

# Foundations

## Series #7

### Angelology (the Doctrine of Angels) – Part 1

August 4th, 2024

*Read Job 38:4-7*

*Catechism – Read Galatians 6:6*

#### INTRODUCTION

The Bible speaks often of angels, and yet their true nature, purpose, and activities are subjects shrouded in both wonder and misconception. Today, we will journey through the Scriptures to explore the characteristics of these extraordinary beings, who serve as messengers, warriors, and ministers of God's divine will.

Imagine with me for a moment a realm teeming with beings of unimaginable power and purity, a realm that intersects with our own in ways we often cannot see, that we cannot

begin to comprehend, but at times we can profoundly feel or sense.

This realm is not a product of human imagination or the stuff of ancient myths; it is reality. It is a reality described in the pages of the Holy Scriptures. Today, journey into this realm as we begin our study of the Doctrine of Angels.

Our study today will encompass three key areas:

**(1) Creation and Existence of Angels**

**(2) Characteristics of Angels:** Angels are spiritual beings created by God, possessing remarkable power, intelligence, and holiness. They are innumerable, and though they are spirits, they can take on physical forms when required by God's purposes.

**(3) Organization, Nature & Employment of the Holy Angels:** The Holy Angels, those who have remained faithful to God, are organized into various ranks and orders. We will explore the archangel, Michael, the captain of the heavenly host, and Gabriel, God's special messenger.

We will look into the seraphim, who stand in the presence of God, crying, "Holy, holy, holy," and the cherubim, who guard the glory of God. We will also consider the roles of the ministering spirits sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation (Hebrews 1:14).

So, as we open the Scriptures and explore these profound truths, let us do so with hearts full of reverence and minds eager to understand more fully the mysteries of God's creation.

*This brings us to our first point...*

## **CREATION & EXISTENCE OF ANGELS**

We first turn our attention to a fascinating question: When were the angels created? We've already touched on this in our study of the Doctrine of Creation. Scripture provides us with hints and insights that can guide our understanding. One such illuminating passage is found in the book of Job, chapter 38, where God Himself questions Job about the foundations of the earth.

*Look at those verses again with me...*

*“Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?” (Job 38:4-7).*

In these verses, God describes the creation of the earth, and notably, the presence of the "morning stars" and "sons of God" who rejoiced at the laying of the earth's foundations. These "morning stars" and "sons of God" are understood to be angels, indicating their existence at this early stage of creation.

## *Turn with me to Genesis chapter one*

To understand when angels were created, we need to consider the account of creation in Genesis chapter 1. While the Bible does not explicitly state the exact day angels were created, Job 38 provides strong implications that they witnessed the creation of the earth. This places their creation before the third day when dry land appears.

### **Day One: Light and Darkness**

On the first day, God created light, separating it from darkness. *“And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness HE called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day” (Genesis 1:3-5).*

### **Day Two: The Firmament**

On the second day, God created the firmament, dividing the waters. *“And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day” (Genesis 1:6-8).*

Considering that angels are spiritual beings who reside in the heavenly realms, it is plausible that they were created on the second day when God formed the heavens. The "morning stars" and "sons of God" rejoicing at the

foundations of the earth suggest their prior creation, fitting well with the events of the second day.

### **Day Three and Beyond: The Formation of the Earth**

From the third day onward, God shaped the earth, bringing forth dry land, vegetation, celestial bodies, sea creatures, birds, land animals, and finally, mankind. *“And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called HE Seas: and God saw that it was good”* (*Genesis 1:9-10*).

By the time the earth was being formed and the dry land appeared, the angels were already present, witnessing and rejoicing in God's creative work. Their praise and joy at seeing God's handiwork suggest that they were not only present but also aware of the magnificent display of God's power and wisdom.

Thus, it is reasonable to infer that angels were created on the second day of creation, aligning with the formation of the heavens. They were present to see the foundations of the earth laid, the waters gathered, and the dry land appearing.

