

## **IV. The Doctrine of Angels** (Angelology)

Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions<sup>1</sup> of angels? (Matthews 26:53)

### **Introduction**

Angels are ministering spirits.<sup>2</sup> The word “angel” is a transliteration of the Greek word ἄγγελος (aggelos, Hebrew = מַלְאָכִים malak) and means a messenger, one dispatched on a duty, an ambassador.<sup>3</sup> The angels were created by God before the creation of man as described in Genesis 1 and 2.<sup>4</sup> The angels are spirits created to serve God and to be His messengers.<sup>5</sup> They are spirits with limitations though they have much power.

### **A. There are various types of angels.**

**Angels** in general are ministering spirits who serve the Lord. Jesus’ words in Matthew 26:53 cause us to conclude that there exists a very large number of these spirit-beings.<sup>6</sup> Though they are beings of great spiritual powers, they do have limitations.<sup>7</sup>

**Cherubim** are special angels that surround the throne of God.<sup>8</sup> God instructed Moses to make two golden images of these spirit-beings and to place them on the cover of the Ark of the Covenant; and God dwelt between them in the form of a flame.<sup>9</sup>

**Seraphim** were seen only by Isaiah,<sup>10</sup> and we know very little about them.

**Archangels** are angels with special power, rank, and authority.<sup>11</sup> They have general angels under their authority, and it appears that they oversee nations. Michael is responsible for Israel.<sup>12</sup> It appears that Gabriel is an archangel.<sup>13</sup>

The Bible does not give us a lot of details about angels. We know from Job 38:4-7 that the angels had been created before God made the universe, so they have existed for a long

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<sup>1</sup> A legion is 6,000 troops.

<sup>2</sup> Psalm 91:11; Matthew 4:11; 22:43; Hebrews 1:14

<sup>3</sup> Daniel 6:22; Matthew 11:10; Mark 1:2; Luke 7:24, 27, 9:52; 2 Corinthians 12:7

<sup>4</sup> Nehemiah 9:6; John 1:1-3; Job 38:4-7. The passage in Job indicates that the angels (sons of God) were present when God created the universe and, later, man.

<sup>5</sup> Psalm 34:7; Hebrews 1:7

<sup>6</sup> Psalm 34:7; 104:4; Daniel 10:18-21; Hebrews 1:14; Revelation 2 and 3

<sup>7</sup> 2 Thessalonians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:12; 2 Peter 2:11; Revelation 18:21

<sup>8</sup> Genesis 3:24; Ezekiel chap. 1, & 10:1-22; Revelation 4:6-9

<sup>9</sup> Exodus 25:18-20; Ezekiel 10:4

<sup>10</sup> Isaiah 6:1-6

<sup>11</sup> Jude 9; 1 Thessalonians 4:16

<sup>12</sup> Daniel 10:13 & 21; 12:1; Revelation 12:7

<sup>13</sup> Daniel 8:16; 9:21; Luke 1:19 and 26

time. When angels make their presence known to people on earth they have appeared as men.<sup>14</sup> The fact that in Scripture they are said to fly, indicates that gravity has no power over them. They are spirits who exist outside of space and time and do not have or need wings. Cherubim and Seraphim appear in bodies that are not human and that have wings. Ezekiel, in chapter one of his book, records a vision of Cherubim. The spirit of these creatures is in the wheel, and though they fly, it is more like a flying saucer than a bird.

## **B. Satan and his angels are opposed to the purposes of God.**

### **1. Satan**

From the passages of Scripture that describe Satan, we learn that of all the angels God created, Lucifer was one of the most beautiful and was placed in a very high and honorable position. In Ezekiel 28:14 God said, “I ordained and anointed you as the mighty angelic guardian.”<sup>15</sup> Satan fell from that exalted position because of pride.<sup>16</sup> He sought to usurp the place of God.

