

# Angels (I)

Early students of Scripture often debated how many angels could stand at once on the point of a needle...

Whether an angel could be in two places at the same time...

How great was the interval between the creation of angels and their fall...

Whether the sin of the first angel caused the sin of the rest...

Whether as many retained their integrity as fell...

Whether guardian-angels have charge of children from baptism, from birth, or while the infant is still in the womb of the mother...

Even the logical consequences of 'angels food' (Ps.78:25) and of angels eating (as in Gn.18:8).

Dante made the fall of rebel angels take place within twenty seconds of their creation.

Gargoyles on the roofs of cathedrals represented demons. They depicted satan with horns and hoofs – which led Cuvier to remark that the adversary could not devour, because horns and hoofs indicated not a carnivorous but a ruminant quadruped

U.S.: past years were characterized by ‘Angel mania’ – people try to outdo one another in amazing tales about encounters of the angelic kind.

In 1993, five of ten religious bestsellers addressed subject of angels.

We must avoid speculating about foolish and unrevealed Q's

2 Tim.2<sup>14</sup> Remind them of these things, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers.

# “Angel”

**Hebrew:** messenger, representative; at least 108x of both human and supernatural messengers; **context** determines.

1 K.20:5,9, messengers of Ben Hadad

1 K.22:13, messengers of Ahab

2 K.1:2-5, 16, messengers of Ahaziah... and also **angels [3, 15, heavenly messengers]**

“Sons of God” (= direct creations of God) Job 1:6; 2:1 (cf. 38:7)

# “Angel”

**Greek:** messenger, occurs about 175 times.

Lk.7:18f. *disciples* . . . 24, same word (*angels*)

Lk.7:27, “Behold I send ‘My *messenger*’ before your face...” = John himself (cf. also Ja.2:25)

# I. Origin of Angels



- Created beings, Ps.148:2,5
  - Only God has immortality (1 Tim.6:16)
- Since angels are not God, they are under God's authority. 1 Pt.3:22
  - Both good and evil spirits are subject to Christ – all powers on earth and in heaven.

- Angels are not glorified human spirits
  - NT distinguishes men and angels
    - Mt.22:30, as the angels
    - 1 Co.6:3, we shall judge angels
    - Hb.2:16, Lord helps men, not angels
    - Hb.12:22-23, angels distinguished from church of firstborn ones and spirits of just men made perfect
  - Hallmark movies...
  - Clarence...

I. Origin of Angels

II. Form of Angels

# Many are surprised that angels in Bible are not pictured as having wings

- Cherubim did, Ezk.1:5-6; 10:14-15
- Seraphim did, Is.6:2, 6
- Four living creatures, Rv.4:8
- God? Ps.36:7 (cf. Mt.23:37)
  - God has wings? We understand it as figurative; Bible nowhere says angels have wings, yet most claim they do

# Many are surprised that angels in Bible are not pictured as having wings

- Gn.18-19, came as men. Hb.13:2
- Mk.16:5
- Ac.1:10-11
  - Women entered tomb
  - Two men stood by them in shining garments, Lk.24:4
- Invisible to unaided human vision.  
Nu.22:...23-31

I. Origin of Angels

II. Form of Angels

**III. Nature / Attributes of Angels**

# They have special interest in our salvation

- Lk.2:...8-14
- Lk.15:7...10
  - Ac.27:23-24
  - 1 Co.4:9
    - Apostles: objects of ridicule, persecution, and death.
    - Figure: Roman victory parade
    - Purpose: death in arena... (Ac.19)

# They have special interest in our salvation

– 1 Pt.1:10-12

– Mt.24:36



# Angels cannot marry

- Mt.22:30
- Hb.12:22
  - *Company* (not 'race') – innumerable hosts
  - Created, not multiplied
  - They have no bodies; do not grow, age, or die

# Angels have ranks

- 1 Th.4:16
- Michael: *“Who is like God?”*
  - Jude 9, Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”

# Angels have super-human power

- 2 Th.1<sup>7</sup> and to *give* you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels.
- 2 Pt.2<sup>10</sup> *They are* presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries,<sup>11</sup> whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord.
- 2 Kings 19, one angel...

# Angels are innumerable

- Hb.12<sup>22</sup> But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels.
  - Pharisee superstition
- Mt.26:53, twelve legions??
- Lk.2:13-14, multitude