

Lesson 28

GOD'S ELECTED ANGELS

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GOD'S ELECTED ANGELS

I came across the following verse in my research on Predestination ... *1 Timothy 5:21* "I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of His chosen (elected) angels, to maintain these principles without bias, doing nothing in a spirit of partiality."

God's elected angels? This was fascinating. I wanted to know more. If election is equated to predestination of who is to be saved or not, than how does this apply to angels? Are angels lost and then saved? Did angels sin? Has God chosen His angels just as He has chosen Israel or His believers? Did angels sin and have to be redeemed? How were they redeemed? How did they become 'elected' or chosen. I've been told there's nearly 200 verses in the Bible on angels,. So let's dive in and see what we can discover.

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I. What Is An Angel

1 - Angels were created by God.

The Hebrew word for angel is mal'ach, and the Greek word is angelos. Both words mean "messenger" and describe one who executes the purpose and will of the one whom they serve.

In the second chapter of the Bible, we are told that God created the heavens and the earth, and everything in them. The Bible also indicates that angels were created, even before human life was created. All angels were originally created individually, all instantly, perfect, holy and without sin

- *Genesis 2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished.*
- *Nehemiah 9:6 "You alone are the LORD. You have made the heavens, The heaven of heavens with all their host, The earth and all that is on it, The seas and all that is in them. You give life to all of them And the heavenly host bows down before You.*
- *Colossians. 1:16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created through Him and for Him.*

Angels are non-human spirit beings created before the earth existed through Jesus Christ whom the Bible calls "the firstborn of all creation." All angels were created simultaneously as a host or a company.

- *Ps. 148:1-5 Praise the Lord from the heavens; Praise Him in the heights! (2) Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts! (3) Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him, all stars of light! (4) Praise Him, [c]highest heavens, And the waters that are above the heavens!(5) Let them praise the name of the Lord, For He commanded and they were created.*

Describing how God used Jesus in creation, the Bible says: "By means of [Jesus] all other things were created in the heavens and on the earth, the things visible and the things invisible," including the angels. (Colossians 1:13-17) Exactly when Angels were created is never revealed in scripture; however, we do know they may have been created before the creation of the world. From the book of Job we are told that they were present when the earth was created.

- *Job 1:6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.*
- *Job 38:4-7 "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding, (5) Who set its measurements? Since you know. Or who stretched the line on it? (6)"On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone *, (7) When the morning stars sang together And all the sons of God shouted for joy?*
- *2 Peter 2:11 whereas angels who are greater in might and power do not bring a reviling judgment against them before the Lord.*
- *1 Kings 8:27 "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You, how much * less this house which I have built!*
- *John 6:38 "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.*
- *1 Kings 22:21 "Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD and said, 'I will entice him.'*
- *Psalms 18:10 He rode upon a cherub and flew; And He sped upon the wings of the wind.*
- *Mark 12:25 "For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.*

- *Hebrews 1* God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, (2) in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. (3) And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, (4) having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they. (5) For to He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, “AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF Gwhich of the angels did He ever say, “YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU”? And again, “I WILL BE A FATHER TO HIM AND HE SHALL BE A SON TO ME”? (6) And when WORSHIP HIM.” (7) And of the angels He says, “WHO MAKES HIS ANGELS WINDS, AND HIS MINISTERS A FLAME OF FIRE.” (8) But of the Son He says, “YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER, AND THE RIGHTEOUS SCEPTER IS THE SCEPTER OF HIS KINGDOM. (9) “YOU HAVE LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED LAWLESSNESS; THEREFORE GOD, YOUR GOD, HAS ANOINTED YOU WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS ABOVE YOUR COMPANIONS.” (10) And, “YOU, LORD, IN THE BEGINNING LAID THE FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH, AND THE HEAVENS ARE THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS; (11) THEY WILL PERISH, BUT YOU REMAIN; AND THEY ALL WILL BECOME OLD LIKE A GARMENT, (12) AND LIKE A MANTLE YOU WILL ROLL THEM UP; LIKE A GARMENT THEY WILL ALSO BE CHANGED. BUT YOU ARE THE SAME, AND YOUR YEARS WILL NOT COME TO AN END.” (13) But to which of the angels has He ever said, “SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET”? (14) Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?
- *Matt. 22:30* For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.
- *Luke 20:34-36* (34) Jesus said to them, “The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage, (35) but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; (36) for they cannot even die anymore, because they are like angels, and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.

2 - Angels are spirit beings

A simple definition of Angels is they are spiritual beings created by God to serve Him, though created higher than man.

God created man and the animal kingdom in pairs with the ability and the responsibility to procreate their kind. Angels, however, were created simultaneously as a company, a countless host (Col. 1:16; Neh. 9:6). Angels do not marry and are not capable of reproducing angels like man or animals or physical beings. Angels have greater power and ability than humans. They exist in heaven, or the spirit realm, which is a level of existence higher than the physical universe. Thus, angels are also referred to as spirits. When God created the earth, the angels “began shouting in applause.” That angels are created beings and not the spirits of departed or glorified human beings is brought out in Psalm 148. There the Psalmist calls on all in the celestial heavens, including the angels, to praise God. The reason given is, “*For He commanded and they were created*” (The angels as well as the celestial heavens are declared to be created by God.

- *Colossians. 1:16* For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created through Him and for Him.
- *Psalm 148:2, 5* (2) Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts! (5) Let them praise the name of the LORD, For He commanded and they were created.
- *Nehemiah 9:6* “You alone are the LORD. You have made the heavens, The heaven of heavens with all their host, The earth and all that is on it, The seas and all that is in them. You give life to all of them And the heavenly host bows down before You.

There are good angels and bad (fallen) angels. Some, the good angels (who have retained the designation as 'angel'), have remained obedient to God and carry out His will, while others, fallen angels (now called demons), disobeyed, fell from their holy position, and now stand in active opposition to the work and plan of God.

Though at times angels have revealed themselves in the form of human bodies (angelophanies) as in *Genesis 18:3* (and said, "My Lord, if now I have found favor in Your sight, please do not pass Your servant by), they are described as "spirits" in *Hebrews 1:14* (*Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?*). This suggests they do not have material bodies as humans do. This is further supported by the fact they do not function as human beings in terms of marriage and procreation (*Mark 12:25* *For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.*) nor are they subject to death (*Luke 20:36* *for they cannot even die anymore, because they are like angels, and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection*).

Mankind, including our incarnate Lord, is "lower than the angels" (*Heb. 2:7* "YOU HAVE MADE HIM FOR A LITTLE WHILE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS; YOU HAVE CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR, AND HAVE APPOINTED HIM OVER THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS;"). Angels are not subject to the limitations of man, especially since they are incapable of death.

Angels have greater wisdom than man (*2 Sam. 14:20*), yet it is limited (*Matt. 24:36*).

- *2 Samuel 14:20* in order to change the appearance of things your servant Joab has done this thing. But my lord is wise, like the wisdom of the angel of God, to know all that is in the earth." *Matthew. 24:36* "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

Angels have greater power than man (*Matt. 28:2*; *Acts 5:19*; *2 Pet. 2:11*), yet they are limited in power (*Dan. 10:13*).

- *Matthew. 28:2* And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it.
- *Acts 5:19* But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the gates of the prison, and taking them out he said,
- *2 Peter 2:11* whereas angels who are greater in might and power do not bring a reviling judgment against them before the Lord.
- *Daniel 10:13* But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia.

Angels, however, have limitations compared to man, particularly in future relationships. Angels are not created in the image of God, therefore, they do not share man's glorious destiny of redemption in Christ. At the consummation of the age, redeemed man will be exalted above angels (*1 Corinthians 6:3* *Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life?*).

3. Angels were created to live for eternity.

Angels are not subject to death or any form of extinction

- *Luke 20:36, "for neither can they die anymore, for they are like angels, and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection."*
- *Revelation 4:8 "And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME."*

Therefore angels can not die, at least not in the biological sense. Death can be understood as the cessation of breath, of a heartbeat, and of movement. But it can also be described as a separation from God. Isaiah 59:2, says that our sins have caused a separation between us and God. (*Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.*) Romans 6:23 tells us that "*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*" Also, when we look back to Genesis 2:17, we see that God promised Adam that "*but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.*" When Adam ate that fruit, he did die--only not biologically. He died in the sense that he was separated from God and God's just judgement was that Adam and Eve would be tossed into the burning lake of fire meant for the angels. One of the manifestations of the separation from God occurred when Adam and Eve hid themselves from the presence of God. So, angels cannot die biologically.

However, fallen angels can, so to speak, "die" because the penalty of their sin is being separated from God when they are cast into the eternal fire. Their "death" means they are still conscious and alive, but they cannot die in the sense that they cannot cease to exist. (*Matthew 25:41 " Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;'*)

4. Angels were created to glorify and worship God

18 - Angels were created to glorify and worship God the Father and God the Son.

- *Revelation 4:8 "And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME."*
- *Hebrews 1:6 "And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, "AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM."*

5. Angels Were Tested by God

We do not know for sure what this test was, but tradition and the consensus of theologians today is that angels were given the knowledge of the Incarnation and that they would be called upon to worship Jesus. Most angels assented to God's will, but Lucifer (meaning "light bearer") refused to worship anything that had a human nature. Furthermore, it was revealed that the Incarnation would happen through a woman and that woman from that moment forward would be venerated as "Queen of Angels." Upon learning this, Lucifer cursed God and uttered "I will not serve."

Michael is known as the prince or head of the Angelic choirs as can be attested to by Scripture:

And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down — that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. (Revelations 12:7-9)

We should hold as true that some angels rebelled, but the vast majority did not. Each angel made a decision during this time of test and rebellion with full knowledge of their decision and consequences. Praise God that so many angels did not join the rebellion.

Many Early Church Fathers believe the test which brought about this confrontation was God's wish to have all holy angels he created, give praise to his plan of salvation by honoring and serving Mary who would give the Eternal Father something, He could not have by Himself, an incarnate Son — Jesus.

Satan and those who were prideful, basically said, "I'm a pure spirit and you want me to serve and honor a mere human? I will not serve!"

Michael in Hebrew means "Who is unlike to God", but this is not to be understood as a title, but as a reply to Satan, who would not serve God as he wished.

Michael's reply to Lucifer was, "Who is unlike to God?" kind of like saying, "How dare you?"

6. Angels are Holy.

Originally all angels were created holy, without sin, and in a state of perfect holiness. God pronounced His creation good (*Gen. 1:31 God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.*), and, of course, He could not create sin. Even after sin entered the world, God's good angels, who did not rebel against Him, are called holy. These are the **elect angels** in contrast to the evil angels who followed Satan in his rebellion against God.

- *Mark 8:38 "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."*
- *1 Tim. 5:21 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of His chosen angels, to maintain these principles without bias, doing nothing in a spirit of partiality.*
- *Matthew 25:41 "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;'*

7. Angels exercise will.

Angels have the ability to exercise their own will and like all creatures, are subject to the will of God.

- *Luke 8:28-31 Seeing Jesus, he cried out and fell before Him, and said in a loud voice, "What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me." (29) For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had seized him many times; and he was bound with chains and shackles and kept under guard, and yet he would break his bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert. (30) And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. (31) They were imploring Him not to command them to go away into the abyss.*
- *2 Timothy 2:26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.*
- *Jude 6 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.*
- *Isaiah 14:12-14 "How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! (13) "But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. (14) 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'*
- *Jude 1:6 "And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,"*

8. Angels love God and man

Angels were created through Jesus Christ for pretty much the same reason as humans. They were created to love God, and therefore they also love us. In this way, the angels serve an important purpose: they are used by God to reflect His love for His children. Angels express their love by praising and glorifying God, and because they also love us as an outgrowth of loving God, they render services to mankind as they serve God Almighty.

9. Angels are not omnipresent, omnipotent, or omniscient

Angels have certain limitations. They are not all-knowing, all-powerful, and everywhere present.

- *Daniel 10:12-13* “Then he said to me, “Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words. 13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia. “
- *Jude 1:9* “But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”

10. Angels are too numerous to count

Angels are an innumerable host created before the creation of the earth

- *Dan. 7:10* “A river of fire was flowing And coming out from before Him; Thousands upon thousands were attending Him, And myriads upon myriads were standing before Him; The court sat, And the books were opened.”
- *Hebrews 12:22* “But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels,”
- *Matthew 26:53* “Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels?”
- *Psalms 68:17* “The chariots of God are myriads, thousands upon thousands; The Lord is among them as at Sinai, in holiness.
- *Ps. 148:2, 5* “Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts! Let them praise the name of the LORD, For He commanded and they were created”
- *Rev. 5:11* “Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, “

11. Angels have greater wisdom and power than man.

Mankind, including our incarnate Lord, is “lower than the angels”

- *Heb. 2:7* **YOU HAVE MADE HIM FOR A LITTLE WHILE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS; YOU HAVE CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR, AND HAVE APPOINTED HIM OVER THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS;).**

Angels are not subject to the limitations of man, especially since they are incapable of death.

- Angels have greater wisdom than man (*2 Samuel 14:20* in order to change the appearance of things your servant Joab has done this thing. But my lord is wise, like the wisdom of the angel of God, to know all that is in the earth."),

- yet it is limited (*Matthew 24:36* “*But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.*”).

Angels have greater power than man, yet they are limited in power.

- *Acts 5:19* *But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the gates of the prison, and taking them out he said,*
- *Dan. 10:13* *"But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one * days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia.*
- *Matthew 28:2* *And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it.*
- *2 Peter 2:11* *whereas angels who are greater in might and power do not bring a reviling judgment against them before the Lord.*

12. Angels are wise and intelligent

Angels can discern good and evil and give insight and understanding.

