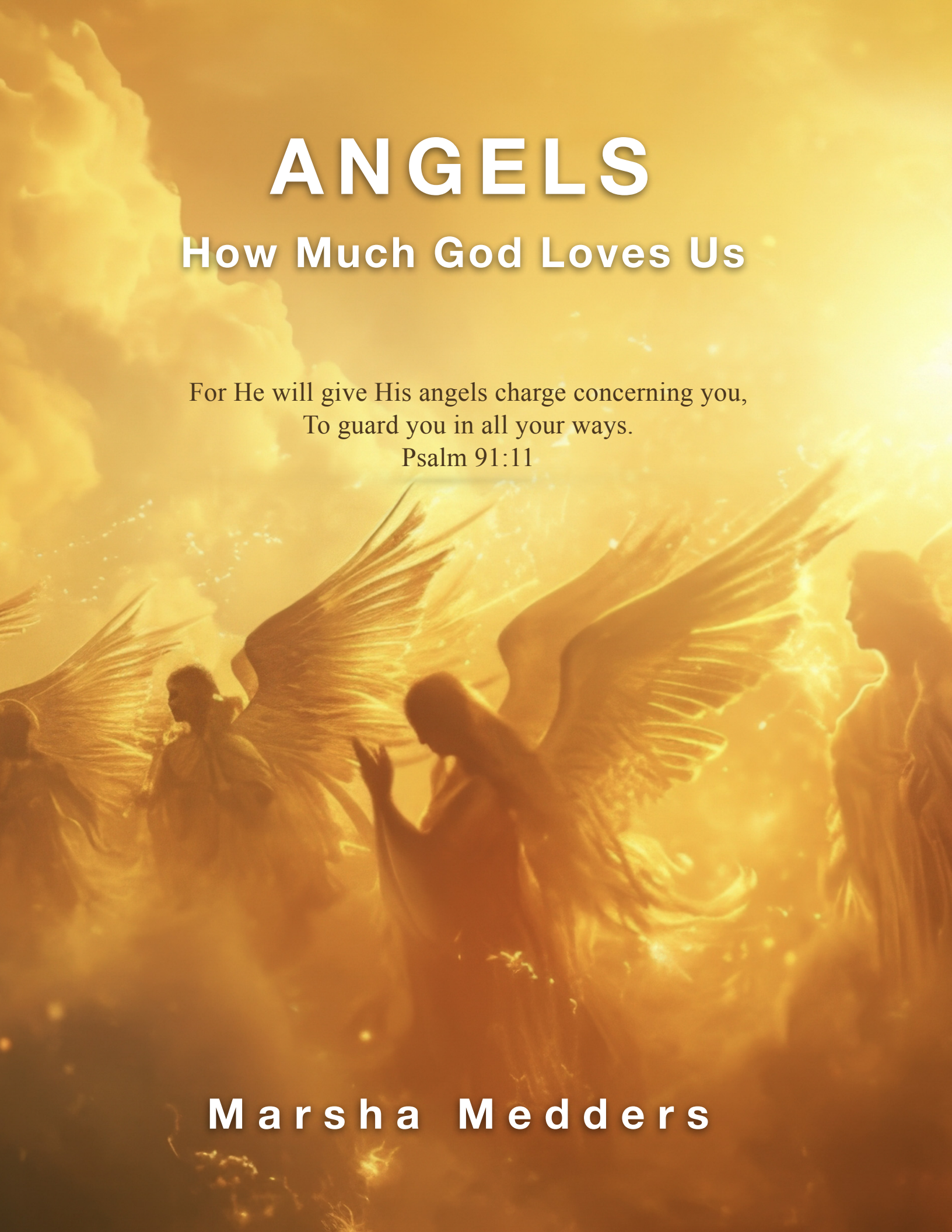




ANGELS

How Much God Loves Us

For He will give His angels charge concerning you,
To guard you in all your ways.
Psalm 91:11

Marsha Medders

Angels: How Much God Loves Us

Outline

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CHAPTER 1 - ANGEL STORIES

In the early days of World War II, Britain's air force saved it from invasion and defeat. Several months after the war ended a celebration was held honoring Air Chief Marshal Lord Hugh Dowding. Among those attending were the king, the prime minister and scores of dignitaries. As he spoke, the air chief marshal recounted the story of his legendary conflict where they were outnumbered by the Germans, the English pilots rarely slept and their planes were in the air day and night. He told of a number of occasions when pilots saw their fellow pilots shot and killed while flying only to see a figure still operating the controls. The air chief marshal said he believed angels had actually flown some of the planes whose pilots sat dead in the cockpits.

