

Angels - A Bible Study

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Angels - A Bible Study

Angels are mentioned hundreds of times in the Bible.

The Hebrew word *malak* commonly translated angel occurs 108 times in the Old Testament. The Greek word *angellos* commonly translated angel occurs 186 times in the New Testament. Both words can be literally translated messenger.

Angels are also mentioned many other times in the Bible with other titles.

They are mentioned in 34 of the 66 Bible books - 17 Old Testament and 17 New Testament books. Angels are found in Judges 22 times. Revelation is filled with angels more than 78 times. Obviously, angels are very important to God.

People have a strong interest in the subject as shown by the following questions.

Where did angels come from? Have angels always existed? How many angels are there? What form do angels take? What do they look like? How did angels appear to people? Are all angels the same? Who was the Angel of the Lord? How did angels deliver messages from God? Do angels sing? Do angels have feelings and emotions? Can angels marry women on earth? Are there female angels? Do angels have halos on their heads? Do angels have wings? Can they fly? What are the activities of angels? Are angels active in the Christian age? How do angels minister to people? Do we all have a guardian angel? Do angels carry us to God when we die? How will angels be involved in the second coming of Christ and the judgment? Are angels dead saints? Do we become angels in heaven? Can angels sin? What are fallen angels? When did they fall? Can bad angels repent? Was Satan an angel? Did God create Satan? What are the activities of Satan and his angels?

We plan to study all those questions and search for Bible answers in this Bible study.

As I have studied to prepare these lessons, I was amazed at how much I did not know about angels. This is a much more important study and much deeper than I realized. Our purpose is to discover what the Bible says about angels. We will not focus on myths, stories, and theories. Much has not been revealed about angels. God revealed all that we need to know. Sometimes the work of angels is very clear. Other times it is not.

Deuteronomy 29:29

"The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law."

One thing is certain. Angels are very real and have an important purpose and role in God's creation and plan. Christians are triple blessed with God's presence in our lives. In addition to the angels, Jesus promised that He would always be with us - Matthew 28:20. Furthermore, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit upon our baptism into Christ - Acts 2:38 and the Holy Spirit dwells within us - 1 Corinthians 3:16. God blesses us and provides for us in so many ways.

Angels appear at surprising times, unlikely places, often doing unexpected things. A few of their biblical roles included guards, messengers, guides, protectors, comforters, deliverers, encouragers, strengtheners, informants, rescuers, ladder climbers, wrestlers, weight lifters, warriors, executioners, destroyers, recruiters, transporters, lion tamers, birth announcers, and worshippers.

Scriptures quoted in this study will be from the New King James Version.

The Origin of Angels

Have angels always existed or were they created?

The Bible says that angels are created beings and have not always existed.

Nehemiah 9:6

"You alone are the Lord; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You."

Psalms 148:1-5

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."

John 1:1-3

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."

Colossians 1:15-17

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist."

When were the angels created?

The angels shouted with joy when God created the earth. Therefore, angels were in existence before the earth was created. How long before the creation of the earth did God create the angels? The Bible does not reveal that time.

Job 38:4-7

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?"

Will we become angels when we die?

The Bible does not say we become angels. The Bible teaches we are resurrected, not reincarnated.

Luke 20:36

"nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection."

Where Do Angels Fit in God's Order of Creation?

What is the relationship of the angels to Jesus?

Hebrews chapters one and two assert the perfection and superiority of Jesus over the angels.

Hebrews 1:4

"having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they."

What is the relationship of the angels to man?

In this life on earth the human race ranks below the angels.

Hebrews 2:6-9

"⁶ But one testified in a certain place, saying: "What is man that You are mindful of him, or the son of man that You take care of him? ⁷ You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, and set him over the works of Your hands. ⁸ You have put all things in subjection under his feet." For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. ⁹ But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone."

How Numerous Are the Angels?

Deuteronomy 33:2

"And he said: "The Lord came from Sinai, and dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, and He came with ten thousands of saints; from His right hand came a fiery law for them."

Psalms 68:17

"The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of thousands; the Lord is among them as in Sinai, in the Holy Place."

Daniel 7:10

"A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened."

Matthew 26:53

"Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?" Note: A Roman legion was about 6,000 soldiers. 6,000 x 12 = 72,000.

Hebrews 12:22

"But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels,"

Revelation 5:11

"Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,"

Titles, Names, and Classifications of Angels

In addition to simply being called angel, the Bible refers to angels in the following ways.

Holy one and holy ones

Daniel 4:13; also Daniel 4:17, 23

"I saw in the visions of my head while on my bed, and there was a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven."

Saints

Deuteronomy 33:2

"And he said: "The Lord came from Sinai, and dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, and He came with ten thousands of saints; from His right hand came a fiery law for them."

Sons of God

Job 1:6

"Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them."

Sons of the mighty

Psalm 89:6

"For who in the heavens can be compared to the Lord? Who among the sons of the mighty can be likened to the Lord?"

Mighty ones

Psalm 29:1

"Give unto the Lord, O you mighty ones, give unto the Lord glory and strength."

Watchers

Daniel 4:13: also Daniel 4:17, 23

"I saw in the visions of my head while on my bed, and there was a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven." The Hebrew word for watcher used here is only found in Daniel 4.

Ministering spirits

Hebrews 1:14

"Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?"

Hosts, host of heaven, and heavenly host

God calls Himself the Lord of hosts more than 250 times in the Bible. It means the Lord of heavenly armies.

Psalm 103:20-21

"²⁰ Bless the Lord, you His angels, who excel in strength, who do His word, heeding the voice of His word. ²¹ Bless the Lord, all you His hosts, you ministers of His, who do His pleasure."

2 Chronicles 18:18

"Then Micaiah said, "Therefore hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing on His right hand and His left."

