

A Study of Angels and Demons
Lesson 2 – The Nature and Similarity of Angels to Men
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Introduction: We have many things in common with angels!

- A. We are told that we were made “a little lower than the angels.”
(Heb 2:6-9; Ps 8:4-7)
 - 1. Since Jesus became a man, He also was placed where man was.
 - 2. We might think “a little lower” is a major understatement. Let us examine this.
- B. This study should make us aware of the present privileges and future glory God has for us!
 - 1. One reason God teaches us about angels is to show us what is important.
 - 2. If we just looked at angels from a physical body versus spirit body we would not understand what is really important!

I. The nature and appearance of angels

- A. Angels are spirit beings that can appear in different forms. **(Heb 1:14)**
 - 1. One day we too will have a spiritual body. **(1 Jn 3:2)**
 - 2. Angels have appeared as men and not always recognized as angels.
(Gen 19:1-5; Heb 13:2)
 - 3. Angels are described as flying. **(Dan 9:21-23)**
- B. Consider when angels clearly appear to men as angels.
 - 1. They are not as artists depict them. As an example always having wings or being female.
 - 2. Appeared in clothing as white as snow **(Matt. 28:3)**
 - 3. Appeared in white robes **(Mk. 16:5)**
 - 4. Appeared in dazzling clothing **(Lk. 24:4)**
 - 5. Appeared in white clothing **(Acts 1:10; Jn. 20:12)**
 - 6. Appeared like lightning **(Dan. 10:6; Matt. 28:3)**
 - 7. Appeared in linen and other items **(Dan. 10:5-6; 12:7; Rev. 15:6)**
 - 8. Appeared clothed with a cloud, rainbow upon his head, face like the sun, and feet like pillars of fire **(Rev. 10:1).**
- C. Consider men’s reactions when they knew they were in the presence of an angel.
 - 1. They were frightened and fell on face **(Dan. 8:17)**
 - 2. Their color changed, they lost strength and trembled. **(Dan 10:8-10)**
 - 3. They shook for fear and became like dead men **(Matt. 28:4)**
 - 4. There was amazement **(Mk. 16:5)**
 - 5. They were terribly frightened **(Lk. 2:8-9)**
 - 6. He was troubled and gripped by fear **(Lk. 1:12)**
 - 7. They were terrified, bowed faces to the ground **(Lk. 24:5)**
 - 8. Cornelius was much alarmed **(Acts 10:3-4)**

II. Similarities between men and angels

- A. Both angels and men are created by God. (**Neh. 9:6; Col.1:16; Gen. 1:26; 2:7**)
 - 1. It appears that angels were created before man. (**Job 38:4-7**)
 - 2. They are described as “sons of God” and observed the creation.
- B. Both angels and men are limited by space and time.
 - 1. Angels must move in order to be someplace. (**Dan.9:21-23; 10:10-21**)
 - 2. We are very aware of our limitations. (**Ps. 90:10; Ecc. 3:1-8**)
- C. Both angels and men are to serve God and are capable of sin.
 - 1. Angels must obey and can live without sin. (**Ps. 103:21; 2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6**)
 - 2. Men can serve God but all have sinned. (**Ecc. 12:13; Matt. 22:37; Rom 3:23**)
- D. Both men and angels have emotions.
 - 1. Consider the emotions of angels. (**Job 38:7; Luke 15:10**)
 - 2. God made man has emotions (**Phil. 4:4**)
- E. Both man and angels are individuals and have unique characteristics.
 - 1. Two angels names are known, Gabriel and Michael, while others have names. (**Lk 1:19, 26; Jude 9; Rev 12:7; Gen 32:29**)
 - 2. We know this characteristic of all men.
- F. Both angels and men have limited intelligence.
 - 1. Angels are wiser than men but also they are limited. (**1 Cor 13:1; Dan 9:21-23; 10:14; 1 Pt 1:12**)
 - 2. Men are limited but have the advantage of God’s revelation.
- G. Both angels and men have desires.
 - 1. Angels can desire good things or bad. (**1 Pet. 1:12; Jude 6**)
 - 2. Men also must direct their desires. (**Rom. 10:1; Gal. 4:9; 5:16, 17**)

III. Our future will be different

- A. While we are a little lower now, we will be over angels in eternity!
 - 1. One day we will judge angels. (**1 Cor 6:3**)
 - 2. We will find a place with Jesus as fellow heirs.
- B. Angels focus now is to serve us. (**Heb 1:14**)
 - 1. We cannot know fully just how great heaven will be.
 - 2. Angels help us see value!

(This lesson adapted from “Angels, a Biblical Investigation by John Buttrey II”)

Questions

- 1. Does being “a little lower than the angels” mean we are inferior to them? Explain.
- 2. How can the appearance of angels cause fear in men?
- 3. How are angels and men similar?
- 4. What is the most important characteristic of both men and angels?
- 5. How will we change in relationship and nature to angels in heaven?