

Discipleship:
An
Introduction to
Systematic Theology and
Apologetics

The Doctrines of Creation:

The Heights Church May 15, 2016

Creation: Christian vs Secular World Views

Origin of:	Christian View	Secular View
Inanimate Universe	Created by God out of nothing (<i>ex nihilo</i>)	Big Bang
Flora and Fauna	Created by God	Evolution
Spiritual Beings (Angels, Cherubim, Seraphim, and “the four Living Creatures”)	Spiritual beings created by God.	Do not exist
Humans	Physical beings created by God in God’s image and for His glory	Evolved from apes

The Creation of Angels

- Angels are created, spiritual beings with moral judgment and high intelligence, but without physical bodies.
- The Greek word for angel (*angelos*) occurs 176 times in the New Testament
- The Greek word for sin (*hamartia*) occurs 174 times in the New Testament
- The Greek word for love (*agapē*) occurs 116 times in the New Testament

The Creation of Angels

- Angels are created, spiritual beings with moral judgment and high intelligence, but without physical bodies.
- There are three **other** types of spiritual beings named in Scripture that are created and serve and worship God.
 1. Cherubim:
 - He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life. Genesis 3:24
 - There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you about all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel. Exodus 25:22
 - He rode on a cherub and flew; he came swiftly on the wings of the wind. Psalm 18:10

The Creation of Angels

2. Seraphim (mentioned only in Isaiah 6:2-7):

Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!” And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!” Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”

The Creation of Angels

3. The Living Creatures (Ezekiel 1:5-14; Revelation 4:6-8)

- Their appearances are like the mightiest representatives of God's creation.
 - Lion (wild beast)
 - Ox (domesticated animal)
 - Man (human being)
 - Eagle (bird)
- They worship God continually.

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!" Revelation 4:8

The Creation of Angels

- Angels are **created**, spiritual beings with moral judgment and high intelligence, but without physical bodies.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise him, **all his angels**; praise him, all his hosts! Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the Lord! For he commanded and **they were created**. And he established them forever and ever; he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away. Psalm 148:1-6

- Angels are **created**, **spiritual beings**

And 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 serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation? Hebrews 1:13-14

The Creation of Angels

- Angels are created, spiritual beings with **moral judgment** and high intelligence, but without physical bodies.

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; 2 Peter 2:4

And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day Jude 6

The Creation of Angels

Angels are created, spiritual beings with moral judgment and **high intelligence**.

- **Speak to people:** But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. Matthew 28:5
 - And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, “Get up quickly.” And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, “Dress yourself and put on your sandals.” And he did so. And he said to him, “Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.” Acts 12:7-8

The Creation of Angels

Angels are created, spiritual beings with moral judgment and **high intelligence**.

- **Praise God**

And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, 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.” Revelation 4:9-11

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 and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” Revelation 5:11

The Creation of Angels

Angels are created, spiritual beings with moral judgment and high intelligence, but **without physical bodies**.

- **Ordinarily spiritual beings do not have physical bodies.**

See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have. Luke 24:39

- **Sometimes God gives humans special ability to see angels.**

Then the Lord opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the way, with his drawn sword in his hand. And he bowed down and fell on his face. Numbers 22:31

Then Elisha prayed and said, “O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see.” So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. 2 Kings 6:17

The Creation of Angels

Angels are created, spiritual beings with moral judgment and high intelligence, but **without physical bodies**.

- Sometimes angels take on physical bodies when they appear to people.

And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. Matthew 28:2-5

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Hebrews 13:2

The Creation of Angels

Humans and angels are the only moral, highly intelligent beings God has created. Thus we can learn about God's plans for humans by comparing ourselves to angels.

1. **Angels are never said to be created in the image of God. Therefore we are more like God than angles.**
2. **We will rule over angels when our salvation is complete. Do you not know that we are to judge angels? 1 Corinthians 6:3**
3. **Angels exist to serve us. And 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 serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation? Hebrews 1:13-14**

The Creation of Angels

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4. **Angels apparently cannot reproduce themselves.** For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. Matthew 22:30
5. **No fallen angels are redeemed.** For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; 2 Peter 2:4
6. **Even though all humans are fallen, God has mercifully made a way for some fallen humans to be redeemed.**

The Creation of Angels

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7. Angels remind us there is a real, unseen world.

8. Angels are an example to us in prayer and worship.

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!” Isaiah 6:3

The Creation of Angels

Humans and angels are the only moral, highly intelligent beings God has created. Thus we can learn about God's plans for humans by comparing ourselves to angels.

- 9. Angels carry out some of God's plans.** So the Lord sent a pestilence on Israel from the morning until the appointed time. And there died of the people from Dan to Beersheba 70,000 men. And when the angel stretched out his hand toward Jerusalem to destroy it, the Lord relented from the calamity and said to the angel who was working destruction among the people, "It is enough; now stay your hand." 2 Samuel 24:15-16

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." Acts 8:26

The Creation of Angels

Humans and angels are the only moral, highly intelligent beings God has created. Thus we can learn about God's plans for humans by comparing ourselves to angels.

10. Angels glorify God. Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word! Psalm 103:20

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" Luke 2:13-14

Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents." Luke 15:10