

ANGELS

God's messengers

In the 4000 years of history represented by the 39 books of the Old Testament, angels were mentioned 100 times, however in the 2000 years of history represented by the 27 books of the New testament, angels are mentioned 165 times.

Are things heating up?

You hear a lot about angels these days and from people who *seem* to know a lot about them. Books with intriguing titles such as, "*In the Presence of Angels*," "*Ask Your Angel*," "*Commune with the Angels*," "*Touched by Angels*," "*Messengers of Light*" and "*Creating with the Angels*," etc. Upon reading some of the concepts from these books, it becomes quite obvious the authors did not get their information from the Bible. The angels they describe better fit the description of demons leading mankind away from Christ, the only authorized mediator between God and man.

From the 265 times the Bible (KJV) mentions angels, shouldn't we be able to glean a fair knowledge of them? *Who* they are, *what* do they do, *what* do they *not* do, *where* do they come from? Are they *good*; are they *bad*, just how *powerful* are they? Am I going to answer all of these questions? Probably not, but I can take you to a better source for answers than books written by mankind.

We have in our possession a book that was inspired by the very God who created the angels. What better authority is there than that? Following are biblical facts we know about angels. Let's start with the first fact.

WHAT ARE ANGELS?

1. *God's word tells us they are created beings:*

Ps. 148:5: "Let them praise the name of the LORD: for he commanded, and *they were created.*"

John 1:3: "All things were made by him; and *without* him was not any thing made that was made."

2. *When were they created?*

We don't know when, but we do know they were present when the earth was formed:

Job 38:7: (Speaking about the creation). "When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?"

3. *What is our present position in relation to angels?*

Ps. 8:4-5: "What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visited him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor." Also see Hebrews. 2:6-10.

4. *What is our future relationship to angels?*

I Cor. 6:2-3: "Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? And if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? How much more things that pertain to this life?"

What Are The Characteristics Of Angels?

5. *They are immortal:*

Ps. 148:6: (Speaking of angels) "He hath also *established*

them forever and ever: he hath made a decree which shall not pass.”

Luke 20:36: (Speaking of the resurrection of the just) “Neither can they die any more: for they are *equal unto the angels*; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.”

6. They are spirit beings:

Heb. 1:14: (Speaking of angels) “Are they not all ministering spirits---”

Ps. 104:4: (God) “Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire.”

7. Being spirits they are invisible, but can manifest themselves in visible forms:

Heb 13:2: “Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”

How many angels have you unknowingly conversed with?

II Kings 6:16-17: (When surrounded by the enemy) “And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, 'LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see.' And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.”

8. They are extremely powerful:

Ps. 103:20: “Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.” (Also II Tim. 1:7)

9. No angel is powerful enough to separate us from God:

Rom. 8:38-39: “For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, *nor angels*, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

10. They are not omnipresent, but do have freedom of movement:

Dan. 9:21 AMP: “While I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the former vision, being caused to *fly swiftly, came near to me* and touched me about the time of the evening sacrifice.”

11. Their number is beyond counting:

Rev. 5:11: “And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands.”

Dan. 7:10: “A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: a thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.” (Also Heb. 12:22).

12. They have emotions:

Luke 15:10: “Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repents.”

13. They do not marry:

Matt. 22:30: “For in the resurrection they (*mankind being then spiritual*) neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.”

14. They are individuals who have free will to obey or disobey:

Ps. 103:20: “Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.”

Rev. 12:7: “And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels.”

15. They are intelligent:

II Sam. 14:20 (speaking to King David) “My lord has wisdom like the *wisdom of the angel of God...*”

16. They are not all knowing:

Matt. 24:36 “But of that day and hour (Christ’s return) knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.”

17. They are very curious:

I Peter 1:10-12 “The prophets, who prophesied of the grace which was intended for you, searched and inquired earnestly about this salvation.

11 "They sought [to find out] to whom or when this was to come, which the Spirit of Christ working within them was

indicating when He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that should follow [them].

12 "It was then disclosed to them (the prophets) that the services they were rendering were not meant for themselves and their period of time, but for you. [It is these very] things which have now already been made known plainly to you; by those who preached the good news (the Gospel) to you, by the [same] Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Into these things [the very] angels long to look!" AMP

18. They are not to be worshipped:

Rev. 19:10 "And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, *See thou do it not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus.*"

Rev. 22:8-9 "I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel, which showed me these things.

