

Loris First Baptist Church
“52 Vital Doctrines of The Bible”

Doctrine #22: Angels

Note: Most information based on pages 151-155 of the book “Major Bible Themes” by Lewis Sperry Chaffer.

The Nature of Angels

1. According to Scripture, long before the creation of man, God created an innumerable company of beings described as “angels”.
2. Like men, they have personality and are capable of great intelligence and moral responsibility.
3. The word “angel” means “messenger” and, while referring to a special class of beings, the term is sometimes employed of others who are messengers—
 - a. Such as the angels of the seven churches of Asia (Rev. 2—3). These “angels” are probably referring to the “men” who are the respective “pastors” of those churches.

Rev. 1:20 *“The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are THE ANGELS of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.*”

Rev. 2:1, 8, 12, 18 *“To THE ANGEL of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of Him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands:”*

⁸ *“To THE ANGEL of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of Him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again.”*

¹² *“To THE ANGEL of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of Him who has the sharp, double-edged sword.”*

¹⁸ *“To the angel of the church in Thyatira write: These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze.”*

Rev. 3:1, 7, 14: *“To THE ANGEL of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of Him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.”*

⁷ *“To THE ANGEL of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of Him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.”*

¹⁴ *“To THE ANGEL of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation”*

b. And the term is sometimes used of ordinary “human” messengers.

Luke 7:24 “After John’s MESSENGERS left, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: ‘What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind?’”

James 2:25 “In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction?”

c. The term is also used of the “spirits” of men who have died.

Matthew 18:10: “See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that THEIR ANGELS in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.”

Acts 12:15 “‘You’re out of your mind,’ they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, ‘It must be HIS ANGEL.’”

d. Men DO NOT become “angels” when they die. In fact, man is so “favored” by God over angels (see Psalm 8:4-5), that men will actually “judge” angels (i.e. “rule over them”) in the future kingdom of God.

1Corinthians 6:2-3 “Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT WE WILL JUDGE ANGELS? How much more the things of this life!”

4. In like manner the term “angel” is used of “THE” Angel of Jehovah, referring to appearances of Christ in the Old Testament in the form of an angel and as a messenger from God to men.

Genesis 16:9-13 “THE ANGEL OF THE LORD also said to her: ‘You are now with child and you will have a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the LORD has heard of your misery. He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone’s hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers.’ She gave this name to THE LORD who spoke to her: ‘YOU ARE THE GOD who sees me,’ for she said, ‘I have now seen the One who sees me.’”

Genesis 21:17-19 “God heard the boy crying, and THE ANGEL OF GOD called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, ‘What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation.’ Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.”

Genesis 22:11-12 “But THE ANGEL OF THE LORD called out to him from heaven, ‘Abraham! Abraham!’ ‘Here I am,’ he replied. ‘Do not lay a hand on the boy,’ he said. ‘Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld FROM ME your son, your only son.’”

5. When not used in reference to men or God Himself, the term is used of a distinct order of beings who, like man, have moral responsibility and who are servants of God in the moral sphere.

a. Like man, angels continue forever and are distinct from all other created beings. They form a prominent part of God’s program for the ages and are mentioned over a hundred times in the Old Testament and even more frequently in the New Testament.

b. Angels apparently were all created simultaneously and were innumerable in number

Hebrews 2:5-8 *“It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. But there is a place where someone has testified: ‘What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than THE ANGELS; you crowned him with glory and honor and put everything under his feet.’”*

Revelation 5:11 *“Then I looked and heard the voice of MANY ANGELS, NUMBERING THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS, AND TEN THOUSAND TIMES TEN THOUSAND. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders.”*

c. They have all the essential elements of personality including intelligence, moral will, and sensibility or emotion and, accordingly, are able to render intelligent worship of God

Psalm 148:2 *“Praise Him, all His angels, praise Him, all His heavenly hosts.”*

d. They are also held responsible for the quality of their service and their moral choices.

2Peter 2:4 *“For IF GOD DID NOT SPARE ANGELS WHEN THEY SINNED, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment...”*

Jude 6 *“And THE ANGELS who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.”*

e. Their natures do not include bodies unless they are bodies of a spiritual order.