A woman in Atlanta reported that she had been looking for a new church to attend. Driving home from work in a downpour one Friday afternoon she crested a hill and then stopped at a stop light at the bottom of the hill. There she saw a sign announcing a church that met at a nearby mission building. The sign pointed the direction to a cross road where the church was located along with the time of the service.

That Sunday the woman went to the church and was warmly welcomed by a number of people and then another woman approached her and asked how she had learned about the church. The woman replied, "I saw your sign out Friday late afternoon on my way home from work." The other woman looking very perplexed said, "It was raining too hard all day Friday. I am in charge of putting the sign out and we were not able to place the sign."

Another story is told of a celebrated Philadelphia neurologist who had gone to bed after an exceptionally tiring day. Suddenly he heard someone knocking loudly on his door. He found a little girl, poorly dressed and deeply upset. She told him her mother was very sick and asked him to please come help her. It was bitterly cold that winter night and it was snowing. He was bone tired, but he quickly dressed and followed the little girl.

He found the mother desperately ill with pneumonia. After arranging for medical care, he complimented the sick woman on the boldness and persistence of her little daughter. The woman looked at him strangely and then said, "My daughter died a month ago. Her shoes and coat are in the closet over there." The doctor went to the closet and opened the door. There hung the very coat worn by the little girl that night.

It was warm and dry and could not possibly have been out in the wintry night. How would one explain these phenomenon?

Two of our Bible study members have reported angel stories in their lives. Almost every culture over time has reported occasions that could only have been accounted for by the presence of angels. Who are these angels and what do they do? We will examine the Scriptures for our answers in the coming chapters. Angels are real and there are over 300 references to angels in the Bible. Let's look first at some angel sightings in the Bible.

CHAPTER 2 - ANGEL SITINGS: FROM GENESIS TO REVELATION

From Genesis to Revelation we can find sitings of angels in the Scriptures. Here are but a few of those sitings:

In the book of Genesis at the eastern gateway to the Garden of Eden there is a flaming sword flashing back and forth. An angel is keeping Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden after they sinned. (Genesis 3:2-4)

Hagar runs away from Sarai her Jewish mistress. In the desert, an angel confronts her and tells her to “Go back to your mistress and submit to her”. (Genesis 16:7-9)

The angel sweeps his hand over the scene and Hagar sees a well of water close by. (Genesis 21:14-19)

Two angels lead Lot, his wife, and his family out of Sodom and tell them to not look back and flee to the mountains or you will be swept away. (Genesis 19:15-17)

An angel of the Lord calls from heaven to Abraham and promises descendants “as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore.” (Genesis 22:15-17)

Jacob is in the land of the eastern people where he works for his father-in-law. An angel speaks to Jacob in a dream and tells him to leave this land at once and go back to his native land. (Genesis 31:10-13)

God sends an angel to guide Moses to a place he has prepared for him. (Exodus 2:20-21)

An angel appears to Balaam and tells him to speak only what he tells him. (Numbers 22:22-35)

As Joshua prepares to fight at Jericho, he encounters the captain of the Lord’s angelic host who gives him the battle plan step by step to insure the victory that God has already ordained. (Joshua 5:13-6:5)

As David leaves the depths of the cave where he has been hiding with a small band of men he sings his faith in God's protection: "The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them." (Psalm 34:70)

An angel is holding a sword with the power of the plague: 70,000 people have died from the sickness, David confesses in agony that he has sinned, and a voice far above the angel commands the angel to stop. The angel sheaths the sword. (2 Samuel 24:15-17 and 1 Corinthians 21:14-17)

An angel bends over Elijah, touching his shoulder and tells him, "Get up and eat. Your journey ahead is too much for you." (1 Kings 19:3-7)

Elijah is at Mt. Carmel and an angel comes to his side and tells him to go with the enemy captain and don't be afraid of him. (2 Kings 1:9-18)

