

THE DOCTRINE OF THE ANGELS

(De Angelis)

A Look at What the Bible Says by
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THE DOCTRINE OF THE ANGELS

1. THE EXISTENCE OF ANGELS

The Bible tells us that angels are, “**Spirits who serve**” God (Hebrews 1:14). And, the words, “**A spirit does not have flesh and bones,**” tell us that they do not have physical bodies (Luke 24:39). While the Bible speaks of angels appearing at various times, conveying messages, and doing the will of God; in learning about them, **Scripture must be our sole source of knowledge.** The words, “**Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light,**” warn us of the danger in seeking spiritual truth apart from God’s Word (2Corinthians 11:14). And, the words, “**If we, or an angel from heaven, preach any gospel to you other than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed,**” tell us that any angel (or spirit) that contradicts the Word of God is under God’s curse, and is not to be believed (Galatians 1:8).

The words, “**All things in heaven and earth, both visible and invisible, were created by Him,**” and “**Apart from Him nothing was created that was created,**” tell us that the angels are created beings (Colossians 1:16, John 1:3). And, even though the Bible does not tell us which day the angels were created on, the words,

“In six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and everything that is in them,” // “Thus the heavens and the earth, and everything in them, were finished,” tell us that the angels were created during the six days (Exodus 20:11, Genesis 2:1).

The words, **“You, are LORD alone; you have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host,”** speak of angels as the **“host”** of heaven (Nehemiah 9:6). The words, **“I saw the LORD sitting on His throne, and the entire host of heaven standing by Him on His right hand and on His left,”** tell us that the angels [host of heaven] have access to God (1Kings 22:19). And, the words, **“Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him. And when Jacob saw them, he said, This is God’s host,”** tell us that Jacob recognized the angels as the host of heaven (Genesis 32:1-2).

The words, **“I saw the Lord sitting upon a high and lofty throne, and His train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphim: each one had six wings; two to cover his face, two to cover his feet, and two to fly with,”** give the name “seraphim” to a specific kind of angel (Isaiah 6:1-2). Here the words, **“I saw the Lord,”** coupled with the words, **“No man has seen God at any time,”** tell us that Isaiah did not physically see God, but **“saw the Lord”** in a dream or vision (compare Isaiah 6:1 with John 1:18). And, the fact that angels are spirits that do **“not have flesh and bones,”** tell us that Isaiah’s description of them is a description of what he saw in his dream or vision, not what they physically look like (Luke 24:39).

The words, **“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,”** give the name “Cherubim” to another kind of angel (Genesis 3:24). And, when God told Moses to make the Ark of the Covenant, He said, **“You shall make two golden cherubim, you shall make them of hammered work, on the two ends of the mercy seat. One angel on the one end, and the other angel on the other end: making the cherubim of one piece with the mercy seat on the two ends of it. And, the cherubim shall spread out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall be facing each other; and looking down toward the mercy seat”** (Exodus 25:18-20). Here again, the angels are described as having wings. However, the words, **“A spirit does not have flesh and bones,”** tell us that this is a figurative way of portraying the cherubim, not a description of physical appearance.

In contrast, when **“Two angels came to Sodom... the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, surrounded the house... And they called to Lot, and asked him, Where are the men who came in to you this night?”** (Genesis 19:1-5). Those

words tell us that the angels who appeared to Lot looked like men. Verse 12 even refers to them as men, saying, **“The men said to Lot”**. And, none of those verses mention any wings. This leaves us with questions, such as, How were these angels (who are spirit beings) able to appear as men, and even eat food? (See Genesis 18:1-3.) However, since the Bible does not answer such questions, we should never add to God’s Word by making up answers (Proverbs 30:6). What we can say for certain is that because angels are, **“spirits”** that do **“not have flesh and bones,”** the bodies that the angels appeared to have when they visited Lot, were not a normal part of their nature, but virtual bodies that they assumed for the visit (Hebrews 1:14, Luke 24:39).

The words, **“The Son of man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels”** // **“The Son of man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend,”** and **“The angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,”** tell us that God’s angels will play an active part in the final judgment (Matthew 16:27, 13:41, and 13:49).

2. THE NAME "ANGEL"

While the words, **“Are they [angels] not all spirits who serve Him,”** speak of angels as a certain class of beings, the term “angel” (in both Hebrew and Greek) simply means messenger (Hebrews 1:14). And, because the word “angel” means messenger it is not limited to angelic beings. In the passage, **“A priest’s lips should dispense knowledge, and they should seek the law from his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts,”** the same Hebrew word that is elsewhere translated “angel” is here translated “messenger” (Malachi 2:7). In the words, **“This is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my angel/messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you,”** John the Baptist is referred to as an angel/messenger (Matthew 11:10). In the words, **“The Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire: behold, He will come, says the LORD of hosts,”** Christ is referred to as “the angel/messenger of the covenant” (Malachi 3:1). And, we know that Christ is not one of the created angels, because the words, **“I will raise to David a righteous Branch, who will reign as King and prosper, and will execute judgment and justice in the earth... and this is the name by which He will be called, Jehovah Our Righteousness,”** tell us that Jesus [the branch that sprang out of David] is Jehovah [Jahweh] (Jeremiah 23:5-6).

