

Angels

PART 2 - SCRIPTURE

In Part 1

- John sharing personal experiences.
 - They were just that: experiences.
 - Not necessarily doctrinal.
 - Though some may share commonality with Scripture.
 - They should not be taught as doctrine.
 - Lessons can still be learned from them.
 - Those lessons can be based on scriptural principles.

Now Part 2

- Scriptural Examples
 - Types of angels.
 - Functions of angels.
- Declared outright, and implied.
- Facts, beliefs, traditions of man.
 - Today we are going to focus on facts.
 - That is, the truth of Scripture.

My Belief

- We do not all have the same experiences.
- Doctrine, therefore, must be rooted in Scripture.
- Beliefs may combine experiences with the truth of Scripture.
- Traditions of man come mainly from the mind of man, often rooted in experiences, and sometimes based on beliefs of things true and untrue.
 - Oftentimes things passed down through generations.

Note

- ▶ *This is not an exhaustive study, rather, it gives an overview of angels based upon what can be found in Scripture. I have read that the words “angel”, “cherubim”, and “seraphim” are mentioned 365 times in the Bible. In addition, there are many more verses that refer to what the angels did or said. The influence of angels is also recorded in many places as people reacted to the message of the angels.*

From Bible.org

- ▶ *“Theologians have often viewed angels as a very difficult subject. Why? Because, while there is abundant mention of angels in the Bible, the nature of this revelation is without the same kind of explicit description we often find with other subjects developed in Scripture: Every reference to angels is incidental to some other topic. They are not treated in themselves. God’s revelation never aims at informing us regarding the nature of angels.”*

From Bible.org

▶ ***When they are mentioned, it is always in order to inform us further about God, what he does, and how he does it. Since details about angels are not significant for that purpose, they tend to be omitted.”***

- Millard J. Erickson, *Christian Theology*, Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, 1983, p. 434.
- From the article: Angels, God’s Ministering Spirits
 - <https://bible.org/article/angels-god%E2%80%99s-ministering-spirits>

Definition of Angels

- ***The Dictionary of Bible and Religion***
 - William H. Gentry, General Editor
 - ▶ ***“In biblical and most ancient nonbiblical Jewish and Christian texts, angels are spiritual or divine beings superior to humans in power and knowledge. Angels in the OT are generally viewed as in the service of God, but in later literature some angels are depicted as opponents of God.”***
- The Hebrew and Greek words both have the basic meaning of messenger.

Function of Angels

- Spiritual beings created by God to serve Him.
- To praise God, serve God, and carry out orders of God.
- They are shown to be divine messengers, protectors, and guides for the people of God, and in battle as troublers of those opposed to God.
 - Caution: angels are messengers, not teachers; they may deliver a message from God; teaching is from Scripture and Holy Spirit.
 - The ministry of angels will not contradict Scripture.
 - Angels always glorify God, never themselves.

Hebrews 1:14 ESV

- ▶ *Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?*
- Angels serve God.
 - For the sake of those who are saved.

Angels in General

- Angels appear throughout the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.
- Appear to have a level of free will.
 - Those who fell with Lucifer chose to follow him.
 - Those who chose to remain loyal to their Creator.
 - Fully obedient to the desires and commands of God.
- Execute God's universal will in heaven and on earth.
 - In heaven: praise God with reverence.
 - On earth: mediate God's love and good will to man.
- David's thanksgiving Psalm.

Psalm 103:20

- ▶ **Bless the LORD, O you His angels, you mighty ones who do His word, obeying the voice of His word.**

Angels Announce and Forewarn

- To Abraham and Sarah: the conception and birth of Isaac.
 - Genesis 18:9-21
- To Manoah and his wife: the birth of Samson.
 - Judges 13:2-24
- To Zechariah and Elizabeth: the birth of John the Baptist.
 - Luke 1:11-20
- To Mary: the conception and birth of Jesus.
 - Luke 1:26-38

Angels Announce and Forewarn

- To Abraham and Lot: the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.
 - Genesis 18:16-19:29
- To Joseph: take Mary and Jesus and flee to Egypt.
 - Matthew 2:13
- To Daniel: future events concerning God's judgment.
 - Daniel 8:19
- To John on Patmos: revelation of Christ in judgment and eternity.
 - The book of Revelation.

Angels Guide and Instruct

- Abraham had many conversations with angels.
 - Genesis 24:7: Abraham to his servant.

“He (God) will send His angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there.”

- Jacob’s ladder with the angels ascending and descending.
 - Genesis 28:12-15

Angels Guide and Instruct

- An angel sent as the Israelites were brought out of Egypt.
 - Numbers 20:16
- Stephen to the Sanhedrin: you received the law as delivered by angels.
 - Acts 7:53
- Paul: the law was put in place through angels.
 - Galatians 3:19
- To Manoah's wife: instructions for rearing Samson.
 - Judges 13:3-5
- To Joseph: Mary's conception and he was to marry her.
 - Matthew 20-23

Angels Guard and Defend

- Balaam: the angel of the LORD; aborting the plan to bring a curse of destruction on Israel
 - Numbers 22
- Elisha and his servant: God's army; horses and chariots of fire.
 - 2 Kings 6:15-17
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and the fiery furnace.
 - Daniel 3:28
- Daniel and the lions' den.
 - Daniel 6:22

Angels Guard and Defend

- Little ones and their guardian angels.
 - Matthew 18:10 – Jesus speaking:
- ▶ ***“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven.”***

