

The Doctrine of ANGELS

CHRIST CHURCH

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Female Angels?

Although most angels are depicted as beautiful women, there are no female angels mentioned in Scripture. Every instance in Greek and Hebrew referencing angels is in the masculine gender. Likewise the only angels specifically named are males - Michael and Gabriel.

Definition:

Angels are created, spiritual beings with moral judgment and high intelligence, but without physical bodies

What Are Angels?

*“Are they [angels] not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?” -
Hebrews 1:14*

ANGELS ARE SPIRITUAL BEINGS

Angels have not always existed. They were created by God. Sometimes Scripture calls them “Sons of God (Job 1:6; 2:1), “holy ones” (Ps. 89:5,7), “spirits” (Heb. 1:14), “watchers” (Dan. 4:13, 17, 23), “thrones,” “dominions,” “principalities,” “authorities” (Col. 1:16), and “powers” (Eph. 1:21).

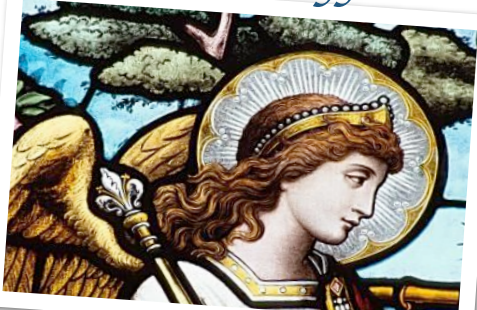
Hebrews 1:14 says angels are “ministering spirits.” Therefore they do not ordinarily have physical bodies (Luke 24:39). So, they can’t usually be seen by us unless God gives us a special ability to see them (Num. 22:31; 2 Kings 6:17; Luke 2:13).

In their ordinary activities of guarding and protecting us (Ps.

34:7; 91:11; Heb. 12:22), they are invisible. However, from time to time angels took on a bodily form to appear to various people in Scripture. (Matt. 28:5; Heb. 13:2).



Different Kinds of Angels?



There is definitely rank and order among the angels. Jude 1:9 speaks of Michael as an archangel and Revelation 12:7-8 shows that Michael has command over some portion of the angels. There are many people who see the different types of spiritual beings as being the rank and file angels. Among these are the Cherubim, who guarded the gates of Eden (Gen. 3:24), whose image adorned the mercy seat where the Shekinah Glory of the Lord dwelt (Num. 7:89, 1 Sam. 4:4, Isa. 37:16, Ps. 80:1, Heb. 9:5), and were adorned on the throne of the Lord (Eze. 10). Another spiritual being which could very well be angels are



the Seraphim. The only mention of the Seraphim is in Isa. 6:2-3 which says, "Above it [the throne] stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

There are also "living creatures" mentioned in Eze. 1:5-14 and Rev. 4:6-8. There is much we don't know about these different forms of angels.

What we do know

We do know that angels are not omnipresent, which means they can only be in one place at one time (Luke 1:26; Dan. 10:12-14). We know that there are a great number of angels (Heb. 12:22, Rev. 5:11). We also know that angels do not marry (Matt. 22:30), and they have great power (Ps. 103:20). They are charged with carrying out the will and plans of God and they are sent to minister to those believers who suffer (Heb 1:14)



What the doctrine of angels teaches us

1. The doctrine of angels shows us the greatness of God's love and plan
 - a. We are more like God than the angels (We are made in His image, angels are not) (Gen 1:26)
 - b. We will have authority over the angels (1 Co. 6:3)
 - c. Angels cannot bear children, we are created to bear children (Matt. 22:30)
 - d. God loved mankind enough to die for them (no fallen angels can be saved) (2 Pt. 2:4, Heb. 2:16)
2. The doctrine of angels reminds us that the unseen world is real (Acts 23:8; 2 Ki. 6:17; Heb. 12:22)
3. The angel's obedience to God is an example for us (Matt. 6:10)
4. They carry out some of God's plans - Messages (Act8:26), Judgment (2Ch 32:21, Mat 16:27)
 - a. They patrol the earth (Zech. 1:10-11)
 - b. They war against demonic forces (Dan. 10:13)
 - c. They proclaim Christ's coming (1 Thess. 4:16; Rev. 18:1-2)
5. They directly glorify God (Rev4:8, Ps.103:20, Isa6:2-3, Luke15:10, 1Pe 1:12)

How should we relate to angels?

