



Holy Angels

Note: The Scripture references in this hand-out are taken from the New King James Version.

What are Angels?

Angels are spirit beings created by God. There are those who have allegiance to God that we are calling holy angels and those that rejected God's lordship that are called fallen angels or demons. The word angel is a title describing their role as messenger, ambassador or minister.

How are biblical angels different from the way portrayed by the culture in programs like *Touched by an Angel*?

Most angels don't literally have wings though there may be a class of angels that do. The word angel in the original Hebrew and Greek is always used in the masculine gender though sex in the human sense is never ascribed to angels.

Who are the "sons of God" in Job 38:4-7 and why are they called this?

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

The "sons of God" are the angels. They are called this because they were a direct creation by God. Angels do not procreate as mortal men do. Therefore the number of angels is fixed for all-time because the creation was completed...

Genesis 2:1 - Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished.

How do we know that angels were not present with God before the creation?

Because Scripture tells us that the angels were part of God's creation. For example...

Colossians 1:16-17 - For by Him 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. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

What does Hebrews 1:7 tell us about angels?

Hebrews 1:7 - And of the angels He says: "Who makes His angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire."

Angels are spirit-beings, they are non-corporeal, without physical bodies.

Why are angels described as a flame of fire?

Like fire, angels do not have substance, they are more like energy and their effects can be seen. Angels are powerful and consuming like fire.

What does Hebrews 1:14 tell us about the purpose of angels?

Hebrews 1:14 - Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation? Angels were created to minister to the children of God. They are assigned by God to protect us and make sure we have the opportunity to serve the purpose God has intended for us.

Is the concept of guardian angels a biblical doctrine?

Yes, I believe that Scripture teaches us that angels are assigned to protect us per Hebrews 1:14 and...

Matthew 18:10 - Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven.

What does John 20:12 tell us about angels?

John 20:12 - And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

Angels can become visible to us in this physical world looking just like men. However, the circumstances involving their appearance often identify them as angels.

What does Genesis 19:1-3 tell us about angels?

Genesis 19:1-3 - Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground. And he said, "Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant's house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way." And they said, "No, but we will spend the night in the open square." But he insisted strongly; so they turned in to him and entered his house. Then he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.

The appearance of angels are so thoroughly similar to physical men that they can even consume food. So either they have a temporary physical body or they make the food disappear so that their visible spirit bodies appear like they have a physical body.

What does Matthew 28:2-6 tell us about angels?

Matthew 28:2-6 - And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men. But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. "He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

Angels can appear as the outer-worldly, extraterrestrial beings that they are, powerful and fearsome. Please note also that they are always referred to in the masculine sense.

Why are angels always referred to in the masculine sense?

Angels do not have sex as we do because they do not procreate. This is what Jesus referred to when he was explaining that we will not need marriage relationships like we do on this side of our resurrection...

Matthew 22:30 - "For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven.

What does Luke 20:35-36 tell us about angels?

Luke 20:35-36 - But those who are counted worthy to attain that age, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.

Angels never cease to exist, they do not grow old or pass away.

Does Luke 20:35-36 say that people become angels when they are resurrected?

No, it says that we become like angels in that we will not grow old or pass away and are direct creations of God. But we are still human with a glorified physical body. People have a body, soul, and a spirit and we'll always have a body, soul, and a spirit. It is interesting to note that though we were made a little lower than the angels in our mortal bodies, after we are resurrected we are as the angels in heaven in the hierarchy of God's creation. This has more to say about the closeness of our relations to God than anything else. Angels are powerful because they are close to God, children of God will have that same power after the resurrection.

What does Hebrews 12:22 tell us about angels?

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,

Angels are innumerable meaning there are a lot of them, more than we can count. Also, the use of the word

"company" tells us that angels are organized with differing authority and responsibilities. This idea is reinforced in other passages of Scripture:

Colossians 1:16 - For by Him 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.

What does Revelation 5:11 tell us about how many holy angels there are?

Revelation 5:11 - 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

If you are to take that literally, this represents a number approaching a billion (a thousand millions).

What does Revelation 5:11 tell us about where the holy angels dwell?

Angels live in the "heavenlies," the spirit realm where God is. Some of the fallen angels who left their heavenly realm against God's authority are being punished and the rest will also be punished...

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;

What does Acts 12:5-7 & 12:23 tell us about angels?

Acts 12:5-7 - Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison. Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, "Arise quickly!" And his chains fell off his hands.

Acts 12:23 - Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died.

Angels possess supernatural powers that are miraculous to us. However, unlike God, there are limits to their powers.

What does Exodus 25:18-22 tell us about a special class of angelic beings?

Exodus 25:18-22

18 "And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work you shall make them at the two ends of the mercy seat.

19 "Make one cherub at one end, and the other cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim at the two ends of it of one piece with the mercy seat.

20 "And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat.

21 "You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you.

22 "And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.