Luke 2:13

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:"

Powers of heaven

Matthew 24:29

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken."

Luke 21:26

"men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken."

Thrones, dominions, principalities, or powers (These can refer to good or bad angels.)

Definitions from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words.

Thrones = Metonymy (a figure of speech) for angelic powers.

Dominions (Control or the exercise of control; sovereignty) = Lordship; a grade of angelic orders, in which it stands second.

Principalities = A supramundane (transcending or superior above the physical world or above our system; celestial) being who exercises rule, both holy angels (Ephesians 3:10) and evil angels (Colossians 2:15).

Romans 8:38

"For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,"

1 Corinthians 15:24

"Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power."

Ephesians 1:21

"far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come."

Ephesians 3:10

"to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,"

Ephesians 6:12

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."

Colossians 1:16

"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."

Colossians 2:10

"and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power."

Colossians 2:15

"Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it."

1 Peter 3:22

"who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him."

Cherubim

The word cherub is used 27 times in the Bible. The plural form, cherubim, occurs 64 times. They are never called angels even though they appear to be a type of angel.

Genesis 3:24

"So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life."

They guard the tree of life in the garden of Eden.

Exodus 25:18-20, 22

¹⁸ And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work you shall make them at the two ends of the mercy seat. ¹⁹ Make one cherub at one end, and the other cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim at the two ends of it of one piece with the mercy seat. ²⁰ And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat.

²² And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel."

Symbolic representations of cherubim are on each end of the mercy seat. God speaks to the people between them.

Exodus 26:1

"Moreover you shall make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine woven linen and blue, purple, and scarlet thread; with artistic designs of cherubim you shall weave them."

Artistic designs of cherubim are woven into the tabernacle curtains.

1 Chronicles 28:18

"and refined gold by weight for the altar of incense, and for the construction of the chariot, that is, the gold cherubim that spread their wings and overshadowed the ark of the covenant of the Lord." God's plan for the temple included cherubim.

2 Samuel 22:11; Psalm 18:10

"He rode upon a cherub, and flew; and He was seen upon the wings of the wind."
Cherubim constitute the chariots on which God rides.

Psalm 68:17

"The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of thousands; the Lord is among them as in Sinai, in the Holy Place."

Isaiah 66:15

"For behold, the Lord will come with fire and with His chariots, like a whirlwind, to render His anger with fury, and His rebuke with flames of fire."

See Ezekiel 1:1-28; 10:1-22.

Seraphim

Seraphim means burning ones or shining ones probably referring to their consuming devotion to God. Or it may refer to their burning brilliance since they are so close to the presence of God.

They provide a picture of praising God with absolute reverence and adoration. They also perform purification to take away iniquity and purge sin. They are only mentioned in Isaiah by name. The living creatures in Revelation are similar to the Seraphim.

Isaiah 6:1-7

¹ In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. ² Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!" ⁴ And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵ So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts. ⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. ⁷ And he touched my mouth with it, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged."

Archangel (an angel of high rank; a chief or principal angel)

The word archangel is only mentioned twice in the Bible.

1 Thessalonians 4:16

"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first."

Jude 9

"Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

Michael

Michael is involved with at least five biblical events. He is involved in protecting and fighting.

Daniel 10:13, 21

¹³ But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.

²¹ But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince."

Michael, the prince of angels, came to the aid of another angel who had been sent by God to Daniel but was detained for 21 days by the prince of Persia.

Daniel 12:1

"At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book."

Michael will fight for God's people in the perilous times preceding the second coming of Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 4:16

"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first."

Michael may be the archangel who will help announce the return of Jesus.

Jude 9

"Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

Revelation 12:7-8

⁷ And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸ but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer." Michael has his own angels. They defeated Satan and his angels.

Gabriel

Gabriel is a messenger. His name means Mighty One of God, the Man of God, the Hero of God. He appears on at least four occasions in the Scriptures.

Daniel 8:16

"And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai, who called, and said, "Gabriel, make this man understand the vision."

Daniel 9:21

"yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering."
Gabriel's purpose was to provide Daniel the ability to understand the vision.

Luke 1:11-20

Gabriel, an angel of the Lord, announced the birth of John to his father Zacharias.

Luke 1:26-38

The angel, Gabriel, announced to Mary that she would conceive of the Holy Spirit and give birth to the Savior.

The Angel of the Lord.

See the next page.

The Angel of the Lord

The Angel of the Lord is mentioned by this name 57 times in the NKJV. Some believe that the Angel of the Lord is God himself, others believe that it is Jesus, and others believe that it is a special angel.

Genesis 16:7, 13

"⁷ Now the Angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur." ¹³ Then she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees; for she said, "Have I also here seen Him who sees me?" The Angel of the Lord cares when God's people hurt. He comforted Hagar. Hagar acknowledged that it was the Lord who spoke to her.

Genesis 22:11

"But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." The Angel of the Lord cares when God's people are tested. He confirmed God's promises with Abraham.

Exodus 3:2

"And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed."
God spoke to Moses and told him what to do. In Exodus 4 the Lord gave Moses signs to assure him that He had appeared to him.

Exodus 14:19-20

"¹⁹ And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them. ²⁰ So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus it was a cloud and darkness to the one, and it gave light by night to the other, so that the one did not come near the other all that night."

Exodus 13:21-22 says that "the Lord went before them" to guide them and give direction.

Christ, the spiritual rock, was with them in the wilderness - 1 Corinthians 10:1-4.

Judges 6:11-12

"¹¹ Now the Angel of the Lord came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites. ¹² And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and said to him, "The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!"

The Angel of the Lord called and commissioned Gideon to save Israel from the Midianites.

The Angel of the Lord is also referred to as the Angel of God in Judges 6:20-21.

