

Angelology ... the Study of Angels

What is an Angel? Who is an Angel? Are they created beings? When were they created?

Definition: Ministering Spirits: Messengers of God... Their definition reveals their purpose in serving God.

I. The Existence of Angels

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth

Christ is their creator. Christ is the creator of all that God has made: **John 1:1-3** **Col 1:16-17**

The word **Angel** or **Angels** is referenced over 295 times in the bible. The **Old Testament** mentions angels over 100 times; The **New Testament** mentions them over 165 times. The subject of angels is found in 34 of the 66 books of the bible from Genesis to Revelation.

1. The Creation of Angels:

Angels: Do they exist? Scripture tells us they exist: Gen Chapters 1-2 tells us that all that God has made was “good” ... God’s definition of “good” is holy, righteous, just and perfect.

Neo orthodoxy’s denial of the objective existence of angels often comes out of a mindset that wants to deny the existence of anything and everything supernatural. (Sadducees in Jesus’ day). Thomas Jefferson was such a man.

- a. Their creation: **Ps. 148: 1- 5** Like everything else God made, they were created for God’s good pleasure, to bring Him glory. (Rev 4:11)
- b. The heavenly host: **Lk 2:13** **Heb 12:22** They are messengers from God.
- c. Their number: **Dan 7:10** **Rev 5:11** They are beyond man’s ability to number. (Myriads of myriads
of angels;) Their number is **exactly according to God’s design**, not one too many, not one too few.
- d. Their order: Angels were created to be a **higher order** than man. **Heb 2: 9-10** **Rom 13:1-2**

2. The Nature of Angels:

- a. They are **spirit beings** having no physical body. Eph 2: 1-2 They were created **perfect** and without sin.
- b. They are **immortal** beings that do not propagate. Lk 20:34-36, Mat 22:30
- c. I believe scripture is telling us that Angels are created beings that are also created in God’s image having a **soul**: Ps. 148:2, 5-6

Why do I say that? There are several important reasons:

1. Angels have **personality**. They exist as distinct and individual created beings who have personhood.
2. They were created having **intelligence** (having a mind) demonstrating the ability to think and to reason. This gives them the ability to **freely make choices**. Mat 28:2, II Cor 11:3 (Lucifer freely made the choice to rebel against God.)
3. They have a **will** that gives them the ability to make decisions; Lk 2:13-15, James 2:19 Rev. 12:15.
4. They have **emotions**; Lk 8:28-31, II Tim 2:26, Rev 12:17
5. They have the ability to become **prideful and arrogant**: Isa 14:13; Ezek 28:2-6

Since they were created before man, they do not have to study history, they all have been in existence since man's creation and have witnessed all that has gone on in human history. Therefore, they all know man, they know who he is and what to expect from him. This is true for both fallen and unfallen angels.

6. All angels were originally created Holy Beings: **They were created "good". They were blameless, righteous, just and perfect** like everything else God created in Holy perfection.

3. The role of Angels and their pupose:

- a. **Ministering Spirits**: The Greek and Hebrew meaning of the word: Messengers of God; agents of God; servants of God. Ps 103: 20-21, Ps 104:1-5 (Ps 91:11 speaks of guardian angels for man).
- b. Angels and demons are actively and constantly involved in the **affairs of man**. Their ministry is both heavenly and earthward.
- c. Like everything else that God has made, Angels were created for God's good pleasure and to bring Him glory. (**Rev 4:11**)

4. Instruments of God's Judgments: Mat 13:39-40, Rev. 7:1, 8:2

- a. Some Angels were designed for the purpose of **serving God** as intermediaries between **God** and **man**. Ps 104:4, 103:20 Heb 1:14 Ps 91:11
- b. Angels were created to be a **level 2 power** and assigned limited delegated power and authority. (I Pet 1:11-12)

II. Their Organization:

Angels are highly organized and have a God ordained ranking predetermined in God's Master Plan for the Ages by God before Lucifer's fall. All angels were designed by God to be a level 2 power, having limited delegated power and authority. Angels were created to be **completely dependent** upon God **for all things** ("good").

