

## ANGELS

### 1. Questions.

- a. Mohammad and Joseph Smith both claimed to see the angel Gabriel. Did they?
- b. Why have liberalism and neo-orthodoxy tended to deny the existence of angels?
- c. Has there been an increasing interest in angels and demons in our society? If so, why?
- d. Can angels appear to us today? Should we look for angels to appear?

### 2. Popular Culture.

### 3. Humour.

- a. We are talking about angels, not angles.
- b. Why were the Sadducees so sad? Because they didn't believe in angels!

### 4. Existence.

- a. Our only reliable source for knowledge of angels is Scripture.
  - (1) "Man does not have the knowledge to judge what the makeup of the universe is. He has no a priori way to know if that makeup would or would not include an order of creatures like angels."<sup>1</sup>
- b. Scripture is clear that angels exist.
  - (1) The Old Testament mentions angels over 100 times.<sup>2</sup>
  - (2) The New Testament mentions angels about 165 times.<sup>3</sup>
  - (3) Angels are mentioned in 34 biblical books from Genesis and Job to Revelation.<sup>4</sup>
  - (4) Jesus discusses angels repeatedly as real beings.
  - (5) Revelation refers to angels 65 times, more than any other biblical book.<sup>5</sup>
- c. Angels are generally invisible to men.
  - (1) **2 Ki 6:15-17** 17 Then Elisha prayed and said, Yahweh, please open [the young man's] eyes that he may see. So Yahweh opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of *horses and chariots of fire* all around Elisha.
  - (2) **Col 1:16** 16 For by [the Son] all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and *invisible*, whether thrones, dominions, rulers, or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.
  - (3) We must not assume because we usually don't see angels, angels do not exist.
- d. When angels appear in the Bible, they are in not figments of imagination.<sup>6</sup>
  - (1) **Ge 18:2** 2 [Abraham] lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three *men* were standing in front of him.

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<sup>1</sup> Charles C. Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 137.

<sup>2</sup> Charles C. Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 138.

<sup>3</sup> Charles C. Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 138.

<sup>4</sup> Charles C. Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 138.

<sup>5</sup> Charles C. Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 139.

<sup>6</sup> Charles C. Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 138.

- (2) **Ge 19:1** 1 The two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom.
- (3) **Heb 13:2** 2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

## 5. Creation.

- a. Angels are created beings.
  - (1) **Ps 148:1-5** 1 Hallelujah! Praise Yahweh from the heavens. Praise him in the heights! 2 Praise him, all his angels. Praise him, all his hosts! 3 Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars! 4 Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! 5 Let them praise the name of Yahweh! For he commanded, and they were created.
  - (2) **Jn 1:3** 3 All things were made through [the Logos], and without him was not any thing made that was made.
  - (3) **Col 1:16** 16 For by [the Son] all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, dominions, rulers, or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.
  - (4) **Re 4:9-11** 11 Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory, honor, and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.
- b. Angels were present when God creating the world as we know it today.
  - (1) **Job 38:4-7** 4 Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. 5 Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? 6 On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, 7 when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?
  - (2) Angels were probably existing during the gap between Ge 1:1 and Ge 1:2.
    - (a) **Ge 1:1-3** 1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep [because of God's judgment on Satan and the demons]. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. 3 And God said, Let there be light, and there was light.
      - 1) See *Fall of Satan*.
    - (3) Some believe the angels were created on day four.
      - (a) **Ge 1:16** 16 And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars.
- c. Angels do not marry or procreate, so they must have been directly created by God.
  - (1) **Mt 22:30** 30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.
- d. Angels never die or cease to exist. They are everlasting beings.
  - (1) **Lk 20:36** 36 ...For [believers in the Messianic age] cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.

## 6. Titles.

- a. Angels.
  - (1) מַלְאָכִים: commissioned messenger, ambassador.

