

7. Angelology – Doctrine of Angels A. Reality, personality, and classification 9-23-15

1. Publishing lists are well supplied with books on demons, witches, Satan, and other real, or imagined creatures of the dark side of the unseen world but very few on the subject of God's messengers – the angels.
2. It is also interesting to note that the Bible mentions angels over 250 times – with over half of those in the New Testament.
3. We live in a world of things seen and heard – there is another world of unseen spirits.
4. They are not of the natural order (flesh and blood) – they are spiritual and wicked – they rule the dark world, are in high places, and have great power.
5. Angels are referred to in Scripture by pronouns in the masculine gender – they are specifically said to be without sexual features or function.
6. Then of course there are the paintings, pictures, and figurines of angels with wings – of which there is no Scriptural foundation. (Exception: Seraphim and Cherubim)
7. The hierarchy of beings ranges from God to angels to human beings to animals.
8. The study of angels is a major but often neglected division of theology.
9. Their origin, nature, function, and destiny are significant themes in Scripture.
10. Technically – angels are only a certain kind of God's spiritual creatures (namely "messengers") – "angels" is the common term.
11. Angels are not eternal – they have a beginning – they were created.
12. We may define "angels" as follows – created spiritual beings with moral judgment and high intelligence – but without physical bodies.
13. Some of the angels sinned and fell from their positions (moral judgment).

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14. Their high intelligence is seen in Scripture as they spoke to people and sang praises to God.
15. Scripture sometimes uses other terms for angels, such as “sons of God”, “holy ones”, “spirits”, “watchers”, “thrones,” “dominions,” “principalities,” and “authorities”.
16. There are three other specific types of heavenly beings named in Scripture. Whether we think of these as special types of “angels” (in a broad sense of the term), or whether we think of them as heavenly beings distinct from angels, they are nonetheless created spiritual beings who serve and worship God.
17. First are the Cherubim.
18. They were given the task of guarding the entrance to the Garden of Eden.
19. God himself is frequently said to be enthroned on the cherubim or to travel with the cherubim as his chariot.
20. Over the ark of the covenant in the Old Testament were two golden figures of cherubim with their wings stretched out above the ark, and it was there that God promised to come to dwell among his people.
21. Next are the Seraphim.
22. They are mentioned only in Isaiah 6:2-7, where they continually worship the Lord and call to one another, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory”.
23. Third are the other kinds of heavenly beings known as “living creatures” around God’s throne.
24. With their appearances like a lion, an ox, a man, and an eagle, they are the mightiest representatives of various parts of God’s entire creation and they worship God continually.