The Assyrians have surrounded the gates of Jerusalem and their camps stretch as far as one can see. In a single night an angel slays 185,000 Assyrians. (2 Kings 19:35; 2 Chronicles 32:21; Isaiah 37:36)

The Jewish people have been taken captive in Babylon. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego are rescued from the blazing furnace by an angel of the Lord who joins them in the furnace. They refused to bow down and worship Nebuchadnezzar. Nebuchadnezzar drops to his knees and cries, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel to rescue his servants!" (Daniel 3:13-30)

From the darkness in the lion's den Daniel tells Nebuchadnezzar, "Yes, my God sent his angel and he shut the mouth of the lions." (Daniel 6:19-22)

An angel announces to Daniel, "Now I'm here to tell you what will happen to your people in the future." Daniel faint and weak falls to the floor and cannot speak. The angel touches him again and says, "Do not be afraid, O man highly esteemed. Peace! Be strong now. Be strong!" (Daniel 10:4-19)

An angel of the Lord appears suddenly and says, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah. Your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you're to name him John." (Luke 1:11-13)

Gabriel says to Mary, “Don’t be afraid, Mary. You’ve found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a Son, and you’re to name him Jesus.” (Luke 1:26-31)

An angel appears to Joseph in a dream and tells him to marry Mary and the child within her is from the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 1:20)

An angel appears and the glory of the Lord lights up the sky and surrounding area. The angel says to the shepherds, “Don’t be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:9-12)

An angel appears to Joseph again in a dream and tells him to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt. (Matthew 2:13)

Jesus is tired and weak from forty days of fasting. Just before Satan appears, a group of angels appear and give him food. (Matthew 4:10-11; Mark 1:13)

Suddenly an angel kneels beside the deeply troubled Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane as He prays to His Father and strengthens him. (Luke 22:43)

Two women approach Jesus’ tomb where the stone covering His tomb has been rolled back. A white-robed angel sitting on the stone says, “Don’t be afraid. I know you seek Jesus, who was crucified. He isn’t here; he has risen, just as he said.” (Matthew 28:1-7)

King Herod exalts himself as god before an admiring large crowd. An angel of the Lord touches his body and he is devoured by worms. (Acts 12:21-23)

An angel appears to Cornelias, the centurion, to collect Simon Peter who lived by the sea. (Act 10:3-33)

Paul is trying to sleep on a battered ship in a raging storm on the Mediterranean Sea. An angel appears and says, “Don’t be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.” (Acts 27:13-26)

“Get up and get dressed,” the angel loudly commands Peter who was asleep in his prison cell. Peter obeys and walks out of the prison as the the gates open. He turns

back around and he is alone. The angel is gone. Peter says, “The Lord sent his angel to rescue me.” (Acts 12:11)

An angel is sent to communicate the revelation of Jesus Christ to John who is imprisoned on the Island of Patmos. (Revelation 1:1)

John is instructed to take the scroll that lies in the open hand of the angel and eat it. (Revelation 10:1-10)

There is war in heaven and Michael and his angels defeat the dragon and his angels. (Revelation 12:7)

An angel is soaring in the middle of the sky and he calls in a loud voice, “Fear God and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come. Worship Him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the streams of water.” (Revelation 14:6-7)

Four angels are standing on a riverbank and were released to kill a third of mankind then seven angels were given seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God. Then the seven angels pour out the seven bowls of God’s wrath on the earth that is rebelling against God. (Revelation 9:14-15; 15:1; 15:6; 16:1-21)

The angels accompany Jesus at His second coming. (Revelation 19:14)

An angel picks up Satan, binds him with a great chain, opens the abyss, and throws Satan into the bottomless pit. (Revelation 20:1-3)

CHAPTER 3 - WHO ARE ANGELS

Who are the angels in these stories and sitings throughout the Bible? In the Bible three angels are given names: Angel of the Lord, Daniel, and Gabriel. We will study those particular angels later but for now let's examine the Scriptures below for our answers about who are the angels.

Exercise 1: Who Are The Angels?

Using the Scriptures below write in your answer that describes who the angels are.

