

Angels: God's Heavenly Warriors

Introduction:

1. When most people think of angels, they think of cute, little, white, feminine beings that sit on top of Christmas trees, or float around, singing.
2. People assume that angels always come in peace, bringing tranquility and rest.
3. As we study the Scriptures, we discover that this is not true at all. Angels are seasoned warriors that are seen fighting, making war, bringing destruction to God's enemies, ushering in plagues, disease, and judgment.
4. Angels are God's warriors that are carrying on the business of heaven, both in the universe and on earth.
5. But, why must angels fight and make war?

There are angels that aligned themselves with Satan.

1. Isaiah 14:12-15 and Ezekiel 28:13-19 describe the fall of Satan. As we study, there are a few conclusions that we can reach:
 - Satan was once the most brilliant, beautiful, and powerful of all the created beings in heaven.
 - Satan was not satisfied with his exalted position, but desired something that did not belong to him – the throne of God.
 - Iniquity was found **in Satan**. It was the sin of prideful rebellion. This was the origination of sin and evil, and Satan fell from his heavenly position.
2. When Satan fell from his position, he began to market his plan of rebellion to the angelic host. Many of God's angels followed Satan in his rebellion against God. The Bible clearly speaks of Satan's angels. Matthew 25:41; Revelation 12:7
 - They are sometimes referred to as "devils," or we call them "demons."
3. How many of the angels followed Satan? We do not know for sure, but some have surmised that one third of the angelic host followed him. Revelation 12:4; cf. Revelation 1:20
4. Why would these angels follow Satan? For the same reasons that people do today: self-will, selfishness, discontentment with what they have, and the craving to get what rightfully belongs to someone else. They are sins of the heart. They are deadly.
5. Here are a few summary thoughts about Satan's angels:
 - They are spirit-beings, just like the angels of God. Matthew 8:16
 - They are real. Demons are not fictitious creatures on the late-night horror show. Mark 5:1-13
 - They are set in number. People fear someone who died coming back to demonize them, or haunt them. This cannot happen. There are no new demons being created. Just as deceased people don't become angels, they also don't become demons.
 - They work deceptively. They usually appear as angels of light and ministers of righteousness. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

- People think of demons as hideous-looking monsters, or aliens. They have watched too many late-night horror flicks. If a demon **could** appear, it wouldn't be as a monster. He would be clean-shaven, neatly dressed, have a big smile, and a carrying a Bible under his arm while talking about Jesus.

There is a great angelic conflict being fought.

1. Angels are God's warriors, and demons are Satan's warriors. While angels are carrying on God's business, demons are doing everything they can to promote the cause of Satan and thwart God's purposes. 1 Thessalonians 2:18
2. There is an all-out invisible war being fought. Satan desires total control of this earth and will stop at nothing to obtain it. Revelation 12:7-9 pictures this angelic conflict.
 - Example: In Daniel 10:1-13, Daniel prayed and fasted for three weeks while an angel of God was trying to get to him, but the angel said that the prince of Persia withstood him. A human leader on earth would not have been able to do this. It had to be a prince within Satan's army of angels. Michael, one of the chief princes of God's angels came and assisted this angel.
3. The Christian's enemy is not someone visible. Our enemies are the demonic forces of evil. Ephesians 6:11-12
4. They oppose the children of God. They endeavor to separate the believer from Christ's love (Romans 8:38-39), bring fear (1 John 4:18), create an unforgiving spirit (2 Corinthians 2:10-11), undermine our faith (1 Thessalonians 3:5), corrupt sound doctrine (1 Timothy 4:1-3), destroy the believer (1 Peter 5:8), and a host of other things.
5. But praise God, He has given us the spiritual provisions needed to stand against the attacks of Satan and his armies. We are more than conquerors through Christ, and we can stand against Satan. Ephesians 6:10-17

The angels are organized into an intricate system of rank, position, and authority.

1. Ephesians 6:12 refers to the demons as principalities, powers, and rulers of the darkness. These are designated positions of rank and authority.
2. Satan imitated God, because the holy angelic creation follows the same pattern. Colossians 1:16, 2:10, 15; Ephesians 1:19-21, 3:10
 - Michael is designated as the "*archangel*." The prefix "arch" suggests that he is the chief angel above all other angels (Jude 9). But he is also called one of the chief princes in Daniel 10.
 - Gabriel appears to be God's messenger of mercy and promise. Daniel 8:16, 9:21; Luke 1:9, 26
 - The "*seraphim*" are mentioned in Isaiah 6:1-6. They are six-winged creatures that hover above the throne of God and render unceasing worship to God.

- The “*cherubim*” are mentioned in Ezekiel 10. They always seem to be protecting God’s glory and holiness as they surround His throne.
3. It is clear that God has established positions of rank and authority among the angelic host, similar to a political or military organization (ie: general, colonel, major, captain, all the way down to private).
 4. Angels are not running around crazily, bumping into each other, doing somersaults, and wondering what to do with their time. Our God is a God of order, not chaos.
 5. Angels have structured activity and direction. They have clearly-defined positions and jobs to do. Angels are literally carrying on God’s business on earth and in the heavenlies.
 6. The Bible indicates that there are even boundaries, territories, and routes that angels follow as the heavenly army fights against Satan’s army.