Psalms 34:7

"The Angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them."

The Angel of the Lord provides protection for God's people.

2 Kings 19:35

"And it came to pass on a certain night that the Angel of the Lord went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead." The Angel of the Lord protected Israel from the Assyrian army.

1 Chronicles 21:12, 15, 16, 30

The Angel of the Lord brought judgment, punishment, and destruction to Israel because David disobeyed God by numbering Israel.

Form of Angels

What do angels look like? How do they appear to people?

Angels can assume any form that God chooses.
We may not recognize angels when they do appear to us.

Hebrews 13:2

"Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels."

Angels are invisible to human vision until God makes them visible.

Colossians 1:16

"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."

Numbers 22:22-35

Balaam did not see the Angel of the Lord even though his donkey did. The Lord had to enable Balaam to see the angel.

2 Kings 6:14-17

Elisha's servant could not see the angels until God opened his eyes.

Angels appeared as horses pulling chariots of fire.

2 Kings 6:14-17

"¹⁴ Therefore he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city. ¹⁵ And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" ¹⁶ So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." ¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, and said, "Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."

Angels appeared as a flame of fire.

Exodus 3:2

"And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed."

Hebrews 1:7

"And of the angels He says: "Who makes His angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire."

Angels were described as stars.

1. The morning stars in Job 38:7 must have been angels. They could not have been physical stars because those stars were not created until the fourth day - Genesis 1:16, 19. The earth was created on the third day - Genesis 1:9-13.

Job 38:4-7

⁴Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.

⁵Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?

⁶To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone,

⁷When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?"

2. Perhaps Deborah and Barak were singing about warrior angels when they referred to stars in Judges 5:20 as they praised God for His supernatural assistance in the victories over the armies of Sisera and the other Canaanite kings.

Judges 5:20

"They fought from the heavens; the stars from their courses fought against Sisera."

3. Angels associated with Jesus' resurrection were described with bright white shining garments and lightening.

Matthew 28:2-3

²And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. ³His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow."

Luke 24:4

"And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments."

4. A light shone in the prison when the angel of the Lord appeared to Peter.

Acts 12:7

"Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, "Arise quickly!" And his chains fell off his hands."

5. Satan tries to mimic the angels in their shining brilliance.

2 Corinthians 11:14

"And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light."

6. John describes Jesus holding seven stars which represent the angels of the seven churches of Asia.

Revelation 1:16, 20

¹⁶ He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

²⁰ The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches."

7. Angels were described as stars fallen from heaven to earth.

Luke 10:18

"And He (Jesus) said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven."

Revelation 8:10

"Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water."

Revelation 9:1

"Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit."

8. A mighty angel coming down from heaven was described with a face like the sun.

Revelation 10:1

"I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire."

Angels most often appeared as men.

There is no Bible example of angels appearing in female form. This is a popular idea without any scriptural basis.

The angels often appeared dressed in white and/or bright clothing.
Many times angels were not immediately recognized as angels.
Angels often appeared in a dream or vision.

Genesis 18:1-2

¹ Then the Lord appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day. ² So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground,"

Genesis 19:1, 15, 16

¹ Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground. ¹⁵ When the morning dawned, the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, "Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city." ¹⁶ And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the Lord being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city."

Genesis 32:24, 28

²⁴ Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. ²⁸ And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."

Hosea 12:2-4

² The Lord also brings a charge against Judah, and will punish Jacob according to his ways; according to his deeds He will recompense him. ³ He took his brother by the heel in the womb, and in his strength he struggled with God. ⁴ Yes, he struggled with the Angel and prevailed; he wept, and sought favor from Him. He found Him in Bethel, and there He spoke to us—"

Judges 13:9-11

⁹ And God listened to the voice of Manoah, and the Angel of God came to the woman again as she was sitting in the field; but Manoah her husband was not with her. ¹⁰ Then the woman ran in haste and told her husband, and said to him, "Look, the Man who came to me the other day has just now appeared to me!" ¹¹ So Manoah arose and followed his wife. When he came to the Man, he said to Him, "Are You the Man who spoke to this woman?"

Mark 16:5

"And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed."

Acts 1:9-11

⁹ Now when He (Jesus) had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, ¹¹ who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

Acts 10:3-7, 30

Cornelius described the angel who appeared to him in a vision as a man in bright clothing.

Can angels fly and do angels have wings?

There is no biblical reference to angels having wings even though the Bible says on a few occasions that they can fly.

Daniel 9:21

"yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering."

Revelation 14:6

"Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—"

Some people assume that angels have wings because cherubim and seraphim are described with wings. See Exodus 25:20 and Isaiah 6:2. We will study cherubim and seraphim later. Ezekiel 1:6 and other scriptures describe symbolic creatures with wings.

However, we have no assurance that what is true of the symbolic cherubim, seraphim, and winged creatures is true of angels. We have no specific Bible example of angels having wings.

Others ideas people have that angels look like.

There are no examples of angels in the Bible with halos above their heads.

There are no examples of angels in the Bible looking like babies or infants.

Attributes of Angels

What are angels like? What are their characteristics or traits?

We have already learned much about what angels are like and more will be learned in the later lessons, but here are a few of their attributes.

Angels are unique and differ from each other.

This was very apparent from our study of the **Titles, Names, and Classifications of Angels** and the **Form of Angels**.

Angels are spirits.

Psalm 104:4

"Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire."

Hebrews 1:14

"Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?"

Luke 24:39

"Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."

Angels are not marriageable.

Matthew 22:30

"For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven."

Mark 12:25

"For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven."

Luke 20:35-36

"³⁵ But those who are counted worthy to attain that age, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; ³⁶ nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection." Angels are also immortal. They cannot die.

Angels have superhuman knowledge, but they do not know everything.

