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What You Need to Know About Angels: Part 2

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ANGELS

PART TWO

1. Who are those angels specifically named in the Bible?

In reality there are but four whose names are given. Two are good angels (Michael and Gabriel), and two are bad (Lucifer and Abaddon).

A. Michael

1. Meaning of name: "Who is like God?"
2. Various titles
 - a. "One of the chief princes" (Dan. 10:13)
 - b. "Great prince" (Dan. 12:1)
 - c. "Archangel" (Jude 9)
3. Activities
 - a. He helps a lesser-ranked angel get through to answer Daniel's prayer (Dan. 10:13, 21).
 - b. He will stand up for Israel during the tribulation (Dan. 12:1).
 - c. He disputes with Satan concerning the dead body of Moses (Jude 9)
 - d. He fights against Satan in the heavens (Rev. 12:7)

B. Gabriel

1. Meaning of name: "God's mighty one"
2. Various titles
 - a. "The man" (Dan. 9:21)
 - b. "Archangel" (1 Thess. 4:16)
 - c. "Angel of God" (Acts 10:3; 27:33)
3. Activities
 - a. He explains the vision of the ram and goat battle to Daniel (Dan. 8:16)
 - b. He explains the seventy weeks to Daniel (Dan. 9:21)
 - c. He predicts the birth of John the Baptist to Zacharias (Luke 1:19)
 - d. He predicts the birth of Jesus to Mary (Luke 1:26)
 - e. He assures Joseph concerning the purity of Mary (Matt. 1:20)
 - f. He warns Joseph about the plot of Herod (Matt. 2:13)
 - g. He tells Joseph about the death of Herod (Matt. 2:19)
 - h. He announces the birth of Christ to the shepherds (Luke 2:9)
 - i. He strengthens Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:43)
 - j. He rolls the stone back at Christ's resurrection (Matt. 28:2)
 - k. He frees the apostles from prison (Acts 5:19)

- l. He sends Philip to the desert of Gaza to meet the eunuch (Acts 8:26)
 - m. He instructs Cornelius to send for Peter (Acts 10:3)
 - n. He frees Peter from prison (Acts 12:7)
 - o. He executes wicked Herod for blasphemy (Acts 12:23)
 - p. He assures Paul on the deck of a sinking ship (Acts 27:23)
 - q. He will sound the trumpet at the Rapture (1 Thess. 4:16)
- C. Lucifer (Isa. 14:12)
- 1. Meaning of name, "Shining one"
 - 2. Various titles: His two most well known titles are the devil (Matt. 4:1) and Satan (Matt. 16:23)
- D. Abaddon (Hebrew name) and Apollyon (Greek name), meaning, "destroyer."
See Rev. 9:11.

2. What are the three special kinds or company of angels referred to in the Bible?

- A. The cherubim/cherub
The cherubim (plural) and cherub (singular) are referred to some 92 times in 13 biblical books (Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Psalms, Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Hebrews)
- B. The seraphim/seraph
The seraphim (plural) and seraph (singular) are only described and referred to in Isaiah 6.
- C. The living creatures
These four special angels are referred to and described in Rev. 4:6-9; 5:8; 15:7)

3. What do angels look like?

- A. The good angels
- 1. Appearing as men they often appeared as and were mistaken for men (Gen. 18:2, 22; 19:1, 10; Dan. 9:21; 10:18; 12:6-7; Mark 16:5; Luke 24:4; Acts 10)
 - 2. Appearing as glorious and shining beings (Dan. 10:10-15; Matt. 28:3; Mark 16:5; Luke 24:4; John 20:11-12; Acts 1:10; Rev. 10:1-2; 18:1).
 - 3. Appearing as fiery horsemen riding chariots (2 Kings 2:11-12; 6:17; Psa. 68:17).

- B. The bad angels
The fifth and sixth trumpet plagues introduce two of the most horrifying and devastating judgments upon sinful man during the entire Great Tribulation, at which time earth will be subjected to two hellish invasions by demons!
1. The first demonic invasion (Rev. 9:1-11)
 2. The second demonic invasion (Rev. 9:13-19)
- What an unbelievable contrast can be seen in the appearance of these cruel and hideous creatures, the bad angels, as compared with those holy and glorious beings, the good angels. The ultimate cancer in this universe is sin, which disfigures and destroys with equal ferocity both man and angels!

