

## Message 2 History of Angels

There is more to history than what happens on earth. There are events in the heavenly realms. Here is a brief outline of the history of angels with a warning, it's not all good! Knowing this helps understand our experiences on Earth.

Our passage is - *2 Peter 2:4 ...God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment...*

### 1. Who are the Angels?

Angels are intelligent, spirit beings, superior to humans in power and intelligence. And there are many of them! The book of Revelations says around the throne of God there are thousands of thousands of them. The book of Hebrews says they are innumerable.

The prophet **Elisha** found himself in a city surrounded by an opposing army but he remained confident of God's protection. His servant's eyes had to be opened to see the thousands of 'chariots of fire' with them. (*2 Kings 6:17*). A boarding school in East Africa was surrounded by murderous Mau Mau's. All who were inside could only pray. The Mau Mau's suddenly stopped advancing. They explained later in court, not knowing anything of the Bible, that they had seen powerful men dressed in white with flaming swords.

Angels are organised into an hierarchy. They are led by archangels, one of whom is identified in the Bible as, 'Michael'. Another is possibly 'Gabriel', who reveals the coming of Jesus to Zechariah and Mary.

Angels excel in worshipping God. We, likewise, can worship with all our hearts and voices. Angels are called to serve God's purposes on earth. *Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation?" (Hebrews 1:14).*

Of most concern are the fallen angels.

### 2. History of the Angels

Angels have a beginning, being created by God. *... he commanded and they were created. (Psalm 148:5).* They rejoiced and were fascinated by what God was doing in creating the Earth. Somewhere between being created and the Garden of Eden, Satan or the Devil, probably an archangel, desired to be equal with God. The book of Ezekiel reflects on this in elevated prose when describing the wicked king of Tyre. It says, *... v12 "You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. v13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; ... v15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you."* (*Ezekiel 28*). Thus, began the mystery of evil. Stepping from his proper position Satan did much damage with one third of the angels following him (*Rev.12*). These are now believed to be the evil spirits we experience on earth and taught about in all religions.

Satan, disguised as a serpent, tempted Eve and as humans rejected God, he became the surrogate "ruler of this world". Satan incited God about Job's sincerity of trust and failed. He incited King David to pride in counting the armies of Israel. The good news is that we have the coming of Jesus. At Jesus birth, the angels (i.e. good ones!) rejoiced. *... a great company of the heavenly host appeared ... praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven.."* (*Luke 2:13-14*).

The book of Revelations describes the conflict in heaven as spilling over to earth. *Rev,12: 7 ... war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. 8 But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. 9 The great dragon was hurled*

down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. Satan was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. Satan’s hold on humanity, however, was defeated by Jesus on the Cross. In turn, Jesus gives us authority to overcome Satan. *Luke 10:8 ... “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. 20 However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”*

Satan & company now disguise themselves as angels of light and servants of righteousness (2 Cor. 11:14-15, Revelation 12:9 and 20:8, 10). Satan has “blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ...” (2 Cor. 4:4). He opposes and hinders (1 Thess. 2:18) Christians in their service, even using physical ailments to that end (2 Cor. 12:7). Our human history has been that of wars, plagues and disasters, no doubt influenced by fallen angelic forces.

Angels have a future. Like us, they will be judged! *Then he will say to those on his left, “Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.” (Matt.25:41)*

### 3. How to deal with “fallen angels”.

Paul reminds us that our real struggle on earth is not against “flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Eph. 6:12). Fallen angels bring temptation and disruption. We must exercise our authority in Christ in prayer to resist and cast out their influence. Such prayers of faith are biblical and work! Here is some advice on this - 1) Do not be afraid. 2) Keep morally clean. 3) Be alert – “watch and pray”. 4) Engage in spiritual warfare prayer.

Satan can be successfully resisted so that he flees (James 4:7; Eph. 4:27). This is not by our strength but by the power of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:26; 1 Cor. 3:16). Note, don’t follow Hollywood or other flamboyant demonstrations of exorcisms, but simply exercise quiet, Spirit-filled prayer and declaration. Change the atmosphere of your family and where you work, let there be righteousness, peace and joy.

Also note, not everything is the fault of fallen angels. In fact, we humans do most of the messing up ourselves! But we do need to be aware of the spiritual realm and its history. There are many more ‘good angels’ to help.

Take warning to keep from sin and be found in Christ, not letting Satan have a foothold on your life. Be prepared to face God on the Day of Judgment.