1. _____
For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things have been created through Him and for Him. Colossians 1:16

2. _____
He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. Colossians 1:17

3. _____
Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation? Hebrews 1:14

4. _____
Bless the Lord, you His angels; Mighty in strength, who perform His work, obeying the voice of His word! Psalm 103:2

5. _____
in order to change the appearance of things your servant Joab has done this thing. But my lord is wise, "like the wisdom of the angel of God, to know all that is in the earth." (2 Samuel 14:20)

6. _____
Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands and thousands, (Revelation 5:11)

7. _____
I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. But he said to me, "do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God." (Revelation 22:8-9)

For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. (Romans 1:25)

David recorded myriads, thousands and thousands traveling through the heavens in Psalm 68:17. Ten-thousand angels came down on Mt. Sinai to confirm the presence of God when God gave Moses the Law, the Ten Commandments. (Deuteronomy 33:2). One of their first appearances is in the Garden of Eden.

The Cherubim were guarding the east of the Garden. They guarded the way to the tree of life after Adam and Eve sinned. If God had not guarded the tree of life, Adam and Eve would have eaten of the tree of life and then lived forever in their sin. Think how awful that would be! We probably would not be here due to killing each other.

It took only one angel to slay the first born of Egypt in Moses' day and one to shut the lion's mouth in Daniel. Satan will be bound by one angel at the end of the Battle of Armageddon and then thrown into the bottomless pit.

The Bible implies that angels sing with no discordant note to God and the Lamb. Angels have celestial language and make music worthy of God. Man's music will have disorder (discordant) until the final redemption.

Billy Graham says in his book, *Angels*, that all the angels including those who now minister to us will gather with all the redeemed before the throne of God. "In that day, the angels who veiled their faces and stood mute when Jesus hung on the cross will then ascribe glory to the lamb whose work is finished and whose Kingdom has come."

Answers to Exercise 1 - Who Are the Angels

1. Created being by God
2. Sustained by Jesus
3. Spirits and ministering to us
4. Very strong; excel in strength
5. Very wise
6. Thousands and possibly million; myriads was the largest number at the time the Bible was written
7. We are not to worship angels

CHAPTER 4 - HOW ANGELS DIFFER FROM US

There are a number of differences between man and the angels. Here are some of those differences.

- God is their Creator but not their Father. Since angels cannot be redeemed they have no need of a heavenly Father as we do.
- Cannot be redeemed. Angels fell before man fell. Man was enticed toward sin by a sinner, Satan. Angels fell when there were no sinners. Thus their sin can not be forgiven and their salvation cannot be achieved.
- Lucifer and the fallen angels cannot be redeemed. They will not voluntarily accept His Lordship - except in the Day of Judgment.

“For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Philippians 2:9-11

- Angels are not joint heirs with Jesus through redemption.
The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we many also be glorified with Him. Romans 8:16,17
- Angels will keep their exalted states as they have never sinned.
- Angels can not experience redemption but can point to the experiences of the redeemed and rejoice that God has saved the redeemed.
- They are not indwell by the Holy Spirit. They do not need the Holy Spirit.
- They do not die so their number remains the same as the day God created the angels.
- Angels do not preach or share the Gospel.

CHAPTER 5 - HOW ANGELS ARE ORDERED

There has been a lot of controversy throughout history regarding the existence of angels, their purpose and how they are ordered. During the Medieval Period there was a lot of attention given to angels with theologians dividing angels into ten grades.

Angel of the Lord

Many believe that the Angel of the Lord is the pre-incarnate Jesus Christ. Since Jesus is not an angel like the other created angels the Angel of the Lord will be discussed in *The Greatest Gift* section.

Michael

We are not told specifically in the Bible how the angels are ordered, however, we can learn quite a lot by examining Scripture. Michael is the only angel designated as an archangel. The prefix “arch” means chief or principal. Therefore Michael is the angel above all angels and is recognized in rank as the first prince of heaven. Michael’s name means “who is like unto the Lord”. While many believe that before his fall, Lucifer was also an archangel and even possibly higher than Michael, Scripture does not specifically reveal this.

In the book of Daniel, Michael is referred to as “your prince”. (Daniel 10:21; 12:1). He is the great protector of Israel. He also appears in Revelation 12:7-12 leading the angel armies that battle Satan and all his demons. He wins the battle and heaven rejoices and celebrates. Michael has the honor of accompanying Jesus at His Second Coming and as he shouts the Word of Life to all who are dead in Christ, they arise.

