

Title: What is Angels and Demons?

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Scripture: Acts 12:7-11, 17

ANGELS

Creation of Angels

1. Angels are created beings, Psalm 148:5. They are limited in power, knowledge, and activity, but they are a higher class of beings than humans.
2. They were created by Christ (John 1:1-3; Col.1:16)
3. They were created before the world (Job 38:7) and present at creation.
4. They were created holy and lived in the holiness of God.

Nature of Angels

1. They are personalities. We see them with intelligence (Mt.8:29; 2 Cor.11:3; 1 Pet.1:12). We see them with emotion (Luke 2:13; James 2:19; Rev.12:17). We see them with wills (Lk.8:28-31; 2 Tim.2:26; Jude 6).
2. They are spirit beings. They are not omnipresent. An angel, a demon, Satan can only be in one spot at a time. While they do not have bodies, it is clear from Scripture that they manifest themselves at times in the form of a human.
3. They are immortal and do not propagate. The number of angels is and always will be the same.

Organization of Angels

1. Angels are great in number. The largest number referred to in the Bible is myriads, which is uncountable (Heb.12:22; Rev.5:11).
2. It is clear that God has organized the elect angels and Satan has organized the evil angels. Lesson here: we are not meant to be loners or unorganized. If angels see the wisdom and strategy of being organized as a group, we should also.
3. Ranking of angels:
 - Archangel
 - Only Michael is designated as the archangel (Jude 9, 1 Thess.4:16).
 - Michael is also the guardian angel of Israel (Dan.10:21; 12:1). He leads the armies of heaven against Satan and his armies (Rev.12:7).
 - Chief princes
 - This appears in Daniel 10:13 and refers to a superior class of angels.
 - Governmental rulers

- Ruler or principalities – indicate an order of angels, both good and evil involved in governing the universe (Rom.8:38; Eph.1:21; 3:10; 6:12; Col.1:16; 2:10, 15).
- Authorities or powers – emphasizes superhuman authority of angels and demons exercised in the relation to the affairs of the world (Eph.1:21; 2:2; 3:10; 6:12; 1 Peter 3:22)
- Powers – underscores the fact that angels have greater power than humans (2 Pet.2:11).
- Place of rule – In one place demons are designated as world rulers of this darkness (Eph.6:12).
- Thrones or dominions – emphasizes the dignity and authority of angelic rulers in God's use of them in His government (Eph.1:21, 2 Pet.2:10; Jude 8)

Cherubim

An order of angels, apparently of high rank, as Satan was a cherub (Ez.28:14, 16). They function as guardians of the holiness of God, and guard the way to the tree of life in the Garden of Eden (Gen.3:24).

Seraphim

Isaiah 6:2, 6. Appear to be somewhat similar to cherubim as attendants to the throne of God and agents of cleansing.

4. Particular Angels

Gabriel

Not as high as Michael, but a high angel. His name means hero of God. He brings a number of special messages: to Daniel (Dan.8:16; 9:21), to Zacharias (Lk.1:19), to Mary (Lk.1:26).

Angels with special responsibilities

- Angel with power over fire, Rev.14:18
- Angels of the waters, Rev.16:15
- The angel of the abyss, Rev.9:11
- Angels who binds Satan, 20:1-2

Angels associated with future judgments

Two of the three judgments announced in Revelation are done so by angels: trumpet, Rev.8-9, bowls, Rev.16

The Ministry of Angels

In relation to God

- They praise Him, Ps.148:1-2; Isa.6:3)
- They worship Him (Heb.1:6; Rev.5:8-13)
- They rejoice in what He does (Job 38:6-7)
- They serve Him (Ps.103:20; Rev.22:9)
- They appear before Him (Job 1:6; 2:1)
- They are instruments of God's judgment (Rev.7:1; 8:2)

In relation to new epochs

- They joined in praise when the earth was created (Job 38:6-7)
- They were involved in the giving of the Mosaic Law (Gal.3:19; Heb.2:2)

- They were active at the first coming of Christ (Mt.1:20; 4:11)
- They were active during the early years of the Church (Acts 8:26; 10:3, 7; 12:11)
- They will be involved in events surrounding the Second Coming (Mt.25:31; 1 Thess.4:1)

