213200 Fridays

07 842761 Afterhours

Peoples Warden: Sally-Ann Riddell 07 8243850

Vicars Warden: John Heaton 07 824 3996



SERVICES FOR MAY

Sunday 5th:

10am Family Communion

Refreshments - Majella Heaton

Sunday 12th:

10am Family Communion

Refreshments - Adrienne Calderwood

Sunday 19th:

10am Family Communion

Refreshments - Valerie Crowther

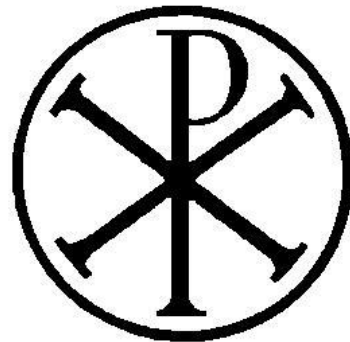
Sunday 26th:

10am Family Communion

Refreshments - Judy Cole



The **Chi Rho** (also known as *chrismon* or *sigla*) is one of the earliest forms of christogram, formed by superimposing the first two (capital) letters—chi and rho (**XP**)—of the Greek word **ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ** (Christos)



“Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner” – The Jesus Prayer



Wings, harps and guardian angels?

Many of the beliefs and imagery we have about angels did not come from the Gospels. In a new book: *“Angels: What the Bible Really Says About God’s Heavenly Host,”* written by Dr. Michael S. Heiser, the Bible in ancient languages scholar digs into the original Hebrew and Greek texts, as well as, plus angels into the context of the worldview of those living in biblical times, to give us a more accurate understanding of these heavenly entities based upon actual Scripture. Heiser says that a lot of our beliefs, about what angels are and what their appearances is, have been handed down from sources outside of the Bible. This includes ancient literature and myths, as well as, media from modern times. In his book, Heiser quotes the Bible to portray angels as Scripture intended, based upon the original languages the Bible was written, as well as, the worldview of the biblical authors.

What are angels?

Simply put, Heiser says an *angel* is just one of the many terms the Bible uses to refer to supernatural beings. Heiser points out that the various terms we have heard for angels such as: Cherubim, Seraphim, Rephaim and Nephilim, are not so much about them being different kinds of angels, but rather are terms referring to what their function is.

What angels do

Angels have been described in the Bible as being messengers, ministers, watchers, mighty ones, and hosts. Heiser says angels are part of the divine Council of God (see Psalm 82) who help administer His will. The Bible also refers to angels as spirits, heavenly ones, stars, holy ones and even gods. The duties of angels in God’s Heavenly Council, according to Heiser, are:

- To contribute to Council resolutions, as part of his “heavenly bureaucracy.”
- To bear witness to God’s decrees.
- To assist in God’s governance of the world.
- To deliver his decrees and explain his activity.
- To execute God’s judgment, as part of “God’s task force.”
- To be part of God’s heavenly worship team, praising him day and night.

Understanding the meaning of Elohim

Heiser points out that the original word for both God and gods, is the Hebrew word *elohim*, which can be plural or singular depending on context. He says the term more broadly refers to “an entity that is not embodied by nature and is a member of the spiritual realm.”

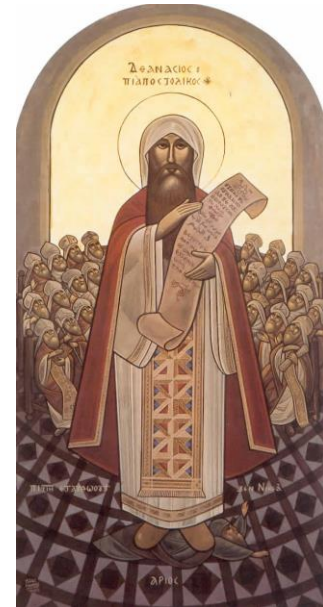
Elohim in the original Hebrew has more than five different meanings, depending on the context in which it was used, and one of which is God in the singular. But it also can mean gods in the plural.

In our modern world, when we think of God, we aren’t thinking of just God as an entity, but God with attributes of omnipresence and omniscience. Heiser’s point is that in the worldview of the Old Testament Israelites, *Elohim* referred to a spiritual being, not necessarily of a single being with those particular attributes.

Parish Bank Account:

02 0410 0103053 00 Thanks for your weekly A/P contributions to keep our Parish running!

This Month in Christian History:



2nd May 373: Death of St Athanasius the Great, bishop of Alexandria (328-73). Known as “the father of Orthodoxy” Athanasius was the first Christian writer to list the 27 books of the New Testament that we have today. Athanasius is attributed writing the “Creed of St Athanasius”.

Scripture for the month:

And in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ give thanks every day for everything to our God and Father. (Ephesians 5:20)

