



The Christmas Story

Part Five / Wednesday, December 16, 2009

The Angels

1 Luke 1:26-38 [The Message]
2 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to the Galilean village of Nazareth
3 [27] to a virgin engaged to be married to a man descended from David. His name was Joseph, and the virgin's
4 name, Mary. [28] Upon entering, Gabriel greeted her:
5 "Good morning!
6 You're beautiful with God's beauty,
7 Beautiful inside and out!
8 God be with you."
9 [29] She was thoroughly shaken, wondering what was behind a greeting like that. [30] But the angel
10 assured her, "Mary, you have nothing to fear. God has a surprise for you: [31] You will become pregnant and
11 give birth to a son and call his name Jesus.
12 [32] He will be great,
13 be called 'Son of the Highest.'
14 The Lord God will give him
15 the throne of his father David;
16 [33] He will rule Jacob's house forever—
17 no end, ever, to his kingdom."
18 [34] Mary said to the angel, "But how? I've never slept with a man."
19 [35] The angel answered,
20 "The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
21 the power of the Highest hover over you;
22 Therefore, the child you bring to birth
23 will be called Holy, Son of God.
24 [36] "And did you know that your cousin Elizabeth conceived a son, old as she is? Everyone called her
25 barren, and here she is six months pregnant! [37] Nothing, you see, is impossible with God."
26 [38] And Mary said,
27 "Yes, I see it all now:
28 I'm the Lord's maid, ready to serve.
29 Let it be with me.
30
31

1 Luke 2:8-14 [The Message]

2 There were shepherders camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. [9]
3 Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified. [10] The
4 angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody,
5 worldwide: [11] A Savior has just been born in David's town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. [12] This
6 is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger."

7 [13] At once the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God's praises:

8 [14] "Glory to God in the heavenly heights,
9 Peace to all men and women on earth who please him."

10
11 ARE ANGELS REAL? AND DO THEY EXIST TODAY?

12
13 The study of God is called THEOLOGY (theo-God and logy-knowledge). So in like
14 manner of the study of angels is called ANGELOLOGY. The Word of God gives us a
15 great deal of knowledge about these "beings."

16
17 In this study, we will examine two aspects of angels:

- 18 1. Their origin, nature and the sin of one-third of the original ones
- 19 2. Their work on this earth - which would certainly include the Christmas story found
20 in Luke.

21
22 **THEIR ORIGIN**

23
24 Since angels are not divine, they had to have an origin, a "start-up," so to speak. They
25 are created beings, made, designed by God Himself.

26 Neh. 9:6 [New Living Bible]

27 Thou, even thou, art Lord alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the
28 earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the
29 host of heaven worshippeth thee.

30 Col. 1:16

31 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether
32 they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

33
34 We do not know WHEN they were created but scriptures give us some clue that perhaps
35 their origination was between God's creation of the heavens and then His creation of the
36 earth:

37 Job 38:4-7

38 "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me, if you know so much. [5] Do you know
39 how its dimensions were determined and who did the surveying? [6] What supports its foundations, and who
40 laid its cornerstone [7] as the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?

41
42 We do not know exactly how many angels God created (or if He continues to create them)
43 but we know the original number was vast:

1 Daniel 7:10

2 and a river of fire flowed from his presence. Millions of angels ministered to him, and a hundred million
3 stood to attend him. Then the court began its session, and the books were opened.

4 Hebrews 12:22 [The Message]

5 You've come to Mount Zion, the city where the living God resides. The invisible Jerusalem is populated by
6 throngs of festive angels

8 WHAT ARE THE ANGELS?

9
10 1. They are NOT glorified human beings. Nor do human beings eventually BECOME
11 angels. The Bible teaches us that we humans will one day judge the angels:

12 1 Cor. 6:3

13 Why, we're even going to judge angels!

14
15 An old Gospel song boasts: "I would be an angel and with the angels stand." Wrong
16 angelology completely.

17
18 2. They do not have limited physical bodies such as we human beings have.

19 Hebrews 1:14

20 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

21
22 In the Word of God, angels were often manifest in visible form but their "bodies" have
23 few limitations in the time and space dimension.

24
25 3. The angels are not a "race" but rather a "company." That is, they do not procreate
26 themselves as do human beings.

27 Luke 20:34-36

28 And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: [35]
29 But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither
30 marry, nor are given in marriage: [36] Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and
31 are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.

32
33 Jesus taught that in eternity we human beings will have glorified bodies and will not
34 marry nor procreate. And He added that we will be "like" angels in that regard.

35
36 4. Angels are smarter than human beings, that is, they have more knowledge; however,
37 they are not omniscient (all-knowing, as is God).

38 Matthew 24:36

39 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.
40 There are numerous scriptures that indicate to us that angels have greater knowledge than
41 do we.

1 5. Angels are stronger than human beings; however, they are not omnipotent (all-
2 powerful, as is God).

3 Psalm 103:20

4 Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice
5 of his word.

6 2 Peter 2:11

7 Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before
8 the Lord.

