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ANGELS

Credit to Mike Johnson. Click [HERE](#)
to read "Understanding Angels."

WHY STUDY ANGELS?

- **Angels are not merely mythical, figurative, or symbolic creatures; they are real! Jesus recognized them as such.**
 - *⁸ Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. ⁹ But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God (Luke 12:8-9).*
- **The New Testament mentions angels more often than the Old Testament.**
 - Every New Testament author references angels; Paul mentions them 14 times.
 - The Bible (NKJV) mentions angels approximately 300 times in 34 of its 66 books.
 - The singular “angel” appears in 190 separate verses throughout the Bible.
 - The plural “angels” appears in 93 separate verses throughout the Bible.
- **Since angels are a Bible subject, that reason alone is sufficient enough for us to consider studying them (2 Tim. 3:16-17).**

SOME FACTS ABOUT ANGELS

- **Angels are interested in the affairs of man.**
 - Angels were interested in the affairs of the apostles.
 - *God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men (1 Cor. 4:9).*
 - **Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary:** As Jesus was "seen of angels" (1Ti 3:16), so His followers are a spectacle to the holy angels who take a deep interest in all the progressive steps of redemption (Eph 3:10; 1Pe 1:12). Paul tacitly implies that though "last" and lowest in the world's judgment, Christ's servants are deemed by angels a spectacle worthy of their most intense regard.
- In the Parable of the Lost Sheep, there is "*joy in heaven*" when a sinner repents (**Luke 15:7**).
 - Jesus provides more detail about this idea in the Parable of the Lost Coin.
 - "*Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents*" (**Luke 15:10**).

SOME FACTS ABOUT ANGELS

- **Angels are interested in the affairs of man.**
 - Angels are our ministering spirits.
 - *But to which of the angels has He ever said: “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool?” Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation? (Heb. 1:13-14).*
 - Some view this to mean:
 - i. Angels act on behalf of God to aid and help His people when they are in need or struggling with temptation (**Matt. 4:11; Luke 22:43**).
 - ii. Angels provide physical protection/deliverance (**Psalm 34:7; Gen. 19; Acts 5:19, 12:7-8**).
 - iii. Christians have “guardian angels.”

SOME FACTS ABOUT ANGELS

- **Man is not authorized to worship angels.**
 - *Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind (Col. 2:18).*
 - *⁸ Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. ⁹ Then he said to me, “See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God” (Rev. 22:8-9).*
 - I don't know of many protestant churches who worship angels (many elevate angels but do not literally worship them), but, of course, the Catholics are notorious for this.
 - Yet, we clearly see we are not to worship angels, but instead simply worship God.

SOME FACTS ABOUT ANGELS

- **Although celestial beings, angels are not omniscient like God.**
 - *⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, ⁸ whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹ receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls. ¹⁰ Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, ¹¹ searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. ¹² To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into (1 Pet. 1:6-12).*
 - Angels are intelligent beings, but, like the prophets, angels understood the general concepts of the coming of Christ, but did not understand everything.

SOME FACTS ABOUT ANGELS

- **One day, we will be like the angels.**

• ²³ *The same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Him and asked Him, ²⁴ saying: “Teacher, Moses said that if a man dies, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife and raise up offspring for his brother. ²⁵ Now there were with us seven brothers. The first died after he had married, and having no offspring, left his wife to his brother. ²⁶ Likewise the second also, and the third, even to the seventh. ²⁷ Last of all the woman died also. ²⁸ Therefore, in the resurrection, whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had her” ²⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, “You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. ³⁰ For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven. ³¹ But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, ³² ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.” ³³ And when the multitudes heard this, they were astonished at His teaching (**Matt. 22:23-33**).*

- In the afterlife, we will not be angels, but we will be **like** them.
 - We will not die – we will be immortal, and we will not marry.

SOME FACTS ABOUT ANGELS

- **Angels are created beings.**

- *For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him (Col 1:16).*

- All things in heaven and on earth, the visible and invisible, were created through Christ and for Him.

- Angels are part of this creation but have not always existed, unlike divinity.

- *¹ Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; Praise Him in the heights! ² Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts! ³ Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him, all you stars of light! ⁴ Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, and you waters above the heavens! ⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord, for He commanded and they were created (Psalm 148:1-5).*

SOME FACTS ABOUT ANGELS

- **Angels are created beings.**

- We do not know exactly when God created angels; the Bible does not tell us. **Job 38:4-7** possibly does provide some insight though.

