

MINISTUDY Gods Invisible Agents
Prepared by Richard H. Sedeliaheck

God is the Creator.

Genesis 1:1 tells us, "God created the heavens and the earth." But the earth, stars and galaxies were not the first of God's creations. The Bible reveals that God created vast numbers of spirit beings before bringing the physical universe into existence. Who these beings are and the purpose for their existence will be explained in this study.

The method of study is similar to that used in the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course. You simply look up and read in your Bible the scriptures given in answer to each question. Comments following the questions will elaborate on these verses. Now let's begin this fascinating and eye-opening study.

1. What did God create before bringing the earth into existence? Job 38:4-7. What are these "stars"? Revelation 1:20.

In Job 38:7 "morning stars" and "sons of God" refer to angels. Notice that Revelation 12:4, 7-9 also speaks of angels as the "stars of heaven."

Angels are individually created spirit beings. They cannot marry or reproduce (Matthew 22:30). They are called "sons of God" because God created each angel a separate, immortal spirit being. And so we find the angels shouting for joy at the creation of the earth, long before the creation of Adam. They were joyful because the earth was to be the home of at least one third of them.

2. Does the Bible plainly speak of angels who sinned? II Peter 2:4, Jude 6. What details are revealed about their sin? Ezekiel 28:13-17, Isaiah 14:12-14.

Among the untold millions of angels God created was a powerful, wise and beautiful cherub - the great archangel Lucifer, who was perfect in all his ways. God set Lucifer over the angels on earth to administer God's government over them.

But Lucifer sinned. He became jealous of God, envious and resentful of God's authority. Eventually, he and one third of God's angels rebelled against their Creator. They left the earth and ascended to heaven in an attempt to take over rulership of the universe.

Lucifer (renamed Satan) and his angelic cohorts (demons) failed in their attempted Coup and were cast back to the earth (Isaiah 14:12. Revelation 12:3-4, Luke 10:18). Revelation 12:9 refers to another attempt by the devil and his demons to overthrow God, apparently to occur in the end time.

3. How many angels remained obedient to God? Revelation 12:4.

This verse indicates that two thirds of the angels remained loyal to God. These millions upon millions of spirit beings are God's servants, helping to carry out His will.

4. The Bible describes various types of angels whose appearance and function differ. Are there cherubim at God's throne? Psalm 99:1. And seraphim? Isaiah 6:1-2. What other types of angelic beings surround God's throne? Revelation 4:2-11.

Cherubim are associated with God's throne, either transporting it or carrying out directives from that throne, such as guarding the tree of life after Adam and Eve sinned (Genesis 3:24). Recall that Lucifer is the "anointed cherub" (Ezekiel 28:14) who was assigned to rule the earth. The best description of cherubim is found in the book of

Ezekiel. In chapters 1 and 10, we read of cherubim transporting God's throne. They are large, powerful, four-faced creatures with four wings.

The seraphim, which are said to be above the throne, seem to bear a general resemblance to humans, but are described as having six wings. The four "living creatures" of Revelation 4:6-8 appear to have the combined features of cherubim and seraphim. No description of the 24 elders is given in the Bible except that they are dressed in white clothing, each having a golden crown on his head.

S. Has God assigned some angels to continually walk about the earth to observe and report back to Him conditions in the world? Revelation 5:6, Zechariah 4:10, ii Chronicles 16:9. Do other untold millions of angels serve God at His throne in heaven, from which He rules the universe? Daniel 7:9-10.

e. In Hebrews 1 and 2 the apostle Paul speaks about the difference between man and angels. Are we told that "the world to come" - the Millennium and thereafter - will not be ruled by angels? Hebrews 2:5. But, if we become spirit-born children of God, are we promised rulership over angels? Hebrews 2:6-8, I Corinthians 6:2-3.

Although humans have been made a little lower than the angels for now, in the world tomorrow those born of God will be placed over all of God's creation, including angels!

7. In what other way, besides composition, do angels and humans differ? Hebrews 1:5, 13.

Man, now lower than angels, has a destiny far greater. Man was created to be literally begotten by God's Spirit, ultimately to be born into the divine Family of God. Angels are not destined to ever become part of God's universe-ruling Family. Angels, higher than man is now, were created to be God's servants in His universe-ruling government.

8. What is the function of many of God's angels? Hebrews 1:7, 14. Are Spirit-begotten Christians the heirs Paul is talking about? Romans 8:16-17, Galatians 3:26-29, 4:6-7. Has God specifically assigned certain angels to look after His begotten children? Acts 12:15, Matthew 18:10.

A number of God's angels are commissioned to minister to the Spirit-begotten children of God, who are His spiritual heirs.

To illustrate this function, we might consider the status of the son of a wealthy man. While still a child, the son is under the care of an adult servant or guardian chosen by the boy's father.

