

Everything You Need To Know About Angels

Introduction :

1. The subject of angels intrigues many people. Why?
 - a. People possess a spirit of inquisitiveness – We are all curious about the unknown. Some people want to see the unseen and others claim that they can see the unseen.
 - b. People possess a spirit of hopelessness – They are looking for answers and for something to ease their fragile spirit. They want to know that someone or something is near when they need help.
 - c. People possess a spirit of selfishness – Christians are called to be servants, but our society would rather be served. Angels are called ministering spirits or servants. Some people want to know what the angels can do for them.
 - d. People possess a spirit of awareness – Our religious neighbors are conditioning themselves for the end times. They are looking for signs and wonders and trying to prepare for the second coming.
2. There are several television shows with actors posing as angels, there are books about angels, and even songs about angels.
 - a. Who are these angels mentioned in the Bible?
 - b. What does the Bible say about them?
3. Angels are messengers or ministers with attributes often compared to human Haggai 1:13 and Luke 7:24 but very different.
4. Lets take a look at some definitions:

ANGEL (NNIBD) - a member of an order of heavenly beings who are superior to human beings in power and intelligence. By nature angels are spiritual beings (Hebrews 1:14). Their nature is superior to human nature (Hebrews 2:7), and they have superhuman power and knowledge (II Samuel 14:17,20, II Peter 2:11). They are not, however, all-powerful and all-knowing (Psalms 103:20, II Thessalonians 1:7).

ANGELS (SBD) - By the word “angels” (i.e., “messengers” of God) we ordinarily understand a race of spiritual beings of a nature exalted far above that of man, although infinitely removed from that of God-whose office is “to do him service in heaven, and by his appointment to succor and defend men on earth.”
5. The word angel (“malak” - Hebrew and “aggelos” - Greek) appears several times throughout the entire Bible (211 - OT and 188 - NT).
 - a. In heaven we will be like the angels (Mark 12:25).
 - b. Exactly how this will happen is unknown to us (I John 3:2).
6. Let’s study together about these heavenly beings

Discussion :

- I. *What Do We Know About The Number and Origin of Angels?*
 - A. Numbers - There are multitudes of them, in fact they are innumerable (Matthew 24:53, Luke 2:13, Hebrews 12:22).
 - B. Names - There are several names given to angels:
 1. Sons of God - Job 1:6, 2:1, 38:7
 2. Stars of heaven - Job 38:7, Isaiah 14:13 Revelation 12:4,7
 3. Michael (stands for the people) - Daniel 10:13, 12:1, Jude 9, Revelation 12:7
 4. Gabriel (stands in the presence of God) - Daniel 8:16, 9:21, Luke 1:19

- C. Origin - They are created beings.
 1. God created the angels (Nehemiah 9:6, Psalms 148:2-5).
 2. Jesus created the angels (John 1:3, Colossians 1:15-17).
 3. They were created before the foundation of the world (Job 38:4-7).
 4. They rejoiced when God created the world (Job 38:4-7)
 5. They have a spirit similar to that of humans (Psalm 148:1-5).

II. *What Is The Order & Rank of Angels?*

- A. The Angel of the Lord (Probably above all of these but is an interesting study)
 1. He is sometimes described as the Lord Himself (Genesis 16:10-13, Exodus 3:2-6, 23:20, Judges 6:11-18), but at other times as one sent by God.
 2. The Lord used this messenger to appear to human beings who otherwise would not be able to see Him and live (Exodus 33:20).
 3. The Angel of the Lord performed actions associated with God, such as revelation, deliverance, and destruction; but he can be spoken of as distinct from God (II Samuel 24:16, Zechariah 1:12).
 4. This special relationship has led many to conclude that the Angel of the Lord was Jesus in a pre-incarnate form.
- B. Archangel - Also named Michael (I Thessalonians 4:15, Jude 9, Revelation 12:7).
- C. Chief Princes - Michael is said to be one of these (Daniel 10:13).
- D. Seraphim - They are above the throne of God (Isaiah 6:2,6).
- E. Cherubim - They have had several duties:
 1. One of their most important functions is their presence under the throne of God (Ezekiel 10:19-20, 11:22, Psalm 80:1, 99:1).
 2. Figures of cherubim on the Ark of the Covenant (Exodus 37:6-9, I Samuel 4:4)
 3. They also guarded the gate in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:24).
- F. Various other angels (I Kings 22:19, Matthew 24:53, Luke 2:13, Hebrews 12:22).

