

# WHAT'S THE WORD?

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Truth In An Uncertain World

# What's the Word?

- Our society faces major challenges.
- The culture is talking about many significant topics.
- What does the Bible say about these topics?

**Last Week's Topic**

**Gender and Marriage**

**Next Week's Topic**

**Christian Persecution  
around the world**

**Today's Topic**

**Angels and Demons**

# What is Angelology?

- Angelology is the study of angels. There are many unbiblical views of angels today. Angelology tells us what the Bible says about angels. It is a study of how the angels relate to humanity and serve God's purposes. Angelology gives us God's perspective on angels. - <https://www.gotquestions.org/Angelology.html>
- Angelic beings are mentioned at least 273 times in 34 books of the Bible. - <https://www.gotquestions.org/how-many-angels-are-there.html>
- The Greek word for angel, *angelos*, is mentioned in the New Testament 176 times. And the corresponding Hebrew word, *malakh*, is mentioned in the Old Testament 213 times. But only 26 of these references—10 in the Old Testament and 16 in the New Testament—involve humans personally encountering an angel. - <https://www.christianity.com/wiki/angels-and-demons/what-should-christians-know-about-angelology.html>

# Who is the Creator of angels?

In the beginning God created the **heavens** and the earth.

Genesis 1:1

The Lord said to Job, “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding, who set its measurements? Since you know. Or who stretched the line on it? On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone, when the **morning stars** sang together and all the **sons of God** shouted for joy?” Job 38:4-7

# Who is the Creator of angels?

- “You alone are the Lord. **You have made the heavens, the heaven of heavens with all their host**, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to all of them and the heavenly host bows down before You. Nehemiah 9:6
- For by Him [Jesus] all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—**all things have been created through Him and for Him**. Colossians 1:16

When we understand that angels are created beings, just as we are, we realize that worshiping or praying to angels robs God of the glory that belongs to Him alone.

# When were angels created?

If we consider the function of angels, we might conclude that God created the angels just prior to the creation of mankind because one of their duties is to be “ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation” (Hebrews 1:14). We also know that angels existed prior to the garden of Eden, because Satan, who was formerly the angel Lucifer, was already present in the garden in his fallen state.

We don't know specifically when God created the angels. It was sometime before the world was created.

- <https://www.gotquestions.org/when-angels-created.html>

The Bible nowhere states that angels are created in the image and likeness of God, as humans are (Genesis 1:26).

- [https://www.gotquestions.org/questions\\_angels.html](https://www.gotquestions.org/questions_angels.html)

# Angels are NOT People who die and “get their wings”

- Angels and people are separate aspects of God’s creation.
- No angel ever becomes a human being.
- No human being ever becomes an angel when they die.
- When a believer in Messiah dies, their soul leaves their earthly body and goes to live with Jesus while they wait for a glorified body. (Luke 23:43, 2 Corinthians 5:6-8, Philippians 3:21, 1 Corinthians 15:51-53).
- When an unbeliever dies, they immediately go to Hades to await judgment (Luke 16:22-23, Revelation 20:11-16).

# Did Jesus talk about angels?

Immediately Judas [Iscairiot] went to Jesus and said, "Hail, Rabbi!" and kissed Him. And Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you have come for." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him. And behold, one of those who were with Jesus reached and drew out his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword. **Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions [72,000] of angels?** How then will the Scriptures be fulfilled, which say that it must happen this way?" At that time Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest Me as you would against a robber? Every day I used to sit in the temple teaching and you did not seize Me. But all this has taken place to fulfill the Scriptures of the prophets." Then all the disciples left Him and fled." Matthew 26:47-56

# How many angels are there?

While we don't know exactly how many angels there are, we do know from Scripture that an exceedingly large number of angels exist.

The book of Hebrews describes a multitude of angels in heaven that are too great to count: "You have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to countless thousands of angels in a joyful gathering" (Hebrews 12:22, NLT). Other Bible translations use terms like "innumerable" (ESV), and "thousands upon thousands" (NIV) to quantify this enormous throng of angels. The impressive picture expands in the book of Revelation: "Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders" (Revelation 5:11). Other Bible versions use "millions" (NLT) here to express how many angels there are in heaven.