- (a) **Mal 2:7** 7 For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger (מַלְאָךְ) of Yahweh of hosts.
- (2) מַלְאָךְ: trade mission, business journey, business, work.
- (3) ἄγγελος: envoy, one who is sent, messenger, one who carries out a mission or task.
- b. Sons of God.
- (1) **Ge 6:1-2** 1 When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, 2 the *sons of God* saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose.
- (2) **Dt 32:8** 8 When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the *sons of God*.
- (3) **Job 1:6** 6 ... There was a day when the *sons of God* [angels] came to present themselves before Yahweh, and Satan also came among them.
- (4) **Job 2:1** 1 Again there was a day when the *sons of God* came to present themselves before Yahweh....
- (5) **Job 38:6-7** 6 On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, 7 when the *morning stars* sang together and all the *sons of God* shouted for joy?
- (6) **Lk 20:36** 36 ... For [believers in the Messianic age] cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are *sons of God*, being sons of the resurrection.
- c. Holy ones.
- (1) **Dt 33:2** 2 [Moses] said, Yahweh came from Sinai and dawned from Seir upon us. He shone forth from Mount Paran. He came from the ten thousands of *holy ones*, with flaming fire at his right hand.
- (2) **Jud 14** 14 It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his *holy ones*....
- d. Stars.
- (1) **Job 38:6-7** 6 On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, 7 when the *morning stars* sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?
- (2) **Re 1:20** 20 As for the mystery of the seven *stars* that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven *stars* are the *angels* of the seven churches....
- e. Heavenly host/army.
- (1) **1 Ki 22:19** 19 ... I [Micaiah] saw Yahweh sitting on his throne, and all the *host of heaven* standing beside him on his right hand and on his left....
- (2) **Lk 2:13** 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the *heavenly host* praising God and saying....
- f. Watchers.
- (1) **Da 4:13-17** 13 I [Nebuchadnezzar] saw in the visions of my head as I lay in bed, and behold, a *watcher*, a *holy one*, came down from heaven. 14 He proclaimed aloud and said thus: Chop down the tree and lop off its branches, strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the beasts flee from under it and the birds from its branches. ... 17 The sentence is by the decree of the *watchers*, the decision by the word of the *holy ones*....

- g. Glorious ones.
- (1) **Jud 8 8** Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the *glorious ones*.

## 7. Number.

- a. The number of angels is very, very great.
- (1) **Ps 68:17 17** The chariots of God are *twice ten thousand, thousands upon thousands*. Yahweh is among them.
  - (2) **Da 7:10 10** A stream of fire issued and came out from before [the Ancient of Days]. A *thousand thousands* served him, and *ten thousand times ten thousand* stood before him. The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.
  - (3) **Mt 26:53 53** Do you think that I [Jesus] cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me *more than twelve legions of angels*?
  - (4) **Lk 2:13 13** And suddenly there was with the angel a *multitude of the heavenly host* praising God and saying....
  - (5) **Heb 12:22 22** But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to *innumerable angels* in festal gathering....
  - (6) **Jud 14 14** It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, Behold, the Lord comes with *ten thousands of his holy ones*....
  - (7) **Re 5:11 11** Then I looked, and I heard around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders the voice of *many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands*....
  - (8) Perhaps there are as many angels in the universe as men throughout human history.
- b. The number of angels is fixed.
- (1) **Mt 22:30 30** For in the resurrection [believers] neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like *angels* in heaven.
  - (2) **Lk 20:36 36** ...For [believers in the Messianic age] cannot die anymore, because they are equal to *angels* and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.

## 8. Personhood.

- a. Angels are finite spirit beings with distinct personalities.
- (1) Scripture explicitly call angels and demons spirits (*pneumata*) in Matthew 8:16; Luke 7:21; 8:2; 11:26; Acts 19:12; Ephesians 6:12; and Hebrews 1:14.
    - (a) **Heb 1:14 14** Are [angels] not all *ministering spirits* sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?
  - (2) The fact angels do not have physical bodies does not mean they are not persons.
  - (3) Angels are not mere personifications of abstract good and evil or our “good and evil conscience.”
- b. Angels possess:
- (1) Intellect and language.
    - (a) **Mt 24:36 36** But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the *angels* of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.
    - (b) **Mt 28:5-7 5 5** But the angel said to the women, Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for he has risen, as he said.

Come, see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead. And behold, he is going before you to Galilee.

There you will see him. See, I have told you.

- (c) **Mk 16:5-7** 5 And entering the tomb, [the women] saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. 6 And he said to them, Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen. He is not here. See the place where they laid him. 7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.
- (d) **Lk 24:5-7** 5 And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men [angels] said to them, Why do you seek the living among the dead? 6 He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, 7 that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise?
- (e) **Jn 20:12-13** 12 And [Mary] saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. 13 They said to her, Woman, why are you weeping? She said to them, They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.
- (f) **Ac 1:10-11** 10 And while [the apostles] were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes 11 and said, Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.
- (g) **Jud 9** 9 But when the *archangel Michael*, contending with the *devil*, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, The Lord rebuke you.

(2) Emotion.

- (a) **Job 38:6-7** 6 On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, 7 when the *morning stars* sang together and all the *sons of God* shouted for joy?
- (b) **Luke 1:11-20** 11 And there appeared to [Zechariah] an *angel* of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. 12 And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. 13 But the *angel* said to him, Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ... 16 And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, 17 and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared. 18 And Zechariah said to the *angel*, How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years. 19 And the *angel* answered him, I am *Gabriel*. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. 20 And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.
- (c) **Luke 2:8-14** 8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an *angel* of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled

with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Messiah the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you. You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger. 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!

