

# ANGELOLOGY

## Int.

1. Aim: To discuss what the Bible teaches about angels.
2. The Bible has much to say about the subject of Angels -- many things about angels we do not understand because they have not been revealed, but what has been revealed is very interesting.
  - a. Word Angel or Angels occurs 294 times in the Bible
  - b. These are real, literal beings that God created.
  - c. Sadducees denied existence of angels - but the Pharisees believe in angels - Acts 23:8  
**"For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both."**
3. Definition = "The word angel is applied in the Bible to an order of heavenly messengers whose duty is to serve God in Heaven and to aid and defend men on earth."
4. The study of angels is an interesting subject but not very often discussed.

## Discussion

### I. ORIGIN OF ANGELS

- A. They did not exist from all eternity
  1. Neh. 9:6 **"Thou, even thou, art Lord alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee."**
  2. Ps. 148:2,5 **"Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts."** - "Let them praise the name of the Lord: for he commanded, and they were created."
  3. Col. 1:17 **"And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."**
  4. 1 Tim. 6:16 - Only God and Christ and H.S. are eternal

B. When were angels created?

1. Not definitely stated
2. Gen. 2:1 **"Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them."**
3. Job. 38:7 **"When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?"**
4. Since angels were created, and they shouted for joy when God laid the foundations of the earth then we can conclude that angels were created by God sometime before He created the world.

## **II. NUMBER OF ANGELS**

A. No definite number is given in the Bible

B. Numberless

1. Dan. 7:10 **"A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened."**
2. Heb. 12:22 **"But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels."**
3. Matt. 26:53 **"Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?"**
4. Lk. 2:13 **"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying."**

## **III. NATURE OF ANGELS**

A. Not glorified human beings

1. Mt. 22:30 says we shall be like angels, but it does not say we shall be angels. **"For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven."**

2. The host of angels is distinguished from the "spirits of just men made perfect."

Heb. 12:22-23 **"But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, 23. To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect."**

B. They are spiritual beings

1. They do not have flesh & bones, but they are spirit

2. Heb. 1: 7 **"And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire."** -

3. Heb. 1:14 **"Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?"**

4. Ps. 78:25 "Angel's Food" --- does not mean what they ate but it was the food provided for the Israelites by the angels.

5. On some occasions angels have revealed themselves in bodily form

- a. Gen. 18 - 19 Sodom & Gomorrah

- b. Judges 2:1 6:11-24

- c. Matt. 1:20 Lk. 1:26 - Announced to Joseph and Mary -- Gabriel appeared to Mary Luke 1:26-38

- d. Jn. 20:12 - after death of Christ **"And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain."**

C. They are a company and not a race

1. The host of heaven - Heb. 12:22

2. They neither marry nor die - Lk. 20:34 **"And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: "**

3. The word angel in the Bible is always in the masculine gender. However, this is the gender used to discuss beings in which there is not sexual distinction.
4. Some think that Gen. 6:2 refers to angels who married the daughters of men.
  - a. This is not true because of the limitation of Lk.20:34-36
  - b. Sons of God = men who feared and obeyed God --moral men

D. Angels are greater than man in knowledge but they are not omniscient

1. Mt. 24:36 **"But of that day and hour knoweth no [man], no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."**
2. 1 Pet. 1:12 **"Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven: which things the angels desire to look into."**

E. They are stronger than man, though not omnipotent

1. Ps. 103:20 **"Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word."**
2. 2 Pet 2:11 **"Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord."**
3. 2 Thes. 1:7 **"And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,"**

F. They are not omnipresent as God

1. God can be in all places at all times
2. Angels can travel from place to place

- a. Dan. 9:21-23 **"Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. 22. And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. 23. At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision."**
- b. Ps. 139:7-12

#### **IV. THE FALL OF ANGELS**

- A. Some of them did fall
1. God created the angels - Ps. 148:2,5
  2. Did He create some good and some evil?
    - a. In Gen 1 == seven times we are told all that God created was good.
    - b. Gen. 1:31 **"And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day."**
  3. Some think Isa. 14:12-14 and Ezek 28:15-17 have a secondary meaning in referring to the fall of Satan
  4. Jude 6 **"And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day."**
  5. 2 Pet 2:4 **"For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment:"**
- B. The time of their fall
1. Scripture is silent
  2. But it was before the fall of man for it was Satan who induced Eve to sin.