A few passages of Scripture describe angels as stars (Revelation 9:1; 12:4; Job 38:7–8; Daniel 8:10; Judges 5:20). The idea of stars may give us our best clue as to how many angels there are. If angels are like the stars in heaven, there are too many to count. Psalm 68:17 says the angels of God number "tens of thousands, thousands and thousands" (CSB). The writer has trouble even coming close to estimating the number of angels in existence.

# What kinds of angels are mentioned in the Bible?

- **Cherubim** Cherubs are fierce, beautiful creatures who guard God's holiness and sacred places (Genesis 3:24, Exodus 25:19). Before Satan's fall, he was a perfect cherub, full of beauty and wisdom (Ezekiel 28:12-15). Ezekiel describes cherubim as having four faces and four wings, human hands, and hooves of bronze (Ezekiel 1:4-14).
- **Seraphim** Isaiah 6:1-8 describes Seraphim as devout, six-winged creatures who surround the throne of God to proclaim His holiness. They also seem to be agents of cleansing for anyone who dares approach God's throne in an unworthy manner. Those who put their whole trust in Jesus Christ and His righteousness are invited to. "come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16).
- **Archangel** Hope Bolinger explains that this word comes "from the Greek meaning 'chief angel,' archangels seem to be at the top of the angelic hierarchy in terms of power. Created by God, these types of angels have a number of purposes they fill, lining the Old and New Testaments of Scripture." Archangels are mentioned in verses like 1 Thessalonians 4:16, Jude 1:9, Daniel 10:13-21, Luke 1:19, 26; Revelation 12:7.
- **The Angel of the Lord** The Bible refers to this very important heavenly being in Daniel 3:24-25, Judges 6:11-12, Genesis 22:15, and many other scriptures. Most scholars believe this angel is set apart from other angels, but there are several schools of thought about the angel's identity. Some believe the Angel of the Lord is a pre-incarnate manifestation of Jesus. Others believe him to be God Himself in angelic form. Others believe the creature is a high-ranking messenger angel who acts on behalf of the Almighty.

# Who are some well-known angels in the Bible?

- **Gabriel** is a divine messenger. He appears to the prophet Daniel to provide understanding of visions (Dan. 9:20–23) and later to Zacharias to announce the birth of John the Baptizer (Luke 1:19). Gabriel also appears to Mary (Luke 1:26–38) to proclaim the pregnancy of Jesus.
- **Archangel Michael** is a warrior and protector. He appears in Daniel 10:13. In Revelation 12:7–12 and leads the heavenly armies in battle against the dragon (Satan). In Jude 1:9, Michael contends with the devil over the body of Moses, demonstrating his role as a guardian and defender of God’s people.
- **Satan** is a fallen angel cast down from heaven (Isaiah 14:12) and is a great enemy of God and man. Jesus echoes this imagery, saying, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven” (Luke 10:18). In Job 1:6–7, angelic beings appear before God, and Satan was there as well.
- Along with Satan, other angels (demons) also fell, not because they were created evil, but because of their own sin. Demons now operate under Satan’s influence and share in his rebellion and condemnation (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 12:7–9; Revelation 20:10).
- **Abaddon** is a fallen angel with authority over some demonic forces, which the Bible calls locusts, during the end-times judgment (Revelation 9:1–11). He is called the angel of the abyss, or bottomless pit. In Hebrew, *Abaddon* means “destruction,” and in Greek, he is called *Apollyon*, meaning “destroyer.”

# Do angels wear halos?

Halos are never mentioned in the Bible. The circular band of light traditionally hovers atop angels' heads is an artistic symbol that has been used in religious artwork since the fourth century. Ancient artists appropriated this "divine light" symbol from pagan religions to set apart sacred figures in their renderings. Like we'll never see a lightbulb hovering above the head of an intelligent person here on Earth, we won't see halos on the heads of angels in Heaven.

