

Angelology

I. Do Angels Exist?

A. On what basis do we discuss the doctrine of Angels, Angelology?

1. Personal experience and testimonies. (Great corroboration, but insufficient)
2. The Word of God. (Sola Scriptura - Mark 7:9,13; Jeremiah 23:25-28; I Cor. 2:9)

B. Can someone be a Christian without believing in Angels? (Relationship to faith in Christ)

C. How do the scriptures support our belief in the existence of angels?

1. Reference is made to angels in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation over 300 Times..
2. Jesus, Himself, speaks of the existence of angels: (Matt. 13:41;16:27; 18:10; 26:53; etc.)

D. When were the angels created and do we become angels when we die?

1. Angels were created sometime within the original six days of creation. (John 1:1-3; Gen. 2:2-3)
2. No new angels are created, and no human being is transformed into an angel since they are a different dimension of creation. Angels are angels. People are people now and into eternity.
3. Angels are not gods, but were created and are sustained by the Triune God (Col. 1:16-17) to serve His good purpose on our behalf.

II. What Are Angels?

A. Can we learn anything from their name?

1. The term "angelos" and "Mal-'ach" is an official title describing, not the essential nature, but the functional nature of these beings. The term "Angel" means messenger, and is also used of men and of Christ in some instances (Mal 2:7; Matt. 11:10; John 3:17,34). The primary purpose of angels is to serve as messenger of God. It would only be appropriate to call people angels when they are fulfilling this purpose.
2. In the Old Testament, whenever "The angel of the Lord" is described, and worship is accorded Him, it is a reference to the preincarnate Son of God. We call this manifestation of the Second person of the Trinity the "Angelus increatus". (Nt. Gen. 16:7-14)

B. What is the essential nature of angels?

1. Angels are described as "pneuma"; spirits. Angels do not have a physical presence like we do. To say they are spirit alone, separates them from our spatial understanding of existence (Lk 24:39; Eph 6:12) Angels are a different dimension of creation.
2. When attributed with bodily form, it was an assumed form, not part of their true being. According to the description of angels as spirit beings is it possible for us to become angels in essence?

C. What are some of the properties of angels?

1. Intellect, will and limited wisdom of God. (Eph. 3:10; Mark 13:32; I Kings 8:39)
2. A sense of purpose. (Heb. 1:14; Gen. 3; Matt. 4)
3. Ability to interact with the material world. (Gen. 19:16; Matt. 4:5) Ghosts?
4. A superior power to ours, but limited. (Ps. 103:20; 91:11-13; II Thess. 1:7; Matt. 12:29; Luke 11:21-22; II Thess. 2:9; I John 4:4 Also consider Job's plight)
5. Sexless, and have no mates. (Matt. 22:30)
6. Illocal presence, limited to one place at a time, but not occupying space because they are spirit.

III. What Other Differences Exist Between Angels and Humans?

A. We are made a little lower than angels, but served by them until placed above them. (Heb. 1:14; 2:5ff.)

B. We have a personal knowledge and experience of salvation which the angels do not. (Luke 15:10; 2:10; I Cor. 6:3; Rom. 8:17; Heb. 1:14; 2:16)

C. We are unique in being called God's children. (Heb. 1:5)

D. Angels are more powerful and wise. (II Pet. 2:11; II Sam. 14:20)

IV. Should Angels Be Worshipped? (Col. 2:18)

V. How many angels are there?

A. Thousands upon thousands or a countless number. (Daniel 7:10; Luke 2:13; Hebrews 12:22; Revelation 5: I I; Deuteronomy 33:2)

B. The existence of so many angels created to serve our good is a testimony of God's love for us.

VI. What are the different ranks of angels?

A. God created many orders of angels. (Ephesians 1:21; Colossians 1:16)

B. Michael is an Archangel. (Jude 1:9; Daniel 10:21; 12:1; Revelation 12: 7-9; I Thessalonians 4:16) [Lucifer/Satan may have also been an archangel.]

