

Angels, Demons, and Deliverance

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Purpose: To understand who the angels of the Lord are, and how they minister to God and to man. To understand who demons are, and how they influence people today. To understand the difference between the Spirit of God and Satan, and how to have the victory in Christ.

Key Verse: (2 Corinthians 10:3-4) *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (4) (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;).*

The Existence of Angels

Simple definition. Angels are spiritual beings created by God to serve Him, though created higher than man. Some, the good angels, have remained obedient to Him and carry out His will, while others, fallen angels, disobeyed, fell from their holy position, and now stand in active opposition to the work and plan of God.

While many details about angels are omitted in the Bible, it is important to keep in mind three important elements about the biblical revelation God has given us.

1. The mention of angels is inclusive in Scripture. Depending on the Bible translation searched, these celestial beings are referred to from 294 to 305 times in the Bible. References to angels occur at least 116 times in the Old Testament and 175 times in the New Testament.

2. These many references are found in at least 34 books from the very earliest books (whether Job or Genesis) to the last book of the Bible (Revelation).

3. Finally, there are numerous references to angels by Jesus, who is the Creator of all things, which includes angelic beings.

The Nature of Angels

Angels were created to worship God, (Nehemiah 9:6) *Thou, even thou, art Lord alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.*

Angels were created to serve God, (Psalm 103:20) *Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.*

Angels are celestial, ministering spirits, (Hebrews 1:14) *Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?*

Angels are countless in number, (Hebrews 12:22) *But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels.*

The angels worshiped during creation, so they were in all probability the first of God's creation, (Job 38:6-7) *Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; (7) When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?*

Angels do not marry, (Mark 12:25) *For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven.*

Angels are spirit beings and do not die, (Luke 20:36) *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.*

Angels are spirit beings, and they can appear in different forms, (Luke 1:11) *And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.* In Genesis 19, two angels went to Lot in the form of men. In Exodus an angel appeared as a burning bush to Moses.

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Angels are wise, (2 Samuel 14:20) To fetch about this form of speech hath thy servant Joab done this thing: and my lord *is* wise, according to the wisdom of an angel of God, to know all *things* that *are* in the earth.

Yet, they are limited in knowledge, (Matthew 24:36) But of that day and hour knoweth no *man*, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

Angels are powerful, more powerful than man, (Matthew 28:2) And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

Yet, not all powerful, (Daniel 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.

Angels were created greater than man, (Hebrews 2:7) Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands.

Yet, as a created being we are never to worship them, (Revelation 19:10) And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See *thou do it* not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Like all of creation, angels are under God's authority and subject to His judgment, (1 Corinthians 6:3) Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

Angels also have a freewill, for one third rebelled against God's authority.

Angelic Organization

We see in the Scriptures different types of angels and also an order to them. Angels differ in power, authority, rank, and form. The different types mentioned in the Bible are: archangel, angel, seraphim, and cherubim. (Colossians 1:16) For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.

Archangel. (Jude 9) Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee. "Arch" means chief, therefore archangels are chief angels.

Michael means "who is like God". The only archangel mentioned in the Bible is Michael. But from an account in the book of Daniel we see that Michael is one of the chief princes which means that there is more than one, (Daniel 10:13) ...but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes... It is believed that Gabriel is one, and that Lucifer was one. Different theologians believe that each one of these were chief angels over one third of all the angels. Michael is God's messenger of law and judgment, Revelation 12:7-12.

Gabriel means "God's hero" or "mighty one". Gabriel is the Lord's messenger of mercy and promise. The Bible never calls Gabriel an archangel, but refers to his work as often as Michael's. Therefore, many feel that Gabriel is also an archangel. Gabriel appears four times in the Bible, Daniel 8:16; 9:21; Luke 1:19, 26, always bearing good news. (Luke 1:19) And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings.

Seraphim means "burning ones". Isaiah 6 describes these as six winged celestial beings above the throne of God, (Isaiah 6:1-3) In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. (2) Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. (3) And one cried unto another, and said, Holy,

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holy, holy, *is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.* They praise the name and character of God which is holy. In Isaiah 6:7, one cleansed and purified the prophet in heaven.

Cherubims are described in Ezekiel 10, (*Ezekiel 10:3-5*) Now the cherubims stood on the right side of the house, when the man went in; and the cloud filled the inner court. (4) Then the glory of the Lord went up from the cherub, *and stood over the threshold of the house; and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of the Lord's glory.* (5) And the sound of the cherubims' wings was heard *even to the outer court, as the voice of the Almighty God when he speaketh.* The cherubim have to do with the glory of God. They are beside the throne of God, (*Psalm 99:1*) The Lord reigneth; let the people tremble: he sitteth *between the cherubims; let the earth be moved.*

In Genesis 3:24, cherubims guard the tree of life in Eden. In Exodus 25:18, two cherubims form a part of the mercy seat on the Ark of the Covenant. Therefore, the cherubims may guard the way to the holiest of all.

