**The Role of Angels**

**Introduction:**

Angels fascinate us. What are angels?

* Are they eternal?
* What powers do they have?
* Does each of us have a personal guardian angel?

The questions go on and on. Some questions we can answer but some we cannot. We won’t focus on speculation but rather on what the Bible reveals.

**Body:**

1. **The Origin and Names of Angels**

* Both the Hebrew word and the Greek word translated “angel” to mean a messenger. Sometimes these are human messengers, but usually are heavenly beings.
* Other terms for angels include:
  + Sons of God (Job 1:6) “Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them.” NKJV
  + Dignities or glorious ones (Jude 8-9) “Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries. Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, ‘The Lord rebuke you!’ ”
  + Thrones, Dominions, Principalities, Powers (Colossians 1:16) “For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.” NKJV
  + Seraphim (Isaiah 6:2-3) “Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!’ ” NKJV
  + Cherubim (Genesis 3:24) “So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.” NKJV
  + Many other possibilities
* Since everything was created by God, then angels must have been created also. (John 1:3) “All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.” NKJV (Nehemiah 9:6) “You alone are the Lord; You have made heaven, The heaven of heavens, with all their host, The earth and everything on it, The seas and all that is in them, And You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.” NKJV When were they created? Indications in Scripture suggest before man was created on Day Six. (Job 38:4-7) “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?” NKJV

1. **The Nature of Angels**

* They have greater mobility than man. (Daniel 9:21-23) “yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering. And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, ‘O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision:’ ” NKJV
* They have more knowledge than man. (Daniel 8:13) “Then I heard a holy one speaking; and another holy one said to that certain one who was speaking, ‘How long will the vision be, concerning the daily sacrifices and the transgression of desolation, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled underfoot?’ ” NKJV They are not all knowing. (Matthew 24:36) “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.” NKJV
* They are more powerful than man. (II Peter 2:11) “whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord.” NKJV
* They are spirit beings – not flesh and blood. (Job 4:18-19) “If He puts no trust in His servants, If He charges His angels with error, How much more those who dwell in houses of clay, Whose foundation is in the dust, Who are crushed before a moth?” NKJV They do not marry. (Matthew 22:30) “For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven.” NKJV They do not die. (Luke 20:36) “nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.” NKJV They have the ability of choice; they can choose to obey God or not. (Jude 6) “And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;” NKJV
* They can appear to people in different ways. (Hebrews 13:2) “Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.” NKJV

1. **The Work of Angels**

* They praise God around His throne. (Revelation 5:11) “Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,” NKJV
* They rejoice when a sinner repents. (Luke 15:10) “Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” NKJV
* They execute God’s will. (Psalm 103:20-22) “Bless the Lord, you His angels, Who excel in strength, who do His word, Heeding the voice of His word. Bless the Lord, all you His hosts, You ministers of His, who do His pleasure. Bless the Lord, all His works, In all places of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul!” NKJV
* This has included being involved in the affairs of nations and individuals. (Exodus 23:23) “For My Angel will go before you and bring you in to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites and the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will cut them off.” NKJV
  + Carrying messages to people (Genesis 22:10-13) “And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, ‘Abraham, Abraham!’ So he said, “Here I am.’ And He said, ‘Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.’ Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son.” NKJV
  + Angels transmitted the Law of Moses on Sinai. (Acts 7:53) “who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it.” NKJV
  + They carried out judgments from God.
* They were involved in Christ’s life in many ways.
  + An angel announced His birth. (Luke 2:9-14) “And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ‘Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!’ ” NKJV
  + Angels ministered to Him after His temptations. (Matthew 4:11) “Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.” NKJV
  + An angel rolled away the stone in front of Jesus’ tomb. (Matthew 28:2) “And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it.” NKJV
  + Angels announced His return when He ascended. (Acts 1:10-11) “And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.’ ” NKJV
* Angels minister [serve] God’s people. (Hebrews 1:14) “Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation? “ NKJV (Luke 16:22) “So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried.” NKJV The Father used angels to help His disciples.
* (Matthew 18:10) “Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven.” NKJV

**Conclusion:**

There is much we do not know about angels. We do know they carry out God’s plans as well as helping God’s people. Finally we learn they will accompany Jesus when He returns. (II Thessalonians 1:7-8) “and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.” NKJV

Bobby Stafford November 26, 2017