Since angels are created beings, whenever an angel/messenger is referred to as God, or credited with divine works such as redemption, that angel must be Christ. The very fact that Christ is the “WORD” of God makes Him the ultimate messenger. As it is written, **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,**

and the Word was God. The same was with God in the beginning. All things were created by Him; and apart from Him nothing was created that was created. In Him was life; and that life was the light of men... He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, yet the world did not know Him. He came unto His own, but His own did not receive Him. But to as many as received Him, He gave power to become the sons of God, even to those who believe on His name: Who are not born of blood, or of the will of the flesh, or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us" (John 1:1-14).

3. THE NATURE OF THE ANGELS

Because angels are spirit beings, having a body is not part of their nature, although, in a few cases, they seem to have appeared as men. The words, "**Look at my hands and my feet, and see that it is really me: handle me, and see; for a spirit does not have flesh and bones, as you see me have,**" tell us that spirits do not have "flesh and bones" (Luke 24:39). We see that again in the words, "**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**" (Ephesians 6:12). The first phrase in that sentence, the words, "**We wrestle not against flesh and blood,**" tell us that the forces we "wrestle" against are spiritual, not corporeal. And, because the Bible refers to Satan as "**Your adversary the devil,**" we know that the spiritual forces that oppose us are "**the angels who did not keep their first estate**" (1Peter 5:8, Jude 1:6).

Although the words, "**God is a Spirit: and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth,**" tell us that God is a spirit, the difference between God and angels is incomprehensibly great (John 4:24). It is the difference between infinite and finite, the difference between knowing everything, and knowing only in part etc. And, we know that the angels are limited in knowledge because the words, "**Reporting the things, that have now been proclaimed to you by those who are preaching the gospel to you with the Holy Spirit sent from heaven; things which angels long to look into**" tell us that the angels want to learn about the grace God has given unto us (1Peter 1:12). The words, "**That the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the principalities and powers in heavenly places,**" tell us that the heavenly angels learn through what is proclaimed in the church (Ephesians 3:10). And, because angels think, speak, will, and learn we regard them as "persons," not just forces.

Although men have a spirit, those spirits are incomplete in that they exist in union with a body. In contrast, angels are complete spirits in that they exist as spirits, without “flesh and bones” (Heb. 1:14, Luke 24:39).

The words, **“The devil took Him up onto a very high mountain, and showed Him all of the kingdoms of the world, and their splendor; And said to Him, I will give you all of this, if you will fall down and worship me. Then Jesus said to him, Go away, Satan: for it is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve,”** tell us that even the fallen angels have a will and intelligence (Matthew 4:8-10). And, the words, **“Your adversary the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour,”** tell us that the fallen angels want to destroy us (1Peter 5:8).

Although any knowledge that angels possess is far less than that of God, the words, **“My lord is wise, like the wisdom of an angel of God, knowing everything on earth,”** tell us that angels know far more than any man (2Samuel 14:20). The words, **“The angel said, I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God; and have been sent to speak to you, and to tell you this good news,”** tell us that angels are capable of becoming acquainted with each other and with men (Luke 1:19). And, the words, **“Be careful that you do not despise one of these little ones; for I am telling you, That in heaven their angels continually behold the face of my Father who is in heaven,”** tell us that the holy angels “continually” look upon the face of God (Matthew 18:10). However, the words, **“Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as ministers of righteousness,”** warn us that Satan and his followers can outwardly appear to be righteous (2Corinthians 11:14). The words, **“The Spirit specifically says, that in the future some will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils,”** warn us against being deceived by them (1Timothy 4:1). The words, **“The things that the Gentiles sacrifice are sacrificed to devils, and not to God,”** equate worshiping idols with worshiping devils (1Corinthians 10:20). And, the words, **“If we, or an angel from heaven, preach any gospel to you other than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed,”** warn us that those who preach any other gospel [or another testament of Jesus] are under God’s curse, even if they outwardly look like righteous men (Galatians 1:8).

Because angels are spirits, they do not have body parts (such as arms, legs, lungs etc.), they are ordinarily invisible, and they are not subject to physical decay. The words, **“In the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven,”** tell us that angels do not marry or produce young (Matthew 22:30). The word **“continually,”** in the phrase, **“Their angels continually behold the face of my Father who is in heaven,”** tells us that holy

angels do not die [if they did it would not be continual] (Matthew 18:10). And, the word “**everlasting,**” in the sentence, “**The angels who did not keep their first estate... have been kept by Him in darkness bound with everlasting chains,**” tells us that evil angels will not cease to exist (Jude 1:6).