- *2 Corinthians 11:3* *But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.;*
- *Daniel 9:22* *He gave me instruction and talked with me and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you insight with understanding.*
- *1 Peter 1:12* *It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven--things into which angels long to look.*
- *2 Samuel 14:17* *"Then your maidservant said, 'Please let the word of my lord the king be comforting, for as the angel of God, so is my lord the king to discern good and evil. And may the LORD your God be with you.'*"

Angels study the Bible and the world more thoroughly than humans do and gain knowledge from it

- *James 2:19* *You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder*

Angels understand the Bible and the world, and they believe in the prophecies of God. Even the fallen angels, who hate God, are not atheists; they know that God exists. Angels also understand humanity very well. They do not have to study the past, for they have experienced it.

- *James 2:19* *You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.*
- *Matthew 8:29* *And they cried out, saying, "What business do we have with each other, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?"*
- 3. *Revelation 12:12* *"For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time."*

Jesus said, “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone” (Matt. 24:36). This comment by the Lord suggest two things:

1. The phrase, “not even the angels” implies that angels have superhuman knowledge, but
2. The main statement of this verse shows they are limited in their knowledge, they are not omniscient. That their knowledge is greater is also suggested by the fact
 - Angels were present at some of the heavenly counsels,
 - Angels were involved in conveying revelation (*Gal. 3:19* *Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made.*),
 - Angels were used of God to interpret visions as with Daniel and Zechariah.
 - Angels were created as a higher order of creatures in the universe than humans are. Therefore, innately they possess greater knowledge.

- Angels study the Bible more thoroughly than some humans do and gain knowledge from it (James 2:19; Rev. 12:12).
- Angels gain knowledge through long observation of human activities. Unlike humans, angels do not have to study the past; they have already experienced it. Therefore, they know how others have acted and reacted in situations and can predict with a greater degree of accuracy how we may act in similar circumstances.
- The experiences of longevity gives them greater knowledge.
- Since man is created lower than the angels with limitations angels do not have, we would expect them to possess superhuman strength as well. That angels have greater strength than man is evident from at least two considerations:
 - Scripture specifically speaks of the angels' greater power. Psalm 103:20 at least implies their greater strength in the statement, "*Bless the LORD, you His angels, Mighty in strength, who perform His word, Obeying the voice of His word!*" Then, *2 Thessalonians 1:7* refers to "*and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,*" Further, *2 Peter 2:11* reads, "*whereas angels who are greater in might and power do not bring a reviling judgment against them before the Lord.*" The only question here is who is being compared? The major subject of the context is that of the false teachers (humans beings), however, due to verse 10, some believe the comparison is being made between the "angelic majesties" of verse 10, good angels and evil angels. If so, then the verse is stating that the good angels are more powerful than the evil ones.
 - Though the angels' great power is always a derived power from God, the mighty works they accomplish, as in the execution of God's judgments, demonstrate their superhuman strength. In this regard, Elisha's confidence and prayer for his servant to see the myriad of angels surrounding them in the face of the human forces, suggests their greater power. His confidence was certainly not simply in their greater numbers.
 - *Acts 12:7-11* *And behold, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter's side and woke him up, saying, "Get up quickly." And his chains fell off his hands. (8) And the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." (9) And he went out and continued to follow, and he did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. (10) When they had passed the first and second guard, they came to the iron gate that leads into the city, which opened for them by itself; and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel departed from him. (11) When Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I know for sure that the Lord has sent forth His angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."*
 - *2 Chron. 32:21* *And the LORD sent an angel who destroyed every mighty warrior, commander and officer in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned in shame to his own land. And when he had entered the temple of his god, some of his own children killed him there with the sword.*
 - *2 Kings 6:15-17* *Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" (16) So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." (17) Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." And the LORD opened the servant's eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.*
 - *Genesis 19:10* *But the men reached out their hands and brought Lot into the house with them, and shut the door.*

13. Angels show emotions

- *Job 38:7* “When the morning stars sang together And all the sons of God shouted for joy”
- *Luke 2:13* “And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “
- *James 2:19* “You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.
- *1 Peter 1:12* “It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven--things into which angels long to look.
- *Revelation 12:17* “So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.”

14. Angels Appearances and Looks

Since they are spirit beings, they are usually not seen, unless God gives the ability to see them or unless they manifest themselves. In the present fascination of our culture, referred to as angelmania, the common conception of angels is that of winged creatures and most times as female. Some of the commonly held conceptions are not supported by scripture. There are no indications of angels appearing in female form. Nor is there explicit reference to them as winged.

- Daniel 9:21 and Revelation 14:6 speak of them as flying.
- The cherubim and seraphim are represented as winged as are the symbolic creatures of Ezekiel. However, we have no assurance that what is true of cherubim and seraphim is true of angels in general. Since there is no explicit reference indicating that angels as a whole are winged, we must regard this as an inference, but not a necessary inference that flying directly equates to wings.
 - *Exodus 25:20* *The cherubim shall have their wings spread upward, covering the mercy seat with their wings and facing one another; the faces of the cherubim are to be turned toward the mercy seat*
 - *Ezekiel 1:6* *Each of them had four faces and four wings.*
 - *Isaiah 6:2* *Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew*
 - *Revelation 4:8* *And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME.”*

While angels generally appear as men in Scripture, *Zechariah 5:9* “Then I lifted up my eyes and looked, and there two women were coming out with the wind in their wings; and they had wings like the wings of a stork, and they lifted up the ephah between the earth and the heavens.” may suggest this is not always the case. The two women mentioned in this passage are not specifically called angels, but they are clearly agents of God or forces of Satan, like angels, good or evil.

When angels have been seen, as recorded in Scripture, they were often mistaken as men because they were manifested in a man-like appearance

- *Gen. 18:2* *When he lifted up his eyes and looked, behold, three men were standing opposite him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth,*
- *Genesis 18:16* *Then the men rose up from there, and looked down toward Sodom; and Abraham was walking with them to send them off.*
- *Genesis 18:22* *Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham was still standing before the LORD.*
- *Genesis 19:1* *Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening as Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground.*
- *Genesis 19:5* *and they called to Lot and said to him, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may have relations with them.”*

- *Genesis 19:12 Then the two men said to Lot, “Whom else have you here? A son-in-law, and your sons, and your daughters, and whomever you have in the city, bring them out of the place;*
- *Genesis 19:15-16 When morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, “Up, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away in the punishment of the city.” (16) But he hesitated. So the men seized his hand and the hand of his wife and the hands of his two daughters, for the compassion of the LORD was upon him; and they brought him out, and put him outside the city.*
- *Judges 13:6 Then the woman came and told her husband, saying, “A man of God came to me and his appearance was like the appearance of the angel of God, very awesome. And I did not ask him where he came from, nor did he tell me his name.*
- *Luke 24:4 While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing;*
- *Mark 16:5 Entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe; and they were amazed.*
- Sometimes, they appear in a way that either manifests God’s glory or in some form of brilliant apparel
 - *Luke 2:9 And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.*
 - *Luke 9:26 For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory, and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.*
 - *Acts 1:10 And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them.*
 - *Daniel 10:6 His body also was like beryl, his face had the appearance of lightning, his eyes were like flaming torches, his arms and feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a tumult.*
 - *Ezekiel 1:13 In the midst of the living beings there was something that looked like burning coals of fire, like torches darting back and forth among the living beings. The fire was bright, and lightning was flashing from the fire.*
 - *John 20:12 and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying.*
 - *Matthew 28:3 And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow.*
- Consistently, they have appeared as real men, never as ghosts, or as winged animals
 - *Gen. 18:2 When he lifted up his eyes and looked, behold, three men were standing opposite him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth,*
 - *Genesis 19:1 Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening as Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground.*
 - *Luke 24:4 While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing;*
 - *Mark 16:3 They were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?”*
- They are occasionally pictured in other forms and in other manifestations as with wings, and as a combination of man, beast, and birds as in Ezekiel 1:5 and . But apparently such manifestations only occurred by way of a vision or special revelation from God. No angel literally appeared in such form.
 - *Ezekiel 1:5 Within it there were figures resembling four living beings. And this was their appearance: they had human form.*
 - *Isaiah 6:6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs.*

- They also seem to always have appeared as youthful or mature men, but never as old men, perhaps because they neither age nor die.
 - *Luke 20:36 for they cannot even die anymore, because they are like angels, and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.*
 - *Mark 16:5 Entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe; and they were amazed.*
- In general, since angels are spirit beings, they are usually not seen, unless God gives the ability to see them or unless they manifest themselves. Balaam could not see the angel standing in his way until the Lord opened his eyes and Elisha's servant could not see the host of angels surrounding him until Elisha prayed for his eyes to be opened.
 - *Balaam could not see the angel standing in his way until the Lord opened his eyes (Num. 22:31)*
 - *Elisha's servant could not see the host of angels surrounding him until Elisha prayed for his eyes to be opened (2 Kings 6:17).*

15. Angels do not have physical bodies.

Though at times Angels have revealed themselves in the form of human bodies (angelophanies) as in *Genesis 18:3 and said, "My Lord, if now I have found favor in Your sight, please do not pass your servant by. "*, they are described as "spirits" in *Hebrews 1:14 (Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?)*. This suggests they do not have material bodies as humans do. This is further supported by the fact they do not function as human beings in terms of marriage and procreation (*Mark 12:25 "For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven."*)

16. Angels have personalities.

There are several qualities common to personality all of which angels possess—personal existence, intellect, emotion, and will. As personalities we see them interacted with over and over again through the Bible. This is evident in both angels, Satan, and demons.

Review the scripture we've already covered on intelligence and wills. Each group can be said to be persons with personalities. It is not a requirement of a being to have a physical body like man to have a personality.

17. Angels have their home in heaven now.

Angels have a place in which they 'live' or dwell. Statements like, "the angels which are in heaven" and "an angel from heaven" suggest that angels have fixed homes or centers for their activities. However, due to the ministry and abilities given to them in the service of God, they have access to the entire universe. They are described as serving in heaven and on earth. An abode is a place of residency, for mankind today it typically means a home or house. And Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us. *John 14:2 In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.*

18. Most angels remained faithful to God

While some angels rebelled against God, the vast majority stayed faithful to him.

- *Revelation 5:12-13 "saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing." 13 And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever."*

19. Angels rejoice in God's work of salvation.

- *Luke 15:10* “In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

20. Angels seem to have the ability to fly.

Angels seem to have the ability to fly.

- *Daniel 9:21* “while I was still speaking in prayer, then the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision previously, came to me in my extreme weariness about the time of the evening offering.”
- *Revelation 14:6* “And I saw another angel flying in midheaven, having an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people”

21. Angels will join all believers in the heavenly kingdom.

- *Hebrews 12:22-23* “But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, (23) to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,

22. Some Angels are mentioned by name in the Bible

Only three angels are mentioned by name in the canonical books of the Bible: Gabriel, Michael, and the fallen angel Lucifer, or Satan.

- *Daniel 8:16* “And I heard the voice of a man between the banks of Ulai, and he called out and said, “Gabriel, give this man an understanding of the vision.”
- *Luke 1:19* “The angel answered and said to him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news.”
- *Luke 1:26* “Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, “

23. Angels are not to be worshipped

Whenever angels are mistaken for God by humans and worshiped in the Bible, they are told not to do this. Good angels are sent by God to help believers (*Hebrews 1:14* *Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?*).

Prayer is a form of worship to God. When we pray, we are asking God to forgive us our sins, to guide us, to help others, etc. When we pray, we sometimes do so in open speech or silent thought. People all over the world are praying simultaneously in different languages. Therefore, prayer is a trustful expectation that God is able to hear our prayers both spoken and unspoken, in multiple languages, wherever we are, and all at the same time. Such abilities belong to God alone and not of creatures. Angels are creatures who are limited. God alone is everywhere, Psalm 139 (so as to be able to hear all prayers), and omniscient, 1 John 3:20 (*in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things.*).

To pray to angels is to assume they have the same ability as God, but this ability belongs to God the Creator and not the creature. Therefore, both prayer and worship belong to God alone.

- *Colossians 2:18* *Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,*

- *Revelation 22:8-9* I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. 9 But he said to me, “Do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God.”
- *Revelation 19:10* “Then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

Following the revelation given to John, on two occasions the apostle fell on his face in worship, but the angel quickly told John not to worship him. Angels are but “fellow servants” and called upon to serve God as all God’s creatures should. So John was told to “worship God.” The worship of angels distracts from the worship of God and attributes godlike powers to the object of worship. Angels are powerful and awesome in many ways, but, like us, they are only creatures and servants of the living God who alone deserves our worship. This means we are not to pray to them or trust in them even though God may use them to minister to our needs in various ways. Our trust is to be in God, not angels. They minister to us at His bidding under His authority and power. Though sometimes the instrument of aid or deliverance was an angel.

24. Scripture describing Angels are incidental to other topics.

Every reference to angels is incidental to some other topic. The references are to help in the understanding of another topic that is the main subject of the scripture addressed. Angel references are not treated in themselves as they are not the main topics. God’s revelation never aims at informing us regarding the nature of angels. When they are mentioned, it is always in order to inform us further about God, what He does, and how He does it. Details about angels that are not significant for that purpose, tend to be omitted.

24. Angels are subject to Christ.

Angels are Christ's servants., therefore under His command and authority.

- *1 Peter 3:22* “who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.”

II. What Kinds Of Angels Are There?

The First Division of Angels: Good and evil.

While all the angels were originally created holy and without sin, there was a rebellion led by Lucifer, (believed to be a Cherub) being lifted up by his own beauty, rebelled and sought to exalt himself above God.

- *Isaiah 14:12-15* “How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! (13) “But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. (14) ‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’ (15) “Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit.”
- *Ezekiel 28:15* ““You were blameless in your ways From the day you were created Until unrighteousness was found in you.”

In his rebellion, it is believed, according to the verse below, that Lucifer took with him one-third of the angels.

- *Revelation 12:4* “And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child.”

Prophesying of a future angelic conflict that will occur in the middle of the Tribulation, John wrote, “*And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war,*” (*Revelation 12:7*). In other words, there are good angels and there are evil angels.

