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Section: Doctrine of God

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**Q19. What are angels?**

Angels are created spiritual beings who have limited power and are under God’s control.

* **Angels Are Created Spiritual Beings**

**Job 38:4-7** “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?”

**Titles given to angelic beings**: angels (meaning messengers), sons of God, spirits, holy ones, watchers, cherubim, living creatures, seraphim

**Colossians 1:16-17** For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

**Psalm 148:2-5** Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts! Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the Lord! For he commanded and they were created

**Nehemiah 9:6** "You are the Lord, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you.”

**Matthew 22:30 “**For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.”

* **How Many Angels Are There?**

**Matthew 26:53** “Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?”

**Legion:** A military term used to speak of 5,000 soldiers (12 legions=60,000 angels).

**Daniel 7:10** “… a thousand thousands served God, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him”

**Revelation 5:11** … many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands …

**Myriad**: A reference to 10,000. John sees “myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands” worshipping God as part of the heavenly choir.

* **The Rank of the Angels**

**Genesis 3:24**He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

**Gabriel**: Mentioned in Daniel; appears in Luke 1:19, 26; **Michael**: Mentioned in Daniel; appears in Jude 9, Revelation 12:7, and 1 Thessalonians 4:16; **John’s portrayal of the Apocalypse**: Seven angels repeatedly come into view (Revelation 8:2, 6; 15:1; etc.).

* **The celestial hierarchy: three classes of angels**

1. The first and highest class exclusively serves God: It is the seraphim who unceasingly behold the being of God, and the cherubim who ponder His decrees, and the thrones who adore His judgments.

2. The second class of angels serves the visible and invisible creation according to God’s will.

3. The third class of angels is appointed to serve mankind: They are the ones who foster the general well-being of human beings, the archangels who guide particular nations, and the angels who watch over individual persons.

* **The Public Ministry of the Angels**
* We first see the angels play a role in guarding Eden (Gen. 3:24).
* They go on to bless or to punish the patriarchs and prophets and people throughout the entire Old Testament.
* They appear to Abraham (Gen. 18), Lot (Gen. 19), and Jacob (Gen. 28:12; 32:1).
* They function in the giving of the law (Heb. 2:2; Gal. 3:19; Acts 7:53).
* They take part in Israel’s war (2 Kings 19:35; Dan. 10:13, 20).
* They announce the counsel of God to Elijah and Elisha, Ezekiel, Daniel, and Zechariah.
* They are present at the birth of Jesus (Luke 1:13, 26–38; 2:10ff.).
* They are present at His temptation (Matt. 4:11).
* They accompany Him throughout His entire earthly life (John 1:51).
* They appear especially at the time of His suffering (Luke 22:43), resurrection (Matt. 28), and ascension (Acts 1:10).
* We see them reappear from time to time in the history of the apostles (Acts 5:19; 8:26; 12:7ff., 23; 27:23; Rev. 1:1).
* Then they cease their extraordinary ministry and will only resume a public role at the return of Christ (Matt.16:27; 25:31; Mark 8:38; Luke 9:26; 2 Thess.1:7; Jude 14; Rev. 5:2).
* Then they will do battle against God’s enemies (Rev. 12:7; 1 Thess. 4:16; Jude 9).
* They will gather the elect (Matt. 24:31).
* They will cast the ungodly into the fire (Matt. 13:41, 49).
* **The Private Ministry of the Angels**
* They rejoice over the conversion of a sinner (Luke 15:10).
* They watch over believers (Ps. 34:7; 91:11).
* They protect the little ones (Matt. 18:10).
* They are present in the Church (1 Cor. 11:10; 1 Tim. 5:21).
* They follow the Church on its journeys through history (Eph. 3:10).
* They are taught by the Church (Eph. 3:10; 1 Pet. 1:12).
* They carry believers into Abraham’s bosom (Luke 16:22).
* **Are Angels Still at Work Today?**

Yes, the Scriptures are clear that their private ministry continues today, but their public ministry has ended with the time of the apostles and will return when Christ returns.

