

The Doctrine of Angels

- I. The Existence of Angels. Angels are mentioned in 34 books of the Bible for a total of some 273 times (108 times in the Old Testament and 165 in the New Testament) (Ps. 68:17; 104:4; 148:2; Heb. 12:22).
- II. The Origin of Angels.
 - A. The source of their origin (Gen. 1:1-2; 2:1; Neh. 9:6; Jn. 1:1-3; Eph. 3:9; Col. 1:16).
 - B. The method of their origin (Ps. 148:2, 5).
 - C. The time of their origin (Job 38:1, 4, 7).
 - D. The purpose of their origin (Col. 1:16; Heb. 1:6, 14; Rev. 4:11).
- III. The Nature of Angels.
 - A. They are spirit beings (Ps. 104:4; Heb. 1:7, 14).
 - B. They are invisible beings (Rom. 1:20).
 - C. They are innumerable (Dan. 7:9-10; Ps. 68:17; Mt. 26:53; Heb. 12:22; Rev. 5:11).
 - D. They 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; Rev. 19:10; 22:8-9).
 2. Will (Isa. 14:12-15; Jude 1:6).
 3. Emotion. They display joy (Job 38:7; Lk. 2:13; 15:10) and desire (1 Pet. 1:12).
 - E. They are (because of Adam's fall) superior to men. (Ps. 8:4-5; Heb. 2:6-11).
 1. They are stronger than men (Ps. 103:20; 2 Thess. 1:7; 2 Pet. 2:11).
 2. They are smarter than men (Dan. 9:21-22; 10:14).
 3. They are swifter than men (Dan. 9:21; Eze. 1:14; Rev. 14:6).
 - F. They are, however, inferior to God.
 1. They are not omnipresent (Dan. 10:12).
 2. They are not omnipotent (Dan. 10:13; Jude 9).
 3. They are not omniscient (Mt. 24:36).
 - G. They, like man, may have been made in the image of God.
 1. Personality.
 2. Holiness (Mt. 25:41; Rev. 12:9).
- IV. The Moral Classification of Angels.

The faithful angels are referred to as holy and elect angels (Mk. 8:38; 1 Tim. 5:21), while the fallen angels are known as the devil's angels (Mt. 25:41; Rev. 12:9).
- V. The Characteristics of the Faithful Angels.
 - A. Their rank.
 1. The archangels.
 - a. Michael.
 - (1) He helps a lesser-ranked angel get through to answer Daniel's prayer (Dan. 10:13, 21).
 - (2) He will stand up for Israel during the tribulation (Dan. 12:1).
 - (3) He disputes with Satan concerning the dead body of Moses (Jude 9).
 - (4) He fights against Satan in the heavenlies (Rev. 12:7).
 - b. Gabriel.
 - (1) He explains the vision of the Ram and Goat battle to Daniel (Dan. 8:16).
 - (2) He explains the seventy weeks to Daniel (Dan. 9:21-27).
 - (3) He predicts the birth of John the Baptist to Zacharias (Lk. 1:19).
 - (4) He predicts the birth of Jesus to Mary (Lk. 1:26).
 - (5) He assures Joseph concerning the purity of Mary (Mt. 1:20).
 - (6) He warns Joseph about the plot of Herod (Mt. 2:13).
 - (7) He tells Joseph about the death of Herod (Mt. 2:19).
 - Note: Some Bible students have identified Gabriel with the various appearances of the Angel of the Lord in the remaining pages of the New Testament. If this is true, then Gabriel can be seen in the following ten occasions.
 - (8) He announces the birth of Christ to the shepherds (Lk. 2:9).
 - (9) He strengthens Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane (Lk. 22:43).
 - (10) He rolls the stone back at Christ's resurrection (Mt. 28:2).
 - (11) He frees the apostles from prison (Acts 5:19).
 - (12) He sends Philip to the desert of Gaza to meet the eunuch (Acts 8:26).
 - (13) He instructs Cornelius to send for Peter (Acts 10:3).
 - (14) He frees Peter from prison (Acts 12:7).

