

## **A Biblical Look At Angels – Fact vs. Myth Angelology – The Doctrine of Angels**

From nick-knacks, artwork, pins, books, movies, TV shows, and more, people seem to have a great sense of wonder and curiosity when it comes to angels. What are they? What do they do? Where did they come from? What do they look like? Do we become angels when we die? Are they real, or are they the product of fantasies, mythology, or an overactive imagination?

In the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, angels seemed to become the religious and secular symbol of choice. Bookstores, Christian and secular alike, began to stock a plethora of newly published books on angels; yet tragically, the vast majority are anything but accurate, often portraying these mysterious creatures as a kind of \_\_\_\_\_ or something to be \_\_\_\_\_. Even those within the Christian community, in seeking to satisfy their curiosity and craving for anything to do with angels, have drawn dangerously close to offering \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ rather than the \_\_\_\_\_.

So, what is the truth about angels? By way of introduction, let's look at Hebrews 1:4-14.

### **I. Are Angels Real?**

Angels are in fact \_\_\_\_\_ according to God's Word. From Genesis to Revelation, in \_\_\_\_\_ books of the Bible, there are at least \_\_\_\_\_ references to angels: about \_\_\_\_\_ times in the Old Testament, and \_\_\_\_\_ times in the New. \_\_\_\_\_ spoke about angels many times.

Angels are \_\_\_\_\_, nor are they a \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 8:4; Heb. 2:9). They are created beings, distinct \_\_\_\_\_, and as such we are not to worship angels (Col. 2:18), nor are we to \_\_\_\_\_ to them (Rev. 19:10). And yet, because there are so many references to them in the Bible, we should not be \_\_\_\_\_ their existence and ministry.

### **II. What are Angels and Where Did They Come From?**

Angels were created by God and are \_\_\_\_\_ (Col. 1:15-18; Neh. 9:6). The time of their creation was \_\_\_\_\_ (Job 38:6-7).

As God pronounced His \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 1:31), angels were created \_\_\_\_\_ (Jude 6). Following their creation, Scripture gives evidence of a number of angels who \_\_\_\_\_, including Satan (cf. Matt. 25:41). While Satan and his demons are the subject of a separate doctrinal study, the question begs, "How did they sin?", and "What of the other angels?" Charles Ryrie, in "Systematic Theology" wrote: "Presumably all might have remained in that original state of holiness, and those who did not rebel were confirmed forever in their holy state. In other words, those who successfully passed the probationary test will always stay in that original holy state. Those who failed are now confirmed in their evil, rebellious state." (Page 127)

In God's order of creation, angels are both \_\_\_\_\_ from and \_\_\_\_\_ than man (Psalm 8:4-5; Heb. 2:7-9). Contrary to popular mythology, there is absolutely no Scriptural evidence or support for the idea that a person becomes \_\_\_\_\_ when they die. In fact, Scripture teaches that redeemed or saved man, as part of His new creation, will have \_\_\_\_\_ over them: "*Do you not know that we shall judge angels?*" (1 Corinthians 6:3a)

Angels are called the \_\_\_\_\_ (Job 1:6; 2:1). Angels are part of God's \_\_\_\_\_, while Christians are part of God's \_\_\_\_\_ or re-creative act in Christ Jesus.

Angels are \_\_\_\_\_ (Heb. 1:14). Also note Eph. 2:2 and Luke 8:2; 11:24, 26 in relation to Satan and Demons. As spirit beings, angels are \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_, but are not omnipresent. Scripture tells us that angels were seen by human beings (e.g. Gabriel and Michael), but this seems to be the exception, not the rule.

Angels are personalities (i.e. they have personhood) in that they have \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt. 8:29; 2 Cor. 11:3; and 1 Pet. 1:12), though they are not omniscient (Mark 13:32). They show \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 2:13; 15:10; James 2:19). They have \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Tim. 2:26; Jude 6). Angels have greater \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ than man (2 Pet. 2:11; Psalm 103:20), but it is delegated or under the authority of God, and thus they are subject to His will. While often, if not predominantly portrayed as \_\_\_\_\_, angels always appear as \_\_\_\_\_ in Scripture (with possible exception of Zech. 5:9), and the \_\_\_\_\_ gender is always used. That said, there appears to be no distinction of \_\_\_\_\_ with these beings. Jesus implied this in (Matt. 22:30), while speaking of resurrected believers. This passage also indicates that angels do not \_\_\_\_\_. Angels do not \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 20:36), thus the number of angels is and will always be the \_\_\_\_\_.

Again, angels are completely subject to the will and authority of God (Psalm 91:11; 103:20; Heb. 1:14). They \_\_\_\_\_ in the very \_\_\_\_\_ of God (Matt. 18:10), and continually \_\_\_\_\_ (Isa. 6:3; Rev. 5:11-12).

## **Conclusion:**

Why study doctrine? Because it truly matters what you believe! The fascination with angels has not necessarily been a healthy one. Too many have focused on angels, and not on the Savior and His Word. In his excellent study on the Book of Hebrews, Chuck Swindoll provided a concise wrap-up of Hebrews 1:4-14 that we would do well to take to heart:

- God's angelic servants impress us and intrigue us, but only God's Word can \_\_\_\_\_.
- God's angelic servants minister to us, but only God's Spirit can minister \_\_\_\_\_.
- God's angelic servants protect us physically, but only God's Son can \_\_\_\_\_.