The Existance of Angels

By: Calvin Ray Evans

When the eyes of Elisha’s servant were opened, he saw the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha. It is my prayer that in this study God will help us to have open eyes of faith to know that they who are for us are more than those against us (II Kings 6:18).

John Calvin in Volume 1 of his Institutes of the Christian Religion said, “Angels are the dispensers and administrators of the divine benevolence toward us. They regard our safety, undertake our defense, direct our ways; and exercise constant observance that no evil befall us.”

Angels have a much more important place in the Bible than the devil and his demons. In fact, according to Revelation 12 there are twice as many holy angels as there are fallen angels.

I. REASONS TO STUDY ABOUT ANGELS

A. To increase our knowledge of God’s Word.
   There are 201 references to the word “angel” in Scripture. In 34 of the 66 books of the Bible there are specific references to angels, in 17 books of the Old Testament and in 17 books of the New Testament. The word for “angel” is used 105 times in the Old Testament and 96 times in the New Testament. (1)

B. To increase our comfort and assurance.
   Angels are assigned to deliver us from physical danger - Hebrews 1:14.
   Angels present to us an example of complete devotion to God and readiness to obey Him motivating us to worship and serve Him more fervently.

C. To increase our faith in a sovereign God who exercises control over the world and the universe through His angelic host.

D. To increase our appreciation for God’s holiness and righteousness.

E. To increase our understanding about the grace of God.
   God could judge all at once, but He patiently delays - the book of Jude.
   Out of the midst of wicked men influenced by Satan and demons, God rescues all those who trust in Jesus Christ and delivers us from the demonic power of Satan in the present.

II. REACTIONS TO THE TRUTH OF ANGELS

A. Past Speculations
   1. In the early years of Christianity speculative theology developed about fanciful, whimsical aspects and arguments regarding angels.
   2. A controversial teaching seems to have developed by early Biblical scholars regarding the study of angels.

B. Elevation of angels to a place of worship by the Roman Catholic Church.

C. Superstitions of paganism.

D. Rationalization by science.

E. Preoccupation with angels.

III. RECORDS OF THE EXISTENCE OF ANGELS

A. The Record of the Old Testament
   1. The Books of Law
      a. Angels are mentioned 32 times in the writings of Moses.
      b. Hagar was comforted by the angel of Jehovah - Genesis 16 & 21.
      c. Abraham conversed and ate with angels – Genesis 19.
      d. Jacob dreamed of angels - Genesis 28:12.
      e. Moses was called by the angel of God to deliver Israel - Exodus 3:2.
   2. The Books of History
      a. The word angel appears 45 times in the books of Joshua, Judges, I and II Samuel, I and II Kings, and I and II Chronicles.
      b. Most occurrences are in Judges where the angel of Jehovah conversed with Gideon and Manoah.
      c. In II Samuel 14:20 and 19:27, King David is compared in comfort, wisdom and power to an angel of God.
   3. The Books of the Prophets
      a. In the major prophets, Isaiah makes two references to the Angel of Jehovah as defending Israel and defeating her enemies - Isaiah 37:36; 63:9.

(continued on next page)
b. Ezekiel speaks of the cherubim - Ezekiel 10:1-3

c. Angels intervened in the record of Daniel to deliver the Hebrew children from the fiery furnace and Daniel from the mouths of lions - Daniel 3, 6.


e. Michael the archangel (Jude 9) is identified as “one of the chief princes” (Daniel 10:13) and stands as Israel’s principal defender - Daniel 10:13; 12:1.

f. In the Minor Prophets, Hosea identifies the “man” that wrestles with Jacob (Genesis 32) as an angel - Hosea 12:2-4.

g. Zechariah contains 20 occurrences of the word angel.

h. The Angel of Jehovah is identified as the personal representative of Jehovah, even Jehovah himself, who intercedes for God’s people.

4. The Books of Poetry

a. Job and Psalms contribute to our knowledge of good and evil angels.
b. Satan is represented as one of the spirits called “the sons of God” in Job 1:6 and 2:1.
c. The Psalms picture angels as protecting and delivering God’s people from harm - Psalm 34:7; 35:5-6; 91:11.
d. In Psalms angels are God’s energetic and fervent servants - Psalm 104:4 and His devoted worshipers - Psalm 103:20; 148:2.
e. In Ecclesiastes man is warned not to think in error about the presence of an angel concerning his vow, for the angel is a representative of God - Ecclesiastes 5:6.
f. Summary
The Old Testament presents angels as genuine personal beings who serve as messengers and ministers of God. Evil angels are those who serve Satan.

