

## (Heaven's) Angels

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The term “angel” (translating “Malach” in the Hebrew and “aggelos” in the Greek) does not denote a species of living things such as man’s being called “homo sapien”, but rather denotes an office named for the function these creatures serve, that is, ‘messenger’ or ‘ambassador.’ Angel is an official title. As mentioned, Genesis 2.1-3, explicitly states that heaven and earth and all the host therein were completed in their creation before the 7<sup>th</sup> day. The previous verse (1.31) explicitly says: “Then God saw **everything that He had made**, and indeed **it was very good**. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.” So all creation was perfect and good both in heaven, where the angels are the foremost invisible creatures and on earth, where man is the foremost visible creature.

“Bless the Lord, you His **angels**, Who excel in strength, who do His word, Heeding the voice of His word. <sup>21</sup>Bless the Lord, all you His hosts, You **ministers** of His, who do His pleasure. Ps. 103.20,21



### What does the Bible say about the angels?!

#### 1. **The angels are spirits, that is immaterial beings.**

But to which of the angels has He ever said: “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool”? <sup>14</sup>Are they not all ministering **spirits** sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation? Hebrews 1.13,14

Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, “Peace to you.” <sup>37</sup>But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. <sup>38</sup>And He said to them, “Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup>Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.”

<sup>40</sup>When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. <sup>41</sup>But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, “Have you any food here?” <sup>42</sup>So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. <sup>43</sup>And He took it and ate in their presence. Luke 24.36f

The difference between God and angels as spirits is the difference between God as the infinite Creator and the angels as finite creatures. As distinct from the human soul, the angels are complete beings as spirits and our soul and spirit is a part of our beings which also consists of a corporeal body.

They are illocal, that is, although they can be located at one place at a certain time, they are independent of space and take up no space. So they can occupy space already taken up by a human/ material body. They are NOT omnipresent.

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<sup>1</sup>Based on Pieper, Christian Dogmatics, vol. 1, (CPH, 1950), pp. 500 f.

## 2. **Angels are personal agents.**

Scripture assigns to the good angels both knowledge and will.

### **A. Knowledge**

...to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be **made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places**, Eph. 3.10

We keep in mind, though, that only God is omniscient and prescient (knowledge of the future). Also only God is able to know the thoughts of man since to do so is only a prerogative of God.

...then hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive, and act, and give to everyone according to all his ways, whose heart You know (**for You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men**),<sup>40</sup> that they may fear You all the days that they live in the land which You gave to our fathers. 1 Kings 8.39

### **B. Will**

The temptation of Christ (Matthew 4) and Adam and Eve (Gen. 3) prove that the devil, an evil angel, possesses a will and intelligence.

## 3. **Angels are powerful, but not supernatural**

...excel in strength. Ps. 103.20; ...mighty 2 Thess. 1.7;

### **A. Evil angels more powerful than sinful man:**

But He, knowing their thoughts, said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and a house divided against a house falls.<sup>18</sup> If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? Because you say I cast out demons by Beelzebub.<sup>19</sup> And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges.<sup>20</sup> But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.<sup>21</sup> When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace.<sup>22</sup> But when a stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him, he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoils.<sup>23</sup> He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters.

<sup>24</sup>"When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.'<sup>25</sup> And when he comes, he finds it swept and put in order.<sup>26</sup> Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first." Luke 11. 17f

### **B. Cannot perform miracles**

According to Scripture the AntiChrist will secure a following by the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders (2 Thess. 2.9). The words that follow establish the manner of this power: "For this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

### **C. They do not marry nor have children with humans**

Such fables are made based on Gen. 6.2; "The sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose." But Scripture says "they neither marry nor are given in marriage" (Mt. 22.30).

## 4. **Numerous and Forming Ranks or Orders**

The number of angels is very great (cf. Dan. 7.10; Luke 2.13). Hebrews (12.22) speaks of "an innumerable company of angels."

The ranks of angels are ordered in Scripture which mentions *Cherubim* (Gen. 3.24; Ps. 80.1), *Seraphim* (Is. 6.2), "thrones, principalities and powers" (Col. 1.16), *Archangels* (1 Thess. 4.16); and Beelzebub, the chief of the devils (Luke 11. 15, 18, 19).