- (d) **Jud 9** 9 But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you.
- (3) Will, ethics, creativity.
- (a) **Ac 12:7-8** 7 And behold, an *angel* of the Lord stood next to [Peter], and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him saying, Get up quickly. And the chains fell off his hands. 8 And the *angel* said to him, Dress yourself and put on your sandals. And he did so. And he said to him, Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.
- (b) **1 Peter 1:12** 12 It was revealed to [the Old Testament prophets] that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which *angels* long to look.
- (c) **2 Pe 2:10-11** 10 Bold and wilful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the *glorious ones*, 11 whereas *angels*, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord.
- c. Angels are probably created in God’s image, though this is never expressly stated.
- (1) It seems angels are God’s stewards in heaven while men are God’s stewards on earth.
- (2) **Lk 20:36** 36 ...For [believers in the Messianic age] cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are *sons of God*, being sons of the resurrection.
- (3) **Re 22:8-9** 8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the *angel* who showed them to me, 9 but he said to me, You must not do that! I am a *fellow servant* with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.





## 9. Glory.

### a. Angels are glorious in appearance.

- (1) **Eze 1:4-14** 4 As I [Ezekiel] looked, behold, a stormy wind came out of the north, and a great cloud, with brightness around it, and fire flashing forth continually, and in the midst of the fire, as it were gleaming metal. 5 And from the midst of it came the likeness of *four living creatures*. And this was their appearance: they had a human likeness, 6 but each had four faces, and each of them had four wings. 7 Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the sole of a calf's foot. And they sparkled like burnished bronze. 8 Under their wings on their four sides they had human hands. And the four had their faces and their wings thus: 9 their wings touched one another. Each one of them went straight forward, without turning as they went. 10 As for the likeness of their faces, each had a human face. The four had the face of a lion on the right side, the four had the face of an ox on the left side, and the four had the face of an eagle. 11 Such were their faces. And their wings were spread out above. Each *creature* had two wings, each of which touched the wing of another, while two covered their bodies. 12 And each went straight forward. Wherever the spirit would go, they went, without turning as they went. 13 As for the likeness of the *living creatures*, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, like the appearance of torches moving to and fro among the *living creatures*. And the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning. 14 And the *living creatures* darted to and fro, like the appearance of a flash of lightning.
- (2) **Mt 28:1-4** 1 Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an *angel* of the Lord descended from heaven, came and rolled back the stone, and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4 And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men.
- (3) **Lk 1:11-12** 11 And there appeared to [Zechariah] an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. 12 And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him.
- (4) **Re 10:1-3** 1 Then I saw another mighty *angel* coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head, and his face was like the sun, and his legs like pillars of fire. 2 He had a little scroll open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea, and his left foot on the land, 3 and called out with a loud voice, like a lion roaring. When he called out, the seven thunders sounded.

### b. They often appear as men in white robes.

- (1) **Mk 16:5** 5 And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed.
- (2) **Lk 24:4-5** 4 While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. 5 And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them....
- (3) **Jn 20:12** 12 And [Mary] saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet.

- (4) **Ac 1:10** 10 And while [the apostles] were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes....
- (5) Angels usually appear as males. We don't know whether they have gender as we do. They do not procreate.
  - (a) **Zec 5:9** 9 Then I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, two women coming forward! The wind was in their wings. They had wings like the wings of a stork, and they lifted up the basket between earth and heaven.
- c. Angels are “glorious ones” and not to be blasphemed.
  - (1) **Jud 8** 8 Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the *glorious ones*.
- d. However, their glory is nothing compared to God's glory.
  - (1) **Ps 89:5-7** 5 Let the heavens praise your wonders, Yahweh, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones! 6 For who in the skies can be compared to Yahweh? Who among the heavenly beings is like Yahweh, 7 a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones, and awesome above all who are around him?

## 10. Abode/Domain/Realm.

- a. There are three heavens.
  - (1) **2 Co 12:1-4** 1 I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. 2 I know a man in Messiah who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. 3 And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— 4 and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter.
- b. These three heavens are probably: (1) the earth's atmosphere; (2) outer space; and (3) beyond the universe.
- c. Angels are able to access any of the three heavens. Their normal place of abode is the second heaven.
  - (1) **Ps 89:5-6** 5 Let the heavens praise your wonders, Yahweh, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones! 6 For who in the *skies* can be compared to Yahweh? Who among the *heavenly beings* is like Yahweh...?
  - (2) **Mt 22:30** 30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in *heaven*.
  - (3) **Heb 2:7** 7 You made him [Jesus] for a little while *lower* than the angels.
  - (4) **Re 12:7-9** 7 Now war arose in *heaven*, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, 8 but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in *heaven* [the second heaven?]. 9 And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his *angels* were thrown down with him.
- d. Angels return to heaven when their tasks on earth are complete.
  - (1) **Lk 2:15** 15 When the *angels* went away from [the shepherds] into *heaven*....

