

12/14/17

## What About Angels?

Our first teaching on our “What about” series was “What about the Bible” providing evidence to the inerrancy and infallibility of God’s word and that it can be trusted for all of its content revealed by God, Who knows all things.

So every subject we will address will be what the Bible reveals as absolute truth, not human opinion.  
\* Sadly too many people, both secular and Christian get their erroneous theology from movies, television, fictional books, liberal theologians and not the Bible!

So we want to look at what the Bible says about angels by asking three questions.

- I. What about the origin of angels?
- II. What about the nature of angels?
- III. What about the various classes of angels?

### **I. What about the origin of angels?**

- A. Angels are not eternal they had a beginning.
  1. The angels were created by God, “By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.” Ps. 33:6
  2. The angels had to have been created before the creation of the heavens and earth,

“Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts! waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the LORD, For He commanded and they were created.” Ps. 148:2, 5

3. The angels are included as part of God’s creation. “You alone are the LORD; You have made heaven, The heaven of heavens, with all their host.” Neh. 9:6a-d
4. The number of angels is innumerable.
  - a. Daniel tells us, “I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire; A fiery stream issued And came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, And the books were opened.” Dan. 7:10
  - b. Jesus said, “Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?” Matt. 26:53  
\* A Roman legion at the time of Augustus was 6,100 foot soldiers and 726 horsemen men, 81,912 angels.
  - c. The author to the Hebrews calls them a innumerable company “*murias*” meaning

ten thousand times ten thousand, which would be 100 million, in other words, without number. Heb. 12:22

- d. Paul says to the Colossians, “For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him”. Col. 1:16

**B. Angels are mentioned numerous times in the Scriptures.**

1. The word “angel” means messenger, envoy or a representative, both in the Hebrew “mal’ak” and the Greek “aggelos”.
  - a. The word appears 285 times in the singular and plural from Genesis to Revelation.
  - b. In the Old Testament 94 are in the singular and 13 in the plural.
  - c. In the New Testament 79 are in the plural and 99 in the singular.
2. The two books that contain the word “angel” in both Testaments more than the others is interesting.
  - a. In the Old Testament it is the book of Judges, 22 times in the singular.
    - 1) This should be no surprise, since angels do God’s bidding to help man.

- 2) The book of Judges is the record of anarchy and bondage as men called on Yahweh to deliver them.
- b. In the New Testament, it is the book of Revelation, 53 times in the singular and 23 in the plural.
  - 1) This again is appropriate, being the unveiling of Christ, the glorified Messiah worshipped by angels.
  - 2) The book of Revelation records the wrath of God poured out on the earth from the throne of God by angels.
3. The word “host” is also used for angels.
  - a. The word appears many times in the Old Testament for angels.
  - b. The One in command of the angels is the LORD of Host, the Captain of the armies of heaven, this phrase appears in the Old Testament with great frequency.
  - c. The books that contain the phrase the most numerous are the book of Isaiah and Jeremiah, for it was “The captain of the armies of heaven”, Who was fighting against them.
 

\* In Jeremiah the phrase “**Lord** of host”, appears six. times but “The **LORD** of host”, fifty-eight times.
4. Five times in the Bible angels are called “sons of God”. Gen. 6:2, 4; Job. 1:6; 2:1; 38:7

5. There is a special title “The Angel of the LORD” which is found many times in the Old Testament, but it is a reference to the pre-Incarnation of Jesus Christ.
  - a. Angel of the LORD 50 times.
  - b. angel of the LORD 13 times.

