

ANGELS — SERVANTS OF GOD

There is a very real, but *invisible* world — another dimension, as some choose to call it — existing along with our own — but absolutely undiscernible to our five senses. It is the *spirit* world of God and angels.

God tells us that *He is a spirit* (John 4:24); that spirit is invisible (John 3:8, Col. 1:15); and that He is the Father of all spirit beings (Heb. 12:9).

God speaks of His son Jesus Christ, saying: “Who is the image of *the invisible God*, the firstborn of every creature: for by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, *visible and invisible*, whether they be [or have] thrones, or dominions, or [whether they be] principalities [holders of high offices in heaven or on earth], or powers: all things were created by him, and for him. And he is *before* all things, and by him all things consist” (Col. 1:15-17).

Angels are called God’s sons (Job 1:6; 38:7) because God created them. But they aren’t *begotten* sons as is Christ. They exist in a hierarchy below the God-plane level of God the Father and Christ (Heb. 1:5-14).

Paul speaks plainly of the angels of God in the first two chapters of Hebrews. He tells us that we are created a little lower than the angels; but we have the awesome potential of becoming far greater. We are called the sons of God — not sons by creation as they are, but *begotten* sons with a far greater future than they. We can be born into *God’s very own family* as fellow-heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:17; Gal. 3:26-29).

God’s Angels Created Before Adam. God created angels and archangels *before* He created and placed Adam on this earth. They were here even before the foundation of the

earth was laid. They shouted for joy when they first saw the earth in all its perfection (Job 38:1-7).

That was prior to creation week, which took place sometime after the destruction on the earth caused by Lucifer’s rebellion (Isa. 14:12-17). The earth was *not created* waste and in confusion, as we find it in Genesis 1:2. God created the earth to be inhabited; He did not create it in the ruined state in which it later became (Isa. 45:18).

Angels are invisible, immortal, spirit beings with superior power and knowledge (II Pet. 2:11). They have seen all the activities of man on earth, and therefore know far more about the human mind, psychology, sociology, science and all the arts than any man living. And God has put them here with us as ministering spirits, to serve us! “Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?” (Heb. 1:14.)

They are put here to help us along the road to eternal life, to save us from premature death, accident, etc., and to help us fight our battles and protect us from the devil and his demons. No wonder Elisha had no fear of his physical enemies when He saw one of God’s spirit armies standing upon the mountain (II Kings 6:15-17).

God has had angels specifically assigned to supervise and protect His Church throughout all of its history (Rev. 1:4, 16, 20; 2:1, 8, 12, 18; 3:1, 7, 14). He has angels who continually walk through the earth to observe and report back to Him the overall conditions on earth (Rev. 5:6; Zech. 4:10; II Chron. 16:9).

And God has angels specifically assigned to look after His begotten human children (Acts 12:15; Matt. 18:10). God promises: “For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to

keep thee in all thy ways” (Ps. 91:11).

Twelve of God’s angels will be the gatekeepers in the new city of Jerusalem (Rev. 21:12), one for each tribe of Israel. These twelve may be assisting the Archangel Michael now.

Angels are messengers. They appeared to Abraham, Lot, Hagar, Moses, Manoah, Gideon, Elijah and many of the prophets and apostles.

When these angels manifest themselves to human beings, they generally do so in the form of men. They are not described in the Bible as having wings or halos. Paul points out in Hebrews 13:2 that they can travel incognito, not immediately revealing who they are.

Angelic Responsibility. The Bible mentions three angels of high rank: Lucifer (Isa. 14:12), now Satan the devil; Gabriel, who appeared to Daniel on two occasions (Dan. 8:16; 9:21), to Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist (Luke 1:19), and later Mary, the mother of Jesus (Luke 1:26); and Michael, called one of the *chief princes* (Dan. 10:13), and whom Jude identifies as an *archangel* (Jude 9). Michael is the archangel specifically assigned to protect and minister to the twelve tribes of Israel. We read of this in Daniel 12:1; 10:13, 21.

