



The Doctrine of Angels & Demons

WHAT ROLE DO ANGELS PLAY?

When we come to the discussion of angels, we are entering into a subject that in some ways is the most unusual and puzzling of all theology. Karl

Barth, who has given the most extensive treatment of the subject in any recent theology textbook, described the topic of angels as the "most remarkable and difficult of all." ...One reason for the difficulty of the subject is that while there are abundant references to angels in the Bible, they are not treated themselves. When they are mentioned, it is always in order to inform us further about God, what He does, and how He does it.

—Millard Erickson, *Introducing Christian Doctrine*

Angels remain popular in our culture. Statistics indicate that around 80% of Americans believe in the existence of angels. But what are angels and what role do they play in our lives?

1. ANGELS ARE S _____ SPIRITS.

But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool"? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation? (Heb. 1:13-14)

*Bless the Lord, O you His angels,
You mighty ones who do His word,
Obeying the voice of His word!
Bless the Lord, all His hosts,
His ministers, who do His will! (Psalm 103:20-21)*

Angels serve God's will, praising Him around His throne (Is. 6:2-3), delivering His word (Luke 1:26-38; Heb. 2:2), ministering to His people (Ps. 34:7; 91:11), and executing His judgment (Rev. 8-9).

2. ANGELS ARE P _____ BEINGS.

- They provoke great _____ (Matt. 28:1-4; Lk. 2:9).
- They are described in _____ terms (cf. 2 Kgs. 6:17; Dan. 10:13; Matt. 26:53; "LORD of hosts," Is. 37:16).
- They do not seem to have some of our _____ limitations, e.g., tiredness, sickness, or death (Lk. 20:36).

Angels are still creatures created by God with limits in time, space, knowledge, ability, and authority (cf. Neh. 9:6; Job 1:9-12; Matt. 24:36). They are not to be worshiped (cf. Col. 2:18; Rev. 19:10).

Belief in angels is fairly widespread even among the less religious. A majority of non-Christians think angels exist, as do more than 4 in 10 of those who never attend religious services. —CBS News, Dec. 2011

Angel. Hebrew, *malak* (214x in OT); Greek, *angelos* (186x in NT), "messenger, representative." Angels are also called *cherubim* (Gen. 3:24), *seraphim* (Is. 6:2-3), "sons of God" (Job 1:6; 2:1), "watchers" (Dan. 4:13) and the "heavenly hosts" (Lk. 2:13).

The teaching about angels is widely diffused throughout Scripture. The mention of angels is not confined to one book or one writer or one period. Their existence is mentioned in at least 34 books of the Bible and from the earliest (whether Job or Genesis) to the last.

—Charles C. Ryrie

There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them.

—C. S. Lewis

3. ANGELS ARE I _____ IN OUR LIVES.

- They _____ over us (Psalm 91:11-12).
- They _____ us (1 Cor. 4:9, 11:10; 1 Pet. 1:12).
- They _____ over us (Luke 15:10).
- They _____ with us (Hebrews 12:22-24).

BUT...

4. SOME ANGELS R _____ AGAINST GOD.

Though the biblical information is limited, we can surmise that angels were created with free will (2 Pet. 2:4). One particular angel, Lucifer (also called Satan, *adversary*, or the devil), rebelled against God out of pride (Is. 14:12-15). He also led a group of angels in rebellion who became the demonic forces opposed to God (cf. Rev. 12:7-12).

5. THEY I _____ WITH GOD'S PLAN.

Satan and his demons have directed their attack against God by seeking to destroy those made in His image...us! They have several primary weapons which they use against us:

- _____ (John 8:44; 2 Cor. 11:14-15).
- _____ (1 Cor. 7:5; 1 John 2:16).
- _____ (Heb. 2:14-15; 2 Timothy 1:7).

6. THEY HAVE BEEN T _____ OVER IN CHRIST!

And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. —Colossians 2:15

Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.

—Ephesians 6:14-18

*Angels, descending,
Bring from above,
Echoes of mercy,
Whispers of love.*

—Fanny Crosby

*The angels are the dispensers
and administrators of the divine
beneficence towards us; they
regard our safety, undertake our
defense, direct our ways, and ex-
ercise a constant solicitude that
no evil befall us.* —John Calvin

Devil. Greek, *diabolos*, “false
accuser, slanderer” (Rev. 12:10).

*We must get away from thinking
of him as a diabolically ridiculous
figure, because Satan has the
ability to appear as an angel of
light (2 Cor. 11:14). He will try to
deceive us by coming to us not in
an ugly state but as pious and
pure, perhaps even quoting
Scripture while causing us to go
against the Word of God.*

—R.C. Sproul

*Virtually every war ever fought
began because of covetousness.
The warfare in heaven and on
earth between God and the devil
certainly sprang from the same
desire—the lust for what
belonged to God alone.*

—Billy Graham

*Satan does not tempt to gross
sins; the one thing he tempts to
is putting myself as master in-
stead of God.* —Oswald Chambers

*Though the NT clearly recognizes
the influence of demonic activity
in the world, and even upon the
lives of believers, its primary
focus regarding Christian growth
is not on demonic activity, but on
the choices and actions taken by
Christians themselves.*

—Wayne Grudem