2 Samuel 14:20

"To bring about this change of affairs your servant Joab has done this thing; but my lord is wise, according to the wisdom of the angel of God, to know everything that is in the earth."

Matthew 24:36

"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only."

1 Peter 1:12

"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."

Angels can be curious about things they do not know.

Angels have superhuman power granted by God and limited by God.

Psalm 103:20

"Bless the Lord, you His angels, who excel in strength, who do His word, heeding the voice of His word."

2 Thessalonians 1:7

"and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels,"

The powerful angels, including Michael, recognized their limitations.

2 Peter 2:11

"whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord."

Jude 9

"Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

Angels have emotions.

Luke 2:10

"Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people."

Luke 15:10

"Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Angels have free will to chose to do right or wrong.

Jude 6

"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;"

2 Peter 2:4

"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;"

See more about fallen angels later in the study on **The Origin of Satan and Fallen Angels.**

Angels are not limited by the laws of nature and physics.

Angels move between heaven and earth.

Genesis 28:12-13

¹² Then he (Jacob) dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

¹³ And behold, the Lord stood above it and said: "I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants."

Angels can be in the presence of God one moment and at the side of man the next.

Daniel 9:20-23

²⁰ Now while I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God for the holy mountain of my God, ²¹ yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering. ²² And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. ²³ At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you,"

Angels and Jesus

How did the angels announce the coming of the Christ child?

Luke 1:11-25

An angel of the Lord, Gabriel, appeared to Zacharias and announced the birth of John.

Luke 1:26-38

The angel, Gabriel, appeared to Mary and explained that she would give birth to Jesus.

Matthew 1:18-25

The Angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and explained the birth of Jesus to him.

Luke 2:9-15

An angel of the Lord announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds. The angel and a multitude of the heavenly host praised God. The angels then returned to heaven.

Matthew 2:13-18

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and warned him to take Jesus and Mary to Egypt.

Matthew 2:19-23

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him that it was safe to return to Israel with Jesus.

How did the angels minister to Jesus?

Matthew 4:11; Mark 1:13

Angels came and ministered to Jesus following His 40 days of fasting in the wilderness and the temptations by Satan.

Luke 22:39-46

See verse 43. An angel appeared to Jesus from heaven, strengthening Him during His emotional agony while praying in Gethsemane.

Matthew 26:53

"Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?"

What did the angels do at Jesus' resurrection?

Matthew 28:1-7; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-10; John 20:12-13

An angel with a countenance like lightening and bright white clothing descended from heaven and rolled back the stone from the door of the tomb. The angel explained to the women what happened to Jesus and told them what to do. Luke and John says there were two angels dressed in white shining garments.

What did the angels do at Jesus' ascension?

The descriptions of Jesus' ascension indicate that angels may have carried or accompanied Jesus to heaven just as we read that angels carried the beggar Lazarus to Abraham's bosom when he died.

Luke 16:22

"So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried."

John 1:51

"And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Mark 16:19

"So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God."

Luke 24:51

"Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven." The apostles saw Jesus carried up into heaven.

Acts 1:9-11

"⁹ Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, ¹¹ who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

1 Peter 3:22

Jesus "who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him."

What will angels do when Jesus returns?

Jesus holy and mighty Angels will be with Him when He returns and announces His coming with the voice of an archangel.

Jesus will send out His angels to gather the unrighteous and cast them into the furnace of fire. He also will send His angels to gather His elect.

Matthew 13:41-42

"⁴¹ 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, ⁴² and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

Matthew 13:49-50

"⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, ⁵⁰ and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

Matthew 16:27

"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."

Matthew 24:30-31

³⁰ Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.
³¹ And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

Matthew 25:31

"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory."

1 Thessalonians 4:16

"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first."

2 Thessalonians 1:7

"and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels,"

What Are Other Activities of Angels?

Activity of angels in the church.

We are not told how the angels are present. All that is revealed is the fact of their presence. The Bible is very clear that angels are active in helping God's people. It is not always clear how they do this.

1 Corinthians 4:9

"For I think that 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."

The angels were watching the apostles.

1 Corinthians 11:10

"For this reason the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels."

Ephesians 3:10

"to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,"

1 Timothy 5:21

"I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality."

Now let's look at specific examples of the activities of angels with God's people.

Angels are God's trustworthy messengers.

Luke 1:11-25

An angel of the Lord, Gabriel, appeared to Zacharias and announced the birth of John.

Luke 1:26-38

The angel, Gabriel, appeared to Mary and explained that she would give birth to Jesus.

Matthew 1:18-25

The Angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and explained the birth of Jesus to him.

Luke 2:9-15

An angel of the Lord announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds. The angel and a multitude of the heavenly host praised God. The angels then returned to heaven.

Revelation 1:1

"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John,"

Angels helped deliver God's laws and revelations.

Acts 7:53

"who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it."

Also see Galatians 3:19 and Hebrews 2:2.

Angels brought teachers to lost souls.

Acts 8:26

An angel sent Philip to teach the Ethiopian treasurer.

Acts 10:3; 11:13-14

An angel told Cornelius to send for Peter.

Note, however, that the angels do not do the teaching. God instructed humans to preach the gospel. See Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; 2 Corinthians 4:7.

Angels guard and protect.

The term "guardian angel" nowhere occurs in scriptures. However, it is very clear that God's people are guarded by an angel and often by multiple angels.

Exodus 23:20

"Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared."

Psalms 34:7

"The Angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them."

Psalms 91:11-12

¹¹ For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.

¹² In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone."

Daniel 6:22

"God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths" to protect Daniel.

Matthew 18:10

God's children have angels who watch over them.

Matthew 2:13

An angel protected the baby Jesus from Herod's massacre.

