

# *Understanding Angels*

## **What are angels doing today?**

- We know that angels are God's servants, and we know that they work to accomplish His will, not their own.
- We also know that while the first century contained miraculous events to confirm the message of God. Now that we have His Word in written form, that age has ceased. Rather than looking for angels and speculating about miraculous events, we realize that God uses angels to accomplish His providential will. That means God still acts (and His angels do on his behalf) to work in our lives in ways that don't necessarily set aside the laws of nature.
- Some have taken the reference to "sons of God" in Genesis 6:1-4 to mean angels and have theorized that angels came down and intermarried with humans. Since we know that angels do not marry (Luke 20:34-36), and that "sons of God" is also a name that refers to those who worship God, we can assume that these individuals were the descendents of Seth, who began to call on the name of the Lord (Genesis 4:26).

## **Satan's Descriptions**

- Evil One (Ephesians 6:16)
- Tempter (I Thessalonians 3:5)
- The god of this age (2 Corinthians 4:4)
- The ruler of the kingdom of the air (Ephesians 2:2)
- The prince of this world (John 12:31)

## **Satan's Origin**

- Some angels were cast down from Heaven (2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6). 2 Peter 2:4 – "For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;" 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,"
- Evidently, this was because of pride. 1 Timothy 3:6 – "and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil."
- Some fallen angels fought in the war with Michael and good angels. Revelation 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 earth, and his angels were thrown down with him."

- Notice that this took place *after* Christ was born (12:5-6). Since we know Satan was present in the Old Testament (Genesis 3, Job 1-2, 1 Chronicles 21:1), this could not have been the origin of Satan.
- Isaiah 14: 12 - "How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! 13 "But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. 14 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'
- Ezekiel 28: 11 Again the word of the LORD came to me saying, 12 "Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "You had the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 "You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz and the diamond; The beryl, the onyx and the jasper; 13 The lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald; And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, Was in you. On the day that you were created, they were prepared. 14 "You were the anointed cherub who covers, And I placed you there You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire. 15 "You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created Until unrighteousness was found in you. 16 "By the abundance of your trade you were internally filled with violence, And you sinned; Therefore I have cast you as profane From the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the stones of fire. 17 "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, That they may see you. 18 "By the multitude of your iniquities, In the unrighteousness of your trade You profaned your sanctuaries. Therefore I have brought fire from the midst of you; It has consumed you, And I have turned you to ashes on the earth In the eyes of all who see you. 19 "All who know you among the peoples Are appalled at you; You have become terrified And you will cease to be forever."

## **Satan Is Not...**

- Omnipotent. Job 1:12 – Then the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him.” So Satan departed from the presence of the Lord. Job 2:6 – So the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, he is in your power, only spare his life.”
- Omnipresent. Job 1:7, 2:2 – The Lord said to Satan, “From where do you come?” Then Satan answered the Lord and said, “From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it.” 1 Peter 5:8 – “Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”
- All-Knowing. Satan did not know how Job would respond to his tests. It also seems likely that Satan did not completely understand the plan of Jesus – death, burial, and resurrection. Of course, he would not have been able to stop the plan of God even if he understood it, since we know from scripture that God is far more powerful.