9
10 We are told in the scriptures how an angel was able to free an apostle n prison:

11 Acts 5:19

12 But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth...

13 An angel rolled away the stone from Jesus' tomb:

14 Matthew 28:2

15 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came
16 and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

17

One commentator observed: "A wheel of granite, eight feet in diameter and one foot thick, rolling in a groove, would weigh more than four tons."
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18 **WE KNOW FROM SCRIPTURE THAT A GREAT PERCENTAGE OF THE**
19 **ORIGINAL ANGELS - AT LEAST ONE-THIRD - WERE THROWN OUT OF**
20 **HEAVEN WHEN THEY FOLLOWED SATAN IN HIS ABORTIVE ATTEMPT AT**
21 **OVERTHROWING GOD**

22
23 1. It is a solemn fact that there is evil in the universe, and an even more solemn reality
24 that evil originated in Heaven itself.

25 We know from Scripture that God created the angels in perfection. God saw all that
26 He had made and it was "good." We are told that SEVEN TIMES in Genesis 1.
27 However, a great number of the angels cooperated with Satan in coup attempt.

28 2 Peter 2:4

29 God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of
30 darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

31 Matthew 25:41

32 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared
33 for the devil and his angels:

34
35 2. The exact time of the angels' fall is not certain. Obviously it happened before Adam
36 and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden for it was Satan himself who guided the pair into
37 disobedience to God.

38
39 I agree with Dr. Henry Thiessen's view that the fall "occurred some time after the creation

1 of the heavens and the earth and that it was a chief cause in bringing about the condition
2 described in Genesis 1:2: And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the
3 deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.”

4 LECTURES IN SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY / DR. HENRY THIESSEN / EERMAN PUBL. / PAGE 195
5

6 In all honestly there are many who do not agree with that opinion. But our conjecture is
7 that God created the heaven and the earth in the beginning and His creation “became” a
8 vast void without form, covered by darkness. What caused that cataclysm? We believe
9 it was the fall of Satan and one-third of the angels, now demonic in nature, who were cast
10 out of Heaven to the Earth. Again, I repeat, this is only conjecture.

11
12 3. What caused the fall of the angels? When God made the angels, He gave them, like
13 humans, the right to choose. Volition, free will. The angels who followed Satan’s
14 efforts to overthrow God made a deliberate choice to do so. According to Ezekiel 28:11-
15 19, the King of Tyre (we believe to be Satan) bewitched the angels with promises of great
16 prosperity. Isaiah 14:13, 14 makes this point as well, only in this case with the King of
17 Babylon symbolizing Satan. It was pride and envy that triggered this revolt. We should
18 not be surprised at this as it is a guile used by the enemy even today.

19
20 4. The result of the fall was that:

- 21 • All of the sinning angels lost their original holiness and became corrupt in nature
22 and conduct (Matthew 10:1; Eph. 6:11, 12; Rev. 12:9).
- 23 • Some of them were cast into hell and are being held there in chains until the day of
24 judgment (2 Peter 2:4).
- 25 • Some of them are left free and engage in definite opposition to the work of God and
26 the remaining good angels (Rev. 12:7-9; Daniel 10:12, 13, 20, 21).
- 27 • These creatures will one day be cast into the lake of fire (Matt. 25:41; 2 Peter 2:4;
28 Jude 6).

30 THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF ANGELS

31 The Good Angels

32
33 1. The Messenger Angels. The very meaning of the word “angel” is “messenger.”
34 There apparently are millions of them.

35 Daniel 7:10

36 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten
37 thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

38 Rev. 5:11

39 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders:
40 and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

1 Similar to the military where there are degrees of responsibilities and authority, the angels
2 also have gradations.

3
4 2. The Cherubim. These angels are mentioned in Genesis 3:24, 2 Kings 19:15, Ezekiel
5 10:1-20 and 28:14-16. Two cherubim figures were placed on top of the Ark of the
6 Covenant in both the tabernacle and the temples. Cherubim were also wrought into the
7 texture of the inner curtain of the tabernacle and the veil. It is suggested by some
8 commentators that the Cherubim are the guardians of the Throne of god and that Satan
9 may well have been one of them.

10
11 3. The Seraphim. We have them listed only in Isaiah 6:2 and 6:

12 Isaiah 6:2

13 Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he
14 covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.

15 Isaiah 6:6

16 Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs
17 from off the altar:

18
19 While not specified as Seraphim, when compared to the Isaiah references, it seems to me
20 that they are also described in the scene around Heaven's throne in:

21 Rev. 4:6-8

22 And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round
23 about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. [7] And the first beast was like a lion, and
24 the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying
25 eagle. [8] And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and
26 they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

27
28 The Seraphim lead heaven in the worship of God.

29
30 4. The Archangels. The term appears only twice in Scripture: I Thessalonians 4:16
31 and Jude 9. But there are other references to Michael who is specifically called an
32 archangel. Gabriel is also believed to be one.

33
34 The archangels appear to have the responsibility of protecting and prospering Israel:

35 Daniel 10:13

36 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief
37 princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.