Because angels are spirits, they can be present without occupying physical space, just as God is present without taking up space. And, the words, “**My name is Legion: for we are many,**” tell us that because they do not take up space, a great number of them were able to indwell one man (Matthew 5:9).

The words, “**The angels who did not keep their first estate, but went outside their bounds,**” tell us that angels have a will, and were not created evil, but some choose to do evil (Jude 1:6). The words, “**The angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were terrified. And the angel said to them, Do not be afraid: for, I bring you good tidings of great joy, that will be for all people... And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly host praising God,**” tell us that angels can appear, move about, speak, and praise God (Luke 2:9-13). And, the words, “**The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels,**” and “**Praise the LORD, you His angels, who excel in strength,**” tell us that angels are mighty (2Thessalonians 1:7, Psalm 103:20).

The words, “**How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how you are cut down to the ground, O you who laid the nations low! For you said in your heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit on the mountain of the congregation, on the sides of the north: I will ascend above the highest clouds; I will be like the most High. But you will be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit,**” tell us that Satan or Lucifer fell from his first estate because of his desire to exalt himself (Isaiah 14:12-15). Those who do not think that this passage is talking about Satan need to realize that the sin described here is the prototype for every sin. Like this sin, every sin is an attempt by the sinner to make himself God by exalting his will over God’s will. And, the words, “**You are of your father the devil, and you will do what your father desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and did not abide in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks on his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it,**” and “**Why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Ghost?**” tell us that even though those who sin imagine that they are doing what they want, they are actually doing what Satan wants (John 8:44, Acts 5:3). As it is written, “**Whoever commits sin is the servant of sin**” (John 8:34)

The words, “**Blessed is the LORD God, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things,**” tell us that it is **God alone** who performs miracles (Psalm 72:18).

Therefore, whenever the Bible speaks of prophets, apostles, or even angels performing miracles it is God who is doing the miracles through them.

The words, **“They could not drink the waters, for they were bitter... and the LORD showed him [Moses] a tree, which he threw into the waters, and the waters were made sweet,”** tell of God working a miracle through Moses (Exodus 15:23-25). The words, **“As one was felling a log, the axe head fell into the water... And he [Elisha] cut down a stick, and threw it in at that place; and the iron floated,”** tell of God working a miracle through Elisha (2Kings 6:5-6). The words, **“Then Peter said, I have no silver or gold; but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise and walk... And he jumped up stood, and walked, and went into the temple with them, walking, and jumping, and praising God,”** tell of God working a miracle through Peter (Acts 3:6-8). The words, **“My God has sent His angel, and has shut the lions’ mouths, so that they have not hurt me,”** tell of God sending an angel to work a miracle (Daniel 6:22). The words, **“The angel of the LORD reached out the end of the staff that was in his hand, and touched the flesh and the unleavened cakes; and fire rose up out of the rock, and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. Then the angel of the LORD vanished from his sight,”** again tell of God using an angel to work a miracle (Judges 6:22). And, all who trust in Christ have God’s assurance that, **“The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them”** (Psalm 34:7).

Even though Satan has some strength, just as we have strength, because it is **“the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things,”** Satan cannot perform miracles (Psalm 72:18). However, the words, **“Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,”** tell us that like the magicians who opposed Moses, Satan is able to deceive people with “lying wonders” (2Thessalonians 2:9).

The Folly of Reading Man’s Word into Scripture

The words, **“Do not go beyond what is written,” // “We have not written anything to you, other than what you read” // “No truth of scripture comes from any private explanation,”** tell us that God wants us to believe and teach exactly what the words of Scripture say, not made up explanations (1Corinthians 4:6, 2Corinthians 1:13, 2Peter 1:20). Yet because the **“heart is deceitful above all things,”** men usually do the opposite (Jeremiah 17:9). And, one such fairy-tale doctrine is the bogus claim that angels have in the past mated with humans.

Those who make this claim have to assume that these angels had bodies [man’s word]. However, God tells us that **angels do not have bodies** by saying **“Are they [angels] not all spirits who serve Him?” // “A spirit does not have flesh and bones,”** (Hebrews 1:14, Luke 24:39). Nevertheless, those who want to believe that angels have mated with humans usually try to counter those passages by pointing out

that angels have sometimes appeared as men, and were even thought to be men, such as when they appeared to Lot (Genesis 19:1 and 5). What they fail to see is that **looking like men is a far cry from actually being human**. In order to support their fairy-tale doctrine they have to assume that these angels not only looked like men, but had functioning sex organs [man's word]. They also have to assume that those sex organs had sperm with human DNA [man's word]. They also have to assume that God created those bodies [man's word], because angels do not have the knowledge or ability to create human bodies. Then, having fabricated a doctrine by piling one assumption upon another, they have to explain away what the Bible plainly says. For example: The very fact that the sin of Adam brought death "upon all men," tells us that all men are the descendants of Adam (Romans 5:12). The Bible plainly tells us that God "has made of one blood all nations of men" (Acts 17:26). And, the words, **"When the dead rise, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are like the angels who are in heaven,"** tell us that angels do not marry (Mark 12:25).