## 11. Organisation.

- a. Angels are organised hierarchically.



- (1) **Eph 3:9-10** 9 ... And to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, 10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.
  - (2) **Col 1:16** 16 For by [the Son] all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, dominions, rulers, or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.
  - (3) Also see Rom. 8:38; Eph. 1:21; 3:10; 6:12; Col. 1:16; 2:10, 15; Eph. 1:21; 2:2; 3:10; 6:12; Col. 1:16; 2:10, 15; 1 Pet. 3:22; 2 Pe 2:10-11; Jud 8
  - (4) This implies the millennial and eternal kingdoms will be organised hierarchically.
- b. They form a sort of assembly or council before God.
- (1) **Ps 89:5-7** 5 Let the heavens praise your wonders, Yahweh, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones! 6 For who in the skies can be compared to Yahweh? Who among the heavenly beings is like Yahweh, 7 a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones, and awesome above all who are around him?
- c. Orders.
- (1) Archangels.
    - 1) **1 Th 4:16** 16 For the Lord [Jesus] himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Messiah will rise first.
  - (b) Michael.
    - 1) **Da 10:12-21** 12 Then [Gabriel] said to me, Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. 13 The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia, 14 and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come. ...20 Then he said, Do you know why I [Gabriel] have come to you? But now I will return to fight against the prince of Persia. And when I go out, behold, the prince of Greece will come. 21 But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth. There is none who contends by my side against these except Michael, your prince.
    - 2) **Da 12:1** 1 At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people [Israel]. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time.
    - 3) **Jud 9** 9 But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, The Lord rebuke you.
    - 4) **Re 12:7-8** 7 Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, 8 but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.
  - (c) Gabriel (“Hero of God”).
    - 1) **Da 9:20-24** 20 While I [Daniel] was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my plea before Yahweh

my God for the holy hill of my God, 21 while I was speaking in prayer, the man *Gabriel*, whom I had seen in the vision at the first, came to me in swift flight at the time of the evening sacrifice. 22 He made me understand, speaking with me and saying, O Daniel, I have now come out to give you insight and understanding. 23 At the beginning of your pleas for mercy a word went out, and I have come to tell it to you, for you are greatly loved. Therefore consider the word and understand the vision. 24 Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city....

- 2) **Da 10:12-21** 12 Then [Gabriel] said to me, Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. 13 The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but *Michael*, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia, 14 and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come. ...20 Then he said, Do you know why I [Gabriel] have come to you? But now I will return to fight against the prince of Persia. And when I go out, behold, the prince of Greece will come. 21 But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth. There is none who contends by my side against these except Michael, your prince.
  - 3) **Lk 1:19-20** 19 And the *angel* answered him, I am *Gabriel*. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. 20 And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.
  - 4) In the Aramaic Targum, Gabriel is the angel to whom was ascribed the finding of Joseph's brothers, the burial of Moses, and the slaying of the armies of Sennacherib.<sup>7</sup>
- (d) Note: The apocryphal book of Enoch names Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Jeremial and Uriel as the four principal angels who were privileged to stand around the throne of God (9:1; 40:9). It also numbers seven angels as archangels (20:1-7, cf. Tobit 12:15).<sup>8</sup>

(2) Cherubim.

- (a) **Ge 3:24** 24 ...And at the east of the garden of Eden [God] placed the *cherubim* and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.
- (b) **Ex 25:18-22** 18 And you shall make two *cherubim* of gold. Of hammered work shall you make them, on the two ends of the mercy seat. 19 Make one *cherub* on the one end, and one *cherub* on the other end. Of one piece with the mercy seat shall you make the *cherubim* on its two ends. 20 The *cherubim* shall spread out their wings above, overshadowing the mercy seat with their wings, their faces one to another. Toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the *cherubim* be. 21 And you shall put the mercy seat on the top of the ark, and in

<sup>7</sup> Charles C. Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 148.

<sup>8</sup> Charles C. Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 147.

the ark you shall put the testimony that I shall give you. 22 There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two *cherubim* that are on the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you about all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel.

(c) 1 Ki 6.23-29; Eze 1.4-5

(d) **Eze 10:1-3** 1 Then I [Ezekiel] looked, and behold, on the expanse that was over the heads of the *cherubim* there appeared above them something like a sapphire, in appearance like a throne. 2 And he said to the man clothed in linen, Go in among the whirling wheels underneath the cherubim. Fill your hands with burning coals from between the cherubim, and scatter them over the city. And he went in before my eyes. 3 Now the *cherubim* were standing on the south side of the house, when the man went in, and a cloud filled the inner court.