1 Corinthians 15:44 *“...it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.”*

Revelation 18:1 *“After this I saw ANOTHER ANGEL coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was ILLUMINATED BY HIS SPLENDOR.”*

f. Sometimes angels are seen in appearance as in the body of men.

Genesis 18:1-2 *“The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. Abraham looked up and SAW THREE MEN STANDING NEARBY...”*

Genesis 19:1-2 *“THE TWO ANGELS arrived at Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city. When HE SAW THEM, he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground. ‘My lords,’ he said, ‘please turn aside to your servant’s house. You can wash your feet and spend the night and then go on your way early in the morning.’...”*

- g. They do not experience increase in number through birth nor do they experience physical death or cessation of existence.
- h. Thus, while they are similar to man in personality, they differ from man in many important particulars.

The Unfallen Angels

1. Angels generally fall into two major classifications: (1) the unfallen angels, (2) the fallen angels.
2. The first classification are those who have remained holy throughout their existence and thus accordingly are called “holy angels”

Matthew 25:31 *“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and ALL THE ANGELS WITH HIM, He will sit on His glorious throne.”*

3. In Scripture, generally, when angels are referred to, the unfallen angels are in view. By contrast, fallen angels are those who have not maintained their holiness.
4. Unfallen angels fall into special classes, and certain individuals are mentioned.
 - a. Michael, the archangel, is the head of all the holy angels and his name means “who is like unto God”. Scripture also reveals him as a special “protector” or “prince” over the people of Israel:

Daniel 10:21 *“...but first I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. (No one supports me against them except MICHAEL, your prince)...”*

Daniel 12:1 *“At that time MICHAEL, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered.”*

1 Thess. 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.”*

Jude 9 *“But even THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not himself dare to condemn him for slander but said, ‘The Lord rebuke you!’”*

Revelation 12:7-10 *“Then war broke out in heaven. MICHAEL AND HIS ANGELS fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him...”*

- b. Gabriel is one of the principal messengers of God, his name meaning “hero of God.” He was entrusted with important messages such as those delivered to:

(1) Daniel:

Daniel 8:16 “And I heard a man’s voice from the Ulai calling, ‘GABRIEL, TELL THIS MAN the meaning of the vision.’”

Daniel 9:21 “While I was still in prayer, GABRIEL, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, CAME TO ME in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice.”

(2) Zacharias:

Luke 1:18-19 “Zechariah asked the angel, ‘How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.’ The angel said to him, “I AM GABRIEL. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news.”

(3) The Virgin Mary:

Luke 1:26-27 “In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, GOD SENT THE ANGEL GABRIEL to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary.”

- c. Most angels are not given individual names but are described as elect angels.

1 Timothy 5:21 “I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and THE ELECT ANGELS, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism.”

NOTE: This introduces the interesting thought that like saved men who are declared to be chosen or elected, the holy angels likewise were divinely appointed.

- d. The expressions “principalities” and “powers” seem to be used of all angels whether fallen or unfallen.

Romans 8:38 “For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither ANGELS OR DEMONS, neither the present nor the future, NOR ANY POWERS...”

Ephesians 3:10 “His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known TO THE RULER AND AUTHORITIES IN THE HEAVENLY REALMS...”

Ephesians 6:12 “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against THE RULERS, against the AUTHORITIES, against THE POWERS of this dark world and against THE SPIRITUAL FORCES OF EVIL in the heavenly realms.”

Colossians 1:16 *“For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him.”*

Colossians 2:10, 15 *“...and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over EVERY POWER AND AUTHORITY...And having DISARMED THE POWERS AND AUTHORITIES, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”*

1 Peter 3:22 *“who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with ANGELS, AUTHORITIES, AND POWERS in submission to Him.”*

NOTE: There is unceasing warfare between the holy angels and the fallen angels for control of men throughout history.

- e. Some angels are designated “cherubims,” living creatures who defend God’s holiness from any defilement of sin.

Genesis 3:24 *“After He drove the man out, He placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden CHERUBIM and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.”*

- 1) Satan, the head of fallen angels, was originally created holy as a “supreme” cherubim.

