



WHAT ARE ANGELS?

Angels are very active in the bible. Angels are mentioned at least 100 times in the Old Testament and 150 times in the New Testament. They are in a totally different class of creation from humans in the sense that they are spiritual beings who don't experience birth, reproduction, redemption, or death. People DO NOT become angels after death! This idea is found nowhere in the bible. Angels are God's servants and are described in the following ways in the bible:

- Created by God (Psalm 148:1-5, Colossians 1:15-17)
- Spiritual beings (Hebrews 1:14) without bodies of flesh and bones
- Have the ability to appear in human form (Genesis 18-19, Hebrews 13:2)
- Mighty (Psalm 103:20, 2 Peter 2:11, 2 Thessalonians 1:6-8)
- Holy (Revelation 14:10, Acts 10:22, Luke 9:26, Mark 8:38, Daniel 4:13)
- Innumerable (Hebrews 12:22)
- Messengers (Matthew 1:20-21, Luke 1:11-20 Luke 1:26-38)
- Worshippers (Isaiah 6:2-3, Revelation 5:11-12, Revelation 7:11-12)
- Warriors (2 Chronicles 32:21, Revelation 12:7, Revelation 19:14)
- Servants (Hebrews 1:7, Hebrews 1:14)
- Providers (1 Kings 19:5-6)
- Guides (Matthew 1:20-21)
- Protectors (Daniel 3:23-25, 6:22, Psalm 91:11, 2 Kings 6:16-17)
- Deliverers of God's judgment (Matthew 13:49-50).

There are different kinds of angels with different characteristics and roles. Seraphim are described as living in the presence of God constantly praising him (Isaiah 6:1-6). Cherubim are described as guardians of sacred things like the tree of life and the Ark of the Covenant (Genesis 3:24, Hebrews 9:5). Archangels are described as messengers and warriors (Daniel 12:1, 1 Thessalonians 4:16).

WHAT ARE DEMONS?

Demons are angels who are in rebellion against God. At some time in the past, there was a war in heaven and many of the angels were forced out (Revelation 12:7-9, Jude 1:6). Like angels, Satan and demons are spiritual beings without physical form. They are very strong and seem to have a hierarchy of power in their demonic realm. They are evil and their own pride fuels their war against God and his work.

- Roaming/Prowling/Seeking to devour mankind (Job 1:6-12, 1 Peter 5:7-9)
- Influencing hearts and minds of non-believers (Ephesians 2:1-3, 2 Corinthians 4:4, 2 Timothy 2:25-26, Matthew 13:19)
- Able to possess people and animals (Matthew 9:32-33, Matthew 12:22, Matthew 17:18; Mark 5:1-20, Luke 4:33-36, Luke 22:3, Acts 16:16-18)
- Entrenched in battle against God and His children (Ephesians 6:11-13)
- Thieves, killers, destroyers, liars (John 10:10, John 8:44)
- Powerless to separate us from God's love (Romans 8:38-39)
- Believe in and fear God (James 1:19)
- Awaiting a day of defeat, judgment, and hell (John 12:31, 2 Peter 2:4, Romans 16:20)

Neither Satan or any demon should be considered an equal and opposite opponent to God. Demons are not all knowing nor are they able to be omnipresent (in more than one place at a time) in the same way that God is. They are under God's authority and are powerless to separate us from God's love. They cannot be redeemed, and will be judged in the future.

WHAT IS SPIRITUAL WARFARE?

“Spiritual warfare” is the term used to describe the war that Satan and the other fallen angels (demons) are currently waging against God (Ephesians 6:11-13). They want to turn as many against God as possible. For the time being, Satan/demons are allowed to lie to (John 8:44), tempt (Matthew 4:1), and trap (2 Timothy 2:25-26) humans. In the midst of spiritual warfare, believers are called to stand firm, struggle against, fight (Ephesians 6:11-13), and ultimately cause the devil and his demons to flee (James 4:7).

DO DEMONS STILL POSSESS PEOPLE LIKE IN THE BIBLE?

There are several mentions of demon possession in the bible (Matthew 9:32-33, Matthew 12:22, Matthew 17:18; Mark 5:1-20, Luke 4:33-36, Luke 22:3, Acts 16:16-18). Does it still happen today? The short answer is “yes” but it is very uncommon. It seems that Satan and demons prefer less obvious tactics in their war against God. They would rather go unnoticed and unnamed.