- <https://www.christianity.com/wiki/angels-and-demons/what-should-christians-know-about-angelology.html>

# Angel encounters mentioned in the Bible

26 references in the Bible—10 in Old Testament, 16 in New Testament—involve humans personally encountering an angel.

## Old Testament (Tanakh) Examples

- Angels were assigned to block the Garden of Eden after Adam and Eve's fall (Genesis 3:24).
- Sarah's maid, Hagar, had two encounters with angels who ministered to her needs (Genesis 16).
- God used angels to hasten Lot and his family's escape from Sodom (Genesis 19).
- Angels met Jacob to prepare him for his destiny (Genesis 32:1-2, Genesis 32:22-32).
- An angel met with Gideon to prepare him for battle (Judges 6:11-23).
- An angel appeared to Samson's mother and father before he was born (Judges 13).
- God used angels to instruct Elijah (2 Kings 1:3, 2 Kings 1:15).
- Angels appear to Daniel to interpret his vision and to strengthen and encourage him (Daniel 8-10).

# Angel encounters mentioned in the Bible

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## New Testament Examples

- An angel appeared to the priest Zacharias to tell him he would soon have a son named John [the Baptizer] (Luke 1:5).
- An angel appeared to Mary to tell her the Lord favored her and would have a son who would be the Savior (Luke 1:26-28).
- Then an angel appeared to Joseph of Nazareth to assure him that Mary's pregnancy was holy (Matthew 1:19-21).
- A choir of angels appeared to announce the Savior's birth to the shepherds (Luke 2:8-20).
- Angels ministered to Jesus during His temptation in the wilderness (Matthew 4:11).
- An angel strengthened Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:41-44).
- Jesus's followers first heard of His resurrection from an angel (Matthew 28:5-6).
- Angels will accompany Jesus when He returns in glory (Matthew 16:27).

Then behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. He said to me, “O Daniel, man of high esteem, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you.” And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. Then he said to me, “Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words. **But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia.** Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet future.” When he had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless. And behold, **one who resembled a human being was touching my lips;** then I opened my mouth and spoke and said to him who was standing before me, “O my lord, as a result of the vision anguish has come upon me, and I have retained no strength. For how can such a servant of my lord talk with such as my lord? As for me, there remains just now no strength in me, nor has any breath been left in me.” **Then this one with human appearance touched me again and strengthened me.** He said, “O man of high esteem, do not be afraid. Peace be with you; take courage and be courageous!” Now as soon as he spoke to me, I received strength and said, “May my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.” Then he said, “Do you understand why I came to you? But I shall now return to fight against the prince of Persia; so I am going forth, and behold, **the prince of Greece is about to come.** However, I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth. Yet there is no one who stands firmly with me against these forces except **Michael your prince.**” Daniel 10:10-21

# How do angels communicate with people?

- During some of these Biblical visitations, angels appear in person as a human man (Genesis 18:1-19, Joshua 5:13-14, Mark 16:5). Other times in scripture, angels infiltrate a person's dream world (Matthew 1:20-21, Matthew 2:13).
- Angels also interact with humans in scripture through visions, appearing in frightening, other-worldly forms (Ezekiel 1, 10).
- God-ordained angelic visitations can still occur on Earth (Hebrews 13:2) But those encounters may be rare today. God's primary communication with believers today is through scripture and His Holy Spirit. If a true angelic visitation does occur, the angel's actions or message will never negate the will or the Word of God.

# What do angels do?

- According to scripture, angels work tirelessly in their assigned roles to glorify God and to aid Him in His plan of redemption for humanity.
- There are angels whose sole purpose is to continually provide God with the worship He deserves (Isaiah 6:3, Revelation 4:8).
- Others act as messengers of God (Daniel 9:22; Luke 1:11, 26; Revelation 1:1).
- Some are warring angels (Daniel 10:13; Revelation 12:7).
- Others serve as ministering angels to encourage, help, and strengthen God's children (Daniel 6:22; Acts 5:17-21, Acts 27:23-24).

