

Angels in the New Testament

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1. INTRODUCTION

- a. Angel is the title not a description of their nature
 - i. Seen in their purpose
 - ii. Seen when they interact with humanity
- b. Not to be confused with God
 - i. Synonymous with divine traits
 - 1. Perfect wisdom
 - 2. Perfect justice
 - 3. Perfect glory
 - ii. Traits are not of their own making but bestowed upon them
- c. Superior to humanity and beyond us understand
 - i. Beneath humanity and subject to be judged by man
- d. Celestial (divine), pure, empowered, and immortal but not eternal
 - i. They were created
 - ii. Divine ambassadors
 - iii. Placed in the intermediate realm

2. FIRST OF FOUR ASPECTS OF ANGELS: TRAITS AND TYPES OF ANGELS

- a. Angels in Scripture
 - i. Mentioned in 34 books of the Bible
 - ii. Appearing in 305 verses with the highest mentions in Revelation
- b. Traits
 - i. Divine or perfect in the traits bestowed upon them from God
 - ii. Simultaneously created
 - iii. At one-point controlled one's own destiny
 - iv. Pure spirits
 - 1. Able to take on human form
 - v. Messengers of God
 - vi. Number of angels immeasurable
 - 1. Immortality prevent numbers from increasing or decreasing
 - 2. People do not become angels
- c. The first type of angels: Seraphim with six wings
 - i. Name meaning "burning ones"
 - 1. The highest order of angels
 - 2. Surround the throne of God

3. All three assumptions as to the purpose meaning are conjecture since only two mentions in Scripture exist
 - a. Early Church fathers view
 - b. Ardent Zeal view
 - c. Holy view
- d. The second type of angel: Cherubim with four wings
 - i. More mentions in the Bible with seventy-three
 - ii. Described with speed for the task given to them by God
 1. Cherubim means: The expressive and diligent service of God
 - iii. Also, remain near and see God
 - iv. First seen in interacting with Adam and Eve
 1. Appear to have the most interaction with God's creation
 2. Synonymous with judgment and mercy
 - a. Tabernacle and Ark of the Covenant
 - i. Mercy seat sit on the wings of Cherubim
 - b. Handle the judgments of God
 - i. Bowls, seals, and trumpets in Revelation
- e. Only four angels are mentioned by name
 - i. Michael means "who is like unto God"
 1. Five mentions
 2. Only one to be named Archangel
 - ii. Gabriel means "the strength of God"
 1. Mentioned four times
 2. Announces the birth of Christ and John the Baptist
 - iii. Lucifer/ Morning Star
 1. Mention once by name
 2. Mentioned fifty-four times by Satan
 - iv. The Angel of the Lord (Angel of the Covenant)
 1. Mentioned over 40 times in the Old Testament
 2. Other names referring to the same Angel
 - a. Angel of His Presence
 - b. Angel of the Lord God
 - c. Captain of the Lord of Host
 - d. "I AM"
 3. Preincarnate Christ
 - a. Theophanies
 - b. Christophany

- c. Only this Angel is the “Face of God” or “Presence of God” attributed towards
- d. Only Angel that do not say God decrees or messenger sent by God.
- e. Instead says “I will” or “the Lord of Host declares/says”
 - i. This Angel reveals the Bible is one continuous story
 - ii. Unlike other religions, our God is not indifferent towards His creation

3. SECOND ASPECT OF ANGELS SEEN IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

- a. Two-fold purpose
 - i. Ministering Spirits
 - ii. Design to reflect all they do back to God
- b. Reveal God’s purpose, decrees and implement God’s will for His people and those against His will

4. THIRD ASPECT OF ANGELS SEEN IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST

- a. Ministers to Christ through His life
- b. Involved with God’s plan for humanity
 - i. Announcement of John the Baptist and Christ births
 - 1. Angels announce to the shepherds and celebrate Christ's birth
 - ii. Minister to Christ
 - 1. Minister after Christ temptation
 - 2. Strengthen Christ when in agony at Gethsemane
 - 3. Guard Christ tomb
 - a. Rolled away the stone
 - b. Heralds of Christ Resurrection
 - 4. Attended the Christ’s Ascension
 - 5. As stated earlier will and have heralded Christ's imminent return
 - 6. With return with Christ at its divinely appointed time

5. THE FINAL ASPECT OF ANGELOLOGY: ANGELS INTERACTION WITH THE CHURCH

- a. Less frequently due to the presence of the Holy Spirit
- b. But still active and part of God’s ongoing plan and provision for His people
 - i. Angels still guard us
 - ii. Minister and comfort us
 - iii. Witnesses of the activities of the church
 - iv. Rejoice when someone receives salvation and are added to the book of life
 - v. Actively guide, direct and encourage the believer
 - vi. Accompany believers at death