

Lesson One

The Creation of the Angels

Angels and Demons, pp. 11-21

Goals

1. To help us understand that angels are real beings created by God.
2. To help us appreciate the different abilities God has given the various angels.

Introduction

“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. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors, and hail a materialist [modern?] or a magician [postmodern?] with the same delight” (C.S. Lewis -- *The Screwtape Letters*, p. 3).

What danger does each error present?

What would be a balanced approach to our view of angels and demons?

Where did angels come from?

Colossians 1:16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.

- Review what God made on the various days of creation.
- On which day did God create angels?

Job 38:4-7 “Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone—while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?”

- This passage may shed some light on the time when the angels were created. Was it early or late in the creation process?

How many angels did God create?

Hebrews 12:22 *But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly.*

Daniel 7:10 *Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.*

- Daniel puts the number of angels at 100 million. What does he mean by this?

Luke 20:35,36 “But those who are considered worthy of taking part in that age and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage, and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels.”

- Angels don’t marry and don’t die. What does this tell us about their number?
- Evaluate: When we die we will become angels.

What are angels like?

Hebrews 1:14 *Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?*

- What kind of beings are angels?

- Multiple choice: The Bible reveals that angels
 - (a) can assume human bodies.
 - (b) can assume various forms.
 - (c) have wings.
 - (d) are very brilliant in appearance.

- Which of the following statements is correct?
 - Angels are the teachers of God’s church.
 - Angels are the students of God’s church.

- Which of the following angels are named in the Bible?
 - Raphael
 - Gabriel
 - Michael
 - Casper
 - Clarence

Are there different classes of angels?

1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

- The Bible never speaks of more than one archangel. Does this mean there can be only one? Explain.

Isaiah 37:16 “O LORD Almighty, God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.”

- Another class of angels is the cherubim. What position do they hold in the ranks of angels?

Isaiah 6:2 *Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying.*

- Which angels did Isaiah see in his vision of heaven?

- Multiple choice: Angels were created
 - (a) holy but able to sin.
 - (b) holy but not able to sin.

Summary

Angels are special, spiritual beings that God created. Although the Bible doesn't say on which day of creation they were made, it's possible that angels were created on one of the first days. God's army of angels includes millions of powerful creatures that vary in rank and that can assume different forms. Angels can teach us some things we don't know, yet they are not all-knowing. They are eager to learn more about God's plan for lost sinners.

During the week

1. Read the first three chapters of Ezekiel and note the beauty of the angels and also the importance of the prophet's call.
2. To review this lesson, read chapter 1 of *Angels and Demons*.