**Hebrews 13:2** Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

**1 Peter 1:8** Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory

* **Angels Have Limited Scope and Power**
* **Angels are not timid beings but an army of mighty heroes** (Ps. 103:20; Col. 1:16; Eph. 1:21; 3:10; 2 Thess. 1:7; Acts 5:19; Heb. 1:14).
* **Angels are spirits** (Matt. 8:16; 12:45; Luke 7:21; 8:2; 11:26; Acts 19:12; [23:8;] Eph. 6:12; Heb. 1:14).
* **Angels do not marry** (Matt. 22:30).
* **Angels are immortal** (Luke 20:35-36) but not eternal like only God is; they had a beginning.
* **Angels are finite and limited in power and presence.** They are not omnipresent like God, and they do not know our secret thoughts like God. They do not know the future.
* **Angels are only masculine.** Every reference to angels in Scripture is in the masculine gender.
* **Angels Are Under God’s Control**

**Ephesians 1:11** … [God] works all things according to the counsel of his will

**Daniel 4:35** all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?”

**Ephesians 6:12** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

**Q20. What kinds of angels are there?**

The Bible tells us of two kinds of angels: elect angels and fallen angels (demons). Elect angels are those whom God ordained not to fall but to serve and enjoy God and His ways. Fallen angels (demons) are evil angels who sinned against God and now continually work evil in creation. There is no redemption for fallen angels.

* **Elect Angels**

**1 Timothy 5:21** In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality.

**Psalm 103:20** Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word!

* **Fallen Angels**

**Jude 1:6** 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

**Leviticus 17:7** So they shall no more sacrifice their sacrifices to goat demons, after whom they whore. This shall be a statute forever for them throughout their generations.

**Deuteronomy 32:17** They sacrificed to demons that were no gods, to gods they had never known, to new gods that had come recently, whom your fathers had never dreaded.

**Psalm 106:37** They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons

* + **Demons’ power**
1. Indwell humans and animals (Mark 5:1-16; Matt 12:43-45)
2. Physically afflict people (Mark 9:17, 22)
3. Terrorize humans (1 Sam 16; Acts 19; 2 Cor 12)
4. Initiate false worship (1 Cor 10:20-21)
5. Promote false doctrines (1 Tim 4:1)
6. Perform false signs and wonders (2 Thes 2:9; Rev 16:13-14)
7. Deceive prophets (1 Kings 22:19-23)
8. Encourage idolatry (Deut 32:17; Ps 106:37)
9. Engineer death (Judges 9:23, 56-57)
* **The limitations and weaknesses of demons**
1. They unwittingly serve God’s purposes (Judge 9:23)
2. They were terrified of Christ and the gospel (Matt 8:29; Mark 1:24; James 2:19)
3. They obeyed Christ (Matt 8:32)
4. They obeyed the twelve disciples (Matt 10:1-8; Luke 10:17-20)
5. They cannot separate believers in Christ from the love of God (Romans 8:38)
6. They can be restrained by the Holy Spirit (2 Thes 2:6; 1 John 4:4)
7. They have been judged already by God (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 1:6) and will be again in the future (Rev 20:10)
* **Can true Christians be possessed (demonized) by demons?**

**Possession:** Demon(s) take dominant control over the victim, which the victim cannot resist.

**Historically:** There is not one biblical example where a true believer is indwelt with an evil spirit.

**Theologically:** The Bible is clear that what belongs to and is secured by God doesn’t belong to or can’t be taken hold of by the enemy and/or his evil spirits.

**2 Corinthians 6:14-16**

**Colossians 1:13-14** He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

**Romans 8:37-39** No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**2 Corinthians 1:21-22** And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put his seal on usand given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

**Ephesians 4:30** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

**1 John 5:18** We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him**.**

**If you encounter a demon-possessed person:** Appeal to God confidently in prayer, and speak the truth and power of God’s word and the gospel in his/her presence.

**Q21. Who is Satan?**

Satan opposes God as the chief of all fallen angels by deceiving, tempting, and lying. Satan only has the access and ability that God permits him.