Angels. Other angels are ministering spirits sent to minister to the believers. (*Hebrews 1:14*) Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

Ministry of Angels

Provide, (*1 Kings 19:5-6*) And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, *Arise and eat.* (6) And he looked, and, behold, *there was a cake baked on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again.*

Heal, (*John 5:3-4*) In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. (4) For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had.

Aid, (*Hebrews 1:14*) Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

Protect, (*Psalm 34:7*) The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

Proclaim God's messages, (*Matthew 1:20*) But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

Carry out God's judgment, (*Revelation 12:7*) And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels.

Together with the Angels

In different ways we and the angels are alike. Like the seraphims and cherubims, we are to guard the holiness and glory of our Lord. We guard the holiness by living in God's holy ways, (*Hebrews 12:14*) Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.

We guard God's glory by lifting up holy hands and worshipping Him in Spirit and Truth, (*1 Timothy 2:8*) I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

Like Gabriel we are to proclaim God's Word, (*Mark 16:15*) And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

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Like Michael we are to fight the good fight of faith, (1 Timothy 6:12) Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

Together with the angels, we see the will of God being fulfilled on the earth, (Acts 10:3-6) 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. (5) And now send men to Joppa, and call for *one* Simon, whose surname is Peter: (6) He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.

Together with the angels we rejoice when a sinner repents, (Luke 15:10) Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

Together with the angels we will be worshipping the Lord for all eternity, (Revelation 5:8-12) And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four *and* twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. (9) And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; (10) And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. (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; (12) Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

Demons (fallen angels)

While all the angels were originally created holy and without sin, there was a rebellion by Satan, who, being lifted up by his own beauty, sought to exalt himself above God and rebelled. In his rebellion, he took with him one-third of the angels, (Revelation 12:4) And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

Lucifer, rebelled against God, (Isaiah 14:12-15) How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! (13) For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: (14) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. (15) Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Satan is the god of this world, (2 Corinthians 4:4) In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Demons are inferior to angels, (Revelation 12:7-9) 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 deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Satan can transform himself to appear as an angel of light, (2 Corinthians 11:14) And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

Demons oppose the plan of God, (Daniel 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.

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Satan is the accuser of the believers, (Revelation 12:10) 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.

Satan's Influence on People

Where angels rejoice when someone turns to God and repents, demons do everything they can to keep people from seeing, believing, and following the Truth.

Deception, (2 Corinthians 4:4) In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Depression, (Matthew 27:5) And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

Oppression, this is often done by inflicting sickness and pain, (Matthew 4:24) And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

Obsession, evil imaginations or thoughts contrary to an overcoming life in Christ, (2 Corinthians 10:3-6) For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (4) (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) (5) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; (6) And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

Possession, (Matthew 4:24) And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

Appeal to man's spiritual desires, (1 Corinthians 10:20) But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.

Seduce people through wicked doctrines, (1 Timothy 4:1) Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.

Draw people into a form of godliness which has no power to save, (2 Timothy 3:5) Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Testing the spirits

Testing the spirits by prayer. (1 John 4: 1-6) Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. (2) Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: (3) And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that *spirit* of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. (4) Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. (5) They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. (6) We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

Testing the spirits by the Word of God. (Galatians 1:6-9) I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: (7) Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. (8)

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But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. (9) As we said before, so say I now again, If any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

Deliverance Through Christ

Christ in the gospels delivered from demon oppression and possession. (Matthew 4:24) And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

Christ Gave His Power to the Church. (Mark 16:17) And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues.

Spiritual Weapons Against Satan

The Armor of God, Ephesians 6:10-18

Truth. (John 8:32) And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Righteousness. (James 4:7) Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Gospel of Peace. Jesus is the Prince of Peace, Isaiah 9:6. The gospel of Christ is the gospel of peace and (Romans 1:16) "...the power of God unto salvation...". When your sins are washed away, there is peace between you and God.

Faith. (Matthew 15:28) And Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

Salvation. (2 Timothy 2:25-26) In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; (26) And *that* they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

Word of God. (Hebrews 4:12,NKJ) For the word of God is living, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword... Matthew 4:1-11 describes Jesus being tempted by the devil. In each temptation Jesus said to Satan, "It is written."

Praying in the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:17) Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

Angels of the Lord. (Psalm 34:7)"The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them"

The Holy Ghost. (I John 4:4) Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.

The Blood of Jesus. (Revelation 12:11) And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb...

The Name of Jesus. Jesus said, (Mark 16:17) And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils...

Prayer and Fasting. (Mark 9:29) And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.

Washed by the name of Jesus, (Acts 2:38) Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. We have witnessed many people being delivered and healed in the waters of baptism.