In relation to the ministry of Christ

At His birth, Mt.1:20; Lk.1:26-28; Lk.2:8-15

During His life

- Warning – an angel warned Joseph and Mary to flee to Egypt (Mt.2:13-15)
- Direction – told them when to return to Israel (Mt.2:19-21)
- Ministered – ministered to Jesus after His temptation (Mt.4:11) and in His stress at Gethsemane (Lk.22:43)
- Defense – Jesus told us there was a legion of angels ready to come to His defense if He called them (Mt.26:53)

After His resurrection

- An angel rolled the stone away (Mt.28:1-2)
- Angels announced the resurrection (Mt.28:5-6, Lk.24:5-7)
- Angels were present at the ascension (Acts 1:10-11)

At His Second Coming

- Rapture – voice of the archangel will be heard at the rapture (1 Thess.4:16)
- Second Coming – angels will accompany Jesus (Mt.25:31; 2 Thess.1:7)
- Judgment – Angels will separate the wheat from the tares (Mt. 13:39-40)

In relation to the nations of the world

- Michael guards Israel, Dan.12:1
- Angels watch over rulers and nations (Dan.4:17), and seek to influence human leaders (Dan.10:21; 11:1)

In relation to the unrighteous

- Angels announce impending judgments (Gen.19:13; Rev.14:6-7; 19:17-18)
- Angels inflict judgments (Acts 12:23; Rev.16:1)
- Angels separate the righteous from the unrighteous (Mt.13:39-40)

In relation to the church

- Help believers, Heb 1:14
- Bring answers to prayers, Acts 12:5-10
- Aid in winning people to Christ, Acts 8:26; 10:3
- Observe Christian work and suffering, 1 Cor.4:9; 11:10; Eph.3:10; 1 Pet.1:12
- Encourage in times of danger, Acts 27:23-24
- Care for the righteous at their time of death, Lk.16:22

God does not have to use or need to use angels. He can do all of this Himself. He chooses to employ the use of angels. He created them and enjoys watching them be what they were created to be.

Demons

Jesus speaks to the existence of demons, as does the New Testament (Matt.12:22-29; 15:22-28; 1 Cor.10:20-21; James 2:19; Rev.9:20).

Demons are fallen angels, or that group of angels that rebelled with Satan.

Demons are personalities expressing intelligence, will, and emotion. It is important we understand that about them. They are not just out of control monsters. They are thinking creatures. They knew who Jesus was (Mk.1:24). They realized their own eventual doom (Matt.8:29). They know the plan of salvation (James 2:19). They develop and promote systems of false doctrine (1 Tim.4:1-3).

What Do They Do

In Relation to Satan

They are his emissaries to promote his purpose to thwart the plan of God. They extend his influence and power.

In Relation to God

- They oppose the plan of God.
- They can be used by God to carry out His purposes (Jud.9:23; 1 Sam.16:14; 1 Kings 22:22)

In Relation to Religion

- They promote idolatry, Lev.17:7; Ps.106:36-38; 1 Cor.10:20; Rev.9:20
- They promote false religion, 1 John 4:1-4; Rev.2:20-24

In Relation to Nations

There is warfare between good and bad angels that appears to involve nations (Dan.10:13). Deceiving nations is a part of Satan's master plan and he uses demons to carry this out.

In Relation to People

Afflict

They can inflict diseases and other physical ailments and disabilities (Matt.9:33; 12:22; 17:15-18). They can cause mental disorders (Mk.5:4-5; 9:22; Lk.9:37-42).

They can bring death to people (Rev.9:14-19).

Pervert

They pervert all that is clean, noble, and right.

Possess

What is ?

Demon-possession is the direct control by demon(s) of an individual by living in them. A believer cannot be possessed, because a demon cannot live where the Holy Spirit lives. Sin is always the entrance to demonic activity.

We are warned they are there. We are to make sure we are under the influence of the Holy Spirit (Eph.5:18). We are to spiritually alert (1 Pet.5:8) and clothed in God's armor (Eph.6:10-17), and we must pray (Eph.6:18).