3. Angels were created by God and were created Good - Gen. 1:31
  - a. Angels fell - 2 Pet. 2:4
  - b. The fall occurred before Genesis 3
  - c. Therefore the fall took place between Gen 1:1 and Gen.3

C. The cause of their fall

1. Angels like men must have the ability to sin and the ability not to sin. - They have the power of choice!!
2. The fall of angels was due to their deliberate revolt against God.
3. Pride seems to be a cause
  - a. Ezk 28:11-19
  - b. 1 Tim. 3:6 "**Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.**"

D. The result of their fall

1. They lost their holiness and became corrupt in nature and conduct
  - a. Eph. 6:12
  - b. Rev. 12:9 "**And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.**"
2. Some were cast down to Tartarus to be held in chains until the day of judgment - 2 Pet. 2:4
3. They will eventually be judged and cast into the lake of fire.

## **V. CLASSIFICATION OF ANGELS**

### A. Good angels

1. Angels - Word in Greek and Hebrew means messenger.

2. Cherubim

a. Mentioned in:

(1) Gen 3:24 **"So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life."**

(2) 2 kings 19:15 **"And Hezekiah prayed before the Lord, and said, O Lord God of Israel, which dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth: thou hast made heaven and earth."**

(3) Ezek. 10:1-20 28:14-16

b. Cherubim Means = to cover, to guard

c. They guard the entrance to Paradise and are represented as somehow supporting the throne of God.

d. Generally thought that the Cherubim are guardians of the throne of God.

e. Have wings - Ex. 25:10-22

f. Nothing about halo's and harps

3. Seraphim

a. I sa. 6:2,6 **"Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly."** ISA 6:6. **"Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar:"**

b. God is seated above the Cherubim - Ps. 90:1

c. But the seraphim stand above him. I sa. 6:2

- d. The Seraphim is concerned with worship and holiness. v.3,7]
4. Archangels - chief
- a. This occurs two times:
- (1) 1 Thes. 4:16 **"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:"**
  - (2) Jude 9 **"Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee."**
- b. The duties of archangels include:
- (1) Dan. 10:13,21 12:1 protecting Israel
  - (2) Lk. 1:26-28 Announcing birth of Jesus
  - (3) 1 Thes. 4:16-18 Announcing return of Christ
- c. Names of Archangels:
- (1) Michael - Jude 9
  - (2) Gabriel - Lk. 1:19,26 Dn. 8:16, 9:21
  - (3) In Apocrypha - Raphael & Uriel

## B. Evil Angels

1. Kept in Prison
  - a. 2 Pet. 2:4 **"For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment:"**
  - b. Jude 6 **"And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day."**

- c. God thrust them down to Tartarus, to be confined in pits of darkness, reserved in chains until the day of judgment
2. Evil angels that are free
- a. Mentioned in connection with Satan - their leader - Matt. 25:41 **"Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:"**
  - b. Mentioned separately - Rm. 8:38 1 Cor. 6:3
  - c. Chief occupation seems to be to support their leader Satan in his warfare against righteousness
    - (1) Eph. 6:12
    - (2) Col. 2:15
3. The Demons
- a. Word does not occur in KJV
  - b. Occurs two times in ASV - Deu. 32:17 Ps.106:37
  - c. Demons, evil spirits, and unclean spirits are all the same.
  - d. Will study "Demonology" soon

## **VI. WORK AND MISSION OF ANGELS**

### A. Work of good angels

#### 1. Their work in General

- a. They stand before the throne of God and worship him
  - (1) Mt. 18:10
  - (2) Rev. 5:11
  - (3) Ps. 148:2 **"Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts."**

- b. Execute his vengeance
- (1) Num. 22:31 - Balaam
  - (2) 2 Sam. 24:16
  - (3) 2 Thes. 1:7-9
- c. Administer God's law
- (1) Gal. 3:19 **"Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator."**
  - (2) Heb. 2:12
  - (3) Heb. 12:21-22
- d. Protect God's people
- (1) Dan. 3:28 6:22 **"My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt."**
  - (2) Acts 5:19 **"But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said,"**
  - (3) ACTS 12:11. **"And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews."**
  - (4) Heb. 1:14
- e. Many feel that angels are the instruments of God's providence which we know works for us today. This is quite different from the miraculous such as Acts 5:19 or Acts 8:26