(e) Eze 41.18-20

(f) Satan was a cherub.

1) **Eze 28:14-16** 14 You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you. You were on the holy mountain of God. In the midst of the stones of fire you walked. 15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you. 16 In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned. So I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you, O guardian cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

(3) Seraphim.

(a) **Is 6:1-7** 1 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw Yahweh sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up. And the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him stood the *seraphim*. Each had six wings—with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called to another and said, Holy, holy, holy is Yahweh of hosts. The whole earth is full of his glory! ...6 Then one of the *seraphim* flew to me [Isaiah], having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 And he touched my mouth and said, Behold, this has touched your lips. Your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.

(4) Four living creatures.

(a) Note: these may be cherubim or seraphim.

(b) **Eze 1:4-14** 4 As I [Ezekiel] looked, behold, a stormy wind came out of the north, and a great cloud, with brightness around it, and fire flashing forth continually, and in the midst of the fire, as it were gleaming metal. 5 And from the midst of it came the likeness of *four living creatures*. And this was their appearance: they had a human likeness, 6 but each had four faces, and each of them had four wings. 7 Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the sole of a calf's foot. And they sparkled like burnished bronze. 8 Under their wings on their four sides they had human hands. And the four had their faces and their wings thus: 9 their wings touched one another. Each one of them went straight forward, without turning as they went. 10 As for the likeness of their faces, each had a human face. The four had the face of a lion on the right side, the four had the face of an ox on the left side, and the four

had the face of an eagle. 11 Such were their faces. And their wings were spread out above. Each *creature* had two wings, each of which touched the wing of another, while two covered their bodies. 12 And each went straight forward. Wherever the spirit would go, they went, without turning as they went. 13 As for the likeness of the *living creatures*, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, like the appearance of torches moving to and fro among the *living creatures*. And the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning. 14 And the *living creatures* darted to and fro, like the appearance of a flash of lightning.

- (c) **Re 4:6-10** 6 And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are *four living creatures*, full of eyes in front and behind: 7 the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. 8 And the *four living creatures*, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come! 9 And whenever the *living creatures* give glory, honor, and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever.

## 12. Subsistence.

a. Angels are subservient to God.

- (1) **Ps 103:20-21** 20 Bless Yahweh, you his *angels*, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word! 21 Bless Yahweh, all his *hosts*, his *ministers*, who do his will!

b. As the God-man, Jesus is preeminent over the angels.

- (1) **Mt 28:18** 18 And Jesus came and said to them, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
- (2) **Eph 1:19-22** 19 ...And what is the immeasurable greatness of [God's] power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might 20 that he worked in Messiah when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule, authority, power, and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church...
- (3) **Php 2:9-11** 9 Therefore God has highly exalted [Jesus] and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in *heaven*, on earth, and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Messiah is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- (4) **Col 1:15-20** 15 [The Son] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and

through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

- (5) **Col 2:10** 10 ...And you have been filled in [Jesus], who is the head of all rule and authority.
- (6) **Heb 1:3-6** 3 After making purification for sins, [Jesus] sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become as much superior to *angels* as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. 5 For to which of the *angels* did God ever say, You are my Son, today I have begotten you? Or again, I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son? 6 And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, Let all God's *angels* worship him.
- (7) **Heb 2:5-16** 5 For it was not to *angels* that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. 6 It has been testified somewhere, What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? 7 You made him for a little while lower than the *angels*. You have crowned him with glory and honor, 8 putting everything in subjection under his feet. Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. 9 But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the *angels*, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. ...16 For surely it is not *angels* that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham.
- (8) **1 Pe 3:22** 22 ...Who [Jesus] has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

### 13. Roles.

#### a. Singers/worshippers.

- (1) **Job 38:7** 7 ...When the *morning stars* sang together and all the *sons of God* shouted for joy?
- (2) **Ps 89:5** 5 Let the heavens praise your wonders, Yahweh, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!
- (3) **Ps 148:2** 2 Praise him, all his *angels*. Praise him, all his *hosts*!
- (4) **Is 6:2-3** 2 Above [Yahweh] stood the *seraphim*. Each had six wings—with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called to another and said, Holy, holy, holy is Yahweh of hosts. The whole earth is full of his glory!
- (5) **Lk 2:13-14** 13 And suddenly there was with the *angel* a multitude of the *heavenly host* praising God and saying, 14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!
- (6) **Heb 1:6** 6 And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, Let all God's *angels* worship him.
- (7) **Re 5:11-12** 11 Then I looked, and I heard around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders the voice of many *angels*, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power, wealth, wisdom, might, honor, glory, and blessing!

