

A Biblical Look At Angels – Fact vs. Myth, Part 2 Angelology – The Doctrine of Angels

Last week we began a study that takes a Biblical look at the Doctrine of Angels. There are many who find the subject of angels more fascinating than science fiction or extraterrestrials... In its 12/27/93 cover story on angels, Time magazine observed, "If there is such a thing as a universal idea common across cultures and through the centuries, the belief in angels comes close to it." Angels are a part of _____ and _____, and have played a major role in almost _____.

III. Angels in Relation To The Bible – What Did They/Will They Do?

According to the Bible, angels have literally _____ and they continue to do so today. With over 265 references to angels in the Bible, we can learn much about them. Both the Hebrew and Greek words translated "angel" mean _____, and can be used of either ____ or _____. Only the context can determine whether the _____ is human or angelic.

- A. Angelic Appearances in the _____ (Gen. 3:24; 18-19; 19:15-17; 2 Sam. 24; Isa. 37:36; 1 Kings 19; Dan. 3; 6; 9; and 10).

Note: *Angel of the LORD* (Gen. 16:7-12; 21:17-18; 22:11-18; Ex. 3:2; Jud. 2:1-4; 5:23; 6:11-24; 13:3-22; 2 Sam. 24:16; Zech. 1:12; 3:1; 12:8) - is theologically called a _____, a _____ appearance of _____.

- B. Angelic Appearances in the _____ (Luke 1; Matt. 1; 2:13; and 4; Luke 4; 22:43; Matt. 28; Luke 24; & John 20; Acts 8; 12; 27; and throughout the Revelation).

- C. How many angels are there?

As mentioned earlier, angels do not _____ or _____, nor can they _____. The exact number is not disclosed in Scripture, but we do have some clues that reveal their number as _____.

- D. Angelic _____ and _____

From Scripture it appears that this vast number of angels has _____ and _____ (c.f. Ps. 89:5-7; Col. 1:16). While perhaps far from complete, Scripture reveals the following classes of angels:

- _____ – Michael is the only _____ mentioned in the Scriptures, and appears to be both the chief angel of God, and a special guardian of Israel (Dan. 10:13, 21; 12:1; Jude 9), and leads the holy angels (Rev. 12:7).
- _____ - appears to be a special messenger, if not the chief messenger of God.
- _____ – Appear to be one of the upper classes of angels, and appear to have indescribable beauty and power. They are never referred to as _____, perhaps because their primary purpose does not appear to be that of _____, but of proclaiming and guarding the sovereignty,

glory, and holiness of God. (c.f. Gen. 3:24; Ex. 25:17-22; Ezek. 1:4-28, 10:1-22; Heb. 9:5)

- _____ – A class of angels who appear to be concerned with personal devotion to God (Isa. 6:1-3).

E. What did/do angels look like?

While angels clearly have an ability to _____ themselves in a way that makes their _____ known, they also seem to at times appear as though _____ or to take on _____ (e.g. Gen. 18-19). In his book, "Angels; God's Secret Agents", Billy Graham wrote, "Apparently angels have a beauty and variety that surpass anything known to men."

And what about today? There is no _____ that rules out the possibility that some Christians throughout the centuries and today have in fact "entertained" or been ministered to by angels (c.f. Heb. 13:2). Actually encountering an angel, however, appears to be _____.

IV. What Do Angels Do Today, Especially in Relation To Christians?

We must not _____ or give _____ to angels (Rev. 19:10; 22:8-9; Col. 2:18). _____ angels serve and worship God, and so must we (Rev. 4:11; 5:11-14).

Angels _____ and _____ God in every aspect of a Christian's life. The basic role or responsibility that angels have regarding believers is one of _____ (Heb. 1:14). Ministries that appear in Scripture include:

- _____ (Acts 12:5-10)
- _____ (Acts 8:26ff & 10:1ff)
- _____ (1 Cor. 4:9; 11:10; Eph. 3:10; 1 Pet. 1:12).
- _____ (Acts 27:23-24)
- _____ (Luke 16:22; Jude 9).
- _____ (Matt. 18:10; Ps. 139:13-16; 147:13).

Conclusion:

The study of angels is a fascinating one. Angels are real, and likely quite active in the world around us, and even in our lives. What is most important for us to grasp is the ultimate source of our help, and that is God Himself. God is certainly able to directly help us, minister to us, and do all that angels are reported to do... Himself; yet seemingly He has chosen to employ the intermediary ministry of angels in unknown ways and situations in our lives. The point, the bottom-line to all of this is that it is the Lord who is the source of our help, our hope, and of life itself.

On an old church in Scotland was an inscription that speaks of the ministry of angels in relation to God: "Though God's Power Be Sufficient To Govern Us, Yet For Man's Infirmity He Appointed His Angels To Watch Over Us."