Ezekiel 28:14 *“You were anointed AS A GUARDIAN CHERUB, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones.”*

- 2) Angelic figures in the form of cherubim were made of gold overlooking the mercy seat of the ark and the Holy of Holies in both the Tabernacle and the Temple.

Exodus 25:18-20 *“And make TWO CHERUBIM OUT OF HAMMERED GOLD at the ends of the cover. Make one cherub on one end and the second cherub on the other; make the cherubim of one piece with the cover, at the two ends. The cherubim are to have their wings spread upward, overshadowing the cover with them. The cherubim are to face each other, looking toward the cover.”*

- f. Seraphim are a different group on angels that are mentioned in Scripture, but only one time. They are described as having three pairs of wings, apparently have the function of praising God and being God’s messengers to earth, and are especially concerned with the holiness of God.

Isaiah 6:1-3 *“In the year that King Uzziah died, I SAW THE LORD SEATED ON A THRONE, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. 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. And they were calling to one another: ‘HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of His glory.’”*

g. The term “angel of Jehovah” is found frequently in the Old Testament to refer to appearances of Christ in the “form” of an angel.

1) The title belongs only to God and is used in connection with the divine manifestations in the earth, and therefore it is in no way to be included in the angelic hosts.

Genesis 18:1 “THE LORD APPEARED TO ABRAHAM near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day.”

Genesis 22:11-12 “But THE ANGEL OF THE LORD called out to him from heaven, ‘Abraham! Abraham!’ ‘Here I am,’ he replied. ‘Do not lay a hand on the boy,’ he said. ‘Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld FROM ME your son, your only son.’”

Genesis 31:11-13 “THE ANGEL OF GOD said to me in the dream, ‘Jacob.’ I answered, ‘Here I am.’ And He said, ‘Look up and see that all the male goats mating with the flock are streaked, speckled or spotted, for I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you. I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and where you made a vow to Me. Now leave this land at once and go back to your native land.’”

Genesis 48:15-16 “Then he blessed Joseph and said, ‘May THE GOD before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked faithfully, THE GOD who has been my shepherd all my life to this day, THE ANGEL who has delivered me from all harm —may he bless these boys. May they be called by my name and the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac, and may they increase greatly on the earth.’”

Joshua 5:13-15 “Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, ‘Are you for us or for our enemies?’ ‘Neither,’ he replied, ‘but AS COMMANDER OF THE ARMY OF THE LORD I have now come.’ Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked Him, ‘What message does MY LORD have for His servant?’ The commander of the Lord’s army replied, ‘Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.’ And Joshua did so.”

Judges 13:21-22 “When THE ANGEL OF THE LORD did not show Himself again to Manoah and his wife, Manoah realized that it was THE ANGEL OF THE LORD. ‘We are doomed to die!’ he said to his wife. ‘WE HAVE SEEN GOD!’”

2 Kings 19:35 “That night THE ANGEL OF THE LORD went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the Assyrian camp...”

Psalms 34:7 “THE ANGEL OF THE LORD encamps around those who fear Him, and He delivers them.”

2) The strongest contrast between Christ, who is The Angel of Jehovah, and the angelic beings is presented in Hebrews 1:4-14.

a) Christ is superior to angels because only He inherited the name, “God’s Son”:

Hebrews 1:4-5 “So He became as much superior to the angels as THE NAME HE HAS INHERITED IS SUPERIOR TO THEIRS. For to which of the angels did God ever say, ‘You are my Son; today I have become your Father’? Or again, ‘I will be his Father, and HE WILL BE MY SON?’”

b) Christ is superior to angels because all God’s angels “worship” Him:

Hebrews 1:6 “And again, when God brings His firstborn into the world, He says, ‘LET ALL GOD’S ANGELS WORSHIP HIM.’”

c) Christ is superior to angels because His throne and kingdom will last forever:

Hebrews 1:7-9 “In speaking of the angels He says, ‘He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire.’ BUT ABOUT THE SON He says, ‘YOUR THRONE, O GOD, WILL LAST FOR EVER AND EVER, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has SET YOU ABOVE YOUR COMPANIONS by anointing you with the oil of joy.’”

d) Christ is superior to angels because He created all things (including heaven, earth, and all of the angels!):

Hebrews 1:10-12 “He also says, ‘In the beginning, O Lord, YOU LAID THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE EARTH, AND THE HEAVENS ARE THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end.’”

