

Angels

It seems as though angels have captured the imagination of people everywhere. Unfortunately, there is a lot of misinformation about angels, along with superstitions and unscriptural understandings. On fortunately, in some cases angels get elevated to a “god-like” status. Hebrews 1:1-14 helps to clarify just where angels stand in comparison to Christ Jesus.

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³ The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴ So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son; today I have become your Father?” [Ps. 2:7] Or again, “I will be his Father, [2 Samuel 7:14; 1 Chron. 17:13] and he will be my Son”? ⁶ And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him [Deut. 32:43].” ⁷ In speaking of the angels he says, “He makes his angels spirits, and his servants flames of fire” [Ps. 104:4 - **Emphasizes that the angels, although sharing in God’s glory and majesty, are God’s creatures**] ⁸ But about the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy”. [Ps. 45:6-7] ¹⁰ He also says, “In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. [Look at the splendid sunsets, the splashing ocean, the star-studded sky. **The Son was there before they existed! He even helped lay their foundations. (PBC)**] ¹¹ They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. ¹² You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end. [Ps. 102:25-27] ¹³ To which of the angels did God ever say, “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”? [Ps. 110:1 - **Ancient kings often had themselves portrayed as placing their feet on vanquished enemies**] ¹⁴ Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation? [Jesus’ status as true and everlasting King is contrasted with the status of angels who, though members of the royal court, are servants who obey the word of their Master. (TLSB)]

[The best the angels can do it to be “ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation.” To carry out God’s will for the believers is their task and also their limit. All the journey home even the lowliest believer can have their service, but far better to have Him who is in every way “superior to the angels,” the eternal Savior who promises in 13:5, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” (PBC)]

Some questions:

How is the above text both clarifying?

How is it comforting to know that angels are God creation and do His will?

Comments or questions?

I. Do angels exist?

- A. Angels are spirits. They are beings who do not have a physical body. Angels, like God, do not inhabit the same physical dimension that human beings inhabit. In the Scriptures, when angels do appear in human form, this is only a momentary appearance for those who need to see them. Angels are not gods. They are God's creation and serve His holy and perfect will.

The Bible teaches us that angels were made by God during the six days of creation. Before creation there was only God (John 1:1-3), and after creation, we are told that on the seventh day God "rested from all the work of creating he had done" (Gen.2:3b). The Bible does not indicate on which day of creation God made angels. But angels are very real.

1. **John 1:1-3 ESV:** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.*
 - a. *In the beginning.* John purposefully takes our ears back to Moses' words in Gen 1:1. His account takes us as far back as you can go: to eternity, before creation.
 - b. *was the Word.* Word, or Logos, is strictly a Biblical expression or designation for the second person of the God-head, for Jesus Christ. He is no creature, no part of the creation, for He existed when no part of that existed. He is the Word which God spoke from eternity, begotten of God from eternity. And He existed, not as a dead substance or thing, but He was alive and active.
 2. **Colossians 1:15-16 ESV:** *¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.*
 - a. *By Him all things were created.* Seven times in six verses Paul mentions "all creation," "all things" and "everything," thus stressing that Christ is supreme over all. (CSB)
 - b. *invisible.* The Colossians were particularly interested in angels. However, Paul asserts Jesus' supremacy over the invisible angels. (TLSB)
 - c. *thrones.* The false teachers may have given lip service to Jesus and claimed to believe in him as the Savior, but it is clear that they also regarded other things and other powers as having saving value. (PBC)
- B. Sixty-nine percent of Americans say they believe in angels. What may be some reasons that that many people are led to believe in angels (books, magazines, TV shows)? (All about Angels – Hartman – p. 13)

- C. Why is it best to depend on what Scripture says about angels as opposed to the information we can glean from things around us?
- D. Comments or questions?