The cherubim have special assignments usually to guard certain holy places from unauthorized access. Here the Ark of the Covenant is representative of the presence of God in heaven. No doubt real cherubim guard the throne of God.

Another reference is:

Genesis 3:24 - So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

Here the cherubim are denying access to the Garden of Eden which was a consequence of the Fall of Man.

What does Isaiah 6:1-7 tell us about another special class of angelic beings?

Isaiah 6:1-7

1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple.

2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

3 And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!"

4 And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.

5 So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar.

7 And he touched my mouth with it, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged."

The seraphim attend to the throne of God, rendering worship to Him and cleansing those who are brought into the presence of God. I take it that this will not be necessary when we are in our resurrected bodies. It was necessary in Isaiah's case because he was either there in his mortal body or mortal soul or having a vision where he needed cleansing

in his mind to be in the presence of God. Seraphim means "burners" and were associated with cleansing those who would be in the presence of God.

What can we learn about angels from Daniel 10:13?

Daniel 10:13 - But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.

The angels have names. This passage also attests to the organization of angels, Michael was a chief prince of the angels which implies there were other lesser princes. This also tells us something about the fallen angels indicating that some of their leaders are assigned geographically or by nations. Given that Satan mimics God, we can conclude that some holy angels are also assigned either geographically or to specific nations. He name Michael means "who is like unto God."

What does Revelation 12:7 tell us about angels?

Revelation 12:7 - And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,

The holy angels and fallen angels fight in the heavenly realm. The dragon here is a reference to Satan, the head of the fallen angels or demons.

What do the angels fight over?

The fallen angels oppose God and his will, they seek to thwart God's plan. The holy angels are the champions of God's plan and they fight the demons to make sure God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Things that happen here on earth often times are a direct result of the conflict between the angels and visa-versa.

What does Jude 9 tell us about Michael?

Jude 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!"

Michael, due to his rank, is often the angel who directly opposes Satan. Also please note that he is referred to as the archangel so this indicates that Michael is over all the holy angels. He is not just an archangel but the archangel.

What does Luke 1:18-19 tell us about another angel who foretold the father of John the Baptist about the miraculous birth of his son?

Luke 1:18-19 - And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years." 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.

Here we learn about another named angel, Gabriel, who is a special envoy of God. The fact that he stands in the presence of God shows that Gabriel is close to God. The name Gabriel means “man of God” or “hero of God.” Gabriel was the angel who was also sent by God to brief Joseph and Mary on the miraculous birth of Jesus.

Why did people usually react in fear when they encountered an angel sent to reveal something to them?

Example - Luke 1:11-12 - Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

The appearance of holy angels is miraculous and they reflect the glory of God. Fear is the natural reaction of mortal men confronted with even the reflection of the glory of God.

What does Hebrews 1:6 tell us about the holy angels?

Hebrews 1:6 - But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him."

Holy angels praise and adore the Lord. Note that the term firstborn refers to Jesus who was the firstfruits of the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:23). In deed, spiritual messengers who claim to be from God but don't glorify Christ are perpetrating a deception and are most likely demons...

1 John 4:2-3 - By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

What does Acts 27:23-24 tell us about the holy angels?

Acts 27:23-24 - For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.'

Angels encourage the child of God particularly at critical times. There are many other examples of this in Scripture.

What does Luke 12:8-9 tell us about the holy angels?

Luke 12:8-9 - Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.

Angels are celestial spectators. Angels are aware of what goes on in our world and very involved in the spiritual warfare that impacts our world and has eternal consequences. Consequently angels are very curious about us and our salvation...

1 Peter 1:12 - To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things

which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven-- things which angels desire to look into. Angels are curious about our salvation because the Lord did not offer up His life for them. If they fall away from their relationship with God, there is no turning back, they are lost for eternity. People are born separated from God and we have the opportunity to enter into a relationship with God if we put our trust in Jesus.

Do angels look forward to the Lord returning to earth to reign?

Yes I'm sure they do, see:

Romans 8:22 - For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Angels look forward to the second coming of Christ which will but an end to the spiritual warfare that consumes them and wears them down. But even worse for them than this is the potential that they could be enticed by Satan and his followers to fall away from their relationship with God. When God re-creates heaven and earth the deceiving fallen angels will be separated from the holy angels and they will no longer have to worry about falling away themselves. This age we live in is a test to see which people will respond to the Lord to spend eternity with Him and also a test to see which angels will stay faithful to the Lord. Scripture indicates that about a third of the angels will eventually end up following Satan...

Revelation 12:3-4 - And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.

What does Luke 12:8-9 tell us about the holy angels?

Luke 15:10 - Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

Angels rejoice when a person is saved because this is the will of God coming to fruition. It also means that this is one more soul for them to have fellowship with throughout eternity.

What does Hebrews 13:2 tell us about the holy angels?

Hebrews 13:2 - Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels. Angels can intervene in our lives and we will not even be aware of it because they can manifest themselves to look just like people.