This timing allowed them to witness and celebrate the subsequent acts of creation, fulfilling their role as God's celestial choir, exalting His glory.

### **Their Existence**

A.C. Gaebelein, in his book *The Angels of God*, wrote this about their existence:

*“The mythologies of nearly all the ancient nations speak of such beings. Babylonian mythology pictured them as gods who conveyed messages from gods to men. Roman and Greek mythology had its genii, semi-gods, fauns, nymphs, and naiads, who visited the earth. Hesiod, next to Homer, the earliest Greek poet, said: 'Millions of spiritual creatures walked the earth.' Egypt and Eastern nations believed in such superhuman, unseen creatures. The belief is well-nigh universal. Mythologies are the faint and distorted echoes of a common primeval knowledge possessed by the race. If such beings of a higher rank than man did not exist, we would not find them in the traditional beliefs of the nations of old.*

*From Genesis to Revelation the angels of God are prominently mentioned, one hundred and eight times in the Old Testament and One hundred and sixty-five times in the New Testament. They are seen throughout sacred history. Their activities in heaven and on earth in the past are recorded in both Testaments, also their future manifestations are prophetically revealed.”<sup>1</sup>*

We must note and clarify one thing before we move on to our next point. While angels are called the “sons of God,” they are never called the Sons of the Lord. This is an important distinction and point to make.

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<sup>1</sup> (Gaebelein, 1969)

The “sons of God” in Hebrew is always *Bnai Elohim*. Elohim is God’s name as Creator. Angels are never referred to as Sons of the Lord which would be *Bnai Jehovah* or sons of Jehovah.

For the *Bnai Jehovah* is us. The *Bnai Jehovah* are sinners redeemed and brought into a relationship with God, “*But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name*” (**John 1:12**). “*The angels are the sons of God in the first creation: sinners saved by grace are the Sons of God in the new creation.*”<sup>2</sup>

Angels were created morally pure and holy, and the holy angels remain so in perpetuity, being called (Mark 8:38; Luke 9:26). Holy angels are elect angels, ***I Timothy 5:21*** “*I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels...*” The elect and holy angels do not need redemption from a fallen state (Hebrews 2:14-16).

In contrast, Satan and the demons, who were also created pure and holy but subsequently sinned and fell, and became evil angels, what we call fallen angels, and what the New Testament calls devils.

There is no salvation for fallen angels, ***Matthew 25:41***  
“*Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.*”

Now, let's look at the...

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<sup>2</sup> (Gaebelein, 1969)

## CHARACTERISTICS OF ANGELS

Angels are spiritual beings created by God. They possess remarkable power, intelligence, and holiness. They are innumerable, and though they are spirits, they can take on physical forms when required by God's purposes.

***Psalm 148:2,5*** “*Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts... Let them praise the name of the LORD: for he commanded, and they were created.*” Angels are not eternal, as God is, nor self-existent, but created and dependent creatures.

***Hebrews 1:13-14*** says this about them, “*But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?*” Angels in their ordinary form of being are spirits without physical bodies. This does not mean, however, that they cannot materialize in the physical realm with physical bodies.

### *Turn with me to II Samuel 14:20*

#### **Angels are Personal Beings**

***II Samuel 14:20*** is an example of this, notice the characteristics attributed to angels in this verse, “*To fetch about this form of speech hath thy servant Joab done this thing: and my lord is wise, according to the wisdom of an angel of God, to know all things that are in the earth.*”

They can know things. They possess great intelligence and wisdom. They are also voluntarily active for the Lord, and therefore personal agents or beings.

### Angels are Unmarriageable Beings

Jesus in ***Matthew 22:30*** makes this clear, “*For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.*” The unfallen angels in Heaven neither marry nor are given in marriage.

### Angels are Masculine Beings

The Scriptures nowhere teach that angels are sexless or genderless beings. The inferential teaching of the Scriptures is rather the opposite; it teaches us that they belong to the male sex. Pronouns when used for angels are always masculine. All the names of angels given in Scripture are also masculine.