Acts 5:18-20

An angel released the apostles from prison and told them to go speak to the people.

Acts 12:5-17

An angel led Peter out of prison and he went to where the church was praying.

Acts 27:23-25

An angel told Paul "Do not be afraid" because he would be protected from the shipwreck.

Angels minister to our needs.

Genesis 16:7-13

The first actual usage of the word angel is to encourage Hagar.

Genesis 21:17-19

Angels cared for Ishmael.

Genesis 19:16

Two angels led Lot, his wife, and their 2 daughters out of Sodom before God destroyed it.

Exodus 13:21-22; 14:19-20

The angel of God provided direction and protection to the Israelites.

1 Kings 19:5-8

Angels provided for Elijah.

Matthew 4:11; Mark 1:13

Angels ministered to Jesus following His wilderness fasting and temptations.

Luke 22:43

An angel appeared to Jesus from heaven, strengthening Him during His Gethsemane prayer and agony.

Hebrews 1:14

"Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?"

Angels escort the righteous dead to be with God.

2 Kings 2:9-12

⁹ And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?" Elisha said, "Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me." ¹⁰ So he said, "You have asked a hard thing. Nevertheless, if you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so." ¹¹ Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. ¹² And Elisha saw it, and he cried out, "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!" So he saw him no more. And he took hold of his own clothes and tore them into two pieces."

Luke 16:22

"So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried."

Jude 9

"Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

See Deuteronomy 34:5-6.

Psalm 23:4

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."

Angels execute judgment.

Genesis 19:1, 13
Angels destroyed Sodom.

Psalms 78:43-51
God used angels to deliver the plagues upon Egypt.

Psalms 78:49
"He cast on them the fierceness of His anger, wrath, indignation, and trouble, by sending angels of destruction among them."

Exodus 12:23 calls the angel who delivered the tenth plague the destroyer.

2 Samuel 24:16
"And when the angel stretched out His hand over Jerusalem to destroy it, the Lord relented from the destruction, and said to the angel who was destroying the people, "It is enough; now restrain your hand." And the angel of the Lord was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite."

Isaiah 37:36
"Then the angel of the Lord went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead."

Isaiah 66:15-16
"¹⁵ For behold, the Lord will come with fire and with His chariots, like a whirlwind, to render His anger with fury, and His rebuke with flames of fire. ¹⁶ For by fire and by His sword the Lord will judge all flesh; and the slain of the Lord shall be many."

Matthew 13:41-42
"⁴¹ 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, ⁴² and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

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

Angels minister to the saints at the second coming of Jesus and the judgment.

Jesus holy and mighty angels will be with Him when He returns and announce His coming with the voice of an archangel. He will send His angels to gather His elect.

Matthew 24:30-31
"³⁰ Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

"¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord."

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

"⁷ and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, ⁸ in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,"

Angels praise and worship.

Psalm 29:1-2

"¹ Give unto the Lord, O you mighty ones, give unto the Lord glory and strength. ² Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness."

Psalm 103:20-21

"²⁰ Bless the Lord, you His angels, who excel in strength, who do His word, heeding the voice of His word. ²¹ Bless the Lord, all you His hosts, you ministers of His, who do His pleasure."

Psalm 148:1-6

"¹ 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. ⁶ He also established them forever and ever; He made a decree which shall not pass away."

Hebrews 1:6

"But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him."

Revelation 5:11-14

Revelation 7:11-12

Angels Must Not Be Worshipped

Romans 1:25

"who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen."

Colossians 2:18

"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,"

Revelation 19:10

"And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

Revelation 22:8-9

"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."

The Origin of Satan and Fallen Angels

In order to understand about fallen angels we should also learn about the origin and nature of Satan.

What was the origin of Satan? Where did Satan come from? Did Satan always exist? Did God create Satan? Was Satan always evil? Was Satan an angel? Is Satan a fallen angel?

Did Satan always exist or was he created?

The Bible says that God created everything that exists. Therefore, Satan did not always exist. God created Satan.

Nehemiah 9:6

"You alone are the Lord; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You."

John 1:1-3

"¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."

Colossians 1:15-17

"¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist."

Was Satan always evil?

No, God did not create evil. We know that Satan was not always evil because everything that God created was "very good." For that same reason we know that angels were also created good.

Genesis 1:31 - 2:1

"³¹ Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

¹ Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished."

Since God did not create evil, when did Satan become evil?

The origin of sin will help answer that question. Evil and sin did not originate in the garden of Eden with the temptation of Eve. At some point after God completed creation and before that temptation of Eve in the garden, Lucifer (Satan) chose to rebel against God and was cast down from heaven to earth along with the angels who joined the rebellion.

The following Scriptures may help answer when sin originated and when Satan became evil. Let's look at Satan's early history. Satan was created a good angel but was cast out of heaven because of his rebellion. Many other angels joined the rebellion and were also cast out of heaven.

Satan had "I" trouble. Notice in Isaiah 14:13-14 that Lucifer used the pronoun "I" five times asserting that he wanted to have the highest position in creation including equality with God. It appears that Lucifer (Satan) became evil when he tried to make himself like God in power and authority.

The Isaiah passage was originally addressed to the king of Babylon. Like many prophecies it has a dual meaning. The language here suggests that the application goes beyond an earthly ruler to a supernatural being. The language fits what we know about Satan. Notice that Lucifer fell from heaven. Notice the five times that Lucifer claims "I will." This rebellion against God led to his downfall.

Isaiah 14:12-15

¹²How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! ¹³For you have said in your heart: "I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; ¹⁴I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High." ¹⁵Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit."

Ezekiel 28:1-19

This prophecy was directed to the king of Tyre. Like the Isaiah passage the language indicates that it also describes the fall of Satan. He claimed to be a god - verses 2, 6, 9. He was in the garden of Eden - verse 13. He was created perfect and anointed a cherub - verses 14-15. Pride was his downfall - verses 2, 17.