Colossians 1:15-16 “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 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.”

e) Christ is superior to angels because His work to save mankind is finished while the angels are still currently ministering to those who will be saved:

Hebrews 1:13-14 “To which of the angels did God ever say, ‘SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet’? Are not all angels MINISTERING SPIRITS sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?”

The Fallen Angels

1. In contrast with the unfallen angels, an innumerable company of angels is described as fallen from their first estate. Led by Satan, who originally was a holy angel, an innumerable company of angels defected, rebelled against God, and became sinful in their nature and work.
2. The fallen angels have been divided into two classes: (1) those who are free, and (2) those who are bound. Of the fallen angels, Satan alone is given particular mention in Scripture.
3. It is probable that when Satan fell (John 8:44) he drew after him a multitude of lesser beings.
 - a. Of these, some are reserved in chains unto judgment.

2 Peter 2:4 “For if God DID NOT SPARE ANGELS WHEN THEY SINNED, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment...”

Jude 1:6 “And THE ANGELS WHO DID NOT KEEP THEIR POSITIONS OF AUTHORITY but abandoned their proper dwelling—these He has kept in darkness, BOUND WITH EVERLASTING CHAINS FOR JUDGMENT ON THE GREAT DAY.”

- b. The remainder of fallen angels are “free” and are the demons, or devils, to whom reference is constantly made throughout the New Testament.

Mark 5:9, 15 “Then Jesus asked him, ‘What is your name?’ ‘My name is Legion,’ he replied, ‘for we are many.’ ... When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed BY THE LEGION OF DEMONS, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid.”

Luke 8:30: Jesus asked him, ‘What is your name?’ ‘Legion,’ he replied, because MANY DEMONS HAD GONE INTO HIM.”

I Timothy 4:1 “The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and FOLLOW DECEIVING SPIRITS AND THINGS TAUGHT BY DEMONS.”

- c. They are Satan’s servants in all his undertakings and share his doom.

Matthew 25:41 “Then He will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire PREPARED FOR THE DEVIL AND HIS ANGELS.’”

Revelation 20:10 “And THE DEVIL, who deceived them, WAS THROWN INTO THE LAKE OF BURNING SULFUR, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”

The Ministry of Holy Angels

1. Most of the references to angels in Scripture refer to their ministries, which cover a wide field of achievement.
2. Primarily they are given to worshiping God and, according to Revelation 4:8, at least some of them “rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.”
3. Frequent other allusions to this are found in Scripture.

Psalm 103:20 “Praise the Lord, you His angels you mighty ones who do His bidding, who obey His word.”

Isaiah 6:3 “And they were calling to one another: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of His glory.’”

4. In general, the ministry of unfallen angels extended to **many different forms of service for God.**
 - a. They were present at creation.

Job 38:4-7 “*WHERE WERE YOU WHEN I LAID THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE EARTH? 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?*”

- b. They were present at the giving of the law.

Acts 7:53 “you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it.”

Galations 3:19 “Why, then, was the law given at all? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. The law was given through angels and entrusted to a mediator.”

Hebrews 2:2 “For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment...”

- c. They were present at the birth of Christ.

Luke 2:9-14 “An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.’ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.’”

d. They were present at His temptation.

Matthew 4:11 “*Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended Him.”*

e. They were present in the garden.

Luke 22:43 “*An angel from heaven appeared to Him and strengthened him.”*

f. They were present at the Resurrection.

Matthew 28:2 “*There was a violent earthquake, for AN ANGEL OF THE LORD came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it.”*

g. They were present at the Ascension.

Acts 1:10 “*They (i.e. “the disciples”) were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly TWO MEN DRESSED IN WHITE STOOD BESIDE THEM.”*

h. And they will yet appear at the second coming of Christ.

Matthew 24:31 “*And HE WILL SEND HIS ANGELS with a loud trumpet call, and THEY WILL GATHER HIS ELECT from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.”*

Matthew 25:31 “*When the Son of Man comes in His glory, AND ALL THE ANGELS WITH HIM, He will sit on His glorious throne.”*

2 Thessalonians 1:7 “*and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire WITH HIS POWERFUL ANGELS.”*

i. The angels are ministering spirits sent forth to minister to those who shall be heirs of salvation.

