

Foundation Study #6: ANGELS

What do the following verses say about angels?

1) Acts 23:8

Angels exist. There is much controversy about angels. Some believe in their existence, some do not. There is much that is unbiblical among those who do believe in their existence (Colossians 2:18). They are mentioned over 275 times in Scripture. Jesus affirmed their existence (Matthew 18:10; 26:53).

2) Romans 8:38 (NIV)

Angels differ from each other. There are two main groups of angels. Good angels, called "Angels" and bad angels. The head of the bad angels is Satan. His angelic followers are called demons. From this point on in this study, the term "angels" will refer to good angels.

3) Psalm 103:20

Angels are messengers (Hebrews 1:7; 2:2). They function as to carry out the will and words of God. They are especially prominent through the Old Testament and at the birth of Christ and the end of the age in the New Testament. They are mentioned over seventy-five times in the book of Revelation alone. They are instruments of God's judgments (Revelation 7:1; 8:2).

4) Hebrews 1:14

Angels are unique beings. They are spirit beings that function as to help believers yet often in unseen ways as they fight against the angelic spiritual enemies of man. They have the following characteristics: 1) They are created (Colossians 1:16); Do not die (Luke 20:36); and 3) Do not marry (Matthew 22:30). They do not reproduce. There will always be the same number of angels. Some believe there are as many angels as humans (Matthew 18:10). They apparently have such divine features they are sometimes incorrectly worshipped (Colossians 2:18; Revelation 19:10). While they are higher in nature (Hebrews 2:7,9) and power (2 Peter 2:11) than humans on earth they function as servants of the redeemed in heaven (Revelation 19:10). While they are higher in form than the humanity of Christ they worship Him due to His deity (Hebrews 1:4-14). They reside in heaven, worshipping God while waiting His prompting to carry out His will (Nehemiah 9:6; Psalm 89:6,7; Matthew 26:53; Revelation 5:11,12; 7:11). They join with God in celebrating the salvation of humans (Luke 15:10).

5) Revelation 12:7

Some angels are named and ranked. Michael, called an Archangel, seems to have the role of protecting Israel (Daniel 10:12,21). Gabriel seems to have been involved in making special announcements about God's plans (Daniel 8:16; 9:21; Luke 1:19,26). Seraphim are angels that attend God on His throne (Isaiah 6:1-3). Cherubim are designated to guard the holiness of God (Genesis 3:22-24).

6) **Isaiah 14:12-16**

Satan and demons are fallen angels. Satan was of the highest order of angels in heaven but was cast out due to his pride (Ezekiel 28:14-17). Demons are fallen angels that chose to follow Satan and were therefore also cast out of heaven along with him (Jude 6). Satan is called by many names in Scripture. He is referred to as: 1) Beelzebub (Matthew 12:24); 2) Belial (2 Corinthians 6:15); 3) The “Evil One” (1 John 5:19); 4) The Tempter (1 Thessalonians 3:5); 5) The Prince of this world (John 12:31); 6) god of this age (2 Corinthians 4:4); 7) Ruler of the Kingdom of the Air (Ephesians 2:2); 8) Accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10); and 9) masquerading as an Angel of Light (2 Corinthians 11:14).

7) **James 2:9,19**

Satan and demons are powerful but limited. While extremely influential and deceptive (resulting in great destruction and suffering) Satan and demons are under the sovereign authority of God (Job 1:12; 2:6; Matthew 8:28-32). They are defeated by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (John 16:11; Romans 8:38; 16:20; 1 Corinthians 15:55-57; Colossians 2:15; Hebrews 2:14). **Satan demons are doomed to eternal destruction** (Matthew 25:41; 2 Peter 2:4). While permitted a time of influence now, they are destined for eternal destruction (Revelation 20:10). Demons may possess (control) unbelievers (Acts 5:3) but only oppress (influence) wayward believers (1 John 4:4).

8) **John 8:44**

Satan is a liar and murderer. His nature and strategy are to first deceive through getting unbelievers to believe a lie about God (usually relating to the Scripture) and then get the unbeliever to engage in self-destructive behavior (sin). Ultimately culminating in homicide or suicide. He has been doing this since the beginning in the Garden of Eden. Twisting the truth of God in such a way as to tempt to disobedience (2 Corinthians 11:3).

9) **Ephesians 6:12**

Demons oppose the people and the work of God. Unseen but real demonic powers are responsible for the opposition Christians face in various arenas. They influence non believers who have been exposed to the gospel to remain in a state of disobedient unbelief (2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2). They disrupt the comprehension of the gospel (Matthew 13:18,19). Demonic activity is in partnership with an unrepentant heart on the part of the unbelievers.

10) **Ephesians 6:11**

Demonic and Satanic attacks should and can be defended against (Ephesians 6:13-18; James 4:7; 1 John 1:9). The believer faces opposition from the world, the flesh and demons and Satan. Each requires specific defense. Ephesians 6:13ff outlines the defense against demonic opposition. These include knowing truth, how to appropriate righteousness, experience peace, rely upon faith, embrace salvation, use the Scriptures, and meaningful prayer.

What was the most significant verse in this study to you? Explain.