#### b. Guards/soldiers/warriors.



- (1) **Ge 3:24** 24 ...And at the east of the garden of Eden [God] placed the *cherubim* and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.
  - (2) **2 Ki 6:17** 17 So Yahweh opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of *horses and chariots of fire* all around Elisha.
  - (3) **Ps 68:17** 17 The chariots of God are twice ten thousand, thousands upon thousands. Yahweh is among them.
  - (4) **Da 10:13-21** 13 The prince of the kingdom of Persia *withstood* me [Gabriel] twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia.... 20 But now I will return to *fight* against the prince of Persia. And when I go out, behold, the prince of Greece will come. 21 But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth. There is none who *contends* by my side against these except Michael, your prince.
  - (5) **Mt 26:53** 53 Do you think that I [Jesus] cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of *angels*?
  - (6) **Re 12:7-8** 7 Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his *angels* fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his *angels* fought back, 8 but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.
- c. Councilers.
- (1) **Job 1:6** 6 ... There was a day when the sons of God [angels] came to present themselves before Yahweh, and Satan also came among them.
  - (2) **Da 7:9-10** 10 A stream of fire issued and came out from before [the Ancient of Days]. A *thousand thousands* served him, and *ten thousand times ten thousand* stood before him. The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.
- d. Heralds/messengers/evangelists.
- (1) **Da 9:20-24** 20 While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my plea before the Lord my God for the holy hill of my God, 21 while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the first, came to me in swift flight at the time of the evening sacrifice. 22 He made me understand, speaking with me and saying, O Daniel, I have now come out to give you insight and understanding. 23 At the beginning of your pleas for mercy a word went out, and I have come to tell it to you, for you are greatly loved. Therefore consider the word and understand the vision. 24 Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city....
  - (2) **Da 10:12-14** 12 Then [Gabriel] said to me, Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. 13 The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but *Michael*, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia, 14 and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come.
  - (3) **Zec 1:9** 9 Then I [Zechariah] said, What are these, my lord? The angel who talked with me said to me, I will show you what they are.
  - (4) **Mt 28:5-7** 5 But the *angel* said to the women, Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he



has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him. See, I have told you.

- (5) **Mark 16:5-7** 5 And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. 6 And he said to them, Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen. He is not here. See the place where they laid him. 7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.
- (6) **Lk 1:11-13** 11 And there appeared to [Zechariah] an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. 12 And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. 13 But the angel said to him, Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.
- (7) **Lk 1:26-38** 26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, Greetings, O favoured one, the Lord is with you! 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. 34 And Mary said to the angel, How will this be, since I am a virgin? 35 And the angel answered her, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. 36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God. 38 And Mary said, Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word. And the angel departed from her.
- (8) **Lk 2:8-12** 8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Messiah the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.
- (9) **Lk 24:4-7** 4 While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. 5 And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, Why do you seek the living among the dead? 6 He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, 7 that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise?

- (10) **Ac 1:10-11** 10 And while [the apostles] were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, *two men* stood by them in white robes 11 and said, Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.
- (11) **Ac 8:26** 26 Now an *angel* of the Lord said to Philip, Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.
- (12) **Ac 10:3-5** 3 About the ninth hour of the day [Cornelius] saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, Cornelius. 4 And he stared at him in terror and said, What is it, Lord? And he said to him, Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. 5 And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter.
- (13) **Ac 27:23-24** 23 For this very night there stood before me [Paul] an *angel* of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, 24 and he said, Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.
- (14) **Ga 3:19** 19 Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through *angels* by an intermediary.
- (a) **Ac 7:53** 53 ... You who received the law as delivered by *angels* and did not keep it.
- (15) **Re 1:1** 1 The revelation of Jesus Messiah, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his *angel* to his servant John....
- (16) **Re 14:6-7** 6 Then I saw another *angel* flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation, tribe, language, and people. 7 And he said with a loud voice, Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.
- (17) **Re 22:8** 8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the *angel* who showed them to me....
- e. Ministers/servants.
- (1) **Ps 91:11-12** 11 ...[Yahweh] will command his *angels* concerning you to guard you in all your ways. 12 On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.
- (2) **Ps 103:20-21** 20 Bless Yahweh, you his *angels*, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word! 21 Bless Yahweh, all his *hosts*, his *ministers*, who do his will!
- (3) **Mt 4:11** 11 Then the devil left [Jesus], and behold, *angels* came and were ministering to him.
- (4) **Mt 18:10** 10 See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their *angels* always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.
- (a) In context, “little ones” includes more than just children. Perhaps every believer has a “guardian angel.”
- (5) **Mk 1:13** 13 And [Jesus] was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the *angels* were ministering to him.