# What do angels do?

- They praise God (Psalm 148:1-2; Isaiah 6:3).
- They worship God (Hebrews 1:6; Revelation 5:8-13).
- They rejoice in what God does (Job 38:6-7).
- They serve God (Psalm 103:20; Revelation 22:9).
- They appear before God (Job 1:6; 2:1).
- They are instruments of God's judgments (Revelation 7:1; 8:2).
- They bring answers to prayer (Acts 12:5-10).
- They aid in winning people to Christ (Acts 8:26; 10:3).
- They observe Christian order, work, and suffering (1 Corinthians 4:9; 11:10; Ephesians 3:10; 1 Peter 1:12).
- They encourage in times of danger (Acts 27:23-24).
- They care for the righteous at the time of death (Luke 16:22).

# What does the Bible say about Guardian Angels?

- For He will give His **angels** charge concerning you, to **guard** you in all your ways. They will bear you up in their hands, that you do not strike your foot against a stone.

Psalm 91:11-12

- The **angel** of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them. Psalm 34:7
- Daniel wrote, “My God sent His **angel** and shut the lions’ mouths and they have not harmed me, inasmuch as I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime.” Daniel 6:22

Now the king of Aram was warring against Israel; and he counseled with his servants saying, "In such and such a place shall be my camp." The man of God sent word to the king of Israel saying, "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Arameans are coming down there." The king of Israel sent to the place about which the man of God had told him; thus he warned him, so that he guarded himself there, more than once or twice. Now the heart of the king of Aram was enraged over this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, "Will you tell me which of us is for the king of Israel?" One of his servants said, "No, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel [Joram] the words that you speak in your bedroom." So he said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and take him." And it was told him, saying, "Behold, he is in Dothan." He sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city. Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." Then Elisha prayed and said, "O Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." And the Lord opened the servant's eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. 2 Kings 6:8-17

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they. For to which of the angels did He ever say, “You are My Son, today I have begotten You”? And again, “I will be a Father to Him And He shall be a Son to Me”? And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, **“And let all the angels of God worship Him.” And of the angels He says, “Who makes His angels winds, and His ministers a flame of fire.”** But of the Son He says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness above Your companions.” And, “You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of Your hands; they will perish, but You remain; and they all will become old like a garment, and like a mantle You will roll them up; like a garment they will also be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not come to an end.” **But to which of the angels has He ever said, “Sit at My right hand, until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet”? Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?** Hebrews 1:1-14

## Demons are mentioned numerous times in the Bible

The Old Testament refers to them directly as “demons” (3 times), “evil spirits” (8 times), or sometimes in a more obscure sense such as “prince” (in Daniel 10). The New Testament mentions demons many more times, calling them either “demons” (*daimónion*) or “evil spirits” over 80 times. The origin of demons is not explicitly addressed in Scripture, but there are clues.

The etymology of the Hebrew and Greek words used to denote demons indicate that demons, in general, are powerful entities that transcend ordinary experience and the space/time physical nature of humanity; i.e., they are incorporeal beings.

And when they came to the crowd, a man came up to Him [Jesus] and, kneeling before Him, said, “Lord, have mercy on my son, for he has seizures and he suffers terribly. For often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him.” And Jesus answered, “O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me.” **And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was healed instantly.** Matthew 17:14-18

# How do demons impact people?

- They inflict disease and physical suffering.
- They cause mental torment.
- They incite to war, violence, and cruelty.
- They are the power behind false religions.
- They tempt and seduce believers to forsake the service of God.

- Jason Pettibone

You are from God, little children, and have overcome them [evil spirits]; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. 1 John 4:4

# What are fallen angels?

God created everything good (Genesis 1:31). God, in His holiness, cannot create something sinful. So, when Satan, who was once the angel Lucifer, rebelled against God, he lost his position in heaven (Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 28). One third of the angelic host joined his insurrection (Revelation 12:3–4, 9). It is likely that these fallen angels are now known as the demons.

Hell was prepared for the devil and his angels, according to Matthew 25:41: “Then [the Lord] will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’” The possessive pronoun *his* indicates that these angels belong to Satan. Revelation 12:7–9 describes an end-times angelic battle between Michael and “his angels” and the devil and “his angels.” From these and similar verses, it seems that demons and fallen angels are synonymous.