This teaching of angels being masculine stands in contrast to some Roman Catholic teachings and also a note in a well-known reference Bible, which has, at times, suggested that angels are androgynous or without gender.

In the King James Version of the Bible, angels are consistently referred to with masculine pronouns and given masculine names.

Consider the following example, “*And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels.*” (***Revelation 12:7***).

Then **Jude 1:9** says, "Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee."

In these verses, Michael is referred to with masculine pronouns along with Satan (a fallen angel). Furthermore, the consistent use of masculine pronouns when referring to angels throughout Scripture reinforces this understanding.

Understanding the nature of angels as presented in the Bible not only provides clarity but also aligns with the broader biblical narrative that emphasizes order and purpose in God's creation. Angels, as masculine beings, serve specific roles and functions in God's divine plan, reflecting His authority and power.

Thus, the inferential teaching of Scripture regarding the masculinity of angels provides a robust foundation for our understanding, challenging any notions of androgyny or genderlessness. By grounding our beliefs in the clear teachings of the Bible, we ensure that our doctrine remains faithful to the truth revealed in God's Word – again WE MUST BE BIBLICISTS!

### Angels are Deathless Beings

Jesus teaches us this in **Luke 20:36a** "Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels..." Angels do not die. Angels are exempt from death because God made them so. They will never die; they will never cease from being.

## Angels are Powerful Beings

*“Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word” (Psalm 103:20).* Angels “excel in strength.” A.C. Gaebelein, in his book, *The Angels of God*, put this power into perspective he wrote:

*“The Bible teaches that angels are a class of created beings above man. Man is made a little lower than the angels (Psalm 8:5, Hebrews 2:7). This disposes of another conception. Some teach that believers who die, as well as children, become angels. Man can never be an angel, for angels are forever distinct from human beings. Man redeemed is not lifted in redemption to the dignity of an angel, but in Christ man is carried into a higher rank than angels can ever occupy.”<sup>3</sup>*

Angels possess a superhuman dignity and power that set them apart from humanity. They are often seen executing God’s commands with extraordinary might and authority.

For instance: **II Kings 19:35** *“And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the Lord went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.”* This verse highlights the immense power of a single angel, capable of striking down 185,000 men, by himself, in one night. Again, angels “excel in strength.”

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<sup>3</sup> (Gaebelein, 1969)

## Angels Are Subordinate to Christ

*“And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels”* (***II Thessalonians 1:7***). Angels are subordinate to Christ, their Captain.

Angels have superhuman power, yet it is fixed within limits prescribed and allowed by God for His purposes. Now, angels are in no way almighty in power, but they are very mighty in power.

Notice what ***Revelation 18:1*** says about the angel's power, *“And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.”*

Angels are mighty. Angels have great power, as God gives to them, but they do not possess all power. God is the Almighty, angels are mighty as God gives them that ability, but there is only one Almighty.

This is a good truth to keep in mind when considering the Devil and his angels:

- our God is greater,
- our God is superior,
- and our God is vastly more powerful than the Devil and all his fallen angels combined.

## Angels Have Superior Intelligence

**II Samuel 14:17 & 20** gives a good illustration of this, “*Then thine handmaid said, The word of my lord the king shall now be comfortable: for as an angel of God, so is my lord the king to discern good and bad: therefore the LORD thy God will be with thee... To fetch about this form of speech hath thy servant Joab done this thing: and my lord is wise, according to the wisdom of an angel of God, to know all things that are in the earth.*”

In these verses, and throughout the Bible, it is presumed that an angel of God is wise and endowed with superior knowledge. Angels were no doubt created as very intelligent spirits, their knowledge beginning with their existence.

But we may also safely say that this knowledge has ever been increasing and almost infinitely expanding over the last 6,000 years.