9 Then saith he unto me, *See thou do it not: for I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren.*"

Col. 2:18 NIV "Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions."

WHAT IS THEIR FUNCTION?

19. They are messengers of God:

Luke 1:11-13: "And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

12 "And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

13 "But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for *thy prayer is heard*; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John."

Acts 10:3-4: "He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.

4 "And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, *Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.*"

20. They deliver instructions from God:

Acts 8:26 "And the angel of the Lord spoke unto Philip, saying, *Arise, and go* toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert."

21. They deliver messages of encouragement from God in the storms of life:

Acts 27:23-25: "For this [very] night there stood by my side an angel of the God to Whom I belong and Whom I serve and worship,

24 "And he said, Do not be frightened, Paul! It is necessary for you to stand before Caesar; and behold, God has given you all those who are sailing with you.

25 "So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith (complete confidence) in God that it will be exactly as it was told me" AMP (also Mark 1:13).

22. They guard His chosen ones against danger:

Matt. 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.”

Ps. 91:9-11: “Because you have made the Lord your refuge, and the Most High your dwelling place,

10 "There shall no evil befall you, nor any plague or calamity come near your tent.

11 "For He will give *His angels [especial] charge over you to accompany and defend and preserve you* in all your ways [of obedience and service].” AMP

23. They are not our accusers:

II Peter 2:11 “Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them (evil men) before the Lord.”

24. God’s churches has angels:

Rev. 1:20 “The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.”

25. They do battle against the forces of evil:

Dan. 10:13: “But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.”

Jude 9: “But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, ‘The Lord

rebuke you!" NASU (Take note how even that great prince Michael dealt judiciously when disputing with that great evil one, shouldn't we do likewise?)

Dan. 12:1: "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which stands for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book." (Obviously, Michael knows God's appointed times and when it's time to act boldly).

Rev. 12:7: "...there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels."

26. They will be the reapers of the earth:

Mark 13:27: "And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven."

FALLEN ANGELS

There is so much more to be learned about God's angels, but no discussion on the subject should end without mentioning that great light bringer, (Lucifer) that became the great imposter, Satan, and deceived the whole world. God's word tells us that Satan is our adversary, whose ultimate aim is to destroy us; he is also a murderer, our tempter, and the father of lies. Therefore, when you detect a lie (especially in religion) remember where it comes from and what Satan's objective is.

27. Satan's fall

Ezek. 28:12-19 AMP: "Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him, Thus says the Lord God: You are the full measure and pattern of exactness [giving the finishing touch to all that constitutes completeness], full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

13 "You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, the carnelian, topaz, jasper, chrysolite, beryl, onyx, sapphire, carbuncle, and emerald; and your settings and your sockets and engravings were wrought in gold. On the day that you were created they were prepared. [Gen. 3:14,15; Isa. 54:12-15; Matt. 16:23.]

14 "You were the anointed cherub that covers with overshadowing [wings], and I set you so. You were upon the holy mountain of God; you walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire [like the paved work of gleaming sapphire stone upon which the God of Israel walked on Mount Sinai, Ex. 24:10.]

15 "You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until iniquity and guilt were found in you.

16 "Through the abundance of your commerce you were filled with lawlessness and violence, and you sinned; therefore I cast you out as a profane thing from the mountain of God and the guardian cherub drove you out from the midst of the stones of fire.

17 "Your heart was proud and lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I lay you before kings; that they might gaze at you.

18 "You have profaned your sanctuaries by the multitude of

your iniquities and the enormity of your guilt, by the unrighteousness of your trade. Therefore I have brought forth a fire from your midst; it has consumed you, and I have reduced you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all who looked at you. (We must understand that God is not limited to linear time; He knows the end from the beginning and therefore often speaks of the conclusion of a matter as though it had already happened.)

19 "All who know you among the people are astonished and appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and shall never return to being."

28. War in heaven:

Satan attempted to go beyond the mountain of the Lord (the seat of His government) and take over the very heavenly throne of God.

Rev. 12:7-11: "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

8 "And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

9 "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceives the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

10 "And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ; for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

11 "And they overcame him by the *blood* of the Lamb, and by

the word of their *testimony*; (a declaration of His truth) and they loved not their lives unto the death.”

That is why “...there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

Luke 10:18: “And he (Jesus) said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.”

29. Angels who became demons:

II Peter 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...”

