

## THE ANGELS

### Luke 2:8-14

**Introduction:** For some reason "angels" have been pictured and imagined as little children with wings, even babies with wings or beautiful women with wings and long white garments. There are over 250 mentions of "angels" in the Bible and our text is perhaps the most familiar to everyone. What does the Bible reveal about angels?

### I. THE NATURE OF ANGELS

1. Obviously they existed long before people.
2. They have personalities, great intelligence and are morally responsible.
3. The title "angel" carries with it the definition of "messenger."
4. Angels are servants of God and exist forever, being distinct from all other "created" beings.
5. **Hebrews 2:22; Revelation 5:11** - Angels were created apparently simultaneously and are innumerable.
6. They seem to not have "human-like" bodies unless of a certain order - **1 Corinthians 15:44** - who appear at times in "human-like" form - **Matthew 28:23; Revelation 15:6; 18:1**
7. They do not increase in number by birth nor decrease in number by death.

### II. THE UNFALLEN ANGELS

1. There are two major classifications of angels - unfallen and fallen.
2. **Matthew 25:31** - The unfallen angels are called "holy."
3. The unfallen angels form a special class of angels.
  - Michael - is called the archangel and is head of all the holy angels. "Michael" means "who is like unto God. **Daniel 10:21; 12:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Jude 9; Revelation 12:7-10**
  - Gabriel - is the principle messenger of God. "Gabriel" means "hero of God."  
**Daniel 8:16; 9:21; Luke 1:18-19, 26-28**
  - Most angels have no individual names given in the Bible, but are described as "elect" angels.  
**1 Timothy 5:21**
  - The unfallen and fallen angels are referred to as "principalities and powers." **Romans 8:38; Ephesians 1:21; 3:10; Colossians 1:16; 2:10, 15; 1 Peter 3:22**
    - There is unceasing warfare between the unfallen and fallen angels for the control of men.
  - Some angels are designated as "cherubims" who defend God's holiness from any defilement of sin. **Genesis 3:24; Exodus 25:18, 20; Ezekiel 1:1-18.**
    - Lucifer/Satan was created originally for this purpose.

- **Ezekiel 28:14** - Figures of "cherubims" overlooked the mercy seat of the Ark of the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle and the Temple.
- The "seraphim" angel is mentioned only once - **Isaiah 6:2-7** - described as having three (3) pair of wings and is to praise God, is God's messenger especially concerned with the holiness of God.
- "Angel of Jehovah" - **Hebrews 1:1-14** - is used only in God's personal visitations to people and refers to appearances of Christ in "angelic" form.

### III. THE FALLEN ANGELS

1. An innumerable company of angels led by Lucifer/Satan who were all originally holy but joined Lucifer and rebelled against God, thus becoming sinful in nature and work.
2. They are divided into two classes: free and bound.
  - **John 8:44** - Lucifer/Satan fell and drew multitudes of angels with him. Some are reserved in chains unto judgment. **1 Corinthians 6:3; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6**
  - The "free" angels, along with Lucifer/Satan are constantly referred to in the New Testament as "demons or devils." **Mark 5:9, 15; Luke 8:30; 1 Timothy 4:1**
  - All fallen angels are servants of Lucifer/Satan. **Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10**

### IV. THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY ANGELS

1. Their ministry is primarily that of worshiping God and some do it continuously. **Revelation 4:8**
2. Generally they have different forms of service for God:
  - They were present at the creation - **Job 38:7**
  - They were present at the giving of the law - **Acts 7:53; Galatians 3:19; Hebrews 2:2**
  - They were present at the birth of Jesus - **Luke 2:13**
  - They were present at the temptation of Jesus - **Matthew 4:11**
  - They were present in the Garden with Jesus - **Luke 22:43**
  - They were present at the resurrection of Jesus - **Matthew 28:2**
  - They were present at the ascension of Jesus - **Acts 1:10**
  - When Jesus comes back the second time, they will be with Him - **Matthew 24:31;;25:31; 2 Thessalonians 1:7**
3. They minister to the heirs of salvation, to the saved. **Hebrews 1:14; Psalm 34:7; 91:11**
4. They are spectators and witnesses of things happening on earth. **Psalm 103:20; Luke 12:8-9; 15:10; 1 Corinthians 11:10; 1 Timothy 3:16; 1 Peter 1:12; Revelation 14:10**
5. They carried Lazarus to Abraham's bosom - **Luke 16:22**
6. At the second coming of Jesus, the fallen angels will be judged and cast into the lake of fire. **Hebrews 12:22-24; Revelation 19:14; 21:12**

**CONCLUSION:**

1. Angels were created by God, as man was created by God.
2. Angels have duties assigned by God, as man has duties assigned by God.
3. Angels are eternal in nature, as man is eternal in nature
4. Angels are answerable to God, as man is answerable to God.
5. The second coming of Jesus has meaning to the angels, as it has to man.