

ANGELS: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE...

“The percentages of Americans who believe in God, angels, heaven, hell and the devil—have edged downward by 3-5% since 2016—ranging from a high of 74% believing in God to lows of 59% for hell and 58% for the devil. About two-thirds (69%) believe in angels and (67%) believe in heaven.”

Introduction

What is the truth about angels? According to recent polls—*more people believe in angels than in heaven, hell, or the devil.*

Angels exist. The problem with many who believe in them is—*they think there's only one kind of angel.*

Do “statues and images of angels” violate Scripture? *What are “demons”—and what are some “tell-tale signs” of demonic activity?*

Do our “departed” loved ones come back as “guardian angels or little fat children with short wings” to guard, warn, and advise the living?

What role will angels play in the “last days”? There is a price to pay for not knowing and not loving the truth!

Our assignment in this study is to “build on” what we know or been taught to what the Bible says about angels—past, present, future.

Opening Scripture(s): 1 Timothy 4:1, Ephesians 6:10-12 NLT, LB, MSG

“**I**Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from what we believe [the true faith]; they will follow lying [deceitful] spirits and teachings that come from demons.” 1 Timothy 4:1

“**I**O A final word: Be strong with the Lord’s mighty power. **I**I Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all [strategies and tricks] of the Devil. **I**2 For we are not fighting against people made of flesh-and-blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the [unseen] world, against those mighty powers of darkness who rule this world, and against [wicked] spirits in the heavenly [realms].” Ephesians 6:10-12

1. Do we or our “departed” loved ones—regardless of where their souls went—come back as “angels” to watch over, protect, warn, and advise the living? Or is that “a seducing teaching” that came from demons?”

A WARNING:

People who have suffered the loss of a significant loved one and are still in the “grieving process” are especially “vulnerable” to this seducing spirit!

- (1) Matthew 18:1-10: _____
- (2) See 2 Samuel 12:19-23. “_____.”
- (3) Luke 16:19-31: _____
- (4) King Saul.
 - a. _____, had all mediums and those who consult the dead expelled from the land. Leviticus 19:31, Isaiah 8:19
 - b. _____ the law he formerly upheld and summoned the spirit of the deceased prophet Samuel for advice. 1 Samuel 28
 - c. _____—*and rather than be helped, Israel was defeated because of what he did!* 1 Samuel 31:1-7
- (5) The one who gave us Isaiah 8:19 and Luke 16:22-31, also gave us Matthew 22:31-33, Revelation 1:17-18, and Matthew 11:28-29!

2. What are “demons”? And what are some “tell-tale signs” of demonic activity?

A. There are only two kinds of angels:

- (1) Those which are, *by character and deed*, _____. They are discerned by “their conduct and their works”! Isaiah 8:20, Matthew 7:15-20
- (2) Those which are, *by character and deed*, _____. Also discerned by their conduct and works! See Luke 7:21 and 8:1-2.

The “unholy” angels are the “angels who were cast out of heaven” along with Lucifer, the leader of the rebellion.

“Demons” are the “fallen angels” masquerading as “male/female deities” worshipped throughout the OT and the “demons [deities] and wicked spirits” worshipped and cited in NT Scripture—who “possess, provoke, incite, and empower” people to do evil or disobey God. Ephesians 2:1-3
Warning and Instructions on How to “Resist”: 1 Corinthians 10:1-23, Ephesians 6:10-18

Compare events in Mark 9:14-29 to John 9:1-3. The father in Mark 9 cited this as “an event” that had its onset when the boy was very small compared to John 9.

B. What are some “tell-tale signs” of demonic activity?

- (1) _____, etc. Leviticus 19:28, Mark 5:1-20
- (2) _____—often stemming from “opposition” to the Word! John 6:60-66, Acts 19:23-41, Acts 21:27-36
- (3) _____. Psalm 2, Psalm 83, John 15:18-25
- (4) _____. James 4:1-2, 3:13-18, 2:1-10
- (5) _____—designed to “incite rebellion against authority”—*especially against “spiritual authority”*. Psalm 106:16-18, 106:19-23
- (6) Any “_____” on the nation of Israel or the people of God that provokes His anger against them. 1 Chronicles 20:1-8, Exodus 32
- (7) **Betrayal** of a “deeply spiritual” nature. Luke 22:1-6, John 13:21-30