SHOW SLIDE 31a

The “Three Levels of Power” ordained by God... Rom 13:1-2

Level 1 Power GOD Sovereign Creator of all with unlimited level 1 power and authority

Level 2 Power Angels / Satan Created beings with limited level 2 delegated power and authority

Level 3 Power Men Created beings with limited level 3 delegated power and authority

There is a fixed principle attached to this God ordained **creation order** established before the foundation of the world.

Law: A lower level power can never overcome a higher level power.

SHOW SLIDES33, 27

1. Arch Angels: Michael and Gabriel I Thess 4:16, Jude 9, Col 1:16
 - Seraphim Principalities and Powers
 - Cherubim Thrones or Dominions
2. Matthew 13:39 Angels will play a **significant role** at the end of the age. Reference to their appearing and ongoing work in executing the will of God occurs 65 times in the book of Revelation.
3. Matthew 25:31 Angels will accompany Christ at his second coming.

III. Their status before God:

All angels now fall into two categories: **Fallen angels** and those who kept their first estate.

1. Unfallen Angels:

Michael (Hebrew: he who is like God) The messenger of Law and Judgment.

Gabriel (Hebrew: mighty one) The messenger of Mercy and Promise.

a. Guardian angels: Dan 10:21, 12:1

b. Ministering angels: Who provide worship and praise toward God and Christ. Ps.103:20 Rev 22:9

- They predicted His birth. Mat 1:20, Lk 1:26-28
- They announce His birth. Lk 2:8-20
- They were present at Christ’s birth. Lk 2:8-15
- They directed his family to flee to Egypt when he was a child. Mat 2:13-15
- They were present throughout Christ’s life and ministry. Mat. 2:13-15
- They ministered to Christ after His temptation in the wilderness. Mat 4:11
- They stood by ready if He should call at His crucifixion. Mat 26:53

- They were present at His resurrection. Acts 1:8-11
- They were present after His resurrection. Mat 28:1-2 Lk 24:1-7
- They will be present at the rapture of the church. I Thess 4:16
- They will be present at His second coming. Mat 25:31 II Thess 1:7

Ministering angels to the church: Heb 1:14

- A.) They assist in communicating and revealing the truth. Dan 7:15-27, 8:13-26, 9:20-27, Rev. 1:1, 22:6,6
- B.) They help believers personally Heb. 1:14
- In prayer requests Acts 12:5-10
 - In salvation Acts 8:26; 10:3
 - In observing God's hand at work in the world I Cor 4:9, 11:10; Eph 3:10; I Pet 1:12
 - In encouragement Acts 27:23-24
 - They are present at physical death Lk 16:22

2. The rebellion and fall of Lucifer

- Lucifer** was originally created as the anointed cherub (means light, day star, son of the morning) Ezek 28:12-15
- The word Diabolos means prince of the **demons**: Greek Beelezbub Mat 12:24,27; 9:34 Isa 14:12-15 Ezek 28:15-17 I Tim 3:6 ... **and his (fallen) angels**: II Pet 2:4 Jude 1:6
- The name **Satan** is an OT Hebrew word meaning **adversary** or **opponent**. (II Thess 2:3-4) The word Satan in the (NT) means devil.
- Devil**: in Greek the word is Diabolos which means: accuser, slanderer. More than 40 titles are assigned to Satan throughout the scriptures such as: murderer, father of lies, the evil one, the great dragon, the serpent, etc.
- He **opposes** God and harasses man. He stands firmly against all that God stands for. He is viewed as both the **enemy** of God and man. There is enmity between God and Satan: Rom 8:7, Eph 2:6 James 4:6

3. The devil as the spiritual father of all natural men at conception: Ps 51:5; Job 14:4 Jer 13:23

Mat 13:39 The enemy that sowed them (the tares) is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

Act 13:10 And (the apostle Paul said to Elymas the sorcerer), O full of all subtlety and all mischief, **thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness**, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?