Proverb 16:18

"Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

Why did angels rebel against God?

We know that God did not create them evil because everything He created was "very good." - Genesis 1:31.

Some theories hold God responsible.

We cannot accept the theory that God made them rebel.

1 Corinthians 14:33

"For God is not the author of confusion but of peace,"

Neither can we accept the theory that God placed any temptation before them.

James 1:13

"Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone."

The Bible does not specifically say why the angels rebelled.

Probably the best answer for the fall of angels is the same as for the fall of man. Angels were given the free will of choice. Angels were given the opportunity to obey God or not obey Him of their own free will. They can choose to sin. The wicked angels chose not to obey Him. Their fall was because of their own self-determined rebellion against God and their desire to follow the lead of Lucifer.

What was the result of the rebellion in heaven?

Luke 10:18

"And He (Jesus) said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven."

Satan, described as a dragon, was cast out of heaven. He may have taken with him a third of the angels. Stars frequently represent angels as we studied earlier in **Angels were described as stars**.

Revelation 12:3-4

³And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. ⁴His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth."

Revelation 12:7-9

⁷And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. ⁹So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."

What is the final outcome of the fall of Satan and the wicked angels?

Matthew 25:41

"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, "Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:"

Romans 16:20

"And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly."

Hebrews 2:14

"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,"

2 Peter 2:4

"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;"

Jude 6

"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;"

Revelation 20:1-15 also describes Satan's final outcome.

Can angels be redeemed?

You and I have redemption through the blood of Christ and can be forgiven of our sins.

Ephesians 1:7

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace"

It seems that God does not offer that possibility of redemption to the angels.

Hebrews 2:16

"For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham."

The reason may be because God made the angels a little higher than man and more was expected of them. The angels were privileged to be in the very presence of God in heaven.

Luke 12:48

"For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more."

We conclude that Satan and his angels were initially created as angels and were "very good." However, because of their sinful rebellion they were cast out of heaven and condemned eternally.

What Is Satan Called?

Satan has many names and descriptions in the Bible.

Satan (Hebrew meaning enemy, adversary, accuser, opposer) occurs 52 times in the Bible.

1 Chronicles 21:1
Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7
Zechariah 3:1-2
Matthew 4:10
2 Corinthians 2:11
1 Timothy 1:20
Revelation 12:9
Revelation 20:2, 7

Devil (Greek meaning slanderer) occurs 35 times in the Bible.

Matthew 4:1, 5, 8, 11
Matthew 13:39
John 13:2
Ephesians 6:11
1 Peter 5:8
James 4:7
Revelation 12:9
Revelation 20:2, 10

Serpent

Genesis 3:1-15
Isaiah 27:1
2 Corinthians 11:3
Revelation 12:9, 14, 15
Revelation 20:2

Dragon

Revelation 12:3, 4, 7, 9, 13, 17
Revelation 13:2, 4
Revelation 20:2

Tempter

Matthew 4:3
1 Thessalonians 3:5

Wicked one or evil one

Matthew 13:19, 38
John 17:15
Ephesians 6:16

1 John 2:13-14

1 John 5:18-19

Adversary

1 Peter 5:8

Lucifer (Hebrew meaning shining one)

Isaiah 14:12

Beelzebub (Hebrew meaning lord of flies or lord of the dwelling; one of the gods of the Philistines)

Matthew 10:25

Matthew 12:24, 27

Mark 3:22

Luke 11:15, 18-19

Belial (meaning worthless or ruin)

2 Corinthians 6:15

The ruler of this world

John 12:31

John 14:30

John:16:11

The god of this age

2 Corinthians 4:4

The prince or ruler of the kingdom of the air

Ephesians 2:2

Destroyer (From the Hebrew word Abaddon and the Greek word Apollyon.)

Revelation 9:11

Accuser

Revelation 12:10

Satan's Work on Earth

Satan is real and active in his evil work and efforts to turn people away from God.

Satan began his work on earth by tempting Eve to sin in the garden of Eden.

Genesis 3:1-15 is the first recorded work of Satan on earth.

2 Corinthians 11:3

"The serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness."

Revelation 12:9

Satan was called "that serpent of old".

Satan tempted Cain to kill Abel.

John 8:44

"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it."

Genesis 4:6-8

"⁶ So the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it." ⁸ Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him."

1 John 3:8-12

"⁸ He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. ⁹ Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. ¹⁰ In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother. ¹¹ For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, ¹² not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous."

Other examples of Satan's work in the Old Testament.

1 Chronicles 21:1

"Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel."

Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7

Satan did everything in his power to afflict Job to get him to curse God.

Zechariah 3:1-2

"¹ Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. ² And the Lord said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?"

Satan's activity during the life of Jesus.

1. The devil (tempter; Satan) tempted Jesus in the wilderness following His forty days of fasting. See Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:13; Luke 4:1-13.

2. The devil oppressed people and Jesus healed them.

Acts 10:38

"how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him."

This was very evident in the large number of demon-possessed people from whom Jesus cast out demons. This will be shown in a later lesson on **What the Bible Says about Demons**.

3. Satan tempted Judas to betray Jesus.

Luke 22:3-6

"³ Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve. ⁴ So he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him to them. ⁵ And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. ⁶ So he promised and sought opportunity to betray Him to them in the absence of the multitude."

4. Satan tried to destroy Simon Peter's faith.

Luke 22:31-32

"³¹ And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. ³² But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

Jesus' teaching about the activity of Satan.

1. Satan wants to remove the word of God from your heart.

Matthew 13:19

"When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside."

Luke 8:12

"Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved."