II. What does the Bible tell us about the service of good angels?

- A. Angels are God’s messengers. The word “angel” comes from a Greek word that means “messenger.”
 - 1. **Luke 1:11:** *“Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense.”*
 - 2. **Matthew 1:20:** *“But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.”* (Jesus’s birth – Joseph)
 - 3. **Luke 1:26-28:** *“²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”*
 - 4. **Matthew 2:13:** *“When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. ‘Get up,’ he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”*”
 - 5. **Matthew 2:19-20:** *“After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt ²⁰and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.’”*
 - 6. **Matthew 28:11:** *⁵ The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.”*
 - 7. **Acts 8:26:** *Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”*
 - 8. **Acts 10:1-6** *At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. ² He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly. ³ One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, “Cornelius!” ⁴ Cornelius stared at him in fear. “What is it, Lord?” he asked. The angel answered, “Your prayers and gifts to the*

poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. ⁵ Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. ⁶ He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea.”

9.

1. **Matthew 18:10 ESV:** *“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.”*

- a. To behold God’s face means to enjoy unspeakable happiness.
- b. They will always behold God’s face because they will not fall away from God, but are confirmed in the enjoyment of heavenly bliss.

2. **Hebrews 1:14 ESV:** *Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?*

- a. Jesus’ status as true and everlasting King is contrasted with the status of angels who, though members of the royal court, are servants who obey the word of their Master. (TLSB)
- b. The best the angels can do it to be “ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation.” To carry out God’s will for the believers is their task and also their limit. All the journey home even the lowliest believer can have their service, but far better to have Him who is in every way “superior to the angels,” the eternal Savior who promises in 13:5, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” (PBC)

B. They are of great number and great power. The language used to describe the number of angels (“thousands upon thousands... ten thousand times ten thousand”) seems to describe a countless number. The Talmud suggests that every Jew has 11,000 guardian angels assigned at birth. That’s a lot of angels! (Malcomb Godwin, *Angels and Endangered Species*, page 69) (All about Angels – Hartman – p. 23)

Martin Luther once suggested that there were ten trillion angels, one thousand for each and every person on earth. Other Christians have debated the number of angels that would sit on the head of a pin. Ultimately, any speculation as to the number of angels would not reach a valid conclusion. Neither would a debate about the amount of angels in a certain location at a certain time. (*Angels and Demons* – Boehme – p. 16)

1. **Job 25:2-3 ESV:** *“Dominion and awe belong to God; he establishes order in the heights of heaven. ³ Can his forces be numbered? On whom does his light not rise?”*

2. **Psalm 68:17 ESV:** *The chariots of God are twice ten thousand, thousands upon thousands; the Lord is among them; Sinai is now in the sanctuary.*
3. **Luke 2:13 ESV:** *And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host.*
4. **Matthew 26:53 ESV:** *Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?*
 - a. *legions.* A Roman legion had 6,000 soldiers. (CSB)
 - b. C 72,000 soldiers; here it means countless angels. (TLSB)
5. **Daniel 7:10: ESV:** *A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment,*
 - a. Ten is a symbol of completeness. Its multiple extends that to a greater degree.
 - b. “Not that the multitude is only so great, but because the Prophet could not express more than these. So there will be present at the judgment in that day, God, the Father of all, Jesus Christ being seated with Him, and the Holy Spirit present with Them; an angel’s trumpet shall summon us all to bring our deeds with us.” (Cyril of Jerusalem) (TLSB)
 - c. Stood before Him. Stand in Scripture is an expression of readiness to serve, the common posture for prayer, and also of worship, the people stand to show their respect for the public reading of God’s Word. (TLSB)
6. **Revelation 5:11 ESV:** *Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands,.*
 - a. A myriad is ten thousand. Thus, the angels number in the millions. (TLSB)
 - b. The whole heavenly host, saints in representative fashion and all the angels, worships and adores the Lamb now enthroned at the right of the Father. All the glory and honor and worship that was given to God the Creator (4:11) is now given in equal manner to the victorious and elevated Christ (5:12). (CC pp. 142-143)
7. **Psalm 103:20 ESV:** *Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word!*

8. **2 Kings 19:35 ESV:** *And that night the angel of the LORD went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. And when people arose early in the morning, behold, these were all dead bodies.*
9. **2 Kings 6:15-17 ESV:** ¹⁵ *When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"* ¹⁶ *He said, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."* ¹⁷ *Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see." So the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.*
10. What kind of comfort do you have knowing that good angels are in such large numbers?
11. Comments or questions?