Good Angels, faced with the ethical choice of choosing to follow God or Lucifer, chose God. Possessing the God-given ability they chose God and are resultantly confirmed in their state of holiness. They have never sin and never will.

Evil angels, that sinned apparently did so in full knowledge of all the issues involved. They chose self-corruption, knowing exactly what they were doing. They sinned without ever an opportunity for salvation and there is no atonement for them.

- *2 Peter 2:4* “For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; “
- *Jude 1:6* “And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day, “

There is apparently two groups of demons, as fallen angels are now called. One group has some freedom to carry out Satan’s plans, and those who are temporarily confined, while others are permanently confined in Tartarus.

The Organization of Angels

In my studies of angels I found that most information discussing angels in the world is without scriptural basis in terms of details and classifications. In this discussion, I've reviewed some of the best Christian writings available to present a high level overview. This section will not only identify the most common classifications of angels, but their duties as well. Angels are quite busy with a lot to attend. I am sure the list below is quite incomplete, but then again God does not reveal a lot about angels as they were incidental to His teachings, and what was necessary according to transcribing scripture. Angels are organized into three major classifications called "Choirs." There is also a ranking implied but it seems difficult to put much detail together other than what is mentioned below. In any event this brief discussion should be more than sufficient to continue our discussion on what is meant by God's election of angels.

- **First Choir**

- **Seraphim** These angels are closest to God. They praise God and represent His Love. Only four (4) of them are mentioned in the Bible. Their mission is to protect the throne of God. They have six wings, two cover their faces, two cover their spirit bodies and two cover their feet.
- **Cherubim** These angels appear to be the second highest in the nine hierarchies of angels. They are intercessors of God. Their mission is also to protect the throne of God. They are fierce angels. When they come to earth, they have great power of apocalypse nature. They have four faces, one of a man, one of an ox, one of an eagle, and one of a lion.
- **Thrones** Their name literally means throne or a highly ornamental chair. These angels dispense God's divine judgement. The lower hierarchies of angels need the Thrones to gain access to Almighty God.

- **Second Choir**

- **Dominions** These are the angels of leadership, regulating the duties of angels. They give power to heads of governments and other authority figures. When manifested, they have the appearance of humans with wings.
- **Virtues** These angels are known as the spirit of motion and control the elements. They govern all nature and perform miracles. They provide courage, grace and valor.
- **Power** These angels have the task of patrolling the border between heaven and earth. They are warrior angels who fight against evil. They are the angels of birth and death.

- **Third Choir**

- **Principalities.** These angels look over groups of people. They are in charge of the world's nations, cities, and towns. Their duties include taking charge of religion, politics, and the duties of the angels on earth below them.
- **Archangels.** This angel is the chief angel, guardian of people and all things physical. When manifested, the archangel appears only in human form and has the task of being God's messenger to people at critical times of need.
- **Angels.** Throughout the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, these angels act as our personal guardians. They deliver prayers to God and they deliver messages and answers back to us. They have the task of nurturing, counseling and healing us.

First Choir

Seraphim Isaiah 6:2

These angels are closest to God. They praise God and represent His Love. There are only four (4) of them according to some experts, but I've not found this to be a concrete answer. Their primary mission is to protect the throne of God. They have six wings, two cover their faces, two cover their spirit bodies (these may also be the ones when they fly) and two cover their feet.

- *Isaiah 6:2-7 “Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. (3) And one called out to another and said, “Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory.” (4) And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. (5) Then I said, “Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.” (6) Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. (7) He touched my mouth with it and said, “Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven.”*

All we know about this rank of angelic beings is found in Isaiah 6:-7. Apparently the seraphim were an order similar to the cherubim. They acted as attendants at the throne of God and agents of cleansing. Their duty also was to praise God. Their description suggests a six-winged humanlike creature. The word may be derived from a root meaning “to burn” (fiery ones) or possibly from a root which means “to be noble.” Seraphim, meaning “burning ones,” are pictured surrounding the throne of God in Isaiah 6:2. They could be so named, according to some commentators from the fiery imagery often associated with the Presence of God. They are described as each having six wings. In their threefold proclamation, “holy, holy, holy” (Isaiah. 6:3), it means “to recognize God as extremely, perfectly holy. Therefore, they praise and proclaim the perfect holiness of God. The seraphim also express the holiness of God in that they proclaim that man must be cleansed of sin’s moral defilement before he can stand before God and serve Him.

Cherubim Genesis 3:24, Ezekiel 10:1-22

These angels are the second highest in the nine hierarchies of angels. Their main purpose and activity might be summarized in this way: they are proclaimers and protectors (guardians) of God’s glorious presence, His sovereignty, and His holiness. They are intercessors of God. Their mission is also to protect the throne of God.

They are fierce angels.

- Cherubim stand guard at the gate of the Garden of Eden, preventing sinful man from entering and accessing the tree of life. (*Genesis 3:24 So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.*);
- Cherubim were the golden figures covering the mercy seat above the ark in the Holy of Holies further indicating their guardian role. (*Exod. 25:18–20 You shall make two cherubim of gold, make them of hammered work at the two ends of the mercy seat. (19) Make one cherub at one end and one cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim of one piece with the mercy seat at its two ends. (20) The cherubim shall have their wings spread upward, covering the mercy seat with their wings and facing one another; the faces of the cherubim are to be turned toward the mercy seat.*);

Cherubim attended the glory of God in Ezekiel's vision as told in Chapter 1.

- *(4) As I looked, behold, a storm wind was coming from the north, a great cloud with fire flashing forth continually and a bright light around it, and in its midst something like glowing metal in the midst of the fire. (5) Within it there were figures resembling four living beings. And this was their appearance: they had human form. (6) Each of them had four faces and four wings. (7) Their legs were straight and their feet were like a calf's hoof, and they gleamed like burnished bronze. (8) Under their wings on their four sides were human hands. As for the faces and wings of the four of them, (9) their wings touched one another; their faces did not turn when they moved, each went straight forward. (10) As for the form of their faces, each had the face of a man; all four had the face of a lion on the right and the face of a bull on the left, and all four had the face of an eagle. (11) Such were their faces. Their wings were spread out above; each had two touching another being, and two covering their bodies. (12) And each went straight forward; wherever the spirit was about to go, they would go, without turning as they went. (13) In the midst of the living beings there was something that looked like burning coals of fire, like torches darting back and forth among the living beings. The fire was bright, and lightning was flashing from the fire. (14) And the living beings ran to and fro like bolts of lightning.*

As we see above, the Cherubim had an extraordinary appearance with four faces—that of a man, lion, ox, and eagle. Through the four faces, they may also anticipate what God would do to bring salvation to man through His Son: (a) The face of the man suggests wisdom, compassion, intelligence and pictures Christ's humanity as the Son of man, the special focus found in the gospel of Luke; (b) the face of a lion speaks of kingly appearance and pictures Christ as King which is Matthew's emphasis; (c) the face of a bull or ox portrays a servant, the emphasis seen in Mark; and (d) the face of an eagle speaks of heavenly action and portrays the deity of Christ which was John's intent. The Cherubim also bore the throne-chariot which Ezekiel saw. Some also identify the four living ones of Revelation 4:6 (*and before the throne there was something like a sea of glass, like crystal; and in the center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind.*) as cherubim, though others feel these represent the attributes of God. Representations of the cherubim will also be a part of the millennial temple (*Ezekiel 41:18-20 It was carved with cherubim and palm trees; and a palm tree was between cherub and cherub, and every cherub had two faces, (19) a man's face toward the palm tree on one side and a young lion's face toward the palm tree on the other side; they were carved on all the house all around. (20) From the ground to above the entrance cherubim and palm trees were carved, as well as on the wall of the nave).*

Cherubim were considered to be angels that guarded sacred things.

- *Ezekiel 10:1-3 "Then I looked, and behold, in the expanse that was over the heads of the cherubim something like a sapphire stone, in appearance resembling a throne, appeared above them. (2) And He spoke to the man clothed in linen and said, "Enter between the whirling wheels under the cherubim and fill your hands with coals of fire from between the cherubim and scatter them over the city." And he entered in my sight. (3) Now the cherubim were standing on the right side of the temple when the man entered, and the cloud filled the inner court."*
- *Genesis 3:24 " So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.*
- *Exodus 25:17-22 " "You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold, two and a half cubits long and one and a half cubits wide. (18) You shall make two cherubim of gold, make them of hammered work at the two ends of the mercy seat. (19) Make one cherub at one end and one cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim of one piece with the mercy seat at its two ends. (20) The cherubim shall have their wings spread upward, covering the mercy seat with their wings and facing one another; the faces of the cherubim are to be turned toward the mercy seat. (21) You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the testimony which I will give to you. (22) There I will meet with you; and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are upon the ark of the testimony, I will speak to you about all that I will give you in commandment for the sons of Israel.*

- *Ezekiel 1:4-5 "As I looked, behold, a storm wind was coming from the north, a great cloud with fire flashing forth continually and a bright light around it, and in its midst something like glowing metal in the midst of the fire. (5) Within it there were figures resembling four living beings. And this was their appearance: they had human form.*
- *Ezekiel 10:15-20 "Then the cherubim rose up. They are the living beings that I saw by the river Chebar. (16) Now when the cherubim moved, the wheels would go beside them; also when the cherubim lifted up their wings to rise from the ground, the wheels would not turn from beside them. (17) When the cherubim stood still, the wheels would stand still; and when they rose up, the wheels*
- *would rise with them, for the spirit of the living beings was in them. (18) Then the glory of the LORD departed from the threshold of the temple and stood over the cherubim. (19) When the cherubim departed, they lifted their wings and rose up from the earth in my sight with the wheels beside them; and they stood still at the entrance of the east gate of the LORD'S house, and the glory of the God of Israel hovered over them. (20) These are the living beings that I saw beneath the God of Israel by the river Chebar; so I knew that they were cherubim.*
- *Ezekiel 41:18:20 It was carved with cherubim and palm trees; and a palm tree was between cherub and cherub, and every cherub had two faces, (19) a man's face toward the palm tree on one side and a young lion's face toward the palm tree on the other side; they were carved on all the house all around. (20) From the ground to above the entrance cherubim and palm trees were carved, as well as on the wall of the nave"*

Thrones Colossians 1:16

There name literally means throne or a highly ornamental chair. These angels dispense God's divine judgement. The lower hierarchies of angels need the Thrones to gain access to Almighty God. Thrones or dominions. This designation emphasizes the dignity and authority of angelic rulers in God's use of them in His government

- *Eph. 1:20-22 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, (21) far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. (22) And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,*
- *Colossians 1:16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created through Him and for Him.*
- *2 Peter 2:10 and especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires and despise authority. Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties,*
- *Jude 8 Yet in the same way these men, also by dreaming, defile the flesh, and reject authority, and revile angelic majesties.*

Second Choir

Dominions Colossians 1:16

These are the angels of leadership, regulating the duties of angels. They give power to heads of governments and other authority figures. They have the appearance of humans with wings. It is not known if these are a true class of angels or if it is just an expression describing the power of angels. If they are in reference to an angelic rank of some sort, nothing is known of their purpose and appearance. *Ephesians 6:12, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places."* Authorities or powers likely emphasizes the superhuman authority of angels and demons exercised in relation to the affairs of the world

- *Ephesians 1:21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.*
- *Ephesians 2:2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.*
- *Ephesians 3:10 so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.*
- *Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*
- *Colossians 1:16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created through Him and for Him.*
- *Colossians 2:10 and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;*
- *Colossians 2:15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.*
- *1 Peter 3:22 who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.*

Virtues 1Peter 3:22

These angels are known as the spirit of motion and control the elements. They govern all nature and perform miracles. They provide courage, grace and valor.

Power Colossians 1:16

These angels have the task of patrolling the border between heaven and earth. They are warrior angels who fight against evil. They are the angels of birth and death.

Third Choir

Principalities. Colossians 1:16

These angels look over groups of people. They are in charge of the world's nations, cities, and towns. Their duties include taking charge of religion, politics, and the duties of the angels on earth below them. Rulers or principalities. These words, used seven times by Paul, indicate an order of angels both good and evil involved in governing the universe

- *Romans 8:38-39 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, (39) nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
- *Ephesians 1:21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.*
- *Ephesians 3:10 so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.*
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- *Colossians 1:16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created through Him and for Him.*
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- *Colossians 2:15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.*

Archangels.

This angel is the chief angel, guardian of people and all things physical. The archangel appears only in human form and has the task of being God's messenger to people at critical times of need.

Michael is called the archangel in Jude 9 and the great prince in Daniel 12:1. Michael is the only angel designated archangel, and although scripture is silent on this fact, may possibly be the only one of this rank. The mission of the archangel is protector of Israel. (He is called "Michael your prince" in Dan. 10:21.) There were chief princes (Dan. 10:13), of whom Michael was one, as the highest ranking angels of God. Ruling angels (Eph. 3:10) are also mentioned, but no further details are given. The word "archangel" is not found in the Old Testament. References to Michael the Archangel appear only in 1 Thess. 4:16 and Jude 9. However, Gabriel, who is considered an archangel, appears in both the OT and NT. In the OT he is found in Dan. 8:15-26 and 9:21-27. In the NT he is mentioned in Luke 1:11-20, 26-38. He seems to be a messenger angel. On the other hand, Michael the archangel seems to be a warrior angel (Rev. 12:7) who does battle (Dan. 10:13, 21; 12:1). An interesting note is that in Rom. 8:38, Eph. 1:21, and Col. 1:16, the word 'principalities' is used. In Greek, the word has the prefix of arche suggesting archangel. Some think this means there is a hierarchy of angels as is suggested in 1 Pet. 3:22, "who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him." "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first," (1 Thess. 4:16).

- *Daniel 12:1 "Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued."*

- *Jude 1:9* “9 But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”
- *Daniel 10:13* “But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings”
- *Daniel 10:21* “However, I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth. Yet there is no one who stands firmly with me against these forces except Michael your prince.”
- *Ephesians 3:10* “so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places”

Angels.