The servant is older, further advanced in knowledge, more developed physically and mentally - but has much less potential. For when the son matures, he will inherit his father's wealth and power. Therefore the servant, older and more mature, is only a servant ministering to the young heir. Likewise, angels are ministering to Spirit-begotten humans today.

9. Are angels powerful? If Peter 2:11. Do God's angels protect His obedient children from accidents, calamities, plagues and other evils? Psalm 34:7, 91:1-12.

God's angels are assigned to help His heirs of salvation along the road to eternal life - to save them from premature death, accidents and to protect them from the devil and his demons.

10. What did an angel of God do when the civil rulers imprisoned some of the apostles.? Acts 5:17-20. Did this enable the apostles to continue preaching the truth of God? Verse 21.

11. Do God's holy angels have the power to sometimes manifest themselves in order to carry out their duties? Daniel 9:21, Hebrews 13:2. Also read Genesis 18 and 19:1-22.

Angels are also messengers. (The Hebrew and Greek words for angel also mean "messenger.") Angels appeared to Abraham, Lot, Hagar, Moses, Gideon and many of God's prophets and apostles. When God's angels manifest themselves to human beings, they look like ordinary men.

Paul points out in Hebrews 13:2 that angels sometimes travel incognito on God's business, not revealing who they are. But righteous angels never capriciously appear and disappear merely to amuse either themselves or men.

12. Why did the prophet Elisha ask God to open the eyes of his servant? II Kings 6:15-17.

No wonder Elisha did not fear his enemies. He knew that one of God's spirit armies was standing upon the mountain, ready to protect him and his servant from the army of the king of Syria.

13. Has Michael the archangel been assigned to protect and minister to the 12 tribes of Israel? Daniel 12:1.

The Bible mentions by name three angels of high rank: Lucifer, now Satan the devil (Isaiah 14:12); Gabriel, who appeared to Daniel (Daniel 8:16-17, 9:21), to Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist (Luke 1:19), and to Mary, the mother of Jesus (verses 26-28); and Michael, called one of the "chief princes" (Daniel 10:13), whom Jude identifies as an archangel (Jude 9).

14. Was Gabriel (apparently of archangel rank) sent to give Daniel understanding of visions, and to right spiritual battles with fallen angels ("princes") of the devil so God's will would be carried out among the governments of men? Daniel 9:15-16, 9:21-22, 10:10-14, 20-21.

From this brief study we can see that the spirit world is teeming with activity. God works (John 5:17), and so do His invisible servants. who are busy helping Him carry out His will.

The time is coming soon when God will send one of His powerful, righteous angels to bind Satan and all his demons -- to completely restrain them, preventing them from deceiving mankind for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:1-3)!

MINISTUDY The Role of Righteous Angels Today

Prepared by Richard H. Sedliacik

In Genesis 1:1 we are told that "God created the heaven and the earth." But physical matter - this earth, the stars, the galaxies - was not the first thing God created.

1. What did God create before bringing the material universe into existence? Job 38:4-7. What are these "stars"? Rev. 1:20.

In Job 38:7 "morning stars" and "sons of God" refer to angels. Notice that Revelation 12:4-9 also speaks of the angels who followed Satan's rebellion as the "stars of heaven." And in Isaiah 14:12 we learn that Lucifer, before he sinned, was called "son of the morning" or "day star," as some Bible margins render it.

Angels are individually created beings. They cannot marry and reproduce (Matt22:30), but are called "sons of God" because God created each angel as a separate, immortal spirit being, and in that sense is the angels' Father (Heb. 12:9).

And so we find the angels shouting for joy at the creation of the earth, long before the creation of man. They were joyful because the earth was to be their home or abode.

2. But does the Bible plainly speak of angels who sinned? € Pet. 2:4, Jude 6. How many angels remained obedient to God's government? Rev. 12:4.

The Bible indicates that two thirds of the angels remained loyal to God. They did not follow Lucifer (now Satan) in his rebellion against the government of God (Isa. 14:12-14, Ezek. 28:13-15). These countless millions of angels are God's servants, helping to carry out His plan for mankind.

3. The Bible describes various types of angels whose appearance and function differ. Are there cherubim at God's throne? Ps99:1. And seraphim? Isa. 6:1-7. Are there also "beasts" and "elders" surrounding God's throne? Rev. 4:2-1 1.

Cherubim are associated with God's throne, either transporting it about or carrying out directives from that throne, such as guarding the tree of life after Adam and Eve sinned (Gen. 3:24). Lucifer, an anointed cherub (Ezek. 28:14), was given, before Adam was created, authority to administer God's government over the earth and millions of angels.

The best description of cherubim is found in the book of Ezekiel. In chapters 1, 9 and 10, we read of cherubim transporting God's throne. They are large, powerful, apparently four-faced creatures with four wings.