C. There are classes or orders of angels, Cherubim, Seraphim and Archangels as well as Thrones, Dominions and Principalities. The Bible mentions the names of a few angels: Gabriel and Michael.

1. **Genesis 3:24 ESV:** *He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.*
 - a. *cherubim.* † The Hebrew plural form of "cherub." These celestial beings carry out various purposes and functions at God's direction, in this instance the guarding of the Garden of Eden. (CSB)
 - b. They are described as having composite forms similar to the statues of winged, human-headed bulls or lions that stood guard at the entrances to palaces and temples in ancient Mesopotamia (see note on Ex 25:18). (CSB)
2. **Isaiah 6:2 ESV:** *Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.*
 - a. The Hebrew root underlying this word means "burn," perhaps to indicate their purity as God's ministers. They correspond to the "living creatures" of Rev 4:6–9, each of whom also had six wings. (CSB)
 - b. Hebrew plural noun, occurring only here and in v 6 as a name for celestial beings. Hebrew *saraph* suggests that they were glowing or fiery beings. Though their description is somewhat cryptic, the point of this vision is God's glory, not the details of His attendants. (TLSB)
3. **Daniel 12:1-2 ESV:** *"At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book."* ² *And many of*

those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

- a. “Michael, the great prince” is a reference to the archangel Michael, the warrior who helps the Lord (Dan 10:13, 21). (Concordia Pulpit Resources - Volume 19, Part 4)
 - b. Michael was charged to care for Israel but this reference may include “new Israel,” the Church. (TLSB)
4. **1 Thessalonians 4:16 ESV:** *For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.*
- a. Chief angel.
 - b. The Lord uses angels to execute His will. (Jude 9)
 - c. The only named archangel in the Bible is Michael. (CSB)
5. **Colossians 1:16 ESV:** *For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.*
- a. An angelic hierarchy figured prominently in the Colossian heresy. (CSB)
 - b. Names common to Judaism and the NT of angelic or demonic powers that were thought to control the universe. The false teachers apparently assigned to them power independent of Christ (2:8) and held them to be objects of worship (2:18). (TLSB)
6. **Luke 1:19 ESV:** *And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news.*
- a. The name can mean “God is my hero” or “mighty man of God.” Only two angels are identified by name in Scripture: Gabriel (Da 8:16; 9:21) and Michael (Da 10:13, 21; Jude 9; Rev 12:7). (CSB)
 - b. The angel who interpreted visions to Daniel (Daniel 8:16-27; 9:20-27) and announced the births of John the Baptist (Luke 1:11-22) and Jesus (Luke 1:26-38). (Lutheran Bible Companion Volume Two, page 888)
- D. They praise God, carry out His commands, and serve the Christians, especially children.
1. **Psalms 103:20-21 ESV:** *Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word!*
 - a. Angels and mighty ones can possibly have a military image: God’s mighty warriors or His angelic army. (TLSB)

- b. *heavenly hosts*. Uniquely here and in 148:2 the Hebrew for “hosts” and in both places the “hosts” are associated with “angels.” (CSB)
2. **Luke 2:13-14 ESV:** ¹³ *And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”*
 3. **Revelation 7:11-12 ESV:** ¹¹ *And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,¹² saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”*
 4. **Luke 15:10 ESV:** ¹⁰ *Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”*
 5. **Genesis 19:12-13 ESV:** ¹² *Then the men said to Lot, “Have you anyone else here? Sons-in-law, sons, daughters, or anyone you have in the city, bring them out of the place.¹³ For we are about to destroy this place, because the outcry against its people has become great before the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it.”*
 6. **Daniel 10:4-11 ESV:** ⁴ *On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river (that is, the Tigris)⁵ I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist.⁶ His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude.⁷ And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision, but a great trembling fell upon them, and they fled to hide themselves.⁸ So I was left alone and saw this great vision, and no strength was left in me. My radiant appearance was fearfully changed and I retained no strength.⁹ Then I heard the sound of his words, and as I heard the sound of his words, I fell on my face in deep sleep with my face to the ground.*

¹⁰ And behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees.¹¹ And he said to me, “O Daniel, man greatly loved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you.” And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling.
 7. **Psalms 91:11-12 ESV:** ¹¹ *For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.¹² On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.*
 8. **Psalms 34:7 ESV:** *The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.*
 9. **Matthew 2:13, 19-20 ESV:** ¹³ *Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his*

mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.”