Throughout the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, these angels act as our personal guardians. They deliver prayers to God and they deliver messages and answers back to us. They have the task of nurturing, counseling and healing us.

Michael is called the archangel in Jude 9 and the great prince in Daniel 12:1. Michael is the only angel designated archangel, and may possibly be the only one of this rank. The mission of the archangel is protector of Israel. (He is called “Michael your prince” in Dan. 10:21.) There were chief princes (Dan. 10:13), of whom Michael was one, as the highest ranking angels of God. Ruling angels (Eph. 3:10) are also mentioned, but no further details are given.

Additional terms or special assignments of angels

Elect Angels: In 1 Timothy 5:21, Paul speaks of “the elect angels.” These are the holy angels who are somehow included in the elect purposes of God. These are angels who **did not follow after Satan** in his rebellion. There is little revealed about their election, but apparently there was a probationary period for the angelic world and these, being the elect of God, remained faithful and are confirmed in their holy state in the service of the Lord. Many commentators have noted that the fall of bad angels was as anticipated by God as the fall of man. It may be implied, also, that angels have passed a period of probation or testing.

Angels to the Churches In Revelation 2-3, each of the seven letters to the seven churches is addressed to “the angel of the church of ...” In addition, they are each seen to be in the right hand of Christ in the vision of chapter one (Rev. 1:16, 20). However, since the term for angel means “messenger” and is also used of men, there is debate over whether these references refer to angelic beings or to the human leaders of the seven churches. It could refer to a guardian angel over these churches or to those men who function in the capacity of teachers of the Word, like the human pastors or elders.

- *Revelation 1:16-20* In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength. (17) When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, “Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, (18) and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades. (19) Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things. (20) As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Gabriel (Dan. 9:21; Luke 1:26). His name means “man of God” or “God is strong.” “Gabriel seems to be God’s special messenger of His kingdom program in each of the four times he appears in the Bible record ... He reveals and interprets God’s purpose and program concerning Messiah and His kingdom to the prophets and people of Israel.” . Gabriel also announced the birth of John the Baptist to Zacharias (Luke 1:11–20).

- In Daniel Gabriel explained to Daniel the succeeding kingdoms of Medo-Persia and Greece as well as the untimely death of Alexander the Great. *Daniel 8:15-16* *When I, Daniel, had seen the vision, I sought to understand it; and behold, standing before me was one who looked like a man. (16) And I heard the voice of a man between the banks of Ulai, and he called out and said, “Gabriel, give this man an understanding of the vision.”*
- In a highly significant passage, Gabriel explained the events of the seventy weeks for Israel. *Daniel 9:21-27* *“while I was still speaking in prayer, then the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision previously, came to me in my extreme weariness about the time of the evening offering. (22) He gave me instruction and talked with me and said, “O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you insight with understanding. (23) At the beginning of your supplications the command was issued, and I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed; so give heed to the message and gain understanding of the vision. (24) “Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place. (25) So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress. (26) Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. (27) And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.”*
- Gabriel also announced the birth of John the Baptist to Zacharias *Luke 1:11-20* *And an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. (12) Zacharias was troubled when he saw the angel, and fear gripped him. (13) But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will give him the name John. (14) You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. (15) For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother’s womb. (16) And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God. (17) It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” (18) Zacharias said to the angel, “How will I know this for certain? For I am an old man and my wife is advanced in years.” (19) The angel answered and said to him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. (20) And behold, you shall be silent and unable to speak until the day when these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their proper time.”*
- In Luke Gabriel tells Mary that the One born to her would be great and rule on the throne of David. *Luke 1:26-27* *Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, (27) to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary.*

Holy Ones: The unfallen angels are also spoken of as “holy ones” The reason is twofold. First, being the creation of a holy God, they were created perfect without any flaw or sin. Second, they are called holy because of their purpose. They were “set apart” by God and for God as His servants and as attendants to His holiness

- *Psalm 89:5 The heavens will praise Your wonders, O LORD; Your faithfulness also in the assembly of the holy ones*
- *Psalm 89:7 A God greatly feared in the council of the holy ones, And awesome above all those who are around Him?*

“Host” is the Hebrew *tsaba*, “army, armies, hosts.” It is a military term and carries the idea of warfare. Angels are referred to as the “host,” which calls our attention to two ideas.

- First, it is used to describe God’s angels as the “armies of heaven” who serve in the army of God engaged in spiritual warfare (P)
 - *Psalm 89:6-8 For who in the skies is comparable to the LORD? Who among the sons of the mighty is like the LORD, (7) A God greatly feared in the council of the holy ones, And awesome above all those who are around Him? (8) O LORD God of hosts, who is like You, O mighty LORD? Your faithfulness also surrounds You.*
 - *1 Samuel 1:11 She made a vow and said, “O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and a razor shall never come on his head.”*
 - *1 Samuel 17:45 Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have taunted.*
- Second, it calls our attention to angels as a multitude of heavenly beings who surround and serve God as seen in the phrase “Lord of hosts” (*Isa. 31:4 For thus says the LORD to me, “As the lion or the young lion growls over his prey, Against which a band of shepherds is called out, And he will not be terrified at their voice nor disturbed at their noise, So will the LORD of hosts come down to wage war on Mount Zion and on its hill.”*). In addition, *tsaba* sometimes includes the host of heavenly bodies, the stars of the universe.
- *2 Peter 2:4-6 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; (5) and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; (6) and if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly lives thereafter;*
- *Jude 1:6-7 And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day, (7) just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.*

The Angel of the Lord is used in the Old Testament. A careful study of the many passages using this term suggests that this is no ordinary angel, but a Theophany, or better, a Christophany, a preincarnate appearance of Christ. The angel is identified as God, speaks as God, and claims to exercise the prerogatives of God. Still, in some passages He distinguishes Himself from Yahweh. That the Angel of the Lord is a Christophany is suggested by the fact a clear reference to “the Angel of the Lord” ceases after the incarnation. References to an angel of the Lord in Luke 1:11; and 2:8 and Acts 5:19 lack the Greek article which would suggest an ordinary angel.

- *Genesis 16:7-13* Now the angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur. (8) He said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from and where are you going?" And she said, "I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai." (9) Then the angel of the LORD said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit yourself to her authority." (10) Moreover, the angel of the LORD said to her, "I will greatly multiply your descendants so that they will be too many to count." (11) The angel of the LORD said to her further, "Behold, you are with child, And you will bear a son; And you shall call his name Ishmael, Because the LORD has given heed to your affliction.(12) "He will be a wild donkey of a man, His hand will be against everyone, And everyone's hand will be against him; And he will live to the east of all his brothers."(13) Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, "You are a God who sees"; for she said, "Have I even remained alive here after seeing Him?"
- *Genesis 21:17-18* God heard the lad crying; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter with you, Hagar? Do not fear, for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is. (18) Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him by the hand, for I will make a great nation of him. "
- *Genesis 22:11-18* But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." (12) He said, "Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." (13) Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son. (14) Abraham called the name of that place The LORD Will Provide, as it is said to this day, "In the mount of the LORD it will be provided." (15) Then the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, (16) and said, "By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, (17) indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. (18) In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

Ministering Spirits, which is perhaps more of a description than a name (*Heb. 1:13-14* (13) *But to which of the angels has He ever said, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET"?* (14) *Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?*).

Sons of God: In their holy state, unfallen angels are called "sons of God" in the sense that they were brought into existence by the creation of God. Though they are never spoken of as created in the image of God, they are also called "sons of God" because they possess a personality like God.

- *Job 1:6* Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.
- *Job 38:7* When the morning stars sang together And all the sons of God shouted for joy

This term is also used in *Genesis 6:2* which tells us the "sons of God" took wives from among the "daughters of men."

- *Genesis 6:2* that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose.

Some scholars understand "the sons of God" of *Genesis 6:2* to refer to the sons of the godly line of Seth and the "daughters of men" to refer to the ungodly line of the Cainites.

Others, in keeping with the use of "sons of God" in *Job*, believe the term refers to fallen angels who mated with the daughters of men to produce an extremely wicked and powerful progeny that led to the extreme wickedness of Noah's day.

Most who hold to this latter view find further support in *2 Peter 2:4-6* and *Jude 6-7*. Still others believe they refer to despots, powerful rulers, or as ridiculous as it sounds, Aliens from another planet.

Tribulation Angels In Revelation a number of angels are specifically associated with certain judgments that will be poured out on the earth like the seven trumpets and the seven last plagues (Rev. 8-9; 16). In addition, some angels are related to special functions given to them, at least in these last days.

- There is the angel who has **power over fire** (*Revelation 14:18* “Then another angel, the one who has power over fire, came out from the altar; and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, “Put in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, because her grapes are ripe.”),
- The Angel who **spreads the Gospel** *Revelation 14:6-7* “And I saw another angel flying in mid-heaven, having an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people; (7) and he said with a loud voice, “Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters.”
- The Angel who **proclaims apocalyptic** judgment *Revelation 14:9-10* Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, (10) he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.
- **Angelic Reapers** *Revelation 14:17-20* And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, and he also had a sharp sickle. (18) Then another angel, the one who has power over fire, came out from the altar; and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, “Put in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, because her grapes are ripe.” (19) So the angel swung his sickle to the earth and gathered the clusters from the vine of the earth, and threw them into the great wine press of the wrath of God. (20) And the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood came out from the wine press, up to the horses’ bridles, for a distance of two hundred miles.
- The angel of the abyss who will **bind Satan** *Revelation 20:1-2* “Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. (2) And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years”

Watchers: “Watchers” is an Aramaic word which means, “vigilant, waking, watchful.” This may be a special type of angel (if a special class is intended). It seems to describe holy angels who are constantly vigilant to serve the Lord and who watch over the rulers of the world and the affairs of men. The added description, “a holy one” in verse 13 may imply there are unholy watchers, i.e., demonic forces who are watching the affairs of men and seeking to influence and destroy.

- *Daniel 4:13* “I was looking in the visions in my mind as I lay on my bed, and behold, an angelic watcher, a holy one, descended from heaven.
- *Daniel 4:17* “This sentence is by the decree of the angelic watchers And the decision is a command of the holy ones, In order that the living may know That the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, And bestows it on whom He wishes And sets over it the lowliest of men.”
- *Daniel 4:23* “In that the king saw an angelic watcher, a holy one, descending from heaven and saying, “Chop down the tree and destroy it; yet leave the stump with its roots in the ground, but with a band of iron and bronze around it in the new grass of the field, and let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him share with the beasts of the field until seven periods of time pass over him,”

Significantly, a number of passages speak of angels as observers. I was surprised by this truth, but the Bible teaches us that angels are spectators of God’s activities in the world and that they are especially keen on observing the unfolding of His plan of redemption.

- *Job 38:7* “When the morning stars sang together And all the sons of God shouted for joy?”
- *Luke 15:10* “In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

- *1 Corinthians 4:9* “For, I think, God has exhibited us apostles last of all, as men condemned to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.
- *1 Corinthians 11:10* Therefore the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.”
- *Ephesians 3:10* “so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.”
- *1 Timothy 3:16* “By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, Was vindicated in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.”
- *1 Peter 1:12* “It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven--things into which angels long to look.”

Angels observe God’s creation and rejoiced throughout history of the unfolding of God’s plan

At seeing the birth of Christ, the angels rejoiced in praise to God (*Luke 2:13-14* And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.”)

And they witnessed the entirety of Jesus’ life on earth (*1 Timothy 3:16* “By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, Was vindicated in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.”)

Angels share God’s joy when a sinner repents (*Luke 15:10* “In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”) Angels are keenly interested in man’s salvation in Christ and carefully observe God’s manifold wisdom in the unfolding of His redemptive plan (*1 Peter 1:12* It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven--things into which angels long to look. *Ephesians 3:10* so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.)

In the statement, “things into which the angels long to look,” “things” are those things that belong to our salvation (vs. 10), and “long to look” is the same word used of the actions of John and Peter and Mary when they stooped down to peer into Jesus’ empty tomb. The verb, *parakuptw*, “to bend over,” conveys the idea of bending over to see something more clearly or to look intently.

- *Luke 24:12* But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings only; and he went away to his home, marveling at what had happened.
- *John 20:5* stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings lying there; but he did not go in.
- *John 20:11* But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb

A question that naturally arises is why are angels so deeply interested and observant of what is happening on this earth?

First, as holy creatures they are concerned for the worship and glory of God that is His due as the holy and infinite Creator. This is clearly evident in *Isaiah 6:3* where, in antiphonal chorus, seraphim sing of God’s holiness, “And one called out to another and said, “Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory.”

John states that in their devotion to God's worship the living creatures never stop saying: "*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come*" (NIV). Their devotion to God's glory becomes exceedingly prominent and specific in Revelation. In Revelation 4:8-11, their continuous praise evokes the praise of the twenty-four elders which is aimed at God's worthiness as the Sovereign Creator. Then in chapter 5:8-14, angels, accompanied by the twenty-four elders (representatives of the church), direct their praise toward God's gracious work of salvation through the Lamb in view of His worthiness to open the seven seals. He alone is found worthy to open the seven-sealed book and break its seals (cf. Rev. 5:1 with 5:9f).

- *Revelation 4:8-11 And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME." (9) And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever, (10) the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying, (11) "Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."*
- *Revelation 5:8-14 When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. (9) And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. (10) "You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth." Angels Exalt the Lamb (11) Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, (12) saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing." (13) And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever." (14) And the four living creatures kept saying, "Amen." And the elders fell down and worshiped.*

Though we are not told the exact contents of the seven-sealed book, written inside and on the back, it undoubtedly contains the story of man's loss of his lordship over the earth to Satan, the usurper, and its recovery through the God-man Savior, the Lion who is also the Lamb. This Lamb is alone able to accomplish what no one else in the universe is qualified and able to do. The following three truths form an important element of God's revelation.