### **Illustration**

John says in the beginning of his gospel, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. Jn. 1:1-3”

***This is what the Bible teaches about the origin of angels!***

## **II. What about the nature of angels?**

- A. Angels are not glorified men, but distinct from man.
  1. Jesus said they are immortal, “For in the resurrection they, man, neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven, not made for marriage. Matt. 22:30”
  2. The book of Hebrews says, “For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. Heb. 2:5”  
\* Quoting the Psalms. Ps. 8:4-6

3. Hebrews again sayd, “Man was made a little lower than the angels.” Heb. 2:7  
\* Quoting. Ps. 8:4-6
4. “But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect.” Heb. 12:22-23

### **B. Angels are spirit beings.**

1. Angels have no physical bodies or form.
  - a. “Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire.” Ps. 104:4  
\* Yet they are described with certain physical features at times, such as wings, feet, faces, etc.
  - b. The author to the Hebrews quoting this Psalm adds, “Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?” Heb. 1:14  
\* The angels God created have as their responsibility to do God’s bidding in the service of God and man.
2. Angels appeared to Jacob in a dream at Bethel when he fled from his brother Esau, “Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.” Gen. 28:12

- \* The Psalmist declares, “Bless the LORD, all you His hosts, You ministers of His, who do His pleasure”. Ps 103:21
3. Satan tempted Jesus to cast Himself from the pinnacle of the temple by misquoting the Scripture about angels, Satan said to Jesus , “For it is written: `He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you.” Lk. 4:10, “Ps. 91:11-12”
    - a. Jesus responded, “You shall not tempt the LORD your God.” Lk. 4:12
    - b. Angels served Jesus, “And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him.” Mk. 1:13
  3. Angels though they have no physical bodies often appeared to man in bodily form at will.
    - a. Angels appeared to Abraham and then to Lot at Sodom and Gamora. Gen. 18-19
    - b. The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them. Ps. 34:7
    - c. Zechariah says, “Now the angel who talked with me came back and wakened me, as a man who is wakened out of his sleep.” Zech. 4:1
    - d. Matthew says, “But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be

- afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.” Matt. 1:20
- e. The book of Hebrews says, “Some have entertained angels unawares.” Heb. 13:2
  4. Angels are not to be worshipped.
    - a. The first tablet of the Ten commandments God said, “You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me.” Ex. 20:3-5
    - b. Paul warned the Colossians, “Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind.” Col. 2:18
    - c. John says, “And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God!

For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” Rev. 19:10

**C. Angels are a company of God’s creation not a race.**

1. They are innumerable as we have stated.  
\* Then Micaiah said, “Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing on His right hand and His left”. 2Chron. 18:18
2. Jesus said angels rejoice over the salvation of man, “Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” Lk. 15:10
3. Jesus taught angels usher the believer before God, “So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried.” Lk. 16:22
4. Jesus said angels will be witnesses to the denial of sinners to enter heaven, “But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.” Lk. 12:9
5. Jesus said angels neither marry nor given in marriage, nor do they die.” Lk. 20:24-26
6. Jesus said angels will re-gather the Jews at the end of the tribulation, “And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest

part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.”  
Mk. 13:27

7. The appearance of every angel is in the masculine form, never in the feminine!
  8. The angels of God can not be saved or redeemed, not created in the image or likeness of God. Heb. 2:16
- D. Angels are greater than man in knowledge, but they are not omniscient.**
1. The woman who came before David to plead for Absalom said, “To bring about this change of affairs your servant Joab has done this thing; but my lord is wise, according to the wisdom of the angel of God, to know everything that is in the earth.” 2Sam. 14:20
  2. Gabriel came to give Daniel understanding about the 70 week prophecy, “At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision.” Dan. 9:23
  3. Paul charged Timothy before angels, “I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality.” 1Tim. 5:21
  4. Peter tells us the angels intently stoop down to see the next things God will do in His church, “To them it was revealed that, not to

themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven--things which angels desire to look into." 1Pet. 1:12

**E. Angels are stronger than man, but not omnipotent.**

1. "And it came to pass on a certain night that the angel of the LORD went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses--all dead." 2Kings 19:35
2. "Bless the LORD, you His angels, Who excel in strength, who do His word, Heeding the voice of His word." Ps. 103:20
3. Nebuchadnezzar said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God!" Dan. 3:28
4. Peter and others were delivered from prison by an angel, "But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said." Acts 5:19
5. Peter later was delivered again, "Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him,

and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, "Arise quickly!" And his chains fell off his hands." Acts 5:19; 12:7

6. "Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died." Acts 12:23
7. Paul says to the Thessalonians, "Since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels." 2Thess 1:6-7
8. Peter says, "Whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord." 2Pet. 2:11

**Illustration**

Billy Graham shares in his book "Angels Angels", about some missionaries that were going to be killed one night by the natives and as they were aware of this they prayed fervently. When the natives approached the house they were in awe of the giants guarding their house. Not till years later when some of the leader were saved did they relate the story to the missionaries after their conversion.