3. Seventeen truths “every believer” MUST know about angels to “escape the strong delusion” of the last days.

1. Angels are “_____” beings. This has three important implications for serious students of Scripture and prophecy:
 - (1) Like God—they are “_____”—[John 4:24]—but unlike (the Godhead)—they haven’t _____. Psalm 41:13, Heb. 1:10-12, 13:8
 - (2) Angels were “_____”—at some point—that “pre-dates” the 6-day creation. (Genesis 1:1-31) *Note: The serpent first appears in Gen. 3.*
 - (3) Angels are NOT _____, NOT _____, or accorded the same “_____” as God! Hebrews 1:1-14
2. The “great transgression” of the angels who were cast out of Heaven. Jude 1:5-6, Genesis 6:1-8, Matthew 22:29
3. Where are the angels that were cast out of heaven? 2 Peter 2:4, Jude 1:5-6
4. The holy angels are “sent”—from God to deliver “important messages” to people in distress, to leaders of nations, or messages that would affect the whole of mankind. The Book of Revelation came (in part) through an angel; but did not “originate” with angels! Revelation. 1:1-3
To refresh our minds, let’s go back to Genesis 18:1-22 and Genesis 19, then forward to Luke 2:8-20 for two examples of angels on assignment.
5. We shouldn’t be surprised that the Devil uses “fallen angels” and “deceived people” to “seduce/deceive” people in the last days! 1 Timothy 4:1-5
6. While angels continue to bring us “trustworthy messages” from God—if they bring “a vision/revelation/letter” that “condemns, contradicts, or maligns” the character of God or events of Scripture—they’re not holy! Isaiah 8:20-22, 1 Cor. 12:1-3, 2 Thessa. 2:1-12, Gal. 1:6-9, Rev. 16 and 22:18-21
7. Jesus is in “all ways and every measure superior” to angels—and His name is above theirs! (Hebrews 1:4-14), John 3:34, Philippians 2:6-11
8. Angels are “respected and held in deep regard”—but are never worshipped! Deut. 4:19, 17:3, Jer. 19:13, Acts 7:41-43, Colossians 2:16-19
9. Are “statues and ornaments” depicting angels a violation of Scripture? Exodus 20:4-5
10. Angels cannot forgive sin. Exodus 23:20-24 *Note: If someone is “seduced or deceived” into sin by a “fallen angel”—that angel cannot forgive that sin! Note: Any spirit being that demands worship for itself or some other deity is a “seducing spirit”! Rev. 19:9-10, Rev. 22:8-9, [Daniel 3], Rev. 13*
11. The holy angels will never “alter, change, or countermand” an instruction from God or Jesus. 1 Kings 13
12. The holy angels don’t “take sides” with humans. Joshua 5:13-15
13. All angels have the ability to “transform or change” appearance—seemingly dependent on their purpose or assignment. Genesis 19, Hebrews 13:2, 2 Corinthians 11:4, 2 Corinthians 11:12-15
14. Angels are not “recipients” of salvation; but they serve, protect, and assist those who are being saved. Hebrews 1:14, Ps. 34:4-7
15. With one exception, those “ministered to” by angels, have “no authority” to “summon or command” them! Psalm 103:20, 2 Chronicles 21:14-27, Matthew 4:11, John 19:1-11, Matthew 26:50-54
16. Angels will not be in control in the world to come. Hebrews 2:5
17. We will judge angels. 1 Corinthians 6:1-3

4. Two things angels DON’T KNOW... two things they DO KNOW...and one thing that STUMPS them:

1. _____ God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit knows.
2. The _____ of Christ’s return. **Question:** Why is this important for believers to know? Matthew 24:36, Mark 13:32
3. What “stumps” them: _____. They “...are eagerly watching these things happen.” 1 Peter 12
4. Psalm 89:5-7 shows us what all the angels know. _____.
5. And, all the angels know who has “_____” in the spirit realm. 2 Chronicles 18:9-27, Acts 19:15, Mark 1:32-34

5. Scripture show us at least four classes of angels (in no particular order).

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6. How do they appear or manifest to people?

- In "human" form or as humans. Judges 13:6
- As "dazzling" beings and "warring" angels—who "execute the LORD's vengeance" on His adversaries. 2 Kings 19:35, Ezekiel 9
- As "ministering" spirits and "godly ministers"—to comfort, help, encourage, bring understanding, in response to prayer. Daniel 9:20-23
Note: Daniel chapter 10 illustrate the "scale of the conflict" in the "spiritual realms" alluded to in Ephesians chapter 6.
- As "godly ministers" (when masquerading as)—to oppose and teach to deceive. 2 Cor. 11:12-15, 1 Timothy 4:1, 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12
Question: (1) Why would "fallen angels" manifest as "human beings"? Answer: _____! (2) Why they manifest as "spirit beings"? Answer: _____!
- Always with "great reverence and deference" to God and the Godhead! Also with "fearful deference" to other angels!

7. What about the "names" of angels? Only four angels are formally named in the Bible:

- _____—who is referred to as "*one of the mightiest angels*" and the one "*who stands watch over the nation of Israel*" Jude 1:9, Dan. 12:1
- _____—who is "self-described" as the one who stands in the "presence of God" as His messenger. Daniel 8:15-19, 9:20-23, Luke 1:3-20
- _____—"Lucifer" was Satan's God-given name in heaven. His name means "*shining star, light bearer, and 'son of the morning'*".
Isaiah 14:12-17, Ezekiel 28:1-19 Note: His various "other names" describe his "works". Revelation 12:7-10
- _____—the Destroyer. Revelation 9:11
- Other angels are described as "*the angel of the LORD, the holy angels, servants of God, ministering spirits, etc.*)
- One angel said it wouldn't matter even if we knew their names! Judges 13:17-18

8. What role, if any, do angels play any role at death of God's people?

- _____. Luke 16:19-22
- _____. Jude 1:8-10
- _____. Matthew 28:1-7 Note also the "conspiracy" that followed His death. Matthew 28:11-15

9. Angels will play a "defining role" at the end of this age.

- Michael will "_____ " the nation of Israel. Daniel 12
- They will act as "_____ " against those who oppose, reject or are ashamed of Christ and His message.
Mark 8:38, Jude 1:14-15, Revelation 19
- They will "witness" the divine wrath of God against those who take the Mark of the Beast. Revelation 13:9-13
- They will come with Christ to _____. Mark 13:26-27
- They will "separate" the wheat [_____] from the tares [_____]. Matthew 13:40-43
- One angel is sufficient to "_____ " the Devil with chains and cast him into a "bottomless prison" for 1,000 years. Revelation 20:1-3