Lucifer, of course, is a fallen angel — he rebelled against the government of God. How Lucifer came to be the devil and where he got his power, is explained in our article titled *Did God Create a Devil?* If you have not read it, please write to us for your free copy.

When Lucifer rebelled against God, he led one third of God’s angels into mutiny with him (Rev. 12:4). Lucifer’s name was changed to *Satan* (“the adversary”). God renamed the fallen angels “devils”

(Matt. 12:26, 27; Rev. 12:9) or “demons” (RSV). They are also called “evil spirits,” “familiar spirits,” “dumb spirits.”

Satan is the prince of demons (Matt. 12:24-26). His whole self-willed purpose in life now is to destroy all mankind and to thwart the plan of God.

Satan’s Form and Image. The devil is called “the dragon” — a winged serpent (Rev. 20:2). Satan is not made in the form and image of God, but is a “great red dragon” (or flying

CHERUBIM AND SERAPHIM

The best description of cherubim in the Bible is in the book of Ezekiel. They certainly don’t look like babies with bird wings as the artists in the Middle Ages painted them. They are large, powerful, ox- and dragon-like creatures. In chapters one, nine and ten, we read of these living creatures as they are used to transport one of God’s thrones.

Our first introduction to them is recorded in the book of Genesis, when God placed cherubim in the Garden of Eden to keep Adam from entering and taking of the tree of life after he and Eve had sinned (Gen. 3:24).

The cherubim are associated with God’s throne, either transporting it about (II Sam. 22:11; Ps. 18:10; 80:1; Ezek. 9:3; 10:4; 11:22), or carrying out important responsibilities, such as guarding the tree of life. Lucifer was given rule over the earth and thousands — perhaps millions — of angels before Adam. And he still is “the god of this world” (II Cor. 4:4).

The seraphim described by Isaiah (Isa. 6:2-6) are similar living creatures. These creatures have six wings, whereas cherubim have only four. These creatures are said to be before and above the throne, whereas the cherubim are beneath it, supporting and transporting it (see also Revelation 4).

serpent). (Rev. 12:3.) He is the serpent who induced Eve to sin.

God sternly warns us not to seek after demons, and not to associate with those who do. (Deut. 18:10-12).

Fighting Our “Real” Enemies. Evil Spirits, far more powerful than we, are actively seeking to destroy us. They are not playing games, though those people who begin to get involved with them see no danger until it is too late!

God says to avoid any demonic influence and to *resist* the devil (James 4:7).

Spirit beings are very “real” — in fact, *more* real than we are. As spirit beings they are immortal, while we in the physical human flesh live a transitory existence.

And evil spirit beings can completely destroy us spiritually unless we resist them and all they represent with all our might and the help of God and His angels. That protection comes to those who love God and keep His commandments.

We must “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities [high-ranking spirit beings who influence humans to fight and destroy one another], against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness [wicked spirits] in high places” (Eph. 6:11-12).

We should heed Paul’s admonition not to be ignorant of Satan’s existence, or of his devices, nor let him get an advantage of us (II Cor. 2:11). Then we can confidently look forward to the New Heaven and New Earth, where only righteousness will survive — to a time when Satan and the wicked angels will be cast away from us into outer darkness forever (Rev. 21:27; Jude 13).

There Are More With Us Than Against Us. When Christ said, “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth” (Matt. 28:18), He was speaking of complete control over all evil powers, all spirit beings, good and bad. They all must do His bidding.

He is “the head of all principality and power. . . having spoiled principalities and powers [when He con-

quered Satan], he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it” (Col. 2:10, 15).

If we continue to serve Him, we need have no undue fear of any of these spirit beings — no matter how powerful they are or how much they want to separate us from life. Even though Satan brings our sins before God day and night (Rev. 12:10; Job 1:6), we have Jesus Christ as our advocate and atonement for all (I John 2:1; Heb. 7:25-26; 8:24-26).

Therefore, we can say with the Apostle Paul: “. . . I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 8:38-39).

Truly, those who trust God need not fear, “for they that be with us are more than they that be with them” (II Kings 6:16).

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