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 1 Thessalonians 4:16

Gabriel

Gabriel is one of the most prominent angels in the Bible, however, he is not referred to as an archangel. However, Gabriel’s work is referred to more often than Michael’s.

Gabriel is God’s messenger of mercy and promise. He appears bearing good news four times in the Bible. (Daniel 8:16; 9:21; Jude 1:19, 26). In the book of Daniel, he announces God’s vision for the “end time” which includes judgment upon Israel and

the Tribulation Period for seven years and then he assures Daniel that the Messiah (Jesus Christ) will return.

Gabriel appears two times in the New Testament, first in Luke to announce the birth of John the Baptist. He then appears to the Virgin Mary to announce that she will give birth to Jesus, the Savior of the world. (Luke 1:30-33)

Seraphim

The word Seraphim may come from the Hebrew root meaning love although some think the word means “burning ones” or “nobles”. Seraphim are only mentioned in Isaiah 6:1-6. Their ministry is to praise the name and character of God in heaven. They are positioned above God while Cherubim are beside the Throne. They constantly glorify God. They were also used by God to cleanse and purify his servant Isaiah.

The Seraphim are incredibly beautiful and do have wings, although Scripture does not support that all angels have wings. Ezekiel’s description of the four living creatures is similar to the Seraphim but he did not call them Seraphim.

Cherubim

Cherubim are incorporated into the design of the Ark of the Covenant and the Tabernacle. Solomon’s temple utilized them in its decoration. They have wings, feet and hands. In Ezekiel 9:3 the Lord has descended His throne above the Cherubim to the threshold of the temple while in Ezekiel 10:1 He returns to take His seat above them.

In Ezekiel 10:5 we see the fluttering of their wings with the sound being heard as far as the outer court and in Ezekiel 10:18 the glory of the Lord departed from the threshold of the temple and stood over the Cherubim. They constantly glorify God. So when the glory of God left the temple, the Cherubim went with it. In Psalm 80:1 we learn that God dwells above the Cherubim:

Oh, give ear, Shepard of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock; you who are enthroned above the cherubim, shine forth!

In Genesis we learn that the Cherubim are guarding the Tree of Life in Eden. (Genesis 3:2-4). In the Tabernacle, the Cherubim were made of gold and formed part of the mercy seat. The Cherubim guarded the Holy of Holies and assured the right of the

High Priest to enter as mediator between God and the Jewish people. Today, the inner sanctuary of God's throne is always open to those who have repented of their sin and trusted Christ as Savior.

CHAPTER 6 - WORK OF THE ANGELS

The work of the angels is specified by God and is different in various situations as needed to carry out God's will. Let's examine the Scriptures to see some of the work God assigned them.

Exercise 2 - Work of the Angels

1. _____
Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts! Psalm 148:2

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven. Matt 18:10

And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, "And let all the angels of God worship Him." Hebrews 1:6

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousand of thousands, Revelation 5:11

2. _____
They struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they wearied themselves trying to find the doorway. Genesis 19:11

He lay down and slept under a juniper tree; and behold, there was an angel touching him, and he said to him, "Arise, eat." 1 Kings 19:5

Nebuchadnezzar responded and said, "blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, who has sent His angel and delivered His servants who put their trust in Him, violating the king's command and yielded up their bodies so as not to serve or worship any god except their own God. Daniel 3:28

But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the gates of the prison, and taking them out he said, Acts 5:19

3.

However, I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth. Yet there is no one who stands firmly with me against these forces except Michael your prince. Daniel 10:21

Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise..... Daniel 6:22

Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation? Hebrews 1:14

When they had passed the first and second guard, they came to the iron gate that leads into the city, which opened for them by itself; and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel departed from him. Acts 12:10

4.

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. "He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. "Go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you." Matt 28:5-7

But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, "Get up and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza." Acts 8:26

5.

I approached one of those who were standing by and began asking him the exact meaning of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things. Daniel 7:16

Then behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. He said to me, "O Daniel, man of high esteem, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. Then he said to me, "Do not be

afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your word. Daniel 10:10-12

Then I said, "My lord, what are these?" And the angel who was speaking with me said to me, "I will show you what these are." So I said to the angel who was speaking with me, "What are these?" And he answered me, "These are the horns which have scattered Judah, Israel and Jerusalem." Zechariah 1:9, 19

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bondservants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John, Revelation 1:1

6. _____

Then the two men said to Lot, Whom else have you here? A son-in-law and your sons, and your daughters, and whomever you have in the city, bring them out of the place: for we are about to destroy this place, because their outcry has become so great before the Lord that the Lord has sent us to destroy it."