The passage this controversy centers around says, "It came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, That the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were fair; and **they took them wives** of all whom they chose... And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth" (Genesis 6:1-5). These verses should warn every son of God [saved person John 1:12] of the importance of not just choosing a wife on the basis of looks, but choosing a godly wife. And, the fact that those "sons of God" married [**"took them wives"**] when the Bible plainly tells us that angels "neither marry, nor are given in marriage," tells us that those "sons of God" were men, not angels (Matthew 22:30).

Of the "great-ones" or "Nephilim" spoken of in Gen. 6:4, The Keil and Delitzsch Commentary, which is generally regarded as the best in regard to the Hebrew, says, "Luther gives the correct meaning, 'tyrants:' they were called *Nephilim* because they fell upon the people and oppressed them" (Page 137).

"In whatever matter Holy Scripture has definitely spoken the Christian theologian must suppress his own views, opinions, and speculations and adhere unwaveringly to the divine truths revealed in Holy Scripture. In no case is he permitted to inject into the body of divine truth **his own figments and fabrications.**" (Christian Dogmatics, by J.T. Muller, page 39.)

4. THE NUMBER AND RANKS OF ANGELS

The Bible tells us that the number of angels is great. The words, **"You have come to mount Zion, and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,"** tell us that the angels cannot be

numbered (Hebrews 12:22). The words, **“I kept looking until thrones were brought down, and the Ancient of days took His seat... A stream of fire came out from Him: and thousands upon thousands served Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him: the judge was seated, and the books were opened,”** tell us that at the final judgment (when the books are opened) “thousands upon thousands” who serve God will be present (Daniel 7:9-10). The words, **“God’s chariots are twice ten thousand, even thousands upon thousands: the Lord is among them, as He was in Sinai, in the holy place,”** seem to be speaking of angels as “God’s chariots,” and, again their number is described as “thousands upon thousands” (Psalm 68:17). And, the words, **“Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly host,”** tell us that many of the angels were present in Bethlehem when Christ was born (Luke 2:13).

The Bible indicates that there are different kinds, or ranks of angels. The words, **“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,”** refer to some angels as “Cherubim,” a name that is also applied to the metallic angels that were part of the ark of the covenant (Genesis 3:24, see Exodus 25:18-22). The words, **“I saw the Lord sitting upon a high and lofty throne, and His train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphim: each one had six wings,”** refer to another group of angels as “seraphim” (Isaiah 6:2). The words, **“By Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers,”** seem to be describing some angels as “principalities, or powers” (Colossians 1:16). And, in the words, **“The Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ will rise first,”** the use of the term “archangel” indicates that some angels have greater authority than others (1Thessalonians 4:16).

The Bible also indicates that there are differences of rank among the fallen angels. The words, **“We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers”** tell us that the “principalities, or powers” mentioned in the previous paragraph are not something with flesh and blood. And, the fact that the words, **“We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world,”** describe the forces that oppose us, tells us that some of the angels described as “principalities, or powers” have come under Satan’s control (Ephesians 6:12).

The words, **“Then He will say to those on His left, Depart from me, you cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels,”** tell us that Satan has angels under him (Matthew 25:41). The words, **“Every kingdom divided**

against itself is laid waste; and a house divided against itself will fall. If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand?" tell us that Satan does not allow any dissention in the ranks (Luke 11:17-18)

Finally, even though the Bible describes the number of angels as "innumerable," it does not tell us how many there are (Hebrews 12:22). And, even though the Bible mentions different kinds or ranks of angels, it does not reveal their order of authority. In fact, the words, "**thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers,**" list them in a different order than the words, "**principality, and power, and might, and dominion**" (Colossians 1:16, Ephesians 1:21). And, because the Bible does not specify how many angels exist, or what their ranks are, we should never profess ourselves to be wise, by going beyond what the Bible says. As it is written, "**Do not add to His words, lest He reprove you, and you are found to be a liar**" (Proverbs 30:6).

5. GOOD AND EVIL ANGELS

Although all angels were created good, there are now both good and evil angels. The words, "**By Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible,**" tell us that invisible creatures [angels] were created by God (Colossians 1:16). And, the words, "**God saw every thing that He had made, and, behold, it was very good**" tell us that all of the invisible creatures [angels] were good when they were created (Genesis 1:31). However, the words, "**The angels who did not keep their first estate, but went outside their bounds, have been kept by Him in darkness**" tell us that some of the angels sinned (Jude 1:6).