- (15) He executes wicked Herod for blasphemy (Acts 12:23).
 - (16) He assures Paul on the deck of a sinking ship (Acts 27:23).
 - (17) He will sound the trumpet at the rapture (1 Thess. 4:16).
2. The cherubim (Gen. 3:24; Ex. 25:18-20; Ezek. 1:4-28; 10:1-22).
- a. The description of the cherubim:
 - (1) Each has four faces (Ezek. 1:6, 10).
 - (2) Each has two pairs of wings (Ezek. 1:6).
 - (3) They have the legs of men, but their feet are cloven like calves' feet, which shine like burnished brass (Ezek. 1:7).
 - (4) They have four human hands, with one located under each wing (Ezek. 1:8).
 - (5) They apparently travel in groups of four. The outstretched wings of each cherubim touches those of the remaining three companions, so that they form a square (Ezek. 1:14, 17).
 - b. The duties of the cherubim:
 - (1) They kept Adam from the Tree of Life after the fall, lest he eat of it and live forever in his sin (Gen. 3:24).
 - (2) Two golden cherubim were constructed at God's command and placed at either end on top of the ark lid in the tabernacle Holy of Holies (Ex. 25:18-20; Heb. 9:5).
 - (3) They appeared to Ezekiel (Ezek. 1:3, 5, 10).
 - (4) Prior to his fall, Satan (then known as Lucifer) was the chief cherub angel (Ezek. 28:14).
3. The seraphim (Isa. 6:1-7).
- a. They have six wings (Isa. 6:2).
 - b. They proclaim in a great chorus the majesty of God, crying out: "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory" (Isa. 6:3).
 - c. The awesome sound of their mighty praises shakes the foundation of the heavenly temple (Isa. 6:4).
 - d. Isaiah, the great prophet, views all this in a vision (Isa. 6:1-4).
 - e. He is ministered to by one of the seraphim (Isa. 6:6-7).
4. Living creatures (Rev. 4:6-9; 5:8; 6:1, 3, 5, 7).
- a. John the apostle sees these four standing before the shining crystal sea in heaven surrounding God's throne (Rev. 4:6).
 - b. They are covered with eyes, both in front and behind (Rev. 4:6, 8).
 - c. Each of the four has a different face (Rev. 4:7).
 - (1) One has the face of a lion.
 - (2) One has the face of an ox.
 - (3) One has the face of a man.
 - (4) One has the face of an eagle.
 - d. Each creature has six wings (Rev. 4:8).
 - e. Without ceasing day or night, they proclaim God's praise, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come" (Rev. 4:8).
 - f. Each of the four living creatures will announce one of the first four great tribulation judgments of the seven sealed book (Rev. 6:1, 3, 5, 7).
 - g. It has been suggested that the faces of both the cherubim and the living creatures are to remind the elect throughout all eternity of the earthly ministry performed by our blessed Lord. These faces correspond directly to the fourfold gospel presentation of Christ.
 - (1) Matthew presents him as the lion of the tribe of Judah.
 - (2) Mark presents him as the lowly ox.
 - (3) Luke presents him as the perfect man.
 - (4) John presents him as the mighty Godlike eagle.
5. Ruling angels (Eph. 1:21; 3:10; Col. 1:16; 2:10; 1 Pet. 3:22).
6. Guardian angels (Mt. 18:10; Heb. 1:14).
7. Angels associated with horses and chariots (2 Ki. 2:11; 6:17; Ps. 68:17; Zech. 1:8-11; Rev. 19:14).
- B. Their appearance (Mk. 16:5; Mt. 28:3; Lk. 24:4; Rev. 10:1; 15:6; 18:1).
- C. Their names and titles.
- 1. Ministers (Ps. 103:20-21; 104:4). This signifies their religious duties and spiritual service.
 - 2. Host (Gen. 32:1-2; Josh. 5:14; 1 Sam. 17:45; Ps. 89:8). This name speaks of their military service.
 - 3. Chariots (2 Ki. 6:16-17; Ps. 68:17; Zech. 6:5). This may refer to their swiftness.
 - 4. Watchers (Dan. 4:13, 17). This speaks of their duties as supervisors and agents.
 - 5. Sons of the mighty (Ps. 89:6). This title may refer to their awesome strength and power.
 - 6. Sons of God (Job. 1:6; 2:1; 38:7).
 - 7. Holy Ones, saints (Ps. 89:7; Dan. 8:13; Zech. 14:5). This refers to their total separation to the will of God.
 - 8. Stars (Job 38:7; Ps. 148:2-3; Rev. 12:3-4). This may indicate both their number and their brightness.