B. The Record of the New Testament

1. The Gospels

a. All four gospels report the existence and activity of angels.
b. Matthew and Luke tell of significant ministry of angels connected with the birth of Christ.
c. The first three gospels are full of references to angels and devils.
d. All four gospels record the appearance of angels at the empty tomb of the resurrected Saviour.

2. The Book of Acts

a. There are many references to the ministry of angels in the life of the New Testament Church.
b. At the ascension of Christ, two angels announced His second coming - Acts 1:10-11.
c. When the apostles were cast into prison, an angel opened the doors and freed them - Acts 5:19.
f. Peter was delivered from prison by- God’s angel - Acts 12:5-11.
g. Paul, in a turbulent storm at sea, received encouragement through an angel - Acts 27:23-25.

3. The Epistles

a. The epistles abound with teaching about angels.
b. In them angels are classified as either elect (I Timothy 5:21) or fallen (II Peter 2:4).
c. Paul declares that the cross of Christ defeated evil angels and warns against the worship of angels - Colossians 2:15. 18.
d. Peter speaks of Christ having declared victory over angels and having ascended above them in authority - I Peter 3:18-22.
e. Paul, James, and Peter regard Satan as the believer’s angelic opponent who can be overcome only through Christ - Ephesians 6:10-12; James 4:7; I Peter 5:8-9.

4. The Book of Revelation

a. There are 74 clear usages of the word angels in reference to spirit beings in Revelation.
b. The remaining eight usages may also refer to angels or to human messengers as representing the seven churches of Asia.
c. This book contains more references to angels than any other in the Bible.
d. In Revelation angels are portrayed as worshipping the Lamb of God (Revelation 5:11-12) preserving the servants of God (Revelation 7:1-3) and administering the wrath of God (Revelation 8, 9, 15, 16).

If there are no such beings as angels, then great doubt would be cast on the direct revelations found in the New Testament. The highly developed doctrine of Satan and his angels and their system and influence found in the New Testament would be complete speculation without also believing in God’s holy angels.

(continued on next page)
VI. REVIEW OF THE TEACHINGS ON ANGELS

A. The Witness of the Son of God
   1. His testing - Matthew 4:11.
   2. His teaching
      a. He taught that angels are personal creatures of God.
      b. He affirmed the resurrection and compared our state in the resurrection to that of angels who do not procreate - Matthew 2:29-30.
      c. He predicted that angels would gather the elect at Christ’s second coming - Matthew 24:31.
      d. He predicted the angels would be associated with Him in His glory and the evil angels along with Satan will be cast in the lake of fire - Matthew 25:31-32, 41.

B. Summary
   1. Evidence abounds from Christ’s personal narratives, ministry and teachings that angels do exist.
   2. The combined witness of the Scriptures, the Old and New Testaments, and of the Saviour, assures us that there is a world of intelligent, powerful and visible creatures about us and above us that warrants our prayerful and careful study and challenges us to expand our categories of thought and to change our conduct of life in accordance with God’s truth.

Footnotes:
1. Word count from www.blueletterbible.org using King James Version

---

Urgent Prayer Request for Dr. Homer Willis
Since January 7, 1974, Homer Willis has faithfully served on the Board of Directors for this ministry. The past several weeks he has been recovering from surgery and illness. We ask all of our friends to join us in special prayer for this veteran of the Gospel. We know God is able to touch his body. We also know that we can count on your prayers. To contact him write:
Homer Willis - PO Box 50560 - Nashville, TN 37205

---

YOU HELP US – LET US HELP YOU TOO!

We are really concerned about helping people in the area of discipleship. Please do not misunderstand what we are trying to say. Our ministry is evangelistic and missionary in nature. Years ago, we saw a need to not only reach people with the Gospel, but also to teach people to be His disciples. We are not wanting to conflict with your church in any way. Simply, we know that often times our friends are saved and wish to get involved in a serious study of their Bible. One of the biggest things most people battle is learning a way to discipline themselves to complete Bible study on a daily basis. That is where we can maybe help you. We have FREE BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSES we offer to those right here in America just like we have for years overseas. It will help you get into a daily routine of studying your Bible. **You will not be able to complete these courses without using your Bible!** If you would like to enroll, just write, call or email us today and we will be happy to send you the courses to get started. The first series is “Basic Bible Truths.” When you receive them, just follow the booklets instructions and complete the courses at your own pace. Then return them to us for grading. Upon completion, you receive a beautiful certificate. Also, you will then be eligible for our next series, “Fishers of Men.” **Remember, it is all at no cost!** So there is no need to even offer to pay. We treat everyone the same. The Lord will provide for us if we are trying to help others learn more about Him. If you want more info you can call toll free at 1-800-767-8713 or email brian@calvinevans.org with any questions you have. I hope you get started today in your personal study.