While the dream or vision that John describes in the book of Revelation is highly figurative, the words, "**The great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan,**" tell us that the red dragon in John's vision signified Satan (Revelation 12:9). And, if the dragon is Satan, then the fact that, "**his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven**" can be understood as telling us that Satan led one third of the angels into sin (Revelation 12:3-4).

The words, "**Be careful that you do not despise one of these little ones; for I am telling you, That in heaven their angels continually behold the face of my Father who is in heaven,**" tell us that the angels who did not sin "continually behold the face" of God (Matthew 18:10). Now, the fact that they "**continually** behold the face" of God tells us that they are no longer in danger of falling. And, the words, "**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,” tell us that **all** of those angels will be with Christ when He returns (Matthew 25:31).

The words, **“I charge you before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels,”** speak of some of the angels as being chosen [elect] (1Timothy 5:21). Since Christ, **“did not take on the nature of angels”** or make atonement for them, the election of certain angels seems to lie in the fact that God choose to keep them from being deceived or overpowered by Satan (Hebrews 2:16). While the words, **“You believe that there is one God; you do well: even the demons believe, and tremble,”** tell us that that the angels who sinned have no hope of salvation, but live in fear and dread (James 2:19).

While the Bible does not tell us when the angels sinned, we know that Satan sinned before he tempted Adam and Eve, because it is evil to want others to do evil. Moreover, because angels are spirits any place where they are incarcerated will be a spiritual place, not a physical place. That being understood, a comparison of 2Peter 2:4, **“God did not spare the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them to be kept in chains of darkness, until judgment,”** with Matthew 8:29, **“They cried out, saying, What do we have to do with you, Jesus, Son of God? have you come here to torment us before the time?”** tell us that, even though the angels who sinned have been cast “down to hell,” their active torment will be greater after the final judgment. Of that torment Revelation 20:10 says, **“The devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet are, and they will be tormented day and night for ever and ever”**.

6. THE HOLY SERVICE OF THE GOOD ANGELS

The Bible not only tells us that the holy angels serve God, but that many of the tasks they carry out are done for the sake of the gospel, and benefit of God’s people. And, the words, **“Are they [angels] not all spirits who serve Him, and are sent forth to help those who will be heirs of salvation?”** tell us exactly that (Hebrews 1:14). But what do they do? The words, **“Praise the LORD, you His angels, who excel in strength, who listen when He speaks, and do what He says,”** not only tell us that the angels excel in strength, but that they listen to God and do His will (Psalm 103:20-21). The words, **“I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and language, and people,”** describe an angel that helped spread the gospel (Revelation 14:6). And, when the Reformation began, Martin Luther observed that the gospel spread so fast it seemed like the angels were spreading the good news.

Since nothing is impossible with God, He does not need anyone to serve Him, nor does He lack anything. Therefore, the angels who serve God do so to their own benefit, not God's benefit. The words, **“Because you have made the LORD your refuge, and the most High, your dwelling place; No evil will befall you, nor will any plague come near your dwelling, for He will give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. They will bear you up in their hands, lest you stub your foot against a stone,”** speak of God's protection of those who trust in Him (Psalm 91:9-12). In fact, this is a passage that Satan quoted when he was tempting Jesus (See Matthew 4:6, Luke 4:11). And, in the resurrection all of that protection will be fully ours without any limitation.

The words, **“Do not despise one of these little ones; for I am telling you, that in heaven their angels continually behold the face of my Father,”** speak of those who trust in Christ [even small children] having angels (Matthew 18:10). The words, **“As Peter knocked at the door of the passage, a girl named Rhoda came to answer... and told everyone that Peter was standing outside the door. But they said to her, You are out of your mind. Yet she insisted that it was so. So they said, It must be his angel,”** tell us that some in the early church believed that Peter had an angel (Acts 12:13-15). And, the words, **“Paul stood up in their midst, and said, Sirs, you should have taken my advice, not to sail from Crete, and so prevented this damage and loss. But now I urge you to be of good cheer: for there will not be a single loss of life among you, only of the ship. For this night an angel from God, whose I am, and whom I serve, stood by me,”** tell of God sending an angel to Paul, when he was in danger, to assure him that there would be no loss of life (Acts 27:21-23).

The words, **“The beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side,”** tell us that an angel carried the soul of the beggar [Lazarus] to be with Abraham in heaven (Luke 16:22) [See Mark 12:26-27.] The words, **“The angel of the LORD went out, and struck down one hundred and eighty-five thousand in the camp of the Assyrians: and those who got up early in the morning saw all the dead bodies,”** tell us that angels can fight on behalf of God's people (Isaiah 37:36). And, the words, **“The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me for twenty-one days: but then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I left him there to oppose the kings of Persia,”** seem speak of one angel withstanding another angel (Daniel 10:13). Now, because no earthly prince could withstand an angel, the one referred to as “the prince of the kingdom of Persia,” must have been an angel. Moreover, the fact that he opposed God's angel suggests that he was an evil angel. And, the fact that he is called “the prince of the kingdom of Persia,” leads me to think that he might have been one of the angels that are described as “principalities” and “powers,” that are not “flesh and blood” (Ephesians 6:12).

