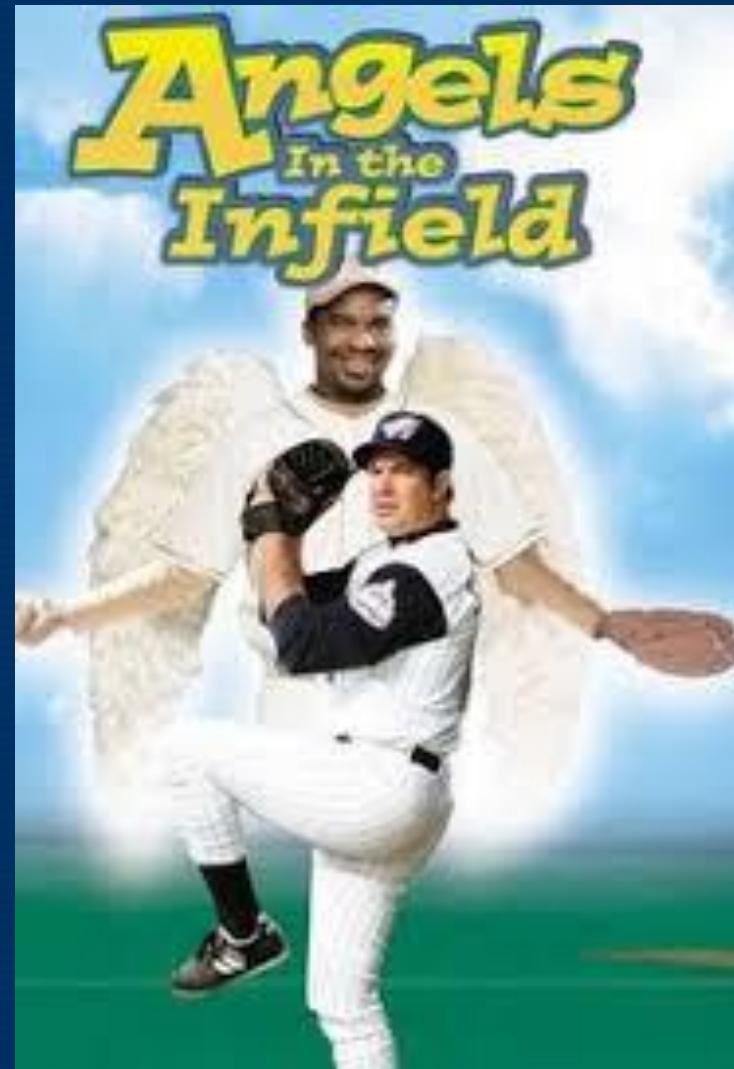


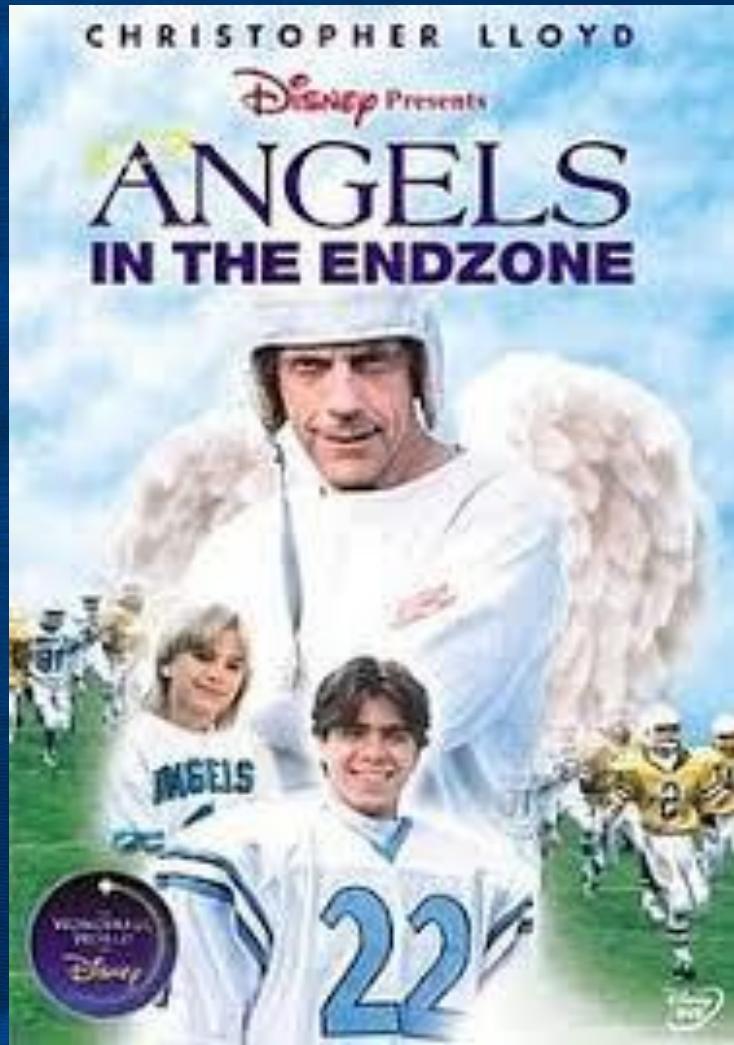
Angelology

What does the Bible teach about angels?

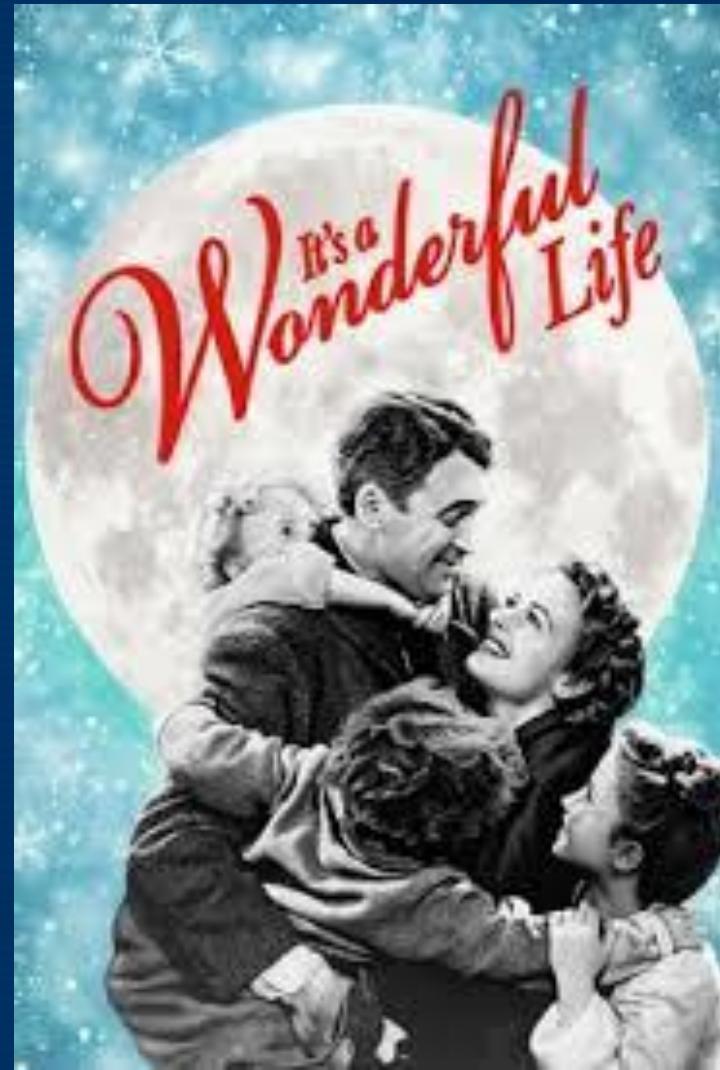
What do we learn about angels?



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What do we learn about angels?



What are our perceptions of angels?



Introduction

1. The mention of angels is inclusive in Scripture. In the English Bible these celestial beings are referred to 196 times, 103 times in the Old Testament and 93 times in the New Testament. Further, these many references are scattered throughout the Bible being found in at least 34 books from the very earliest books (whether Job or Genesis) to the last book of the Bible (Rev).
2. “Every reference to angels is incidental to some other topic. They are not treated in themselves. God’s revelation never aims at informing us regarding the nature of angels. When they are mentioned, it is always in order to inform us further about God, what he does, and how he does it.” (Erickson)

The Existence of Angels

Definition: Angels are spiritual beings with moral judgment and intelligence created by God to serve Him throughout eternity.

1. Angels are spiritual beings (Heb 1:14).
2. Angels have moral judgment (2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6).
3. Angels have intelligence (Dan 9:21-23).

