

Unit 7: Angelology: The Study of Angels

Unit Introduction



In this unit, we will continue our study of Bible Doctrines as we move into the study of angels, or Angelology. In Lesson 16, we will look at what the Bible has to say about angels – that is, the angels that have not “...left their first estate.” We will look at where they dwell, what kind of bodies do they have, and what kind of work they do.

In Lesson 17, we will attempt to answer the age old question, “Why did God create the devil?” We will look at the difference between the good angels and bad angels, and see that the bad angels followed Lucifer by their own choice. We will see the origin of the created being that the Bible calls, “the great dragon, that old serpent, the Devil.”

Unit Outline

Lesson 16: Angels

Lesson 17: The Devil And His Angels

Lesson 16: Angels

Lesson Introduction

Angels are a very hot topic these days. From television shows, to books and movies, to niche stores catering to the sole topic of angels, the subject of angels is one that gets people talking.

But what are angels? Where do they live? Where did they come from? Are they good, or are they bad? Are they here to help us? These are many questions that the common, unsaved person has.

In this lesson, we will seek to answer those questions. We will start by looking at what Scripture has to say regarding the dwelling place of angels, how Scripture describes them, the types of jobs they do, and what their names and divisions are.

Lesson Outline

Topic 1: Where Do Angels Dwell?

Topic 2: Descriptions of Angels

Physical Attributes?

Topic 3: The Work of Angels

Topic 4: Names of Angels

Topic 5: Creation of Angels

Topic 6: Categories of Angels - Cherubim

Seraphim

Topic 1: Where Do Angels Dwell?

We need to understand angels because they exist, they live in heaven primarily, in heavenly realms, spiritual realms, but they are here as well. We're going to look at 10 different things about angels. First we're going to look at Colossians 1:16. Where do they dwell? (Colossians 1:16) And from this verse, and we'll refer back to it and other verses, we know that the primary residence of angels is in the heavenly spheres. They dwell on thrones and dominions, principalities and powers, they exist in authorities and they exist in the hosts of heaven. In (Mark 13:32) So that, and Galatians 1:8 and other things tell us that heaven is the primary residence of angels is in heavenly spheres. Angels we are told had their own habitation. We know this from the fall of Lucifer, and we'll get into that in another lesson, but they have their own habitation from which they could leave as unseen ministers of God. They could go back and forth from that location, and that is their fixed place of abode, their center of activity, and they had an estate given to them. So this is what we know about where they are, where they live and dwell. But the whole universe is inhabited by a host of spiritual beings. (Revelation chapter 4, we read about the cherubim in heaven, Revelation chapter 5 the voice of many angels around the throne. We hear about the living creatures that are around the throne. So we have the angels primarily dwelling in the heavenly sphere, but we do know they are on this earth as well. The natural eye cannot see an angel. Natural vision is not able to discern the presence of angels. But we do find in places that people have seen them and can see them. In 2 Kings, this is interesting; Elisha was asking the Lord if he could see what was really going on the battle. This is in chapter 6, verse 17, (2 Kings 6:17) If we only knew what was really going on all the time around us, I think we'd be amazed. The natural eye of the young man in this place was opened, and a number of angels round about. One definition says that there are millions of creatures that walk the

earth unseen, both when we wake, and when we sleep. We talk about the guardian angel, and I do believe there is such a thing Why doesn't the Lord allow us to always see the angels? I think the tendency is that we'd worship them. There's always a tendency, even now people worship angels. Are we supposed to? The third thing is should we worship angels? What does (Colossians 2:18?) That was something that was happening; people were being led astray into worshipping angels. Why is it wrong to worship an angel? Because an angel is a creature. We must worship the creator, not the creature. Revelation 22:8, John started to worship an angel, let's see what the angel's response was: (Revelation 22:8-9) very clear, you don't worship angels, you worship God.

Assignment:

- Memorize Colossians 2:18

QUESTION 1

Angels exist today mainly in heavenly _____ but also here on earth.

QUESTION 2

The primary residence of angels is in heavenly _____.

QUESTION 3

The natural eye of the human _____ see angels.

QUESTION 4

We are not to _____ angels.