### ***Turn with me to Luke 9:26***

#### **Angels are Glorious Beings**

Jesus in **Luke 9:26** said, “*For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.*” Notice the three distinct glories mentioned in this verse:

- (1) “*his own glory*” – Jesus glory
- (2) “*his fathers*” – God the Father's glory
- (3) “*and of the holy angels*” – the holy unfallen angel's glory

Unfallen holy angels are glorious beings. Angels are described as beings of remarkable glory throughout the Scriptures. Their appearances often inspire awe and fear, demonstrating their superhuman dignity and glory.

**Luke 2:9** *"And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid."*

**Matthew 28:2-3** *"And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow."*

In these passages, angels are depicted with a radiance and brilliance that reflect their heavenly origin and the glory bestowed upon them by God.

Angels play crucial roles in God's divine plan, serving as messengers, protectors, and executors of His will. Their actions reveal their glory and their intimate involvement in the unfolding of God's purposes.

### We Need to Understand Angelic Glory in Context

Acknowledging the glory of angels serves several important purposes and lessons for us today:

- (1) Reflecting God's Majesty: The glory of angels ultimately reflects the greater glory of God. As beings created by God, their magnificence points back to the Creator Himself, inspiring us to worship and reverence God more deeply.

As believers, we are also to reflect God's glory to Him. Are we doing this? Do our actions bring glory to Him?

When we do something for Him do we remember to deflect and reflect whatever praise we get for that back to God?

(2) Encouraging Believers: The presence and ministry of glorious angels provide comfort and encouragement to believers. Knowing that such powerful and glorious beings are actively working on behalf of God's people reassures us of God's continual care and protection.

As believers, we are also to be encouragements to our fellow believers.

- Examine your heart,
- examine your spirit,
- examine your words,
- examine the use of your: time, talents & treasure
- examine your actions,
- and examine your attitude.

Are you being an encouragement to your fellow believers, and to your fellow church members?

(3) Upholding Biblical Truth: Emphasizing the glory of angels helps to maintain a biblical understanding of

the spiritual realm. It guards against erroneous teachings that might diminish the awe and reverence due to these heavenly beings, ensuring that our theology remains rooted in Scripture.

As believers, we must be upholding biblical truth.

- We must be zealous for biblical truth.
- And again, above all else, we must be Biblicists!

Angels are indeed glorious beings, as the Scriptures reveal. Their glory, dignity, and power remind us of the magnificence of God's creation and His sovereign plan.

By studying the nature and roles of angels, we gain a deeper appreciation for the majesty of God and the wondrous ways in which He works through His creation.

Now, our last point...

## **THE ORGANIZATION, NATURE & EMPLOYMENT OF HOLY ANGELS**

As we continue to delve into the magnificent realm of the holy angels, let's pause for a moment, and let our hearts be filled with awe and wonder at the marvelous works of our God.

What we are studying, what we are looking at in this message, are supernatural agents of our sovereign God, which He deploys and dispatches at His will to work and complete tasks that bring Him glory and also minister to us – much much more than I think we could possibly imagine.

The Scriptures, our ultimate authority, reveal a majestic tapestry of the organization, of the nature, and of the employment of these celestial beings.

## **Organization of Holy Angels and Their Many Categories**

### First, We Have the Archangel: Michael and also Gabriel

Michael is an archangel (Jude 1:9). Gabriel, we believe to be an archangel, but we cannot be dogmatic on that.

Archangels are distinguished heavenly beings who stand prominently in the service of God. Michael, the captain of the heavenly host, is a powerful warrior angel who defends God's people and fights against the forces of darkness.

In **Daniel 12:1**, we read, *"And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people."* Michael's role as a protector and leader of angels underscores the divine order and authority given to him, and he also seems to have a special assignment as the defender and protector of Israel.

Michael is also called “*your prince*” (**Daniel 10:21**) and the “*great prince*” (**Daniel 12:1**) referring to his ministry on behalf of Israel as “*one of the chief princes*” (**Daniel 10:13**).

We must note that the term “*prince*” is also used of Satan’s coconspirators (**Daniel 10:20**) and Satan’s coconspirators are also referred to as “*principalities... powers... rulers of the darkness of this world, [and] ...spiritual wickedness in high places*” in **Ephesians 6:12**.