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

Psalms 34:7 “*The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and He delivers them.”*

Psalms 91:11 “*For He will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways...”*

NOTE: Though we have been given no communication or fellowship with the angels, still we should recognize the fact of their ministry to the redeemed, which is constant and effective.

j. The angels are spectators and witnesses of the things of earth and heaven.

Psalms 103:20 “*Praise the Lord, you His angels, you mighty ones who do His bidding, who obey His word.”*

Luke 12:8-9 *“I tell you, whoever publicly acknowledges Me before others, the Son of Man will also acknowledge BEFORE THE ANGELS OF GOD. But whoever disowns Me before others will be disowned BEFORE THE ANGELS OF GOD.”*

Luke 15:10 *“In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”*

1 Corinthians 11:10 *“It is for this reason that a woman ought to have authority over her own head, because of the angels.”*

1 Timothy 3:16 *“Beyond all question, the mystery from which true godliness springs is great: He appeared in the flesh, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.”*

1 Peter 1:12 *“It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.”*

Revelation 14:10 *“They, too, will drink the wine of God’s fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb.”*

k. Lazarus was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom.

Luke 16:22 *“The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried.”*

5. In addition to their ministries in history, angels are seen as included in the company descending from heaven to earth at the second coming and are also seen in the eternal state in the New Jerusalem:

Hebrews 12:22-24 *“But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.”*

Revelation 19:14 *“THE ARMIES OF HEAVEN WERE FOLLOWING HIM, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.”*

Revelation 21:12 *“It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.”*

Final Comments and Facts About Angels

1. For reasons known only to God, “man” is the only creation of His which can actually “sin” against His creator and still have an opportunity to be forgiven.

Psalm 8:4-5 “*What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the angels and CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR.*”

- a. Angels have to obey every command of God. When angels “sin” they are immediately condemned forever.

2Peter 2:4 “*For if God did not spare angels WHEN THEY SINNED, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment...*”

- b. Although all mankind is all under the “condemnation of God” because “all have sinned”, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was sent to die for the sins “of mankind” so that all men could be forgiven and proclaimed “blameless” in God’s sight.

Romans 3:23 “*For ALL HAVE SINNED and have fallen short of the glory of God...*”

John 3:16-18 “*For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but TO SAVE THE WORLD THROUGH HIM. Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe STANDS CONDEMNED ALREADY because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.*”

Ephesians 1:4-5 “*For He chose us (i.e. “mankind”) in Him (i.e. “Jesus Christ”) before the creation of the world TO BE HOLY AND BLAMELESS IN HIS SIGHT. In love HE PREDESTINED US to be adopted as His sons THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, in accordance with his pleasure and will...*”

- c. Jesus Christ did NOT come into the world and die on the cross to pay for the sins of Angels. Once they sin, they have no hope for forgiveness.

Hebrews 2:16-17 “*FOR SURELY IT IS NOT ANGELS HE HELPS, but Abraham’s descendants. For this reason He had to be made like His brothers in every way, in order that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that HE MIGHT MAKE ATONEMENT FOR THE SINS OF THE PEOPLE (i.e. “mankind”).*”

- d. That is why Angels have a hard time “understanding” the “gospel” of Jesus Christ and some theologians believe that God’s plans to “die” for mankind, before man was even created, was a possible reason as to why Satan rebelled against God in heaven.

1Peter 1:12 “*It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have PREACHED THE GOSPEL to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. EVEN ANGELS LONG TO LOOK INTO THESE THINGS.*”

2. Some theologians believe the “fallen” angels can be divided into three main groups:

- a. The first group of fallen angels left heaven during the days of Noah and possessed the bodies of sinful men so that they could mate with women.

Genesis 6:1-2 “*When men began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, THE SONS OF GOD (i.e. “angels”) saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and THEY MARRIED ANY OF THEM THAT THEY CHOSE.”*

- 1) The mating of women on earth with demon-possessed men produced horrible and violent “creatures” to be born to mankind which contributed to the “violence” on the earth and God’s desire to destroy all mankind with a flood.

