
First Baptist Dyersburg • Sermon Notes

What does the Bible teach about Angels?

Message #8 in the series *Ask the Pastor*

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What are angels? *Angels are created, spiritual beings with moral judgment and high intelligence, but without physical bodies.* (Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*, page 397.)

1. Angels have not always existed but are part of the universe that God created.

- **They were created at least by the 7th day of creation.**

So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. ²On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. (Genesis 2:1-2, NLT)

According to this passage in Job, they could have been created as early as the first day.

⁴“Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me, if you know so much. ⁵Who determined its dimensions and stretched out the surveying line? What supports its foundations, and who laid its cornerstone ⁷as the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy? (Job 38:4-7, NLT)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

²The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. (Genesis 1:1, NLT)

- **They are different from humans in that Scripture says we are made in the image of God – a description that is not given to the angels.**

²⁶Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on

the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.”

²⁷ So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:26-27, NLT)

- **Angels are created, heavenly beings, who primarily function as messengers for God, revealing His will or announcing key events. They also serve to protect God’s people. In contexts accentuating God’s power and majesty, angels worship Him or attend His throne.** (George Guthrie, *Hebrews: The NIV Application Commentary*, page 70.)

¹⁴ Therefore, angels are only servants—spirits sent to care for people who will inherit salvation. (Hebrews 1:14, NLT)

⁹ After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they were shouting with a great roar,

“Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne
and from the Lamb!”

¹¹ And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living beings. And they fell before the throne with their faces to the ground and worshiped God. ¹² They sang,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and strength belong to our God
forever and ever! Amen.” (Revelation 7:9-12, NTL)

- **Angels patrol the earth as God’s representatives and carry out war against demonic forces.**

¹⁰ The rider standing among the myrtle trees then explained, “They are the ones the LORD has sent out to patrol the earth.” ¹¹ Then the other riders reported to the angel of the LORD, who was standing among the myrtle trees, “We have been patrolling the earth, and the whole earth is at peace.” (Zechariah 1:10-11, NLT)

Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer.¹³ But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia. (Daniel 10:12-13, NLT)

- **Angels can only be in one place at a time.**
- **We only know the names of two angels – Michael and Gabriel.**

⁹ But even Michael, one of the mightiest of the angels, did not dare accuse the devil of blasphemy, but simply said, “The Lord rebuke you!” (This took place when Michael was arguing with the devil about Moses’ body.) (Jude 9, NLT)

¹⁹ Then the angel said, “I am Gabriel! I stand in the very presence of God. It was he who sent me to bring you this good news! (Luke 1:19, NLT)

- **We do not know how many angels have been created, only that many exist.**

Then I looked again, and I heard the voices of thousands and millions of angels around the throne and of the living beings and the elders. (Revelation 5:11, NLT)

2. Angels do not have physical bodies like humans because they cannot always be seen by us, though there are times in Scripture that angels took on a bodily form to appear to people.

- **Angels do not marry nor bear children.**

³⁰ For when the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage. In this respect they will be like the angels in heaven. (Matthew 22:30, NLT)

3. Angels exercise moral judgment as seen by the fact that some of them sinned and fell from their positions in heaven.

⁴ For God did not spare even the angels who sinned. He threw them into hell, in gloomy pits of darkness, where they are being held until the day of judgment. (2 Peter 2:4, NLT)

⁶ And I remind you of the angels who did not stay within the limits of authority God gave them but left the place where they belonged. God has kept them securely chained in prisons of darkness, waiting for the great day of judgment. (Jude 6, NLT)

¹² “How you are fallen from heaven, O shining star, son of the morning! You have been thrown down to the earth, you who destroyed the nations of the world.

¹³ For you said to yourself, ‘I will ascend to heaven and set my throne above God’s stars. I will preside on the mountain of the gods far away in the north. ¹⁴ I will climb to the highest heavens and be like the Most High.’

¹⁵ Instead, you will be brought down to the place of the dead, down to its lowest depths. (Isaiah 14:12-15, NLT)

- **Satan still disguises himself as angel of light.**

¹³ These people are false apostles. They are deceitful workers who disguise themselves as apostles of Christ.

¹⁴ But I am not surprised! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵ So it is no wonder that his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. In the end they will get the punishment their wicked deeds deserve. (2 Corinthians 11:13-15, NLT)

4. Angels show the greatness of God’s love for us in that, though many angels sinned, none were saved.

¹⁶ We also know that the Son did not come to help angels; he came to help the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people. (Hebrews 2:16-17, NLT)

⁸ But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. ⁹ The Lord isn’t really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.

(2 Peter 3:8-9, NLT)