

THE NATURE OF ANGELS

SPIRIT BEINGS

Angels, essentially, are spirit beings. The Hebrew writer calls them "ministering spirits" (Heb. 1:14). What do we mean by "spirit" beings? We mean that angels, like God, are pure spirit in nature. God is spirit (John 4:24). Jesus taught that a spirit does not have flesh and bones (Luke 24:39). It should be noted, however, that angels--like God Himself--had the capability to "put on flesh" and, like God in the Incarnation, did so when the situation merited such material manifestations.

"Our eyes are not constructed to see them ordinarily any more than we can see the dimensions of a nuclear field, the structure of atoms, or the electricity that flows through copper wiring. Our ability to sense reality is limited. So why should we think it strange if men fail to perceive the evidences of angelic presence?" (Angels are God's Secret Agents)

God is spirit, yet He was "manifested in the flesh" (I Tim. 3:16). He did this when He came to earth in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ (John 1:1,14). Angels, although essentially spirit beings, also took on flesh to perform their God-directed duties on behalf of mankind

For example, Genesis 18:2 says that three men appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre. One of these three men was the Lord Himself (cf. vs. 1,13). After being royally entertained by Abraham and his wife, two of the men departed for Sodom but Abraham "remained standing before the Lord" (Gen. 18:22). In Genesis 19:1 the two men, making their arrival in wicked Sodom, are now called "angels" These spirit beings, angels, could and did make their appearance to men as men. Perhaps the Hebrew writer had Abraham in mind when he wrote that men should show hospitality to strangers since in so doing "some people have entertained angels without knowing it" (Heb. 13:2).

A New Testament example is Luke 24:4 where the women at the empty tomb of Jesus encountered two men clothed in shining garments. The men are later identified as angels in the chapter (Luke 24:23). John's account of this incident calls the two men "angels" (John 20:12).

According to Biblical evidence, angels are spirit beings who reside in heaven. When commissioned to go to earth to minister in some way to man, they generally appeared in human form.

HOLY BEINGS

Jesus often referred to "the holy angels" (Matt. 25:31; Mark 8:38; Luke 9:26, et all. Sometimes angels are called "the holy ones" (Dan. 4:17, et all).

To be holy is to be like God. We are told to be holy because God is holy (I Pet. 1:16.) To be holy is to be separated from sin. It is to live above sin. The angels choose to be holy. Those that chose to sin suffered terrible consequences (II Pet. 2:4). When we say that angels are holy in nature we do not mean that they are completely sinless. Jesus Christ was the only person to ever live a totally sinless life (I Pet. 2:22). The angels of God have a holy nature although they can sin if they choose to (Jude 6). Sins of a greater magnitude-- such as the rebellion in heaven--seem to merit greater punishment.

As to nature, angels are both spiritual and holy.

CHARACTERISTICS OF ANGELS

MASCULINE

Jesus said that in the resurrection men would neither marry nor be given in marriage but would be "like the angels in heaven" (Matt. 22:30). Angels do not marry for the simple reason that they are all masculine. There is no support in Scripture for the idea that angels are sexless beings. The word for "angels" in Scripture always appears in the masculine form, never in the feminine or neuter. God is always referred to in the masculine gender and so are His angels. One can see how the artists have been influenced more by sentiment and superstition than the Scriptures in their beautiful but somewhat fanciful artistic conceptions of angels with feminine features. Concerning this, C.C. Crawford writes, "It is obvious that pictorial representations of angels which have come down to us from medieval art, in which they are represented as creatures with wings, are unscriptural. Angels are invariably referred to in scripture in the masculine; furthermore, ethereal beings would have no need for wings. We must distinguish between scripture teaching and human tradition on all such subjects as this"

INNUMERABLE

The Bible also says that angels are innumerable. Obviously, since angels do not marry, there is no procreation, no "baby cherubs" that adorn so many beautiful Christmas cards. The number of angels today --whether good or bad is the same number that has existed since creation. What is that number? Who can say? The Bible just calls them innumerable' (Heb. 12:22 KJV). The New International Version reads, "You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly."