- C. Gabriel is a messenger angel. (Daniel 8:16; 9:21; Luke 1:19; 26) Possibly other announcements.
- D. Seraphim are described as six-winged angels around the throne of God who are representative of His holy presence. (Isaiah 6:1-6; Rev. 4:6-9)
- E. Cherubim are wheeled angels beneath the throne of God connected with the tabernacle, temple and garden. (Ezekiel 10) (Exodus 25:18; 36:35; 37:6-9; Gen 3:24; Ps. 80:1; 99:1)
- F. There are additional rankings of evil angels. (Matthew 25:41; Luke 11:15, 18-19; Ephesians 6:12)

VII. What great division has taken place ?

- A. God created all angels as good. (Genesis 1:31)
- B. The great division came from the rebellion of those who were not content with the place God had given them. (II Pet. 2:4; Jude 6; Isaiah 14:12-14N)
- C. One third of the angels have become evil? (Revelations 12:4)
- D. There was and continues to be warfare in the spiritual realm. (Revelations 12:7ff)
- E. The evil angels will be cast into hell. (Matthew 8.29)

VIII. What Are Evil Angels Like?

- A. Who is the leader of the Evil Angels?
 1. From the Garden of Eden and Beyond (Genesis 3:1; Rev. 12:9; 20:2) "Satan" means adversary or opponent.
 2. His purpose is to accuse us and separate us from God. (Job 1-2; Zechariah 3:1-5)
 3. He is also often called "The Devil" slanderer (Matt. 4:1; Luke 4:2; John 8:44; Eph. 6:11; Rev. 12:12)
 4. Other names given him: (Rev. 9:11; Rev. 12:9-10; Matt. 12:24; II Cor. 6:15; IJohn 2:13; II Cor. 4:4; John 12:31; Eph. 2:2; I Thess. 3:5)
- B. What do his titles tell us about the purposes of the leader of the Evil Angels?
- C. What do we learn of the work of the Evil one from the following
 1. The danger (I Pet. 5:8)
 2. The disguise (II Cor. 11:14)
 3. The desperation (Rev. 12:10)
- D. From the Garden, even to the present day, what has been Satan's greatest weapon?
- E. Can Evil Angels ever be Saved?
 1. Held till judgment (II Pet. 2:4)
 2. Kept in darkness (Jude 6)
 3. The help of Christ is not for angels (Heb. 2:16)
- F. What is the primary work of the Evil Angels?
 1. Distortion and corruption of Gospel even leading to unbelief (Matt. 13:24-30; 36-43; Eph 2:1-2)
 2. Spread false doctrine (I Tim. 4:1-2; II Thess. 2:8-9)
 3. Hinder faithful preachers, and intended listeners (I Thess. 2:1* Lk. 8:12)
 4. Stir up persecution (I Pet. 5:8-9)
 5. Temptation even through the Word of God (Matt. 4:1-7)
 6. Disruption of unity and peace in nation and home (I Kgs. 22:21-23; I Cor. 7:5)
 7. Causing harm in body, possessions and soul (Job 1:12-22; 2:7-13; Luke 13:11; 22:11; I Pet. 5:8,9)
 8. Bodily possession of person (Mk. 1:32; 5:6,18; Matt. 9:32-33)
- G. How should we deal with Satan and Evil Angels?
 1. Deny existence of, ignore? (I Pet. 5: 8)
 2. Arm ourselves! (Eph. 6:10-20)

IX. What are Good Angels Like?

- A. Do, or will, the Holy Angels ever sin?
 1. As the Evil Angels are held in darkness, the Holy Angels are bound in light or holiness.
 2. We might speculate that it is their glorious vision which keeps Holy Angels "Holy". (Matt. 18:10)
- B. What is the purpose of the Holy Angels, and their activity?
 1. Praise God. (Isaiah 6:3; Luke 2:13)
 2. Minister in world and church (Ps. 103:20-21; 104:4; Hebrews 1:14)
 3. Especially serve children, believers and the dying. (Matt. 18:10; Ps. 34:7 & 91:11-12; Luke 16:22)
 4. Rejoice as God's plan is accomplished (Luke 15:10)
 5. Present at most significant events in God's kingdom. (Dt. 33:2; Gal. 3:19; Luke 1:26; 2:11; 24:5ff.; Acts I:10ff).
 6. Will come with Christ at his return to judge (Matt. 13:41ff; 24:31)
 7. Are present when we worship (I Cor. 11:10)
 8. Promote the welfare of family, law, and State (Gen. 24:7; Matt. 18:10; Dan. 10:13)
- C. What comfort do you gain from the activities of the Holy Angels ministering to your welfare?
- X. What else would you like to know about Angels?