Satan is the accuser of the saved,<sup>17</sup> the adversary,<sup>18</sup> the enemy,<sup>19</sup> the murderer,<sup>20</sup> the father of lies,<sup>21</sup> the prince of this world,<sup>22</sup> the prince of the demons,<sup>23</sup> and the tempter.<sup>24</sup> When he became proud and desired to become as God,<sup>25</sup> it appears that he led a rebellion and one-third of the angels followed him.<sup>26</sup> As Revelation 12 reveals, the driving ambition of Satan is to destroy the work of God, especially as the Creator works to redeem man. Since God chose Abraham, the great grandfather of Jesus, the promised Messiah of Israel, the devil has focused his efforts on the destruction of Israel (Jacob) and tried to destroy that nation.

Satan’s name is Lucifer, which means the “star of the morning, son of the dawn!”<sup>27</sup> He is the master of deception and appears as “an angel of light” with the objective of bringing people to eternal death.<sup>28</sup> His days are numbered. He knows that his judgment and final dwelling place—the lake of fire—are near. The closer that day is, the harder our enemy works to accomplish his goals.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Daniel 8:15-16, 9:21

<sup>15</sup> *New Living Translation*. 1997, pub. Tyndale House.

<sup>16</sup> Ezekiel 28:12-19; Isaiah 14:12-17; Luke 10:18

<sup>17</sup> Job chap. 1 and 2; Revelation 11:10, 12:10

<sup>18</sup> 1 Peter 5:8

<sup>19</sup> Matthew 13:39

<sup>20</sup> 1 Peter 5:18

<sup>21</sup> John 8:44

<sup>22</sup> John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11; 2 Corinthians 4:4

<sup>23</sup> Matthew 12:24; Ephesians 2:2, 6:12

<sup>24</sup> Matthew 4:3; 1 Thessalonians 3:5

<sup>25</sup> Isaiah 14:13-14

<sup>26</sup> Matthew 25:41; Revelation 12:3-4

<sup>27</sup> Isaiah 14:12

<sup>28</sup> Genesis 3:1-5; Acts 20:29-30; 2 Corinthians 11:14; 1 Peter 5:8—The male lion roars on one side of the thicket to deceive the hiding deer. On the other side is the female who kills the game as it runs.

<sup>29</sup> Revelation 12:9, 20:10

## 2. Demons

Revelation chapter 12 is an allegory (extended metaphor) that gives an overall picture of Satan, of his world influence, and of his efforts to kill Jesus and to destroy the people of Israel. In verse 4, the picture is of a dragon that by the sweep of his tail was able to cast one-third of the stars to the earth.<sup>30</sup> The conclusion drawn from this passage is that a large number of angels joined Satan in his rebellion.<sup>31</sup> These are the demons, and they labor with the devil in an effort to thwart the programs of God. Jude 6 and 2 Peter 2:4 are not easy verses to interpret. Details are lacking that would give us a better insight into what happened; but one fact is clear from these passages—a group of angels sinned and some may already be bound and unable to cause harm. All are doomed to eternal judgment in the Lake of Fire.

Some have taught that Genesis 6:1-4 speaks of angels who abandoned their divinely appointed position to mate with humans (women) and produced children. This is because of the phrase “sons of God,” an expression that many believe describes angels in the book of Job.<sup>32</sup> Though angels have appeared as men, Jesus said they do not marry.<sup>33</sup> Procreation would not be part of their nature. What this passage is relating to us is that the godly line of Seth eventually contracted marriages with the ungodly families of mankind. This passage is showing us the total decay of the human race that eventually caused God to destroy the world with the flood, saving eight souls and a large portion of the animals in Noah’s ark. The passage tells us there were also ungodly giants in the land. It is not saying they are the children of these ungodly marriages. This passage should not be tied to Jude 6 or 2 Peter 2:4.

