

# ANGELS

## What do the following verses say about angels?

### 1. Acts 23:8

**Angels exist.** Angels are mentioned over 275 times in Scripture. Jesus affirmed their existence (Matthew 18:10, 26:53). There is much controversy about angels. Some believe in their existence, some do not. Some who believe in their existence, have a wrong viewpoint about them. (Colossians 2:18)

### 2. Psalm 103:20

**Angels are messengers** (Hebrews 1:7, 2:2). They carry out the will and words of God. They are especially prominent throughout the Old Testament, at the birth of Christ, and the end of the age. 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).

### 3. Hebrews 1:14

**Angels are unique beings.** They are spirit beings that help believers, often in unseen ways, as they fight against the angelic spiritual enemies of man. They have the following characteristics;

- a. They are created. (Colossians 1:16)
- b. They do not die. (Luke 20:36)
- c. They do not marry. (Matthew 22:30)
- d. They do not reproduce. (Matthew 18:10)
- e. They can have such divine features they are sometimes incorrectly worshipped. (Revelation 19:10, Colossians 2:18)
- f. They are higher in nature (Hebrews 2:7,9) and power (2 Peter 2:11) than humans on earth, however they function as servants of the redeemed in heaven. (Revelation 19:10)
- g. They are higher in form than the humanity of Christ, yet they worship Him because of his deity. (Hebrews 1:4-14)
- h. They reside in heaven, worshipping God while waiting his prompting to carry out his will. (Revelation 5:11,12, 7:11, Nehemiah 9:6, Matthew 26:53, Psalm 89:6,7)
- i. They join with God in celebrating the salvation of humans. (Luke 15:10)

### 4. 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 (Luke 1:19, 26, Daniel 8:16, 9:21). 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). Romans 8:38 NIV

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5. **Angels differ from each other.** There are two main groups of angels, good angels and bad angels. Good angels are referred to as “angels” and bad angels are referred to as “demons.” The head of all demons is Satan.

a. 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 pride. (Ezekiel 28:14-17) Demons are fallen angels that chose to follow Satan and so were also cast out of heaven. (Jude 6) Satan goes by many names in Scripture: the ruler of demons (Matthew 12:24), the devil (2 Corinthians 6:15 NLT), the evil one, (1 John 5:19), the tempter (1 Thessalonians 3:5), the ruler of this world (John 12:31), god of this age (2 Corinthians 4:4), ruler of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2), and the accuser. (Revelation 12:10) He masquerades as an angel of light. (2 Corinthians 11:14)

b. Job 2:6

**Satan and demons are powerful but limited.** While influential and deceptive (resulting in great destruction and suffering), Satan and demons are under the sovereign authority of God (Job 1:12, Matthew 8:28-32). Their power of death was defeated by the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:55-57, Colossians 2:15, John 16:11, Romans 8:38, 16:20, Hebrews 2:14)

c. Matthew 25:41

**Satan and demons are doomed to eternal destruction** (2 Peter 2:4). While permitted a time of influence now, they are destined for eternal judgment. (Revelation 20:10) Demons may possess (control) unbelievers (Acts 5:3) but only oppress (influence) wayward believers. (1 John 4:4)

d. John 8:44

**Satan is a liar and murderer.** His nature and strategy are to first deceive through getting unbelievers to doubt the truth about God (usually relating to the Scripture), and then, to get the unbeliever to engage in self-destructive behavior, ideally 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).

e. Ephesians 6:12

**Demons oppose the people and the spread of the gospel.** Believers face three opposing forces; the flesh, the world and demonic forces. (Galatians 5:17, John 16:33, Ephesians 2:2,3) Demons influence those who refuse to believe.

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(Ephesians 2:2, 2 Corinthians 4:4) Additionally, they disrupt the comprehension of the gospel. (Matthew 13:18,19)

f. James 4:7

**Demonic attacks can be resisted.** Believers resist demonic influence through confession of sin (1 John 1:9) and putting on the armor of God (Ephesians 6:13-18). The armor consists of knowing the truth about such things, claiming righteousness, embracing peace, employing faith, clutching salvation, reciting Scripture, and praying.

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