

**Pastor Robert Rutta**

## **Angelology – The Doctrine of Angels**

Hebrews 1:1-7, 13,14

This is a topic that we don't speak much of – angels.

We tend to mention them in passing, much as we did in mentioning the Christmas story in recent weeks.

In Hebrews 1 a comparison is being made between our Lord and the angels, as God is showing us that He is so much higher above them.

Angels are supernatural beings created to serve God.

The name “angel” simply means “messenger.”

### **I. The Nature of Angels**

#### **A. They are created beings**

Colossians 1:16

16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

#### **B. They are spirit beings**

Psalm 104:4

4 Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire:

Hebrews 1:14

14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

They can take on human form at times as we see on many occasions in Scripture...but this is not their natural, normal state.

As spirits, angels are not bound by natural human laws; angels can enter locked prisons - Acts 12:7; open prison doors - Acts 5 :19; ascend in a flame - Judg.13:19,20.'

#### **C. They do not marry**

Matthew 22:30

30 For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.

As Jesus was describing what it will be like for us in our glorified bodies, he mentions that we won't marry in heaven.

He mentions that the angels do not marry.

#### **D. They have personality and think for themselves.**

That is, they are not robots but intelligent and voluntary beings.

Revelation 22:8-9

8 And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things.

9 Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.

#### **E. They are immortal beings**

Luke 20:35-36

35 But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage:

36 Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.

They are created beings that will live for eternity, just as we will.

**F. They are always referred to as masculine** (Ge. 18:1,2; Ju. 13:3,6; Lk. 24:3,4).

**G. They are beings of superhuman intelligence**

2 Samuel 14:17, 20

17 Then thine handmaid said, The word of my lord the king shall now be comfortable: for as an angel of God, so is my lord the king to discern good and bad: therefore the LORD thy God will be with thee.

20 To fetch about this form of speech hath thy servant Joab done this thing: and my lord is wise, according to the wisdom of an angel of God, to know all things that are in the earth.

**H. There are various ranks and orders of angels**

I Thess 4.16

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

There are various ranks and orders of angels: Michael is called an archangel, Jude 9.

The Bible speaks of archangels, angels, principalities, powers, dominions and thrones - Col. 1:16; Dan. 10:12-21; I Thess. 4:16; I Pet. 3:22.

## **II. The Character of Angels**

**A. They were created by Jesus Christ (Col. 1:16).**

**B. They were created before the world was made.**

**C. Angels were all created holy**, but some rebelled when Satan tried to become like God--Isa. 14:12-16; Ezek. 28.

Ephesians 6:12

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Some of the fallen angels are already in a place of confinement awaiting judgment.

2 Peter 2:4

4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

Jude 1:6

6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

**D. Good angels are those which continue to serve and obey God.**

Psalm 103:20-21

20 Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.

21 Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.

They are also called “elect angels” (1 Ti. 5:21), and in He. 1:14 are called “ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation.”

They are also called “angels of heaven” (Matt. 24:36).

### **III. What do angels do?**

#### **A. They stand in the presence of God and worship Him.**

Re 7:11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

#### **B. They rejoice in the salvation of the lost**

Luke 15.10 Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

#### **C. Angels are God's instruments to perform His will.**

Ps 103.20 Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.

#### **D. They protect and serve the individual believer. (guardian angels)**

Dan 6.22 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

Ps 91.11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

Matthew 18:10 Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.

Protection from physical harm.

Protection from spiritual attack.

They minister/encourage/serve

Heb 1:14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

### **IV. How Many Angels Are There?**

Angels seem to be innumerable.

Revelation 5:11

11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

Hebrews 12:22

22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

### **CONCLUSION**

When the angels sinned the Lord did not provide a Saviour for them.

Yet, God chose to die for us.

We need to constantly thank God for the faithful, untiring ministry of angels.

We need to also remember the truth in Heb 13:2

Hebrews 13:1-2

1 Let brotherly love continue.

2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

#### What Christians Can Learn from Angels

1. Worship (Re. 5:11).
2. Service and obedience (Ps. 103:20-21).
3. Interest in God's work and plan (1 Pe. 1:12).
4. Love for Jesus (Lk. 2:13-15; Mt. 4:11).
5. Excitement about sinners being saved (Lk. 15:10).