- D. Their work and ministry.
1. Their activities in heaven.
 - a. They worship the Person of God (1 Ki. 22:19; Ps. 29:1-2; Isa. 6:3; Rev. 4:8; 19:4).
 - b. They observe the people of God (Lk. 12:8-9; 15:10; 1 Cor. 4:9; 11:10; Eph. 3:10; 1 Tim. 5:21; 1 Pet. 1:12).
 - c. They inquire into the prophetic plan of God (Dan.12:5-6).
 - d. They rejoice in the works of God.
 - (1) His work of creation (Job. 38:7; Rev. 4:11).
 - (2) His work of redemption (1 Tim. 3:16; Rev. 5:11-12).
 - e. They perform the will of God (Gen.28:12; Ps. 103:29; 104:4; Dan. 7:10).
 - f. They witness the wrath of God (Rev.14:10).
 2. Their activities on earth.
 - a. Concerning the saved (Heb. 1:14; Rev. 22:16).
 - (1) They inform, instruct, and interpret concerning both the will and Word of God. Note the following individuals who received that kind of ministry from angels.
 - (a) Daniel (Dan. 7:16; 10:5, 11).
 - (b) Zechariah (Zech. 1:9, 13-14, 19; 2:3; 5:5-10; 6:4-5).
 - (c) Zacharias (Lk. 1:11-17).
 - (d) Mary (Lk. 1:26-33).
 - (e) Joseph (Mt. 1:20; 2:13, 19).
 - (f) The shepherds (Lk. 2:9-12).
 - (g) The women at the tomb (Lk. 24:4-7).
 - (h) The apostles (Acts 1:10-11).
 - (i) Philip (Acts 8:26).
 - (j) Cornelius (Acts 10:3-6).
 - (k) John (Rev. 17:1; 21:9).
 - (2) They protect.
 - (a) Angels protected Lot from the sodomites (Gen. 19:10-11).
 - (b) Angels protected Elisha from the Syrians (2 Ki. 6:15-17).
 - (3) They comfort (1 Ki. 19:5-8; Acts 27:23-24).
 - (4) They deliver (Acts 5:19; 12:7).
 - (5) They minister to the believer at the moment of death (Lk. 16:22).
 - b. Concerning the unsaved.
 - (1) They judged the Egyptians (Ex.12:13, 23).
 - (2) They judged the Sodomites (Gen. 19:13).
 - (3) They judged the Assyrians (2 Ki. 19:35).
 - (4) They judged Herod (Acts 12:21-23).
 - (5) They will judge the earth during the tribulation.
 - (a) They hold back the four winds of heaven (Rev. 7:1).
 - (b) They pronounce the seven trumpet judgments (Rev. 8:2).
 - (c) They cast Satan and his angels out of heaven (Rev. 12:7-8).
 - (d) They announce the eternal hell awaiting all unbelievers (Rev. 14:9-10).
 - (e) They predict the Fall of Babylon (Rev. 14:8).
 - (f) They announce the Fall of Babylon (Rev. 18:1-2).
 - (g) They pour out the seven vial judgments (Rev. 15:1).
 - (h) They announce Armageddon (Rev. 19:17).
 - (i) They accompany Christ at his Second Coming (2 Thes. 1:7-8).
 - (j) They gather the unsaved for eternal hell (Mt. 13:39-43).
 - (k) They bind Satan in the bottomless pit (Rev. 20:1-3).
 - c. Concerning Israel.
 - (1) Angels fought for Israel (Jdg. 5:20).
 - (2) They gave the law to Israel (Deut. 33:2; Acts 7:53; Gal. 3:19; Heb. 2:2).
 - (3) They seal the 144,000 Israelites (Rev. 7:1-3).
 - (4) They will regather faithful Israel (Mt. 24:31).
 - d. Concerning the Savior.
 - (1) They worship him (Heb. 1:6).
 - (2) They were made by him and for him (Col. 1:16-17).
 - (3) They predicted his birth (Mt. 1:20-21; Lk. 1:31).
 - (4) They announced his birth (Lk. 2:9-13).
 - (5) They helped protect him (Ps. 91:11; Mt. 2:13).
 - (6) They ministered to him in the wilderness (Mt. 4:11).
 - (7) They ministered to him in the garden (Lk. 22:43).

- (8) They rolled away the tombstone (Mt. 28:2).
- (9) They announced his resurrection (Mt. 28:5-6).
- (10) They predicted his Second Coming (Acts 1:10-11).
- (11) They will accompany him at the Second Coming (2 Thes. 1:7-8).
- (12) They are in total subjection to him (1 Pet. 3:22).

