

The Doctrine of Angels

The Good, Bad, and the Ugly

What are angels?

Definition:

“Angels are created, spiritual beings with moral judgement and high intelligence, but without physical bodies.” ~Wayne Grudem, author Systematic Theology

They are often invisible to the human eye but have often appeared in human form.

Angels have not always existed. They are apart of the universe that God created.

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. Colossians 1:16

Angels have a true form:

- Ezekiel’s vision of the “wheel in the middle of the wheel”
- John’s vision of the “Throne room” with the four creatures full of eyes.

The word **angel** appears in the Bible around 200 times.

Old Covenant: malak: messenger; ambassador.

New Covenant: aggelos: messenger.

Scripture sometimes refer to angels as holy ones, spirits, watchers, thrones, dominions, principalities, authorities, and powers.

What is your first thought when you hear the word **“angel”**?

- Gabriel visits Mary (Luke 1:6-38)
- Gabriel visits Daniel (Daniel 9:20-23)
- Two angels disguised as men visit Lot and his family at Sodom (Gen. 19)
- Gabriel visits Zacharias that he will have a son named John (Luke 1:11-20)
- Two men in white as Jesus ascended (Acts 1:10)

1. The Good

What is their primary purpose?

- Worship and Praise God: In Heaven to directly glorify God.
Throne Room: the four creatures full of eyes (Seraphim in Revelation 4)
Myriads upon myriads of angels singing and worshipping God.
- Messengers (Gabriel)
- Warriors (Michael)
- Guardians: Garden of Eden (Cherubim: “flames of the whirling sword”)
So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life. Gen. 3:24
Psalm 91:11 For He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways.

Other duties include:

- To show the greatness of God’s love and plans for us.
Who else would God send from Heaven to earth with timely and History-altering information? They validate His authentic love for humanity.
- Angels are a reminder that the **“unseen world”** exists.
Culture denies the existence of what they can’t see. (*Elisha’s servant couldn’t see the Host of Heaven, horses, and chariots of fire ready to fight on their behalf. 2 Kings 6:17-18*)

Other forms of angels in the Bible:

- “An” angel of the Lord: mainly found in Old Testament but few occurrences in the New Testament.
 1. An angel of the Lord visited Gideon.
 2. An angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds.
- “The Angel of the Lord” The Hosts of the Army of the Lord/ Jesus Theophany /Christophany (God/Jesus in angelic form)
 1. Jacob wrestled.
 2. Moses and the burning bush (Holy ground)
 3. Hagar with Ishmael
 4. Melchizedek the High Priest (Hebrews 7:1-8)

Things to know: Constraints and limitations.

Angels and humans are the only moral, highly intelligent creatures that God has made. (*The ability to think and speak*)

Angels are not mentioned as being made in the “Image and likeness of God”.

Though many angels sinned and walked out of heaven with Lucifer, none were saved and cannot be redeemed.

They have a specific job, rank, file, and placement within the Kingdom . (Jude 6)

Noteworthy Mention: Angels can only be in one place at one time, they are not Omnipresent.

Be mindful of angels

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for through this some have entertained angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:2

2. The Bad (Fallen Angels)

Angels can perpetuate false doctrine.

“But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!” Galatians 1:8

“No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. “

2 Corinthians 11:14 (False apostles disguising themselves as servants of righteousness.)

Do not pray to angels (Paul addresses the Church at Colossal)

Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God. Colossians 2:18-19

Do not seek after angels.

Why?

- Not scriptural
- Unhealthy curiosity leading to mixture and unclean manifestations.
- This is the place that opens a door to the demonic through seeking a manifestation other than that of the Holy Spirit.

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near. Isaiah 55:6

*****Every time an angel appeared to people in scripture, they were never seeking them.**

In every situation that I've been in, I have never asked God to send angels for help. I've asked for the Holy Spirit.

3. The Ugly (DO NOT WORSHIP ANGELS!)

Angelolatry: the worship of angels; another form of Idolatry

***Then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; Worship god. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.
Revelation 19:10***

Religion of the Yazidi Order

Ancient Iranian religion that borrows elements from Judaism, Nestorian Christianity, and Islam. They are not Muslim, and do not follow the Quran. (Nestorian believes that the human nature and the divinity of Christ were two separate persons.

- Worship of Angels-Seven to be exact that are assigned territorial value.
- No scriptural basis/ get their information from other religions and lost ancient manuscripts.
- This is where other names of angels are found and used by other false religions and cults. (Most research suggests many angel names outside the validity and cannon of scripture are simply made up.)

*Side note: Angelolatry or the worship of anything other than God could be categorized and found under the Major Doctrine of God pertaining to the Minor Doctrine of Satan and Demons.

What about Lucifer? Is he a fallen angel?

"The Morning Star" Isaiah 14:12-17 (Description of who Satan is)

Lucifer: in the Greek: phósphoros meaning "*light-bearer*" to be "*boastful*" or "*prideful*"

Phosphorus: the chemical element of atomic number 15, a poisonous, combustible nonmetal which exists in two common allotropic forms, white phosphorus, a yellowish

waxy solid which ignites spontaneously in air and glows in the dark, and red phosphorus, a less reactive form used in making matches. Phosphorus is essentially artificial light.

Ezekiel 28:12-19 (Description of who Satan was)

“You were the anointed cherub who covers...”

Anointed: mimshach: far reaching wings; expanded

Cherub: kerub: angel of high order

Covers: sakak: to overshadow, screen, or cover.

- Many scholars believe that Satan (Lucifer) was an archangel although most Christian leaders refuse to give him notoriety.
- Highest ranking angel known by job description. (Jude 6: angels who abandoned their station, did not keep their proper abode)

Do Angels Appear Today?

- No reason not to rule it out.
- No reason to expect it (We have the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us to the Father through Jesus!)

My own personal experiences x3s

For further study:

List of Angels appearing to those in the Bible “Post” Resurrection

1. Phillip (Acts 8:26)
2. Cornellius (Acts 10:3)
3. Peter (Acts 12:6-11)
4. Paul (Acts 27:23-26)
5. Entertain angels unaware (Hebrews 13:2)

Commonality/Pattern?

List of recommended books:

1. *Systematic Theology* Wayne Grudem
2. *Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes* Brandon J. O’Brian, E. Randolph Richards
3. *Misreading Scripture with Individualist Eyes* Brandon J. O’Brian

Questions? Comments? Concerns?