

The Holy Angels

Ministers of God

I. The Biblical Evidence

- OT over 100x
- NT over 150x
- Throughout biblical history
- In many different authors (34)
 - 17 in the OT
 - 17 in the NT
- Our Lord identifies as real beings (e.g., Matt. 13:39; 22:30; 25:31).

II. The Nature of Angels

■ A. Created Beings

- Ps. 148:2, 5 - Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts! ... Let them praise the name of the LORD, For He commanded and they were created.
- Col. 1:16 - For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created through Him and for Him.

Created Beings

■ When?

- Gen. 2:1 – all creation was complete
- Job 38:6-7 –angels present when He formed the universe

■ By whom?

- Christ
- John 1:3 - All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.
- Col. 1:16 – For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created through Him and for Him.

Created Beings

■ In What State?

- Holy
- All creation “good” (Gen. 1:31)
- Jude 6 - And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode

■ How many?

- Deut. 33:2 - He said, "The LORD came from ... the midst of ten thousand holy ones
- Heb. 12:22 – myriads (lit., 10,000)
- Rev. 5:11 – myriad of myriads and thousands of thousands; i.e., apparently countless.

II. The Nature of Angels

- A. Created Beings

- B. Spirit Beings

- Heb. 1:14 - Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?
- Luke 24:39 - "... a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."

- C. Powerful Beings

- 2 Pet. 2:11 - "greater in might and power" than humans
- Ps. 103:20 - the mighty ones

II. The Nature of Angels

- D. Intelligent Beings (Matt. 8:29; 2 Cor. 11:3; 1 Pet. 1:12)
- E. Emotional Beings (Luke 2:13; 15:10; Jam. 2:19; Rev. 12:17)
- F. Moral Beings – (Luke 8:28-31; 2 Tim. 2:26; 2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6)
- G. Finite Beings
 - Knowledge (Matt. 24:36; 1 Pet. 1:11-12)
 - Power (Dan. 10:13; Jude 9; Rev. 7:1)
 - Space (Dan. 10:12-14; Luke 1:26)
- H. Immortal (Luke 20:36)

III. The Organization of Angels

■ A. Archangel

- Michael (Jude 9), “who is like God?”
- Leads the angelic army (Rev. 12:7-8)
- Will announce Christ’s return (1 Th. 4:16)
- “One of the chief princes” (Dan. 10:13); suggests there are others.
- Gabriel is the only other mentioned by name:
 - Messenger to Daniel (Dan. 8:16; 9:21).
 - Announced birth of John the Baptist to Zacharias (Luke 1:19)
 - Announced birth of Christ to Mary (Luke 1:26-27).

III. The Organization of Angels

■ B. Cherubim

- Described in Ezek. 1:5-14
- Guarded the gate to Eden (Gen. 3:24).
- Hovered over the ark of the covenant, the symbol of God's throne in Israel (Ex. 25:22).
- Served as the bearers and movers of God's throne.
 - Ps. 18:10; Ezek. 1:15ff; 10:1-22; Rev. 4:8

III. The Organization of Angels

- C. Seraphim
 - “Burning ones”
 - Only mentioned and described in Is. 6:2-7
 - Each has a face, feet, hands, and six wings.
 - Constantly worship God (6:3)
 - Defend His holiness.
- D. Other categories (Eph. 1:21; Col. 1:16)

Other Angelic Categories (Eph. 1:21)

- 1) *Rule (arche)* = always of primacy or first place in rank; these are the angelic rulers.
- 2) *Authority (exousia)* = one who has freedom to act, to make decisions; angelic beings in a position of authority with the right to act and make decisions.
- 3) *Power (dunamis)* = another category simply described as having remarkable power.
- 4) *Dominion (kuriotes)* = someone having the position as lord.

IV. The Ministry of Angels

A. To God

- Job 1:6 – wait in His presence for a command
- Job 38:6-7 – rejoice in His actions
- Ps. 103: - 20 – do whatever He commands
- Ps. 148: 1-2 – praise
- Is. 6:3 – praise
- Heb. 1:6 – worship

B. To Christ

- Predicted his birth (Matt. 1:20)
- Announced his birth (Luke 2:8-15)
- Warned his parents (Matt. 2:13-15)
- Told his parents it was safe to return to Israel (Matt. 2:19-21)
- Ministered to him after the temptation (Matt. 4:11)
- Ministered to him in Gethsemane (Luke 22:43)
- Stood ready to deliver him from the cross (Matt. 26:53)
- Rolled away the stone from the tomb (Matt. 28:1-2)
- Announced his resurrection (Matt. 28:5-6)
- Present at the ascension (Acts 1:10-11)
- Call to the church at the Rapture (1 Th. 4:16; the archangel)
- Accompany him at the 2nd Coming (2 Th. 1:7)
- Separate the wheat from the tares (Matt. 13:39-40)

C. To Unbelievers

- Announce God's judgments (Gen. 19:13; Rev. 14:6-7; 19:17-18)
- Separate the unrighteous from the righteous (Matt. 13:39-40)
- Carry out God's judgments (Acts 12:23; Rev. 16:1)