III. *What Is The Nature & Attributes of Angels?*

- A. Angels are termed "spirits," in Hebrews 1:14, but it is not affirmed that the angelic nature is a bodiless form (Mark 12:25, Colossians 1:16-18, Hebrews 1:7).
 1. In fact, the contrary seems to be implied in Luke 20:36, Philippians 3:21.
 2. They are like man and are always beholding God's face (Matthew 18:10).
- B. As already noted, their number must be very large (I Kings 22:19, Matthew 26:53, Hebrews 12:22), but their strength is also great (Psalm 103:20, Revelation 5:2, 18:21) and their work is amazing (Isaiah 6:2-6, Matthew 26:53, Revelation 8:13).
- C. It seems that their appearance varies according to circumstances, but is often brilliant and dazzling (Matthew 28:2-7, Acts 1:9-11, Revelation 10:1)
- D. Their office in heaven is only vague in most of the scriptures (I Kings 22:19, Isaiah 6:1-3, Daniel 7:9-10, Revelation 6:11) but they do show us that they have an adoration for God that never ceases.
- E. They are represented as being, in the widest sense, agents of God's providence, natural and supernatural, to the body and soul (Matthew 13:39-49, 16:27, 24:31).
- F. Artistic portrayals of angels as winged beings are generally without basis in the Bible, but it is not unheard of to see an angel so described. (Like the Cherubim, Seraphim, and the living creatures (Exodus 25:20, Isaiah 6:2,6, Ezekiel 1:6, Revelation 4:8).
- G. They are not omnipotent but are very powerful (I Peter 3:22, Revelation 12:7).
- H. They are not omnipresent but are very quick (Daniel 9:21-23).
- I. They are not omniscient but have amazing knowledge (Matthew 24:36, I Peter 1:12).
- J. They are eternal beings (Job 38:1-7, Luke 20:36).
- K. They do not marry and are without sex in God's habitation (Mark 12:25).

- L. They also have the power to appear as humans (Genesis 19:1-5, Hebrews 13:2) but are considered to be a little higher than humans (Psalm 8:4-5, Ephesians 6:12, Hebrews 2:9, 2:16).
- M. They also have the power to appear to people.
 - 1. Hagar (Genesis 16:7, 21:17)
 - 2. Abraham (Genesis 18:1-2, 22:11)
 - 3. Lot (Genesis 19:1)
 - 4. Balaam (Numbers 22:31)
 - 5. The Israelites (Judges 2:1)
 - 6. Gideon (Judges 6:11-12)
 - 7. Manoah's wife (Judges 13:2-3)
 - 8. David (I Chronicles 21:15-16)
 - 9. Elijah (I Kings 19:5-7)
 - 10. Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 3:24-25)
 - 11. Daniel (Daniel 8, 9, 10)
 - 12. Joseph (Matthew 1:20)
 - 13. Jesus (Matthew 4:11, Luke 2:43)
 - 14. Mary Magdalene (Matthew 28:1-2)
 - 15. Zecharias (Luke 1:11-12)
 - 16. Mary (Luke 1:26-27)
 - 17. The Shepherds (Luke 2:8-14)
 - 18. Peter (Acts 5:19-20, 12:7)
 - 19. Philip (Acts 8:26)
 - 20. Cornelius (Acts 10:3)
 - 21. Paul (Acts 27:23-24)
- N. Some people believe that each person has a guardian angel especially little children and this is especially based on passages like Matthew 18:10 and Acts 12:15.
- O. Angels represent God in making significant announcements of good news (Genesis 18:9-10, Luke 1:13,30, 2:8-15).
- P. They also warn of coming dangers (Genesis 18:16-19:29, Matthew 2:13).
- Q. They are God's agents in destruction and judgment (Genesis 19:13, II Samuel 24:16).
- R. They have free will to be good or wicked (II Peter 2:4, Jude 6, Revelation 12:7).