(1) **God's Purpose Declared:** It was God's intention that man would rule over this earth under God's authority

- *Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*
- *Psalms 8:4-6 What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him? (5) Yet You have made him a little lower than God, And You crown him with glory and majesty! (6) You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet,*
- *Hebrews 2:5-8a For He did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking. 6 But one has testified somewhere, saying, "WHAT IS MAN, THAT YOU REMEMBER HIM? OR THE SON OF MAN, THAT YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT HIM? 7 "YOU HAVE MADE HIM FOR A LITTLE WHILE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS; YOU HAVE CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR, AND HAVE APPOINTED HIM OVER THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS; 8 YOU HAVE PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET." For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him.*

(2) **God's Purpose Delayed:** Because of the fall, as recorded in Genesis 3, Satan wrested the rule away from man (cf. Heb. 2:5 with 2:8b). God's intention was for man to rule over this earth, never angels, much less the fallen angels.

- *Hebrews 2:5-8a For He did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking. 6 But one has testified somewhere, saying, "WHAT IS MAN, THAT YOU REMEMBER HIM? OR THE SON OF MAN, THAT YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT HIM?7 "YOU HAVE MADE HIM FOR A LITTLE WHILE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS; YOU HAVE CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR, AND HAVE APPOINTED HIM OVER THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS;8 YOU HAVE PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET." For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him.*

(3) **God's Purpose Fulfilled:** But as promised in Genesis 3:15 ("And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."), the Lamb breaks Satan's hold by means of His incarnation, sinless life, death, resurrection, ascension and will one day recover that which was lost through the judgments of the seven seals as described in Revelation 6-19.

- *Hebrews 2:9-14 But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone. (10) For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings. (11) For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, (12) saying, "I WILL PROCLAIM YOUR NAME TO MY BRETHREN, IN THE MIDST OF THE CONGREGATION I WILL SING YOUR PRAISE." (13) And again, "I WILL PUT MY TRUST IN HIM." And again, "BEHOLD, I AND THE CHILDREN WHOM GOD HAS GIVEN ME." (14) Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,*

III. What Do Angels Do?

High Altitude View

The most basic characteristic of the good angels is seen in the way they are described in Hebrews 1:14 as ministering spirits and in the accounts of their many and varied activities of ministry as described throughout Scripture. Essentially, they function as priestly messengers (*leitourgika pneumatata*) in the temple-universe of God. From the account of their activities in the Bible, their service can be summarized as that of

1. Worship of God

- *Isaiah 6:3; and one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."*
- *Revelation 4:8 And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME."*

2. Messengers of God

- *Daniel 9:22 He gave me instruction and talked with me and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you insight with understanding."*
- *Luke 1:11 And an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. (26) Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth,*
- *Luke 2:9 And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.*
- *Revelation 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John,*

3. Soldiers in spiritual combat

- *Daniel 10:13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia.;*
- *Revelation 12:7 And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war,*

4. Ministers to God and God's people

- *Hebrew 1:14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?*

Low Level Altitude Of What Angels Do?

Here are some activities the Bible ascribes to angels in no particular order:

- **Agents.** In the Tribulation angels will be the agents God uses to pour out His judgments (see Revelation Chapters 8, 9, and 15.)
- **Aid** in winning people to Christ
 - *Acts 8:26 But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, "Get up and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a desert road.)*
 - *Acts 10:3 About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had just come in and said to him, "Cornelius!"*

- **Announcement of Christ's birth**

- *Luke 2:8-14 8 In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; 11 for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."*

- **Announcement of God's Judgement on the unrighteous.**

- **Angels announce and inflict judgment**

- *Genesis 19:13 for we are about to destroy this place, because their outcry has become so great before the LORD that the LORD has sent us to destroy it."*
- *Acts 12:23 And immediately an angel of the Lord struck him because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and died.*
- *Revelation 14:6-7 And I saw another angel flying in midheaven, having an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people; 7 and he said with a loud voice, "Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters.*
- *Revelation 16:1 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple, saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God."*

- *Angels will separate the righteous from the unrighteous (Matthew 13:39-40 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels. (40) So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age.)*

- **Appear before God**

- *Job 1:6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.*
- *Job 2:1 Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD.*

- **Appear** as people
 - *Gen. 19:12-13, "Then the men said to Lot, 'Whom else have you here? A son-in-law, and your sons, and your daughters, and whomever you have in the city, bring them out of the place; 13 for we are about to destroy this place, because their outcry has become so great before the Lord that the Lord has sent us to destroy it.'"*
- **Attendants** of God. In their service to God, they are seen as attendants around His throne, waiting to serve Him and do His bidding.
 - *Psalm. 103:20 Bless the LORD, you His angels, Mighty in strength, who perform His word, Obeying the voice of His word!*
 - *Isaiah. 6:1-3 In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. 2 Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory*
 - *Revelation 5:11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands,*
 - *Revelation 8:1f-6 When the Lamb broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. (2) And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. (3) Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne. (4) And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand. (5) Then the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and threw it to the earth; and there followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake. (6) And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound them.*
 - *Job 1:6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.*
 - *Job 2:1 Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD.*
- **Bring answers** to prayer
 - *Acts 12:5-10 5 So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God. (6) On the very night when Herod was about to bring him forward, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and guards in front of the door were watching over the prison. (7) And behold, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter's side and woke him up, saying, "Get up quickly." And his chains fell off his hands. (8) And the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." (9) And he went out and continued to follow, and he did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. (10) When they had passed the first and second guard, they came to the iron gate that leads into the city, which opened for them by itself; and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.*

- **Care** for the righteous at the time of death
 - *Luke 16:22* Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried.
- **Deliver** the Law
 - *Acts 7:53*, "you who received the law as ordained by angels, and yet did not keep it."
 - *Galatians 3:19*, "Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed should come to whom the promise had been made."
 - *Hebrews 2:2*, "For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense."
- **Encourage** in times of danger
 - *Acts 27:23-24* For this very night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood before me, 24 saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar; and behold, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you.
- **Gave Warnings.** An angel warned Joseph to take Mary and the baby Jesus and flee into Egypt
 - *Matthew 2:13-15* Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him." (14) So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt. (15) He remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON."
- **Guard** the Tree of Life
 - *Genesis 3:24*, "So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim, and the flaming sword which turned every direction, to guard the way to the tree of life."
- **Guardian Angel Of Man.** Perhaps no aspect angels' ministry to man is more talked about than the idea of "a guardian angel." People often ask, "Does everyone have a guardian angel?" The concept that every person has a specific guardian angel is only by implication from the statement that angels do guard or protect as *Psalm 91:11* declares (*For He will give His angels charge concerning you, To guard you in all your ways*). But this passage is directed to those who make the Lord their refuge. The psalmist explained that no harm or disaster can befall those who have made the Lord their refuge (mahseh, "shelter from danger"; ...) because God has commissioned angels to care for them. Angels protect from physical harm and give believers strength to overcome difficulties. Satan, in tempting Christ, quoted *Psalm 91:11-12* (*For He will give His angels charge concerning you, To guard you in all your ways.*(12) *They will bear you up in their hands, That you do not strike your foot against a stone*) (*Matthew 4:6* and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, 'HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU'; and 'ON their HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.') This quote by Satan shows that even God's most marvelous promises can be foolishly applied. Surely it is comforting to know that God may protect, provide, and encourage us through His angels, but this fact does not always guarantee such deliverance, and certainly we should never presume on this provision of God. So having considered the various ways angels minister, we should keep in mind that God does not always deliver us from danger or supply our needs in miraculous ways whether by angels or by His direct intervention.

- **Guardian of Israel.** In relation to the nation of Israel, Michael, the archangel, seems to have a very important ministry as their guardian
 - *Daniel 10:13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia*
 - *Daniel 10:21 However, I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth. Yet there is no one who stands firmly with me against these forces except Michael your prince*
 - *Daniel 12:1 "Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.*
 - *Jude 9 But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"*
- **Guidance to Christ's family.** An angel directed the family to return to Israel after Herod died
 - *Matthew 2: 19-21 But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, and said, 20 "Get up, take the Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel; for those who sought the Child's life are dead." 21 So Joseph got up, took the Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Then after being warned by God in a dream, he left for the regions of Galilee, 23 and came and lived in a city called Nazareth. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets: "He shall be called a Nazarene."*
- **Instruments of God's judgments.**
 - *Revelation 7:1 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree.*
 - *Revelation 8:2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.*
- **Intermediary between God and Man**
 - *2 Kings 1:15, "And the angel of the Lord said to Elijah, 'Go down with him; do not be afraid of him.' So he arose and went down with him to the king."*
 - *Daniel 4:13, "I was looking in the visions in my mind as I lay on my bed, and behold, an angelic watcher, a holy one, descended from heaven."*
 - *Acts 8:26, "But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, 'Arise and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a desert road.)"*
- **Interested in Mankind.** Angels have been and will forever be involved in the affairs of man due to God's will always be interested in what is happening in the lives of human beings.
 - *Daniel 10:14 "Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet future."*
 - *Luke 15:10 In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."*

- **Love to be in God's presence.** They Love to Be in His Presence
 - Oh how I wish man would learn to always “love to be in God’s Presence.” Angels are constantly returning to the presence of God. When humans get a glimpse of angels, they are often still radiating the “glow” of God’s glory. They are still “white” from being in His presence, in much the same way Moses was “white” after being face to face with God on the mountain when he received the Ten Commandments:
 - *Ezekiel 1:13-14 In the midst of the living beings there was something that looked like burning coals of fire, like torches darting back and forth among the living beings. The fire was bright, and lightning was flashing from the fire. And the living beings ran to and fro like bolts of lightning*
- **Loves God's Laws.** Angels are also in love with God’s Law. The Apostle John said we demonstrate our love for God when we obey his Law (*1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.*) Angles understand this principle.) They love God’s truth and they love to share it with others: (*Hebrews 2:1-3 For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. (2) For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, (3) how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard,*) For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?
- **Love God's saints.** Given how much angels love God, it shouldn’t surprise us they would reflect this love on us as God’s created children. God loves those who have repented and given themselves to Him. This is why the angels also love the saints: Angels love us enough to appear to us in our own form. Angels are immaterial, spiritual beings. But when they appear humans, they typically take on our form. Why would they do this? Perhaps it is because they love us and want to connect with us as created beings. One thing is clear, however. Angels never appear to wicked people. They only appear to the saints; to those who belong to God:
- **Ministered to Christ** when He suffered.
 - Angels ministered to Him after His temptation
 - *Matthew 4:11 Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him.*
 - in His stress in the Garden of Gethsemane
 - *Luke 22:43 Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him.*
 - Jesus said He could have called a legion of angels who stood ready to come to His defense if He so desired
 - *Matthew 26:53 Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels?*

- **Ministered to Christ** when He arose.
 - In relation to His resurrection, an angel rolled away the stone from the tomb
 - *Matthew 28:1-2* Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave. (2) And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it.
 - Angels announced His resurrection to the women on Easter morning
 - *Matthew 28:5-6* The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. (6) He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. ; *Luke 24:5-7* and as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living One among the dead? (6) He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, (7) saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.”
 - Angels were present at His ascension and gave instruction to the disciples
 - *Acts 1:10-11* And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. 11 They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”
- **Ministry to Christ** at His second coming.
 - The voice of the archangel will be heard at the translation of the church
 - *1 Thess. 4:16* For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first
 - Angels will accompany Him in His glorious return to earth
 - *Matthew 25:31* “But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.
 - *2 Thessalonians 1:7* and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,
 - Angels will separate the wheat from the tares at Christ’s second coming
 - *Matt. 13:39-40* and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels. (40) So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age.

- **Ministers to Christ's Church.** Hebrews 1:14 describes their ministry as “ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation.” In this, however, Scripture points to a number of specific ministries:
 - Angels bring answers to prayer
 - *Acts 12:5-10* So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God. (6) On the very night when Herod was about to bring him forward, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and guards in front of the door were watching over the prison. (7) And behold, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter's side and woke him up, saying, “Get up quickly.” And his chains fell off his hands. (8) And the angel said to him, “Gird yourself and put on your sandals.” And he did so. And he said to him, “Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.” (9) And he went out and continued to follow, and he did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. (10) When they had passed the first and second guard, they came to the iron gate that leads into the city, which opened for them by itself; and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.
 - Angels help in bringing people to the Savior
 - *Acts 8:26* But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, “Get up and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a desert road.
 - *Acts 10:3* About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had just come in and said to him, “Cornelius!”
 - Angels encourage in times of danger
 - *Acts 27:23-24* For this very night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood before me, 24 saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar; and behold, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you.’
 - Angels care for God's people at the time of death
 - *Luke 16:22* Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried.
 - Angels were involved in the giving of the Mosaic Law
 - *Galatian 3:19* Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made. *Hebrew 2:2* For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty,
 - Angels Were Active at the First Advent of Christ
 - *Matthew 1:20* But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.
 - *Matthew 4:11* Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him.