Topic 2: Descriptions of Angels

How are angels described, what do angels do, how do we find them described in scripture? Malachi 3:1 is talking about a messenger, (Malachi 3:1) I think that is one of the primary responsibilities of angels, is to be the messenger of God, to bring what God wants us to hear and to know. We also see that in (Psalm 103:20). I believe the angels primary responsibility, they normally bring the messages that God wants us to hear, but also they praise the Lord. They bring him glory, they bring him praises. By the way it says they excel in strength; angels are very strong, very mighty, it says that they do his commandments. They are doing what God has asked them to do, they are his servants. They worship him, they are his messengers, they are his servants, they do his commandments, and they hearken unto the voice of His word. (Hebrews 1:7) The angel is a spirit, but the angel is a minister. I think that this is an implication that the angels are ministering to us. (Hebrews 1:14) We find from these that angels are spirits, a spirit does not have flesh and bone. Remember when Jesus had risen from the dead, and he had been walking through walls, and they were scared thinking that this was a spirit, he said, No I'm not a spirit, a spirit doesn't have flesh and bone. So Jesus, resurrected bodily has flesh and bone, of course a supernatural ability to walk through walls, but also eating fish there at the side of the sea of galilee, The Spirit, the angel, does not have a flesh and bone body. They can appear bodily. How would we know that they were there unless they appear bodily? We see them appearing bodily in several places. (John 20:12) If you go and look at the whole story of the resurrection, and the first morning when they came, you will see the angels were

very busy that day. They were there portraying the empty tomb, and showing that Christ was alive. (Matthew 28:2) The angels were there doing the work there bodily. They had to be able to be seen. They had the form of a body, they didn't have a flesh and bone body, but they had the form of a body. So when you could look at them, you could see them. We also know that they are terrestrial and celestial. 1 Corinthians 15:40) Now I'm not going to be able to expound on that, nor can I, but I will tell you that here and they are there. They go back and forth. It says that they appear as men sometimes to us unawares. Hebrews, chapter 13, verse it says (Hebrews 13:2) Can we think of a time when someone has entertained an angel without knowing it? Well you'll probably think of Abraham entertaining angels, and I don't know if you ever have or if I ever have, I doubt we'll ever know that, but maybe.

Assignment:

- Memorize Hebrews 1:7 & 1:14

QUESTION 5

Two main responsibilities of angels are bringing _____ and bringing _____ and glory to God.

QUESTION 6

Angels are ministering _____, and spirits do not have flesh and bone.

QUESTION 7

Angels can appear _____.

QUESTION 8

Angels are _____ and _____.

Physical Attributes?

Angels are always masculine. They are pictured as men. Angels do not marry, Matthew 22:30 talks about that, they are not given into marriage. That is not what they do. We also know that they are deathless, they do not die. Since they are not human, they don't have physical bodies, they don't die. Although, there is an angel of death, we do see that several times in scripture; the angel that would come to escort the soul of the person into hades paradise or torture, now heaven for the redeemed, the soul of the redeemed. We also know that the Lord passed over the homes of the ones that had the blood of the lambs sprinkled on the doorposts in Egypt, and that happened. But they are deathless themselves. There is a death angel, but there is no death of an angel. They will never grow old. They will never cease to exist; they are created beings that will always be around. They are not bound by space or time, but they are not omnipresent. We can never confuse the angels, why is that important? It also tells us that the devil is not omnipresent. In other words; they are mighty but not omnipotent. They are wise, but they are not all knowing. They have limitations, they have more power than we do, but they are inferior to God. They are inferior to God. What have they done to show their power? Well they have opened the doors of prisons, and I think that's pretty tough to do. We know the story in the New Testament, they were put into prison for preaching the gospel, and the angel opened the doors. That's a great way to get out of jail. They also desire to look into

spiritual truth. They are not like us in every way, but they are intelligent and desire to look into spiritual truth. (1 Peter 1:12) I think they are astounded, because they've seen God in glory, they've seen Christ, the son of God in glory, they know the riches of eternity, they know the power of God intimately. They are astounded by the fact that God sent his son to be a human, to be a baby. They're astounded by these things, and they desire to look into these things, into spiritual truth.

QUESTION 9

Angels are always pictured as _____.

QUESTION 10

Angels do not _____.

QUESTION 11

Angels are wise, but they are not _____.

QUESTION 12

Angels have more _____ than we do, but they are inferior to God.