The Existence of Angels

3. Angels have intelligence (Dan 9:21-23).

- Angels were created as a higher order of creatures in the universe than humans are. Therefore, innately they possess greater knowledge.
- Angels know biblical truths and respond to it (James 2:19; Rev. 12:12).
- Angels gain knowledge through long observation of human activities. Unlike humans, angels do not have to study the past; they have experienced it. Therefore, they know how others have acted and reacted in situations and can predict with a greater degree of accuracy how we may act in similar circumstances. The experiences of longevity give them greater knowledge.

Angels are persons.

Angels qualify as personalities because they have aspects of intelligence, emotions, and will. This is true of both the good and evil angels. Good angels, Satan, and demons possess intelligence (Matt. 8:29; 2 Cor. 11:3; 1 Peter 1:12). Good angels, Satan, and demons show emotions (Luke 2:13; James 2:19; Rev. 12:17). Good angels, Satan, and demons demonstrate that they have wills (Luke 8:28-31; 2 Tim. 2:26; Jude 6). Therefore, they can be said to be persons. The fact that they do not have human bodies does not affect their being personalities (any more than it does with God).

The Existence of Angels

4. Angels were created by God (Psalm 148:1-5; Neh 9:6; Col 1:16).
 - They were created prior to the creation of the earth (Job 38:4-7).
 - They were created morally good and holy (Gen 1:31; Mark 8:38).
 - There is an innumerable number (Heb 12:22; Rev 5:11).
5. Angels were created to serve God through eternity (Col 1:16; Rev 5:11-14).

The Place of Angels

Angels are placed in the created order as higher than mankind, yet mankind will be exalted over them in the eternal state.

- Mankind, including the incarnate Jesus, is ‘lower than the angels’ (Heb 2:7). Angels are not subject to the limitations of man, especially since they are incapable of death (Luke 20:36). Angels have greater wisdom than man (2 Sam 14:20), yet it is limited (Matt 24:36). Angels have greater power than man (Matt 28:2; Acts 5:19; 2 Pet 2:11), yet they are limited in power (Dan 10:13).

The Place of Angels

- Angels, however, have limitations compared to man, particularly in future relationships. Angels are not recreated in the image of God, therefore, they do not share man's glorious destiny of redemption in Christ. At the consummation of the age, redeemed man will be exalted above angels (1 Cor 6:3).

The Form of Angels

Angels, as spirit beings, do not ordinarily have bodies, but at times manifest themselves in physical forms.

- Angels appear as men (Gen 18:2, 16, 22; 19:1-16; Luke 24:4).
- Angels appear as warriors (Num 22:31; 2 Kings 6:17).
- Angels appear as winged creatures (Isa 6:6; Eze 1:5-14).
- Though angels manifest themselves in physical form, they cannot procreate nor do they die (Mark 12:25; Luke 20:36).

The Order of Angels

Angels have order and organization.

- Michael is referred to as the “archangel” (Jude 9; Dan 10:13; Rev 12:7-8).
- Gabriel is referred to as the messenger of God (Dan 8:16, 9:21; Luke 1:19, 26-27).
- Cherubim have specific tasks (Gen 3:24; Eze 10:1-22; Ex 25:22).
- Seraphim have specific tasks (Isa 6:2-7).
- Ephesians 6:12 suggests levels of authority and structure within demonic forces.

Good angels continually glorify God.

- They wait around his throne (Psa 103:20; Job 1:6, 2:1; Rev 4:6-11, 5:11).
- They observe his actions (Job 38:6-7; Luke 2:12-13).

Good angels ministered to Jesus Christ.

- They predicted and announced his birth (Matt 1:20; Luke 2:8-15).
- They ministered to him (Ps 91:11-12; Matt 4:11; Luke 22:43).
- They announced his resurrection (Matt 28:1-6).
- They predicted his return (Acts 1:11).

Good angels minister to believers.

- They rejoice in their salvation (Luke 15:10).
- They were God's agents in protecting saints from harm (Acts 5:19, 12:6-11).
- They are spectators of our lives (1 Cor 4:9; 1 Tim 5:21).
- They minister to us throughout our life (Heb 1:14).
- They convey a believer to heaven upon death (Luke 16:22).

Good angels execute judgment upon God's enemies.

- Angels were God's agents of judgment in the Old Testament (2 Kings 19:35; 2 Sam 24:16).
- Angels were God's agents of judgment in the New Testament (Acts 12:23).
- Angels presently carry out spiritual warfare (Dan 10:13; Zech 1:10-11).
- Angels will be God's agents of judgment in the future (Rev 8:6-9:21; 16:1-17; 19:11-14).