

Subject: *Biblical Truth about Angels – Part 2*

Scripture: *Colossians 1:1-17*

We will continue our study of angels by looking at verses 15-17. There is a visible and an invisible part of God's universe. God created a world that includes physical things as well as spiritual things and beings. Paul states that Christ created all things in heaven and on earth, both visible and invisible. Scientists and students classify and describe things and creatures in the physical world. Bible students and theologians classify and describe things and creatures in the spiritual world. It is obvious that God created all things in a very orderly way. This is true of physical and spiritual beings. In this message we will consider the names of angels and what their names reveal to us.

Names and Descriptions of Angels

1. Watchers (Dan. 4:13, 17; 1 Cor. 4:9) – Angels observe what is happening on earth. They are always awake and alert. They are supervisors and agents employed by God in controlling and overseeing world government. They may be involved in the execution of God's commands concerning world affairs. Angels desire to investigate things about our salvation (1 Pet. 1:12; Eph. 3:10).

2. Gods (Ps. 8:5; 97:7) – The Hebrew word *Elohim* is used of angels and of God because they are spiritual and mighty like God. This term describes angels as a supernatural class of being. They have greater strength than weak, mortal humans. Angels reflect the very glory and majesty of God Himself.

3. Hosts of God (God's armies) (Ps. 103:21; 148:2; Lk. 2:13; 1 Kgs. 22:19; Dan. 7:10) – They are God's supernatural army who are called upon to bless the Lord (Ps. 103:20-21). Angels are God's servants always ready to accomplish His will. They act as an extension of His power and providence. The title, "Lord of hosts," pictures God as the supreme commander of a great heavenly army. A multitude of the heavenly host appeared when Christ was born. When we sing the old hymn commonly known as the "Doxology," we sing these words:

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

4. Saints (Deut. 33:2; Job 5:1; 15:15; Ps. 89:6-7; Jude 14) – They are set apart by God for His special purpose. All their actions are devoted to God.

5. Ministering spirits (Heb. 1:13-14) – They are God's servants. The Greek word "ministering" means that they are commissioned by God for official duty. Their official duty is to care for and help believers as God directs. They also minister to God the Father and Christ.

6. Flames of fire (Ps. 104:4; Heb. 1:7) – Fire is the symbol of God's holiness. This may refer to their zeal, their purity, or their power to destroy (2 Thess. 1:7-8). When Elisha's servant saw God's army of angels surrounding them, they appeared as chariots of fire (2 Kg. 6:15-17).

7. Elect angels (1 Tim. 5:21) – These are the angels who refused to rebel and follow Satan. God has evidently chosen and established them in holiness so that they will not defect at another time.

8. Sons of God (Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7) – They were created by God. This name is used of all angels

including Satan. In the Book of Job they present themselves as being accountable to God.

9. Morning stars (Job 38:7; Isa. 14:12-14; compare Rev. 12:3-4) – They are stars of light. This name is used symbolically to describe their heavenly nature and brilliance. Satan was named "Lucifer" (meaning "Light-bearer") before he rebelled against God and fell from his high place. He became a falling star. In Revelation 12:3-4, 9, Satan is described as a great red dragon and the angels are stars. Satan led a revolt and one third of the angels fell with him.

10. Sons of the mighty (Ps. 89:6; 29:1; Isa. 13:3) – They excel in strength (Ps. 103:20). C. I. Scofield comments that the angels' strength is their outstanding quality.

11. Angels (messengers) (Ps. 103:20; Heb. 12:22) – The word "angel" means messenger. They obediently and faithfully deliver God's messages when called upon to do so. Angels delivered these important announcements:

- A. The conception of John the Baptist (Lk. 1:13)
- B. The conception, name, and mission of Christ (Mt. 1:20-21; Lk. 1:31)
- C. The birth of Christ (Lk. 2:10-15)
- D. The resurrection of Christ (Mt. 28:5-7; Lk. 24:23)
- E. The ascension and return of Christ (Acts 1:11)

12. Scripture reveals three named angels. These will be considered again in the next part of our study on the types and classification of angels.

- A. Michael ("Who is like God?" Dan. 10:21; 12:1; 1 Th. 4:16; Jude 9; Rev. 12:7-9)
- B. Gabriel ("Mighty One of God" Lk. 1:18-19, 26-38)
- C. Lucifer ("Light-bearer" Isa. 14:12-15; Rev. 12:3-4, 7-9)

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