38 Daniel 10:21

39 But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in
40 these things, but Michael your prince.

41 Daniel 12:1

42 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and

1 there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that
2 time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.
3

4 Another duty of the archangels was to proclaim the birth of Christ in Bethlehem in Luke 1.

5
6 Revelation 12:7-12 is intriguing to me in that Satan apparently made an effort to kill Jesus
7 as an infant but was thwarted by archangels:

8 Rev. 12:7-12

9 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and
10 his angels, [8] And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. [9] And the great dragon
11 was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out
12 into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. [10] And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is
13 come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our
14 brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. [11] And they overcame him by the
15 blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. [12]
16 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for
17 the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.
18

19 The archangels will also shout the news of Christ's return:

20 1 Thes. 4:16-18

21 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the
22 trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: [17] Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught
23 up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. [18]
24 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.
25

26 Footnote: There may be types of organization among the good angels for Paul writes in:
27 Col. 1:16

28 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether
29 they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:
30

31 THE EVIL ANGELS

32
33 We will deal with four divisions here: The angels now imprisoned; the angels do Satan's
34 work on earth; demons and Satan.
35

36 1. The imprisoned angels.

37 2 Peter 2:4

38 God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of
39 darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

40 Jude 1:6

41 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in
42 everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.
43

44 The key phrase, I believe, is in Jude, "...left their own habitation." Apparently these

1 angels had terrific responsibilities and were derelict in them to the point it so angered God
2 that He imprisoned them from that time til now. There apparently is a place, apart from
3 the Hades compartment of Hell, where these angels are being kept.

4
5 2. The free angels.

6 Psalm 78:49

7 He cast upon them the fierceness of his anger, wrath, and indignation, and trouble, by sending evil angels
8 among them.

9 Romans 8:38-39

10 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things
11 present, nor things to come, [39] Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us
12 from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

13
14 Their responsibilities are to Satan, not God, and they support him in his warfare against
15 God's purposes.

16
17 3. Demons.

18 This will be disconcerting to some, but I tend to agree once again with Dr. Thiessen in this
19 remarkable observation:

20 Demons may be "disembodied spirits of a pre-Adamic race. This view as againsts it the
21 fact that the Scriptures nowhere speak of such a race. But since the fall of Satan, his
22 angels and the demons must have taken place somewhere between Genesis 1:1 and 2, it is
23 not improbable that in addition to the angels there was a race of beings that inhabited this
24 earth over whom Satan ruled and who also fell when he fell. As their punishment, God
25 allows them to be about in a disembodied state until their consignment to Hell at the final
26 judgment of Satan and his hosts."

27 (IBID / PAGE 201)

28
29 Again I must emphasize this is not a view taken by the Assemblies of God, pro or con, but
30 one that I have believed for a long time. The suspicion that the demons are fallen angels
31 cannot be validated since we have no scriptural record of fallen angels ever possessing
32 humans or wanting to be in some kind of body, vis-a-vis the demons cast out of the man in
33 Gadara who wanted to be put into the body of pigs.

34
35 The evil of these horrible creatures cannot possibly be understood by normal mankind. I
36 have in my files, dossiers by Nazi colonels, stationed at Hitler's home, the Berghof in
37 Berchtesgaden, Germany, of Hitler's demonic possession and of his personal dealings with
38 Satan. The death camps of WWII are sufficient evidence of the depth of evil of these
39 creatures.

40
41 4. Satan. Satan was and is a very real entity, once the most powerful of Heaven's

1 legions. In Scripture he is known as:

- 2 • Devil Matt 13:39 John 13:2 Eph. 6:11 James 4:7
- 3 • Dragon Isa. 51:9 Rev. 12:3 and 7 and Rev. 20:2
- 4 • Serpent Gen. 3:1 Isa. 27:1 Rev. 12:9
- 5 • Beelzebub Matt. 10:25 12:24 and 27 Mark 3:22 Luke 11:15, 18, 19
- 6 This word means quite literally the Lord of Dung
- 7 • Belial or Beliar 2 Cor 6:15 The word means “worthless”
- 8 • Lucifer Isa 14:12 which means the ‘Star of the Morning’ - apparently his title
- 9 prior to the fall.

10
11 Scripture also refers to his character:

- 12
- 13 • The Wicked One Matthew 13:19, 38 Eph 6:16 I John 2:13, 14 5:19
- 14 • The Tempter Matt. 4:3 I Thess 3:5
- 15 • The God of this World 2 Cor 4:4
- 16 • The Prince of the Power of the Air Eph 2:2 6:12
- 17 • The Prince of this World John 12:31 14:30 16:11

18
19 Footnote: Just as we investigated the rankings of good angels (page 7, lines 26-29), so
20 there are apparently rankings of the evil angels. Ephesians 6:12 seems to bear this out.

21
22
23 ***This is the last study in this short series on The Christmas Story. There will be no***
24 ***Wednesday night services the next two weeks because of the Christmas Eve and New***
25 ***Year’s Eve services on Thursdays.***

26
27 ***I will begin a new study on THE BOOK OF GENESIS on Wednesday night, January 5.***
28 ***This will be a quite substantial study over several months so I encourage you to attend***
29 ***the very first one if at all possible.***