Ten thousands of angels descended upon Mt. Sinai when Moses received the Law (Deut. 33:2). The New International Version says "myriads", a great but indefinite number. David mentioned 20,000, even thousands of angels at Mt. Sinai (Psa. 68: 17). John the Revelator heard the voice of "many" angels around the throne of the Lord. How many? "Ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands" (Rev. 5:11) An incredible number!

Daniel saw a magnificent vision of countless angels ministering to the white-robed, white-haired Ancient of Days who sat on a flaming throne. How many did Daniel see? "Thousands upon thousands, ten thousand times ten thousand" (Dan. 7:10). There is no word for "million" in Hebrew. A thousand thousands stood for a million, so 10,000 times 10,000 would be 100 million!

When well-meaning Peter came to Jesus' defense with a sword in Gethsemane, the Lord rebuked him with these words: "Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?" (Matt. 26:53). A Roman legion consisted of 6,000 soldiers. Twelve legions would be 72,000 angels! Just a prayer from Jesus would have unleashed this great avenging horde!

SWIFT

Yet another characteristic of the angels is their swiftness with which they perform their God-ordained assignments. In the Lord's Prayer Jesus prayed, "Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven" (Matt. 6:10). How is the Lord's will done in heaven? It is done instantly, without hesitation or argumentation. The obedient angels serve as a wonderful example for us who dwell on earth. We should obey God with all haste as the angels in heaven do.

Angels can travel faster than the speed of light. In Biblical accounts they appeared, disappeared and reappeared with amazing rapidity. "Faster than a speeding bullet" could truly be said of these super beings.

Abraham looked up one day and three men stood before him (Gen. 18:2). Their appearance was sudden, unexpected, unannounced. An angel suddenly blocked the road that Balaam was traveling. His donkey saw him right away but Balaam, for awhile, was not even aware of the angel's presence (Num. 22:22-35). Gideon looked up from threshing wheat to behold an angel sitting under an oak tree. When Gideon placed a meal on a nearby rock for the angel, fire flared from the rock and the angel instantly disappeared (Judges 6:11-21). An angel made a sudden appearance to Samson's mother and announced that she would have a son (Judges 13:3-9). Shepherds near Bethlehem were nearly scared out of their wits when a great number of angels "suddenly" joined the announcing angel (Luke 2:13).

Hungry lions, about to devour poor Daniel, suddenly had their mouths shut by an angel (Dan. 6:22). The angel Gabriel came to Daniel in "swift flight" with an important message (Dan. 9:21). Deep in the middle of a midnight sleep an angel awakened Peter and led him out of prison to safety (Acts 12:7). Proud Herod was smitten "immediately" by an angel (Acts 12:23).

Traversing space in the twinkling of an eye, the angels move from heaven to earth, from one place on earth to another, and back to heaven.

POWERFUL

A fourth unique characteristic of angels is their awesome power. These heavenly creatures are endowed with super-human powers. Peter testified that angels are "greater in power and might" than men (II Pet. 2:11). Peter could speak with authority, having been miraculously released from an inner prison by an angel (Acts 12:7-11). The Psalmist declares that angels "excel in strength" (Psa. 103:20). The Apostle Paul calls them "mighty" in II Thessalonians 1:7. The word he used for "mighty" is *dunamis*. We get "dynamite" from that word. Dynamite packs a powerful punch; so do the angels of God.

For example, an angel appeared in the center of a white-hot furnace to protect Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. The raging fire had no power over him or the three Hebrews. This outstanding miracle caused a pagan king to marvel (Dan. 3:24-28). Fierce lions were about to mangle Daniel when an angel appeared in their midst and forced their slaving jaws shut (Dan. 6:22). Not a mark could be found on Daniel when he was taken up out of the den. The hovering death angel killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in one night (II Kings 19:35). An angel rolled away a very great stone at the tomb of Jesus-- a stone so large that the combined strength of several people could not budge it (Matt. 28:3; Mark 16:5).