IV. *What Is The Mission & Work of Angels?*

- A. The good angels are God's workers and do God's mission (Psalm 103:20).
 - 1. When visible to human beings, angels consistently appear in human form (Genesis 18:2, Daniel 10:18, Zechariah 2:1), however, their appearance still inspires awe (Judges 13:6, Matthew 28:3-4, Luke 24:4).
 - 2. One interesting note is that angels are rarely known to appear to wicked people, again because God uses them for His mission.
 - 3. They only appear to those whom the Bible views as good, such as Abraham, Moses, David, Daniel, Jesus, Peter, and Paul.
- B. They are charged with caring for good people and serving them in times of need (Psalms 91:11-12, Matthew 4:11, Hebrews 1:14) and in this way they minister to the righteous (Acts 12:7, 27:23).
- C. They also guide and instruct good people (Genesis 24:7,40, Exodus 14:19).
 - 1. This task is illustrated by the role the angels played in God's giving of the Law to Moses (Acts 7:38,53, Hebrews 2:2).
 - 2. Sometimes the guidance of angels comes through human dreams (Genesis 28:12, 31:11, Matthew 1:20-21, 2:12).
- D. They protect the people of God (Exodus 14:19-20, II Kings 6:15-17, Psalm 34:7, Daniel 3:28, Matthew 26:53, Hebrews 1:7).
 - 1. They meet a wide variety of human needs, including relieving hunger and thirst (Genesis 21:17-19, Mark 1:13) and overcoming loneliness (Luke 22:43).
 - 2. They sometimes deliver the people of God from danger (Acts 5:19, 12:6-11).
- E. They affect God's judgments (Numbers 22:31, II Samuel 24:16, II Thessalonians 1:7-8).
- F. They administer God's law and message to man (Galatians 3:19, Hebrews 2:11-13).
- G. They work in the destiny of nations (Daniel 10:1-3, 12-13, 20-21).
 - 1. The angels worked with Cyrus to reveal God's word (Ezra 1:1-2).
 - 2. Cyrus was stirred by an angel, as was prophesied 100 years earlier, to act upon Daniel's preaching (Isaiah 44:28, 45:1).

- H. They attended the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.
 - 1. Before His birth (Luke 1:26-28)
 - 2. At His birth (Luke 2:8-15)
 - 3. His temptation (Matthew 4:11)
 - 4. During His life (Matthew 26:53)
 - 5. His resurrection (Matthew 28:1-7)
 - 6. His ascension (Acts 1:11)
 - 7. Now subject to Him (I Peter 3:22)
 - 8. Second coming (Matthew 25:31)
- I. They can work as guardian angels (Daniel 12:1, Matthew 18:10, Acts 12:15, Revelation 2:1) but not in a miraculous personal way (I Corinthians 13:8-13).
- J. They are active in the prayers of the righteous (Daniel 9:20-23, James 5:16).
- K. They are present and involved in our worship assembly (I Corinthians 11:10).
- L. They withstand Satan and his angels (Zechariah 3:1-2, Revelation 12:7-12).
- M. They attend the souls of the righteous dead (Luke 16:22).
- N. They will herald the end of time (Romans 10:1-6).
- O. The voice of the archangel will be heard at Christ's second coming (John 5:28-29, I Thessalonians 4:16).
- P. When Christ comes again He will come with His mighty angels (Matthew 25:31, II Thessalonians 1:7-8).
- Q. They are God's mighty heavenly army (Isaiah 14:12-15) the same as we are the Lord earthly army (Ephesians 6:10-20).

V. *What Is The Role of Angels in Salvation?*

- A. They do not tell sinners what they need to do to be saved.
 - 1. In the New Testament the angels spoke to the preacher or to the sinner to send for a preacher, but did not relay how to be saved, that is the work of man (Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16).
 - 2. In Acts 8:26 an angel spoke to Philip not the eunuch.
 - 3. In Acts 10:3, 11:14 the angel told Cornelius to send for Peter.
 - 4. The gospel message is in the hands of earthen vessels (II Corinthians 4:7).
- B. Any angel that preaches any other message is cursed (Galatians 1:6-9).
- C. It is important to note that they are not the objects of salvation, but angels are interested in the salvation of human beings because they rejoice when sinners repent (Luke 15:10, I Corinthians 4:9).
- D. When it comes to salvation the choice is ours.
 - 1. Satan seeks to take away the word (Matthew 13, Luke 8:12).
 - 2. However, at the same time good angels seek to cause the sinner to accept the word and become obedient to God, and rejoice when he obeys.

Conclusion :

- 1. The frequency with which angels participate in human affairs has diminished since Pentecost, probably because of two reasons:
 - a. The Holy Scriptures are given to us by God.
 - b. There is a larger role played by the Holy Spirit in the lives of Christians.
- 2. Jesus spoke frequently of angels, both good and bad (Matthew 13:41, 26:53, Mark 8:38, Luke 12:8-9).
- 3. However, we need to understand their place and should not confuse it with that of God the Father, the Son, or the Holy Spirit.
- 4. Above all, we must know God is greater, and it would be an insult to Him if we worshipped one of His creations, like an angel.
- 5. Mankind is blessed above all the angels, especially the fallen angels because they have no plan of salvation (John 3:16, 14:1-3, II Peter 3:2).
- 6. We should be thankful for the invitation from Jesus to come unto Him (Matthew 11:28, Revelation 22:17)!!!