E. Their destiny.

- 1. To spend eternity in the New Jerusalem along with the elect (Heb. 12:22-23; Rev. 21:10-12).
- 2. To learn throughout eternity of God's grace as exhibited by the elect (Eph. 2:4-7; 3:10-11).

VI. The Characteristics of Evil Angels.

A. The names for fallen angels.

- 1. Shedim (Deut. 32:17; Ps. 106:37).
- 2. Seirim, sair, satyr (Lev. 17:7; Isa. 13:21).
- 3. Elilim (Ps. 96:5).
- 4. Gad (Isa. 65:11).
- 5. Qeter (Ps. 91:5-6).
- 6. The devil's angels (Mt. 25:41; Rev. 12:9).
- 7. The angels which kept not their first estate (2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6).
- 8. Familiar spirits (Deut. 18:11; Isa. 8:19:3).
- 9. Unclean spirits (Mt. 10:1; Mk. 1:27; 3:11; 5:13; Acts 5:16; 8:7; Rev. 16:13).
- 10. Evil spirits (Lk. 7:21; Acts 19:12-13).
- 11. Seducing spirits (1 Tim. 4:1).
- 12. Wicked spirits (Lk. 11:26).
- 13. Demons. The word daimon is found more than seventy-five times in the Greek New Testament. (Mt. 9:33; 17:18; Lk. 8:2).

B. The location of fallen angels.

- 1. Unchained angels, having a certain amount of freedom at the present time (Ps. 78:49; Eph. 6:12; Rev. 12:7-9).
- 2. Chained angels, having no freedom at the present time.
 - a. The angels in Tartarus (2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6).
 - b. The angels in the bottomless pit (the abyss) (Lk. 8:31; Rev. 9:1-2, 11; 11:7; 17:8; 20:1-3).
 - c. The angels bound in the Euphrates River (Rev. 9:14).

C. The sin of the bound angels (Gen. 6:1-2, 4).

Much controversy has surrounded these verses. Who were the "sons of God" who married the daughters of men? There are two basic approaches to this. The simple interpretation is that the sons of God were those individuals belonging to the line of Seth while the daughters of men were the unsaved girls who belonged to the line of Cain. The second and more involved interpretation holds that the sons of God were wicked and fallen angelic beings of some kind who committed immoral and unnatural physical acts with women in general.

- 1. Basic arguments for the first view.
 - a. This is the most natural way to interpret the passage.
 - b. The statement of Jesus in Mt. 22:30.
 - c. The law of biogenesis.
 - d. Paul's statement in 1 Cor. 15:38-40.
 - e. Moses did not use the regular Hebrew word for angels.
 - f. "Mighty men" (supposed offspring of angels and women) is the Hebrew word gibbor (Gen. 6:4) which is used dozens of times in the Old Testament and always refers to human men (Jdg. 6:12).
- 2. Basic arguments for the second view.
 - a. The Hebrew language seems to favor it.
 - b. Ancient pagan legends.
 - c. The common opinion of Jewish scholars.
 - d. The interpretation of the early church.
 - e. Various New Testament passages (1 Pet. 3:18-20).
 - f. The fact that there are two kinds of fallen angels, the unchained and those already chained.

D. The organization and rank of fallen angels (Eph. 6:12; Mt. 12:24-30).

These verses indicate that Satan's kingdom of evil angels is as organized as God's elect angelic group.

- 1. There are evil angels who rule over the nations of this world (Dan. 10:13).
- 2. A wicked angel named Legion headed up a large group of fallen spirits that had possessed the maniac of Gadara (Mk. 5:9).
- 3. The bottomless pit is under the control of an angel called Abaddon (in the Hebrew) and Apollyon (in the Greek) (Rev. 9:11).
- 4. Four military angels will lead a hellish army 200 million strong during the latter part of the tribulation (Rev. 9:14-16).

