

Sandalphon means "co-brother," which refers to Sandalphon's status as the spiritual brother of the archangel [Metatron](#). Other spellings of his name include Sandalfon and Ophan (Hebrew for "wheel," which refers to ancient people's identification of Sandalphon as one of the living creatures with spiritual wheels from a vision recorded in Ezekiel chapter 1 of the [Bible](#)).

<http://angels.about.com/od/AngelsReligiousTexts/p/Meet-Archangel-Sandalphon.htm>

# Sandalphon

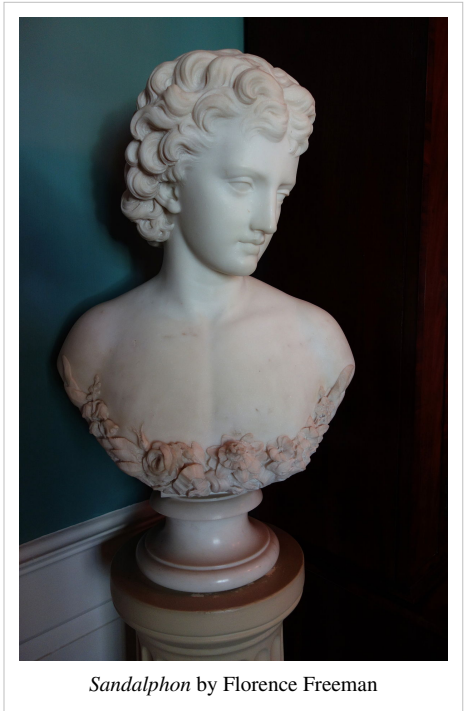
**Sandalphon** (Hebrew: סַנְדַלְפוֹן; Greek: Σανδαλφών) is an archangel in Jewish and Christian writings. Sandalphon figures prominently in the mystical literary traditions of Rabbinic Judaism and early Christianity, notably in the Midrash, Talmud, and Kabbalah.

## Origin

Some of the earliest sources on Sandalphon refer to him as the prophet Elijah transfigured and elevated to angelic status.<sup>[1]</sup> Other sources (mainly from the midrashic period) describe him as the "twin brother" of Metatron, whose human origin as Enoch was similar to the human origin of Sandalphon.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Meaning of name

The name *Sandalphon*, the protector of unborn children. It is possibly derived from the Greek prefix *sym-/syn-*, meaning "together", and *adelphos*, meaning "brother"; thus approximately meaning "co-brother", since the modern Greek word for "co-worker", *synadelfos* (συνάδελφος), has these roots. This probably refers to Sandalphon's relationship to Metatron, though this derivation shows uncertain Semitic influences.<sup>[3]</sup> Another possibility is it coming from the Greek *sandalion*, meaning "sandal"; thus meaning "one who wears sandals".



*Sandalphon* by Florence Freeman

## Descriptions and functions

Physical descriptions of Sandalphon vary depending on the source. He is uniformly depicted as extremely tall—he exceeds Hadraniel (another angel) in height by a 500-year foot journey.<sup>[4][5]</sup> During Moses' visit to the Third Heaven, he is said to have glimpsed Sandalphon and called him the "tall angel" (though this legend dates to much later than the time of the Torah). The Babylonian Talmud *Hagigah* 13b says Sandalphon's head reaches Heaven, which is also said of Israfil and of the Greek monster Typhon, with whom Sandalphon seems to have similar mythological roots. He is also described as being a member of the *Sarim* (angelic princes), and a *Hazzan* (master of heavenly song).

In The Greater Key of Solomon, Sandalphon is designated "the left-hand feminine cherub of the Ark". In the liturgy for the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles, he is credited with gathering the prayers of the faithful, making a garland of such prayers, and then "adjuring them to ascend as an orb to the supreme King of Kings". In Enoch chapter 3, he is the ruler of the Sixth Heaven (*makom*) but in the Zohar he is "chief of the Seventh Heaven". According to Islamic lore, he dwells in the Fourth Heaven.<sup>[6]</sup> As Michael does, he carries on a ceaseless battle with Samael (perhaps Satan), angel of evil.