Joh 8:42 Jesus said unto them, **If God were your Father**, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

Joh 8:43 Why do ye not understand my speech? even because **ye cannot hear my word**.

Joh 8:44 **Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do**. He was a murderer from the beginning, and **abode not in the truth**, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

4. **The places of fallen angels:** Improperly and collectively called “Hell”

- **Tartarus:** a place of waiting of fallen angels for final judgment. II Pet 2:4
- **The Abyss:** the abode of demons in the underworld. The place of *being* destroyed. The words “Abaddon” in Hebrew and “Apollyon” in Greek mean a place of destruction. The “bottomless pit” probably refers to the pit of the Abyss as connected with Abaddon.
- **Gehenna:** the Greek word for “hell” or the Lake of Fire prepared for the devil and his angels. Matt 25:41 This is the place of **final perdition:** i.e. **permanent and eternal separation from God.** Rev 20:15 The OT word for Gehenna is Tophet which means the place of burning.

5. **The temporal places of unsaved dead men:** (let us remember that man was created body, soul, and spirit) That which is flesh goes one place, that which is spirit goes another.

- **The grave:** the place where the natural physical body returns to corruption. (Decays to dust).
- **The place of torment in Sheol:** the receptacle of the souls of men who fail to believe. (Temporal place not the lake of fire).
- **Hades:** the Greek word for hell which means covered or unseen.

The Trinity in time and in eternity

The Holy Trinity from eternity past to eternity future: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit

The satanic unholy trinity during the Tribulation Period: *The devil:* as represented by the dragon, that old serpent Rev 12:9; *the false prophet* who serves the beast. Rev 13:11-18; *the antichrist:* as represented by the beast Rev 13:1-10; II Thess 2:2-13; Rev 16:13-16; Rev 19:20

- In the great apostasy of the latter days: II Tim 3:1-9 II Tim 4:3-4 I Tim 4:1 Rev 2:13
- The great tribulation: Daniel’s 70th week of years: Mat 24:21 Dan 9:24-27
- Satan will be permanently cast out of the heavenlies into the earth II Thes 2:9
- Satan will be bound in the bottomless pit. (Abyss) for 1000 years Rev 20:1-3
- The day of the Lord II Pet 3:10-13
- Satan loosed from the bottomless pit for a little while. Rev 20:7-10

The final judgment of all angels:

- This will take place following the Millennial Reign of Christ and before the new heavens and the new earth.
- This will be the Judgment of all fallen angels and all demons of Satan’s fallen kingdom
- Satan will be cast into the Lake of Fire where the beast and the false prophet are, which is the second death. Rev 20:10
- The Lake of fire and brimstone... is a place of continual torment forevermore. Rev 20:10

Next week:

Harmartology --- The study of sin and evil

Outline: for Angelology ...the study of Angels

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The word **Angel** or **Angels** is referenced over 295 times in the bible. The Old Testament mentions angels over 100 times; The New Testament mentions them over 165 times. The subject of angels is found in 34 books of the bible from Genesis to Revelation.

1.. The Creation of Angels:

2.. The Nature of Angels:

3. The Role of Angels:

4. Instruments of God's Judgments: Matt 13:39-40, Rev 7:1, 8:2

II. Their Organization:

Angels are organized and have a God ordained ranking predetermined before Lucifer's fall. All angels were designed by God to be a level 2 power with limited delegated power and authority. **Angels and men were created to be completely dependent upon God for all things.**

The "Three Levels of Power" ordained by God... II Pet 2:10-12

- Level 1 Power GOD Sovereign Creator of all with unlimited power and authority
- Level 2 Power Angels / Satan Created beings with limited delegated power and authority
- Level 3 Power Men Created beings with limited delegated power and authority

There is a fixed principle attached to this God ordained creation order established before the foundation of the world.