- (6) **Lk 16:22** 22 The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side.
  - (7) **Lk 22:41-43** 41 And [Jesus] withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed 42 saying, Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done. 43 And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him.
  - (8) **Ac 5:19-20** 19 But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors, brought [the apostles] out, and said, 20 Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life.
  - (9) **Ac 12:7-11** 7 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to [Peter], and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him saying, Get up quickly. And the chains fell off his hands. 8 And the angel said to him, Dress yourself and put on your sandals. And he did so. And he said to him, Wrap your cloak around you and follow me. 9 And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. 10 When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel left him. 11 When Peter came to himself, he said, Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.
  - (10) **Ac 27:23-24** 23 For this very night there stood before me [Paul] an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, 24 and he said, Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.
  - (11) **Heb 1:7-14** 7 Of the angels [God] says, He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire. ... 14 Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?
    - (a) "Though God's Power Be Sufithink to Governe Us, Yet for Man's Infirmities He appointeth His Angels to Watch over Us."<sup>9</sup>
  - (12) **Re 2:1** 1 To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.
    - (a) God may assign an angel to every local church or church region.
  - (13) **Re 22:8-9** 8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, 9 but said to me, You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.
- f. Observers.
- (1) **Da 7:9-10** 10 A stream of fire issued and came out from before [the Ancient of Days]. A thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.

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<sup>9</sup> Inscription in a church in Scotland, quoted in Charles C. Ryrie, *A Survey of Bible Doctrine*, 92.

- (2) **Lk 12:8-9** 8 And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, 9 but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God.
  - (3) **1 Co 4:9** 9 For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men.
  - (4) **1 Co 11:8-10** 8 For man was not made from woman, but woman from man. 9 Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. 10 That is why a wife ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.
  - (5) **Eph 3:8-11** 8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Messiah, 9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, 10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. 11 This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Messiah Jesus our Lord....
  - (6) **1 Ti 3:16** 16 Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He [Jesus] was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels....
  - (7) **1 Ti 5:21** 21 In the presence of God, of Messiah Jesus, and of the elect angels I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality.
  - (8) **1 Pe 1:12** 12 It was revealed to [the Old Testament prophets] that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.
- g. Reapers/executioners.
- (1) **Ge 19:13** 13 For we [angels] are about to destroy this place [Sodom], because the outcry against its people has become great before Yahweh, and the Lord has sent us to destroy it.
  - (2) **1 Ch 21:15** 15 And God sent the angel to Jerusalem to destroy it, but as he was about to destroy it, Yahweh saw, and he relented from the calamity. And he said to the angel who was working destruction, It is enough. Now stay your hand. And the angel of the Lord was standing by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.
    - (a) This is probably Jesus, not an angel.
  - (3) **Da 7:9-10** 10 A stream of fire issued and came out from before [the Ancient of Days]. A thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.
  - (4) **Mt 13:39** 39 The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.
  - (5) **Mt 13:49-50** 49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous 50 and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth
  - (6) **Mt 24:31** 31 And [the Son of God] will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.
  - (7) **Mt 25:31** 31 When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.

- (8) **Ac 12:23** 23 Immediately an *angel* of the Lord struck [Herod] down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.
- (9) **2 Th 1:7** 7 ...And to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty *angels*....
- (10) **Jud 14** 14 It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his *holy ones*....
- (11) **Re 7:2-3** 2 Then I saw another *angel* ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four *angels* who had been given power to harm earth and sea 3 saying, Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.
- (12) **Re 8:7** 7 The first *angel* blew his trumpet, and there followed hail and fire, mixed with blood, and these were thrown upon the earth. And a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.
- (13) **Re 14:9-10** 9 And another *angel*, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulphur in the presence of the holy *angels* and in the presence of the Lamb.
- (14) **Re 14:17-19** 17 Then another *angel* came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. 18 And another *angel* came out from the altar, the *angel* who has authority over the fire, and he called with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, Put in your sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe. 19 So the *angel* swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.
- (15) **Re 16:2** 2 So the first *angel* went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and harmful and painful sores came upon the people who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.
- (16) **Re 19:17-18** 17 Then I saw an *angel* standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, Come, gather for the great supper of God, 18 to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great.
- (17) **Re 20:1-3** 1 Then I saw an *angel* coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. 2 And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, 3 and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended.
- (18) "Angels have served, and will continue to serve, as God's agents for dispensing his judgment. This is one of the primary functions of the angels as they are revealed in the Apocalypse.... Seven angels sound the seven trumpet judgments of God (Rev 8-9); seven angels carry the seven last plagues (Rev 15); and four



angels bound at the Euphrates are released and kill a third of humanity (Rev 9:14-15).”<sup>10</sup>

h. Summary.