Genesis 6:4-7 “*THE NEPHILIM (i.e. “giant creatures”) were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God (i.e. “fallen angels”) went to the daughters of men AND HAD CHILDREN WITH THEM. They were the heroes of old, men of renown. The LORD saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart WAS ONLY EVIL ALL OF THE TIME. The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. So the LORD said, ‘I WILL WIPE MANKIND, whom I have created, FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH—men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air—for I am grieved that I have made them.’”*

- 2) According to this theory, where the “sons of God” are interpreted to mean “fallen angels”, while God was destroying almost all mankind with the flood (except Noah and his family), He was at the same time punishing the “fallen angels” by locking them up in the “dungeons” of Hades until their final judgment coming in the future.

2Peter 2:4-5 “*For if God DID NOT SPARE ANGELS WHEN THEY SINNED, but sent them to hell, putting them into GLOOMY DUNGEONS to be held for judgment; if He did not spare the ancient world WHEN HE BROUGHT THE FLOOD ON ITS UNGODLY PEOPLE, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others...”*

Jude 6-7 “*And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but ABANDONED THEIR HOME—these He has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day. IN A SIMILAR WAY, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns GAVE THEMSELVES UP TO SEXUAL IMMORALITY AND PERVERSION. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.”*

- b. A second group of “fallen angels” are those “demons” who left heaven to serve Satan on the earth to work against “the gospel” and to “torment” and “tempt” mankind with evil.

Mark 1:4-7 “*Just then a man in their synagogue WHO WAS POSSESSED BY AN EVIL SPIRIT cried out, ‘What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!’ ‘Be quiet!’ said Jesus sternly. ‘Come out of him!’ The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, ‘What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to EVIL SPIRITS AND THEY OBEY HIM.’”*

- c. A third group of “fallen angels” are currently serving the Lord in heaven but will rebel with Satan and participate in a “future” war in heaven against the archangel, Michael, and the “faithful” angels.

Revelation 12:7 “*And there was WAR IN HEAVEN. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon (i.e. “Satan”), and the dragon and HIS ANGELS FOUGHT BACK.*”

- 1) Scripture seems to indicate that “currently” (until the Rapture of the Church and the Tribulation Period begins), Satan spends time both on earth “and” in heaven.

- a) On earth, Satan is tormenting and tempting man to rebel against God.

1Peter 5:8 “*Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy THE DEVIL PROWLs AROUND LIKE A ROARING LION LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO DEVOUR.*”

Luke 22:31-32 “*Simon, Simon, SATAN HAS ASKED TO SIFT YOU LIKE WHEAT. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.*”

- b) In heaven, Satan is standing in the presence of God accusing all of mankind of their “sins” and daring God to do something about man’s chosen way of living.

Revelation 12:10 “*Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers (i.e. “Satan”), WHO ACCUSES THEM BEFORE OUR GOD DAY AND NIGHT, has been hurled down.*”

Job 1:6-11 “*One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and SATAN ALSO CAME WITH THEM. The LORD said to Satan, ‘Where have you come from?’ Satan answered the LORD, ‘From ROAMING THROUGH THE EARTH and going back and forth in it.’ Then the LORD said to Satan, ‘Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.’ ‘Does Job fear God for nothing?’ Satan replied. ‘Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. But stretch out your hand and STRIKE EVERYTHING HE HAS, and he will surely curse you to your face.’”*

- 2) After the Rapture of the Church, during the Tribulation Period on the earth, Satan will be kicked out of heaven with the “one-third” of all the remaining fallen angels who have chosen to “rebel” against God.

Revelation 12:7-9 “*And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and THEY LOST THEIR PLACE IN HEAVEN. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and HIS ANGELS WITH HIM.”*

3. Angels, both “fallen” and “unfallen”, are still active on the earth. Some final facts about them include:

a. Angels are “sex-less”; they cannot “mate” (i.e. “have sex”), nor do they ever get married.

Matthew 22:29-30 “*Jesus replied, ‘You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God. At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; THEY WILL BE LIKE THE ANGELS IN HEAVEN.’*”

b. “Fallen Angels”, which are called “demons”, can possess both animal bodies (i.e. “pigs”) and human bodies and torment whatever body/bodies they possess.