When the angel stretched out his hand toward Jerusalem to destroy it, the Lord relented from the calamity and said to the angel who destroyed the people, "It is enough! Now relax your hand!" And the angel of the Lord was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. 2 Samuel 24:16

Then He cried out in my hearing with a loud voice saying, "Draw near, O executioners of the city, each with his destroying weapon in his hand." Ezekiel 9:1

And immediately an angel of the Lord struck him because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and died. Acts 12:23

7. _____

Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried Luke 16:22

8. _____

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 1 Thessalonians 4:16

And to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, 2 Thessalonians 1:7

And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other. Matthew 24:31

And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, Revelation 7:2

Then I heard a loud voice from the temple, saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God." Revelation 16:1

9. _____

and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels. "So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous, Matthew 13:39, 49

10. _____

It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. Revelation 21:12

The work of the angels begins in the book of Genesis as they protect and deliver God's people and ends with their honorary majestic service in the eternal city at the end of the book of Revelation. How much does God love us? It is so deep, wide, and high that it cannot be measured! Praise God!

Answers to Exercise 2 - Work of the Angels

1. Stand before and worship God
2. Protect and deliver God's people
3. Minister to people
4. Guide and encourage God's servants
5. Interpret God's will to man
6. Executors of God's Judgement toward Individuals and nations
7. Carry the saved home to heaven after their physical death
8. Involved in future events
9. Harvest at the end of the age involved in separating the false from the true; good from evil
10. Stand before the gates of New Jerusalem to serve as honorary body of sentinels.

CHAPTER 7 - EVIL ANGELS

As we have learned, the angels were created to glorify God. Lucifer, once called the son of the morning is said to have been the most brilliant and most beautiful of all created beings in heaven. He began a war that rages in heaven today and will last until Christ brings everything under His Lordship. It will climax at Armageddon with Christ and His angelic army victorious.

Lucifer's rebellion of God's authority is recorded in Isaiah 14:12-14 and Ezekiel 28:12-17. Billy Graham says in his book *Angels*, it was the self will against the will of God. We see Lucifer's five "I wills".

- I will ascend into heaven.
- I will exalt my throne above the stars of God.
- I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation.
- I will ascend above the heights of the clouds.
- I will be like the most high.

Lucifer wanted to be God. The created wanted to be the Creator. Underneath Satan's pride to exalt Himself above God may have been the sin of covetousness. Billy Graham says in this book, *Angels*, that virtually every war ever fought began because of covetousness.

Just as it today the influences of sin are contagious; one-third of the angels fell with Lucifer. The angels who fell, fell because they sinned against God. (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6).

The greatest catastrophe in the history of the universe was Lucifer's rebellion against God and the fall of one-third of the angels. It happened sometime between the dawn of creation and Satan entering the garden of Eden. God rested on the seventh day and at the end of creation pronounced everything good. So the angels could not have fallen during the first seven days. How long were Adam and Eve in the garden before Satan tempted them? The Bible is silent on this.

It appears that since there was no one to tempt Satan, he bears a greater guilt than Adam and Eve. Thus, the angles have no recourse for redemption. As a result the

fallen angels, “have been reserved for judgment (2 Peter 2:4) and have their part in the everlasting fire prepared for Satan (Matthew 25:41).

Exercise 3 - Work of the Evil Angels

1. _____
For I am convinced that neither death nor life, now angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

2. _____
Then he said to me, “Do not be afraid Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one the the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia. Daniel 10:12-13

3. _____
“Then He will also say to those on His left, Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; Matthew 25:41

And there was war in heaven and Michael and his angels were waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven saying, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. Revelation 12:7-12

4. _____

After the demon was cast out, the mute man spoke; and the crowds were amazed, and were saying, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel." Matthew 9:33

.....For He had been saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" And He was asking him, "What is your name?" And he said to Him, "My name is Legion; for we are many." Mark 5:1-16