* **Names and Roles of Satan**

**Hebrew word for Satan**: “adversary”

**1 Kings 22:22; 2 Chronicles 18:21** “… I [Satan] will go out, and will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets’ …”

**New Testament**: The term “Satan” or “devil” means “evil one.”

**Satan’s fall**: Originally created as a chief angel at the level of Michael the archangel (Jude 1:9). He was the first of the angels to rebel and was promptly thrown out of heaven along with myriads of fallen angels who followed his lead.

**Other roles and names found in Scripture**: Satan now rebelliously leads a band of evil angels (Matt. 25:41; Rev. 12:9). Although he is an angel of darkness, he disguises himself as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14). Satan is an angel and nothing more. He is a lying, evil spirit. Satan is referred to as “the prince of demons”(Matt. 12:24), the undisputed ruler of a host of evil spirits. Satan is “the prince of the power of the air”(Eph. 2:2), which includes all unregenerate humanity and all fallen angels. Satan is “the god of this world” (2 Cor. 4:4)—the whole world order that rejects the Creator and substitutes the creature.

**John 8:44** (NASB) “You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

**1 John 3:8** 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.

* **The Power of Satan**

Satan’s power is equal to Michael the archangel and no human conceived of man has the supernatural power that belongs to Satan.He is powerful in the heavens (1 Kings 22:19-23; 2 Chron 18:18-22) and on Earth (Job 1:7; 1 Peter 5:8). He rules the world’s sinful system (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; Eph 6:12; Rev 13:2, 4-5, 7), and constantly accuses believers before God (Rev 12:10).

* **The Work of Satan**

**Name Meaning Citation**

Satan Adversary Matthew 4:10

Devil Slanderer Matthew 4:1; Rev 20:10

Evil one Intrinsically evil Matt 5:37; John 17:15; Eph 6:16

Great Red Dragon Destructive creature Isa 27:1; Revelation 12:3, 7, 9

Serpent of Old Deceiver in Eden Revelation 12:9

Abaddon Destruction Revelation 9:11

Apollyon Destroyer Revelation 9:11

Adversary Opponent I Peter 5:8

Beelzebul Lord of the fly Matthew 12:24

Belial Worthless II Corinthians 6:15

God of this World Controls philosophy of the world II Corinthians 4:4

Ruler of this World Rules world system John 12:31

Prince of the Power of the Air Controls unbelievers Ephesians 2:2

Enemy Opponent Matthew 12:28

Tempter Solicits people to sin Matthew 4:3

Murderer Leads people to eternal death John 8:44

Liar (Father of Lies) Perverts the truth John 8:44

Accuser Opposes believers before God Zech 3:1; Rev 12:10

Lucifer Day star Isa 14:12

**Genesis 3:1**Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

* **Satan Attempts to Distort or Deny the Truth of God’s Word**

**Genesis 3:2-4**And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.”

* **Satan Attempts to Blur the Consequences of Sin**

**Genesis 3:5**"For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

* **Satan Attacks How We Trust and View God**

**Doubt:** Questioning God’s word and His goodness

**Discouragement:** Looking at your problems rather than at God

**Diversion:** The wrong things seem more attractive than right things

**Defeat:** Feeling like a failure so that you don’t even try

**Delay:** Putting off doing something good and God-honoring so that it never gets done

**1 Peter 5:8** Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

* **The Limitations of Satan**

**Colossians 1:16** For by him [Jesus] all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities …

**Satan’s Original Judgment: Ezekiel 28:15-16**

**Satan’s Edenic Judgment: Genesis 3:14-15**

**Satan’s Calvary Judgment: John 19:30** … “It is finished” …(see alsoJohn 12:31; 16:11; 19:30)

**1 John 3:8** 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

**Satan’s Eternal Judgment: Revelation 20:9-10**

* **Closing Encouragements**

**1 John 2:13-14**

**1 John 4:4** Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

**Ephesians 6:12** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

**1 Peter 5:8** Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

**James 4:7** Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.