

deeper

word faith life

Season 5

Healing

Angels

The Devil and Demons

Strongholds and Spiritual Warfare

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Episode 3 – Angels

In Systematic Theology, the subject of Angels falls under the Doctrine of God's Providence. Angels are by definition messengers fulfilling God's providential will in relation to mankind and the world.

The word [ANGEL] in the Greek is [ANGELOS] which simply means "a messenger". It may refer to a human messenger as in Mark 1:2 "as it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way", referring to John the baptiser. (also Matthew 11:10, Luke 7:27, Luke 7:24, Luke 9:52, and James 2:25) All other mention of "angelos" in the New Testament refers to a heavenly messenger, a superhuman being. This is what we will be concentrating on during this discussion.

The existence of angels is recognised throughout the entire Bible. In the Old Testament the Hebrew word for angel, [MALAK], appears 114 times and in the New Testament the Greek word [ANGELOS] is used 169 times. There are a number of instances in the Old Testament where other terms used for angels include, "sons of God", "holy ones", "watchers", and "hosts". But where the term angel is used, there can be no question as to it referring to a heavenly messenger. Jesus also affirmed their existence on numerous occasions during His earthly ministry. The only group in New Testament times who didn't believe in their existence were the Sadducees.

Let's take a closer look at these rather mysterious beings.

Drawing on Biblical accounts, angels never draw attention to themselves, but rather to something else, like a momentous God event in human history. They appeared at the birth of Jesus, His resurrection, His ascension, and they will appear at His return. The Bible says little of their being, and more of their actions. We should not obsess about angels, expecting to see them at every turn. Most of the time we are totally unaware of their presence or actions.

Angels are _____ Beings - Angels are either holy or unholy. The holy angels is our main focus and also that of scripture. According to 2 Peter and Jude, there are angels who sinned and as a result lost their position in heaven. They are in darkness awaiting the final judgement.

2 Peter 2:4 NIV

"For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment,"

Jude 1:6 NIV

"These He has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day."

In Matthew, Jesus spoke of, "the devil and his angels" (Matthew 25:41) The book of Revelation speaks of, "the dragon (Satan) and his angels." (Revelation 12:7-9)

It is clear from 2 Peter and Jude that the unholy angels are fallen angels, and in Matthew and Revelation, they are associated with Satan. It is possible that demons or unclean/evil spirits are fallen angels, but that connection is not specifically made in the Bible.

The fact that there are holy and unholy angels indicates that angels are moral beings. The fallen angels were guilty of an unholy moral decision, and that the holy angels did not make such a decision, but chose to stay in the will of God. In scripture all angels sent by God are always on the side of righteousness and justice, and carry out God's intention.

Angels are _____ - Angels are pure spiritual beings.

Hebrews 1:14 NIV

"Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?"

Angels are real beings who's nature, like that of God, is wholly spiritual. They are without bodies or incorporeal; they have no flesh and bones. But angels may appear in



human form, and this is the consistent Biblical narrative.

Hebrews 13:2 NIV

“Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.”

As spirits, angels are not bound to any particular place. They can appear suddenly and disappear, moving freely and invisibly without limitation or barrier. Their abode is in heaven, and from there they move to and return from any earthly place or situation, at the Lord's bidding.

Angels are _____ Beings - They were created by God, they are His creatures.

Psalms 148:1-5 NIV

“Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the heights above. Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His heavenly hosts.

Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you shining stars. Praise Him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies. Let them praise the name of the Lord, for at His command they were created,”

Colossians 1:16 NIV

“For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him.”

This refers to the angelic beings in heaven. God created the visible universe as well as the invisible realm of angelic beings, they are also His creation. The Bible doesn't tell us when they were created, but we can safely say that it was before mankind.

Job 38:4,7 NIV

“Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand.

...while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?”

Also in Genesis 3, Satan who was himself the fallen angel Lucifer, appeared to Adam and Eve as a serpent.

Angels are creatures, not the creator. They are not omnipresent as God alone is, they are also not omniscient as only God is, neither are they omnipotent as God the Almighty alone is.

Angels are much less than God, they are His created, finite creatures, and are therefore definitely NOT to be worshipped.

Colossians 2:18 NIV

“Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind.”

Revelation 19:10 NIV

“At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “Don't do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers and sisters who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For it is the Spirit of prophecy who bears testimony to Jesus.”

God alone is to be worshiped and adored, never His angels.

Angels are _____ - They are not merely impersonal spiritual forces. In the Bible, we see that two angels are given names: Gabriel and Michael. In Luke 1:26, Gabriel is specifically called, “the angel Gabriel”. He speaks to both Zechariah and Mary.(Luke 1:12-20, 28-38)

In the book of Daniel, Michael is called “the great prince”.(Daniel 12:1) Also as “the archangel Michael” in Jude 1:9. “Michael and his angels” are referred to in Revelation 12:7. Angels are personal beings.

They also possess intelligence and wisdom and are often referenced in scripture as having conversations with people. The “three men” who visited Abraham and Lot in Genesis 18-19. Zechariah conversed with an unnamed angel in Zechariah 1-6. Gabriel spoke to



Daniel, Zachariah, (John's father) and Mary.

Angels are rational creatures who have a desire to understand the things related to our salvation.

1 Peter 1:12 NIV

"It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things."

Angels are also capable of experiencing joy.

Luke 15:10 NIV

"In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Even as angels rejoiced at the creation of the world, and they rejoice at the event of one sinner coming to salvation, they will also rejoice and call others to do the same at the great consummation of the marriage of Christ and His bride.

Revelation 19:6-8 NIV

"Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.

Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God's holy people.)

Angels are Beings - They are often referred to in this Bible as being powerful, mighty, and of great strength. They are not almighty, but they are still mighty beings.

Psalms 103:20-21 NIV

"Praise the Lord, you His angels, you mighty ones who do His bidding, who obey His word.

Praise the Lord, all His heavenly hosts, you His servants who do His will."

2 Thessalonians 1:7 NIV

"This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with His powerful angels."

Angels also use their power to strengthen those in need.

Daniel 10:18 NIV

"Again the one who looked like a man touched me and gave me strength."

Luke 22:42-43 NIV

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." An angel from heaven appeared to Him and strengthened Him."

Angels are immortal - They are immortal, but not eternal. They have a beginning, but once created by God they never cease to exist.

Luke 20:36 NIV

"and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are God's children, since they are children of the resurrection."

Angels are spirit beings and so do not experience death. They may however experience judgement as in the case of the fallen angels.

Memory Verse

Hebrews 1:14 NIV

"Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?"