In spite of their tremendous strength, angels are not all-powerful. God alone is omnipotent. As we mentioned earlier, Satan detained an angel from delivering an important message. Angels do not have authority to rebuke Satan. That power, too, belongs only to God (Jude 9). Angels are more powerful than men but not as powerful as God.

INTELLIGENT

Fifth, angels are-known for their wisdom and intelligence. They are not just powerful creatures with no mind of their own. The wise woman of Tekoah, an intelligent-lady herself, declared that David had wisdom "like that of an angel of God" (II Sam. 14:2). Since they were able to view the creation of the world they have knowledge of that momentous event that no man enjoys. Having been sent on far-flung missions for God, they enjoy a vast reservoir of wisdom from their varied experiences. Vast and wide as their knowledge is, angels are not omniscient, all-knowing. Omniscience, like omnipotence, belongs exclusively to God.

For example, although angels will be favored by announcing the second coming of Christ, they do not know the day nor the hour of His coming (Matt. 24:36). Truly, fools rush in where angels fear to tread! The presumptuous date-setters claim to know what angels don't!

Angels take a great interest in the affairs of the church (Luke 15:7; I Cor. 4:9; 11:10; 1 Tim 5:21). Yet, the church remains a great mystery to them. They long to know and understand the full meaning of the gospel story (I Pet. 1:10-12).

Angels are not immune to making mistakes. They can err in judgment. Job 4: 18 says God "charges his angels with error." The gravest error angels ever made was to join the Satanic rebellion in heaven whereby they were forced to leave their first estate (II Pet. 2:4; Jude 6).

AGELESS

The last characteristic of angels we will consider is their agelessness. It appears that angels do not age, become ill or die. Jesus told the Sadducees (who did not believe in the resurrection) that in the resurrection, men and women would not die anymore but would be like the angels (Luke 20:27-36). The angels of God are not subject to the aging process, sickness or death.

FIFTY FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT ANGELS

1. ANGELS CARE ABOUT MILITARY PERSONNEL.

Acts 2:3-4 And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance. (NASB)

2. PRISON BARS CANNOT KEEP ANGELS FROM US.

Acts 5:19-20 But an angel of the Lord during the night opened the gates of the prison, and taking them out he said, 20 "Go your way, stand and speak to the people in the temple the whole message of this Life." (NASB)

3. LITTLE CHILDREN HAVE GUARDIAN ANGELS.

Matthew 18:10-11 "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you, that their angels in heaven continually behold the face of My Father who is in heaven. 11 ("For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.) (NASB)

4. ANGELS HAVE NOT ALWAYS EXISTED, BUT WERE CREATED PRIOR TO ADAM.

Colossians 1:15-16 And He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created, [both] in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for Him. (NASB)

5. ANGEL'S ARE SUBJECT TO JESUS, THEIR COMMANDER AND CHIEF.

1 Peter 3:21-22 And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you-- not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience-- through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him. (NASB)

6. BECAUSE NAKEDNESS IS A MARK OF APOSTASY BEFORE GOD, ANGELS IN THEIR NATURAL STATE ARE CLOTHED IN PURE, FINE, WHITE LINEN.

Matthew 28:3-4 And his appearance was like lightning, and his garment as white as snow; 4 and the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men. (NASB)

7. A NUMBERLESS HOST OF ANGELS DESCENDED UPON MT. SINAI.

Psalms 68:16-17 Why do you look with envy, O mountains with [many] peaks, At the mountain which God has desired for His abode? Surely, the LORD will dwell [there] forever. 17 The chariots of God are myriads, thousands upon thousands; The Lord is among them [as at] Sinai, in holiness. (NASB)

8. GOD'S ANGELS ARE HOLY (SINLESS) BY CHOICE.

Mark 8:37-38 "For what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? 38 "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." (NASB)

9. ANGELS LIVE IN CLOSE AND CONSTANT COMMUNION WITH GOD, CONTINUALLY PRAISING HIM.

Luke 1:18-19 And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this [for certain]? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." 19 And the angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God; and I have been sent to speak to you, and to bring you this good news. (NASB)

