

Angelology:

The study and doctrine of
Angels

ANGELS, SATAN and DEMONS

(Angelology – The study of the doctrine of angels, both good and bad)

Introduction:

The doctrine of angels is probably one of the most overlooked and often distorted doctrines in Biblical understanding. Sadly, much of what many Christians believe about angels has been skewed by the world's representation of them instead of the truth presented in the Bible.

Here are some examples:

1. An overuse of the term 'angel' to refer to lovely or beautiful people, in particular women, in songs, poems and portraits, thus minimizing angel's real existence.
2. TV shows and movies that portray angels as simply humans with special abilities.
3. A mixture of Greek mythology and the Bible, expressed as chubby little winged beings called "cherubs" or "cupids" fluttering about, especially on Valentines Day.
4. The idea that good people who have died go to heaven and become angels.
5. That some angels are clearly female as in the "Touched by an Angel" TV series.
6. That angels are completely genderless. (based on Matthew 22:30)
7. That angels can be worshiped. (Paul speaks to this in Colossians 2:18)
8. Ringing a bell can give angels wings.
9. Whistling can call up demons.

These are just a few examples. Add to these the many reported present-day encounters with angels that tend to leave us with more questions than answers, as well as mysterious unexplainable events that often draw us away from the truth of God's word, rather than to it. It needs to be stated that all such encounters and events should be examined in the light of the Bible, which is God's word, true and faithful.

As we explore the doctrine of Angels (angelology), we must keep to the truth of God's revealed word in the Bible. In it's pages alone can we know the real truth about angels. Individuals may have opinions and experiences, but God's word must be the standard to which we yield our opinions and test our own experiences with the supernatural.

1 John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Often the study of angels is divided into two parts, Angelology and Demonology. This study will attempt to present both doctrines as one unit, combining the two. As a result we should pay close attention knowing that a study of God's angel ministers and their role in assisting us and God's plan during our sojourning here, could be extremely helpful. At the same time the enemy of our souls does not want to be exposed and instead, wants to keep us in the dark concerning his treachery toward us and our Savior.

1 Peter 5:8-9 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, **seeking whom he may devour.** 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

The term angel is used over 280 times in 35 books of the Bible. 17 books in the Old Testament refer to angels and 18 books of the New Testament. The Bible's numerous uses of the term makes it clear that angels are real and important and gives great attention to them.

The Hebrew term *malak*, translated angel in the Old Testament and the Greek term *angelos*, translated angel in the New Testament, simply means "one sent" or "a messenger," in particular a messenger from God, as in the angel Gabriel who was sent to Zacharias concerning John and to Mary concerning Jesus.

Luke 1:13 But the **angel** said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.

Luke 1:19 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.

Luke 1:26-27 Now in the sixth month the **angel Gabriel** was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

The term angel is also used in reference to fallen angels who followed Satan in his rebellion against God. For instance, Paul is sent an angel (messenger from Satan).

2 Corinthians 12:7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a **messenger** of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

There are many other terms and names used in the Bible to describe spiritual beings, of which angel is just one. Demon and its variations, for example, is mentioned over 100 times in the bible in both Old and New Testaments. We will look at other terms as well.

A. What Are Angels And How Are They Defined?

1. Billy Graham says in his book titled *Angels*; "Angels are God's secret agents."

2. A very broad definition from Smith's Bible Dictionary says; "Angels are whomever God employs to do his will." This might include human servants of God.

Galatians 4:14 And my trial which was in my flesh you did not despise or reject, but you received me as an angel of God, *even* as Christ Jesus.

3. A more specific definition might be; Spiritual beings with moral judgment, high intelligence and great power, immortal but without physical bodies created by God to give Him glory and accomplish His will.

B. What Can We Know About Angels?

1. There Are Both Good And Faithful As Well As Fallen And Evil Spiritual Beings.

Angels must be divided into two camps:

a) Those who have remained **faithful** to God and His purposes.

b) Those who rebelled, have **fallen** and are opposed to God's will.

These are referred to as "fallen angels."

- **Jesus mentions seeing this take place.**

Luke 10:18 And He (Jesus) said to them, "I **saw Satan fall** like lightning from heaven.

- **Isaiah records the event as well.**

Isaiah 14:12 "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!