***This is what the Bible teaches about the nature of angels!***

### III. What about the various classes of angels?

#### A. There are regular angels.

1. The good angels serve God and are faithful and loyal to Him, the bad angels serve Satan and are faithful and loyal to him.
2. The division of bad and good angels came at the fall or rebellion of Satan, which we will look at in another study of it's own.
  - a. Satan's rebellion is recorded in two books. Is. 14:12-14; Ezk. 28:11-18
  - b. Satan led one third of the angels in rebellion, his tail drew a third of the angels of heaven. Rev. 12:4
4. The bad angels of darkness that are bound fall under two categories.
  - a. Those permanently bound in chains in "Tartarus" for leaving their proper domain or estate. 2Pet. 2:4; Jude 6
  - b. Those temporary bound in the bottomless pit, to be let lose in Great-Tribulation. Rev. 9:2, 14
5. The bad angels of darkness that are lose also fall under two categories.
  - a. Those demons that seem to possess people, unbelievers, never believers!  
\* Demons are fallen angels.
  - b. The evil spirits that influence people.
    - 1) In scripture they cause at times dumbness, deafness, sickness, etc.

2) His Kingdom is described as the kingdom of wicked spirits. Eph. 6:12

3) John tells us that many spirits have gone out into the world, the cosmos-worldly system. 1Jn. 4:1

6. There are subdivision in both good and bad angels. Eph. 1:20-21, 6:12
  - a. Principalities, which means "first ones, preeminent ones, leaders".
  - b. Power, means authorities and spirits, Satan's demons in the lower atmosphere.
  - c. Rulers of darkness, refers to bad angels influencing world rulers.
  - d. Wicked spirits, to the spirits forces of perniciousness.
    - \* We might look at these as privates, corporals, lance corporals, sergeant, staff sergeant, sergeant major, etc.

#### B. There are cherubim.

1. The first time Cherubim appear is in the Garden of Eden, "So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life." Gen. 3:24
  - a. The word "k@ruwb" in it's root is uncertain, but believed to means "to cover" or "to guard", and their first appearance would certainly give credence to this meaning.

- b. Psalm 80 says, “Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock; You who dwell between the cherubim, shine forth!” Ps. 80:1
  - c. The singular is Cherub and the plural form is Cherubim.
2. The Cherubim also appeared on the Mercy-seat of the ark of the covenant, “Make one cherub at one end, and the other cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim at the two ends of it of one piece with the mercy seat. And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat.” Ex. 25:19-20
    - \* They once again seem to be guarding the place of God’s throne where He would meet the High Priest once a year on the day of Atonement, associated with Yahweh’s justice. Ex. 25:22
  3. Cherubim were placed on the curtain of the Tabernacle, “Moreover you shall make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine woven linen and blue, purple, and scarlet thread; with artistic designs of cherubim you shall weave them.” Ex. 26:1
  4. Cherubim were also found on the veil of the Tabernacle to divide the Holy place from the Holy of Holies, “You shall make a veil woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread,

