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## **GENESIS: ANGELS**

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**<sup>1</sup>When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, <sup>2</sup>the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose.**

**Genesis 6:1–2 (ESV)**

THE BIBLE OFFERS A SUPERNATURAL WORLDVIEW.  
IT USES A VARIETY OF TERM TO DESCRIBE BEINGS IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM.

## **HEAVENLY BEINGS IN THE OT**

### **01. TERMS THAT DESCRIBE THEIR NATURE:**

ELOHIM – GODS – THOSE THAT DWELL IN THE DIVINE REALM

**<sup>1</sup>God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment:**

**Psalm 82:1 (ESV)**

SPIRIT/SPIRITS – NON-EMBODIED ENTITIES

HOLY ONES – THOSE THAT DWELL WITH GOD IN HIS HOLINESS

HEAVENLY ONES – THOSE THAT DWELL IN THE HEAVENS

**<sup>5</sup>Let the [HEAVENLY BEINGS] praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones! <sup>6</sup>For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD? Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD, <sup>7</sup>a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones, and awesome above all who are around him? <sup>8</sup>O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty as you are, O LORD, with your faithfulness all around you?**

**Psalm 89:5–8 (ESV)**

## 02. TERMS THAT DESCRIBE FUNCTION:

HOSTS/MIGHTY ONES – MEMBERS OF THE LORDS ARMY

MINISTER – THOSE THAT SERVE THE LORD AND MAN

<sup>10</sup> A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.

**Daniel 7:10 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

**Hebrews 1:14 (ESV)**

ANGELS – MESSENGER FROM GOD

MEDIATOR – JOB 22:23

CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM – THRON GUARDIANS

WATCHERS – GOVERNORS OR DECISION MAKERS/RULERS ON THE COUNCIL

<sup>13</sup>“I saw in the visions of my head as I lay in bed, and behold, a watcher, a holy one, came down from heaven.

**Daniel 4:13 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup>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.’

**Daniel 4:17 (ESV)**

## 03. TERMS THAT DESCRIBE STATUS IN HIERARCHY

A range of terms in the Old Testament describe this heavenly bureaucracy:

- “assembly” (lemma: ‘ēdāh; construct form: ‘adat)
- “council” (sōd)
- “congregation” (qāhāl)
- “assembly, assembled meeting” (mô‘ēd)
- “court” (Aramaic: dīn)<sup>1</sup>

## HEAVENLY BEINGS IN THE NT

They are occasionally described as “spirits” (Heb 1:14; Rev 1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6),<sup>11</sup> “heavenly ones” (epouranioi; 1 Cor 15:48), “glorious ones” (doksai; 2 Pet 2:10; Jude 8); “lights” (phōtōn; Jas 1:17); “holy ones” (hagiais; Jude 14); and (possibly) “stars.”<sup>2</sup>

**<sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.**

**Ephesians 6:12 (ESV)**

THESE TERMS ALL CONNOTE GEOGRAPHICAL DOMAIN AUTHORITY!

**<sup>12</sup>Then he said to me, “Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. <sup>13</sup>The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia, <sup>14</sup>and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come.”**

**Daniel 10:12–14 (ESV)**

ENOCH RECORDS THE REBELLION OF THE SONS OF GOD IN GENESIS 6 TAKING PLACE AT MT. HERMON.

MOUNT HERMON at 9,000 feet is the tallest mountain in Israel. The base of Mount Hermon is the northern border region of Bashan. Bashan is first mentioned in the OT in Deuteronomy 2-3 as God directs Moses to lead the Israelites in preparation for conquest of the Promised Land. Readers of Deuteronomy 2– 3 discover that the Transjordan was once the home of giant clans, referred to variously as Rephaim, Anakim, Emim, Zamzummin, and Amorites.<sup>3</sup> This is the Caananite version of Hell or the Underworld.

In Jesus’ day, Caesarea Philippi was also called Panias, having been dedicated to the worship of Pan. When viewed from this perspective, the scene takes place on geography considered the gates of hell in Old Testament times, the domain of Baal, the lord of the dead, and at the mountain where the plot of the Watchers was hatched. Hell, of course, wouldn’t be complete without the devil. It is well known to scholars that Baal is the Old Testament counterpart to the devil. In Ugaritic, one of Baal’s titles is ba’al zebul ’ars (“Prince Baal of the Underworld”), from which the New Testament Beelzebul and Beelzebub derive.

<sup>27</sup>And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” <sup>28</sup>And they told him, “John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.” <sup>29</sup>And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.” <sup>30</sup>And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

<sup>31</sup>And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

<sup>34</sup>And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? <sup>37</sup>For what can a man give in return for his soul?

<sup>38</sup>For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.” <sup>1</sup>And he said to them, “Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power.”

<sup>2</sup>And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup>and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup>And Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” <sup>6</sup>For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup>And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, “This is my beloved Son; listen to him.” <sup>8</sup>And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.

**Mark 8:27–9:8 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

**Colossians 2:15 (ESV)**

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<sup>1</sup> Heiser, Michael S.. Angels: What the Bible Really Says About God's Heavenly Host (Kindle Locations 507-515). Lexham Press. Kindle Edition.

<sup>2</sup> Heiser, Michael S.. Angels: What the Bible Really Says About God's Heavenly Host (Kindle Locations 2404-2410). Lexham Press. Kindle Edition.

<sup>3</sup> Heiser, Michael S.. Reversing Hermon: Enoch, the Watchers, and the Forgotten Mission of Jesus Christ (Kindle Locations 1544-1545). UNKNOWN. Kindle Edition.