¹⁹ But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰ saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.”

10. **Mark 1:13 ESV:** *And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.*
11. **Luke 2:9 ESV:** *And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.*
12. **Matthew 28:1-8 ESV:** *Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.” ⁸ So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.*
13. **John 20:11-13 ESV:** *¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. ¹² And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.”*
14. **Luke 22:43 ESV:** *And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him.*
15. **Hebrews 1:14 ESV:** *Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?*
16. **Acts 12:6-11 ESV:** *⁶ Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. ⁷ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, “Get up quickly.” And the chains fell off his hands. ⁸ And the angel said to him, “Dress yourself and put on your sandals.” And he did so. And he said to him, “Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.” ⁹ And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰ When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel left him. ¹¹ When Peter came to himself, he said, “Now I am sure that the Lord has*

sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.”

17. Daniel 3:19-25 ESV: *¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated. ²⁰ And he ordered some of the mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. ²¹ Then these men were bound in their cloaks, their tunics,^[a] their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the burning fiery furnace. ²² Because the king's order was urgent and the furnace overheated, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. ²³ And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace.*

²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, “Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?” They answered and said to the king, “True, O king.” ²⁵ He answered and said, “But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.”

18. Daniel 6 – Daniel and Lions’ Den narrative

19. Acts 1:10-11 ESV: *¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”*

20. Acts 5:19 ESV: *But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said.*

21. Acts 8:26-40 ESV: *²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. ²⁷ And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” ³⁰ So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹ And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:*

*“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.*

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴ And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth,

and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" ³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹ And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

22. **Acts 12:20-23 ESV:** *²⁰ Now Herod was angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon, and they came to him with one accord, and having persuaded Blastus, the king's chamberlain,^(u) they asked for peace, because their country depended on the king's country for food. ²¹ On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an oration to them. ²² And the people were shouting, "The voice of a god, and not of a man!" ²³ Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.*
23. **Acts 27:23-25 ESV:** *²³ For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, ²⁴ and he said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.' ²⁵ So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told.*
24. **Luke 16:22 ESV:** *The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side The rich man also died and was buried.*
25. **Matthew 18:10 ESV:** *"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven."*
26. **Revelation 20:1-3 ESV:** *Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. ² And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, ³ and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.*

E. The "angel of the Lord" occurs only in the Old Testament and some scholars suggest that this might be the pre-incarnate Christ.

1. **Genesis 16:7-12 ESV:** *Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. ² And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, ³ and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.*
2. **Genesis 18:2-4, 13-14 ESV:** *² He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door*

to meet them and bowed himself to the earth³ and said, “O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant.⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree,¹³ The LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’¹⁴ Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.”

3. **Genesis 22:11-12 ESV:** *¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.”¹² He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.”*
4. **Genesis 31:11-13 ESV:** *¹¹ Then the angel of God said to me in the dream, ‘Jacob,’ and I said, ‘Here I am!’¹² And he said, ‘Lift up your eyes and see, all the goats that mate with the flock are striped, spotted, and mottled, for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you.¹³ I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and made a vow to me. Now arise, go out from this land and return to the land of your kindred.’”*
5. **Exodus 3:2-6 ESV:** *² And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed.³ And Moses said, “I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.”⁴ When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.”⁵ Then he said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.”⁶ And he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.*
6. **Exodus 14:19 ESV:** *Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them,*
7. **Exodus 23:20-21 ESV:** *²⁰ “Behold, I send an angel before you to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared.²¹ Pay careful attention to him and obey his voice; do not rebel against him, for he will not pardon your transgression, for my name is in him.*
8. **Numbers 22:24-35 ESV:** *²² But God's anger was kindled because he went, and the angel of the LORD took his stand in the way as his adversary. Now he was riding on the donkey, and his two servants were with him.²³ And the donkey saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road, with a drawn sword in his hand. And the donkey turned aside out of the road and went into the field. And Balaam struck the donkey, to turn her into the road.²⁴ Then the angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, with a wall on either side.²⁵ And when the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, she pushed against the wall and pressed Balaam's foot against the wall. So he struck her again.²⁶ Then the angel of the LORD went ahead and stood in a narrow place, where there was no way to turn either to the right or to the left.²⁷ When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, she lay down under Balaam. And Balaam's anger was kindled, and he struck the donkey with his staff.²⁸ Then the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey,*

