

“Angels: What Are They Like?”

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Angels. By the word “Angels”, messengers of God, we ordinarily understand a group of spiritual beings of a nature far above man, but lower than that of God. Their role is to not be God but to serve God and help mankind. In material power, they are God’s dynamite! It only took one angel to slay the firstborn in Egypt and one angel to close the lions’ mouths for Daniel.

Open to Job 38. All **angels were created by God** in the beginning of time. Colossians 1:16 tells us, *“For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.”* There’s a debate when they were created only because inquiring minds want to know!

Look at verses 4-7, *“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?”* Some have speculated the angels may have been created on the 4th day. This is because God “made the stars” on that day and in Job angels are called **“the morning stars.”**

When God created the angels, He made a **large number** of them. Several Bible stories speak of many angels being in one place at one time. When God came down on Mt. Sinai to meet with Moses, Deuteronomy 33:2 tells there were myriads, tens of thousands, of angels that came with Him. The shepherds heard a great company of angels proclaiming the Saviors birth. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus told Peter “more than twelve legions of angels”, a legion was over 6,000, were at His disposal.

Angels are in reality **sexless**, having no reason to be either male or female since they neither marry or have children. Yet the Bible consistently speaks of them in masculine terms. The number of angels God created remains constant because they never die. New angels aren’t added or subtracted.

God made angels to be **real personal beings**. An angel isn’t just a cloud or mist blowing in the breeze. They’re not some nondescript force or power. Instead, angels are **holy, living, invisible** creatures of God.

Even though they’re invisible, they can take on visible bodies. Some examples would be when the three men visited Abraham. One was an incarnation of Jesus Christ and the other two were angels. When Daniel was in the lion’s den, an angel was also there. When the three men were thrown into the fiery furnace, even the Babylonian king said, *“Did I not throw in three men? Why do I see four?”*

Angels also **experience emotions of joy and desire**. Listen to Luke 15:10, *“Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”* And in 1 Peter 1:12 where Peter is speaking to Christians who have been scattered all over the known world, *“It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached*

the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.”

Turn to Revelation 5. **Angels see.** Daniel 4:13, *“I saw in the visions of my head as I lay in bed, and behold, a watcher, a holy one, came down from heaven.”* **They speak.** Acts 27:23-24, *“For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, and he said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.’”* **They sing.** Look at verses 11-12, *“Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, ‘Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!’”*

We can’t study angels and what they are like without being aware of ranks among them. The rankings seem to follow a consistent pattern. Going from low to high, the major rankings would be **Cherubim**, **Seraphim**, and **Archangels**.

Cherubim. Cherubim are real and powerful. But Cherubim in the Bible were often symbolic of heavenly things. They were incorporated in the Ark of the Covenant and in the decorations of the temple.

Seraphim. Open to Isaiah 6. One of the best descriptions of what Seraphim are like is from Isaiah’s vision of Jesus in heaven. Verses 1-3, *“In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!’”*

Archangel. The prefix “arch” suggests a chief, principal, or great angel. **Michael** is given as the only archangel. From what we know about **Lucifer**, he was also an archangel before his fall from heaven. **Michael**, the archangel, will shout as he accompanies Jesus as He returns on the last day. He not only will proclaim the majesty of Jesus, but will also speak the words of life to all who are dead in Christ waiting to be resurrected.

Gabriel. Gabriel is one of the most prominent angels mentioned in Scripture. His name in Hebrew means, “God’s hero” or “the mighty one.” He is God’s messenger of mercy and promise. He appears in Scripture 4 times and always gives good news.

God made His angels to be perfect – perfectly holy and perfectly suited to serve the Lord. But the one thing we should never forget is that God created angels for us! They’re there to not only serve God, but to help you and me no matter where we find ourselves. As we walk by faith in Jesus Christ, we have angels all around us. We’re never alone!