And a man from the crowd shouted, saying, "Teacher, I beg You to look at my son, for he is my only boy, and a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly screams, and it throws him into a convulsion with foaming at the mouth; and only with difficulty does it leave him, mauling him as it leaves. I begged Your disciples to cast it out, and they could not." And Jesus answered and said, "You unbelieving and perverted generation, how long shall I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here." While he was still approaching, the demon slammed him to the ground and threw him into a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the boy and gave him back to his father. And they were all amazed at the greatness of God. Luke 9:38-43

5. _____

Jesus summoned His twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. Matthew 10:1

Also the people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, bringing people who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all being healed. Acts 5:16

6. _____

That you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed wither by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. 2 Thessalonians 2:2

But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith,

paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, 1 Timothy 4:1

7. _____
For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:12

8. _____
The news about Him spread throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them. Matthew 4:24

and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses: Mary who was called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, Luke 8:2

9. _____
Then God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech, Judge 9:23

He sent upon them His burning anger, fury and indignation and trouble, a band of destroying angels. Psalm 78:49

10. _____
For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty. Revelation 16:14

Here are some descriptors of Satan:

- Liar (John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 11:3)
- Tempting (Matthew 4:1)
- Robbing (Matthew 13:19)
- Harassing (2 Corinthians 12:7)
- Hindering (1 Thessalonians 2:18)
- Sifting (Luke 22:31)
- Imitating (Matthew 13:25; 2 Corinthians 11:14)
- Accusing (Revelation 12:10)
- Smiting with disease (Luke 13:16; 1 Corinthians 5:5)
- Possessing (John 13:27)
- Killing and devouring (John 8:44; 1 Peter 5:8)

There are three types of Demonology:

1. Fortune Telling which includes Astrology. According to Henry C. Thiessen, a well known theologian, “Whenever a person attempts to read the future by a kind of divine inspiration, he is in reality doing so by the assistance of demons.” (Acts 16:16; Ezekiel 21:21, Genesis 44:5)
2. Direct Worship of Demons
 - Apostate Israel sacrificed to demons. (Deuteronomy 32:17; Psalm 106:37)
 - Food sacrificed to idols in the New Testament was actually sacrificed to demons. (1 Corinthians 10:19)
 - As the age comes to a close there will be more demonic activity and interest in the occult which is demons.
 - During the Tribulation Period there will be renewed demon activity and open worship of the Dragon (Satan).
3. Spiritualism or Spiritism. Those who practice this believe the living can communicate with the dead and the spirits of the dead can manifest their presence to them. This is typically done through a medium.
 - Israel was warned time and again not to do this.

By Christ's death and resurrection Jesus passed sentence upon Satan. As believers in Jesus Christ we are:

- To be sober, alert and resist Satan. (Ephesians 4:22; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8)
- Not to be ignorant of Satan's schemes. (2 Corinthians 2:11)
- Have no fellowship with Satan and his demons. (Leviticus 19:31; 1 Corinthians 10:20)
- Not to speak lightly of Satan. (Jude 8; 2 Peter 2:10)
- To put on the whole armor of God and stand against Satan and his demons. (Ephesians 6:11)
- Try the spirits. (1 John 4:1)
- Give ourselves to prayer. (Ephesians 6:18)
- To live by faith in the light of Christ's victory on the cross. (Hebrews 2:14)

Paul calls the conflict that Satan started and why it happened and continues the "mystery of iniquity (2 Thessalonians 2:7). We live in a perpetual battlefield. Satan and his demons are known by their discord, the wars they start, the hatred they ingrain, the murders they initiate, and their opposition to God and His commandments. They are no doubt dedicated to destruction.

For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. 2 Thessalonians 2:7

God will not tolerate sin forever. The day is coming when God will tell Jesus, "Son, go get your bride." The dead in Christ will rise first and those who are alive in Christ will all meet Jesus in the sky. God's judgement of sin will be carried out in the seven year Tribulation, Christ will defeat Satan and rule and reign for 1000 years on the earth, then the final judgment of sin, and the new heavens and new earth will be ushered in with peace forever. Amen!

Answers to Exercise 3 - The Work of the Evil Angels

1. Separate the believer from Christ.
2. Oppose good angels.
3. Cooperate with Satan to carry out his purpose and plans.
4. Cause physical and mental disorder.
5. Lead men into moral impurity.
6. Disseminate false doctrine.
7. Oppose God's children in their spiritual progress.
8. Sometimes possess human beings and even animals.
9. Sometimes used by God in carrying out His purposes.