- f. Angels do not bear the message of salvation to the world
  - (1) That responsibility is for man - Mk.16:15-16
  - (2) In Acts 8 & 10 angels were involved - but they only served to get the candidate for conversion and the preacher of the gospel together. Opened doors of opportunity
2. In connection with the life and ministry of Jesus
  - a. Lk.1:26-38 Mary was informed by Gabriel that she would be the mother of the Savior
  - b. Mt. 1:20 - Joseph was assured the conception was by the Holy Spirit
  - c. Lk. 2:8-15 Angels announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds
  - d. Mt. 4:11 - Angels ministered to Christ in the wilderness
  - e. Lk. 22:43 An angel strengthened Jesus in the garden
  - f. Mt.26:53 Jesus said the Father could send 12 legions of angels to help him.
  - g. Angels will accompany Him when he comes again
3. The future work of angels
  - a. Angels will accompany Christ when he returns
    - (1) 1 Thes. 4:16 **"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:"**
    - (2) Mt. 24:31 **"And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."**
  - b. They will gather together the elect at the return of Christ - Mt. 24:31
  - c. They will separate the true from the false at His coming - Mt. 13:49,50 **"So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just. 50. And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth."**

d. They will stand before the gates of New Jerusalem - Rev. 21:12

## B. The work of Evil Angels

1. They work with Satan in carrying out his work against righteousness and all who would be servants of God.
2. They teach false doctrine and are false teachers - 2 Thes. 2:2 1 Tim. 4:1 2 Cor. 11:13-15
3. Some of the false doctrines which are taught and attributed to angels are as follows:
  - a. Fortune telling -- This is human wisdom, superstition and Astrology. When people claim the ability to read the future they attribute the power to the divine which is demonology.
  - b. Worship of Demons - some are devil worshippers - Israel sacrificed to Demons - Deut. 32:17 1 Cor. 10:20
  - c. Spiritism - this is the belief that the living can communicate with the dead - 1 Sam. 28:3ff

## **VII. THE DESTINY OF ANGELS**

### A. Destiny of good angels

1. We have every reason to believe that they will continue in the service of God throughout all eternity
2. Rev. 21:12 - John saw angels at the 12 gates of the city of heaven.

### B. Destiny of evil angels

1. Mt. 25:41 - will be cast into hell
2. Pet. 2:4 Will be judged
3. Rev. 20:10 - will be cast into the lake of fire
4. God has not provided for the salvation of fallen angels - Heb. 2:16

## **VIII. WHAT ABOUT GUARDIAN ANGELS ?**

- A. Ps. 91:11
- B. Best to call it - Attendant or ministering angels
- C. Bumper sticker "Angels are watching over me."
- D. These angels do not suggest thought to us, convert us, nor act independent of God, nor engage in guarding only
- E. Some other scriptures which uphold the idea:
  1. Mt. 18:10 **"Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven."**
  2. Heb. 1:14
  3. Ps.34:7 **"The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them."**
  4. Acts 27:23 **"For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve,"**

## **IX. ANGEL WORSHIP FORBIDDEN**

- A. Col. 2:18 **"Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,"**
- B. Rev. 22:8-9 **"And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. 9. Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God."**
- C. Though they may minister to us in many ways in carrying out God's providence, they are not objects of worship. We are to Worship God!!

D. Gal. 1:8-9 warned to not listen to an angle today - "**But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 9. As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.**"

### **Conclusion**

1. The study of Angels is interesting and we should know what the Bible teaches on this subject -- Angelology.
2. I have never seen an angel nor do I expect to see one while I live, but I believe there are Angels because the Bible tells me so.
3. Angels are an important part of God's work.
4. The angels rejoice - Lk. 15:10 - over sinners that repent
5. Angels never told anyone what to do to be saved - Gospel and the teaching of the gospel has been left in earthen vessels - 2 Cor. 4:7
6. Angels rejoice at the conversion of the lost.
7. If you are in a lost condition, then you can make the angels in heaven rejoice by obeying the gospel.

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