4. What are some general facts regarding the nature of angels?

- A. They were originally created by God along with the universe and everything within it (John 1:1-3; Eph. 3:9; Col. 1:16).
- B. They may number in the trillions (Rev. 5:11; Heb. 12:22; Dan. 7:9-10).
- C. Their number, once completed at creation, was forever fixed. This is assumed because we never read of God creating more of them and Jesus said they do not reproduce themselves.
- D. Furthermore, since we are told they cannot die (Luke 20:36) we conclude the original number of angels will never increase or decrease in size. For these reasons they must be considered a *company* of beings, and not a *race* (Luke 20:36).
- E. They are spirit beings (Psa. 104:4; Heb. 1:7, 14).
- F. They are invisible beings. While on occasion they do manifest themselves, their normal practice is to remain invisible. Certainly one basic reason for this is to prevent both unsaved and saved men from worshipping them.
1. Paul warned against angelic worship (Col. 2:18)
 2. John the apostle attempted to worship angels on two occasions.
 - a. First occasion (Rev. 19:10)
 - b. Second occasion (Rev. 22:8-9)
- G. They possess individual personalities. Angels possess separate and individual personalities, probably no two alike. They have the three necessary features required of personality:
1. Intelligence (Dan. 9:21-22; 10:14)
 2. Will (Isa. 14:12-15)
 3. Emotion (Luke 2:13; 1 Peter 1:12)

- H. They are superior to man (Psa. 8:4-5). (See also Heb. 2:6-11.)
However, someday, angels will be in subjection to believers (1 Cor. 6:2-3)
 - 1. They are stronger than men (Psa. 103:20; 2 Thess. 1:7). (See also 2 Peter 2:11.)
 - 2. They are smarter than men
 - a. They know the secrets of the past, having living through it.
 - b. They (probably) know the size and shape of the universe, being able to travel through it.
 - 3. They are swifter than men (Rev. 14:6)
- I. They are inferior to God.
Those beings created and designed are always inferior to their creator and designer!

5. What are the limitations of angels?

- A. They are not omnipresent.
They cannot be in more than one place at the same time.
 - 1. As illustrated in the book of Daniel (Dan. 10:10-14)
 - 2. As illustrated in the book of Luke (Luke 1:26-27)
- B. They are not omnipotent.
While they are powerful, they are not all powerful.
 - 1. The good angels cannot save us from our sins (John 14:6; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 1 Tim. 2:5)
 - 2. The bad angels cannot separate us from our Savior (Rom. 8:38-39)
- C. They are not omniscient.
Although far superior to man in knowledge, they do not know all things.
 - 1. They do not know the future (Matt. 24:36)
 - 2. They do not know the grace of God as bestowed upon a repenting sinner (1 Peter 1:9, 12)

6. Do angels possess wings and do they fly?

Some do indeed as seen through the following passages:

- A. The seraphims (Isa. 6:2, 6)
- B. The cherubims (Ezek. 1:11; 10:5, 16)
- C. The living creatures (Rev. 4:8)
- D. Gabriel (Dan. 9:21)
- E. Other angels (Zech. 5:9; Rev. 14:6)

7. Are there male and female angels?

With but one exception angels are described in the masculine sense.

- A. The one feminine reference (Zech. 5:9).
- B. The many masculine references (Gen. 18:2, 22; 19:1; Dan. 9:21; 10:18; 12:6-7; Mark 16:5; Luke 24:4; Acts 1:10; Psa. 89:6)

However, it must be kept in mind those "he and she" references are apparently given to accommodate our way of thinking. In other words, angels are spirit beings and therefore sexless. They do not marry and have little angels as do Christians who marry and sometimes produce little demons!

8. Is there an angel assigned to individual believers?

Some have answered in the affirmative, based on the following verses:

"Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?"(Heb. 1:14)

"Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven"(Matt. 18:10).

"For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone" (Psa. 91:11-12).

It has been suggested however, be this the case, when a carnal and thoughtless believer drives his car at 70 mph in a 40 mph speed zone, that at that moment his guardian angel exits the car and joins himself to the vehicle driven by the state trooper in hot pursuit!