10. THE ANGELS' CAPITAL IS IN HEAVEN FREE FROM SIN, THE BUSIEST PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE.

John 1:50-51 Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." 51 And He said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you shall see the heavens opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man." (NASB)

11. ANGELS ARE VASTLY NUMEROUS.

Hebrews 12:22-23 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, 23 to the general assembly and church of the first-born who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, (NASB)

12. ANGELS DO NOT MARRY OR REPRODUCE.

Matthew 22:29-30 But Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures, or the power of God. 30 "For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. (NASB)

13. ANGELS NEVER DIE, NEITHER IS IT MENTIONED THAT THEY WEEP.

Luke 20:35-36 but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage; 36 for neither can they die anymore, for they are like angels, and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. (NASB)

14. ANGELS ARE NOT "ALL KNOWING."

Matthew 24:35-36 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away. 36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. (NASB)

15. ANGELS CAMP AROUND THOSE WHO FEAR GOD.

Psalms 34:7-8 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, And rescues them. 8 O taste and see that the LORD is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him! (NASB)

16. ANGELS ARE WISE AND HAVE DISCERNMENT.

2 Samuel 14:20-21 in order to change the appearance of things your servant Joab has done this thing. But my lord is wise, like the wisdom of the angel of God, to know all that is in the earth. "

21 Then the king said to Joab, "Behold now, I will surely do this thing; go therefore, bring back the young man Absalom." (NASB)

17. ANGELS ARE MULTI-LINGUAL.

1 Corinthians 13:1-2 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have [the gift of] prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. (NASB)

18. ANGELS CAN VIEW US FROM THEIR ROYAL COURT AND HAVE THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE AS THEIR COLISEUM.

1 Corinthians 4:9-10 For, I think, God has exhibited us apostles last of all, as men condemned to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. 10 We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are prudent in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are distinguished, but we are without honor. (NASB)

19. ANGELS EAT HEAVENLY MANNA.

Psalm 78:24-25 And He rained down manna upon them to eat, And gave them food from heaven. 25 Man did eat the bread of angels; He sent them food in abundance. (NASB)

20. AROUND THE THRONE OF GOD SERAPHIM STAND AND CRY, "HOLY;" CHERIBUM STAND BELOW TO GUARD, BUT NO ANGEL IS ALLOWED TO SIT AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD, AS THAT IS RESERVED FOR HIS SON AND OUR SAVIOR.

Hebrews 1:5-6 For to which of the angels did He ever say, "Thou art My Son, Today I have begotten Thee"? And again, "I will be a Father to Him And He shall be a Son to Me"? 6 And when He again brings the first-born into the world, He says, " And let all the angels of God worship Him." (NASB)

21. ANGELS PATROL THE EARTH.

Zechariah 1:10-11 And the man who was standing among the myrtle trees answered and said, " These are those whom the LORD has sent to patrol the earth. " 11 So they answered the angel of the LORD who was standing among the myrtle trees, and said, "We have patrolled the earth, and behold, all the earth is peaceful and quiet." (NASB)

22. ALTHOUGH HIS DISCIPLES SLEPT, JESUS WAS NOT ALONE IN THE GARDEN, FOR AN ANGEL FROM HEAVEN WAS PRESENT AND STRENGTHENED HIM.

Luke 22:43-44 Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him. 44 And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground. (NASB)

23. ANGELS ARE CURIOUS.

1 Peter 1:12-13 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven-- things into which angels long to look.

13 Therefore, gird your minds for action, keep sober [in spirit,] fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (NASB)

24. ANGELS WILL BE JUDGED BY US.

1 Corinthians 6:2-3 Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is judged by you, are you not competent [to constitute] the smallest law courts? 3 Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, matters of this life? (NASB)

25. ANGELS PROPHECY AND INTERPRET DREAMS.

Matthew 1:20-21 But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for that which has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 "And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins." (NASB)

26. OUR LORD HIMSELF APPEARED AS AN ANGEL TO JACOB, GIDEON AND MENOAH... TO MENTION A FEW.

Hosea 12:4-5 Yes, he wrestled with the angel and prevailed; He wept and sought His favor. He found Him at Bethel, And there He spoke with us, 5 Even the LORD, the God of hosts; The LORD is His name. (NASB)

27. THE TOMB OF JESUS WAS NEVER EMPTY, FOR THE ANGELS WERE THERE AND PROCLAIMED THE FIRST RESURRECTION STORY.

John 20:11-12 But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; 12 and she beheld two angels in white sitting, one at the head, and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. (NASB)

28. SATAN WAS AN ANOINTED CHERUB, BUT HE HAS THE ABILITY THE DISGUISE HIMSELF AS AN ANGEL OF LIGHT (THEREFORE AS A MESSENGER).

