

ANGELS

There are a lot of questions about angels. What are they? What do they do? Why do they exist? What do they look like? Much of the difficulty comes from the limited information the scriptures reveal concerning angels. In this lesson we will study the scriptures that speak about angels and learn as much as we can from what God has revealed.

Before we begin, it is important to define the word “angel.” Use a Bible dictionary like Vine’s or go to studylight.org or crosswalk.com to look up the definition. Write down the definition below:

How does this definition help us understand the role of angels?

EXAMINING THE PASSAGES:

Read the following passages and record what we learn about angels. Be sure to check the context of each passage.

THEIR ROLE:

Now to which of the angels has He ever said: Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies Your footstool? Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve those who are going to inherit salvation? (Hebrews 1:13-14)

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look. (1 Peter 1:10-12)

“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 18:10)

1. Matthew 18:10 is a commonly used text to argue that every person (or at least children) have a guardian angel looking out for them. Read the context of Matthew 18. Determine the meaning of Matthew 18:10.

The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. (Psalm 34:7)

Bold, arrogant people! They do not tremble when they blaspheme the glorious ones; however, angels, who are greater in might and power, do not bring a slanderous charge against them before the Lord. (2 Peter 2:10-11)

Angels play an important role in the book of Daniel. Read the following passages and write down what angels are doing.

Daniel 6:16-24

Daniel 10:2-11:1

2. What are some of the ways that angels have revealed themselves? Can you think of any specific instances in the scriptures?

Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. (Hebrews 13:2)

CONDEMNATION:

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; (2 Peter 2:4)

And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day— (Jude 6)

3. Do angels have free will? Are angels able to sin?

4. Can angels repent? Does the blood of Christ also extend to angels? Why or why not?

Now since the children have flesh and blood in common, He also shared in these, so that through His death He might destroy the one holding the power of death—that is, the Devil—and free those who were held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it is clear that He does not reach out to help angels, but to help Abraham's offspring. (Hebrews 2:14-16)

Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life! (1 Corinthians 6:2-3)

WORSHIP:

Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, dwelling on visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God. (Colossians 2:18-19)

THE LAW:

Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made. (Galatians 3:19)

We must therefore pay even more attention to what we have heard, so that we will not drift away. For if the message spoken through angels was legally binding, and every transgression and disobedience received a just punishment, how will we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was first spoken by the Lord and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him. (Hebrews 2:1-3)

You received the law as delivered [ordained; NAS] by angels and did not keep it. (Acts 7:53)

CONCLUSION:

What conclusions can you draw about angels? What do they do? What is their role?

Demons

There are a lot of questions about demons also. What are they? What do they do? Why do they exist? What do they look like? Much of the difficulty comes from the limited information the scriptures reveal concerning demons. In this lesson we will study the scriptures that speak about demons and learn as much as we can from what God has revealed.

Before we begin, it is important to define the word “demon.” Use a Bible dictionary like Vine’s or go to studylight.org or crosswalk.com to look up the definition. Write down the definition below:

1. How does this definition help us understand the role of demons?

EXAMINING THE PASSAGES:

Read the following passages and record what we learn about demons. Be sure to check the context of each passage.

Then He will also say to those on the left, ‘Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the Devil and his angels! (Matthew 25:41)

You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. (James 2:19)

Demons also came out of many, shouting, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Messiah. (Luke 4:41)

Now the Spirit explicitly says that in the latter times some will depart from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and the teachings of demons, through the hypocrisy of liars whose consciences are seared. They forbid marriage and demand abstinence from foods that God created to be received with gratitude by those who believe and know the truth. (1 Timothy 4:1-3)

What am I saying then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, but I do say that what they sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be partners with demons! You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot share in the Lord's table and the table of demons. Or are we provoking the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He? (1 Corinthians 10:19-22)

On that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity. On that day, says the LORD of hosts, I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, so that they shall be remembered no more; and also I will remove from the land the prophets and the unclean spirit. (Zechariah 13:1-2)

The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!" He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." (Luke 10:17-20)

CONSIDER:

When do we first see the problem of demons and unclean spirits? What do we learn about demons when we consider when we begin reading about them in the scriptures?

But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. (Matthew 12:28)

2. What did you learn about demons? What is their purpose? Do they still exist overtake people today?

Satan

There are a lot of questions about Satan. Who is he? How did he come into existence? In this lesson we will study the scriptures that speak about angels and learn as much as we can from what God has revealed.

Before we begin, it is important to define the word “Satan” and “devil.” Use a Bible dictionary like Vine’s or go to studylight.org or crosswalk.com to look up the definition. Write down the definitions below:

Satan:

Devil:

How does this definition help us understand who Satan is?

EXAMINING THE PASSAGES:

Read the following passages and record what we learn about Satan. Be sure to check the context of each passage.

Job 1:6-2:7

And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. (Revelation 12:9)

1. Based upon what we learned about the free will of angels, how did Satan come into being?

Be sober! Be on the alert! Your adversary the Devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour. (1 Peter 5:8)

Therefore, submit to God. But resist the Devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)

For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself is disguised as an angel of light. So it is no great thing if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their destiny will be according to their works. (2 Corinthians 11:13-15)

And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will. (2 Timothy 2:24-26)

And we do this so that we may not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs. (2 Corinthians 2:11)

Luke 4:1-11

Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. (1 John 3:8)

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!" (Jude 9)

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while. (Revelation 20:1-3)

And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (Revelation 20:7-10)

2. Who is Satan? What is he trying to do? What is his end result?

Angels & Demons



A SELF STUDY GUIDE

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