

# ANGELS (Session 2)

By Dr. Abri Brancken, 27 May 2018

## INTRODUCTION

The doctrine of angels is very important. It is important because angels are mentioned throughout the Bible, they form part of our daily existence and even more importantly, Jesus believed in angels, spoke about them quite often and even interacted with them. Scripture wants us to understand that angels form part of life and they play a very important role. Around us is a spiritual world that is much more powerful than our world. It is also much more resourceful and populated than earth. Spirit beings are moving at incredible speed in dimensions that you cannot see with your naked eye and what happens in those dimensions affect our reality in space-time.

## JESUS' "MASSIVE" STATEMENT ABOUT ANGELIC PROTECTION

The night that Jesus was arrested, Peter drew his sword and cut off the ear of one of the servants of the high priest. Jesus told Peter to put his sword back in place and then made this statement about angel:

### Mat 26:53

Do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He shall presently give Me more than twelve legions of angels?

A legion, at different times, contained different numbers; 4,200, 5,000, and frequently 6,000 men. Taking the latter number, which is the common rate, Jesus was saying that His Father will immediately give more than 72,000 angels if He asks for it. Remember that one angel killed 185 000 Assyrian soldiers in one night in 2 Kings 19:35, meaning that 72000 angels would certainly have been more than enough to deal with those wanting to kill Jesus.

### 2 Kings 19:35

That night the angel of the LORD went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning--there were all the dead bodies!

If one angel can kill 185 000 soldiers in one night, 72 000 angels can easily kill 13,320 000 000 (thirteen billion three hundred twenty million) men. There is currently almost 7,6 billion people on the earth. (<http://www.poodwaddle.com/worldclock/>). At the time when Jesus walked the earth, estimates are that there were about 300 million people alive in 1 A.D. This means that Jesus statement was massive. It means that Jesus was implying that God can provide enough angels to destroy the whole world 44.4 times (13.320 000 000 divided by 300 000 000 = 44.4) over, yet Jesus chose to willingly surrender His life in order to pay the price for our sins.

So, Jesus statements about angels were not reflecting superstitious beliefs, but facts. The Apostle Paul believed in angels, had them appear to him and spoke about them (2 The 1:7; Col 2:8).

## PEOPLE SHOULD NOT WORSHIP ANGELS

The Bible command us not to worship angels. Angels of light will never accept your worship. Angels were created and nothing that God created qualifies to be worshipped. When Lucifer demanded worship, he had to be removed. The word God, Yehovah, means the Supreme and Eternal One, Self-Existent. He does not need anyone or anything else to exist, but everything in existence needs God to exist and therefore is not worthy to be worshipped.

## **Col 2:18**

Let no one defraud you, delighting in humility and worship of the angels,

Some people say that angels are the spirits of departed human beings, that is not Biblical. When you die, you don't become an angel. There is no Biblical foundation for this.

In session 1 we saw that angels have ranks, so let's take a closer look at some powerful angels mentioned in the Bible.

## **GABRIEL**

One of the frequently mentioned angels is Gabriel. Gabriel announced the birth of John the Baptist to his father Zacharias.

### **Luke 1:19**

And answering, the angel said to him, I am Gabriel, who stands (stand beside, to be near) before God. And I am sent to speak to you and to show you these glad tidings.

Gabriel came to Daniel to give him insight into events that will take place during the end.

### **Dan 8:15-17**

And it happened when I, even I Daniel, had seen the vision, and sought for the meaning, then, behold, there stood before me the form of a man. And I heard a man's voice between the banks of Ulai, which called and said, Gabriel, make this one understand the vision. So he came near beside my place. And when he came, I was afraid and fell on my face. But he said to me, Understand, O son of man, for the vision is for the time of the end.

Gabriel announced the 70 weeks prophecy. The day that the Messiah would appear.

### **Daniel 9:21-22**

yes, while I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, touched me in my severe exhaustion, about the time of the evening sacrifice. And he enlightened me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I have now come out to give you skill and understanding.

Gabriel announced the birth of Jesus to Mary.

### **Luke 1:26-28**

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God into a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in to her and said, Hail, one receiving grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women.

Gabriel always announces things and a lot of his messages given in the Bible focused on the Messiah.

## **MICHAEL**

He is an Archangel (Jude 9; 1 Thes 4:16). At the rapture (catching up) you hear the voice of the archangel, 1 Thes 4:16. Michael is a military leader in the armies of God. His task is specifically to protect Israel and operates on behalf of Israel. He is also called a chief ruler, (Dan 10:13; 10:21; 12:1).

### **Daniel 10:13**

But the ruler of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days. But lo, Michael, one of the chief rulers, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.

In Revelation 12:7 there is a war described and in this war Michael and his angels war against rebellious angels.

### **Revelation 12:7**

And there was war in Heaven. Michael and his angels warring against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels warred, but did not prevail. Nor was place found for them in Heaven any more. And the great dragon was cast out, the old serpent called Devil, and Satan, who deceives the whole world. He was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

## **CHERUBIM**

The Cherubim are described to have 4 wings.

The Cherubim guards the Tree of Life, Gen 3:24

The Cherubim adorn the Mercy Seat, Exodus 25:10-22

We also read about the Cherubim in Ezekiel 1:6 having 4 faces and 4 wings.

## **SERAPHIM**

The Seraphim have 6 wings, Isaiah 6:2

### **Isaiah 6:2**

Above it stood the seraphs; each one had six wings; with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

In the book of Revelation we also read about the Seraphim.

## **CLOSING THOUGHT**

When the Bible says God fought for Israel, you often see that God used angels to do the fighting. God is giving His angels charge over his people, meaning that you have angels watching over you.

### **LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS:**

1. Why do you think the Bible mentions angels so often?
2. Why did God use angels to deliver messages to His people? Why not use some other way?
3. Have you ever encountered an angel or know of someone who did? Please share.