Topic 3: The Work of Angels

How are angels use? In the Old Testament, they are mentioned at least 108 times. They are pretty prominent in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, 165 times angels were mentioned. Angel is translated; it's not always a celestial being when angel is used. Sometimes "angel" is a literal human messenger, and we also saw it in Revelation. The angels of the 7 churches were the pastors of the church. But it is translated as angel, ambassador, messenger, deputy and minister. When you see the word angel in the Bible, it could be angelos, but you could see these other names interchanged. We see them as human messengers in Galatians 4:14) This is Paul writing, he was a human messenger, but referred to as an angel. He wasn't an angel, but a messenger. Don't misunderstand that, and of course, Revelation. Let's look at a few instances where we see angels in the Bible. One that we've mentioned, of Abraham, he's sitting there in the heat of the day and the Lord appears unto him in the plains of Mamre, in Genesis 18. (Genesis 18:1-2) This says it's the Lord appearing, the angel of the Lord, which many times is a reference to the preincarnate Jesus. The second person of the trinity appearing as an angel; with him were two real angels. So these 3 appear to him and are entertained, and they weren't there to see if Abraham was a man that entertains or not, they were there to tell Abraham a great truth, a great promise that had already been told to him, but that Sarah would have a son in their old age. And she laughed; remember that story? She laughed. The angels were there to hear that, and right after they two went into Sodom. ... (Genesis 19:1) We see angels here are representing to bring a message to Abraham, representing God, then going into Sodom to check out, to talk to lot, to warn him that there was impending doom. And we know how the men of Sodom treat them. But angels, playing a part all through Scripture, and we don't even have an idea of all that they've done.

QUESTION 13

In the Old Testament, angels are mentioned _____ times.

QUESTION 14

In the New Testament, angels are mentioned _____ times.

QUESTION 15

Sometimes in Scripture the word ‘angel’ can mean a literal _____ messenger.

QUESTION 16

Most of the time in Scripture, the “angel of the Lord” is a reference to the pre-incarnate _____.

Topic 4: Names of Angels

Somebody’s asked the question do angels have names? There are only three named angels. A number that we can’t even count is how many angels there are, and there are only 3 that have names and one’s a bad guy. So only two, Gabriel and Michael, the only named angels in the scripture. The term angel is a title, it describes an office. It describes a duty. We’ll talk more about Lucifer, but Lucifer is the unfallen name of Satan. We don’t know him as Lucifer today, we know him as Satan and 40 other names, 40 other titles the word of God gives that old serpent, the devil. Lucifer was his unfallen name, he was the highest angel, and the most exalted angel by creation and appointment, but by sin became Satan. Michael –Michael is a great name (Daniel 12:1) Michael was called an archangel; he was an angel that stood up and fought. He was there for the people of God. Michael means, Who is like God. He was one with great authority, and he stood for Daniel’s people as a form of defense . There was an interesting controversy with Satan that we read about in Jude verse 9 (Jude 1:9) Isn’t that interesting, we don’t find out about that all the way until Jude, one of the last books of the Bible, that there was some sort of controversy, some sort of an episode that happened in the spiritual realm concerning the body of Moses. And Michael was contending with the devil, and did not bring an accusation against the devil, because the devil was a created being of God, with great authority, and he was like, You know, that’s not my position, let the Lord do what needs to be done. I believe that’s a great way to do it. To be so respectful and so careful of authority that God has given, and that we never sin against that. Gabriel, it says in Daniel Chapter 9, In Daniel 9:21, by the way, isn’t that interesting that the 2 good named angels are out of Daniel? It says, (Daniel 9:22-23) Gabriel means the mighty one. His name appears 4 times in scripture, each time he’s a messenger, a revealer of divine purpose. Really important things. If Gabriel appeared unto you it was really really important. Now think of the times that Gabriel spoke – he spoke to Daniel regarding the end times, he brought Daniel the prediction of the 70 weeks. Then he foretold 2 births: one was the birth of John the Baptist, the other of course was the birth of Christ when he spoke to Mary. And so we have the angel Gabriel. How about personality? What are they like? Well, their service or dignity is varied, but there is no indication that some are more intelligent than others, they probably all have equal intelligence, but they are individual beings, they are all individual with a thinking of their own. They have emotion...they experience emotion. They give intelligent worship to God. They do know their limitations; they know that they are inferior to the Son of God, therefore respect that subordination. There’s a hierarchy among the angels, with ranks and classes, and when we see hierarchy and authority in Scripture, it doesn’t mean God favors one above the other, it means one is given a greater responsibility, and to whom is given a greater

responsibility there is a lot more demanded on that person or angelic being. So they fit into varying ranks of importance.

QUESTION 17

The Bible gives us many only _____ different names of angels.

QUESTION 18

The term “angel” is a title and describes an _____.

QUESTION 19

Michael the angel is an archangel, one who _____.

QUESTION 20

The name Gabriel means the _____ one.

