

Biblical Theology

U2L17: Angels

Biblical Truths About Angels

- Definition: Angels are created, spiritual beings with moral judgment and high intelligence, that operate inside and outside of the material universe to fulfill God's providential concerns in relation to the world and man.
 - AKA: messengers, holy ones, watchers, hosts, sons of God, spirits, et al.

- 1. Angels are Created Beings**
 - Part of the created universe, making them finite
 - Likely created before man
 - *Colossians 1:16 - in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth,*
 - *Job 38:4-7 - Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation... angels shouted*

- 2. Angels are Spiritual Beings**
 - Not flesh and blood
 - *Hebrews 1:14 - Are not all angels ministering spirits*
 - *Luke 24:39 - a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.*

 - Cannot be seen unless God gives us special ability to see them.
 - *Numbers 22:31 - Lord opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel*
 - *2 Kings 6:17 - Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes...*

 - Though spirits, they possess form and can take on bodily form.
 - *Genesis 19:1 - The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening,*
 - *Hebrews 13:2 - people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.*

 - Angels are not omnipresent, but there are lots of them.
 - *Genesis 28:12 - and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.*
 - *Daniel 10:12-14 - I was detained there with the king of Persia. Now I have come*
 - *Revelation 5:11 - thousands upon thousands, ten thousand times ten thousand*

- 3. Angels Are Nonsexual**
 - Do not experience human-like romance.
 - *Mark 12:25 - they will neither marry nor be given in marriage*
 - *Genesis 1:28 - "Be fruitful and increase in number"*
 - Refutes belief that sons of God in Genesis 6 are angels

- 4. Angels Possess Moral Judgment**
 - Ability to fall indicating moral reasoning
 - *2 Peter 2:4 - For if God did not spare angels when they sinned,*
 - *Jude 6 - And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority*

- 5. Angels Are Intelligent Beings**
 - Not mindless robots.
 - *2 Samuel 14:20 - he knows everything that happens in the land.*
 - *1 Peter 1:12 - Even angels long to look into these things.*
 - *James 2:19 - You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe*

- 6. Angels Are Powerful Beings**
 - More powerful than humans...for now...
 - *2 Peter 2:11 - Angels, although they are stronger and more powerful*
 - *1 Corinthians 6:3 - Do you not know that we will judge angels?*

- 7. Angels Possess Identities**
 - Scripture indicates specific names, order, and ranks
 - *Jude 9 - But Michael the archangel...*
 - *Luke 1:19 - "I am Gabriel... to bring you this good news.*

Other Kinds of Heavenly Beings

- Cherubim
 - Guard entrance to Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:24)
 - Accompany God's throne/travel (Psalm 18:10; Ezekiel 10:1-22)
 - Adorn Ark of the Covenant (Exodus 25:22)
- Seraphim
 - Continually worshiping around God's throne calling to one another (Isaiah 6:3)
- Living Creatures
 - Around God's throne (Ezekiel 1:5-14; Revelation 4:6-8)
 - Appear like lion, ox, man, eagle
 - Worship God continually

Activities of Angels

1. Praise and Glorify God

- Psalm 148:2 - *Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts.*
- Revelation 5:11-12 - *saying: "...wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"*
- Luke 2:13-14 - *"Glory to God in the highest heaven..."*

2. Messengers of God

- Apocalyptic Visions (Daniel 8:19)
- Three Men and Abraham (Genesis 18:2)
- Two Men and Lot (Genesis 19:1)
- Commander of the Army of the Lord (Joshua 5:14)
- Joseph and Birth of Jesus (Matthew 1:20)
- Mary and Joseph to Flee to Egypt (Matthew 2:13)
- Paul to Stand before Caesar (Acts 27:24)

3. Protectors of Believers and Ministry

- Function of Angels in Psalms (Psalm 91:11)
- Breaking Believers out of Jail (Acts 5:19)
- David Delivered by Angels (Psalm 34:7)
- Elijah Ministered to by Angel (1 Kings 19)

4. Carryout God's Plans and Judgments

- Death of 185,000 Assyrians (2 Kings 19:35)
- Angel Killed Herod (Acts 12:23)
- Judgments in Revelation (Revelation 8:9-9:21)
- War against demonic forces (Daniel 10:13; Revelation 7-8)
- Will accompany Christ in the Second Coming (Matthew 25:31)
- **Angel of the Lord?**

Our Relationship With Angels

- No biblical basis for personal guardian angels (zone vs. man-to-man)
- We should be aware of Angles in daily lives
- Cautious of Relationships (2 Corinthians 11:14; 1 Kings 13:9; Mormonism, Islam)
- Should not be seeked.
- Appear as people today? (Hebrews 13:2)

Discussion Questions

1. How might this lesson affect how you think about angels from now on?
2. How does an awareness angels impact your walk before Christ and service to God?
3. How does the view of angelic praise impact your view on worshiping, praising, and giving thanksgiving to God?

Reading Assignment

Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem – Chapter 20: Satan and Demons