

Part 1 Angels 101

A sermon series by Pastor Byron Chesney

† Colossians 1:16

16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

A few weeks ago I was preaching a message and I made mention something about angels. There was someone listening that day that was rather confused at what I said. They had never heard a man of God stand up and preach about angels. Everything they knew about angels had come from what they had heard from other people while growing up. They were under the impression that people became angels after they died.

So, with the direction of the Holy Spirit, I began working on preparing a definitive guide concerning angels as revealed to us from God's Word. Not something we heard someone say or something we have "always believed," or something Hollywood has influenced our thinking about.

With the help of the Lord I intend to preach a series of messages I've titled, "Angles 101." I started to call it "Angels for Dummies" but thought that didn't sound very spiritual... In this series I hope to be able to provide answers to numerous questions concerning angels and also to dispel a lot of false ideas and bad theology concerning angels.

In this sermon series we will look at several things including:

1. Do people become angels when they die?
2. Are there male and female angels?
3. Do babies that die before being born become angels?
4. Do angels sing?
5. Do we each have a guardian angel?
6. Do angels have halos and play harps?
7. Do angels really get wings when a bell rings?

And much, much more...

So, let's begin. First of all, let's get one thing out of the way right up front. Angels are heavenly beings created by God to be used for his purposes. They are not human although they can take on human form and some have human type features such as faces, hands, and feet.

Since angels are not human they are not classified as male or female, however, they are always referred to in the masculine sense throughout the Bible and the terms He and Him are always used when speaking of an angel. Such as in **1 Chronicles 21:16**: And David lifted up his eyes, and saw the angel of the LORD stand between the earth and the heaven, having a drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders of Israel, who were clothed in sackcloth, fell upon their faces.

Also, in **Luke 24:4**: And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:

And in **Revelation 10:1**: Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars.

So, nowhere in Scripture do we find angels being referred to as female or she or her.

Of course we always see the paintings and the sculptures of female angels. This did not originate in Christianity, but rather came from the Pagan and Greek/Roman cultures. Many of the goddesses that were worshiped by the Greeks and Romans had wings and they moved in angelic type movements. Later on around the 4th Century around the time of Constantine in 307 AD, angels suddenly started appearing in art and used a lot in the Roman Catholic Church.

Another misunderstanding that has caused some people to believe that there are female angels or that people become angels when they die, is the misinterpretation of Scripture in

Matthew 22:23-33

23 The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrection, and asked him,

24 Saying, Master, Moses said, If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother.

25 Now there were with us seven brethren: and the first, when he had married a wife, deceased, and, having no issue, left his wife unto his brother:

26 Likewise the second also, and the third, unto the seventh.

27 And last of all the woman died also.

28 Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her.

29 Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.

30 For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.

31 But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying,

32 I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

33 And when the multitude heard this, they were astonished at his doctrine.

Some people misinterpret verse 30 which said: **30 For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.** They take that to mean that they become angels. But, that is not what the Lord is saying. He is referring to the fact that angels do not marry, and that people will not marry in Heaven.

Just like the person that heard me say there were no female angels was so confused because he assumed that people became angels when they died and if they were women then they would turn into women angels. But that's just not the truth. People do NOT become angels when they die. Your granny did not sprout wings and start playing a harp when she left this walk of life. Those loved ones that have already left us through death did not become angels when they entered Heaven.

Angels are celestial beings and we are human beings. Two different types of bodies and beings.

Names For Angels:

There are several different names for angels and several different orders of angels. The Hebrew word for angel is **mal'ach**, and the Greek word is **angelos**. Both words mean “messenger” and describe one who executes the purpose and will of the one whom they serve.

Names for angels as found in our King James Bible are: **Angels, Cherubims, Seraphims, and Archangel.**

Offices or orders of angels include: **thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers** – these are all different “degrees” of angels.

First, let's look closer at the names for angels:

1. **Angels mentioned 299 times.** – This is the general term for spiritual beings created by God. These created beings can take on different shapes and appearances, even of that of a man.
2. **Cherubims/Cherubs mentioned 95 times** – one of the highest orders of angels with great power and are used to glorify and protect God's interests. They are actually the very first angels mentioned in the Bible over in the Book of Genesis after Adam and Eve had sinned and God drove them out of the Garden of Eden:
3. **Seraphims mentioned 2 times** – both times in the Book of Isaiah. The word seraphim means “burning one.” These are very bright angels with a glorious appearance. Their purpose is to proclaim God's holiness.
4. **Archangel** there is only one (1) archangel that is mentioned, Michael. An archangel is the highest ranking angel in God's Kingdom. Michael's job is to be the protector of Israel. He is also called “the great Prince” in Daniel 12:1.