and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?"²⁹ And Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have made a fool of me. I wish I had a sword in my hand, for then I would kill you."³⁰ And the donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey, on which you have ridden all your life long to this day? Is it my habit to treat you this way?" And he said, "No."³¹ Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, with his drawn sword in his hand. And he bowed down and fell on his face.³² And the angel of the LORD said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to oppose you because your way is perverse before me."³³ The donkey saw me and turned aside before me these three times. If she had not turned aside from me, surely just now I would have killed you and let her live."³⁴ Then Balaam said to the angel of the LORD, "I have sinned, for I did not know that you stood in the road against me. Now therefore, if it is evil in your sight, I will turn back."³⁵ And the angel of the LORD said to Balaam, "Go with the men, but speak only the word that I tell you." So Balaam went on with the princes of Balak.

9. **Judges 6:11-22 ESV:** ¹¹ Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. ¹² And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, "The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor."¹³ And Gideon said to him, "Please, my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian."¹⁴ And the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?"¹⁵ And he said to him, "Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house."¹⁶ And the LORD said to him, "But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man."¹⁷ And he said to him, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, then show me a sign that it is you who speak with me."¹⁸ Please do not depart from here until I come to you and bring out my present and set it before you." And he said, "I will stay till you return."¹⁹ So Gideon went into his house and prepared a young goat and unleavened cakes from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and the broth he put in a pot, and brought them to him under the terebinth and presented them.²⁰ And the angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened cakes, and put them on this rock, and pour the broth over them." And he did so.²¹ Then the angel of the LORD reached out the tip of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes. And fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened cakes. And the angel of the LORD vanished from his sight.²² Then Gideon perceived that he was the angel of the LORD. And Gideon said, "Alas, O Lord GOD! For now I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face."²³ But the LORD said to him, "Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die."²⁴ Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and called it, The LORD Is Peace. To this day it still stands at Ophrah, which belongs to the Abiezrites.
10. **Judges 13:3-21 ESV:** ³ And the angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, "Behold, you are barren and have not borne children, but you shall conceive and bear a son."⁴ Therefore be careful and drink no wine or strong

drink, and eat nothing unclean,⁵ for behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb, and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines.”⁶ Then the woman came and told her husband, “A man of God came to me, and his appearance was like the appearance of the angel of God, very awesome. I did not ask him where he was from, and he did not tell me his name,⁷ but he said to me, Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. So then drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death.’” Then Manoah prayed to the LORD and said, “O Lord, please let the man of God whom you sent come again to us and teach us what we are to do with the child who will be born.”⁹ And God listened to the voice of Manoah, and the angel of God came again to the woman as she sat in the field. But Manoah her husband was not with her.¹⁰ So the woman ran quickly and told her husband, “Behold, the man who came to me the other day has appeared to me.”¹¹ And Manoah arose and went after his wife and came to the man and said to him, “Are you the man who spoke to this woman?” And he said, “I am.”¹² And Manoah said, “Now when your words come true, what is to be the child’s manner of life, and what is his mission?”¹³ And the angel of the LORD said to Manoah, “Of all that I said to the woman let her be careful.¹⁴ She may not eat of anything that comes from the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, or eat any unclean thing. All that I commanded her let her observe.”¹⁵ Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, “Please let us detain you and prepare a young goat for you.”¹⁶ And the angel of the LORD said to Manoah, “If you detain me, I will not eat of your food. But if you prepare a burnt offering, then offer it to the LORD.” (For Manoah did not know that he was the angel of the LORD.)¹⁷ And Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, “What is your name, so that, when your words come true, we may honor you?”¹⁸ And the angel of the LORD said to him, “Why do you ask my name, seeing^k it is wonderful?”¹⁹ So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering, and offered it on the rock to the LORD, to the one who works^l wonders, and Manoah and his wife were watching.²⁰ And when the flame went up toward heaven from the altar, the angel of the LORD went up in the flame of the altar. Now Manoah and his wife were watching, and they fell on their faces to the ground.²¹ The angel of the LORD appeared no more to Manoah and to his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was the angel of the LORD.