- Angels Were Active During the Early Years of the Church
 - *Acts 8:26 But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, "Get up and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a desert road.)*
 - *Acts 10:3 About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had just come in and said to him, "Cornelius!"*
 - *Acts 10:7 When the angel who was speaking to him had left, he summoned two of his servants and a devout soldier of those who were his personal attendants,*
 - *Acts 12:11 When Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I know for sure that the Lord has sent forth His angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."*
- Angels rejoice as each soul is converted. In keeping with the role of announcing the Good News, angels rejoice whenever any of us decides to repent and place our trust in Christ:
 - *Luke 15:8-10 "Or what woman, if she has ten silver coins and loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which I had lost.' In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."*
- Angles love us enough to take us home and ensure we will be reunited to God
 - *Luke 16:21-23 and longing to be fed with the crumbs which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores. (22) Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. (23) In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom.*
- **Obey God**, doing His will
 - *Psalms 103:20-21, "Bless the Lord, you His angels, Mighty in strength, who perform His word, Obeying the voice of His word! (21) Bless the Lord, all you His hosts, you who serve Him, doing His will."*
- **Observers** who rejoice over what God does
 - *Job 38:6-7 "On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone, (7) When the morning stars sang together And all the sons of God shouted for joy?"*
 - *Luke 2:12-13 This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." (13) And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying*
 - *Luke 15:10 In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."*

- **Observers of Christian** order, work, and suffering
 - *Luke 12:8-9 “And I say to you, everyone who confesses Me before men, the Son of Man will confess him also before the angels of God; (9) but he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.*
 - *1 Timothy 5:21 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of His chosen angels, to maintain these principles without bias, doing nothing in a spirit of partiality.*
 - *1 Corinthians 4:9 For, I think, God has exhibited us apostles last of all, as men condemned to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.*
 - *1 Corinthians 11:10 Therefore the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.*
 - *Ephesians 3:10 so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.*
 - *1 Peter 1:12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven--things into which angels long to look.*
- **Prediction of Christ’s Birth.**
 - *Matthew 1:20 But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.*
 - *Luke 1:26-28 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, (27) to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. (28) And coming in, he said to her, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.”*
- **Rebuke** people
 - *Numbers 22:22-23, "But God was angry because he was going, and the angel of the Lord took his stand in the way as an adversary against him. Now he was riding on his donkey and his two servants were with him. (23) When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord standing in the way with his drawn sword in his hand, the donkey turned off from the way and went into the field; but Balaam struck the donkey to turn her back into the way."*
- **Rejoice** in what God does
 - *Job 38:6-7 “On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone, (7) When the morning stars sang together And all the sons of God shouted for joy?*
- **Report** to God
 - *Job 1:6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.*
 - *Job 2:1 Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD.*

- **Servant of Christ.** With the plan of God centering in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ, angels perform many services for the Savior.
- **Serve God**
 - *Psalm 103:20 Bless the LORD, you His angels, Mighty in strength, who perform His word, Obeying the voice of His word!*
 - *Revelation 22:9 But he said to me, "Do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God."*
- **Soldiers** in battle with Satan
 - *Revelation 12:7 And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war,*
- **Test Men.**
 - Hebrews 13:2 reads, *"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it"*.
 - Entertaining angels unawares brings to mind Abraham (Gen. 18:1ff.) and Lot (Gen. 19:1ff.)
- **Watchers** over rulers and nations
 - *Daniel 4:17 "This sentence is by the decree of the angelic watchers And the decision is a command of the holy ones, In order that the living may know That the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, And bestows it on whom He wishes And sets over it the lowliest of men."*
- **Worshippers of God**
 - *Isaiah 6:3 And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."*
 - *Psalm 148:1-2 Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; Praise Him in the heights! (2) Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts!*
 - *Hebrews 1:6 And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, "AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM."*
 - *Revelation 5:8-13 When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. (9) And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. (10) "You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth." (11) Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, (12) saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing." (13) And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever."*

IV. Fallen And Elect Angels?

1. The First Sin In The Universe

While all the angels were originally created holy and without sin, there was a rebellion led by Lucifer, (a Cherub) who, being lifted up by his own beauty, rebelled and sought to exalt himself above God. There are three key Scriptures that describe this tragic beginning of sin – Isaiah 14:12-18, Ezekiel 28:12-18, and Revelation 12:1-13.

- *Isaiah 14:12-18* ‘How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! (13) “But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. (14) ‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’ (15) “Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit.” (16) “Those who see you will gaze at you, They will ponder over you, saying, ‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms, (17) Who made the world like a wilderness And overthrew its cities, Who did not allow his prisoners to go home?’ (18) “All the kings of the nations lie in glory, Each in his own tomb.
- *Ezekiel 28:12-18* “Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “You had the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. (13) “You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz and the diamond; The beryl, the onyx and the jasper; The lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald; And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, Was in you. On the day that you were created They were prepared. (14) “You were the anointed cherub who covers, And I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire. (15) “You were blameless in your ways From the day you were created Until unrighteousness was found in you. (16) “By the abundance of your trade You were internally filled with violence, And you sinned; Therefore I have cast you as profane From the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the stones of fire. (17) “Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, That they may see you. (18) “By the multitude of your iniquities, In the unrighteousness of your trade You profaned your sanctuaries. Therefore I have brought fire from the midst of you; It has consumed you, And I have turned you to ashes on the earth In the eyes of all who see you.
- *Revelation 12:1-13* A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; (2) and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth. (3) Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems. (4) And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child. (5) And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne. (6) Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days. (7) And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, (8) and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. (9) And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is 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. (10) Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. (11) And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death. (12) For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them.

- *(continued from previous page) Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time.” (13) And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child.*

The first sin in the universe was pride.

Theologians believe that Lucifer was the worship leader in heaven, in the very presence of God. He was exceedingly beautiful and endowed with special abilities. As we see in the passage from Isaiah 14, Lucifer looked upon his own beauty and wisdom – attributes created in him by the Lord – and he decided that he would raise his throne above God. He foolishly declared, *“I will make myself like the Most High.”*:

There are many people today, both believers and non-believers, who have great fear of Lucifer, now known as Satan or the devil. Yet Isaiah tells us that the day will come when, *“Those who see you will gaze at you, They will ponder over you, saying, 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble...”* It is important to remember that Satan is a finite, created being. Some have rightly said, “Satan is God’s devil.” At Calvary, Jesus defeated Satan once and for all time.

The key verses of Ezekiel, although addressed to the king of Tyre, describes the fall of Lucifer from heaven. Here we see that Lucifer’s heart was filled with pride after considering his own beauty. *“Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor”*:

In Revelation we see that somehow Lucifer convinced a third of the angels to follow him in his rebellion. They were cast from heaven to earth, becoming the fallen angels, now known as demons or evil spirits. Theologians believe that the woman in this prophetic story represents spiritual Israel and the child is Jesus.

Through Lucifer, sin entered the universe, and through his temptation and the fall of Adam, sin entered the world. But we see a wonderful promise in this passage from Revelation – in Christ we overcome sin, Satan and the world,

“Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives” (Hebrews 2:14-15 NASB).

“Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil” (1 John 3:7-8 NASB).

Jesus won the victory, defeating Satan and his fallen angels as he declared from the cross that *“it is finished.”*

“In this way, God disarmed the evil rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross of Christ” (Colossians 2:15 NLT).

2. The Great War

The Bible tells us that some time after God created the angels Lucifer sinned and persuaded a third of the heavenly angels to follow him. There was a rebellion in heaven, and the angels persuaded by Lucifer sinned and fell. The angels who did not rebel became the elect angels who will never sin and fall. The fallen angels can be said to have a sin nature whereas all other angels do not. We are familiar with humans having a sin nature in that we are born fallen and struggle with doing right and wrong. Sin has affected all of who man is: body, mind, soul, emotions, etc. Scripture tells us that the unbeliever is a slave of sin and does no good, which demonstrates that we have a sin nature.

- *Romans 3:10-12 as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; (11) THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD; (12) ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."*
- *Romans 6:14-20: For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace. (15) What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! (16) Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? (17) But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, (18) and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. (19) I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification. (20) For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness*

There are many such Scriptures that describe the unbeliever, but we don't find any that describe the fallen nature of the angels who rebelled, except that we find them working against God, sinning, being deceptive, and injuring people.

- *Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*
- *Revelation 12:7-9 And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, (8) and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. (9) And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is 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.*

3. Were Angels Created With A Sin Nature?

No. If so, all angels would have a sin nature. As it is, only the demons have a sin nature which they elected to acquire. We can say that the fallen angels have a sin nature in the sense that they rebelled against God and were changed by that rebellion and will forever be in rebellion against God. In this sense we can say they have fallen, sinful natures. But, those that God elected did not sin and have no propensity to sin. (*1 Timothy 5:21 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of His chosen angels, to maintain these principles without bias, doing nothing in a spirit of partiality.*) Elect angels do not and will never have sin natures. That is, they will not fall into sinful behavior.

Fallen angels are those angels who rebelled against God along with Lucifer, a Cherub, who became the devil. Following are verses often quoted in reference to the evil one:

- *Isaiah 14:12-14 "How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! (13) "But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. (14) 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'"*
- Most scholars agree that one-third of the angels fell into sin and became demons.
 - *Rev. 12:3-4 "And another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems. 4 And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven, and threw them to the earth . . . "*

4. The Elect or Chosen Angels

To be elected means to be chosen.

The word "chosen" in Greek is ἐκλεκτός, eklektós.

"adj. from eklégō to choose, select. Chosen, select. In the group of three important biblical words, eklektós, eklégō, and eklogḗ (1589), choice or election, selection involves thoughtful and deliberate consideration.

People are chosen of God

- *Ephesians 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love*
- *2 Thessalonians 2:13 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.*

Angels are also chosen.

- *1 Timothy 5:21, "I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of His chosen angels, to maintain these principles without bias, doing nothing in a spirit of partiality."*

So it would appear that God had chosen certain angels not to fall with Satan. Since angels cannot be redeemed, God had kept for himself a group of angels who would not fall. They are the elect or the chosen angels. By contrast, it appears there are angels God did not elect, these fallen angels elected to sin and rebel on their own accord.

- *2 Peter 2:4, "For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment."*
- *Genesis 28:12 He had a dream, and behold, a ladder was set on the earth with its top reaching to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.*
- *Psalms 91:11 For He will give His angels charge concerning you, To guard you in all your ways.*
- *Jude 6 And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day*

5. How Is It Possible That a Perfectly Created Angel Living in a Perfect Heaven Could Even Sin?

We first need to understand who Lucifer was and the sins he committed. As we saw, Ezekiel 28 tells about Lucifer prior to him being cast out of Heaven. In the historical context, the passage records the words of the Lord given to the prophet Ezekiel to speak to the King of Tyre. This passage does not, however, completely “fit” with the King of Tyre, but it does “fit” with another ruler.

In Hebrew hermeneutics (the study of Scripture) there is something called a Remez. A Remez is a hint of a hidden message or a deeper meaning; something “below the surface” or “behind the words” that reveals another message or understanding. In biblical hermeneutics, it’s often called the Law of Double Reference. We find just that in Ezekiel 28. The passage is a reference to the earthly King of Tyre and to another ruler. The passage tells us about Satan’s position in Heaven, prior to his fall, and the cause of his fall.

Ezekiel 28:12-13a Son of man [God’s reference to Ezekiel], take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him [when Ezekiel spoke this to the King of Tyre, he was also speaking it to the god of the King of Tyre], “Thus says the Lord GOD: You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty [not true of an ungodly, earthly king]. You were in Eden, the garden of God. [The King of Tyre was never in Eden, the garden of God, but Satan was there. The Garden of Eden was destroyed in the Great Flood, long before the King of Tyre’s lifetime.]

Ezekiel 28:13b-14a “You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz and the diamond; The beryl, the onyx and the jasper; The lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald; And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, Was in you. On the day that you were created They were prepared. (14) “You were the anointed cherub who covers, And I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire. [Angels are created beings. The King of Tyre was not created, he was born. The gemstones spoken of here could have adorned the King of Tyre, but we see a similar description of the heavenly throne room (Revelation 4) reflecting such stones] You were the anointed cherub who covers. The King of Tyre was a worldly king, not anointed by God, and not an angel (cherub). God’s angels are anointed to serve Him. This is the “cherub who covers.” A reference to protecting or overshadowing the throne of God.

Ezekiel 28:14b-15 “You were the anointed cherub who covers, And I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire. (15) [again, the King of Tyre was born, not created], Till iniquity was found in you [the King of Tyre was born in sin; the cherub was sinless until he rebelled against God].

Reading further reveals how this anointed angel sinned and the consequences of his sin.

Ezekiel 28:16 “By the abundance of your trade You were internally filled with violence, And you sinned; Therefore I have cast you as profane From the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the stones of fire. [desire for materialism and an empire over which to reign — true of both the King of Tyre and the sinful angel], And you sinned; Therefore I [God] cast you [the angel] as a profane [sinful] thing out of the mountain of God [Heaven]; And I destroyed [condemned] you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones.

From verse 16 we get a title for the pre-fallen Satan: “the anointed cherub who covered the throne.” What a position of honor, and yet Satan was not satisfied. In the next few verses, we find reasons why Satan sinned.

Ezekiel 28:17 *Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, That they may see you.* [self-centered desire for self-glory/idolatry]; I cast you to the ground [Luke 10:18, Isaiah 14:12-14], I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you.

Verses 18 and 19 speak further of God’s judgment of the sin of this fallen angel, but for my purposes, I am focusing on what caused the sin.

The Five “I Wills” of Satan

Verse 17 states tells that pride and idolatry were the sins of Satan. Isaiah also reveals the pride of Lucifer by listing Lucifer’s proclamation of five “I wills.”

Isaiah 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

Verse 13: For thou hast said in thine heart:

1) I will ascend into heaven

2) I will exalt my throne above the stars of God

3) I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north

Verse 14:

4) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;

5) I will be like the most High.

With this understanding of who Lucifer was and the sins he committed, we can now use reason to find an answer to the question, why did these sins rise up in the angel since Heaven was perfect and the angel was created perfect?

First, remember that only God is self-existent. Everything else has been created, including the angelic beings. **The purpose of all creation is for God’s pleasure, and to serve Him and reflect His glory**

- *Philippians 2:13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.*
- *Revelation 4:11 “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.”*
- *Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*
- *Isaiah 43:7 Everyone who is called by My name, And whom I have created for My glory, Whom I have formed, even whom I have made.”*

God created four life forms: angels, plant life, animals, and man. Only angels and man were created with the capacity to make moral choices, with the ability to choose to love, honor and obey their Creator or to rebel and serve oneself. God created angels and man with free will because without any choice to love, it would not be love. It would be nothing more than coercion.

Prior to Satan's rebellion, he freely chose to love and serve God as the anointed cherub who covered the throne, but the time came when He **took his "eyes" off God, looked to himself ("I will"), and chose his will over God's.** Satan's sin came from within Himself. He sinned because he was given free will and he chose to love himself more than God.