Just as Michael the Archangel is responsible for Israel. Satan has his angels (demons or devils) who have assignments of influence over nations too.<sup>34</sup> There is a spiritual war going on behind the scene and out of view to us humans between the forces of God and those of Satan.<sup>35</sup> The program of Satan and his host is to destroy the works of God and assume the Almighty’s authoritative position. In the carrying out of their objectives, demons can oppress,<sup>36</sup> afflict,<sup>37</sup> and possess<sup>38</sup> people. Demons cannot possess to the point of taking up residence in a true follower of Jesus Christ, because the Holy Spirit indwells the Christian and has sealed him as the property of God.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> Revelation 12:3-4, 7b, 9

<sup>31</sup> Jude 6; 2 Peter 2:4

<sup>32</sup> Job 2:1

<sup>33</sup> Matthew 22:30

<sup>34</sup> Daniel 10:13

<sup>35</sup> 2 Kings 6:17; Daniel 10; Luke 22:53; Romans 8:38; Ephesians 2:2; 3:10; 6:12; 1 Peter 3:22

<sup>36</sup> Acts 10:38

<sup>37</sup> Luke 6:18; Acts 5:16

<sup>38</sup> Luke 8:36; Acts 8:7

<sup>39</sup> 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 12:13, and many other New Testament passages teach that the Holy Spirit indwells the born again believer. The body of the believer is the temple of the Spirit of God, who protects the Lord’s children from the devil. In no way would God allow the devil to live in the same house as He. After all, the devil was cast out of heaven. A Christian can neglect his spiritual life and become far from the Lord and walk in deep sin. In this condition, he can fall under the strong influences of Satan and appear unsaved and demon possessed. However, this is not demon possession. We should not confuse the difference between oppressed, afflicted, and possessed. A Christian is the slave of God not the devil, John 8:36 and 44.

### 3. Satan's end

At the end of time, at the close of the one thousand-year reign of Christ and before the final judgment and the new heaven and earth, Satan and his host will be cast into the Lake of Fire, commonly referred to as hell, where they will suffer, eternally separated from God.<sup>40</sup>

### 4. Obtaining victory over Satan

Persons without the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ are slaves to Satan (John 8:44-47). First Corinthians 2:14 states that the natural man does not hear God's Word (hear in the sense of receiving and acting upon it). He follows the prince of this world. On the cross, the Lord won the victory over Satan and the powers of darkness. Victory is in Jesus.<sup>41</sup> It is Jesus who sets free those who are in bondage.<sup>42</sup> When a person repents and believes, appropriating the work of Christ for his soul, he enters into God's family through the new birth and work of the Holy Spirit, who indwells and seals him and places him into Christ's body, the Church. Satan has no power over that which God purchases and possesses. The devil must seek God's permission before doing anything to a Christian.<sup>43</sup> Satan is not permitted to test a believer beyond his ability to resist.<sup>44</sup> The only solution for anyone being bothered by sin and in the controls of the powers of darkness is in a commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Liberty is in the Lord. The believer in Jesus wins victory over Satan's destructive ways as he dedicates himself to God, to prayer, to Bible study, and to the fellowship and love for the brethren. See the "Doctrine of Salvation."

### The Angels

<b>Good Angels:</b>	<b>Bad Angels (demons):</b>
1. Worship God (Isaiah 6:2-3)	1. Against the purposes of God (Daniel 10:10-14)
2. Do the will of God (Psalm 103:20)	2. Torment the saints and oppose God (2 Corinthians 12:7)
3. Minister to the saints (Psalm 91:11; Luke 16:22; Hebrews 1:14)	3. Fight the saints (Ephesians 6:11-12)
4. Accompany Christ in His coming (Matthew 25:31)	4. Accompany Satan in the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:7-10)

<sup>40</sup> Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10

<sup>41</sup> 1 Corinthians 15:57

<sup>42</sup> John 8:36; Romans 7:24-25; 8:2

<sup>43</sup> Job 1 and 2; Romans 8:28

<sup>44</sup> 1 Corinthians 10:13