

DOCTRINE OF THE ANGELS

Definition:

Angels are messengers of God, serving Him and doing His bidding.

Though other words are used for these spiritual beings, the primary word used in the Bible is angel. There are a few times where men are referred to as angels in Scripture

- I. Prophet – Isaiah 42:19
- II. Priest – Malachi 2:7
- III. Pastors – Rev. 1:20

NATURE OF ANGELS

- 1) They are created beings – Col. 1:16, Ps. 148:1-5.
- 2) Angels are spirit beings – Heb. 1:13-14, Luke 24:49,
- 3) Angels do not have physical bodies – (Num. 22:31, 2Kings 6:17), although there have been times when they manifested in human bodies (Gen. 18:2, 16, 22, Josh. 5:13-14, Mark 16:3-5)
- 4) They are limited in knowledge (Matt. 24:36)
- 5) Angels have personalities; they exhibit personal traits like-
 - a) Love and rejoice (Luke 15:10)
 - b) Talk Luke 1:13
 - c) Worship Heb. 1:6 etc.
- 6) Angels are mighty in strength Ps. 103:20, 2Thess. 1:7, 2Pet. 2:11
- 7) They are numerous – Heb. 12:22, Rev. 5:11

DIVISION OF ANGELS – GOOD AND EVIL

While all the angels were originally created holy and without sin, there was a rebellion by satan, who, being lifted up by his own beauty, rebelled and sought to exalt himself above God. In his rebellion, he took with him one-third of the angels (Rev 12). This rebellion and fall is probably described for us in Isaiah 14:12-15 and Ezekiel 28:15, embodied in the kings of Babylon and Tyre.

There are Two Categories Of Evil Angels (Demons/Devils)

- A. Those imprisoned in chains of darkness until the judgment day – 2Pet. 2:4, Jude 6,.
- B. Those that are free to go about and do demonic work – Matt. 9:29, 12:43-45

ORDERS OF ANGELS

1) CHERUBIMS

- a. At the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:24)
- b. In the tabernacle overshadowing the Mercy Seat (Exodus 25:18-20).
- c. In the temple (1 Kings 6:23-35).
- d. In Ezekiel's visions (Ezekiel 10:1-22). They appear in different forms and variations of shapes and constantly protect the holiness of God.

2) SERAPHIMS

The fiery ones, only mentioned in Isaiah 6:1-7, they protect the holiness of God.

Angels who are Prominent individuals

- Gabriel – Name means 'Man of God', mediates revelation to God's people
- Michael – Name means 'Who is like God?' the only angel identified as an archangel
Thrones/Dominions/Principalities/Powers

Function of Angels

1. Worship God
2. Carry out God's will
3. Mediate God's Law
4. Execute judgment – Acts 12:23, Passover, etc.
5. Participate in final judgment – 1 Thess. 4:16-17, 2 Thess. 1:7
6. Minister to saints – Acts 12:7, Hebrews 1:14, 1Kg 19:5-7, Luke 22:43
7. Guardians – Psalm 91:10-12, Matthew 18:10 (their angels)

The many references of God's holy angels in the Bible are mainly records of their many activities, but two things quickly stand out. They are constantly seen in the activities of worshipful adoration of God and in humble service, totally submissive to the will of God.