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.”

The activities of demons are ever present and we must constantly be on guard for Satan is a roaring lion seeking whom he may destroy (I Peter 5:8). There are those who preach another Jesus, another gospel, even another spirit (II Cor. 11:4).

30. Satan has his own ministers:

II Cor. 11:14: “Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness...”

As is all counterfeits, they will appear flawless, but will preach falsehoods, even performing great signs and lying wonders (II Thes. 2:9).

We are therefore, forewarned to be very judicious of what we hear from the pulpit and constantly compare their words with God’s word. “To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light

in them” (Isa 8:20).

31. Satan is the prince and ruler of this world.

John 14:30 “Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me (Also see John 12:31 & 16:11).

32. Satan can influence or even posses a person:

The bible gives us many examples of this phenomenon such as Matthew 9:32-33 "As they went out, behold, they brought to him a dumb man possessed with a devil. And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spoke: and the multitudes marveled, saying, It was never so seen in Israel." other examples include: Mark 5:1-15; Matt.12:22; 15:22; 17:18, etc.

33. Satan’s end:

(This is an obvious parable designed to show that the end of Satan will be more catastrophic and dreadful than even the evil kings and rulers of the world.)

Isa. 14:9-19 AMP: “Sheol (Hades, the place of the dead) below is stirred up to meet you at your coming [O tyrant Babylonian rulers]; it stirs up the shades of the dead to greet you--even all the chief ones of the earth; it raises from their thrones [in astonishment at your humbled condition] all the kings of the nations.

10 All of them will [tauntingly] say to you, ‘Have you also become weak as we are? Have you become like us?’

11 Your pomp and magnificence are brought down to Sheol (the underworld), along with the sound of your harps; the

maggots [which prey upon dead bodies] are spread out under you and worms cover you [O Babylonian rulers].

12 How have you fallen from heaven, O light-bringer and daystar, son of the morning! How you have been cut down to the ground, you who weakened and laid low the nations [O blasphemous, satanic king of Babylon!]

13 And you said in your heart, I will ascend to heaven; I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit upon the mount of assembly in the uttermost north.

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.

15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol (Hades), to the innermost recesses of the pit (the region of the dead).

16 Those who see you will gaze at you and consider you, saying, Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms?

17 Who made the world like a wilderness and overthrew its cities, who would not permit his prisoners to return home?

18 All the kings of the nations, all of them lie sleeping in glorious array, each one in his own sepulcher. (Satan doesn't even get a proper burial.)

19 But you are cast away from your tomb like a loathed growth or premature birth or an abominable branch [of the family] and like the raiment of the slain; and you are clothed with the slain, those thrust through with the sword, who go down to the stones of the pit [into which carcasses are thrown], like a dead body trodden underfoot.”

What have we learned thus far?

1. Angels are created beings.
2. They were present when the earth was formed.
3. They are immortal.
4. Mortal men are a little lower than the angels.
5. But, in the resurrection we will judge angels.
6. They are Spirit beings.
7. They are invisible but can take on many forms.
8. They are extremely powerful.
9. Even Satan's angels are not powerful enough to separate us from God's love.
10. They cannot be everywhere at once.
11. Their number is beyond our comprehension.
12. They are very intelligent, but there are many things they don't know.
13. They are emotional and can express joy or sadness.
14. They have free will to obey or disobey.
15. They are very curious and are thrilled to know God's plans.
16. They are not to be worshipped.
17. They are God's messengers.
18. They deliver instructions from God.
19. They deliver encouragement from God.
20. They guard and protect His chosen ones from danger.
21. They do battle against the forces of evil.
22. God's churches are watched over by angels.
23. Lucifer, a high ranking and powerful angel rebelled, and became our adversary.

24. Satan appears as an angel of light.
25. Satan's Ministers appear to be very righteous.
26. Satan is the prince and ruler of this world.
27. A person can be influenced or even possessed by Satan.
28. Satan, who was Lucifer, will be brought down to the place of the dead.
29. Satan and his angels started a war in Heaven and were cast out.
30. His angels became demons and will be kept in everlasting chains of darkness until the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev. 20:11-15).

From this short summary it is obvious that a good understanding of angels is very important to Christians. Perhaps this could be used as a springboard to a more in depth study. At the very least, however, we should now be able to spot the fallacies and deceptions found in so many of the books on angels.

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