- (1) Angels are especially active when dispensational periods change.
  - (a) When the earth was created (Job 38:6-7).
  - (b) At the fall of man (Ge 3:24).
  - (c) In the days of Abraham (Ge 18:2).
  - (d) When the Mosaic law was given (Ga 3:19; He 2:2)
  - (e) At Jesus’ first coming (Mt 1:20; 4:11).
  - (f) In the days of the apostles (Ac 8:26; 10:3, 7; 12:11).
  - (g) At the rapture (1 Th 4:16).
  - (h) During the tribulation (Re 8-9; 16).
  - (i) At Jesus’ second coming (Mt 25:31; 1 Th 4:16).

#### 14. Destiny.

- a. Angels will inhabit the new heavens and earth with us.
  - (1) **Heb 12:22** 22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable *angels* in festal gathering....

#### 15. Angels and Men.

- a. Angels and men both bear the image of God.
- b. Angels are temporarily superior to men.
  - (1) **Heb 2:5-7** 5 For it was not to *angels* that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. 6 It has been testified somewhere, What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? 7 You made him for a little while lower than the *angels*.
- c. Angels are more intelligent than men.
  - (1) This is because they know more about God and have been around a lot longer than men.
- d. Angels are stronger than men.
  - (1) **2 Pe 2:10-11** 10 Bold and wilful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the *glorious ones*, 11 whereas *angels*, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord.
- e. Angels may appear to men:
  - (1) In dreams.
    - (a) **Mt 1:20** 20 But [Joseph] considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream....
    - (b) **Mt 2:13** 13 Now when they had departed, behold, an *angel* of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.
    - (c) **Mt 2:19-20** 19 But when Herod died, behold, an *angel* of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 20 saying, Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.

<sup>10</sup> Leland Ryken, Jim Wilhoit, Tremper Longman et al., *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*, electronic ed. (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000), 24.



- (2) In visions.
  - (a) **Da 4:13** 13 I [Nebuchadnezzar] saw in the visions of my head as I lay in bed, and behold, a watcher, a holy one, came down from heaven.
  - (b) **Da 9:21** 21 ... While I [Daniel] was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the first, came to me in swift flight at the time of the evening sacrifice.
  - (c) **Ac 10:3** 3 About the ninth hour of the day [Cornelius] saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, Cornelius.
- (3) As angels.
  - (a) **Lk 1:11-12** 11 And there appeared to [Zechariah] an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. 12 And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him.
- (4) As men.
  - (a) **Ge 18:2** 2 [Abraham] lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him.
  - (b) **Ge 19:1** 1 The two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom.
  - (c) **Acts 1:10** 10 And while [the apostles] were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes....
  - (d) **Heb 13:2** 2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.
- f. Men are not to worship angels.
  - (1) **Col 2:18-19** 18 Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, 19 and not holding fast to the Head....
  - (2) **Re 22:8-9** 8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, 9 but he said to me, You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.
- g. Jesus' primary concern is men, not angels.
  - (1) **Heb 2:9-16** 9 But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. ... 16 For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham.
- h. Jesus became a man (and still is). He never became an angel.
  - (1) **Heb 2:14** 14 Because therefore the children share in flesh and blood, [Jesus] himself likewise partook of the same things....
  - (2) **Heb 2:17** 17 Therefore [Jesus] had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.
- i. Men may experience salvation. Angels cannot.
- j. Elect angels and believing men are allies and co-servants of God. Angels are heavenly servants, and believers are earthly servants.
- k. Elect angels help judge unbelieving men, and believing men help judge fallen angels.
  - (1) See above.

- (2) **1 Co 6:2-3** 2 Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? 3 Do you not know that we are to judge *angels*? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life.
- l. Men will be superior to angels in the new heavens and earth, because of Jesus.
- (1) **Heb 2:5-16** 5 For it was not to *angels* that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. 6 It has been testified somewhere, What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? 7 You made him for a little while lower than the *angels*. You have crowned him with glory and honor, 8 putting everything in subjection under his feet. Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.
- m. Angels and men are to worship God together.
- (1) **Re 4:6-10** 6 And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are *four living creatures*, full of eyes in front and behind: 7 the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. 8 And the *four living creatures*, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come! 9 And whenever the *living creatures* give glory, honor, and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever.

## 16. Reflections.

- a. Angels play an important part in the biblical story.
- b. We must respect angels and their role without worshipping them or becoming overly fascinated with them.
- (1) **Re 22:8-9** 8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the *angel* who showed them to me, 9 but said to me, You must not do that! I am a *fellow servant* with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.
- c. God is never obliged to use angels, and there is no precedent in Scripture for believers asking God to use angels. So we are to leave the intervention of angels to God.
- d. Interactions with angels are legitimate. However, if we do have an interaction with an angel (or Jesus), we should be careful to whom we share that with and should not make too much of it (e.g., Averil's granddad or Landon's car accident).
- e. We are always on display before the angels. So let us represent Messiah well.

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