1. We should be aware of angels in daily lives
 - a) Though we do not ordinarily see or hear evidence of this heavenly worship, it certainly enriches our sense of reverence (Heb 12:22-23)
 - b) Angels can sometimes take human form to make "inspection visits" (Heb 13:2, Gen 18:2-5)
 - c) Angels can suddenly deliver from danger or distress (Dan. 6:22, Act12:7- 11, Ps. 91:11-12)
2. 2) Cautions regarding our relationship to angels
 1. a) Beware of receiving false doctrine (Gal.1:8, 2Co11:14, 1Ki. 13:18-19)
 2. b) **Do not worship, pray to, or seek angels** (Col. 2:18, 1Ti. 2:5)

The Angel Craze

Today, it is very common for people to be enthralled with the idea that they might communicate with their very own guardian angel. Many people who refuse to accept God's rule over their life have no problem praying to, trusting in, or giving adoration to angels. The practice has become so commonplace among

people that Hollywood began capitalizing on people's infatuation.

Although this is very common in our modern world, it is not new at all.

Colossians 2:18 says, "Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind"



The worship of angels was a heresy that was to plague the Phrygian region (where Colossae was located) for centuries. Commentator William Hendriksen notes that in A. D. 363 a church synod was held in Colossae's sister city of Laodicea. It declared, "It is not right for Christians to abandon the church of God and go away to invoke angels" (Canon 25). The early Church Father Theodoret, commenting on Colossians 2:18, wrote, "The disease which St. Paul denounces, continued for a long time in Phrygia and Pisidia". The archangel Michael was worshiped in Asia Minor as late as A. D. 739. He was also given credit for miraculous cures.

The Bible strictly forbids the worship of angels. "It is written," Jesus told Satan, "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." (Matt. 4:10).

The angels themselves worship God, as Isaiah noted in his vision:

In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain

he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. (Isa. 6: 1- 4)

In Revelation 5:11-12, John writes, "And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing"

When John tried to worship an angel, he was rebuked for doing so: "And I fell at his feet to worship him.

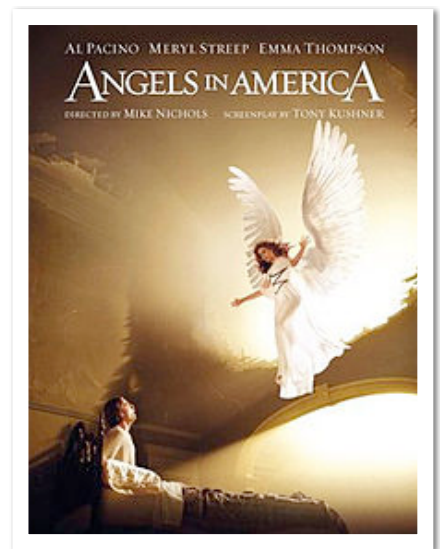
And he said unto me,

See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." (Rev. 19:10).

The Bible is absolutely clear on this point. To seek communion, communication, or interaction with Angels rather than God is inherently sinful. Angels are simply ministering spirits that are messengers and servants of God. Because of Christ, we have direct communion with God, therefore, to worship or give adoration to His creation is tantamount to idolatry.

God does not speak to us through Angels today. He speaks to us through Jesus, the Word, and the Spirit.

*"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, **Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son**, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;"*
- Heb. 1:1-2



Study Questions

1. Have you or anyone you know ever seen an Angel?

2. In Scripture, we find many examples of Angels helping people, it is possible that an Angel could appear in your time of need. But, what should be your reaction to this help? (i.e. Who should receive your praise and thankfulness?)

3. Take a moment and study Galatians 1:8 (*But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.*) What should be your reaction if a gloriously bright angel appears to you, bringing a message that departs from the Gospel of Christ?

4. Since believers are in direct relationship with God and they are themselves the temple of the Holy Spirit, does it make sense to desire communion with angels?

5. 2 Co. 11:14 says, *“And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.”* If Satan masquerades as an angel of light, should we take for granted that any angel-like being is a minister of God? How can you tell the difference?