QUESTION 21

Angels have varying _____ of importance. *True or False?*

Topic 5: Creation of Angels

When were they created? This is hard to tell, but in Psalm 104, it gives what sounds kind of like the story of Creation (Psalm 104:1-5) if that is any type of chronology of creation, perhaps the angels were created along those lines. Colossians 1, we get an implication that the angels were simultaneously . Colossians 1:16-17. Some do not honor Jesus Christ as the creator, yet they were created by him and for him. The angels that have fallen, a third of the angels have fallen, God’s created beings. By the way, can angels be saved? Did Jesus die for angels? He did not, he died for humans. He died for us, and only humans have the offer of salvation. That’s why angels believe, but are not saved. They cannot be saved, the ones that have fallen. They do not give Christ the honor due him, but one day they will, and every knee will bow. How many are there? Well you have to be really good at math to figure this out (Hebrews 12:22), (Psalms 68:17)(Daniel 7:10) Now some of those were human, but we know around the throne of God there were multitudes and multitudes of angels.

QUESTION 22

Although Scripture does not give us an exact time of _____ for the angels, it does tell us that they were created.

QUESTION 23

One third of the angels that God created fell and _____ Him.

QUESTION 24

A fallen angel is _____ and cannot be saved.

Topic 6: Categories of Angels - Cherubim

We also find in our last point that there are special categories of angels. As I already talked about we read about the angel of the Lord. It doesn't always, but often the angel of the Lord refers to the Lord Jesus Christ that comes apart from appearing as the son of God, he comes appearing as the angel of the Lord. This isn't probably one of those instances, but in (Luke 2:8) So far there is one angel, but there is a glory, probably a light or shining or glimmering, all around them. (Luke 2:9-14) By the way, have you ever sung a song about angels singing, the song of the angels? Well we never see that in scripture, I think they must. Here it doesn't say they sing this, but Glory to God in the highest, peace and goodwill toward men. But the angel of the Lord is referred to many times in Scripture. Then we have the cherubim. Now if you remember the cherubim, these are special angels, these were present in the Garden of Eden to keep Adam and Eve out of the garden. Now today we don't know where the Garden of Eden was. It talks about 3 rivers, Tigris, Euphrates; it's definitely in the area that they call the Cradle of Civilization, the place where we find history beginning. There in the Mideast, Iran, Iraq, had to be somewhere in there. Posted there in the Garden of Eden were cherubim with a flaming sword to keep out and protect the tree of life. And I believe the flood probably wiped that out, and eliminated the angels need to protect it. If you want to go searching you can, but I don't think you are going to find it today, and I don't think we'll ever know where it was until the recreation. These cherubim, that's plural, cherub is singular, have to do with vindication of God's holiness against human pride. And that was there job. What was it that was made of gold on the Ark of the Covenant, with their wings touching? Those were images of cherubim, on the mercy seat, protecting that. What were they doing? They were protecting God's holiness. They were defending the holiness of God, and Satan was said to have been an anointed cherub before he fell.

QUESTION 25

The job of the cherubim has to do with _____ the holiness of God.

QUESTION 26

After man sinned, cherubim were posted at the _____ of the Garden of Eden:

QUESTION 27

The Bible tells us that satan was an anointed _____ before he fell.

Seraphim

Then we have another type of angel, another category, and that's the seraphim. We see the seraphim in Isaiah 6, let's just real quickly look and read about the seraphim. Isaiah 6:1-7 That's one place the seraphim is listed in Scripture. The seraphim deal with the ministry of purification. The Bible demands that we are pure. The seraphim would demand that we are pure before God, because no sin can enter heaven, and perhaps that is their duty, to make sure Heaven is perfect. The last illustration of an angel or

group of angels is one that is in the future, and will apply all the redeemed, It's kind of like going from one country to another. We're going to be in one country, going into another country. They will be in this "end day" picture, with the citizens of Heaven, those that have been raptured, after the marriage supper of the lamb, after the rewards at the judgment seat of Christ, then the end of the seven years, Jesus comes back to earth. (Matthew 25:31) Can you imagine that scene? The Lord, white horse, sharp sword, his innumerable host of angels, and the New Testament saints behind him. What a scene that will be, coming to this earth with the Lord. He will be coming to fight a war in which he will not have to fire one shot, and the war will be won. All will be wiped out that will come against him. He will set up his kingdom and rule and reign for a thousand years, then on into eternity.

QUESTION 28

Isaiah 6 tells us that seraphim have _____ wings:

QUESTION 29

The seraphim deal with the ministry of _____.

QUESTION 30

The angels will return to this earth with _____ at the Second Coming.