Things the Angels Do

The words, **“The things, that have now been proclaimed to you by those who are preaching the gospel to you with the Holy Spirit sent from heaven; things which angels long to look into,”** tell us that angels are interested in the salvation message (1Peter 1:12).

The words, **“The angel said to them, Do not be afraid: for, I bring you good tidings of great joy, that will be for all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord,”** tell us that when Christ was born angels proclaimed the good news (Luke 2:10-11).

The words, **“I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and language, and people,”** tell of an angel that assisted in spreading the gospel (Revelation 14:6).

The words, **“There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents,”** tell us that angels rejoice when a sinner repents (Luke 15:10).

The words, **“The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, and delivers them,”** tell us that angels protect those who fear God (Psalm 34:7).

The words, **“I charge you before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without favoritism, and without partiality,”** tell us that angels are aware of what is going on in our churches (1Timothy 5:21). [See 1Corinthians 11:10.]

The words, **“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,”** tell us that the angels will be present at the final judgment (Matthew 25:31).

The words, **“He will send His angels with the sound of a great trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other,”** tell us that angels will gather God’s people together for the final judgment (Matthew 24:31).

The words, **“The Son of man will send forth His angels, and they will weed out of His kingdom those who sin, and all who lead others to sin; And will throw them into a furnace of fire: where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father,”** tell us that angels will gather up the wicked and cast them into the lake of fire (Matthew 13:41-43).

The Danger of False Worship

While we should be aware of what the Bible says about angels, the words, **“Let no man swindle you out of your reward through a false humility and the worship of angels, intruding into things that he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his**

fleshly mind,” warn us not to worship angels (Colossians 2:18). The words, **“I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel that showed me these things. And he said to me, Do not do it... worship God,”** tell us to worship God, not angels (Revelation 22:8-9). And, the words, **“The things that the Gentiles sacrifice are sacrificed to devils, and not to God.”** and **“They shall no longer offer their sacrifices to devils, after whom they have gone a whoring”** equate angel worship with idolatry and adultery (1Corinthians 10:20, Leviticus 17:7). And, because prayer is a form of worship, these passages forbid prayer to angels. In fact, because angels do the will of God, they will not do anything for us unless God tells them to, so any prayer that is not directed to God is futile.

7. THE EVIL WORK AND ETERNAL PUNISHMENT OF EVIL ANGELS

It is important to understand that the evil angels are not evil because God created them that way, but because they sinned. The words, **“For all things in heaven and earth, both visible and invisible, were created by Him,”** tell us that God created “invisible” things, and that would include angels (Colossians 1:16). And, the words, **“God saw every thing that He had made, and, behold, it was very good,”** tell us that the angels that God created were all originally good (Genesis 1:31). While the words, **“And the angels who did not keep their first estate, but went outside their bounds, have been kept by Him in darkness bound with everlasting chains until the judgment of the great day,”** tell us that the first estate of angels was good, but they transgressed [i.e. “went outside their bounds”] (Jude 1:6).

Although the Bible does not tell us when the angels sinned, or how they sinned, the words, **“You said in your heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit on the mountain of the congregation, on the sides of the north: I will ascend above the highest clouds; I will be like the most High. But you will be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit,”** suggest that their fall originated with Satan’s exalted opinion of himself (Isaiah 14:13-15). The words, **“The archangel Michael, when he disputed with the devil... did not dare to bring a railing accusation against him, but said, May the Lord rebuke you,”** suggest that Satan originally had great authority among the angels (Jude 1:9). The words, **“Everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels,”** tell us that other evil angels are under his dominion (Matthew 25:41). And, the words, **“You are of your father the devil, and you will do what your father desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and did not abide in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks on his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it,”** suggest that Satan used lies and deception to lead other angels astray, just as he used lies to lead Eve astray (John 8:44).

As to when Satan sinned, all we can say is that he sinned sometime after the six days of creation, but before Eve conceived a child. As to how long that was, the words, **“I will greatly multiply your... conception,”** imply that sin increased the sex drive, so Adam and Eve may have taken time to get to know each other before becoming intimate (Genesis 3:16). Another possibility is that what seems like a short time to us, could seem longer to the angels.

The words, **“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil,”** tell us that Satan is intelligent (Ephesians 6:11). However, the words, **“By the time of the supper, the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray Him [Jesus]... And after he [Judas] took the bread Satan entered into him. Then Jesus said to him, What you do, do quickly,”** tell us that Satan is not wise, for what he moved Judas to do was his own undoing (John 13:2 and 27).