- and fine woven linen. It shall be woven with an artistic design of cherubim.” Ex. 26:31
5. Cherubim were placed in the Temple of Solomon after the pattern given to him. The two winged Cherub are seen in the Tabernacle Mercy Seat, “One wing of the cherub [was] five cubits, and the other wing of the cherub five cubits: ten cubits from the tip of one wing to the tip of the other.” Ex. 25:19; 1Kings 6:24
  6. Cherubim also have four wings and are described in the vision of Ezekiel.
    - a. “Also from within it came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: they had the likeness of a man. Each one had four faces, and each one had four wings.” Ezk. 1:5-6
      - \* Having the face of a lion, man, ox and eagle!
    - b. Thus were their faces. Their wings stretched upward; two wings of each one touched one another, and two covered their bodies.” Ezk. 1:11
    - c. “And under the firmament their wings spread out straight, one toward another. Each one had two which covered one side, and each one had two which covered the other side of the body.” Ezk. 1:23
    - d. “This is the living creature I saw under the God of Israel by the River Chebar,

and I knew they were cherubim.” Ezk. 10:20

7. Lucifer is called a Cherub, “You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.” Ezk. 28:14

### C. There are Seraphim.

1. This class of angel is found only in the book of Isaiah, “In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. Is. 6:1-2
  - a. Seraphim are an order of angels that have six wings.” vs. 2a-e
    - 1) With two they cover their face, from the Shekiniah glory of God.
    - 2) With two they cover their feet, recognizing the holy ground.
    - 3) With two they fly.
    - 4) Again with the “im” ending in the Hebrew, it makes it a plural form Seraphim, the singular would be Seraph and Cherub!
    - 5) Their name means “burning ones”
2. Isaiah heard and saw with understanding their worship of God, “And one cried to

another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!” And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.” Is. 6:3-4

- a. The Seraphim seem to be related to the worship of God and His holiness, repeated three times.
  - 1) Throughout the Scriptures we read holy, holy, holy, never twice, four or five times.
  - 2) The pattern without any doubt is related to the Trinity in heaven!
- b. The Seraphim declared that the entire earth is full of His glory.
  - \* The vision seen by Isaiah the prophet and the angelic host is interpreted for us by John the beloved, Isaiah saw Jesus, quoting verse five. Jn. 12:41
3. The vision consecrated Isaiah’s life. Is. 6:6-7
  - a. The mediator used to purify Isaiah’s unclean lips was a Seraph who dwelt in the presence of the Holy God.
  - b. The seraph flew and took a live coal with tongs from the alter of God in heaven.
    - 1) The Tabernacle was a pattern of the throne of God in heaven.
    - 2) The incense alter, stood before the veil of the Holy of Holies. Ex. 30:7

3) John saw that it represented the prayers of the saints. Rev. 5:8

**D.** There are Archangels.

1. The term appears twice in the Bible.
  - a. When the Lord returns for His saints, “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.” 1Thess. 4:16
  - b. When the body of Moses was being disputed over, “Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!” Jude 1:9
  - c. Michael is the only one called an archangel.
2. The term archangel “archaggelos” means chief of the angels.
  - a. Michael has his own angels under his command, “And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought.” Rev. 12:7
  - b. Michael is called the Prince of the people of Israel, the chief and great Prince. Dan. 10:13, 21, 12:1

3. Many believe perhaps Gabriel is also an archangel, but it is never stated, he is the angel of good news.
  - a. Daniel said, “And I heard a man’s voice between the banks of the Ulai, who called, and said, “Gabriel, make this man understand the vision.” Dan. 8:16
  - b. Again Daniel tells us, “Yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering,” Dan. 9:21
  - c. Gabriel was sent to Zecharias regarding the birth of John the Baptist, “And the angel answered and said to him, “I am Gabriel, **who stands in the presence of God**, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings.” Lk. 1:19
  - d. Gabriel was also sent to Mary, the cousin of Elizabeth, “Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth.” Lk. 1:26
  - e. Some even believe that perhaps at one time Lucifer was an archangel, the three corresponding to the Trinity?

**Illustration**

Paul said to the men on the ship, “For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong

and whom I serve, saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.'" Acts 27:23-24

***This is what the Bible teaches about the various classes of angels!***

### **Conclusion**

We can be absolutely sure regarding these three Biblical truths about angels:

- I.** The origin of angels!
- II.** The nature of angels!
- III.** The various classes of angels!