To both the angels and humanity, God gave a will, and He allowed them to make a choice. While the Bible does not give many details regarding the rebellion of Satan and the fallen angels, it seems that Satan—probably the greatest of all the angels (Ezekiel 28:12–18)—in pride chose to rebel against God in order to seek to become his own god. Satan (Lucifer) did not want to worship or obey God; he wanted to be God (Isaiah 14:12–14). Revelation 12:4 is understood to be a figurative description of one third of the angels choosing to follow Satan in his rebellion, becoming the fallen angels—demons.

Unlike the choice facing humanity, however, the choice the angels had (to follow Satan or remain faithful to God) seems to have been eternally binding. The Bible hints at no opportunity for the fallen angels to repent and be forgiven. Jesus died for the salvation of humanity, not of angels (Hebrews 2:16). Nor does the Bible indicate that it is possible for more of the angels to sin. The angels who remain faithful to God are described as the “elect angels” (1 Timothy 5:21). Satan and the fallen angels knew God in all His glory. For them to rebel, despite what they knew about God, was the utmost evil, and God does not give them the opportunity to repent. Further, the Bible gives us no reason to believe they would repent even if God gave them the chance (1 Peter 5:8). God gave Satan and the angels the same choice He gave Adam and Eve, to obey Him or not. The angels had a freewill choice to make; God did not force or encourage any of the angels to sin. Satan and the fallen angels sinned on their own and will one day face God’s eternal wrath in the lake of fire.

# Who is Satan?

Satan exists as a distinct personality who was originally created perfect and holy though finite. Satan, because of pride and ambition (1 Timothy 3:7), fell through an act of rebellion after the end of creation (Genesis 1:31). He is now the “god” of this present age (2 Corinthians 4:4), the prince this world (Ephesians 2:2), the archenemy of God and believers who endeavors to frustrate the divine plan (Genesis 3:4-5; Job 1-2; Matthew 4:1-11), oppose believers (Revelation 2:10; Revelation 12:10), sow tares among the wheat (Matthew 13:39), and tempt believers to sin (1 Corinthians 7:5). When he fell, other angels (now called demons or evil angels) fell with him and were cast out of heaven (Matthew 25:41; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6).

- <https://fbctroy.org/about/our-beliefs/angelology/>

Satan's fall from heaven is symbolically described in Isaiah 14:12–14 and Ezekiel 28:12–18. While these two passages are referring specifically to the kings of Babylon and Tyre, we believe they also reference the spiritual power behind those kings, namely, Satan. These passages describe *why* Satan fell, but they do not say *when* the fall occurred. Jesus, the eternal Son of God, witnessed Satan's fall, and He mentions it in Luke 10:18: "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven." Satan fell before he tempted Adam and Eve in the Garden (Genesis 3:1–14). Satan's fall, therefore, must have occurred somewhere after the time the angels were created and before he tempted Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

The book of Job tells us, at least in Job's time, Satan still had access to heaven and to the throne of God. "One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. The LORD said to Satan, 'Where have you come from?' Satan answered the LORD, 'From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it'" (Job 1:6-7). At that time, Satan was still moving freely between heaven and earth, speaking to God directly and answering for his activities. Whether God has discontinued this access is a matter of debate. Some say Satan's access to heaven was ended at the death of Christ. Others believe Satan's access to heaven will be ended at the end-times war in heaven (Revelation 12:7–12).

# What are Satan's strategies and goals?

Jesus said, "The thief comes only to **steal** and **kill** and **destroy**; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." John 10:10

- Jesus was teaching about Satan, but He also warned His followers that people who are influenced by Satan can act as the "thief."

Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil [διάβολος *diabolos*], prowls around like a roaring lion, **seeking someone to devour.** 1 Peter 5:8

# Satan's power on the earth

Since his instigation of evil on earth, Satan has been named the “prince,” “god,” or “ruler” of this world (John 14:30; cf. John 12:31; 16:11; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; Ephesians 2:2; Colossians 1:13).

