

The Spiritual Realm - Lesson 12: Angel of the Lord

Living Creatures

Revelation 4:5-8 *From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, 6 and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal. And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: 7 the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. 8 And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"*

Revelation 5:6 *And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.*

- Visual characteristics describing their character
- Man - eagle - lion - ox: wisdom - swiftness - fierceness - strength
- They imply all the best characteristics of the various living being groups

Ezekiel 1:4-15

Cherubim - Guarded the Tree of Life in Eden

- Cherub singular and cherubim is plural - always used plural

Genesis 3:24 *He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.*

- They are connected to the mercy seat and God's glory.
- They are guardians of God's glory and proclaimers of His holiness.

Exodus 25:18-22 *"You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold. Two cubits and a half shall be its length, and a cubit and a half its breadth. 18 And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work shall you make them, on the two ends of the mercy seat. 19 Make one cherub on the one end, and one cherub on the other end. Of one piece with the mercy seat shall you make the cherubim on its two ends. 20 The cherubim shall spread out their wings above, overshadowing the mercy seat with their wings, their faces one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubim be. 21 And you shall put the mercy seat on the top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the testimony that I shall give you. 22 There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you about all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel.*

2 Samuel 6:2-3

2 Chronicles 5:6-8

- Ezekiel is writing after the destruction of the Temple
- God's presence had essentially left the nation of Israel and the picture of God's presence over the Cherubim was gone

Ezekiel 10:15-19 *And the cherubim mounted up. These were the living creatures that I saw by the Chebar canal. 16 And when the cherubim went, the wheels went beside them. And when the cherubim lifted up their wings to mount up from the earth, the wheels did not turn from beside them. 17 When they stood still, these stood still, and when they mounted up, these mounted up with them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in them. 18 Then the glory of the LORD went out from the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubim. 19 And the cherubim lifted up their wings and mounted up from the earth before my eyes as they went out, with the wheels beside them. And they stood at the entrance of the east gate of the house of the LORD, and the glory of the God of Israel was over them.*

- From Eden to the Ark to the Temple to the Throne Room of Revelation, cherubim consistently guard access to God's presence

Seraphim - Isaiah's throne vision

Isaiah 6:1-6 *In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" 4 And the foundations of the thresholds*

shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. 5 And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for."

- Covering face and feet - humility and servanthood
- The repetition of "Holy, holy, holy" links Revelation 4 directly to Isaiah 6
- Their proximity to the throne emphasizes God's transcendence

Watcher

- Used only in Daniel, the name "watcher" is used for angel 3 times.

Daniel 4:13, 17, 23 - 13 "I saw in the visions of my head as I lay in bed, and behold, a watcher, a holy one, came down from heaven. ... 17 The sentence is by the decree of the watchers, the decision by the word of the holy ones, to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men.' ... 23 And because the king saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying,...

Guardian Angel?

Matthew 18:10 See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.

- The context is that people need to have child-like faith to believe and receive salvation
- Woe to those who cause these child-like believers or seekers to sin. (Pharisees)

Angel of the LORD

- The angel of the LORD is found in the Old Testament and is considered to be the God manifesting Himself to man.
- Words: LORD, Lord and God in the Old Testament
- LORD: YHWH, Yahweh, God's personal name.
- Lord: Adonai, Master, ruler, king
- God: Elohim, general name for God as Creator and Mighty One

Deuteronomy 10:17 For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe.

Genesis 15:2 But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"

Genesis 16:7-10 The angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. 8 And he said, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai." 9 The angel of the LORD said to her, "Return to your mistress and submit to her." 10 The angel of the LORD also said to her, "I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude."

Genesis 22:9-18

Exodus 3:2-6 And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. 3 And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." 4 When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." 5 Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." 6 And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

- The Angel of the LORD appears to be God manifesting Himself in human or angelic form to man
- Speaks as God, Identifies Himself as God, Receives worship, Forgives sin, Exercises divine authority
- Most scholars believe this would be a pre-incarnate manifestation of the Son
- The Angel of the LORD no longer appears after the coming of Jesus the Christ

Approaching the Holy LORD God God came to us