D. To Believers

- Generally minister (Heb. 1:14)
- Physical protection (Ps. 91:11-13; Acts 5:19; 12:7-11)
- Physical provision (1 Kings 19:5-7 – food for Elijah)
- Assisted in revelation of God's Law (Acts 7:38, 53)
- Assist in answers to prayer (Dan. 9:20-27; Acts 12:5-10)
- Aid in getting the gospel message to the lost (Acts 8:26 – Ethiopian official; 10:3 – Cornelius)
- Encourage (Acts 27:23-24)
- Observe (1 Cor. 4:9; 11:10; Eph. 3:10; 1 Pet. 1:12)
- Escort souls of believers to heaven (Luke 16:22)

V. The Application of the Truth about Angels

- A. Remind us that the unseen world is real.
- B. Serve as an example of obedience to God.
- C. Provide an example of worship.
- D. Demonstrate God's sovereign, electing grace.
- E. Show the special place the men and women have in God's redemptive purpose.

The Dark Side

The Truth about Satan & Demons

I. Their Origin

- 2 Pet. 2:4 - if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment.
- Jude 6 - Angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day
- A. Satan
 - Ezek. 28:11-19
 - Is. 14:12-17

NAMES OF SATAN

NAME	MEANING	CITATION
Satan	Adversary	Matthew 4:10
Devil	Slanderer	Matthew 4:10
Evil one	Intrinsically evil	John 17:15
Great red dragon	Destructive creature	Revelation 12:3, 7, 9
Serpent of old	Deceiver in Eden	Revelation 12:9
Abaddon	Destruction	Revelation 9:11
Apollyon	Destroyer	Revelation 9:11
Adversary	Opponent	1 Peter 5:8
Beelzebul	Lord of the fly (Baalzebub)	Matthew 12:24
Belial	Worthless (Beliar)	2 Corinthians 6:15
God of this world	Controls philosophy of world	2 Corinthians 4:4
Prince of the power of the air	Rules in world system	John 12:31
Enemy	Opponent	Matthew 13:28
Tempter	Solicits people to sin	Matthew 4:3
Murderer	Leads people to eternal death	John 8:44
Liar	Perverts the truth	John 8:44
Accuser	Opposes believers before God	Revelation 12:10

I. Their Origin

- B. Demons (various views)
 - Spirits of evil, deceased people
 - Spirits of a Pre-Adamic race of people
 - Offspring of a sexual union between sinning angels and women (Gen. 6:1-4).
 - Fallen angels

II. Their Activity

- A. To encourage every being in the universe to sin, of which he is the originator and father.
 - John 8:44 - "You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

II. Their Activity

- B. To build a counterfeit kingdom which reflects his character and priorities and over which he rules.
 - “the prince of *this* world” (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11)
 - “the god of *this* world” (2 Cor. 4:4)
 - *Kosmos* = this evil world system; “the present condition of human affairs” (Vine).
 - *Aion* = “All that floating mass of thoughts, opinions, maxims, speculations, hopes, impulses, aims, aspirations, at any time current in the world, which it may be impossible to seize and accurately define, but which constitute a most real and effective power, being the moral, or immoral, atmosphere which at every moment of our lives we inhale.” (Trench, R. C.)

II. Their Activity

- C. To promote damning, false religion.
 - Deut. 32:16-17
 - Ps. 106:35-37
 - 1 Cor. 10:20

II. Their Activity

- D. To pervert the true worship of God.
 - 1) To present another Jesus
 - 1 John 4:2-3 - By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.
 - 1 Cor. 12:3 - Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

II. Their Activity

- D. To pervert the true worship of God.
 - 2) To present a different gospel
 - 1 Tim. 4:1 - But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons
 - 3) To promote antinomianism
 - Rev. 2:20-24 – demons attempt to convince professing Christians that what the Bible forbids is acceptable.

II. Their Activity

- E. To prevent the spread and comprehension of the gospel.
 - Matt. 13:19 – the evil one snatches the word
 - Matt. 13:39 – the devil sows tares or false believers
 - 1 Th. 2:18 – we wanted to come to you-- I, Paul, more than once-- and yet Satan hindered us.
 - Rev. 2:10 – 'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life

II. Their Activity

- F. To undermine the faith of true Christians.
 - Job 1:6-11
 - Luke 22:31 - “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded *permission* to sift you like wheat”

III. Their Defeat

- A. Prophesied in Eden (Gen. 3:15)
- B. Accomplished at the Cross
 - Col. 2:15 - When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.
- C. Will Be Executed in the Future
 - Matt. 25:41 - "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;
 - Rom. 16:20 – The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.
 - Rev. 20:10 - the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

IV. Application

- A. Our God is in complete control of the forces of Satan
 - 1 Kings 22:19-23
 - Job 1:12, 21; 2:3, 5-6
- B. Tolerating sin exposes us to some kind of influence from the devil (Eph. 4:26).

IV. Application

- C. Our real enemy is never people (Eph. 6:11-12)
- D. We must put on the armor of God (Eph. 6:11ff).