2. Satan sows bad seed and produces evil. The evil work of Satan will be destroyed along with him.

Matthew 13:37-42

³⁷ He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. ³⁹ The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. ⁴⁰ Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. ⁴¹ 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, ⁴² and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

3. Jesus will cast out Satan and Satan will be judged to eternal punishment.

John 12:31

"Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out."

John 14:30

"I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me."

John 16:11

"of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged."

Also, see our previous lessons on **What was the result of the rebellion in heaven?** and **What is the final outcome of the fall of Satan and the wicked angels?**

Satan's activity after the church was established.

1. Satan tempts people to lie. See John 8:44.

Acts 5:3

"But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?"

2. Satan uses the temptation of sexual sin.

1 Corinthians 7:5

"Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control."

3. Satan uses multiple ways to take advantage of us.

2 Corinthians 2:11

"lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices."

2 Corinthians 4:4

"whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them."

2 Corinthians 12:7

"And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure."

Ephesians 4:26-27

"²⁶ Be angry, and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, ²⁷ nor give place to the devil."

2 Timothy 2:26

"and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will."

Acts 26:18

"to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me."

4. Satan infiltrates the church with his workers.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

"¹³ For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.

¹⁴ And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. ¹⁵ Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works."

5. Satan hinders those who do God's work.

1 Thessalonians 2:18

"Therefore we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us."

6. We must prepare for spiritual warfare against Satan and his evil angels with the whole armor of God.

Ephesians 2:2

"in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,"

Ephesians 6:11-12, 16

¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one."

7. We must and can resist Satan.

James 4:7

"Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

1 Peter 5:8-9

⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world."

8. The devil made me do it! is a popular excuse. However, we are responsible for our own actions. Satan tempts us to sin, but we are not defenseless when we are attacked by the tempter. God places limits on Satan and demons today just as He limited Satan attacks on Job.

1 Corinthians 10:13

"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."

9. Much about Satan and his work is a mystery.

2 Thessalonians 2:7-9

⁷ 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. ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. ⁹ The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,"

What the Bible Says about Demons

There are about 100 references to demons in the Bible, most of them occurring in the New Testament.

Demons are also called spirits. Demons possessed people.

Matthew 8:16

"When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick,"

Luke 10:17, 20 also identifies demons as spirits.

¹⁷ Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name."

²⁰ Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

Jesus gave the power to the apostles to cast out unclean spirits (demons).

Matthew 10:1

"And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease."

Beelzebub (Satan) is the ruler of the demons. Demons could re-enter a cleansed person. Jesus refers to demons as unclean spirits.

Matthew 12:22-28, 43-45

²² Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. ²³ And all the multitudes were amazed and said, "Could this be the Son of David?" ²⁴ Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons." ²⁵ But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. ²⁶ If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand ²⁷ And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges. ²⁸ But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you."

⁴³ When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. ⁴⁴ Then he says, "I will return to my house from which I came." And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. ⁴⁵ Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation."

Luke 11:14-26

¹⁴ And He was casting out a demon, and it was mute. So it was, when the demon had gone out, that the mute spoke; and the multitudes marveled. ¹⁵ But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons." ¹⁶ Others, testing Him, sought from Him a sign from heaven. ¹⁷ But He, knowing their thoughts, said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and a house divided against a house falls. ¹⁸ If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? Because you say I cast out demons by Beelzebub. ¹⁹ And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁰ But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²¹ When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace. ²² But when a stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him, he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoils. ²³ He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters. ²⁴ When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' ²⁵ And when he comes, he finds it swept and put in order. ²⁶ Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first."

Casting out demons was not a casual activity. It required prayer and fasting.

Matthew 17:14-21

¹⁴ And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, ¹⁵ "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. ¹⁶ So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him." ¹⁷ Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me." ¹⁸ And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. ¹⁹ Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" ²⁰ So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, "Move from here to there," and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. ²¹ However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."

Mark 9:17-29

¹⁷ Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. ¹⁸ And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not." ¹⁹ He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." ²⁰ Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. ²¹ So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. ²² And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." ²³ Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." ²⁴ Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" ²⁵ When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" ²⁶ Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. ²⁸ And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" ²⁹ So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."

Demons recognized who Jesus was.

Mark 1:23-27, 32-34, 39

"²³ Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, ²⁴ saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!" ²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" ²⁶ And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him. ²⁷ Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him."

"³² At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. ³³ And the whole city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴ Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him."

"³⁹ And He was preaching in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and casting out demons."

Also see Luke 4:33-36 about this man in the synagogue who had a spirit of an unclean demon.

Mark 3:11-12

"¹¹ And the unclean spirits, whenever they saw Him, fell down before Him and cried out, saying, "You are the Son of God." ¹² But He sternly warned them that they should not make Him known."

Mark 7:24-30

"²⁴ From there He arose and went to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And He entered a house and wanted no one to know it, but He could not be hidden. ²⁵ For a woman whose young daughter had an unclean spirit heard about Him, and she came and fell at His feet. ²⁶ The woman was a Greek, a Syro-Phoenician by birth, and she kept asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ But Jesus said to her, "Let the children be filled first, for it is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." ²⁸ And she answered and said to Him, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs under the table eat from the children's crumbs."

²⁹ Then He said to her, "For this saying go your way; the demon has gone out of your daughter."

³⁰ And when she had come to her house, she found the demon gone out, and her daughter lying on the bed."

A person could become a productive faithful follower of Christ after the demons were cast out.

Luke 8:1-2

"¹ Now it came to pass, afterward, that He went through every city and village, preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with Him, ² and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities—Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons,"

Mark 16:9

"Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons."

Demons are powerful and violent. Demons can enter into people or animals. These demons begged Jesus not to send them into the abyss. See Romans 10:7

Luke 8:27-36

²⁷ And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!" ²⁹ For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness. ³⁰ Jesus asked him, saying, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," because many demons had entered him. ³¹ And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss. ³² Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. So they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He permitted them. ³³ Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned. ³⁴ When those who fed them saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵ Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. ³⁶ They also who had seen it told them by what means he who had been demon-possessed was healed."