2 Corinthians 11:14-15 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds. (NASB)

29. HELL WAS NOT PREPARED FOR MAN, UT FOR THE DEVIL AND HIS ANGELS.

Matthew 25:40-41 "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, [even] the least [of them,] you did it to Me.' 41 "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; (NASB)

30. ANGELS APPEAR AS WINDS FLAMES OF FIRE.

Hebrews 1:7-8 And of the angels He says, "Who makes His angels winds, And His ministers a flame of fire." 8 But of the Son [He says], "Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever, And the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom. (NASB)

31. ANGELS CANNOT SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD.

Romans 8:38-39 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NASB)

32. ANGELS REJOICE OVER REPENTANT SINNERS.

Luke 15:9-10 "And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which I had lost!' 10 "In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (NASB)

33. ANGELS ARE NOT ALWAYS RECOGNIZABLE.

Hebrews 13:2-3 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it. 3 Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body. (NASB)

34. ANGELS ARE SO STRONG THAT IT TOOK ONLY ONE TO KILL 185,000 ASSYRIANS... AND NOW THEY ARE FIGHTING ON YOUR TEAM.

2 Kings 19:35-36 Then it happened that night that the angel of the LORD went out, and struck 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians; and when men rose early in the morning, behold, all of them were dead. 36 So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and returned [home,] and lived at Nineveh. (NASB)

35. ANGELS WERE CHARGED TO GUARD JESUS IN ALL HIS WAYS.

Psalm 91:11-12 For He will give His angels charge concerning you, To guard you in all your ways. 12 They will bear you up in their hands, Lest you strike your foot against a stone. (NASB)

36. AN ANGEL ALMOST DESTROYED JERUSALEM.

2 Samuel 24:15-16 So the LORD sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning until the appointed time; and seventy thousand men of the people from Dan to Beersheba died. 16 When the angel stretched out his hand toward Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD relented from the calamity, and said to the angel who destroyed the people, "It is enough! Now relax your hand!" And the angel of the LORD was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. (NASB)

37. ANGELS ARE IN CONSTANT WARFARE WITH SATAN AND HIS AGENTS.

Daniel 10:12-13 Then he said to me, "Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding [this] and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words. 13 "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia. (NASB)

38. ANGELS CAN CAUSE THE EARTH TO QUAKE AND THE MOUNTAINS TO TREMBLE.

Matthew 28:1-2 Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first [day] of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave. 2 And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. (NASB)

39. ANGELS DESIRE TO COMFORT US.

Matthew 28:5-6 And the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. 6 "He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. (NASB)

40. MAN IS CREATED LOWER THAN THE ANGELS.

Hebrews 2:6-7 But one has testified somewhere, saying, "What is man, that Thou rememberest him? Or the son of man, that Thou art concerned about him? 7 "Thou hast made him for a little while lower than the angels; Thou hast crowned him with glory and honor, And hast appointed him over the works of Thy hands; (NASB)

41. ANGELS DIER IN CLASS, CALLING AND RANK.

Jude 9-10 But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you." 10 But these men revile the things which they do not understand; and the things which they know by instinct, like unreasoning animals, by these things they are destroyed. (NASB)

42. ANGELS ARE NOT TOT BE WORSHIPPED.

Colossians 2:18-19 Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on [visions] he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,

19 and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God. (NASB)

43. ANGELS ARE NOT TOT PREACH ANOTHER GOSPEL.

Galatians 1:8-9 But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed. (NASB)

44. ANGELS CAN CAUSE AFFLICTIONS.

Acts 12:22-23 And the people kept crying out, "The voice of a god and not of a man!" 23 And immediately an angel of the Lord struck him because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and died.

