

# THE DOCTRINE OF ANGELS

## PRE-READ

### I. General Facts about Angels

The Bible reveals much to us about angels in both the Old and New Testaments. The Bible talks to us about angels that are faithful to God and it also talks to us about fallen angels. The fallen angels include both Satan and demons.

1. The word angel (*male'ak* in Hebrew and *ángelos* in Greek) literally means messenger. This term can refer to a heavenly messenger, which we translate as angel. The same term can also refer to a human messenger. In the Bible it normally, but not always, refers to angels. The context surrounding the word tells us which kind of messenger the Bible is referring to when it uses the word. (Genesis 32:3; Mark 1:2)
2. Angels are beings that have been created by God. (Colossians 1:16)
3. Angels were created before God created the earth. (Job 38:4-7; 1:6; 2:1)
4. Angels were created without sin in them. (Ezekiel 28:14-15; Jude 6)
5. Angels are spiritual beings. (Hebrews 1:14)
6. Angels have great powers. (2 Peter 2:9-11)
7. Angels do not die. (Luke 20:34-36)
8. Angels do not marry among themselves. (Mark 12:23-25)
9. Angels are always referred to in the Bible as masculine beings.
10. Angels have their own language but can communicate with man in his languages. (1 Corinthians 13:1)
11. The Bible names three angels: Michael (Jude 9), Gabriel (Luke 1:19), and Lucifer (Isaiah 14:12).
12. Angels who are faithful to God do not receive worship. (Revelation 19:10; 22:8-9)
13. Men can come in contact with angels and not realize it. (Hebrews 13:2)

14. The Bible tells us that there are different ranks or positions of authority among angels.
- a. Archangel – The Bible calls Michael the archangel and Michael is the one that leads God’s faithful angels against the devil’s fallen angels. (Jude 9; Revelation 12:7)
  - b. Princes – Some angels are referred to as princes and chief princes that have influence in certain kingdoms and countries. (Daniel 10:13)
  - c. Rulers – Angelic beings are referred to by Paul as rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 3:10; 6:12)
  - d. Thrones – Some angels have thrones and dominions. (Colossians 1:16; Revelation 4:4)
  - e. Cherubim or seraphim are a rank of angels about which the Bible speaks in some detail.
    - Cherubim guarded the tree of life in the Garden of Eden. (Genesis 3:24)
    - Cherubim adorned the temples of Israel. (Exodus 25:18-22; 1 Kings 6:23-25)
    - Cherubim are around the throne of God in heaven. (Isaiah 6:2-6; Revelation 4)
    - We are given descriptions of the cherubim. (Isaiah 6:2-6; Ezekiel 1:5-25; 10:1-22; Revelation 4:6-9)

## II. The Ministries of Angels

The Bible indicates that God’s faithful angels have certain ministries which they perform.

- 1. Angels protect those who reverence God. (Psalm 34:7; Daniel 3:28, 6:22)
- 2. Angels minister for those who will inherit salvation. (Hebrews 1:14; Acts 8:26, 10:22)
- 3. Angels carry the righteous dead to Paradise. (Luke 16:22)
- 4. Angels serve as messengers from God to man. (Daniel 9:20-23; Luke 1:8-20, 26-38)

5. Angels form the army of God. (2 Kings 6:15-17; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-8; Revelation 12:7-8)
6. Angels cared for Jesus during His time on this earth. (Matthew 4:5-7, 11)
7. God's angels worship Him. (Isaiah 6:1-3; Revelation 4:8-11, 5:8-10)

### III. Satan, a Fallen Angel

There are angels who are faithful to God, and there are angels who have rebelled against God and become His enemies. Satan is a fallen angel.