We can learn a great lesson from Satan's sin. With all that God has done in sending Jesus to live and die for us, and with all the revelation of His goodness, grace, and mercy that He has put before our eyes, we must ask, why do we ever turn from God and choose to love and serve ourselves?

The answer is simple.

We take our eyes off God and focus them inward upon ourselves. We "forget" who He is and what He has done and then we set up "self-salvation projects" to "earn" self-worth and to raise ourselves up.

Our worth is found in Jesus alone, the One who has given us salvation. He has given us new life in Him and a new identity based on His righteousness. Knowing that we are eternally secure in the salvation that Jesus has given us, let us always keep our eyes on Him and our hearts devoted to Him. Let us never say "I will" and exalt ourselves. Instead, we should always say, *"If the Lord wills, we shall live, and do this, or that"* (James 4:15). Hebrews 12: 2 reminds us to keep *"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith"* and a favorite old hymn so beautifully reminds us to keep looking up!

6. Why Does Satan Possibly Believe He Can Defeat God?

It is hard to imagine a being like Lucifer believing he could even battle with God, much less defeat Him. Even the most depraved mind should be able to see that a creature cannot possibly contend with the Creator. Yet Satan attempted to dethrone God and strives to this day to defy God's authority, thwart His plans, and harass His people.

Perhaps part of the explanation is that pride has blinded Satan to reality. Two Old Testament passages discuss Satan's original position and the reasons for his loss of that position. They tell of an exalted angelic being, one of God's creatures, who became proud. He determined to take the throne of God for himself. But God removed him from his position.

- *Isaiah 14:12-15 "How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! (13) "But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. (14) 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' (15) "Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit.*
- *Ezekiel 28:11-19 Again the word of the LORD came to me saying, (12) "Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "You had the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. (13) "You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz and the diamond; The beryl, the onyx and the jasper; The lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald; And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, Was in you. On the day that you were created They were prepared. (14) "You were the anointed cherub who covers, And I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire. (15) "You were blameless in your ways From the day you were created Until unrighteousness was found in you. (16) "By the abundance of your*

trade You were internally filled with violence, And you sinned; Therefore I have cast you as profane From the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the stones of fire. (17) "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, That they may see you. (18) "By the multitude of your iniquities, In the unrighteousness of your trade You profaned your sanctuaries. Therefore I have brought fire from the midst of you; It has consumed you, And I have turned you to ashes on the earth In the eyes of all who see you. (19) "All who know you among the peoples Are appalled at you; You have become terrified And you will cease to be forever."

Satan is extremely intelligent. Through his intelligence he deceived Adam and Eve and took over their rule of the world for himself. Satan's influence in worldly affairs is clearly revealed

- *Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*
- *John 12:31 Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.*
- *Genesis 3:1-7 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; 3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'" 4 The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! 5 For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.*
- *2 Corinthians 11:3 But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.*

His cleverness enables him to carry out his deceptive work almost at will, although his power is subject to God's restrictions

- *Job 1:12 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him." So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD.*
- *Luke 4:6 And the devil said to Him, "I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.*
- *2 Thessalonians 2:7-8 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. (8) Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming;*

Satan does have certain victories—although within the boundaries God has set for him—and perhaps these victories allow him to continue the illusion that he can have victory over God Himself.

The reins of God on Satan's activities are illustrated by Satan's request to God for permission to afflict Job. Satan is permitted to afflict God's people, but he is never permitted to win an ultimate victory over them). A part of Satan's continuing ambition to replace God is his passionate yearning to have others worship him.

- *Job 1:7-12 The LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it." 8 The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil." 9 Then Satan answered the LORD, "Does Job fear God for nothing? 10 Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. 11 But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face." 12 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him." So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD.*
- *Luke 13:16 And this woman, a daughter of Abraham as she is, whom Satan has bound for eighteen long years, should she not have been released from this bond on the Sabbath day?"*
- *1 Thessalonians 2:18 For we wanted to come to you--I, Paul, more than once--and yet Satan hindered us.*
- *Hebrews 2:14 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,*
- *John 14:30-31 I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me; (31) but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me. Get up, let us go from here.*
- *John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."*
- *Matthew 4:8-9 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; (9) and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me."*
- *Revelation 13:4 they worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?"*
- *Revelation 13:12 He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed.*
- *Satan is "the wicked one"*
 - *Matthew 13:19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.*
 - *Matthew 13:38 and the field is the world; and as for the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil one;*
- *While God is "the Holy One"*
 - *Isaiah 1:4 Alas, sinful nation, People weighed down with iniquity, Offspring of evildoers, Sons who act corruptly! They have abandoned the LORD, They have despised the Holy One of Israel, They have turned away from Him.*

Satan's nature is malicious. Satan's efforts in opposing God, God's truth, and God's people are tireless. Satan is always opposed to man's best interests.

- *Job 1:7 The LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it."*
- *Job 2:2 The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it."*
- *Matthew 13:28 And he said to them, 'An enemy has done this!' The slaves said to him, 'Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?'*
- *1 Chronicles 21:1 Then Satan stood up against Israel and moved David to number Israel.*
- *Zechariah 3:1-2 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. 2 The LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! Indeed, the LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?"*

Through Satan's role in introducing sin into the human family (Genesis 3), Satan has gained control over Earth and more importantly the power of death, Furthermore, the natural state of all mankind from birth is Satan's sin nature. We all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. But the good news is that Christ has broken Satan's power through His crucifixion and resurrection. Satan tempted Christ directly, trying to lead Him into compromise by promising Him worldly authority and power. And Satan failed.

- *Hebrews 2:14-15 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, (15) and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.*
- *Luke 4:5-8 And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. 6 And the devil said to Him, "I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. 7 Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours." 8 Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'"*

Despite Satan's self-delusion that he can defeat God, Satan is destined to fail. His final defeat is predicted in Scripture.

- *John 12:31 Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.*
- *Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is 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.*
- *Revelation 20:10. And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

The death of Christ on the cross is the basis for Satan's final defeat. That event was the grand climax to a sinless life during which Jesus triumphed over the enemy repeatedly. Satan probably rejoiced in the death of Christ, believing it to be a victory for him, but like all his victories, that one, too, was short-lived. When Jesus rose from the grave, Satan was once again defeated. The final victory will come when Jesus returns and Satan is cast forevermore into the lake of fire.

- *Hebrews 2:14-15* Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.
- *1 Peter 3:18* For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;
- *1 Peter 3:22* who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.
- *Matthew 4:1-11* 4:1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. (2) And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. (3) And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." (4) But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'" (5) Then the devil took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, (6) and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, 'HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU'; and 'ON their HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.'" (7) Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written, 'YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.'" (8) Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; (9) and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me." (10) Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'" (11) Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him.
- *Luke 4:1-13* Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness (2) for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days, and when they had ended, He became hungry. (3) And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread." (4) And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE.'" (5) And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. (6) And the devil said to Him, "I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. (7) Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours." (8) Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'" (9) And he led Him to Jerusalem and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here; (10) for it is written, 'HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU TO GUARD YOU,' (11) and, 'ON their HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.'" (12) And Jesus answered and said to him, "It is said, 'YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.'" (13) When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time.

- *Revelation 20:1-15 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. (2) And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; (3) and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time. (4) Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. (5) The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. (6) Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years. (7) When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, (8) and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. (9) And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. (10) And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (11) Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. (12) And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. (13) And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. (14) Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. (15) And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

The death and resurrection of Christ provides the believer strength for victory over sin. We have assurance that "the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet" (*Romans 16:20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you*). But such personal victory depends on God's grace and power in our lives and our will to offer resistance to Satan's temptations.

- *Ephesians 4:25-27 Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another. 26 BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and do not give the devil an opportunity.*
- *James 4:7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*
- *1 Peter 5:8-9 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.*

To help Christians win this battle against Satan, God has provided the power of Christ's blood, the continuing prayer of Christ in heaven for believers, the leading of the Holy Spirit, and various weapons for spiritual warfare.

- *Revelation 12:11* And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.
- *Hebrews 7:25* Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.
- *Galatians 5:16* But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.
- *Ephesians 6:11-17* Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. (12) For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. (13) Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. (14) Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, (15) and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; (16) in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. (17) And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

7. God Allowed Satan And The Demons To Sin

With both the angels and humanity, God chose to present a choice. While the Bible does not give many details regarding the rebellion of Satan and the fallen angels, it seems that Satan—probably the greatest of all the angels, in pride, chose to rebel against God in order to seek to become his own god. Satan did not want to worship or obey God; he wanted to be God. Revelation 12:4 (*And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child.*) is understood to be a figurative description of one third of the angels choosing to follow Satan in his rebellion, becoming the fallen angels—demons.

- *Ezekiel 28:12-18* “Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “You had the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. (13) “You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz and the diamond; The beryl, the onyx and the jasper; The lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald; And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, Was in you. On the day that you were created They were prepared. (14) “You were the anointed cherub who covers, And I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire. (15) “You were blameless in your ways From the day you were created Until unrighteousness was found in you. (16) “By the abundance of your trade You were internally filled with violence, And you sinned; Therefore I have cast you as profane From the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the stones of fire. (17) “Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, That they may see you. (18) “By the multitude of your iniquities, In the unrighteousness of your trade You profaned your sanctuaries. Therefore I have brought fire from the midst of you; It has consumed you, And I have turned you to ashes on the earth In the eyes of all who see you.
- *Isaiah 14:12-14* “How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! (13) “But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. (14) ‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’

Unlike humanity, however, the choice the angels had (1) to follow Satan or (2) remain faithful to God was an eternal choice. The Bible presents no opportunity for the fallen angels to repent and be forgiven. Nor does the Bible indicate that it is possible for more of the angels to sin. The angels who remain faithful to God are described as the “elect angels” and so we conclude that all good angels remain eternally faithful to God. (1 Timothy 5:21). Satan and the fallen angels knew God in all His glory. For them to rebel, despite what they knew about God, was the utmost of evil. As a result, God does not give Satan and the other fallen angels the opportunity to repent. Further, the Bible gives us no reason to believe they would repent even if God gave them the chance. God gave Satan and the angels the same choice He gave Adam and Eve, to obey Him or not. The angels had a free-will choice to make; God did not force or encourage any of the angels to sin. Satan and the fallen angels sinned of their own free will and therefore are worthy of God's eternal wrath in the lake of fire.

Why did God give the angels this choice, when He knew what the results would be? God knew that one-third of the angels would rebel and therefore be cursed to the eternal fire. God also knew that Satan would further his rebellion by tempting humanity into sin. So, why did God allow it? The Bible does not explicitly give the answer to this question. The same can be asked of almost any evil action. Why does God allow it? Ultimately, it comes back to God's sovereignty over His creation. The Psalmist tells us, “*As for God, His way is perfect*” (Psalm 18:30). If God's ways are “perfect,” then we can trust that whatever He does—and whatever He allows—is also perfect. So the perfect plan from our perfect God was to allow sin. Our minds are not God's mind, nor are our ways His ways, as He reminds us in *Isaiah 55:8-9* (“*For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,*” declares the LORD.⁹ “*For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.*”)

The Bible teaches that God created the angels and man. As suggested by the fellowship that can be observed in the Trinity between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God's very being necessitated that He bring forth creatures for fellowship, but He did not create these creatures as robots who have no choice. There would be no fellowship or glory with a mechanical robot that had no choice. God gave both angels and human beings personalities with intellect, emotion, and volition. By the exercise of this personality, both mankind and angels could have fellowship with God and bring glory to Him. But, though created perfect and without sin, freedom of choice also meant the possibility, known from eternity by God, that Satan and mankind could choose against God, which both did.

8. The Leader Of The Angelic Rebellion Is Satan

As is clear from Revelation and many other passages, the leader of these fallen angels, or demons as they are also called, is Satan.

- *Revelation 12:7 And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war,*
- *Matthew 12:25-27 And knowing their thoughts Jesus said to them, “Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or house divided against itself will not stand. 26 If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself; how then will his kingdom stand? 27 If I by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast them out? For this reason they will be your judges.*

In his rebellion, it is believed, according to the verse below, that Lucifer, or as now called, Satan claimed one-third of the angels as his followers. (Rev. 12:4).

- *Revelation 12:4 “And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child.”*

Good angels, faced with the ethical choice of choosing to follow God or Lucifer, chose God. Possessing their God-given ability they chose God and are resultantly confirmed in their state of holiness. They have never sinned and never will.

Evil angels that sinned, apparently did so in full knowledge of all issues and consequences involved. They chose self-corruption, knowing exactly what they were doing. They sinned knowing there would never be an opportunity for salvation and no atonement for them.

- *2 Peter 2:4* “For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; “
- *Jude 1:6* “And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day, “

As the leader of these unholy angels, Satan is a liar, a murderer, and a thief (*John 10:10* *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly*).

As God’s great antagonist, Satan hates God and His people and is constantly on the prowl like a roaring lion in search of those he may devour by his nefarious schemes (*1 Peter 5:8* *Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour*).

As an angelic being, Satan, is supernaturally powerfully and brilliant, and uses all his powers against humanity. Not only is he a liar, a thief, and a distorter, but one of his chief characterizations is deception. John describes him as the one “who deceives the whole world” (*Revelation 12:9* *And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is 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.*). In his cunning, he disguises himself as an angel of light (*2 Cor. 11:14* *No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.*). In view of this, the Apostle Paul wrote, (*2 Cor. 11:15*) *Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.*).

Scripture reveals God to be perfect in holiness, love, benevolence, grace, and mercy. This means God cannot do evil because evil is contrary to His Holy character. For instance, God cannot

- Lie (*Titus 1:2* *in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago*).
- Further, He cannot tempt the creature to sin (*James 1:13* *Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.*).
- He cannot be the author of sin because He has judged all evil and to author sin would be contrary to His perfect justice and righteousness.
- God could not judge sin in the creature if He was the author of the creature’s sin. This include creating creatures specifically ‘chosen’ or ‘elected’ to sin.
- Therefore, though allowed by God, evil did not originate from God. It originated from something outside of God.