Angels Guard and Defend

- The destroyer, the angel of death; delivering Israel out of Egypt.
 - Exodus 12:23, 29
- Against the king of Assyria who threatened Jerusalem; 185,000 struck down in the camp of the Assyrians.
 - 2 Kings 19:35
- Jesus declaring the availability of more than 12 legions of angels if He asked it of the Father.
 - Matthew 26:53

Angels Minister in Need

- To Hagar and her son when they were threatened with thirst and starvation.
 - Genesis 21:15-21
- To Elijah under a broom tree, in exhaustion, fear, and loneliness.
 - 1 Kings 19:5-7
- To Jesus in the wilderness.
 - Mark 1:13

Angels Minister in Need

- To Jesus in Gethsemane.
 - Luke 22:43
- Rolling back the stone at the tomb of Jesus.
 - Matthew 28:2
- Peter and other apostles delivered from chains and prison.
 - Acts 5:19, 12:6-11

Angels Assist in Judgment

- The death of Herod Agrippa.
 - Acts 12:23
- ▶ ***“Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.”***

Angels Assist in Judgment

- Angels throughout the book of Revelation.
- Angels attending Jesus at His second coming.
 - Matthew 25:31

Names of Angels

- ▶ Of the many, many biblical references to angels, there are four I could find with names, and another which is implied. We will not cover the almost 300 references today.

Names of Angels

- Gabriel
 - In the four passages Gabriel is mentioned, he is bringing a message from God.
 - He is often referred to as the messenger angel.
 - He appeared twice to Daniel, once to Zechariah, and once to Mary.
 - Those recorded, not necessarily all the appearances.
 - Daniel 8:15-16; Daniel 9:21-22; Luke 1:11-13, 18-20; Luke 1:26-29.

Names of Angels

- Michael
 - Michael is also mentioned in four passages of Scripture.
 - Described as an archangel.
 - Described as a warring angel.
 - Described as a chief prince.
 - Described as the great prince who protects the Israelites.
 - Daniel 10:13; Daniel 12:1; Jude 1:9; Revelation 12:7.

Names of Angels

- Lucifer
 - The fallen angel, now known as the devil, aka Satan.
 - Prior to his fall, he was known as a guardian cherub.
 - He is now known as the prince of the power of the air.
 - He is also known as the god of this world, among other things.
 - Thief, murderer, father of lies, and he masquerades as an angel of light.
 - Genesis 3:4; Isaiah 14:12; Ezekiel 28:12-19; John 5:19, 8:44, 10:10, 16:11; Romans 5:12; 2 Corinthians 4:4, 11:14; Ephesians 2:2; Revelation 12:9, 20:10.

Names of Angels

- Abaddon (Apollyon)
 - Mentioned only once in Scripture.
 - The angel of the abyss.
 - Hebrew is Abaddon; Greek is Apollyon; Destroyer.
 - Participates in judgment at the fifth trumpet.
 - King of what comes out of the bottomless pit.
 - Revelation 9:1-3, 11.

Names of Angels

- The Angel of the Lord (the implied name)
 - Many references in Scripture.
 - Sometimes, it appears, this angel is God Himself.
 - Some believe it is a pre-incarnate Jesus.
 - This is not made clear as far as I can find.
 - Genesis 16:7-13; Exodus 3:2-6; Judges 2:1, 6:12, 6:22, 13:18, 13:21-22.
- There is an unknown number of angels at God's command.

Jehovah-Sabaoth

- Psalm 24:10
 - “The Lord of Armies”
 - “The Lord of Hosts”
- ▶ ***Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory! Selah***

Jehovah-Sabaoth

- Matthew 26:53
 - Jesus attests to this.
 - ▶ ***Do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once send Me more than twelve legions of angels?***

Jehovah-Sabaoth

- God is in charge of the angels and what they do.
 - We are not.
 - More on this when we consider the interaction of man with these heavenly beings.

Types of Angels in the Bible

- Cherubim
 - Guarding the entrance to the Garden of Eden.
 - Genesis 3:24
 - God enthroned above them.
 - Ezekiel 10:1-22
 - God rides on them.
 - Psalm 18:10
 - Sitting upon the Ark of the Covenant.
 - Exodus 25:18-22

Types of Angels in the Bible

- Seraphim
 - Mentioned once in the Bible
 - Continually worshipping the Lord.
 - Isaiah 6:2-7

Types of Angels in the Bible

- Living Creatures
 - They are around God's throne.
 - They also worship God continually.
 - Ezekiel 1:5-14 and Revelation 4:6-8

Types of Angels in the Bible

- Angels and Archangels
 - There appears to be a hierarchy.
 - Archangel higher than an angel.
 - Authority over other angels.
 - Jude 9
 - More than one archangel?
 - One of the chief princes.
 - Daniel 10:13

Types of Angels in the Bible

- Angels and Archangels
 - Leads God's angelic army.
 - Revelation 12:7-8 ESV
 - ▶ ***“Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.”***
 - An archangel sounds the call of the return of the Lord.
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:16

Another Online Source

- Zondervan Academic
 - Angels in the Bible: What Do We Actually Know About Them?
 - Wayne Grudem – December 13, 2017
 - <https://zondervanacademic.com/blog/biblical-facts-angels>

Hebrews 13:2 ESV

- ▶ **Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.**

- ▶ **Go, and be the blessing.**