45. ANGELS ARE ALWAYS OF MASCULINE GENDER WHEN MENTIONED IN SCRIPTURE AND WHEN REVEALED IN HUMAN FORM.

Revelation 14:6-7 And I saw another angel flying in midheaven, having an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people; 7 and he said with a loud voice, "Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters." (NASB)

46. ANGELS WILL CAST THE UNSAVED INTO A FURNACE OF FIRE.

Matthew 13:41-42 "The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, 42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (NASB)

47. ANGELS WILL GATHER THOSE WHO ARE SAVED.

Matthew 24:30-31 and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. 31 "And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other. (NASB)

48. IN GREAT GLORY ANGELS WILL RETURN WITH JESUS, LED BY THE SHOUT OF THE ARCHANGEL, MICHAEL.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of [the] archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord. (NASB)

49. ALL ANGELS WILL BE PRESENT AT THE JUDGMENT WHEN JESUS IS UNVEILED IN HIS FATHER'S GLORY.

Matthew 25:31-32 "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. 32 "And all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; (NASB)

50. 72,000 ANGELS (TWELVE LEGIONS - 6,000 TO A LEGION) WERE WAITING AT CHRIST'S COMMAND AT HIS HOUR OF BETRAYAL, AND ANY ONE OF THEM COULD HAVE, RESCUED HIM... BUT JESUS WILLINGLY LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR YOU.

Matthew 26:52-53 Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword. 53 "Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels? (NASB)

What Does the Bible say about Angels?

God's angels are described as:

Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation? (Heb 1:14)

1. All of the angels were created by Jesus:

For by him [Jesus] 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. (Col 1:16)

The Lord Jesus created all of the angels. This even includes Michael the archangel, which some cults wrongly think is Jesus!

2. Angels are powerful spirit beings:

God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you 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. (2 Thess. 1:6,7)

Yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not bring slanderous accusations against such beings in the presence of the Lord. (2 Pet 2:11)

3. Angels do not marry and have baby angels:

At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven. (Mat 22:30)

Since angels are created beings there are no baby angels, in spite of all the pictures you might have seen that show otherwise. Artists that draw fat, little, baby angels do this without any Biblical support at all.

4. God's angels worship Jesus:

And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him [Jesus]." (Heb 1:6)

5. God's angels obey Him:

Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word. (Psa. 103:20)

6. God's angels praise Him:

Praise him, all his angels, praise him, all his heavenly hosts. (Psa. 148:2)

7. God's angels refuse to receive worship:

Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!' " And he added, "These are the true words of God." At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." (Rev 19:9,10)

And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers the prophets and of all who keep the words of this book. Worship God!" (Rev. 22:8,9).

8. Angels attended Jesus after the devil's temptations:

Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him. (Mat 4:11)

9. Jesus could have been delivered by legions of angels from his cruel death on the cross:

Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels ? (Mat 26:53)

10. Angels were present after Jesus rose from the grave:

But Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. (John 20:11,12)

11. Angels can guard the righteous:

For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; (Psa. 91:11)

12. Angels can bring deliverance:

My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king. (Dan 6:22)

But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. (Acts 5:19)

13. God executes His Judgment through angels:

He unleashed against them his hot anger, his wrath, indignation and hostility -- a band of destroying angels. (Psa. 78:49)

14. Angels will be used to find everything that causes sin and all who do evil (the unsaved):

The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. (Mat 13:41)

15. Angels will throw people into the fiery furnace:

This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Mat 13:49,50)

16. When Jesus returns He will come with angels:

For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done. (Mat 16:27)

17. Angels will gather the righteous at the point of the second coming:

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. (Mat 24:31)

And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens. (Mark 13:27)

18. Upon their death, angels carry the righteous to their home in the afterlife:

The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. (Luke 16:22)

19. Angels observe the servants of God:

For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to men. (1 Cor 4:9)

20. Angels will be judged by Christians:

Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! (1 Cor 6:3)

21. There are only two angels that are specifically given names in the Bible. The angel Gabriel is one and he is always bringing a message:

The angel answered, "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. (Luke 1:19)

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, (Luke 1:26)

(Gabriel is also mentioned in Dan 8:16; 9:21.)

