

LESSON 9 THE ANGELIC SOCIETY

PART 2: ORGANIZATION

By Darrell Crow

Not So Basic Christianity — Study Guides For Discipleship

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Part 2—The Angelic Society

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5.0 The Angelic Society

5.1 First Division of Angels: Good And Evil

All angels were originally created holy and without sin, and in hindsight we could say that each angel was created, like Adam and Eve, with the “ability-to-sin” and the “ability-to-not 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 Lucifer’s 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*). Revelation, therefore indicates two major angelic wars; one from the past and another to occur during the tribulation.

Bottom Line: there are good angels and there are evil angels.

Good Angels, faced with the ethical choice of following God or Lucifer, chose God. Possessing the God-given ability to choose good or evil, their choice of God resultantly confirmed their state of holiness. They have never sinned and never will. By choosing God in this initial heavenly rebellion, the good angels seemed to have put to death their “ability-to-sin” once and for all, thus confirming their eternal allegiance to God, The Creator Almighty.

Evil angels sinned apparently in full knowledge of all the issues involved. They chose Satan, knowing exactly what they were doing and will never repent of their decision. They KNOWINGLY, WILLING, AND PERMANENTLY chose Lucifer over God. Lucifer deceived Eve to sin and subsequently Adam. The angels were not deceived but willfully chose to rebel against God and no salvation is available that can atone 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 three groups of fallen angels.

1. One group of Fallen angels has some freedom to carry out Satan’s plans,
2. Fallen angels who are temporarily confined,
3. Fallen Angels that are permanently confined in Tartarus.

6.0 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.

6.1 First Choir

6.11 Seraphim Isaiah 6:2

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.

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.

6.12 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.

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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”

6.13 Thrones Colossians 1:16

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. *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 1:16)*

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. 1:21–22 *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. 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.*
- 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.*

6.2 Second Choir

6.21 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.*

6.22 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.

6.23 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.

6.3 Third Choir

6.31 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.*
- *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.

6.32 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”*

6.22 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.

7.0 Special Angels

7.1 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.

7.2 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.*

7.3 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?*

7.4 Host

“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.*

7.5 The Angel of the Lord

In the Old Testament, 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 all references 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.

7.6 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.

- 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.”

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?).

7.7 Ministering Spirits,

This is perhaps more of a description than a name (Heb. 1:13–14 (13) But

Ref #	Verse	Context	Meaning
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,	SOGs are Angels. This verse is speaking of Fallen Angels, now called Demons that took daughters of men as wives.	Fallen Angels (Demons)
Genesis 6:4	The Nephilim were on the earth in those days and also afterwards, when the sons of God came into the daughters of men, and they bore children unto them.	The Nephilim are the off-springs of the Sons of God and the daughters of women.	Fallen Angels (Demons)
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.:	The terms	
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		
Job 38:7			
Matthew 5:9			
Luke 20:36			
Romans 8:14			
Romans 8:19			
Galatians 3:26			

7.8 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.

7.9 Angel With Power Over Fire

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.”),

7.10 The Angel who spreads the Gospel

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.”

7.11 The Angel Who Proclaims Judgement

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.

7.12 Angels That Reap

The 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.

7.13 Angel Of The Abyss

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”

7.14 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.”

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, *para-kuptw*, “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 Angels are concerned for the worship and the 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 the Angel 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

- *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. They are the witnesses to God’s creation.

- *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.”)*

Angels 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.*

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Lesson 9: Angels
Lesson 10: Hell
Lesson 11: Satan And Demons
Lesson 12: Earth And Man

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Lesson 13: God's Foreknowledge
Lesson 14: God's Election
Lesson 15: Predestination

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- Lesson 45: Israel, Tribulation Saints
- Lesson 46: Marriage
- Lesson 47: Pre-Millennial &The Millennial Kingdom
- Lesson 48: The Final War and Judgement
- Lesson 49: New Heavens & New Earth
- Lesson 50: Restored



In a lay-leader class at Medway Community Church of Medway, MA a few years ago, I was challenged to defend my faith and the doctrines I held dear. I found myself embarrassed as it was quickly apparent that I was ill equipped to either defend or explain my beliefs.

Less than two weeks passed and I was again challenged in a local Men's Bible study. To my discredit, I once again was unable to defend my beliefs.

I resolved to correct this deficiency and set out to thoroughly study the Scriptures and document my findings on salvation and Jesus' teachings in an organized fashion. My original objective was to put together a short "white paper" to define and support my position and beliefs on predestination. God wanted me instead, to become His disciple in a life long pursuit of truth. I quickly found myself asking more and more questions that compelled me to constantly research, study and document. My goals expanded broader and faster. This study required me to put aside all my biases, read God's word freshly and intently, discuss with scholars and read numerous documents on Christian doctrines. I lost track of time, so involved were my studies. It has now been over a decade since I first undertook the quest to write a simple white paper.

God has been especially gracious in guiding my study of His revealed word. This study has been a true joy. The more I studied, the more in awe of our Almighty God I became. I was compelled from within to continue worshipping, studying, fellowshiping, and serving Him.

Quick Notes About the Author

- Married, father of three children, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.
- Saved in 1974 at FBC Church, San Jose, CA
- Tutored by lay leaders, ministers, authors, teachers, scientists and philosophers
- Currently member of FBC Bellingham, MA under the ministry of Pastor Rodrigues
- Challenged in 2 bible studies by my lack of understanding biblical doctrines. I resolved to correct this deficiency and committed myself to becoming a disciple of Christ
- These study guides summarize God's teachings and chronicles God's plan to restore Man for eternal fellowship with Him.

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God's desire to share Himself and fellowship with mankind sparked God to plan, elect and create all things. Man was created for eternal fellowship and love with God. God elected (planned and made choices) all things prior to speaking the Universe, and all life into existence. And His Creation was "Very Good."

God

Creation

Foreknowledge, Election, Predestination

The Elect

Restoration

Discipleship

End Times