There are only 3 angels named in the Bible with proper names: Lucifer, Gabriel, and Michael

1. **Lucifer** – name means: “*Bearer of light*” This is the original name of the devil before his fallen state. You'll find him first mentioned in **Isaiah 14:12** *How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!*
2. **Gabriel** – name means: “*Man of God*” He seems to be the Lord's chief messenger angel. You first find him mentioned in the Book of Daniel. **Daniel 8:15-16:** *And it came to pass, when I, even I Daniel, had seen the vision, and sought for the meaning, then, behold, there stood before me as the appearance of a man. 16 And I heard a man's voice between the banks of Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision.*
3. **Michael** – name means: “*Who is like the Lord?*” As we have already covered, he is the only archangel mentioned in the Bible. We first read about him **Daniel 10:13** *But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia. And he is called the **archangel** in the Book of **Jude 1:9** *Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.**

Rafael

I want to mention one other name that you may hear from some people as being another angel mentioned. However, I want to strongly caution you to understand this angel is not found in our canon of Scripture. He is only found in the Apocrypha. If you remember our Bible study series that we held a couple of years ago titled, “Why the King James?” then you will remember that we discussed the Apocrypha and why it is no longer included in the King James Bible. The very early editions of the King James did include it but they were only there as study references and not as part of the canon of Scripture. However, the reason I am even mentioning this is because I don't want you to be caught off guard if you are talking or witnessing to a Roman Catholic because they include books of the Apocrypha in their Bibles, one of them being the Book of Tobit. The Book of Tobit mentions another angel by the name of **Rafael**. The Catholics hold him up very high on equal grounds as Gabriel and Michael and they say that Rafael is an archangel. So, if you are ever in the situation where someone is claiming the Bible mentions Rafael the archangel, you can set them straight really quick.

Cherubim

The very first mention of angels in the Bible is of **Cherubims**, as I have already pointed out, after the fall of man in the Garden of Eden the Bible says in: **Genesis 3:24** *So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.*

We can get an idea of what the Cherubim (or Cherubs) look like by reading Scripture. Over in the Book of Exodus we find God giving Moses the details for the Tabernacle and he tells him to make two gold cherubims and he describes them as having wings that stretched forth covering the mercy seat: **Exodus 25: 20** *And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be.*

Wings are also mentioned in **1 Chronicles 28:18:** *And for the altar of incense refined gold by weight; and gold for the pattern of the chariot of the cherubims, that spread out their wings, and covered the ark of the covenant of the LORD.*

King David wrote about the Lord riding on Cherubs in both 2 Samuel 22:11 and in a parallel verse in **Psalms 18:10:** *And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: yea, he did fly upon the wings of the wind.*

But the most detailed description we have of Cherubims is listed in the Book of **Ezekiel 1** and **Ezekiel 10** in his visions Ezekiel called them “*living creatures*,” and said they had four faces—that of a man, lion, ox, and eagle. They had four wings, hands like a man under their wings, and feet like a calf, gleaming like burnished brass.

This is nothing like the cute little fat Cherubs depicted in Valentine Cards, however, Cherubim, although terrifying, could be very beautiful, as we see in Scripture that Satan himself was once a Cherub in the Garden of Eden:

Ezekiel 28:11-19

- 11 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,
12 Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.
13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.
14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.
15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.
16 By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.
17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.
18 Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.
19 All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.

This Prince or King of Tyrus as most people, including myself, believe is referring to Satan.

Another reference to the fall of Satan is given in Isaiah 14. There his name in our King James Bible is given as **Lucifer**:

Isaiah 14:12-15

- 12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!
13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:
14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.
15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Just as a side note: If you are using some Bible version other than the King James then you need to be aware that you are probably using a corrupt Bible. The word Lucifer is a Latin word that is used for the Hebrew word *hêylêl* "Hay-Leel". The definition for **Hay-Leel** is "**light bearer**," which is properly translated as Lucifer in the King James Bible, however, in other Bible versions such as the ASV, ESV, ISV, RV, all translate it into "**Day Star**." Even worse, the NIV, and the Holmen Christian Standard (which is the Bible endorsed by the Southern Baptist Convention), have the audacity to translate it into: "**Morning Star**." Friends, "Day Star," and "Morning Star" are both titles given to the Lord Jesus in the Scriptures. You need to stick with the King James if you want the proper English translation Bible.

That's why Paul warned the Church at Corinth to be careful. He said in: **2 Corinthians 11:14**: And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

Seraphim:

- These angels are only mentioned in the Book of **Isaiah 6:1-7**: 1 In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.
2 Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.
3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.
4 And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.
5 Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.
6 Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar:
7 And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.
The word seraphim means "burning one." Their purpose is to proclaim God's holiness. Scripture says that these Seraphim each had six wings.

† All Scripture from the Authorized King James Version