Mark 5:1-5 “*They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. When Jesus got out of the boat, A MAN WITH AN EVIL SPIRIT came from the tombs to meet Him. This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him any more, not even with a chain. For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and CUT HIMSELF WITH STONES.”*

Mark 5:9-12 “*Then Jesus asked him, ‘What is your name?’ ‘My name is Legion,’ he replied, ‘for we are many.’ And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area. A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. THE DEMONS BEGGED JESUS, ‘Send us among the pigs; ALLOW US TO GO INTO THEM.’ He gave them permission, and the evil spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and WERE DROWNED.”*

c. Demons can only “possess” lost people. There is NO evidence in Scripture where a born again believer in Jesus Christ was possessed by a demon, “warned” about protecting themselves from being possessed by a demon, or given “instructions” on how to “remove” a demon from a “believer” that is possessed.

d. There are “Holy, Unfallen” Angels who are walking on the earth who look like men and who can interact with regular mankind without being noticed.

Hebrews 13:1-2 “*Keep on loving each other as brothers. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing SOME PEOPLE HAVE ENTERTAINED ANGELS WITHOUT KNOWING IT.”*

e. Although angels are powerful, wise, and have super-natural abilities, they are NEVER to be worshipped and they are NEVER to be listened to if they contradict the written gospel of Jesus Christ!

Colossians 2:17-19 “*These are a shadow of the things that were to come; THE REALITY, however, IS FOUND IN CHRIST. Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and THE WORSHIP OF ANGELS disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions. HE HAS LOST CONNECTION WITH THE HEAD, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.”*

Galatians 1:8 “*But even if we OR AN ANGEL FROM HEAVEN should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, LET HIM BE ETERNALLY CONDEMNED!”*

Loris First Baptist Church
“52 Vital Doctrines of The Bible”

Doctrine # 22: “Angels”

1. Read Pages 1-16 from the Doctrine#22 Study Guide by next Wednesday.
2. Answer the following Questions about “Angels” as you read:

a. The Nature of Angels

- 1) Who was created first, “man” or “angels”? (page 1, top; see also Job 38:4-7)

- 2) What does the Greek word “angel” actually mean in English? (page 1, top)

- 3) True or False. There are times in Scripture where the word “angel” may be used to refer to “pastors” (i.e. “men”) who are leading specific churches. (page 1, middle; see also Rev 2-3)

- 4) True or False. Very “good” and “faithful” men and/or women actually become “angels” when they die. (page 2, middle; see also Psalm 8:4-5 and 1Corinthians 6:2-3)

- 5) When you read about “THE” Angel of Jehovah in the Old Testament, who is this “angel”? (page 2, middle; Genesis 16:9-13, 21:17-19, 22:11-12)

- 6) ~~True or False.~~ Angels are “moral beings” which mean they are capable of making decisions whether to “obey” God or to “disobey” Him. (page 5, bottom)

- 7) How many angels were “created” by God? (page 3, top; see also Revelation 5:11)

- 7) True or False. Satan was originally created by God to be evil so that God could use Him to lead mankind into sin and eventually demonstrated His divine love by sending His Son to save mankind from the judgment due his sin. (page 6, middle; see Ezekiel 28:14)

- 8) What is the special name given to the angels who have three pairs of wings and continually fly around the throne of God praising His “holiness”? (page 6, bottom; Isaiah 6:1-3)

- 9) Who was “the angel of the Lord” that appeared to Abraham in Genesis 22:11-12?

- 10) What is another name that Manoah gave to “the angel of the Lord” in Judges 13:21-22?

- 11) What are the reasons given in Hebrews 1:4-14 that “angels” should never be worshipped in the place of Christ as some of the Jews (and Gentiles) were prone to do? (page 8)

c. The Fallen Angels

- 1) What are the two classes of “fallen angels” that, led by Satan, rebel against God? (page 9, top)

- 2) True or False. Satan is actually the leader of “fallen angels” and “demons” are actually considered as “his angels” in Scripture. (page 9, bottom; Matthew 25:41)

d. The Ministry of Holy Angels

- 1) List the three things “Holy” angels “do” according to Psalm 103:20.