The ancient sages also referred to him by the name **Ophan** (Hebrew for "wheel"), a reference to the "wheel within the wheel" from Ezekiel's vision of the merkabah (heavenly chariot) in Ezekiel chapter 1.<sup>[7]</sup> Sandalphon is also said to be instrumental in bringing about the differentiation of sex in the embryo.

In Kabbalah, Sandalphon is the angel who represents the sephirah of *Malkhut*<sup>[8]</sup> and overlaps (or is confused with) the angel Metatron. He is said to appear before the feminine presence of the Shekhinah and supposedly receives the prayers of humans and sends them to God.

## References

- [1] Davidson, Gustav (1967), *A Dictionary of Angels, Including The Fallen Angels* ([http://books.google.com/books/about/A\\_dictionary\\_of\\_angels.html?id=Ed7yHWuTEewC](http://books.google.com/books/about/A_dictionary_of_angels.html?id=Ed7yHWuTEewC)), Free Press, p. 257, Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 66-19757, ISBN 9780029070505
  - [2] Angel Princes ([http://www.steliart.com/angelology\\_angel\\_princes.html](http://www.steliart.com/angelology_angel_princes.html))
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  - [5] "Who is Metatron" (<http://www.thechristianrabbi.org/whoismetatron.htm>) at Hebrew Witness (<http://www.thechristianrabbi.org>)
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  - [7] Pick, Bernard (1913), *The Cabala*, Chapter 2: "The Development of the Cabala in The Pre-Zohar Period," (<http://www.sacred-texts.com/jud/cab/cab04.htm>) at sacred-texts.com (<http://www.sacred-texts.com>)
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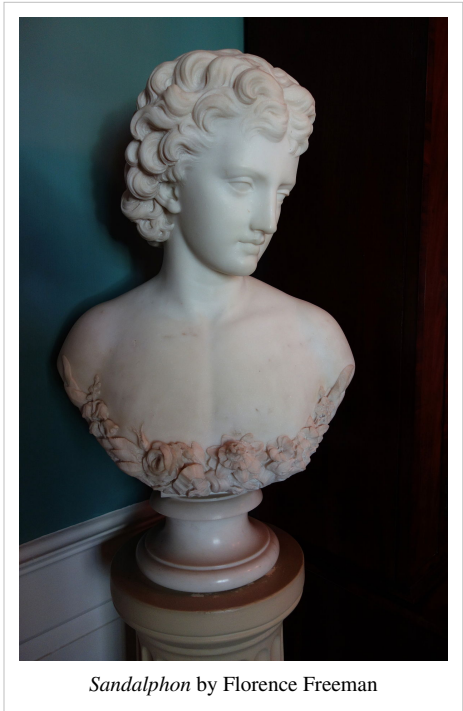
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**Sandalphon a.k.a. Sandolphon and Sandalfon ("co-brother")** - a giant angel and great *sarim* (prince) who, in Rabbinic lore, he is the twin brother of the mighty Metatron, *hazzan* (master) of song. Ruler of the tenth sephira and one of the tallest of the angels. He is charged with assigning each child a gender, upon its conception. Another of his duties is to weave the prayers of the faithful into a garland and send them on up to the King of Kings. He is also a regent of either the Third (according to Moses), Fourth (according to Islamic lore), Sixth (according to Enoch) or Seventh (according to the cabala) Heaven. *The Greater Key of Solomon* refers to Sandalphon as "the left-hand feminine Cherub of the ark." Like Michael, he is constantly battling Satan and he is said to like wearing sandals when he is in God's presence and leather shoes when visiting the Shekinah.

<http://hafapea.com/angelpages/angels6.html>