

# I Peter 1:12

## #4 Angels

### Introduction

Angels are mentioned in 34 Books of the Bible (17 times in the OT and 17 times in the NT). The term in both Hebrew and Greek means "messenger."

Angels are created beings (Neh. 9:6). They were originally created in righteousness (Eze. 28:14-15). They were created by and for Christ (Col. 1:16)

They are distinct from human beings (Heb. 2:6-7, 12:22-23). Man was made "a little lower than the angels..."

### Their Nature

They have "personality."

1. Intellect (I Pet. 1:12)
2. Will (Jude 6)
3. Emotion (Luke 15:10)

They do not reproduce (Mark 12:25) or die (Luke 20:36).

They have great knowledge, but are not omniscient (Matt. 24:36). They have great power, but they are not omnipotent (Ps. 103:20). They are swift in flight, but they are not omnipresence (Luke 2:13).

They are under the control of God's sovereign will (Rev. 7:1-3). They are NOT to be worshipped (Col. 2:18). They are NOT to be prayed to (I Tim. 2:5).

### Their Classifications

There is a hierarchy within the "ranks" of angels.

1. Archangels: Michael (Dan. 10:13 & Rev. 12:7) Gabriel: Dan. 8:16, 9:21 & Luke 1:26

2. Cherubim

They guarded the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:24). The throne in heaven seems to be above these creatures (Eze. 10:1-22 and Eze. 3:13). They sit above the ark of the covenant (Ex. 25:22)

3. Seraphim: Worshippers See Isa. 6:2-7

4. "Living Creatures:" See Eze. 1:5-14 and Rev. 4:6-8

## **Their Number**

Deut. 33:2 – Myriads of holy ones

Ps. 68:17 – Ten thousand and thousands of thousands

Heb. 12:22 – You have come to 1000s upon 1000s of angels in a joyful assembly

Rev. 5:11 Numbering 1000s upon 1000s, ten thousand times ten thousand

## **Their Responsibilities**

Messengers/Announcers

Announced to John the Baptist's parents, Mary and the shepherds.

Warriors

Leading the angelic army of heaven against Satan and his army (Jude 9, Rev. 12)

Servants of men

Conduct believers to heaven Luke 16:22

Encourage men in dangerous situations Acts 27:23-24

Direct believers Acts 8:26

Worshippers of God See Heb. 1:6, Ps. 29:1-2

Special Care for Jesus

Predicted His birth, warned Joseph, ministered to Christ after His temptation, strengthened Him during His time in the Garden of Gethsemane, were ready to defend Him at His arrest, rolled the stone away from the tomb, announced the resurrection and were present at His ascension.

Guardians of God's people

Ps. 91:11-12 Gave His angels charge over you to guard you in all your ways...

Matt. 18:10 In heaven, their angels always behold the face of the Father

## Evil Angels

They fell from grace (Matt. 25:41 and Rev. 12:7-9, Isa. 14:12)

Some are temporarily free (within the bounds of God's permissive will) and spend their time harassing believers (Eph. 6:12). Some are imprisoned (II Pet. 2:4 and Jude 6). All will ultimately be judged (II Pet. 2:4 and I Cor. 6:3).

Their work

1. Attempt to hinder the work of good angels (Dan. 10:13)
2. Oppose the people of God (Eph. 6:12)
3. Support the work of Satan (Rev. 12:7)

Their Destiny: See Rev. 20:10

## So, What?

1. We need to ask the Lord to open our spiritual eyes so we can better discern the spiritual activity that is going on all around us!

See Num. 22:22-31 and II Kings 6:15-17

2. We need to be aware that angels do interact with human beings.

See Heb. 13:2 "Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by doing so, some people have entertained angels without knowing it."

**November Monthly Memory Verse:**

*1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

**Questions: (1-3 from study at home)**

1. Can you think of a trial or time of testing that you used as an opportunity to lean into Christ? Was there a peace or strength that you experienced that was beyond understanding?
2. Look up James 1:2-4 NIV and fill in the blank:  
Consider it pure \_\_\_\_\_, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face \_\_\_\_\_ of many kinds, because you know that the \_\_\_\_\_ of your \_\_\_\_\_ produces \_\_\_\_\_. Let \_\_\_\_\_ finish its work so that you may be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, not lacking anything.
3. What stands out to you most when you read the above verse?
4. Does the mention of angels make you feel uncomfortable because you are unfamiliar with angels or does it make you feel comforted that there are angels that have responsibilities, one of which is to minister to us?
5. What from Sherry's teaching stands out to you today?

