

ANGELOLOGY (8)

QUESTION #9 – What is the history of angels that is revealed in God’s Word?

There are two biblical observations we may make concerning the history of angels:

(Observation #1) - Angels were created by God. Psalm 148:1-5; Neh. 9:6; Col. 1:16

Angels are not eternal; they were created by God at a specific moment of time. Every angel was a direct creation of God. The life that we physically see on earth today is an indirect creation of God. God put into motion in Genesis 1 the ability for species propagation; however, this was not true with angels. Angels are an immediate and direct creation of God, whereas all other forms of life are a mediate and indirect creation of God. Charles Baker observed, “...it has been generally assumed that all of the angels were created at one time” (*A Dispensational Theology*, p. 216).

(Observation #2) - Angels were created by God at a time that is unknown.

The specific moment that God created the angels is not known, although we do have some key time related matters in regard to this:

Time Element #1 - The angels were in existence before the seventh day of creation. Gen. 2:1; Ex. 20:11

Time Element #2 - The angels were in existence before most all of creation. Job 38:1-7

There are some theologians who believe that angels were created prior to anything material. Floyd Barackman, for example, writes: “As part of the initial creation of the universe (Gen. 1:1), they were created before the earth, perhaps before any material thing (Job 38:4-7)” (*Practical Christian Theology*, p. 235).

On the other hand, Louis Berkhof writes: “The time of their creation cannot be fixed definitely.” He goes on to say that we are very safe in assuming they were created before the seventh day (*Systematic Theology*, p. 144).

Norman Geisler says, “Thus, angels were probably created when the Scriptures say, ‘God created the heavens and the earth’ (Gen. 1:1). They were definitely created before the earth was, for they sang when its cornerstone was laid (Job 38:6-7)” (*Systematic Theology*, Vol. 2, p. 476).

Although we do not have the specific moment of angelic creation mentioned in Scripture, we may legitimately assume they were created very early in the creative process of God, probably before most of the rest of creation.

QUESTION #10 – Where is the first assumed biblical reference to angels?

The first assumed reference to angels is Genesis 2:1. Many believe the word “host” is an allusion to and inclusion of angels.

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QUESTION #11 – What was the first purpose of the angels?

Of course God knew what He was going to do with angels in regard to His entire program. However, the first revealed purpose of the angels was apparently the worship of God. Neh. 9:6; Job 38:7; Ps. 148:2; Rev. 5:11-12

QUESTION #12 – What is the first known contact of a good angel with humans?

The first contact of a good spirit being with humans is a contact made with Abraham in Genesis 18:1-2. One of the persons involved was “the LORD” (18:1, 3, 13) (a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus Christ) and the other two were angels (Gen. 18:22, 19:2). All three appeared to Abraham in human form. It is clear that the Lord spoke with these angels about the Divine plan (Gen. 18:17ff.).

QUESTION #13 – What is the first known contact of an evil angel with humans?

The first known contact of an evil spirit being with a human is a contact made with Eve in Genesis 3:1-6. In this case, the angel was Satan and he appeared in the form of a serpent that could talk.

QUESTION #14 – What will be the final destiny of all evil angels?

The final destiny of all evil angels will be eternal fire as stated in Matthew 25:41.

QUESTION #15 – What will be the final destiny of all good angels?

The final destiny of all good angels is the Throne of God which is in heaven as stated in Revelation 5:11.

QUESTION #16 – What are the two main classifications of angels?

We may biblically observe that there are two main classifications of angel:

(Classification #1) - Unfallen angels.

These are angels who have remained holy throughout their entire existence. These are God’s angels, His host, His ministering spirits, and His holy angels. Ps. 103:20; 104:4; Mark 8:38

(Classification #2) - Fallen angels.

These are the angels who have not remained holy, but rebelled against God. Jude 6; II Pet. 2:4.

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The terms “unfallen” or “fallen” have nothing to do with the angel’s capability to visit earth; rather, these are terms that describe the angel’s position and relationship with God. Unfallen angels and fallen angels are classifications that have to do with the angel’s moral character as it relates to God.

These terms do have application to an angel’s privileged ability to visit the Throne of God. God will not tolerate any rebellious angel at His throne.

QUESTION #17 – When were these two classes of angels formed?

When God initially created angels, He created all of them with His classification of being “very good” (Gen. 1:31) and being “blameless” (Ezek. 28:14-15a). This classification of all angels continued “**until unrighteousness was found in**” the angels (Ezek. 28:15b).

The primary sin that caused the fall of angels was pride (Is. 14:13). The angels who fell were not content with their God created, exalted state, but proudly desired greater authority and higher rank. **This self-exalted proud rebellion was that which determined the classification “fallen angel.”**

The specific time of the angelic fall is not known. We do know that this angelic rebellion occurred before Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:1, Ezek. 28:13). There are some theologians who believe that the words “formless,” “void” and “darkness” found in Genesis 1:2 indicate that the angels had already fallen and were disrupting the earth.

The Bible does not specifically say exactly when they fell, but we do know that very early in the creative process of God, Satan led approximately 1/3rd of the angelic host into proud, arrogant, defiant rebellion against God (Rev. 12:4).

QUESTION #18 – Is it possible for an angel to fall today?

Could an unfallen, holy angel sin and rebel against God today and fall? The answer to this question is No !

It must be realized that angels do not procreate, so no angel is the offspring of another angel. Angels were created directly by God and as a result had no sin nature. The angels who fell did not fall from any inherited sin nature, but from a distinct angelic holiness that was directly related to God. The angels were not tempted by any outward solicitation to evil because the entire environment was filled with the glory of the Holy God. As a result of this, the decision to proudly and inwardly rebel against God was a one-time angelic decision. Once an angel made his decision to submit to God in a perfect environment, this decision was cemented forever.