

HEAVEN

Lesson #7: *The Truth About Angels*

Introduction: What is the truth about angels? What does the Bible say or teach about angels? Let's begin answering those questions by citing some biblical facts about angels.

- ❶ Angel means “one who is sent,” and speaks of an envoy or messenger.

Dan. 6:22 - “My **God sent his angel** and shut the lions’ mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king....”

Luke 1:19 - “And the angel answered him, ‘I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and **I was sent** to speak to you and to bring you this good news’.”

Angels are messengers of God, serving Him and doing His bidding.

- ❷ Angels are spirit beings.

Heb. 1:14 - “Are they not all **ministering spirits** sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?”

- ❸ Angels were created by God (Christ) prior to the formation of the world.

Neh. 9:6 - “You are the LORD, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, **with all their host**, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you.”

Ps. 148 (2) “Praise him, all **his angels**; praise him, all his hosts! Let them praise the name of the LORD!” (5) “**For he commanded and they were created.**”

Angels were present to witness the formation of the world: “the **morning stars** sang together and the **sons of God** shouted for joy” (Job 38:7).

- ❹ Angels were created holy, but some fell.

Angels who rebelled are called the devil's angels (Matt. 25:41), while those angels who did not rebel are called “holy angels” (Mark 8:38) and “elect” (1 Tim. 5:21).

Revelation 12:7-9 summarizes the event of Satan's fall and the rebellion of the angels.

- ❺ Angels are innumerable or countless in number.

Dan. 7:10 - “A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; **a thousand thousands** served him, and **ten thousand times ten thousands** stood before him....”

Rev. 5:11 - “Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering **myriads of myriads of thousands of thousands.**”

Heb. 12:22 - “But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to **innumerable angels** in festal gathering.”

- ❻ Angels are organized in ranks of dignity and function.

- Jude 9 identifies Michael as the archangel.

Rev. 12:7 - “Now war arose in heaven, **Michael and his angels** fighting against the dragon....”

He is also identified as “one of the chief princes” in Daniel 10:13, 21.

- Daniel 10:13 identifies “chief princes” – probably referring to a group of superior angels.
- Gabriel is also an angel who is named in Scripture (Dan. 8:16, 9:21; Luke 1:19, 26). His function seems to be one

of bringing important messages from God to individuals – Daniel, Zacharias, Mary.

- Colossians 1:16 utilizes language to indicate the God-ordained differences in rank of dignity and function: “For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether **thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities**—all things were created through him and for him.”

- Cherubim reveal the power and majesty of God more than any other angelic creature.

Ps. 99:1 - “The LORD reigns, let the peoples tremble! He sits upon the **cherubim**; let the earth quake!”

Cherubim are constantly ministering around God’s Throne in worship: “**And around the throne**, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and **day and night they never cease to say**, ‘Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!’” (Rev. 4:6, 8).

- Seraphim are only mentioned in Isaiah’s vision (Isaiah 6:2, 6).

The duty of the seraphim is to praise God: “And one called to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.’” (Isa. 6:3).

- ⑦ The redeemed will spend eternity with angels in heaven. (See: Revelation 4:1-11.)

- You will join angels in the worship of God around His throne.
- These angelic creatures, whom you will join, worship around God’s throne in an uninterrupted manner: “**day and night they never cease to say**, ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!’” (Rev. 4:8).

- You will give all honor to Christ by falling down before Him and casting your crowns at the feet of your King: “the twenty-four elders **fall down before him** who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. **They cast their crowns before the throne**, saying, ‘Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created’.” (Rev. 4:10-11).
- You will join angels in singing as you declare God and the Lamb to be worthy of receiving “blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” (Rev. 5:13).

Conclusion: Is your heart not stirred by such an obvious demonstration of the grace of God Who has bestowed His goodness upon such an unworthy creation as you? Even though you have repeatedly sinned against Him, He is going to bring you into His dwelling place forever! He is going to allow you to share the glory of heaven! He is going to allow you to adequately voice honor, thanksgiving, and worship to Him – with his holy hosts – for all eternity! He wants you to look beyond the temporal realities of your present world and behold just a glimpse of the glory that awaits you in heaven – and then to live in anticipation of that glory! Are your pursuits in this life consistent with the future glory that awaits you?