

THE ANGELS

A Biblical Study at the Reformed Bible Church of Southern California

February 24, 2013

“Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?” - Heb. 1:14



“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel...” 1 Thessalonians 4:16

In this study, we will search out what the Bible teaches concerning angels and contrast this to any information taught from religious institutions.

I. QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED

- A. How has the catholic church viewed angels? How and/or why has this idea trickled into the theology of most churches?
- B. When a child passes away, why do some assume this child becomes an angel?

II. WHAT EXACTLY IS AN ANGEL?

- A. Hebrew and Greek Definitions - side column

B. Characteristics of Angels

1. Those Created Holy

- a) Spirits - *“Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire”* (Ps. 104:4). What is their role? Ps. 68:17; Ps. 91:11; Ps. 103:19-21; Heb. 1:14
- b) Created by God from the beginning of time (Col. 1:16) - *“...neither marry, nor are given in marriage, neither can they die...”* (Luke 20:34-36) Does this imply there is a select number, that cannot be added to (reproduce) or subtracted from (die)? Innumerable: Heb. 12:22
- c) Higher in rank than man in the flesh - *“What is man, that thou art mindful of him...thou hast made him a little lower than the angels...”* (Heb. 2:6) If man while in the flesh is lower than the angels, why upon the death of a saint is it impossible to become an angel? Ro. 8:12-17; Gal. 4:1-7; Heb. 1:4
- d) Called holy (Mark 8:38) and elect (1 Tim. 5:21) and reapers at the time of Christ's return - *“...so shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just...”* (Matt. 13:24-50); On whom will this vengeance be taken? II Thes. 1:7-8; Rom. 3:5; 12:19; Heb. 10:30

2. The Fallen Angels

- a) Did not keep their first estate (G746 - commencement; time, place or rank) - Jude 6; Sinned - *“For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down into hell...”* (II Pet. 2:4) What is their role?
 - 1) Some are loosed for a season, working *“in the children of disobedience...”* - Eph. 2:2; 6:12 Since the devil is not omnipresent, through spiritual warfare, does he use fallen angels as evil spirits to harbor within unsaved people? Matt. 17:18; Mk. 9:25; Luke 8:26-30
 - 2) Some are bound, locked up in the deep (G12 - “Abussos” - depthless; infernal abyss; deep, bottomless pit) Luke 8:31; Ro. 10:7
- b) Released during the time of the tribulation - Rev. 20:1-3 How do we know when that tribulation begins/has begun? (Matt. 24:4-31) Who are the only ones that can be tormented? (Rev. 9:1-6) What kind of torment is this? (Ez. 13:10)
- c) Judged by the saints on the last day - I Cor. 6:2-3

C. Names of Angels

1. Satan - Adversary, the Accuser; Job 1:6-7; Matt. 12:24-27; Jn. 12:31-32; II Cor. 6:15; Rev. 12:7-11
 - a) Lucifer - Day Star, fallen from heaven; Is. 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:1-19
 - b) Abaddon - Destroyer, the angel of the bottomless pit; Rev. 9:11
2. The angel of the Lord - with a saving and protective function (Exodus 23:23) who also will bring about destruction (I Chron. 21:16) The relation between the Lord and the “angel of the Lord” is so close that is it difficult to separate the two, leading to the conclusion that the “angel of the Lord” was the pre-incarnate Christ (Gen. 16:7ff; 21:17ff; 21:11ff; Exod. 3:2ff; Judg. 6:11ff; 13:21ff) Acts 5:19; 12:23
 - a) Gabriel - (H1403 - “Gabriy-el” - (valiant) man/warrior of God/the Almighty); Daniel 8:15-19
 - b) Michael - (H4317 - “Mijka-el” - who (is) like God/the Almighty) the name of the archangel - Jude 9; Rev. 12:7 This same Michael was spoken of in Daniel 12:1-4. Who must He be?

DEFINITIONS

1. **ANGEL** - H4397 **Malak** - from an unused root mean, to dispatch as a deputy; a messenger.
Malak means “messenger (98 x); angel (111 x).” This noun appears most frequently in the historical books and moderately in the prophetic books. It can refer to messengers who are human and messengers from God.
2. **ANGEL** - G32 **Angelos** - a messenger (7x), especially an angel (179x); by imp. a pastor; a messenger sent by God, by man or by Satan

Recently, I've heard this response following the death of a loved one: "Heaven got another angel tonight." Where does someone with a Christian background get this idea?

*“Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind...”
- Col. 2:18-19*