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There are levels of power within levels of power.....

III. Their status before God:

1. Unfallen Angels:

- a. **Guardian angels:** Dan 10:21, 12:1

- b. **Ministering angels:** Worship and Praise toward God and Christ. Ps.103:20 Rev 22:9
Angels ministering to the elect and to believers in the Church. Heb 1:14

2. Fallen Angels: The rebellion and fall of Lucifer

A. The devil as the spiritual father of all natural men at conception:

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4. The temporal places of saved physically dead men: Abraham’s bosom and heaven

God the Father is the **Spiritual Father** of all those who believe, of all those who take part in the “born again” new spiritual birth by grace and faith alone, being no longer spiritually identified with spiritually dead Adam fallen from grace and faith, but now being **spiritually identified** with Jesus Christ who was faithful and was raised from **the place** of the dead to God the Father’s right hand. The New Testament believer enjoys forevermore the newness of Spiritual Life under the terms and conditions of the New Covenant established by God the Father and God the Son, in Christ’s Shed Blood at the Cross of Calvary.

For the believer today: The physical body goes to the grave and to the ground from which it was taken. The spiritual soul immediately ascends up to heaven. Since Christ’s finished work at the Cross, to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord (II Cor 5:8).

Angelology ... the Study of Angels

Summary

- Angels are very real beings. (Two categories: Fallen and Unfallen)
- Angels are powerful and active in this world today and throughout the ages. (Level 2 power in God's Creation Order)
- Angels are servants of God. They serve many purposes including guarding and protecting the souls of the elect and the saved. They are often messengers sent from God.
- Angels have a soul made in God's image. They have been and will be judged by God and by man.

Angelology ... Slides to follow

Power Structure in God's Master Plan for the Ages

... Designed by God before the foundation of the world

... Designed for beings made in God's image

(God's Design for Divine Government)