11. **Zechariah 1:12-13 ESV:** ¹² Then the angel of the LORD said, ‘O LORD of hosts, how long will you have no mercy on Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, against which you have been angry these seventy years?’¹³ And the LORD answered gracious and comforting words to the angel who talked with me.
12. **Zechariah 3:1-4 ESV:** Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him.² And the LORD said to Satan, “The LORD rebuke you, O Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand^[b] plucked from the fire?”³ Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clothed with filthy garments.⁴ And the angel said to those who were standing before him, “Remove the filthy garments from him.” And to him he said, “Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and I will clothe you with pure vestments.”

III. What does the Bible tell us about evil angels or devils?

F. Originally, all angels God created were good and did His will perfectly. At some point after God created them, some angels chose to rebel against Him. They fell away from God and into great sin and evil. At that point, they were confirmed in their evil condition. There is no hope for them. They recognize that there will be a time when they must suffer eternal torment and punishment for their rebellion against God. Satan is the chief evil angel, the “prince of demons.”

1. **2 Peter 2:4 ESV:** *For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment;*
2. **Matthew 8:29 ESV:** *And behold, they cried out, “What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?”*
3. **Matthew 25:41 ESV:** *“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’”*

G. They are cunning, powerful, and of great number.

1. **Ephesians 6:12 ESV:** *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*
2. **Mark 5:9 ESV:** *And Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” He replied, “My name is Legion, for we are many.”*
3. **Genesis 3:1 ESV:** *Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.*
4. **2 Corinthians 11:14 ESV:** *And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.¹⁵ So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.*
5. **Jude 9 ESV:** *But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you.”*
6. **Luke 11:15 ESV:** *But some of them said, “He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons,”*

H. They are enemies of God and of man and endeavor to destroy the works of God.

1. **John 13:2 ESV:** *During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him.*
2. **1 Peter 5:8-9 ESV:** ⁸*Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.* ⁹*Resist*

him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

3. **Matthew 4:1-11 ESV:** *Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written, “‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶ and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, “‘He will command his angels concerning you’ and “ ‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’” ⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’” ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.*
4. **Ephesians 2:1-2 ESV** *And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—*
5. **Ephesians 6:10-18 ESV** *¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.*

IV. How are we to treat angels?

- i. We need to praise and thank God for good angels. We are told that we are to take care not to offend them through sin and unbelief. But the Scriptures are also clear that we must not pray to angels, nor offer them our worship. The angels themselves protest any worship given to them. As believers, we have the privilege of having angels surrounding us and protecting us and working to do God’s good and perfect will in our lives. Our hope and trust is always in God, whom we know sends His angels to watch over us and to see us through whatever difficulty in life may come our way. Because of our Lord Jesus Christ’s perfect life and sacrificial death for the sins of the world, we have the assurance of the complete and total forgiveness of all our sins. We know that God loves and cares for us as His own dear children. Furthermore, we know that the Lord sends His angels to care for us

in order that someday we may join them, and all the company of heaven, in seeing God and singing His praises for all eternity. (All About Angels – A. L. Barry)

1. **1 Timothy 5:21 ESV:** *In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality.*
2. **Revelation 22:8-9 ESV:** *⁸ I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, ⁹but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.”*