The words, **“There was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought back, But did not prevail; nor was there any longer any place for them in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, who deceives the whole world: he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him,”** tell us that Satan and his angels have been thrown out of heaven (Revelation 12:7-9). The words, **“I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven,”** indicate that it happened after Christ’s incarnation, but before His death on the cross (Luke 10:18). The words, **“When I was daily with you in the temple, you did not lift a hand against me: but this is your hour, when darkness reigns,”** indicate that Satan’s power on earth was greatest at the time of Christ’s crucifixion (Luke 22:53). And, the words, **“Now is the judgment of this world: now the prince of this world will be cast out. And if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to me,”** tell us that Christ triumphed over Satan through His death on the cross (John 12:31-32).

The words, **“Why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and keep back part of the price of the land?”** tell us that those who choose to do evil, do so because Satan is within them (Acts 5:3). The words, **“Don’t you know, that when you yield yourselves to someone to obey him as servants, you are the servants of the one you obey; whether of sin to death, or of obedience to righteousness?”** and **“Truly, truly, I tell you, Whoever commits sin is the servant of sin,”** tell us that those who choose to sin place themselves under Satan’s power (John 8:34). The words, **“Jesus then replied, Have not I chosen you twelve, yet one of you is a devil? He spoke of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for it was he who would betray Him, although he was one of the twelve,”** tell us that Judas was a

devil [indicating that Satan had control over him] (John 6:70-71). The words, **“One of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, who was going to betray Him, said, Why wasn’t this valuable fragrance sold for three hundred denarii, and given to the poor? He did not say that because he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and would take what was put into it,”** tell us that Satan was in control of Judas because Judas had a long habit of choosing to do evil (John 12:4-6).

These facts raise a number of questions. For example: **If Satan is behind lies and theft, can anyone deny that he is behind rape, child molestation, adultery and murder? And, if that is the case wouldn’t he also be behind all forms of sexual perversion, and abortion?** I am not saying that people who commit such sins cannot be saved, but if they sin willfully they are unrepentant and true faith cannot exist without repentance. That is why Christ said that, **“Repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, starting at Jerusalem”** (Luke 24:47). And, that is why the Apostle Paul wrote, **“Don’t you know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor sex perverts, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor foulmouthed revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God”** (Corinthians 6:9-10).

The words, **“You formerly walked according to the way of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience,”** tell us that Satan is active in those who are unrepentant (Ephesians 2:2). The words, **“The minds of those who do not believe have been blinded by the god of this world, that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, might not reach them,”** tell us that Satan not only tries to defile us through specific sins, but actively seeks to destroy us through unbelief (2Corinthians 4:4). The words, **“While men slept, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went his way,”** tell us that Satan places unsaved people inside the church (Matthew 13:25). And, I believe that one way he does this, is by causing those who do not understand the way of salvation to place false definitions on the words of Scripture and Christian terminology, so they hear what is said but fail to understand it correctly.

The words, **“He has rescued us from the power of darkness, and transferred us into the kingdom of His dear Son,”** tell us that because we were under the power of darkness we could not save ourselves, but needed to be rescued (Colossians 1:13). The words, **“To open their eyes [the eyes of the Gentiles], and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among those who are sanctified**

through faith in me,” tell us that the lost are under the power of Satan, and are delivered through faith in Christ (Acts 26:18). However, the Bible also makes a distinction between the kind of spiritual control that Satan had over Judas, and the sort of physical demon possession described in the words, **“As soon as Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an unclean spirit came out of the tombs to meet Him, This man lived in the tombs; and no one could bind him, no, not even with chains: For he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but the chains had been broken by him, and the shackles torn to pieces: and no one could tame him. And he was always in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones, night and day. But when he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and prostrated himself before Him, and cried with a loud voice, What have I to do with you, Jesus, Son of the most high God? I implore you by God, do not torment me”** (Mark 5:2-7). In spite of what the Bible here says, western scholars often scoff at this account in Scripture. A son of missionary parents told of how his family encountered this sort of demon possession more than once, yet he was mocked when he told people in States of his experience.

The words, **“If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them,”** tell us that those who deny that Satan exists [or anything else that the Bible says] are in darkness, and, therefore, under Satan’s influence (Isaiah 8:20). And, the words, **“The invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen... so that they are without excuse,”** // **“When the Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, they... show the work of the law written in their hearts,”** tell us that being under Satan’s dominion does not exempt the lost of responsibility for their actions (Romans 1:20 and 2:15).

Satan’s Furious Attack on the Christian Church

Having been thrown out of heaven, Satan is fighting to keep control of this world. And, the words, **“That old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, who deceives the whole world: he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. And I heard a loud voice in heaven say, Now the salvation, the power, and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Christ has come: for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they did not love their lives even unto death,”** tell us that Satan is being overcome by the blood of Christ, and the testimony of God’s Word (Revelation 12:9-11).

