

Remnant Life Church
August 19, 2018
Angels – pt. 1
Characteristics
Daniel 10:5-6

WHY take the time to study about angels?

- First, they are found throughout the Bible and are important to what takes place on earth from the heavenly realm
- Second, we must know the truth, according to the Bible, to distinguish from false beliefs and teaching

WHAT is an angel?

- An angel is a being created by God (it is immortal)
- An angel is a supernatural being

WHO are angels?

- They are not ‘like us’ in the sense of what we understand that to mean as it relates to humans – they were also not once humans who “became” angels
- The clue of who an angel is can be best understood by knowing its function
 - The word “angel” translates into messenger, envoy, or ambassador
- Angels are present with us at all times but in a realm of existence that is not seen or heard by us unless directed by God for His purposes

What are the characteristics of an angel(s)?

- What is a characteristic?
 - Webster: a distinguishing trait, quality, or property
 - In other words – what makes an angel an angel?

First, do we know what they look like?

- **READ** – Dan 10:4-6
- According to Daniel
 - Face – like a lightning bolt
 - Eyes – flaming torches of fire
 - Arms and legs – like burnished or polished bronze
 - Voice – like thunder
 - This could be describing Gabriel
 - Is it any wonder why the first response a person had when encountering an angel in the Bible, like Daniel in the 8th, 10th, and 15th verses of this chapter, was to fall on their face?
- In addition, physically, angels are neither male nor female in their created form but in the scriptures always appear in the male gender
 - The names Michael, Gabriel, and even Lucifer are male names
 - Each account in the Bible states, “A man appeared...” (Ezek 8:2); “I looked up and there was a man...” (Dan 10:5)
 - The pronoun “he” is also used in every instance

Characteristics:

1. Angels are personal beings
 - a. They have emotion
 - i. **Luke 15:7** - *I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.*
 - ii. Who is rejoicing? The hosts of heaven (angels)
 - b. They have personal intelligence – able to speak to those they encounter - and names (only a few we are given)
 - c. They have will surrendered to God except for those who chose to follow Lucifer and cast down with him from heaven
 - i. Consequence always follows our choices
 - ii. Give care to what we do and what we say

2. Angels are spiritual beings first
 - a. We are physical beings with spirit, mind, emotion
 - b. Angels exist primarily in the spiritual realm
 - c. When God directs, they can also assume physical forms
 - i. Three “men” appeared to Abraham (one being Jesus as The Angel of the Lord) and spoke to him about the coming birth of Isaac (**Gen 18**)
 - ii. Two “men” came to Lot to rescue him and his family from the coming destruction of Sodom (**Gen 19**)
 - iii. It was the archangel Gabriel who appeared to both Mary and Zechariah the priest to tell them of the births to come of Jesus and John the Baptist (**Luke 1:11**)
 - iv. Angels came to minister to Jesus after his time of temptation in the wilderness (**Matt 4:11**)
 - v. Two “men” in brilliant white clothes appeared and spoke to the women following Jesus’ resurrection (**Luke 24:4**)
 - vi. While in prison, Peter’s chains fall off his wrists and he is set free by an angel who appears to him and tells him to follow him out of the jail (**Acts 12**)

3. Angels are distinct from man
 - a. In other words, angels are not glorified men
 - b. When someone dies they do not become an angel although this has offered comfort to those who are searching for encouragement
 - c. Confusion comes from **Matt 22:30** when Jesus says that when we arise to heaven we will be “like angels” – more in a moment

4. To further this distinction, angels are part of a creative collective, not a race
 - a. All of humanity is part of the human race; a single type of physical being
 - i. Skin color, nationality, gender, none of those things matter
 - ii. All humans descended from one man - Adam
 - b. There are not multiple types of humanity

- i. Since we are all descended from Adam (and preserved through Noah,) we all share the same physical structure and design; 2 arms and 2 legs; head atop a torso; eyes, ears, mouth, nose, etc...
 - ii. While our structure is common the appearance of our design varies (skin color; hair; height; weight; body type; etc)
- c. Angels do not descend from a common, singular genetic line like man
- d. Angels were each created by God and, since they do not share the penalty of death due to sin, are eternal and never age
 - i. But within that immortality, angels do not marry and do not procreate
 - ii. Jesus says in **Matt 22:30** - *At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven.*
 - iii. There are the same number of angels today – both heavenly and fallen - as there were at the time of their creation
 - 1. No baby angel daycares in heaven
 - 2. The question of the Nephilim (**Gen 6**)
 - a. Possibly the line of the ungodly descendants of Cain intermarrying with the Godly line of Seth's descendants
 - b. Or fallen angels with human women
 - iv. When Adam and Eve sinned, all of the lineage of man – the DNA - was infected with that sin.
 - 1. **Psalm 52:5** - ... *I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.*
 - v. The entire human race fell in sin through Adam because every individual is from the line of or descended from Adam.
 - 1. **Rom 5:12** - ...*just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way, death came to all people...*
 - 2. That one man was Adam. When he sinned, every individual became guilty of his guilt through that original sin.
 - a. When Adam sinned all of mankind became sinners in need of a savior
 - vi. When Lucifer's pride caused him to be expelled from heaven the entire collective of angels did not become fallen because they are not a creation with a lineage like man
 - 1. Only those who chose to follow Lucifer – 1/3 of the created angels - were expelled with him (**Rev 12:4**)
 - 2. Those who stayed faithful to God maintained their perfect nature and are not stained by the sin of Lucifer
 - vii. But then look at what Paul writes regarding our sin nature
 - 1. **Rom 15:9a** - *For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners...*
 - a. Again, every member of the human race entered into the fallen nature of Adam.
 - b. Only Jesus could redeem mankind by becoming flesh and so became a man and joined Himself to humanity in every way except the sin nature.

2. **Rom 5:19b** ...so by the obedience of one (that one is Jesus) shall many be made righteous.

5. All of their characteristics (behavior) are subject to the authority of God
 - a. Angels do nothing without the direction of God
 - b. Only one angel ever attempted to separate himself (embrace pride)
 - c. He was cast out of heaven and will be defeated and vanquished forever when Jesus returns

And so, what do take with us for our lives this morning from what we have learned the last 2 Sundays?

- Angels are messengers of God
 - So too, we, by the actions of our deeds and the words of our mouths are his messengers
 - What is that message?
 - God love's us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus to die in our place (**John 3:16**)
 - We are sinners saved by His grace (**Rom 5:8**)
 - His love and salvation are a gift we cannot earn (**Eph 2:8-9**)
- As messengers (servants) of God, their singular purpose and mission is to serve Him
 - That, too, should be the primary purpose of our lives
 - **I Peter 4:10-11** - *Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.*