How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!

- **John describes Satan and his angels be cast down to earth**

Revelation 12:9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

2. Angels Were Created.

Colossians 1:16 For by Him (Jesus) 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.

Nehemiah 9:6 You alone are the LORD; You have made heaven, The heaven of heavens, with **all their host**, The earth and everything on it, The seas and all that is in them, And You preserve them all. The **host of heaven** worships You.

Psalms 148:1-5 Praise the LORD from the heavens;
Praise Him in the heights! 2 Praise Him, **all His angels**; Praise Him, **all His hosts**!
3 Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him, all you stars of light! 4 Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, And you waters above the heavens! 5 Let them praise the name of the LORD, **For He commanded and they were created**.

***We do not know when they were created**, but Job 38 gives some indication that it was before the 6 days of creation in Genesis 1.

Job 38:4-7 "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. 5 Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? 6 To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, 7 When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?"

3. Angels Are Spiritual Beings.

Hebrews 1:14 Are they not **all ministering spirits** sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

Ephesians 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against **spiritual hosts** of wickedness in the heavenly places.

4. Angels Have A Free Will And Exercise Moral Judgment.

2 Peter 4:4 For if God did not spare the angels **who sinned**, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;

Jude 1:6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; (2 Peter 2:4)

5. Angels Have Great Power, Though Not Omnipotent.

2 Peter 2:10-11 They (human false teachers) are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries, **11 whereas angels, who are greater in power** and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord.

6. Angels Are Immortal, Though Not Eternal.

Since angels are created it cannot be said that they are eternal. They had a beginning just as all of God's creation had a beginning. It can be said that they are immortal since they will never die. They will be in heaven with the saved.

Matthew 22:30 For in the resurrection they (humans) neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like **angels of God in heaven**.

7. There Are Multitudes Of Angels.

Daniel 7:9-10 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; **10** A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; **Ten thousand times ten thousand** stood before Him.

Hebrews 12:22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an **innumerable company of angels**,

Revelation 5:11-12 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, 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 who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!
(Deuteronomy 33:2; Psalm 68:17)

8. All The References To Angels in the Bible Are Masculine.

Of the 280 + references to angels in the bible it's interesting to note that every one is in the masculine gender. The Greek word for angel, *anggelos*, does not have a feminine form. No exceptions. Not even Zechariah 5:9, which some claim as an exception. There he is simply seeing a vision. Zechariah is not seeing angels, instead an angel is explaining the vision he is seeing.

Note these verses indicating masculine pronouns. (Genesis 18:2, 16; Ezekiel 9:2; Zechariah 1:19; Luke 1:29; Revelation 10:1,5; 12:7; 14:19; 16:2,4,17; 19:17, 20:1)

Jesus refers to the Devil as a father in John 8:44. "Your father the Devil."

Yet they do not marry.

Matthew 22:29-30 Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. 30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven.

C. What Names are Used to Describe Angels?

1. Only Two Faithful Angels Are Referred To By Personal Names.

a) Gabriel - Luke 1:19 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.

Luke 1:26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel

was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. (see also Dan. 8:16; 9:21)

b) Michael - Revelation 12:7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; (see also Dan. 10:13, 21; Jude 9; Rev. 12:7)

Michael is the only angel called an archangel. Jude 1:9 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!"

2. Other Names for Faithful Angels:

a) Sons of God - Job 1:6, 2:1

b) Holy ones - Psalm 89:5,7

c) Spirits - Hebrews 1:14

d) Watchers - Daniel 4:13, 17, 23

e) Thrones, dominions, principalities and authorities - Colossians 1:16

f) Host - Nehemiah 9:6, Psalm 148:2 and Heavenly Hosts - Luke 2:13

g) Heavenly beings - Psalm 29:1; 89:6

3. The Devil As An Unfaithful Angel Is Known By A Number Of Names.

The most common among Christians is the name “**Devil**”, which in the New Testament is from the Greek word “*diabolos*” which means slanderer or accuser. Devil is not found in the Old Testament but it’s equivalent, the name “**Satan**” is used instead. Satan is from the Hebrew word “*Sa-tawn*” which does have a Greek New Testament equivalent, “*santanos*.”

1 Chronicles 21:1 Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel.

Matthew 4:8-10 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.