Then we have Gabriel, the special messenger of God, who brings significant revelations to God's chosen servants. **Luke 1:19** tells us, "*And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings.*" Gabriel's mission to deliver God's messages highlights his unique position and the importance of his role in God's redemptive plan.

### The Seraphim

Next, we turn our attention to the seraphim, those fiery beings who dwell in the presence of Almighty God, continuously worshipping Him and proclaiming His holiness.

**Isaiah 6:2-3** gives us a glimpse of their awe-inspiring ministry, "*Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.*"

The seraphim's perpetual declaration of God's holiness reminds us of the purity and reverence that characterize the heavenly worship of our Lord.

### The Cherubim

Those exalted beings who guard the glory of God and the sanctity of His presence. In **Genesis 3:24**, after the fall of man, we see their significant role, "*So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden cherubims,*

*and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life."*

The cherubim are depicted as mighty guardians, emphasizing their duty to protect the sacred and the holy.

The cherubim are mentioned in several other key passages throughout the Bible. In Exodus 25:18-22 the cherubim are described as part of the design of the Ark of the Covenant. I Kings 6:23-28 includes large cherubim in the inner sanctuary of Solomon's Temple.

Ezekiel 10 is the classic and familiar passage regarding the cherubim. The prophet Ezekiel provides a detailed description of the cherubim in his vision, “

- *"And the sound of the cherubims' wings was heard even to the outer court, as the voice of the Almighty God when he speaketh." (Ezekiel 10:5)*
- *"And every one had four faces: the first face was the face of a cherub, and the second face was the face of a man, and the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle." (Ezekiel 10:14).*
- *"Every one had four faces apiece, and every one four wings; and the likeness of the hands of a man was under their wings." (Ezekiel 10:21).*

Revelation 4:6-8 while not explicitly called cherubim, the four living creatures around the throne in John's vision bear a strong resemblance to the cherubim described in Ezekiel.

These passages highlight the significant roles cherubim play in the biblical narrative, from guarding the Garden of Eden to being integral parts of the Tabernacle, the Temple, the Throne room of God, and divine visions. Their presence underscores the majesty and holiness of God and His dwelling places.

### Ministering Spirits

The Bible also talks about those angels who are called “ministering spirits” sent forth to serve the heirs of salvation. ***Hebrews 1:14*** states, “*Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?*”

These angels, though unseen, are actively involved in our lives, carrying out God's will and aiding His people in ways we may never fully comprehend.

There are also mentions of other types of angels or names of angels: “morning stars” (Job 38:7), “Holy ones” (Job 5:1; Psalm 89:5,7, etc.), “host(s)” (Deuteronomy 4:19; Psalm 33:6, etc.), “Sons of God” (Job 1:6, 2:1, 38:7), and “watchers” (Daniel 4:13,17,23).

### **Nature of Holy Angels**

They were created with perfect moral and holy natures.

***Genesis 1:31*** “*And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*” All angels were originally created as holy, pure, and perfectly moral-spiritual beings, and the holy angels still are.

*“By the character of God which is absolutely holy, by the character of His creative works with which He, as a holy being, was well pleased, and by the record of the angel’s fall, the fact is fully established that angels were created holy.”<sup>4</sup>*

Holy angels are always obedient to God and confirmed in goodness, **Matthew 25:31**, “*When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him...*” The holy angels have maintained their integrity and loyalty to God, they are confirmed in their holiness.

Their obedience has become habitual and their goodness a permanent quality of their character. “*Their holiness, like the holiness of God, is not only an exemption from all moral impurity, but an assemblage of all moral excellences.*”<sup>5</sup>

### **Employment of Holy Angels**

Angels are heavenly agents, whose obedience and ministry God employs to execute all the purposes He has decreed. One man wrote the following about this:

*“They are called hosts, because they surround their Prince as His court – adorn and display His majesty – like soldiers, have their eyes always turned to their leader’s standard, and are so ready and prompt to execute His orders, that the moment He gives the nod, they prepare for, or rather are actually at work.”<sup>6</sup>*

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<sup>4</sup> (Bancroft, 1996)

<sup>5</sup> (Bancroft, 1996)

<sup>6</sup> (Calvin, 2020)

God's government of the world is exercised and administered by angels. They are called at one time Principalities, at another Powers, and at another Dominions (Colossians 1:16; Ephesians 1:21).