5. Three angels organize those events which lead to the battle of Armageddon (Rev. 16:13-14).
- E. The appearance of fallen angels (Rev. 9:7-10; 16:13).
- F. The personalities of fallen angels.
 1. Fallen angels have names (Lk. 8:30; Rev. 9:11).
 2. They speak (Lk. 4:34, 41; 8:28; Mt. 8:29; Mk. 3:11; 5:12; Acts 19:15).
 3. They possess intelligence.
 - a. They know who Jesus is (Lk. 4:34).
 - b. They know of future damnation (Mt. 8:29).
 - c. They know the saved from the unsaved (Acts 16:17; Rev. 9:4).
 - d. They are able to formulate a Satan-centered systematic theology (1 Tim. 4:1).
 4. They experience emotion.
 - a. Fear (Lk. 8:28; Jas. 2:19).
 - b. Disdain (Acts 16:16-18).
 5. They possess great strength (Ex. 8:7; 7:11-12; Dan. 10:13; Mk. 5:2-4; 9:17-26; Acts 19:16; 2 Cor. 10:4-5; Rev. 9:15-19).
- G. The activities of fallen angels.
 1. They oppose God's purpose (Dan. 10:10-14; Eph. 6:12).
 2. They execute Satan's program (1 Tim. 4:1; Rev. 9; 16:12-14).
 3. They disseminate false doctrine (2 Thess. 2:2; 1 Tim. 4:1).
 4. They afflict human beings.
 - a. Some cause insanity (Mt. 8:28; 17:15, 18; Mk. 5:15; Lk. 8:27-29).
 - b. Some cause muteness of speech (Mt. 9:33).
 - c. Some cause immorality (Mt. 10:1; Mk. 1:23-26; 3:11; Lk. 4:36; Acts 5:16; 8:7; Rev. 16:13).
 - d. Some cause deafness (Mk. 9:25).
 - e. Some cause epilepsy (Mt. 17:15-18).
 - f. Some cause blindness (Mt. 12:22).
 - g. Some cause suicidal mania (Mk. 9:22).
 - h. Some cause personal injuries (Mk. 9:18).
 - i. Some cause physical defects (Lk. 13:11).
 5. They can possess human beings. In the Bible there are at least twelve major examples of individuals possessed by fallen angels.
 - a. Saul, Israel's first king, was often troubled by an evil spirit (1 Sam. 16:14; 18:10; 19:9).
 - b. Those seven demon-possessed persons delivered by Jesus.
 - (1) A Capernium demoniac (Mk. 1:23-26; Lk. 4:35).
 - (2) A Geresene demoniac (Mt. 8:31-32; Mk. 5:8; Lk. 8:33).
 - (3) A dumb demoniac (Mt. 9:32-33).
 - (4) A demoniac girl (Mt. 15:28; Mk. 7:29).
 - (5) A demoniac boy (Mt. 17:18; Mk. 9:25; Lk. 9:42).
 - (6) A blind and deaf demoniac (Mt. 12:22; Lk. 11:14).
 - (7) A woman with an eighteen-year infirmity (Lk. 13:10-17).
 - c. Mary Magdalene (Mk. 16:9; Lk. 8:2).
 - d. Simon (Acts 8:18-24).
 - e. Elymas (Acts 13:8-11).
 - f. A slave girl (Acts 16:16-18).
 6. Demons will inflict grievous torture upon unsaved mankind during the great tribulation. The ninth chapter of Revelation, which contains both fifth and sixth trumpet judgments, may be the most revealing section in all the Bible concerning demonology.
 - a. The torment of these demons (Rev. 9:3-6).
 - b. The duration of these demons (Rev. 9:5).
 - c. The description of these demons (Rev. 9:7-10). It would seem that the Apostle John describes two kinds of demons which will invade earth during the tribulation. The sixth trumpet ushers in the second invasion.
 - (1) The leaders of this invasion.
 - (2) The armies of this invasion.
 - (3) The source of this invasion.
 - (4) The duration of this invasion.
 - (5) The damage wrought by this invasion.
 - (6) The results of this invasion (Rev. 9:20-21).
 - d. The king of these demons (Rev. 9:11).
 7. Demons are, however, on occasion, actually used by God to fulfill his divine purpose.
 - a. A demon was used to punish wicked King Abimelech (Jdg. 9:23).
 - b. A demon was used to prepare for the execution of King Ahab in battle (1 Ki. 22:19-23).

- c. A demon brought out the true nature of unsaved King Saul (1 Sam. 16:14).
- d. Demons were used to punish rebellious Israel during the time of wandering (Ps. 78:49).
- e. Demons will be used to bring ungodly nations to Armageddon for slaughtering at the end of the tribulation (Rev. 16:13-16).

H. The destiny of unsaved angels.

- 1. To be judged by Christ and his church (1 Cor. 6:3).
- 2. To be cast into the lake of fire forever (Mt. 25:41; 2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6).