- *⁴ Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. ⁵ Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? ⁶ To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, ⁷ When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?*

- In Job, the phrase “*sons of God*” is synonymous with angels (1:6; 2:1; 38:4-7).

NOTE: This is not always the case throughout the Bible.

- When God laid the earth’s foundations, the angels shouted for joy. Therefore, we can at least conclude angels existed before the creation of the world.

- Just like the sun and moon and just like humanity and everything else described in Genesis regarding the creation of the earth and its inhabitants, God spoke angels into existence.

SOME FACTS ABOUT ANGELS

- **Angels have free will to commit sin.**
 - Angels are capable of choosing between right and wrong; they can sin.
 - ¹⁸ *Can a mortal be more righteous than God? Can a man be more pure than his Maker?* ¹⁹ *If He puts no trust in His servants, If He charges His angels with error, How much more those who dwell in houses of clay* (**Job 4:18-19**).
 - Since the Bible is inspired, we know Eliphaz's words are accurately recorded, but we also know that everything he said was not correct (**v.7-8, for example**). However, his understanding of angels is supported by the New Testament.
 - *For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment* (**1 Pet. 2:4**).
 - **1 Pet. 2:4** shows angels are under divine law (**1 John 3:4**).
 - **1 Pet. 2:4** also informs us that the angels who sinned are in "*hell*" (Tartarus) and "*reserved for judgment*."

SOME FACTS ABOUT ANGELS

- **Angels have free will to commit sin.**
 - *And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day (Jude 6).*
 - “Hell” (Tartarus) is not mentioned here, but like **2 Pet. 2:4**, there is a description of angels being “*reserved in everlasting chains under darkness.*”
 - Although spiritual beings, angels can sin; like humans, they are free moral agents.
 - Angels who sinned were cast down into Tartarus. Here, they are separated from Paradise by that great gulf which they cannot cross (**Luke 16:26**).

SOME FACTS ABOUT ANGELS

- **The scriptures do not indicate angels have a plan of redemption.**
 - Christ came in the flesh to redeem mankind, not angels.
 - *For indeed He does not **give aid** to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham (Heb. 2:16).*
 - Epilambanetai [Strong's 1949]:
 - To lay hold of, take hold of, seize (sometimes with beneficent, sometimes with hostile, intent).
 - **KJV, ERV** – ... he took not on him the nature of angels ...
 - **YLT, LSV** – ... of messengers it doth not lay hold ...
 - **ASV, NASB, ESV, ISV, GW, NIV, etc.** – ... it is not angels that he helps ... (or some similar wording)
 - **AMP** – For, as we all know, He (Christ) does not take hold of [the fallen] angels [to give them a helping hand], but He does take hold of [the fallen] descendants of Abraham [extending to them His hand of deliverance].

SOME FACTS ABOUT ANGELS

- **The scriptures do not indicate angels have a plan of redemption.**
 - **Barnes' Commentary:** Here it means to lay hold with reference to "aid," or "help;" and the meaning is, that he did not seize the nature of angels, or take it to himself with reference to rendering "them" aid, but he assumed the nature of man - in order to aid "him." He undertook the work of human redemption, and consequently it was necessary for him to be man.
 - **Elliot's Commentary:** The natural fitness of such a phrase in words addressed to Jews, we may doubt if any other language would have been equally expressive. For as to the means, it was by becoming a child of Abraham that the Saviour "took hold of" our race to raise it up.
 - **Gill's Exposition:** The word here used signifies to catch hold of anyone ready to perish, or to lay hold on a person running away, and with great vehemence and affection to hold anything fast, that it be not lost, and to help persons, and do good unto them; all which may be observed in this act of Christ's.

SOME FACTS ABOUT ANGELS

- **The scriptures do not indicate angels have a plan of redemption.**
 - **Heb. 2** in its entirety proves “*aid*” refers to salvation, not strength, protection, or physical help.
 - *¹ Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. ² For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, ³ how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him (v.1-3).*
 - *¹⁰ For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings (v.10).*
 - *¹⁴ Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage (v.14-15).*

SOME FACTS ABOUT ANGELS

- **Angels are one of the reasons women should cover their head when they pray or prophesy.**
 - While giving various reasons in **1 Cor. 11** for why a woman must cover her head in worship, Paul says in **v.10**:
 - *For this reason the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.*
 - Personally, I have no clue what Paul is referring to here.
 - The most common view is that angels are present in the church assembly and are interested in what happens there.