Instead of using outright possession, Satanic power more effectively pulls people away from God by organizing a system in which the world is focused on and chasing after anything but God. Our flesh desires things like comfort, pleasure, material goods, ambition, position, pride, etc. (Ephesians 2:1-3, 2 Corinthians 4:4, 2 Timothy 2:25-26, Matthew 13:19). When we are sucked in by these things and when we fall in love with the world, we are dragged away and fall out of love with God (James 1:14-15, 1 John 2:15-17). This type of torment is much more subtle and powerful than demon possession.

Also, it is important to understand that there is no clear example in the Bible where a demon ever possessed a true believer. Believers are never even warned about the possibility of being possessed by demons. Also, while it may be possible, believers are never specifically instructed to cast out demons. Christ and the apostles were the only ones who cast out demons, and in every instance the demon-possessed people were unbelievers and there was eventual success in ending the possession.

“NO ONE BELIEVES IN ME ANYMORE” BY KEITH GREEN

Oh, my job keeps getting easier as time keeps slipping away
I can imitate your brightest light and make your night look just like day
I put some truth in every lie to tickle itching ears
You know I'm drawing people just like flies cause they like what they hear
I'm gaining power by the hour and they're falling by the score
You know, it's getting very simple now cause no one believe in me anymore

Oh, heaven's just a state of mind my books read on your shelf
And have you heard that God is dead? I made that one up myself
They dabble in magic spells and they get their fortunes read
You know they heard the truth but turned away and followed me instead
I used to have to sneak around but now they just open their doors
You know, no one's watching for my tricks because no one believes in me anymore

Everyone likes a winner. With my help, you're guaranteed to win
And hey man, you're ain't no sinner. You've got the truth within
And as your life slips by, you believe the lie that you did it on your own
But don't worry, I'll be there to help you share our dark eternal home

Oh, my job keeps getting easier as day slips into day
The magazines, the newspapers print every word I say
This world is just my spinning top. It's all like child's-play
You know, I dream that it will never stop but I know it's not that way
Still my work goes on and on always stronger than before
I'm gonna make it dark before the dawn since no one believes in me anymore
Well now I used to have to sneak around but now they just open their doors
You know, no one watches for my tricks since no one believes in me anymore
Well I'm gaining power by the hour they're falling by the score
You know, it's getting very easy now since no one believes in me anymore

“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them.”

— C. S. Lewis, *Screwtape Letters*

KEY BIBLE VERSES ABOUT ANGELS

Colossians 1:15-16

15 Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, 16 for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him.

Hebrews 1:14

14 Therefore, angels are only servants—spirits sent to care for people who will inherit salvation.

Hebrews 13:2

2 Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!

Psalms 103:20

20 Praise the Lord, you angels, you mighty ones who carry out his plans, listening for each of his commands.

Matthew 1:20-21

20 As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. 21 And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Revelation 5:11-12

11 Then I looked again, and I heard the voices of thousands and millions of angels around the throne and of the living beings and the elders. 12 And they sang in a mighty chorus: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered— to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing."

Daniel 6:22

22 My God sent his angel to shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, for I have been found innocent in his sight. And I have not wronged you, Your Majesty."

Psalms 91:11

For he will order his angels to protect you wherever you go.

2 Kings 6:16-17

16 "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." 17 And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Matthew 13:49-50

49 That is the way it will be at the end of the world. The angels will come and separate the wicked people from the righteous, 50 throwing the wicked into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Isaiah 6:2-3

2 Attending him were mighty seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. 3 They were calling out to each other, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Heaven's Armies! The whole earth is filled with his glory!"

Genesis 3:24

After sending them out, the Lord God stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the Garden of Eden. And he placed a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

Daniel 12:1

At that time Michael, the archangel who stands guard over your nation, will arise. Then there will be a time of anguish greater than any since nations first came into existence. But at that time every one of your people whose name is written in the book will be rescued.

1 Thessalonians 4:16

16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God.

KEY BIBLE VERSES ABOUT THE DEVIL/DEMONS

Revelation 12:7-9

7 Then there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels. 8 And the dragon lost the battle, and he and his angels were forced out of heaven. 9 This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels.

1 Peter 5:7-9

7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

Ephesians 2:1-3

1 Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. 2 You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. 3 All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else.

2 Corinthians 4:4

4 Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.

2 Timothy 2:25-26

25 Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will learn the truth. 26 Then they will come to their senses and escape from the devil's trap. For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants.

Ephesians 6:11-13

10 A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. 12 For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.

John 10:10

10 The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

John 8:44

44 For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Romans 8:38-39

38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. 39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

James 1:19

19 You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror.

John 12:31

31 The time for judging this world has come, when Satan, the ruler of this world, will be cast out.

Romans 16:20

20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

James 4:7

7 So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.