

The Reality of Angels (Part 2)

Creflo Dollar
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Scripture References

Daniel 10:12, 13, <i>NIV</i>	Job 1:6, <i>NIV</i>
Jude 1:9, <i>NIV</i>	Job 2:1, <i>NIV</i>
Psalms 68:17, <i>NIV</i>	Isaiah 6:1-8, <i>NIV</i>
Hebrews 12:22, <i>NIV</i>	2 Kings 6:15-17
Revelation 5:11, 12, <i>NIV</i>	Psalms 91:11, <i>ESV</i>
Daniel 8:16, <i>NIV</i>	Hebrews 13:2, <i>ESV</i>
Luke 1:19, 26, <i>NIV</i>	Hebrews 1:14, <i>ESV</i>
Daniel 12:1	Psalms 34:7, <i>ESV</i>
Revelation 4:8, <i>NIV</i>	Psalms 103:20, <i>ESV</i>
Hebrews 1:6, <i>NIV</i>	Jude 1:6, <i>ESV</i>

Summary

In our physical world, most people believe that what they can see with their physical eyes is the only thing that is real. However, there is an entire spiritual world in existence around us that supersedes the physical world; it is unseen with physical sight but just as real as the natural. In this spiritual realm, angels exist to guide, protect, and watch over us. These beings can be sent anywhere, operate under God's authority, and were created to worship God, but the world knows little about them. Angels are immensely powerful; they operate under God's authority and are always in His presence, yet they have been assigned to minister to us and deliver us as needed. As born-again believers, we have been given authority over them. Contemplating this should give us an idea of just how much God loves and values us.

A. God directs the angels, who are too numerous to be counted. Most are loyal to Him.

1. Although angels are our supernatural guardians, they are not omnipresent, omnipotent, or omniscient. The angel that came to Daniel's aid had been temporarily detained. Angels—even the archangel Michael—operate under God's authority.
 - a. Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia (Daniel 10:12, 13, *NIV*).
 - b. But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not himself dare to condemn him for slander but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" (Jude 1:9, *NIV*).
2. Angels are too numerous to count.
 - a. The chariots of God are tens of thousands and thousands of thousands; the Lord has come from Sinai into his sanctuary (Psalms 68:17, *NIV*).
 - b. But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly (Hebrews 12:22, *NIV*).

3. Although some have rebelled, most angels remain faithful to God.
 - a. Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they were saying: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" (Revelation 5:11, 12, *NIV*).
4. Three angels have been mentioned by name in the Bible: Gabriel, Michael, and Lucifer.
 - a. And I heard a man's voice from the Ulai calling, "Gabriel, tell this man the meaning of the vision" (Daniel 8:16, *NIV*).
 - b. The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news"... In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee (Luke 1:19, 26, *NIV*).

B. There is a definite hierarchy of angels. God created different kinds of angels.

1. Although there are many angels, Michael is the chief angel over all of them.
 - a. And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people... (Daniel 12:1).
2. Angels were created to glorify and worship God the Father and God the Son.
 - a. Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying: "'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,' who was, and is, and is to come" (Revelation 4:8, *NIV*).
 - b. And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him" (Hebrews 1:6, *NIV*).
3. Angels report to God.
 - a. One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD... (Job 1:6, *NIV*).
 - b. On another day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them to present himself before him (Job 2:1, *NIV*).
4. There are different classes of angelic beings. Some angels, called seraphim, are very tall.
 - a. In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty." Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:1-8, *NIV*).

C. There is more than one way to refer to angels. They are always available to deliver us.

1. Angels are also known as messengers, watchers, military hosts, sons of the mighty, sons of God, and chariots of fire. No matter how private we think we are, they are always watching us and reporting back to God.

- a. If we could see on a spiritual level, we would see the angels surrounding us. This is what happened when Elisha prayed for his servant's eyes to be opened.
 - b. And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha (2 Kings 6:15-17).
2. God commands angels, but they are subject to us.
 - a. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways (Psalm 91:11, *ESV*).
3. There are times when angels show up to minister to us and intervene on our behalf, without us even being aware of it. They do God's bidding.
 - a. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares (Hebrews 13:2, *ESV*).
 - b. Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation? (Hebrews 1:14, *ESV*).
 - c. The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them (Psalm 34:7, *ESV*).
 - d. Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word! (Psalm 103:20, *ESV*).
4. God dealt harshly with the angels who chose to rebel against Him.
 - a. And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day (Jude 1:6, *ESV*).

Category: faith

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