22. The only other angel named in Scripture is Michael.

The archangel Michael (Jude 9) is a warring angel, but there are other archangels too (Dan. 10:13). Yet in the future, Michael and his angels will fight against Satan [the dragon] and his angels:

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. (Rev 12:7-9)

23. Children all have personal angels that appear before God:

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. (Mat 18:10)

24. Angels can appear as people undetected:

Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. (Heb 13:2)

25. An angel of God appeared to an unsaved man and accurately told him how to learn about God's salvation:

One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, "Cornelius!" Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked. The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter: (Acts 10:3-5).

This is a key passage, for in it we learn that an angel from God will always promote the message found in the Holy Bible! The unnamed angel in the above passage did this by telling Cornelius how to find Peter, one of the Lord's disciples, who could tell him the truth about salvation. See Acts 10:43. When a "spirit guide" communicates a message, we can unmask the veil by learning what such a spirit being says about the Lord Jesus and the salvation he provided for all of mankind when he shed his precious, cleansing blood on the cross. If such is denied in any way or would promote any unscriptural message or practice, then that spirit being is a demon trying to deceive people. Hence, there exists an incredible need to know the Bible to safeguard against such. The end result of the angelic visitation to Cornelius was Biblical salvation for him and all of his household!

26. Angels are immortal:

And they can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are God's children, since they are children of the resurrection. (Luke 20:36)

27. Angels will be stationed as guards at the twelve gates entering New Jerusalem:

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. (Rev 21:12)

28. There are multitudes of angels in heaven in joyful assembly:

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, (Heb 12:22)

29. Some people in Jesus' day did not believe in the existence of angels like in our day:

The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, and that there are neither angels nor spirits, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all. (Acts 23:8)

30. False teachers can be involved in the worship of angels, which is always forbidden:

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. (Col 2:18)

It is also important to know that you should NEVER CALL ON AN ANGEL for guidance, deliverance, etc. To do so will open yourself up for spiritual deception. According to the Bible, we should ONLY call on God. We are also to TRUST ONLY IN GOD for deliverance, NOT AN ANGEL. While it is true that God might deliver us with angels it is still God who is our Rock, Fortress, Deliverer, etc. God commands his angels what to do and they obey Him.

What Does the Bible say about Demons?

At least some of the angels that sinned long ago have been bound and put away:

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; (2 Pet 2:4)

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. (Jude 1:6)

It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." (Rev 9:14)

1. Pagan religions "sacrifice to demons":

They sacrificed to demons, which are not God -- gods they had not known, gods that recently appeared, gods your fathers did not fear. (Deut. 32:17)

They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons. (Psa. 106:37)

2. Thousands of demons grouped together inside one person begged Jesus:

The demons begged Jesus, "If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs." (Mat 8:31)

3. A Christian has spiritual authority to drive out demons:

He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. (Mat 10:1)

Some people know this as "exorcism." Note: a wooden cross and/or holy water is NEVER used, in the Bible, to drive a demon out of a person.

4. Some spirits (demons) are more wicked than other ones:

Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation. (Mat 12:45)

5. Jesus cast out demons or evil spirits:

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." (Mark 1:27)

For Jesus had commanded the evil spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places. (Luke 8:29)

6. Jesus drove out demons by the Spirit of God:

But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. (Mat 12:28)

7. Demons know Jesus is the Son of God, unlike some people:

Whenever the evil spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." (Mark 3:11)

Evil spirits can speak through a person! In our dark day, some might call this by the New Age term "channeling" and the person with the [evil] spirit a "channeler." Devotees of "spirit guides" need to ponder what Scripture says about a spirit being speaking through a person.

