

ANGELS

- **Angel means “messenger”**

- **Created sometime during first 6 days**

For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. (Co 1:16)

- **Physical appearance**

1. Human form

Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground. (Ge 18:2)

2. Near human form

On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river, the Tigris, I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist. His body was like topaz, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude. (Da 10:4-6)

3. Literal or symbolic?

I looked, and I saw a windstorm coming out of the north—an immense cloud with flashing lightning and surrounded by brilliant light. The center of the fire looked like glowing metal, and in the fire was what looked like four living creatures. In appearance their form was human, but each of them had four faces and four wings. Their legs were straight; their feet were like those of a calf and gleamed like burnished bronze. Under their wings on their four sides they had human hands. All four of them had faces and wings, and the wings of one touched the wings of another. Each one went straight ahead; they did not turn as they moved. Their faces looked like this: Each of the four had the face of a human being, and on the right side each had the face of a lion, and on the left the face of an ox; each also had the face of an eagle. Such were their faces. They each had two wings spreading out upward, each wing touching that of the creature on either side; and each had two other wings covering its body. Each one went straight ahead. Wherever the spirit would go, they would go, without turning as they went. The appearance of the living creatures was like burning coals of fire or like torches. Fire moved back and forth among the creatures; it was bright, and lightning flashed out of it. The creatures sped back and forth like flashes of lightning. (Ez 1:4-14)

4. Spirits

Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation? (He 1:14)

- **Abilities or attributes**

1. Not omniscient—don't know all

“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” (Mk 13:32)

2. Not omnipresent—can't be everywhere

“But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.” (Da 10:13)

3. Not omnipotent—powerful, but not as much as God

That night the angel of the LORD went out and put to death 185,000 in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning—there were all the dead bodies! (2 Ki 19:35)

4. Immortal—can't die; not dead humans

“At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven.” (Mt 22:30)

5. See God; called “sons of God”

One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. (Jb 1:6)

- **Kinds of angels**

1. Cherubim

After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life. (Ge 3:24)

2. Seraphim

Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. (Is 6:2)

3. Thrones, powers, rulers, authorities

For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. (Co 1:16)

4. Archangels

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. (1 Th 4:16)

• **Angels' tasks**

1. Praise God

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." (Lk 2:13-14)

2. Follow commands

Praise the Lord, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word. Praise the Lord, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will. (Ps 103:20-21)

3. Protect & serve believers

Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation? (He 1:14)

4. Won't receive worship

I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. But he said to me, "Don't do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this scroll. Worship God!" (Re 22:8-9)

• **Evil angels' (or fallen angels' or demons') characteristics**

1. "Fell" from heaven in sin—pride?

- And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day. (Jude 1:6)

- He (an overseer) must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. (1 Ti 3:6)

- "Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: 'You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: carnelian, chrysolite and emerald, topaz, onyx and jasper, lapis lazuli, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings.'" (Ez 28:12-17)

- How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, "I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." But you are brought down to the realm of the dead, to the depths of the pit. (Is 14:12-15)

2. Imprisoned & held for judgment—no salvation

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment...(2 Pe 2:4)

3. Know God and judgment; some "free"

When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way. "What do you want with us, Son of God?" they shouted. "Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?" (Mt 8:28-29)

4. Oppose God & believers; destructive (Devil—accuser; Satan—adversary)

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. (1 Pe 5:8)