One old commentator put it this way, *“Angels are the ministers and dispensers of the divine bounty toward us... we are told how they watch for our safety, how they undertake our defense, direct our path, and take heed no evil befall us.”*<sup>7</sup>

Angels engage in direct worship of God. In various parts of Scripture, the angels are represented as participating in the worship, praise, and service of Jehovah.

Angels rejoice in God’s work, **Job 38:4,7** *“Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding... When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?”*

Angels guide the affairs of nations. We see this in Daniel chapter 10.

Angels guide and guard believers (Psalm 91:11; Acts 8:26,29, 10:13).

Angels minister to God’s people (Hebrews 1:14).

Angels defend and deliver God’s servants, *“And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man;*

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<sup>7</sup> (Calvin, 2020)

*and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha" (II Kings 6:17).*

Angels Escort Believers Upon Their Death into God's Presence, *"And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried" (Luke 16:22).*

This is a most precious work of angels. I believe that often when Christians are very near death the angels make themselves visible to those Christians as a comfort, letting them know Jesus is anxiously awaiting their arrival in Heaven (Irene illustration).

*There are many other things the angels do, but perhaps one of their most important responsibilities is that...*

### Angels Are Messengers of Truth

Angels are messengers of God's truth (*Revelation 1:1 - The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John*).

Paul warned that if a spirit being claimed to be a holy angel from God but delivered a false gospel, it was actually a demon who was to be accursed, *"But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed"* (*Galatians 1:8*).

The integrity and purity of the Gospel as revealed in the Holy Scriptures is of paramount importance. The Bible

warns against false teachings and emphasizes the necessity of adhering strictly to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This is vividly illustrated in Paul's epistle to the Galatians, where he cautions against accepting any other gospel, even if purportedly delivered by an angel.

***Galatians 1:8*** again, "*But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.*"

Paul's stern warning serves as a safeguard against the infiltration of false teachings. The term "*accursed*" in the Greek (ἀνάθεμα) is anathema and indicates a strong denunciation, underscoring the seriousness of deviating from the true Gospel.

**Joseph Smith and the Book of Mormon:** Joseph Smith, the founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons), claimed to have received revelations from an angel named Moroni. This angel supposedly guided Smith to the Book of Mormon, which presents an additional testament of Jesus Christ.

But this claim of his directly contradicts Paul's warning in ***Galatians 1:8***, which again says, "*But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.*"

The Gospel of Jesus Christ, as recorded in the New Testament, is complete and sufficient for salvation. The introduction of new writings or revelations that diverge from

the canonical Bible is seen as a perversion of the true Gospel.

Therefore, the so-called angel Moroni, who delivered a message that deviated from biblical teachings, would be considered a false angel, or demon, in light of Galatians 1:8.

Muhammad and the Qur'an: Similarly, Muhammad, the founder of Islam, claimed to have received revelations from the angel Gabriel, which were later compiled into the Qur'an. These revelations present a theology and narrative that differ significantly from the Christian Gospel.

The Qur'an then too aligns with Paul's warning of ***Galatians 1:8*** “*But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.*”

The Qur'an's teachings diverge from the central tenets of the Christian faith:

- such as the divinity of Jesus Christ,
- His atoning sacrifice,
- and the concept of salvation by grace through faith.<sup>8</sup>

Therefore, from this perspective, the angel Gabriel of Islam, who delivered a message that contradicts the biblical Gospel, is not the angel Gabriel that we know, he was an

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<sup>8</sup> Please see Pastor Seiber's book: *Islam & the Christian*, for more information about this @ 2020bible.pub

impostor and would also be considered a false angel, or demon.