He is the enemy of God and truth (Matthew 13:24–30; 2 Thessalonians 2:9–12), and he does everything he can to tempt individuals (Genesis 3; Luke 22:31; 1 Timothy 3:7), groups (1 Thessalonians 3:5; Revelation 2:10), and nations.

He “leads the whole world astray” (Revelation 12:9). Satan accomplishes this by various means, including appealing to man’s pride (1 Timothy 3:6; 1 Corinthians 4:6), interfering with the transmission of truth (Matthew 13:18–22, 38–39), and placing false believers within the church (1 Timothy 4:1–2; 2 Timothy 3:1–9; Revelation 2:9; 3:9).

Jesus called Satan “a liar and the father of lies” (John 8:44).

# Satan's power on the earth

God still grants Satan some authority in this world, which means that his power is not yet completely broken—we still suffer from his attacks. But Hebrews 2:14 gives the good news that Jesus came to die in order to “break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil.” The salvation Jesus provides releases us from Satan’s stranglehold. Jesus is “the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in [Him] will live, even though they die” (John 11:25). Death has lost its sting (1 Corinthians 15:55).

The Bible says that “the whole world is under the control of the evil one” (1 John 5:19) and we must “be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8). Yet Christians have a great hope, for Jesus Christ and our faith in Him have overcome Satan’s evil (see 1 John 5:4). “The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world” (1 John 4:4).

**Satan is not omnipresent—he cannot be in more than one place at a time.** Only God is everywhere, and only God knows everything. Satan is finite and does not know all things. He must rely on his army of demons to do his bidding.

**Can Satan and/or his demons read our minds? No.** First Kings 8:39 says that God alone knows every human heart. There is no one else who has that ability. God knows what we will say before we can say it, while the thought is still formulating (Psalm 139:4). Jesus, being God incarnate, exhibited the divine quality of knowing men's thoughts: "He knew what was in each person" (John 2:25; cf. Matthew 9:4; John 6:64).

The Bible does teach that Satan is powerful. He is the highest of all the fallen angels, and he was persuasive enough to convince one third of the angels to join him in his rebellion (see Revelation 12:4). Even after Satan's fall, not even Michael the archangel dared to confront him without the Lord's help (Jude 1:9). Satan is now the "the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient" (Ephesians 2:2b). However, Satan's power has its limits, and reading our minds is beyond his ability.

Not being omniscient, Satan and his demons cannot read our minds. God is the only One who can know our thoughts. However, **Satan and his demons have been observing and tempting human beings for thousands of years, and they know human nature better than any human. Even without the ability to know our thoughts, Satan can make analytic guesses as to what we are thinking and then tempt us accordingly.** The order of commands in James 4:7 is important: the first is, "Submit yourselves, then, to God" (James 4:7a), and the second is, "Resist the devil" (James 4:7b). Above all else, we must guard our hearts (Proverb 4:23).

- <https://www.gotquestions.org/Satan-read-minds.html>

# How can followers of Jesus fight spiritual battles?

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the **devil**. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against **the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places**. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all **the flaming arrows of the evil one**. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Ephesians 6:10-17

# What should our focus be while on earth?

There will be occasions in our spiritual journey when followers of Jesus must engage in spiritual warfare, seeking the Lord for the defeat of evil spirits and deliverance from evil.

But our foremost assignments are to honor Yeshua the Messiah and share the story of salvation, not to seek out fights in the spiritual realm.

**Angels make many important  
announcements in scripture.**

**What are the two most  
important declarations given by  
angels in the Bible?**

In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. And an **angel** of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. But the **angel** said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there appeared with the **angel a multitude of the heavenly host** praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.” When the **angels** had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, “Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.” Luke 2:8-15

Lesson for us...

The angels recognize and proclaim Yeshua as Savior. Will we do the same?

WHAT'S THE  
WORD?

Yeshua said, “But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. And He will send forth His **angels** with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.” Matthew 24:29-31

Lesson for us...

The angels will announce the Second Coming of the Savior. Will we be ready?