- 2) According to Scripture, who actually presented Moses with the “law of God”?
(page 10, middle; Acts 7:53; Galatians 3:19; Hebrews 2:2)

- 3) Who attended to the needs of Jesus Christ after Satan stopped tempting Him in the wilderness?
(page 11, top; Matthew 4:11)

- 4) What is the “primary” purpose on earth for the “holy” (i.e. “unfallen”) angels? (pg. 11, bottom; Heb 1:14)

- 5) What is a reason that Paul said women should have their heads “covered” as a sign that she is under the authority of man? (1Corinthians 11:10)

- 6) According to Luke 16:22, what does it seem that “angels” do when a “saved” person dies?

- 7) True or False. Like for mankind, God has provided a way for “fallen” angels to be forgiven if they sin against Him. (page 13, top; see also 2Peter 2:4; Hebrews 2:16-17)

- 8) True or False. Although Angels are much more powerful and wiser than mortal men, they do not understand “the gospel” of Jesus Christ and why God loves mankind enough to be willing to die for man so that mankind can be forgiven of their sins against God.
(page 13, bottom; 1Peter 1:12)

8) True or False. Sometimes angels can appear in the body or form of a “man”.
(page 3, bottom; Genesis 18:1-2, 19:1-2)

9) How many more “angels” are there today as compared to when God created the first angels?
(page 3, top and page 4, top)

b. The Unfallen Angels

1) What are the two major classifications that angels generally fall into? (page 4, top)

2) What is the name of the “archangel” of God who is the head of all the “holy” (i.e. “unfallen”) angels?
(page 4, middle; Daniel 10:21, 12:1; Jude 9; Revelation 12:7)

3) What is the name of the principle messenger of God whose name means “hero of God”?
(page 5, top; see also Daniel 8:16, 9:21; Luke 1:18-19, 26-27)

4) What is another term given to the “unfallen”, “holy” angels who remain faithful to God?
(page 5, middle; see also 1 Timothy 5:21)

5) What is the unceasing warfare between the “holy” angels and the “fallen” angels actually for?
(page 6, middle-top)

6) What is the main purpose for the angels that are designated as “cherubims”? (page 6, middle; Gen 3:24)

- 9) True or False. Some theologians believe that the “sons of God” referred to in Genesis 6:1-2 is referring to a group of “fallen” angels who left heaven to come to earth and have “sex” with women. (page 14, top)
- 10) What is the name of the “giant creatures” (possibly “dinosaurs”) that walked on the earth in the days of Noah that some theologians believe came about when men possessed by “demons” were mating with women on the earth? (Genesis 6:4)
- 11) What are the two Scripture references in the New Testament that seem to indicate that their were “fallen angels” in the days of Noah which were locked up until judgment day by God because of their “sexual immorality”? (page 14, middle-bottom)
- 12) True or False. Rev 12:7-9 seems to indicate that there is a “future” war going to happen in heaven where Satan and another group of rebellious angels will be thrown out of heaven forever. (page 15)
- 13) True or False. The Bible, both in the O.T. and the N.T., seems to indicate that Satan currently has access to both earth and heaven on a regular basis. (page 15, top; Job 1:6-11; Rev 12:10)
- 14) What does Satan currently do when he stands in the presence of the Lord in heaven? (page 15, middle; Job 1:6-11; Revelation 12:10)
- 15) True or False. Now that Christ has died on the cross and given man “victory” over sin, death, and the evil one, “angels” and “demons” are no longer on the earth with mankind. (page 3, top)

- 16) True or False. Demons can possess “animal” as well as “human” bodies. Therefore believers need to be very careful to avoid being “possessed” by these fallen angels. (page 16, middle)
- 17) According to Hebrews 13:1-2, why should believers “not forget to entertain strangers”?
- 18) True or False. Because of their supreme abilities and powers, it is “acceptable” to God for man to look for help from and to worship angels. (page 16, bottom; Colossians 2:17-19)
- 19) True or False. It is quite possible for angels to appear to men and preach a “gospel” that is a contradiction, addition, and/or subtraction of the true gospel of Jesus Christ that is recorded in Scripture. (page 16, bottom; Galatians 1:8; 2Corinthians 11:13-15)