Three Levels of Power

... in God's Creation Order Rom 13:1-2

... in God's Spiritual Order Col 1:13,16; 2:10-11, 15

... in God's Natural Order John 10:29; 19:10-11

Level 1 Power - God - Creator and Owner of all - Unlimited Power and Authority

Level 2 Power - Angels - Created beings - Limited Power and Delegated Authority

Level 3 Power - Man - Created beings - Limited Power and Delegated Authority

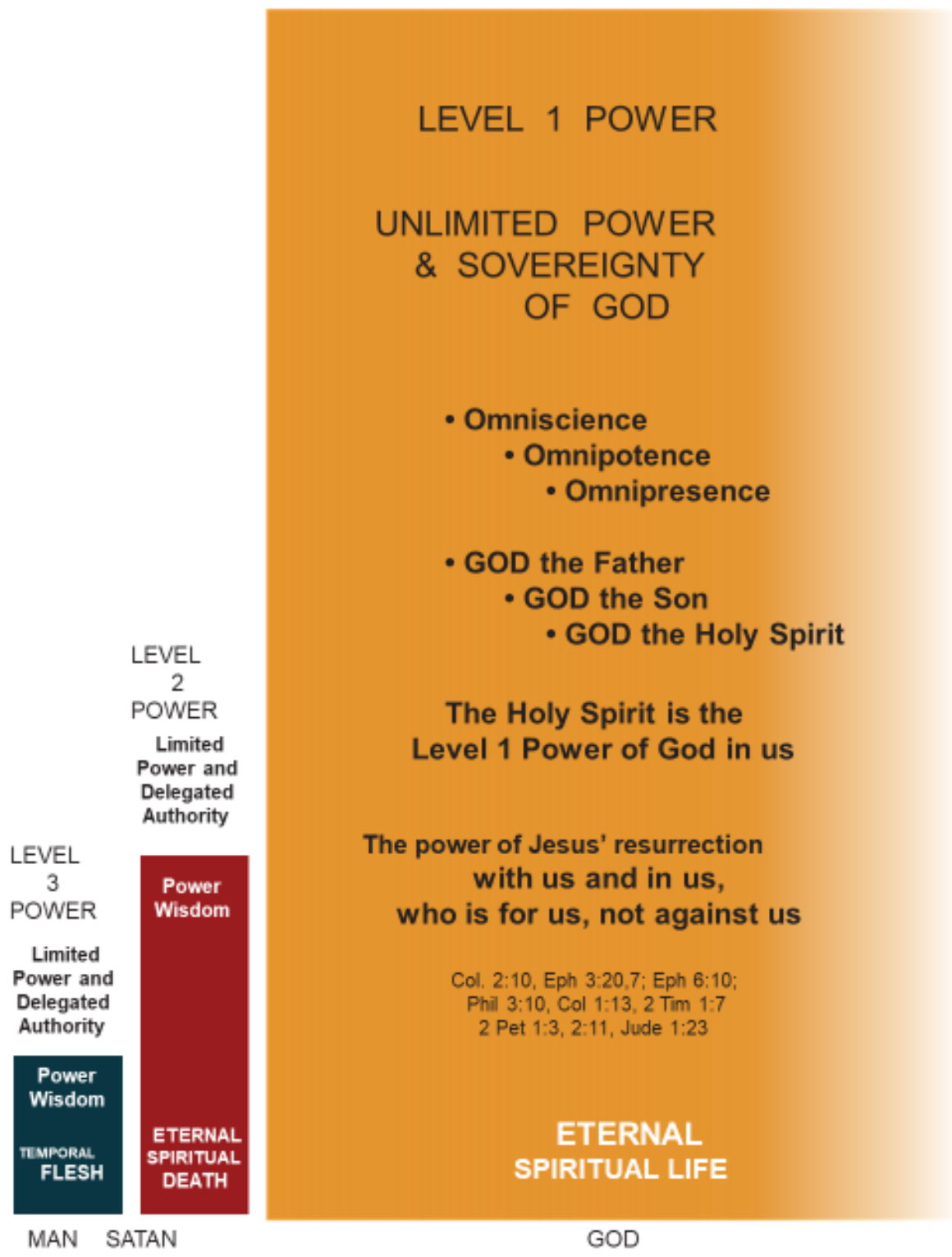
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Rom 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

Rom 13:2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

Rom 13:1-2 is the basis for God's granting of Limited Independence to beings made in His Image, knowing that this power structure guarantees God's sovereignty and His right to rule over His creation order without dispute.

One of God's greatest desires: The willing submission of men and angels to His divine order, which was to be **demonstrated** through their completely *trusting in* and *depending upon* the manifold wisdom of God established in His original creation as an integral part of God's Master Plan for the ages. By God's design, if any angel or any man should attempt to rebel against this God ordained power structure, trouble will immediately follow. (Damnation as a result of the sin of rebellion)



THREE LEVELS OF POWER
GOD'S CREATION ORDER

INFINITE POWER
and AUTHORITY

GOD FATHER SON HOLY SPIRIT
SOVEREIGN LEVEL 1 POWER
and AUTHORITY

Eternity Past through Eternity Future

UNLIMITED SOVEREIGN POWER and AUTHORITY

SATAN
& ARCH
ANGELS

LIMIT of DELEGATED POWER and AUTHORITY

ANGELS [CREATED BEINGS]

LIMITED DELEGATED LEVEL 2 POWER
and AUTHORITY

(Before Their Fall and
After Their Fall)

LIMIT of DELEGATED POWER and AUTHORITY

KINGS &
RULERS

LIMIT of DELEGATED POWER and AUTHORITY

MAN [CREATED BEINGS]

LIMITED DELEGATED LEVEL 3 POWER and AUTHORITY

(Before The Fall and After The Fall)

LIMIT of DELEGATED POWER and AUTHORITY

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