According to the Bible, the original human sin as recorded in Genesis 3 is not the first sin in the universe. The Bible reveals the moral problem is related to:

1. The fall of Satan and his angels into sin;
2. Satan’s characterization as the slandering adversary of God;
3. God’s purpose for man to rule on the earth; with the loss of that rule through man’s temptation and fall into sin
4. Man’s redemption and the recovery of that rule is through the sinless God-man Savior who bore the penalty for our sin.

So why did God allow Satan and the demons to sin? Perhaps the answer lies in the aftermath of sin since God’s glory is displayed even more. Just as nothing displays the splendor of a diamond in the light more than a backdrop of black velvet, so nothing could display the glory of God’s mercy, goodness, grace, and love as much as the blackness of man’s sin.

9. The Angelic Rebellion Occurred Before The Creation of Man

Many scholars hold to the principle that the fall of the evil angels probably occurred somewhere between Genesis 1 and Genesis 3. Others state an unknown period of time prior to Genesis 1:2. Though the Bible does not specifically tell us when the fall happened, there are a couple of clues.

Everything Perfect

When God finished His creation, everything was said to be very good.

- *Genesis 1:31 God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.*

When God finished creating, "everything" was "very good." If this refers to all God's creation, then this would include the angelic world. If this is the case, then Satan and the evil angels, did not exist before the seventh day of creation as evil beings.

Sin Enters Earth

In the third chapter of Genesis we find Satan, in the form of the serpent, coming to Eve.

- *Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"*

At this time, sin had already entered into the universe through Satan. It seems, therefore, that some time between Genesis 1:31 and Genesis 3:1 this angelic rebellion took place and sin entered into the universe.

Genesis Restricted To Earth

It could be argued, however, that in Genesis the emphasis on the perfection of creation was limited to the earth - it did not include the unseen realm of the universe. The writer is only interested in telling his audience about the conditions on the earth, not the entire universe. Therefore from the perspective of the writer, no comment is made about sin being elsewhere in the universe. All the writer is saying is that sin had not reached the earth at this time.

The Bible says there was no sin on the earth until Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden. This does not necessarily mean there was no sin elsewhere in the universe. If the Genesis creation account is restricted to the earth, than sin could have entered at a previous time somewhere else. If, however, the Bible is saying that everything, everywhere in the universe was perfect, than sin did not occur until after the sixth day of creation.

10. Scripture Clearly Indicates Two Groups Of Fallen Angels

- Those who have some freedom to carry out Satan's plans, and
- Those who are confined. Of those who are confined, some are temporarily so, while others are permanently confined in Tartarus. The Greeks thought of Tartarus as a place of punishment lower than hades. *Those temporarily confined are in the abyss.*
 - Some apparently consigned there to await final judgment while
 - Others will be loosed to be active on the earth (vv. 1-3, 11, 14; 16:14).¹² (emphasis mine)
 - *Jude 6 And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,*
 - *2 Peter 2:4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;*
 - *Luke 8:31 They were imploring Him not to command them to go away into the abyss.*
 - *Revelation 9 1-3 Then the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him. (2) He opened the bottomless pit, and smoke went up out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit. (3) Then out of the smoke came locusts upon the earth, and power was given them, as the scorpions of the earth have power.*
 - *Revelation 9:11 They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon.*
 - *Jude 1:6 And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day.*

11. Fallen Angels Are Doomed To The Lake Of Fire.

Fallen angels (Demons) seem to have a home or abode other than heaven itself, no specific location is given except that Satan will be bound in the "Abyss" for the thousand years after the Second Coming before he is released. Likewise the plague which seems to be demonic is spoken of as coming from the Abyss. Fallen angels also have a king who is referred to as "the angel of the Abyss". The destiny of fallen angels is the lake of fire. The holy angels will dwell in the new heavens and new earth described in Revelation 21-22.

- *Mark 13:32 "But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father .*
- *Revelation 20:3 and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.*
- *Revelation 9:11 They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon.*
- *Matthew 25:41 "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. (9) And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is 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.*
- *2 Peter 2:4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;*
- *2 Corinthians 11:14 No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.*
- *John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*
- *2 Corinthians 4:4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*
- *1 Peter 5:8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*

12. A Fallen Angel Cannot Repent And Be Forgiven

Fallen angels cannot nor seem to have the will to repent.

These angels have been given over totally to sin as the result of their sinful rebellion. They now live in total rebellion to God with full understanding of the repercussions of their decision and it is believed they do not even have a desire or a will to repent. The Bible provides no reference or mention of a repentant angel.

Why were the readers of the Bible told about the mutiny in heaven? The horrible and eternal punishment set forth in Peter and Jude's comments on this affair should strike a note of terror in the heart of any rational being.

The Bible student should not lose sight of this fact. The purpose of introducing this heavenly mutiny, and its dire consequences, is to demonstrate that if God did not spare the greater (angels), he will not spare the lesser (his human subjects, namely, in these contexts, Christians).

Repentance is something granted by God to people as part of the work of salvation that is the work of God.

- *2 Timothy 2:25 and with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth,*

Angels have no way of being redeemed that we know of biblically because the pattern of redemption involves the incarnation of God where he became one of us and died for us. This means we are able to be redeemed by the sacrifice of Christ.

- *John 1:1, In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*
- *John 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.*
- *Colossians 2:9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,*

However; there is no such redemptive work or plan supplied to the angelic realm. Therefore, there is no regeneration and no change, which means no repentance.

- *Hebrews 2:16 For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendant of Abraham.*

When Jesus subordinated himself, he did not assume the nature of an angel with a view to saving fallen angels; rather, he became a human, for the purpose of redeeming human beings. The clear implication is that angels have no Redeemer! Once lost, they are hopelessly, eternally lost.

By way of contrast, human beings may be in a "safe" state (as infants), reach a stage of moral/religious culpability, sin, and enter the "lost" state. But thanks to the grace of God, they have

the liberty of action to submit to Heaven's saving plan, and, in obedience to Christ receive redemption.

- *Hebrews 5:9 And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,*

Although there is no scriptural base for this statement, I do believe that fallen angels still believe they can win the battle (rebellion) against God. They're fully aware of the consequences of their actions, but ardently believe they can win the overall war. Someday they will sadly realize their true wretched condition.

The Bible speaks of elect angels or chosen angels. This probably means that God was electing angels not to fall in the great spiritual rebellion. When God 'elected' His good angels is not revealed in scripture. To what they were elected is categorized by our previous discussion on the types of angels and what they do.

- *1 Timothy 5:21 "I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of His chosen angels, to maintain these principles without bias, doing nothing in a spirit of partiality."*

We as humans were not chosen by God not to fall, but we were chosen to be redeemed.

- *2 Thessalonians 2:13 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.*
- *Ephesians 1:4-5 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,*

Angels were elected not to sin and man was elected for redemption.

Fallen angels cannot repent, be saved, and spend eternity with God. They knew God in the spiritual realm, rejected him with full knowledge of their actions, and will face their just punishment.

13. Angels Who Did Not Sin In The Rebellion Cannot Now Sin

Angels who have not sinned from the beginning and are in heaven will not sin ever because they were elected by God not to fall into sin.

- *1 Timothy 5:21 "I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of His chosen angels, to maintain these principles without bias, doing nothing in a spirit of partiality."*

Angels are ministering spirits who carry out the will of God and they work against the fallen angels who in turn are working against God. Therefore, it seems that from the beginning, before the foundation of the world, the angelic realm made its decision; and one-third of the angels sided with Satan to rebel against God

- *Psalm 103:20 Bless the LORD, you His angels, Mighty in strength, who perform His word, Obeying the voice of His word!*
- *Matt. 6:10 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.*
- *Revelation 12:4 And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child.*

Furthermore, we see no indication in Scripture that there will be another future rebellion of the angels who are now faithful servants of God.

God's holiness, is a factor that cannot be overlooked. I am sure that these beings are, to some degree, experiencing the incredible holiness and purity of the Lord God and have also encountered the hideous evil of the fallen angels. It would make sense to say that given such awareness and experience and the fact they were elected not to fall, those angels who are presently with God will never rebel against him.

14. The Nephilim

We are introduced to the "Nephilim" in Genesis 6:1-4

- *Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them, 2 that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose. 3 Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." 4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.*

The Nephilim are often identified with the Anakim of Numbers 13:33 and the Rephaim of Deut. 2:20. Let's take a look.

- *Numbers 13:33 There also we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."*
- *Deuteronomy 2:20 It is also regarded as the land of the Rephaim, for Rephaim formerly lived in it, but the Ammonites call them Zamzummin,*

The word "Nephilim" is the untranslated pronunciation of the Hebrew נְפִילִים It means giants and was translated in the Septuagint into the Greek γίγαντες, gigantes. The word is found in only two places as we read above, Genesis 6:4 (pre flood) and Numbers 13:33 (post flood).

There is debate over the identity of the Nephilim of Genesis 6.

1. Some people believe that the Nephilim are the offspring of sexual relations between fallen angels and human women. In support of this view Jude 6 is often referenced: *"And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day," (Jude 1:6).* This would mean that the fallen angels (The Hebrew naphal means 'to fall') had sexual intercourse with women. Whether or not this is possible is not explicitly stated in Scripture. However, we do know that angels can appear as humans (*Hebrews 13:2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.*) and are exceedingly powerful (*2 Peter 2:11 whereas angels who are greater in might and power do not bring a reviling judgment against them before the Lord.*), so it is conceivable that they can manifest with total biological capabilities as well.

1. Another view held by Christians is that the Nephilim are the descendants of Seth, the son of Adam. The term "sons of God" would designate great power and authority the same way a king would be addressed with the term "your Majesty." In this view, the men who were supposed to be godly took wives who were unbelievers and their offspring are said to have been fallen ones.

One issue is the use of the term Nephilim before and after the flood. If all of the inhabitants of the world were destroyed, except for those on Noah's Ark, then where did the Nephilim of Numbers 13:33 come from? There are two possibilities.

First, it could be that if the fallen angels had sex with women before the flood, there's no reason to conclude that they could not have done so again after the flood and produced more giants. Or, it could be that the Nephilim of Numbers 13:33 are large people and were referenced using the pre-flood term.

"Many have suggested that the sons of God were the godly line of Seth and the daughters of men were the Cainites. But this does not do justice to the terminology or the context. Others view the 'sons of God' as angels (as in Job 1:6), who cohabited with women on earth. This, however, conflicts with *Matthew 22:30. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.*

The term [Nephilim, Giants] in Hebrew implies not so much the idea of great stature as of reckless ferocity, impious and daring characters, who spread devastation and carnage far and wide.

I have also read far too many papers in which people claiming to be of sound mind claiming that Nephilims were the results of outer space aliens encounters with earth girls. While that would make a great science fiction film, it finds no credibility in scripture.

As you can see, commentaries are divided on who exactly the Nephilim really are, and the scripture is not clear. Therefore, we can make no definite statement on their identity.

15. Judgement of 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;"*
- *2 Peter 2:4 "For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;"*
- *Jude 1:6 "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day,"*

V. Summary

The Bible teaches that God created the angels. The Bible further teaches that certain angels are 'elected' (chosen) not to sin. Each angel was a perfect being created individually by God all at once. Their natural state was holy and pleasing to God Almighty. God pronounced His creation good (*Gen. 1:31 God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.*). God could not create sin, nor create a vessel designed to specifically sin against Him. Even after sin entered the world, God's good angels, who did not rebel against Him, are called holy. These are the **elect angels** in contrast to the evil angels who followed Satan in his rebellion against God and are now demons.

- *1 Tim. 5:21 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of His chosen angels, to maintain these principles without bias, doing nothing in a spirit of partiality.*
- *Matthew 25:41 "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;*

God created four life forms: angels, plant life, animals, and man. Only angels and man were created with the capacity to make moral choices, with the ability to choose to love, honor and obey their Creator or to rebel and serve oneself. God created angels and man with free will because without any choice to love, it would not be love. It would be nothing more than coercion.

God created Adam and Eve and they procreated to fill the earth with additional humans. All humans born inherited a sin nature from Adam and Eve and were born imperfect, sinful and lost before God.

Although perfect and holy before God, some angels rebelled against God, sinned and for them there is no forgiveness, no salvation, no regeneration, no atonement. When these angels sinned, they permanently died (spiritually).

With mankind, all inherited a sin nature from Adam and Eve and their natural being is to sin and rebel against God. God's Son, although God, took the form of a man, lived a perfect life in obedience to God, (The only 'man' able to do so) and became the propitiation for all man's sins. *Romans 10:9-10 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; (10) for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.* When sinning people repent, confess they are forgiven, saved and predestined to be conformed to the image of God's Son and adopted into God's family thereby reborn to spend eternity with God Almighty.

The Bible teaches us of the special fellowship within the Trinity between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In fact, God's very being necessitated that He bring forth creatures (angels and mankind) for fellowship, but He did not create these creatures as robots who have no choice.

There would be no fellowship or glory with a robot that had no choice. God gave both angels and human beings personalities with intellect, emotion, and volition. By the exercise of this personality, both mankind and angels could have fellowship with God and bring glory to Him. This negates the concept that God before the foundation of time decided which of each angel and man shall be 'chosen' to live and which shall sin and 'die'.

But, though created perfect and without sin, freedom of choice also meant the possibility, known from eternity by God, that angels and mankind could choose against God, which both did.

Man is fortunate that they have a redeemer through Jesus Christ. Angels who sinned chose self-corruption, knowing exactly what they were doing. They sinned knowing there would never be an opportunity for salvation and there would be no atonement for them. They have always possessed the full knowledge of their decision and with unrepentant hearts continue to sin and rebel and remain an aggressive enemy of God to this day.

Angels were created to worship God, minister to God, and obey His Will. To the angels who remained faithful to God, they are elected or 'chosen' to worship God, minister to God and obey God's will.