The seraphim seem to bear a general resemblance to the human figure and have six wings, whereas the four "beasts" or, better translated, "living creatures" appear to have the combined features of cherubim and seraphim- No description of the 24 elders is given in the Bible except that they are dressed in white clothing, each having a golden crown on his head.

4. Does God also have angels who continually walk through the earth to observe and report to Him overall conditions? Rev. 5:6, Zech. 4:10. II Chron. 16:9. Do other untold millions of angels serve God at the throne, in heaven, from which God rules the universe? Dan. 7:9-10.

5. In Hebrews 1 and 2 the apostle Paul speaks about the difference between man and angels. Are we told that "the world to come" will not be ruled by angels? Heb. 2:5. But if we become the Spirit-born sons of God, are we promised rulership over angels? Heb. 2:6-8. I Cor. 6:2-3.

Although man has been made a little lower than the angels for now, in the future he will be placed over all of God's creation, including angels.

6. In what other way, besides composition, do angels and man differ? Heb. 1:5, 13.

Man, now lower than angels, has a destiny far higher! Man was created to be literally begotten by God's spiritual reproductive process and then actually be born into the divine God Family. Angels are not begotten and born of God. Angels are not destined to become part of God's Family.

7. What is God's purpose for His created angels? Heb. 1:7. 14. Are Spirit-begotten Christians the "heirs" Paul is talking about? Rom. 8:16-17, Gal. 3:26-29. 4:6-7.

Angels, higher than man is now, were created to be God's servants, messengers and representatives in God's universe-ruling government. Angels are commissioned to minister to the Spirit-begotten children of God, who are His spiritual heirs.

To illustrate the primary activity of God's angels today, we might consider the status of the young son of a wealthy man. While still a child, the son is under the care of an adult servant or guardian chosen by the boy's father. The servant is older, farther advanced in knowledge, much more developed physically and mentally - but has much less potential. For when the son is mature, he will inherit his father's wealth and power. Therefore the servant, older and more mature, is only a servant ministering to the young heir. Likewise, angels are ministering to Spirit-begotten humans today.

8. Do God's children have assigned to them angels who are in close contact with the Father in heaven? Matt. 18:10.

9. Are angels powerful? II Pet. 2:11. Do the angels of God keep close to God's obedient children to protect them from accidents, calamities, plagues and other evils? Ps_ 34:7, 91:1-12. Will God's angels also fight our enemies? Ps. 35:1, 5-6.

God's angels are assigned to help God's heirs along the road to eternal life - to save them from premature death and accidents, to fight their battles and to protect them from the devil and his demons.

10. Do God's holy angels have the power to sometimes manifest themselves in the physical likeness of men in order to carry out their duties? Dan. 9:21, Heb. 13:2. Also read Genesis 18 and 19:1-22.

Angels are also messengers. They appeared to Abraham, Lot, Hagar, Moses, Gideon, Elijah and many of the prophets and apostles. When God's angels manifest themselves to human beings, they do so in the form of ordinary men. Paul points out in Hebrews 13:2 that they sometimes travel incognito on God's business, not revealing that they are angels. But righteous angels never capriciously appear and disappear merely to amuse themselves or men.

11. Why did the prophet Elisha ask God to open the eyes of his servant? II Kings 6:15-17. No wonder Elisha did not fear his enemies. He saw one of God's spirit armies upon the mountain!

12. Did God commission a special angel to watch over the children of Israel and bring them into the promised land? Ex. 23.-20-23

13. Is Michael the chief guardian of the descendants of ancient Israel? Dar.. 12:1. (The Revised Standard Version renders this verse. "At that [end] time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people.")

The Bible mentions by name 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 to Mary, the mother of

Jesus (Luke 1:26-27); and Michael, called one of the chief princes (Dan. 10:13) and whom Jude identifies as an archangel (Jude 9). Michael is specifically assigned to minister to the 12 tribes of Israel.

14. Was Gabriel (apparently of archangel rank) sent to give Daniel understanding of visions, and even to fight spiritual battles with fallen angels ("princes") of the devil in order that God's will be carried out among the governments of men? Dan. 8:15-16, 9:21-22, 10:10-14, 20-21

We can see that the spirit world is teeming with activity. God works (John 5:17) and His angelic servants are busy helping to carry out His will. Satan and his demons are just as busy trying to thwart and destroy the plan of God.

15. What did an angel of God do when the civil rulers put some of the apostles in prison? Acts 5-17-20. Did this enable the apostles to continue preaching the truth of God? Verse 21.

We have covered only a few of the many verses showing how God's angels serve God and God's saints today. Let's be grateful to God for sending His angels to assist in and watch over His Work and over those who are His Spirit-begotten children - His heirs soon to be born into the universe-ruling Family of God!

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