SOME FACTS ABOUT ANGELS

- **Angels are usually depicted as men in the Bible.**
 - Contrary to popular portrayals, when in human form, the Bible refers to angels as men; masculine pronouns are always used.
 - Two angels are even named in the Bible (Michael and Gabriel), and their names are masculine.
 - Consider further some Biblical occurrences of angels appearing as men.
 - Sodom and Gomorrah (**Gen. 18-19**).
 - Birth of Samson (**Judges 13**).
 - Resurrection of Christ (**Mark 16:4-6; Matt 28:1-6**).
 - Jesus's Ascension (**Acts 1:10**).
 - Peter Released from Prison (**Acts 12:7-8**).

SOME FACTS ABOUT ANGELS

- Angels are usually depicted as men in the Bible.
 - Does **Zech. 5:5-11** refer to female angels?
 - *⁵ Then the angel who talked with me came out and said to me, “Lift your eyes now, and see what this is that goes forth.” ⁶ So I asked, “What is it?” And he said, “It is a basket that is going forth.” He also said, “This is their resemblance throughout the earth: ⁷ Here is a lead disc lifted up, and this is a woman sitting inside the basket”; ⁸ then he said, “This is Wickedness!” And he thrust her down into the basket, and threw the lead cover over its mouth. ⁹ Then I raised my eyes and looked, and there were two women, coming with the wind in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork, and they lifted up the basket between earth and heaven. ¹⁰ So I said to the angel who talked with me, “Where are they carrying the basket?” ¹¹ And he said to me, “To build a house for it in the land of Shinar; when it is ready, the basket will be set there on its base.”*
 - Just because Zechariah spoke with an angel, it does not demand the women in the vision must also be angels. Rather, like the woman inside the basket, these two women appear to simply be figures representing something else.

SOME FACTS ABOUT ANGELS

- Angels will be with Christ when He returns.
 - Jesus warned, “*For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works*” (Matt. 16:27; see also Matt. 25:31; Mark 8:38; Luke 9:26; 2 Thess. 1:7-9).
 - Angels will be with Christ when He returns. Yet, even the angels do not even know when that day will be; only God knows (Matt. 24:36).
- Additional information about angels during the return of Christ comes from the Parable of the Tares (Matt. 13:24-30).
 - According to Jesus, the “*harvesters*” in this parable are angels.
 - “*The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness*” (v.41).
 - What will the angels do with the “*sons of the wicked one*” and “*those who practice lawlessness?*”
 - They “*will cast them into the furnace of fire*” (v.42).

SOME FACTS ABOUT ANGELS

- **Angels will be with Christ when He returns.**
 - The Parable of the Net is a similar parable recorded in **Matt. 13:47-52**.
 - It says the angels will “*cast them into a furnace of fire*” (v.50).
 - Thus, the angels – with Christ – will divide the righteous from the unrighteous at the Second Coming and cast those who practice unrighteousness into Hell.
 - In **Luke 12:8-9**, Jesus also says:
 - ⁸ *Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. ⁹ But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.*
 - The angels will be present to hear Jesus tell us to either enter into eternal life or enter into everlasting punishment.

SOME FACTS ABOUT ANGELS

- **Angels transport the righteous to Paradise.**
 - In **Luke 16:19-31**, Jesus tells the story of the rich man and Lazarus.
 - Upon their deaths, the souls of both men went to Hades. The rich man was sent to Torment while Lazarus went to Abraham's bosom, or Paradise.
 - A great comfort we can take in this story is how Lazarus got to Paradise.
 - **v.22** says that he was carried by angels:
 - *... the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom ...*
 - Even if this story is a parable, the facts of the story are real: righteous people who die will be carried to Abraham's bosom by angels.
 - We can be confident and take great pleasure in knowing angels of God will be present upon our deaths to carry us to Abraham's bosom.
 - As faithful Christians, we will close our eyes in death and, in a sense, open them in the presence of angels who will carry us to Paradise.