

Angelology-The Doctrine of Angels

I. The ORIGIN OF ANGELS

A. Angels are created beings

PS. 148:2, 5

Col. 1:16

B. Each one seems to have been a direct creation of God:

Matt. 22:30

C. The Time of Their Creation

Job 38:6-7

II. Their Nature

A. Physically, angels are deathless

Luke 20:36

B. Angels are without sex in the physical sense, but are always referred to in the masculine gender, (“he” , rather than “it”).

Luke 24:4

Mark 12:25

Daniel 9:21

C. Angels are primarily spiritual beings (invisible, immaterial, intelligent) they do not have flesh and bones.

Heb 1:7

Heb 1:14

Luke 24:39

D. There are varieties of types of angelic beings and angelic individuals:

1. Cherubim:

Gen 3:22-24; Eek. 1& 10; Isa. 37:16

2. Seraphim:

Isa. 6:2, 6

3. Principalities and powers: a term used of both good and bad spirit-beings.
Good: Rom. 8:38, Eph 1:21, 3:10; Col. 1:16; I Peter 3:22

4. The “elect” angels:
I Tim. 5:21

5. Archangels:
I Thess. 4:16, Jude 9

a. Michael:
Dan. 10:21, 12:1, Jude 9; Rev. 12:7

b. Gabriel:
Dan.8:16; 9:21; Luke 1:19, 26-38

Note: The “Angel of Jehovah” in the Old Testament always identifies a preincarnate appearance of the Son of God. There are ten such appearances or Theophanies. His name is “Wonderful” in Judges 13:18, which is Christ’s name in Isa. 9:6, cf. Also Gen. 48:16; Exodus 23:20; Isa 37:36

III. Their Appearance

A. They can appear in a form similar to human forms in order to be visible.
Acts 1:10

Luke 24:4

B. They resemble men in stature
Rev. 21:17

Gen. 19:1-5

C. They are rarely pictured as having wings:
Rev. 14:6

Daniel 9:21

D. Some are Youthful in appearance
Mark 16:5

E. They often have a strikingly supernatural appearance: (light beings)

Matt. 28:3-4

Acts 6:15

Rev. 18:1

Isa. 6

F. Their clothing is often white and dazzling

Matt. 28:3

Luke 24:4

IV. Their Moral Character

A. Some are spoken of as elect and holy

Mark 8:38

I Tim 5:21

B. Others are called “the angels that sinned”

II Pet. 2:4

Jude 6

1. Obviously, if they “sinned” and “kept not” their first estate, but fell from it, then they must have been:

a. Originally created holy and sinless

b. Given freedom of will (just as Satan had: Isa. 14:12-15)

c. And by the wrong use of their free wills, became sinful beings

2. These were the ones who chose to follow with Satan:

Rev. 12:9

Rev. 12:4

3. Since angels do not originate through natural propagation, but by direct individual creative acts of God, they have no racial unity. Therefore, the sin of one angel affects no one but himself, determining his own destiny. Contrast this with the organic unity of the human race: Adam’s sin affected all of us.

V. Their Powers

A. Their powers far exceed man’s, but are strictly limited.

II Pet. 2:121

Matt. 24:36

B. They possess unusual intelligent

II Sam.14:17

II Sam. 14:20

C. They are Mighty in Strength:

Psa. 103:20

Matt. 28:2

D. Swift in movement:

Dan. 9:21

E. Power to appear suddenly:

Luke 2:13

Acts 1:10

F. They exercise certain supernatural powers over the material world:

Acts 12:7, 10

Rev. 16:5

Rev. 9:1

Rev. 14:18

Rev. 8:2

Rev. 7: 1

VI. Their Numbers, Organization and Ranks:

A. The number of angels is almost inconceivable:

Matt, 26:53

Dan. 7:10

Heb. 12:22

Rev. 5:11

Note: If as we believe, God's creative work is finished, and if angels are sexless and do not reproduce themselves, then there is no increase in the number of angels.

B. There is definite organization and ranks among both good and evil angels:

Matt. 26:53

I Thess. 4:16

Dan. 10:13

Jude vv 8-9

Rev. 9:11

VIII. The Ministry of Angels

A. Their position in relation to man and Christ:

1. In relation to man:

a. Higher than man in present might and power: II Pet.2:11

b. Equal with man in service to God: Rev. 22:9

c. Lower than man in relation to God: Col 2:18

d. Not to be worshiped: Rev. 22:8-9, Col. 2:18

2. In relation to Christ:

a. As God, Christ is above the angels: Col. 1:15-16

b. In His incarnation as a man, He was made for "a short time" (a little season-lower than angels). Heb. 2:5-9

c. He is now enthroned in the heavenlies above all created beings: I Pet. 3:22, Phil 2:9-11

B. Their work in relation to the affairs of nations

1. They act as "watchers" over rules and nations (overseers): Dan. 4:13, 17

2. They are guardians over certain nations (the greatest is over Israel) cf. Dan. 12:1, with 9:5.
3. They are agents in the execution of God's providential work in history: Dan. 10:13, 20, 11:1
4. The special activity and presence of angels in Human history:
 - a. At creation Job 38:7
 - b. At The Giving of the Law Acts 7:53; Gal 3:1; Heb 2:2
 - c. At birth of Christ Luke 2:13
 - d. At His temptation Matt. 4:11; cr. Luke 22:43
 - e. At His resurrection Matt. 28:2
 - f. At His Ascension Acts 1:10
 - g. At His second coming Matt. 13:37-39, 24:31, 25:31; II Thess 1:7

C. Their Work in relation to the people of God

1. They minister to Christian believers Heb. 1:4
2. They bring answers to prayers Acts 12:5-7
Dan. 9:21
3. They encourage in times of danger and defeat: Acts 27:23-24
4. They preserve us from dangers: Psa. 91:11-12.
5. They care for the righteous at death:
Luke 16:22
Jude v. 9
6. They will gather Israel at Christ's Second Coming: Matt. 24:31