CHAPTER 8 - CHRIST AND THE ANGELS

Throughout the Bible, Jesus seems to have a special relationship with the angels. He was here before they were, He created the angels, and before He came to earth they followed His orders. The angels ministered to Him while He was here on earth, and after His crucifixion, resurrection and ascension into heaven they have worshiped Him before the throne of God as the Lamb slain for our salvation. They will accompany Him at His second coming to earth to set up His Millennial Kingdom.

Exercise 4 - Christ and the Angels

During His time here on earth the angels ministered to Jesus and carried out many important missions regarding His ministry. Read the Scriptures below and write in your answers to the specific ministry the angel(s) performed.

1. _____
Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end." Luke 1:26-33

2. _____
But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." Matthew 1:20-21

3. _____
In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before

them, and the glory of the Lord shone around around them; and they were terribly frightened. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.” When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, “Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us. Luke 2:8-15

4. _____
Then the devil left Him; and behold angels came and began to minister to Him. Matthew 4:11

5. _____
And He said to him, “Truly, Truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.” John 1:51

6. _____
And He withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, and He knelt down and began to pray, saying, “Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done.” Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him. Luke 22:40-43



7. _____
Then Jesus said to him, “put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more the twelve legions of angels? How then will the Scriptures be fulfilled, which say that it must happen this way?” Matthew 26:52-54

8. _____
And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. And his appearance was like lightning and his clothing as white as snow. The guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. Go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you." Matthew 28:2-7
9. _____
And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven." Acts 1:10
10. _____
"But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. Matthew 25:31
- "For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and will then repay every man according to his deeds. Matthew 16:27*
11. _____
It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven - things into which angels long to look. 1 Peter 1:12

Jesus did in fact have a close relationship with the angels. Throughout the Bible we learn of the existence, reality and activity of angelic beings. We even have Christ's words to support the existence of angels. John Calvin said of the angels: "If we desire to know God by His works, we surely cannot overlook this noble and illustrious specimen."

There are at least 300 direct references to angels in the Bible. The Sadducees were the only group in the Bible identified as not believing in angels. (Act 23:8) In their day they were Israel's most powerful Jews; they disappeared from history without a trace before the first century ended.

But we must also remember not to worship the angels or to be overly fixated on them. Perhaps John Calvin put it best: "Let us here remember that on the whole subject of religion one rule of modesty and soberness is to be observed and it is this - in obscure matters not to speak or think, or even long to know, more than the Word of God has delivered."

God loves us so much that even in our fallen state after Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden and passed that sin nature to every generation, He sent His Son, Jesus Christ to die for us on the cross so that we could be reconciled to Him and spend eternity in heaven with Him. God did not stop there; He also sent the Holy Spirit, our Helper, to guide and direct our lives while we are on this earth. In His love and mercy for us, God also sent His angels:

*For He will give His angels charge concerning you,
to guard you in all your ways. Psalm 91:11*

How much does God love us? More than we can fathom, more than we can measure, more than we deserve. He is so good!

Answers to Exercise 4 - Christ and the Angels

1. Mary was informed by the angel Gabriel that she would become the mother of the Savior of the world.
2. Joseph was assured by an angel that the Holy Spirit had conceived the baby Mary was carrying.
3. Angels announced to the shepherd's Christ's birth.
4. Angels came and ministered to Christ after he had fasted and prayed for 40 days in the wilderness and Satan had tempted him.
5. Nathaniel was impressed that Jesus knew he had been sitting under a fig tree. Jesus told him he would see greater things than that when the angels ascended and descended with Jesus from the heavens.
6. An angel from heaven strengthened Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.
7. Jesus said he could ask God for 12 legions of angels to come to His aid but the will of God must be done which was for Jesus to die for all on the cross.
8. An angel rolled the stone and spoke to women at Jesus' tomb telling them that Jesus had risen from the dead, to tell the others, and to go meet him in Galilee.
9. Angel announced that Jesus will be back and that He will return in the clouds as He left. In Revelation 1:7 we see He is coming with the clouds
10. Angels accompany Him at His second coming.
11. Angels are eager to look into the plan of salvation.

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