Also see Matthew 8:28-34 and Mark 5:1-18.

**A person can be sick without it being caused by evil spirits.
Jesus healed many who were sick separate and apart from the unclean spirits.
A person can be afflicted by disease, infirmities, and afflictions without being possessed by demons.**

Luke 6:17-18

¹⁷ And He came down with them and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases, ¹⁸ as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed."

Luke 7:21

"And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight."

Miraculous signs such as casting out demons in Jesus name was to confirm the word.

Mark 16:17-20

¹⁷ And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." ¹⁹ So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. ²⁰ And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen."

The apostles healed those tormented by unclean spirits.

Acts 5:16

"Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed."

Evil spirits possessed people after Pentecost.

Philip had the power to perform miracles. The apostles had laid hands on him - Acts 6:5-6.

Acts 8:5-7

⁵ Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. ⁶ And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. ⁷ For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed."

Simon practiced the forbidden act of sorcery before he was converted to Christ.

See Acts 8:9-24.

Elymas the sorcerer was called a son of the devil by the apostle Paul.

See Acts 13:4-12.

Paul cast out a spirit of divination that possessed a girl in Thyatira.

Acts 16:16-18

¹⁶ Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." ¹⁸ And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour."

These are the last recorded incidents of demon possession in the New Testament.

Acts 19:11-20

¹¹ Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, ¹² so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them. ¹³ Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches." ¹⁴ Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. ¹⁵ And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?" ¹⁶ Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. ¹⁷ This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. ¹⁸ And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. ¹⁹ Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. ²⁰ So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed."

Demons teach false doctrines to those who listen to deceiving spirits.

1 Timothy 4:1-3

"¹ Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, ² speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, ³ forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth."

Demons believe in God and they are very afraid.

James 2:19

"You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!"

God condemned the practice of demonic activity in the Old Testament.

The main activities of demons are recorded in the New Testament. However, the presence of demons clearly existed in the Old Testament.

Deuteronomy 18:10-12

"¹⁰ There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, ¹¹ or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead.

¹² For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord, and because of these abominations the Lord your God drives them out from before you."

Spirits were consulted through sorcery even though it was forbidden.

Exodus 22:18

"You shall not permit a sorceress to live."

Leviticus 20:6

"And the person who turns to mediums and familiar spirits, to prostitute himself with them, I will set My face against that person and cut him off from his people."

1 Samuel 28:7-20

King Saul consulted a medium to bring up Samuel from the dead.

Idols were referred to as demons and worshipped.

Leviticus 17:7

"They shall no more offer their sacrifices to demons, after whom they have played the harlot. This shall be a statute forever for them throughout their generations."

Deuteronomy 32:17

"They sacrificed to demons, not to God, to gods they did not know, to new gods, new arrivals that your fathers did not fear."

2 Chronicles 11:15

"Then he appointed for himself priests for the high places, for the demons, and the calf idols which he had made."

Psalm 106:36-37

"³⁶They served their idols, which became a snare to them. ³⁷They even sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons,"

Are Demons the same as Satan's fallen angels?

There are different views regarding this question.

Some very reputable Bible scholars believe that demons are the spirits of dead wicked people.

Other very reputable Bible scholars believe that demons are some of Satan's fallen angels.

Since this study is about angels, here are some of the reasons given for the belief that demons are fallen angels.

1. They have the same ruler - Matthew 12:24, 26 and Matthew 25:41.
2. They are both spirits - Matthew 8:16 and Hebrews 1:14.
3. They are both unclean or wicked spirits - Luke 4:33-36 and Ephesians 6:12.
4. They are both evil - Luke 7:21 and 2 Peter 2:4.
5. They both seek to enter and control people - Luke 8:30 and Luke 22:3.
6. They both follow their leader Satan in spiritual warfare - 1 Timothy 4:1-3 and Ephesians 6:11-12.
7. They both believe in God and fear Him - James 2:19.
8. They will both be sent to the same punishment - Matthew 8:29; Luke 8:31 and Jude 6.

How active are the devil and his demons today?

There are different views regarding this question.

However, here are some facts:

1. The New Testament is very clear about the continuing spiritual warfare Christians face.
2. Satan and evil have been a powerful force since Eve was tempted by the serpent and will be active in different ways until the end of time.
3. Demon possession was wide spread during the ministry of Jesus.
4. No incidents of demon possession are recorded in the Old Testament.
5. Demon possession continued to some extent after the church was established but to a lesser degree.
6. The last recorded incident in the Bible was Acts 19:11-20.
7. The Bible does not indicate whether demon possession would continue.
8. Incidents do occur today that resemble demon possession or some kind of demonic activity.
9. Occult activities provide an opening for the devil and his demons to enter a person's life.

Be assured. Christians cannot be possessed by demons when we are serving God.

This we know:

1. There is no example in the Bible of Christians being possessed.
2. No man can serve two masters - Matthew 6:24.
3. Christian have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit - 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 1 John 4:4.
4. God will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we are able - 1 Corinthians 10:13.
5. God promised that we can resist the devil - James 4:7.
6. The whole armor of God protects us - Ephesians 6:10-18.

Conclusion

Our purpose of this Bible study was to discover what the Bible says about angels. We did not focus on myths, stories, and theories. Much has not been revealed in the Bible about angels. God revealed all that we need to know. Sometimes the work of angels is very clear. Other times it is not.

Deuteronomy 29:29

"The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law."

Remember these two things:

1. Satan and his angels are very real and we need to be able to stand against them.
2. Angels are very real and serve an important purpose and role in God's plan to help us.