

# Clarifying Angels and Our Relationship to Them

## Part 3

April 25, 2021

### The Three Archangels

#### **Michael** the warring angel

Michael fights on behalf of God's purposes for His people (Dan 10:13, 21; 12:1).

He protected the body of Moses from being found (Jude 9).

He leads the angelic host in warfare against Satan and the demonic realm.

Rev 12:7-9 And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon.

The dragon and his angels waged war, and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

#### **Gabriel** the messenger angel

He gave prophetic understanding to Daniel (Dan 8:16-17; 9:21-22)

Gabriel announces the birth of John the Baptist to Zacharias (Luke 1:11-19).

Gabriel announces the birth of Jesus to Mary (Luke 1:26-27).

#### **Lucifer** the angel who led heaven's choir.

His name means "light bearer," "shining one" or "star of the morning,"

He lost his place because of pride and trying to become greater than God (Isa 14:11-16).

V - 12 "How you have fallen from heaven,  
You have been cut down to the earth,  
V - 13-14 you said in your heart, (the five "I will,")  
V - 15 "Nevertheless you will be thrust down

Lucifer lost his position (cast down from heaven) because of unrighteousness (Ezk 28:12-17).

V - 14 "You were the anointed cherub who covers,  
V - 15 unrighteousness was found in you.  
V - 17 I cast you to the ground;

Fallen angels lost their domain.

Jude 6 And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode,  
He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,

The devil and his angels are thrown down to the earth.

Rev 12:7-9 And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

## **There are five other different types of classification or designations of angels.**

Thrones, Dominions, Rulers, Authorities, Powers

Eph 1:20-22 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

Eph 3:10 so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.

Col 1:16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. (Col 2:10, 15)

1Pt 3:22 who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him. (1Cor 15:24)

## **My concerns:**

### **The worship of angels.**

Col 2:18 Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,

Rev 22:8-9 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. 9 But he said to me, "Do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God."

### **The commanding of angels.**

Mt26:53 "Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels?"

## **Five tests of true and false visitations of angels:**

### **1. Are they identified by unbiblical names?**

The only names given to angels in the Bible are Gabriel and Michael. All the other times in Angel is identified as an angel, the angel the Lord, the angel of God.

### **2. Are the angels given unbiblical descriptions?**

### **3. Are they performing roles beyond the biblical picture or context?**

They praise and worship God and announce extraordinary events at times. Be cautious and concerned when someone receives a broad revelation or message.

### **4. Are they sources of additional information beyond biblical revelation?**

### **5. Are they in any way proclaiming of the gospel?**

Gal 1:8-9 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! 9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!

## **Ministering to the believer.**

There has been much confusion between the ministry of angels and that of the Holy Spirit toward believers within the church today. Billy Graham has these interesting things to say:

Angels do not indwell men, the Holy Spirit seals them and indwells them when He has regenerated them. The Holy Spirit is all-knowing, all-present, and all-powerful. Angels are mightier than men, but they are not gods and they do not possess the attributes of the Godhead. Not angels, but the Holy Spirit convicts men of sin, righteousness and judgment (John 16:7). He reveals and interprets Jesus Christ to men, while angels remain messengers of God who serve men as ministering spirits (Heb. 1:14). So far as I know, no Scripture says that the Holy Spirit ever manifested Himself in human form to men. Jesus did this in His incarnation. The glorious Holy Spirit can be everywhere at the same time, but no angel can be in more than one place at any given moment. We know the Holy Spirit as spirit, not flesh, but we can know angels not as spirits alone but sometimes also in visible form.

It would seem that angel ministrations are especially related to temporal matters, while the Holy Spirit ministers to believers with regard to spiritual things. Again, according to Billy Graham: "The Holy Spirit not only guides and directs believers, but also performs a work of grace in their hearts, conforming them to the image of God to make them holy like Christ. Angels cannot provide this sanctifying power."

## **Availing oneself of the marvelous ministry of angels.**

Nowhere are we instructed to pray to angels and request their help. Their ministrations are directed, in our behalf, by the Lord Himself. Thus, if we would experience the benefits and blessings of these "ministering spirits," we must keep close to our Lord.

The great promise of Psalm chapter 91: "For He will give His angels charge concerning you, To guard you in all your ways" (v. 11) is given to those who dwell "in the shelter of the Most High" and "abide in the shadow of the Almighty" (v. 1).

Again, we are instructed by the promise: "The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them" (Ps 34:7).

Let us ever reverently fear Him, and abide in His presence! Remember they are "ministering spirits sent forth to minister to them who are heirs of salvation" (Heb. 1:14). Let us ever conduct ourselves as those who are children in the household of our heavenly Father: "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ ..." (Rom. 8:17).

### **References Used:**

Renewal Theology; by J Rodman Williams  
Willmington's Book of Bible Lists  
Foundations of Pentecostal Theology  
Nelson's Topical Bible  
Easton Bible Dictionary  
Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary  
The Great Doctrines of the Bible  
A survey of Bible Doctrine; by CC Rylie