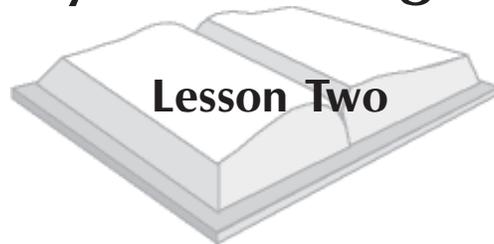


What Does The Bible Say About Angels?



Introduction. In our previous lesson we considered what angels are and the meaning of the words associated with them. In this lesson we will survey what the Bible tells us about various classifications of angelic beings.

I. Various Classifications of Heavenly Angels.

- A. Elect Angels. I Timothy 5:21 uses this phrase.
 - 1. Archangel. “Chief angel”
 - a. Jude 1:9 identifies this angel as “Michael”
 - b. The Book of Daniel seems to refer to this angel in 10:13,21 and 12:1 referring to him as “the great prince”. [Note: Jehovah’s Witnesses equate Michael with Jesus. They believe Jesus is merely an exalted angel rather than God in the flesh. Colossians 1:16 claims all “principalities and powers” were made by Christ thus he could not be simply an angel. (Revelation 12:5-11). There is some question about the identity of Michael. If Michael is a reference to Jesus, the word “angel” is used in the sense of a “messenger” not – a created angelic being. Christ created these.]
 - 2. Cherubim (plural of Cherub). Attendants of God.
 - a. Placed at the entrance to the garden to keep man out (Gen 3:24).
 - b. Upon the lid of the ark of the covenant (Exodus 25:18-22, 37:7-9 & Numbers 7:89).
 - c. Cherubim were represented upon the veil that separated the holy place from the most holy place (II Chronicles 3:14).
 - d. Solomon’s temple had two enormous cherubim in the innermost court. Wings touching each other (I Kings 6:23-28, 8:6,7 & II Chronicles 3:10-13, 5:7,8). Description: Ezekiel 10:20 calls them “Cherubim” (Ezekiel 1:3-11).
 - 3. Seraphim (plural of Seraph). “fiery” or “burning ones” – in the presence of God (Isaiah 6:1-6). The idea seems to be that these beings literally “glow” from their exposure to the presence of God.



B. Satan's Angels. Evil Spirits-Demons-Sinful Angels

1. Angels who sinned (II Peter 2:4; Jude 6).
 - a. *What were these sins? When did they occur?* The Jews traditionally tied this to Genesis 6:1,2 - "Sons of God" taking daughters of men for wives. A more Conservative explanation holds that this is speaking of sons of Seth marrying daughters of Cain (i.e. Good & Evil).
 - b. In Jewish tradition: Angels took human form and slept with human women.
 - Josephus— "Many angels of God accompanied with women, and begat sons that proved unjust and despisers of all that was good" (*Antiquities of the Jews*. Book I, Chapter 3, Section 1).
 - Philo — "...Giants were sprung from a procreation of two natures, namely from angels and mortal women" (*Questions and Answers on Genesis One*. No. 92).

What we know for certain is that angels sinned and are bound awaiting punishment.

2. They will be cast into the lake of fire.
 - a. Matthew 25:41 speaks of "everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels."

Conclusion. The book of Hebrews makes it clear that Christ didn't die for angels (Hebrews 2:5-9). The world to come is not in subjection to angels! It is for us if we will only prepare for it. In our last lesson we will consider the revealed work of angels in the Old & New Testaments.