**So, to be clear, both Mormonism and Islam are demonic and satanic in origin.**

Satan is the Father of Lies: the Bible teaches that Satan, the father of lies, is behind all deception. In ***John 8:44***, Jesus states: "*Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*"

The so-called angels of Mormonism and Islam, if they really existed, who delivered these false gospels are agents of Satan they are demons, and what they delivered is demonic and satanic.

Satan's primary objective is to lead people away from the truth of God's Word. He masquerades as an angel of light to deceive humanity. Paul warns of this in ***II Corinthians 11:14*** "*And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.*"

The messages received by Joseph Smith and Muhammad claimed to be from angels, are viewed through the lens of Scripture as deceptive tactics by Satan. They are false gospels, leading people away from the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. Adhering to the teachings of the Bible is essential, as it is the final and complete revelation of God's truth.

Any deviation, even if purportedly from an angel, must be rejected, aligning with Paul's warning in Galatians 1:8. Believers must exercise vigilance in preserving the purity of the Gospel, recognizing the tactics of Satan, and adhering steadfastly to the truth revealed in the Holy Scriptures.

## CONCLUSION

As we draw near to the conclusion of our journey, for this month, into the celestial realm of God's holy angels, let our hearts be filled with awe, conviction, and inspiration.

We have explored the **Creation and Existence of Angels**, their **Characteristics**, and their **Organization, Nature, and Employment**. Each of these truths unveils the majesty and glory of our Sovereign God, who in His infinite wisdom created these mighty beings to serve His divine purposes.

Let us remember that angels have not always existed; they are created beings, fashioned by God before the foundation of the world. They stand as a testament to His omnipotence and creativity.

The Psalmist declares, "*Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts. Let them praise the name of the LORD: for he commanded, and they were created*" (**Psalm 148:2, 5**). The very existence of angels calls us to join in their perpetual praise of our Creator.

Angels are glorious, powerful, and holy. They serve as God's messengers, executing His will with perfect obedience and unparalleled might. Yet, for all their splendor, they are but servants of the Most High.

***Hebrews 1:14*** tells us, "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" This truth should humble us, knowing that such magnificent beings are employed by God to aid and protect us, His children.

The heavenly host is organized into ranks and orders, each with specific roles and functions. From the mighty archangel Michael to the seraphim and cherubim, and the countless ministering spirits, each angel operates within the divine structure established by God.

Their unwavering obedience and orderliness stand in stark contrast to the chaos and rebellion of this fallen world. They remind us of the peace and order that come from submission to God's will.

As we contemplate these truths, we are challenged to examine our own lives.

- Do we mirror the obedience and reverence of the angels?
- Do we stand in awe of God's majesty and live in constant praise of His name?
- Or have we become complacent, distracted by the temporal and the trivial?

### A Call to Spiritual Warfare

We are also reminded that we are in the midst of a spiritual battle. Just as the angels wage war against the forces of

darkness, we too are called to stand firm against the wiles of the devil.

***Ephesians 6:12*** warns us, "*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*" Let us take up the whole armor of God, fortified by the knowledge that we are not alone; the hosts of heaven fight alongside us.

Finally, let us find comfort and assurance in the knowledge that God's angels are always at work. ***Psalm 91:11*** promises, "*For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.*" No matter the trials we face, we are under the watchful care of God's angelic messengers. They guide, protect, and minister to us according to His perfect will.

### **Final Words**

Let these truths stir your hearts and lift your spirits. Let the existence, characteristics, and organization of angels deepen your reverence for God, embolden your faith, and inspire your worship.

As we leave this place, let us do so with renewed commitment to live lives that reflect the holiness, obedience, and praise of the heavenly host. Let us echo their cry, "*Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory*" (***Isaiah 6:3***).

May we be ever mindful of the unseen realities that always surround us and ever grateful for the angelic ministers who serve our mighty God. Go forth in the strength and

assurance that the Lord of hosts is with you, His angels guard you, and His love sustains you.

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