The words, **“I [Jesus] came into the world, to testify to the truth. Every one who is of the truth hears my voice,”** tell us that Christ’s kingdom is a kingdom of

truth (John 18:37). The words, **“Sanctify them through your truth: your Word is truth,”** tell us that the Bible is the truth that Christ uses to destroy Satan’s lies (John 17:17). And, the words, **“That is the foundation upon which I will build my church; and the gates of hell will not prevail against it,”** tell us that God’s people will triumph over all opposition (Matthew 16:18).

The words, **“I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God to salvation to every one who believes,”** tell us that God empowers His Word (Romans 1:16). The words, **“So will the word that goes out of my mouth be: it will not return to me empty, but it will accomplish what I want, and it will achieve what I sent it to do,”** tell us that God’s Word will achieve the results that He sent it to “accomplish” (Isaiah 55:11). The words, **“In every way we show ourselves to be servants of God, in enduring much, in sufferings, in hardships, in distresses, In beatings, in imprisonments, in riots, in labors, in nights without sleep, in days without food; By pure motive, by knowledge, by patience, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, By the word of truth, by the power of God, with the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, Through honor and dishonor, through slander and commendation: treated as deceivers, and yet true,”** tell us that Satan will turn people against us, will portray the truth of Scripture as a lie and will label us as deceivers (2Corinthians 6:4-8). However, **our faith does “not rest in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God,”** (1Corinthians 2:5). And, we **“are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation”** (1Peter 1:5).

The words, **“Those by the way side are those who hear; then the devil comes, and removes the word from their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved,”** tell us that Satan hinders the gospel by hardening the hearts of those who hear (Luke 8:12). That is why cult members and evolutionists are often quick to dismiss what we say.

The words, **“Now the Spirit specifically says, that in the future some will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils,”** tell us that Satan hinders the work of the gospel by leading some away from the faith (1Timothy 4:1). He does this every time someone joins a cult, or drops out of church because of what they were taught in college.

The words, **“Who opposes and exalts himself over everything that is called God, or is worshipped; so that he sits as God in the temple of God, and says that he is God,”** tell us that Satan hinders the gospel by raising up false leadership in the church (2Thessalonians 2:4). The Pope is one example of this, but it applies to every cult leader, and to all who exalt their word over God’s Word.

How God Uses Evil Angels

The words, “**The LORD has now put a lying spirit in the mouth of all your prophets** [idol worshipping prophets],” tell us that God uses evil angels to punish those who reject Him (1Kings 22:23).

The words, “**God will send them a powerful delusion, so that they will believe lies: That all who did not believe the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness, might be damned,**” tell us that God sends delusion on those who harden their hearts to the gospel (2Thessalonians 2:11-12).

The words, “**To keep me from swelling with pride, because of the great and wonderful things that were revealed to me, I was given a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to afflict me, so that I would not become conceited,**” (2Corinthians 12:7). And, the words, “**My grace is sufficient for you,**” suggest that the messenger of Satan kept reminding Paul of his sin, in an attempt to convince him that God’s grace was not sufficient to cover what he had done (2Cor. 12:9).

God’s Wrath on the Evil Angels and Evil Men

The words, “**Then He will say to those on His left, Depart from me, you cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels,**” tell us that the evil angels will be condemned to everlasting fire (Matthew 25:41). The question of whether this fire will be physical or spiritual is of little importance, because the torment will be real.

The words, “**The smoke of their torment ascends for ever and ever: and there is no rest day or night,**” tell us that the torment will never lessen or cease (Revelation 14:11). And, just as those under judgment in this world often harm and torment each other, those in hell may cause additional pain by tormenting each other.

The words, “**The fearful, and unbelieving, the abominable, murderers, whoremongers, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, will have their part in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur: which is the second death,**” should be a warning to all who think that they can continue in a sinful lifestyle, without a repentant heart, and never be called to account (Revelation 21:8).

And, the words, “**The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with intense heat, and the earth and everything in it will be burned up,**” tell us that on the day of judgment the material world as we know it, including all of the things that men sinned to obtain, will cease to exist (2Peter 3:10-12).

“The Christian doctrine is not produced by the theologian; all that the Christian theologian does is that he compiles the doctrinal statements contained in Scripture (in the text and context), groups them under their proper heads, and arranges these doctrines in the order of their relationship. // The whole Christian doctrine is revealed in Scripture passages that need no exegesis, but

are an open book alike to the learned and the unlearned and can be so readily translated that the translator cannot go wrong unless he has made up his mind to depart from the original.” (Dr. Francis Pieper, “Christian Dogmatics”, Vol. 1, pg 52 & 347)

SCRIPTURE ALONE