8. A fortune teller might be possessed by a demon spirit:

Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her. When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone ... (Acts 16:16-19)

When the demon spirit was cast out of that girl, her special powers to predict the future were totally gone. This was also apparent to the owners of that slave.

9. Unlike some people, demons believe there is a God and "shudder":

You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that -- and shudder. (James 2:19)

10. Mary Magdalene had seven demons in her before she knew the Lord:

When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. (Mark 16:9)

And also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out (Luke 8:2)

11. Evil spirits can torment people:

Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed. (Acts 5:16)

12. Worshiping demons will be a characteristic of the end of this age:

The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood -- idols that cannot see or hear or walk. (Rev 9:20)

13. Evil spirits in John's vision looked like frogs:

Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. (Rev 16:13)

This does not mean that a frog is a demon!

14. Demons can perform miracles:

They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty. (Rev 16:14)

NOTE: Demons can produce miracles! See our other article entitled, . Not all spirits are from God. Some spirits are deceitful and are trying to mislead us:

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. (1 Tim 4:1)

There are many ways in which demons can deceive people, but the more common ones are through occult involvement, Ouija boards and seances. Dear reader, don't ever dabble with such, even out of curiosity or amusement. If you have already, ask God to forgive you and renounce all such behavior.

What the Bible says about Satan:

The devil has one general goal for you, your family and friends -- "to devour":

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. (1 Pet 5:8)

The preventative cited are clear and twofold: (1) We must be self-controlled. (2) We must be alert to his clever schemes.

1. Do NOT give the devil an opportunity to tempt you or lead you away from God:

And do not give the devil a foothold. (Eph 4:27)

2. Satan tempted the Lord Jesus by quoting Scripture which mentioned angels:

"If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: " 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.' " (Mat 4:6)

The devil can quote Scripture! This is a disturbing but important truth to know about our chief, spiritual adversary! To make matters even worse, false teachers can do the same! Therefore, we must make sure Scripture is not used out of context. To do this we must consider the verses before and after the verse in question. Also, when trying to arrive at the proper interpretation of Scripture, we must consider all verses on any given subject.

3. Satan can transform himself into looking like an angel from God:

And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. (2 Cor 11:14)

This shows that the devil can disguise his appearance to appear as an angel of God. This explains alleged visions in Mormonism, Catholicism and Seven-Day Adventism. The crux of the message found in these visions contradict the other visions found in these other groups! In other words, the visions in Mormonism contradict visions in Catholicism which also contradict the visions in Seven-Day Adventism. Since God does not change (Mal. 3:6; Jam. 1:17), it is impossible for the source of these visions to be God, especially since they have an unscriptural message!

4. If even an angel from heaven would declare a salvation message different from that found in Scripture, that angel is not only wrong but accursed for doing so:

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! (Gal 1:8)

Dear reader, don't believe any plan of salvation that varies from the message found in Scripture, even if an angel named Moroni allegedly came to a person named Joseph Smith, Jr. or a personage claiming to be Mary appeared and declares that she is "the way" to God, as occurred at Fatima, Portugal. Scripture clearly declares Jesus is the only way to the Father (John 14:6). Since Jesus is Mary can't be.

5. Satan's Final End Is Everlasting Torment:

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. (Rev 20:10)

6. Eternal fire beyond the grave was prepared for "the devil and his angels":

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. (Mat 25:41)

The same fire that will claim the devil and his angels will also torment people who die in a spiritually lost condition. Dear reader, do not be deceived: There is no reincarnation! The ultimate authority on all spiritual matters, Lord Jesus, taught a judgment and an afterlife in either the kingdom of heaven

or eternal fire, but not reincarnation. Also, there is no Purgatory or annihilation of the wicked, according to Jesus. He taught there are only two roads, two gates, two destinies and two groups of people.

7. Because there are false teachers, deceitful spirits, visions and dreams from the devil, miracles performed by demons, etc. we are advised to do the following:

Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. (1 John 4:1)

Test everything. Hold on to the good. (1 Thess. 5:21)

Our standard is the Word of God, which is used for testing all teachings (2 Tim. 3:16,17). It is in the Bible alone that we can be made "wise unto salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 3:15).