1. Satan has different names and titles in the Bible.
  - a. The name Satan (*Satanas*) means adversary or enemy. (1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 20:2)
  - b. The title devil (*diabolos*) means accuser. (Revelation 12:9-10)
  - c. Satan is the serpent in Eden. (Genesis 3; Revelation 20:2)
  - d. Satan is the dragon of Revelation. (Revelation 12:9; 20:2)
  - e. Lucifer (Helel), which means light of the morning, was Satan's name before his fall. (Isaiah 14:12; 2 Corinthians 11:14)
  - f. Satan is referred to as Beelzebul, which means prince of the demons. (Matthew 12:24)
  - g. Satan is referred to as Abaddon or Apollyon, which means destroyer.
    - i. (Revelation 9:11; John 10:10)
  - h. Satan is referred to as the evil one. (1 John 5:19)
  - i. Satan is the ruler of this world. (John 12:31; Matthew 4:8-9)
  - j. Satan is the god of this world. (2 Corinthians 4:4)
  - k. Satan is the tempter. (1 Thessalonians 3:5; Genesis 3; Matthew 4)
  - l. Satan is the deceiver. (Revelation 12:9)
  - m. Satan is the liar and the father of lies. (John 8:44)
  - n. Satan is a murderer. (John 8:44; John 10:10)
  - o. Satan is a thief. (John 10:10)
2. Satan was created by God as an angel, a cherub named Lucifer. He was created perfect, without sin in him. (Ezekiel 28:12-15)
3. Lucifer began to think more of himself than he should have. Pride grew in him and he sinned by trying to take the place of God. (Isaiah 14:12-15)
4. The works of Satan are all evil.
  - a. He aspires to dethrone God. (Isaiah 14:12-15)

- b. He robs, kills, and destroys. (John 10:10)
  - c. He blinds unbelievers to the truth of the gospel. (2 Corinthians 4:4)
  - d. He disguises himself as an angel of light. (2 Corinthians 11:14-15)
  - e. He battles against the people of God. (Ephesians 6:11-12; Revelation 12:7)
- f. 5. The Bible tells us that Satan's reign of terror will come to an end.
- a. At the end of the tribulation, when Christ returns, Satan will be bound in the abyss for 1,000 years. (Revelation 20:1-3)
  - b. After the 1,000 years Satan will be released for a short while and then be thrown into hell for all eternity. (Revelation 20:7-10)

#### IV. Demons, Fallen Angels

1. Demons are angels that have joined Satan in his rebellion against God. (Revelation 12:7)
2. Satan is prince over the demons. (Matthew 12:24)
3. Some of the demons fell because they did not maintain their God-given place. (Jude 6-7; 2 Peter 2:4-6; Genesis 6:1-5)
4. Some angels are now imprisoned in the abyss. (Luke 8:31; Revelation 9:1-3, 11; Jude 6; 2 Peter 2:4)
5. Some demons are free in the world today. (Mark 5:1-20)
6. There are different ranks among the demons. (Ephesians 6:11-12)
7. There are doctrines that come from demons. (1 Timothy 4:1-3)
8. Demons can possess people or animals. (Mark 5:1, 13)
9. Demons can afflict people with sicknesses. (Matthew 9:32-33; Luke 13:11)
10. Demons are the moving force behind idols. (1 Corinthians 10:20; Revelation 9:20)
11. Demons are the moving force behind witchcraft and the occult. (Deuteronomy 18:10-11)
12. Demons fight against God and against the people of God. (Ephesians 6:11-12; Revelation 12:7; Daniel 10:13)

13. Demons can be used by God to accomplish His purposes. (2 Corinthians 12:7)

## V. The Christian and Spiritual Warfare

In these studies we have learned many things about faithful and fallen angels. We must not close the study of angels without saying that Jesus has already won the victory over Satan and the forces of evil. In Christ we too have overcome the forces of evil. We do not need to live in fear of fallen angels. (1 John 4:4)

1. Jesus has power and authority over Satan and demons. (Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 8:26-39)
2. Jesus gave authority and power over demons to His apostles. (Luke 9:1)
3. Jesus gave authority and power over demons to 70 more of His followers. (Luke 10:17-20)
4. In Christ each Christian has power and authority to stand firm against Satan and demons. (Ephesians 6:10-18)
  - (1) Satan and spiritual forces of evil are our enemies.
  - (2) Only in the Lord and His strength can we stand firm against them.
  - (3) Among the armor pieces that Christ has given us to stand firm there are:
    - Truth
    - Righteousness
    - Preparation of the Gospel of Peace
    - Faith
    - Salvation
    - The Word of God
    - Prayer
5. When we are living in sin we cannot stand against the powers of evil. We must confess our sins and submit ourselves to the Lordship of Christ to be able to stand against Satan. (James 4:6-10)
6. Even as Christians, we have no power over Satan. Our authority and power to stand against Satan is in the name and the person of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Jude 9)

## **SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

Scripture text: Deut. 3:21-22; Ephesians 6:18

### Preliminary Homework

Read:

- Luke 8:26-39
- Acts 16:6-34
- Jude 1:8-10

1. What stands out to you in these three passages?

2. What, if any has been your experience with spiritual warfare?

3. How was it different, or similar to the passages you just read?